

## CASE STUDY

# Feasibility study - National Rodent Control Plan for the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

### The challenge

Libya is home to many native rodents as well as the invasive alien rodents *Rattus norvegicus* (Norway or brown rat), *Rattus rattus* (ship, house or black rat) and *Mus musculus* (house mouse).

Introduced rodents in Libya damage a wide range of infrastructure and products, impact on native biodiversity and are also a risk to public and livestock health through transmission of diseases.

To address these impacts the Libyan Environment General Authority contracted AMZA New Zealand Ltd to produce a proposal for a National Rodent Pest Control Programme.

The proposal was developed for AMZA NZ by Landcare Research and a New Zealand pest management company, Target Pest.

### Our approach

An in-country initial assessment was conducted by an expert team from Landcare Research and Target Pest, which had collective experience in control of rodents in towns and agricultural areas. The team assessed:

- 1) the extent of rodent activity (both geographically and severity of impacts)
- 2) identified rodent species and their behavioural patterns
- 3) contributing environmental factors
- 4) effective control programme methodologies
- 5) control programme(s) that would reduce the likelihood of re-infestation
- 6) measurable threshold levels of effectiveness

In key towns the team visited high risk sites such as markets, landfills, ports, and older areas of housing. Sites were searched for rodent sign (e.g. droppings, tracks) and local people were questioned about rodent activity, rodent problems and any recent history of rodent control.

(continued...)



*Rodent sign in a Libyan warehouse*

Where possible, interviews were held with local Municipality and Environment General Authority staff involved in pest management activities to obtain information about the current situation with rodent infestation and control activities.

### The outcome

A national rodent control plan was submitted for consideration by the Libyan Environment General Authority.

Amongst other things, the plan recommended the formation of a National Rodent Control Unit within the Environment General Authority, and an initial demonstration pilot rodent control project in one of the larger coastal cities.

Domestic rodent control in Libya has now been transferred to the Housing and Utility Authority (H&U). At the beginning of 2008 the British pest control company, Rentokil, was contracted to conduct a rat control programme in Libya for a three year period.



*A rat at a Libyan landfill site*

### Reference

Cowan P, Trotter R, Bradfield P. 2007. A National Rodent Control Programme for the Peoples Republic of Libya. Joint Landcare Research/Target Pest Contract Report for AMZA NZ Ltd

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