

# SOP: RODENT CONTROL

**MONITORING:** Especially during “fallow” season when control is most effective and non-target organisms are least active

**Vlei Rat** *Otomys spp.*

**Identification:** Tunnels in grass, neatly cut off growing stems

**Risk:** Newly planted seedlings, especially those adjacent to wetlands and nurseries

## 1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE PROBLEM:

- Life cycle
- Distribution
- Environmental factors
- Damage
- Limiting factors

**Brown rat** *Rattus norvegicus.*

**Identification:** Gnaw marks on bark, high numbers

**Risk:** Plague proportions. Damage to young trees and seedlings

## 2. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

1. Are there legislative requirements needing action to be taken?
2. Assess the environment, social and economic impact of both the damage and the control method

## PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

- Increase the number of perches/owl boxes
- Remove external food sources, if possible
- Plant trap crops (with associated perches)

## 3. DECISION MAKING PROCESS

**3.1 NO ACTION**

**3.3 REMEDIAL ACTION**

**3.2 AVOIDANCE**

## Non-Chemical Control

## MONITORING AND RECORDING

### CHEMICAL CONTROL (Rodenticides)

**NB: Always READ THE LABEL**

**NB: Always use bait stations**

- Remove all raptor perches/owl boxes before use and return only after the stipulated withholding period on the label
- Only use products registered for rodent control in compartments/ nursery settings or buildings
- Check the chemical control is on the TIPWG APL and the ESRA mitigation requirements associated with its use
- Apply as per LABEL instructions
- Wear PPE as per LABEL instructions

### MECHANICAL CONTROL

- Tilling - Nest destruction
- Water trapping - Population reduction
- Physical trapping - Population reduction (for the **vlei rat** physical trapping using fresh vegetation as bait - a funnel trap with cut grass and vegetables - is the only viable option)

### BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

- Natural enemies
- Raptor perches - diurnal predators
- Owl boxes - nocturnal predator
- Remove barbed wire near perches/boxes to prevent owls being trapped
- Promote reptile and mammal predators

