



Funded by  
the European Union



# StopRats - Sustainable Technologies to Overcome Pest Rodents in Africa through Science

## Consortium

### Implementing partners:

- Natural Resources Institute (NRI) University of Greenwich, *UK (Project Co-ordinator)*
- University of Namibia, *Namibia*
- Association Vahatra, *Madagascar*
- Concern Worldwide, *Sierra Leone*
- Agricultural Research Council – Plant Protection Research Institute, *South Africa*
- University of Venda, *South Africa*
- University of Eswatini, *Eswatini*
- Sokoine University of Agriculture, *Tanzania*

### Associated partners:

- International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), *Philippines*
- University of Antwerp, *Belgium*
- Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), *Australia*

## Budget

Total budget: €1,167,838.66  
EU contribution: €992,688.66



## Development challenge

The StopRats project arose from the relative neglect and under-focus of **the threat posed by rodents across the ACP region**. Rodents not only destroy field crops, causing major pre-harvest agricultural damage for small-scale farmers, but they also damage stored crops in warehouses and factories, as well as in households.

This **causes considerable crop damage at all stages, including pre-harvest, harvest, and post-harvest, as well as loss of revenue and raises issues of food security.**

## Duration

January 2014 – December 2016

## Countries of intervention



- Madagascar
- Namibia
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
- Swaziland
- Tanzania



## Project approach

The StopRats initiative had a **multi-level approach** and had **included all stakeholders** (NGOs, government agencies, businesses and regulatory authorities) **involved in rodent management, research, and service delivery, as well as people who were affected by rodent pest problems**, such as smallholder farming communities to resolve issues such as rodent pest ownership and to better understand the restrictions and prospects for enhancing rodent pest control services.

The project **enabled the sharing of knowledge, expertise and experimental samples among all stakeholders**, with agricultural research institutions involved in developing new knowledge and innovating novel technologies for rodent management; and public and private rodent management service providers involved in knowledge dissemination, supply of technology inputs, and other packaged services to end users and smallholder farming communities.



# Project results



**Improved knowledge of farmers and service providers on biological control organisms' roles in regulating rodent pests as well as on the suitability of nonchemical rodent control (economically and agroecologically viable).**



**99**

Students and early career researchers were trained on 5 field schools in core skills related to wildlife research, conservation and management.

♂ 73    ♀ 26



**38**

Graduated students (30 male, 8 female) were involved in the project where StopRats activities became part of their degree studies.

● **Madagascar:**

1 PhD, 2 MSc,  
11 Licence degrees

● **Namibia:**

1 PhD, 3 MSc, 6 BSc

● **South Africa:**

4 MSc, 5 BSc

● **Swaziland:** 5 BSc



**2,400**

Farmers in rural community members participated to trainings (with approximately equal gender balance).

● **700** Sierra Leone

● **300** Namibia

● **500** Tanzania

● **250** Madagascar

● **400** South Africa

● **300** Swaziland



**Improved capacity building of civil society groups and the general public** was achieved by **awareness raising campaigns about rodents, the problems they cause and sustainable solutions** where the StopRats teams engaged with private sector companies, local and regional government, rural farming communities in each target country.



10 articles/ research publications from 2014 to 2018 give account of the quality of research carried out.



New **internet based centre for rodent knowledge and expertise.**



**Improved integration of African researchers into international networks** with other experts and embedded into **broader inter-disciplinary networks** in their own countries, enabling them to leverage further funding from various donors.

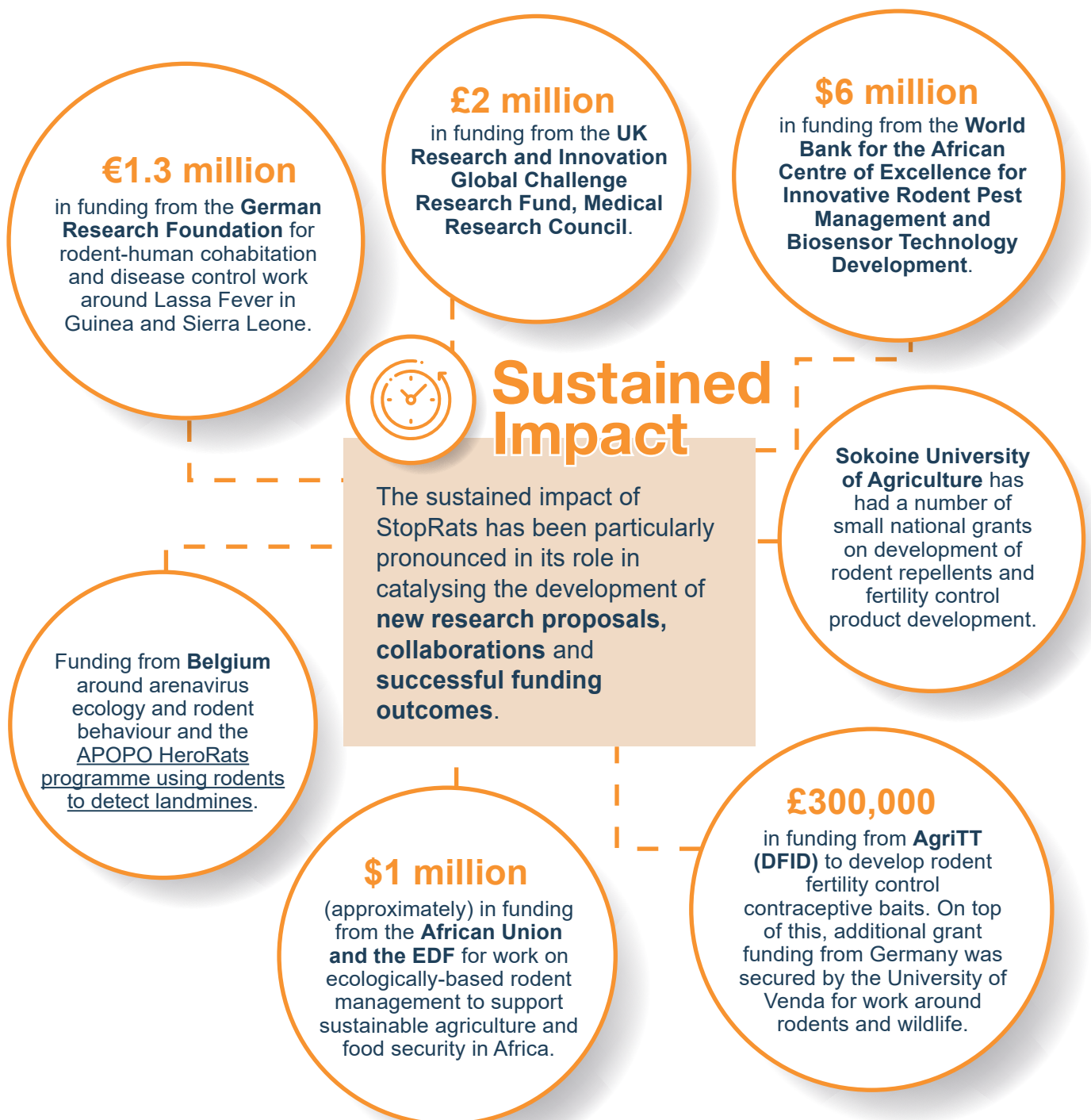


African-based research on rodents is now arguably superior to research carried out in industrialised countries, most notably reflected in the creation of a Centre of Excellence on rodents.



# Impact

The StopRats project has generated impact at a number of levels, and in a number of ways. A first major impact has been **increased awareness**, across different target groups, and **understanding of the scale of the problem posted by pest rodent** - and the **related economic cost** - as well as increased awareness of **solutions such as sustainable rodent pest management and adaptation of the licensing and distribution of rodenticides to the needs of end users**; and mitigation of potential product withdraw through ecological-based rodent management.





# Key lessons learned and best practices

Importance of taking strategic look at specific challenges and if and where a value chain can be strengthened (or, where none, developed).



Strong partnership network and trust levels across partners.



Showing that lower-cost/affordable solutions/mitigation often exist but need support for user group/market take-up.

Scale of ACP S&T II funding support allows for larger ambition and building of momentum, and is a key added value of ACP-EU S&T II support.



Capacity for Programmes such as ACP Science & Technology II to support/enable a quantum leap in progressing research/applied research and solutions testing in key challenge area.

Capacity to generate significant post-project funding and follow-up.



More co-ordination between funding providers, to see how impact can be sustained and/or maximised across different funding programmes and cycles.

