

Fiat Panda Cross conquers Africa

WILHELM LUTJEHARMS MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

WHEN deciding on a vehicle for an adventure drive through Africa, you would think that a 4x4, purpose-built for rough terrain, would be the only way to go. Not so, it seems.

Dominik Stokosa and Jolanta Czupik have just completed about half of their planned trip through Africa in a Fiat Panda Cross.

This little four-door, four-wheel drive vehicle is equipped with a 1.3-litre engine developing 52kW. The car is basically bog standard but up till now has only had one puncture and a

problem with the starter.

The pair left Krakow, Poland, on January 18 and drove through Western Europe and down the west coast of Africa.

Being a small car, the Panda's standard petrol tank is only 30 litres but they have fitted a reserve tank of 55 litres. From Poland to Cape Town, the pair have covered 31 180km. In total, they have spent 466 hours behind the wheel and have averaged 5.8l/100km. If they manage to return safely to Europe, they say it will be the first time that a standard car has made it around Africa.

