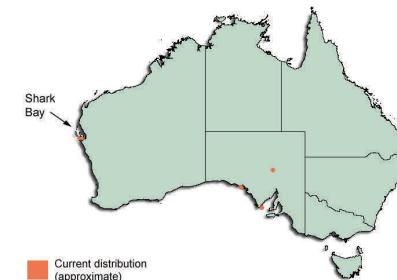
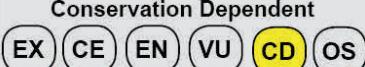


Greater stick-nest rat

Leporillus conditor

Fact sheet

SHARK BAY World Heritage

Description	 W Lawler - Australian Wildlife Conservancy		<p>The greater stick-nest rat has fluffy, yellow-brown to grey fur above, and creamy-white fur below.</p> <p>It has a blunt snout and large, rounded ears. The tops of its hind feet have distinctive white markings and its tail is shorter than its body length.</p> <p>The posture of this rodent at rest is hunched, like a rabbit.</p>
	Head-body 170-260mm	Tail 140-180mm	Weight 180-450g
Diet and habitat			<p>Greater stick-nest rats inhabit semi-arid to arid scrubland with little or no freshwater. They are nocturnal and feed on succulent vegetation and fruits.</p> <p>Groups of 10–20 build and maintain communal nests that can be 1m high and 1.5 metres wide. The name <i>greater stick-nest rat</i> refers to the size their nests can reach.</p>
Breeding			<p>Pairs establish strong bonds and breed throughout the year, but mostly in autumn and winter when there is more food.</p> <p>The young attach themselves to their mother's teats and are dragged around with her until she deposits them in the nest some time before they are weaned.</p>
Gestation 44 days	No. young 1-4	Weaned 4 weeks	
Distribution	 Current distribution (approximate)		<p>Greater stick-nest rats were found through south and western arid Australia but became extinct on the mainland in the 1930s. Salutation Island in Shark Bay has a healthy population that originated from a wild population on Franklin Island (SA). This rodent is proposed for reintroduction to Dirk Hartog Island as part of the <i>Return to 1616</i> project.</p>
Status	<p>Conservation Dependent</p> <p></p> <p>Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2015</p>		<p>Livestock trampling nests leave greater stick-nest rats vulnerable to predation. Along with rabbits, livestock also deplete the stick-nest rat's food sources.</p>



Department of
Parks and Wildlife

