

National Consultation on How to Save the Camel

Khabha, 24th February, 2010

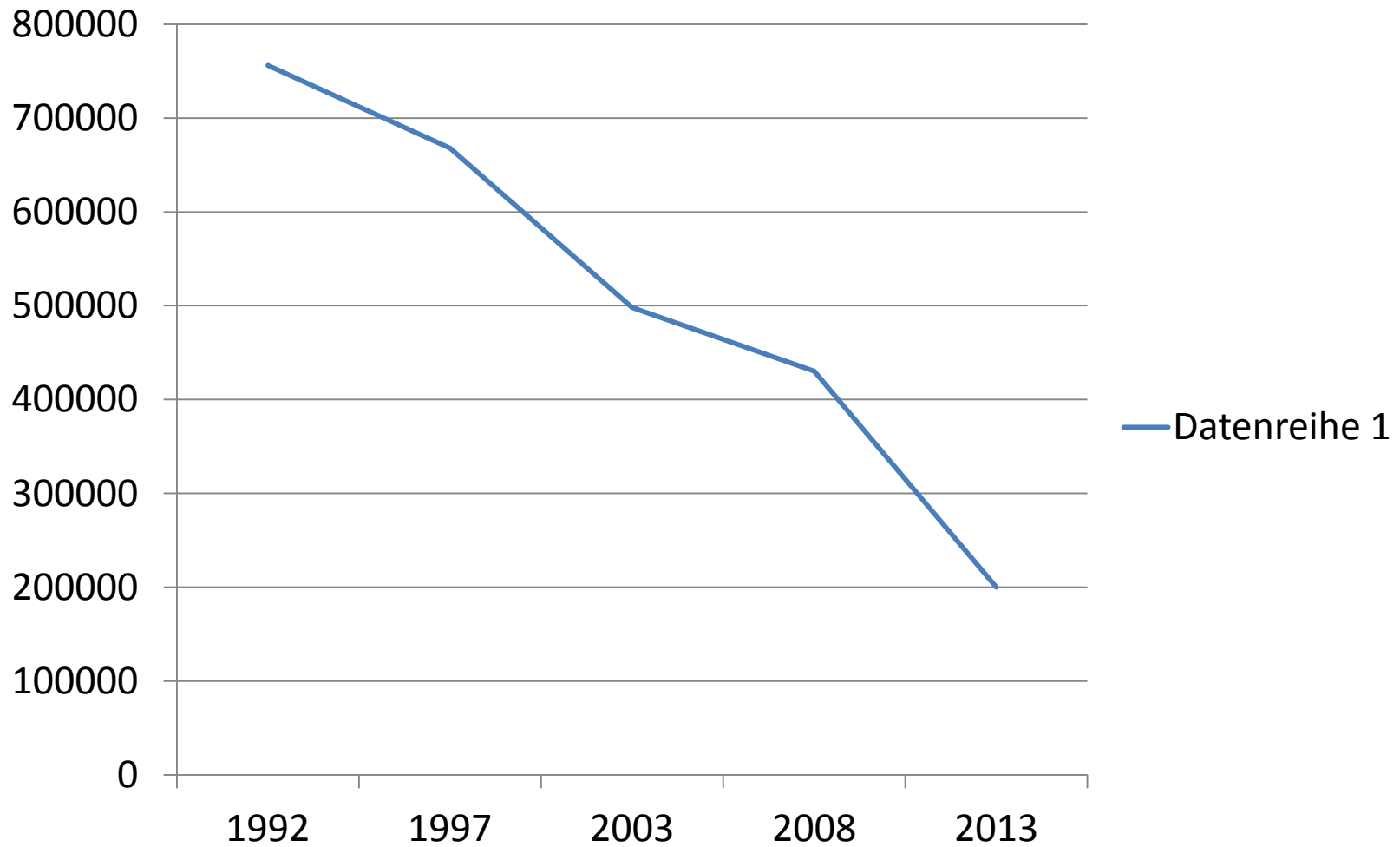


2010 International Year of Biodiversity

The camel is
the signature
animal of
Rajasthan
and used
widely to
promote it as
tourist
destination,
yet

Tradition in Aktion

Camel Population 1992-2008



The camel is vital for livelihoods in the Thar Desert:

- Independent of groundwater resources.
- Can utilize desert vegetation in a sustainable manner
- Silent and non-polluting source of alternative non-fossil energy.
- Rajasthan is home to one of the most elaborate and intricate camel cultures of the world
- Potential for generating a variety of products that appeal to modern consumers, especially those that are health and environment conscious.



LPPS Camel Project

- Started in June 2006 with support from Ford Foundation
- Goals of second project phase:
 - Improve animal health care through training and pushing for institutional reform of the animal health sector,
 - Develop a market for camel milk and camel milk products to a scale where it becomes economical and
 - Create space for pastoralism in land use plans



Some achievements

- Household Survey provided detailed data on camel holdings in Jaisalmer and adjoining districts
- Jaisalmer camel breeders have organised into seven clusters and formed 30 SHGs of 351 camel breeders.
- Training of young camel breeders in modern healthcare and other issues related to camel breeding.
- Veterinary services and genuine medicines have been provided at subsidized rates. In 2008-2009, treatment was provided to 3751 camels benefiting 855 camel breeders of Jaisalmer.
- Exploration of new products from the camel





The „white gold of
the desert“





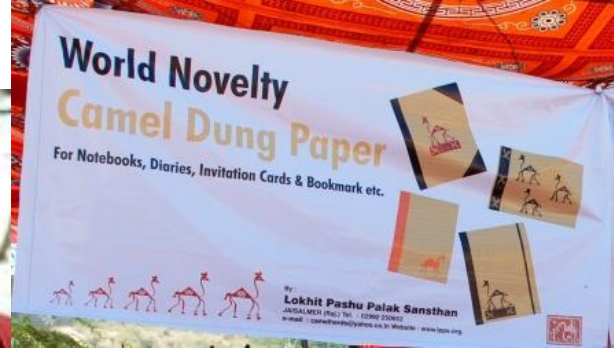


Camel wool:
previously
assumed to
be too
coarse for
creating
anything
attractive



However, expert analysis by Kamal Kishore from Kullu Karishma revealed that camel wool contains a good proportion of very fine, Cashmere like fibre



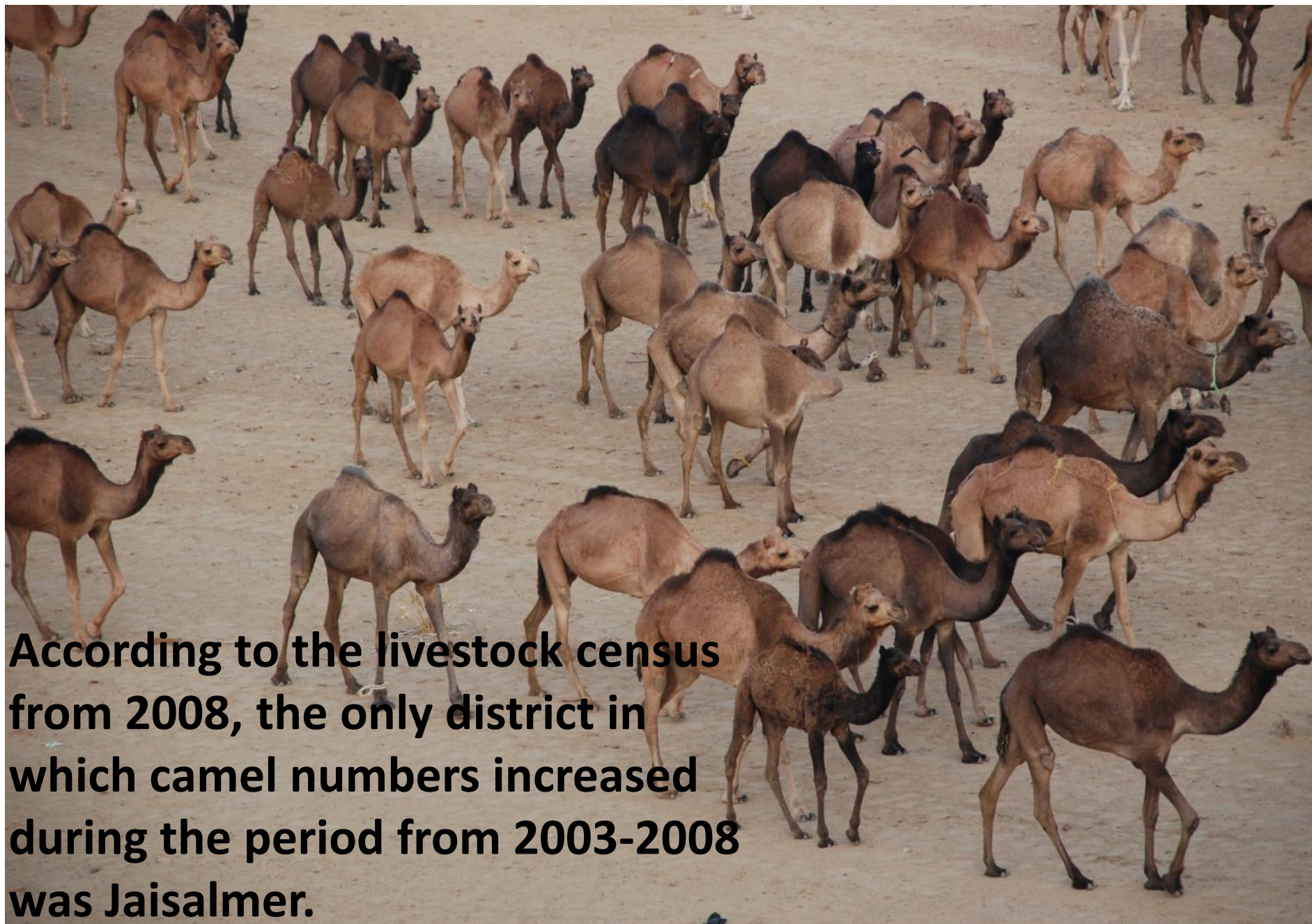


Camel dung
paper:
The most precious
paper on earth,
composed of 32
wild plant species!



Soap – made
with camel
milk, retains
moisture.





According to the livestock census from 2008, the only district in which camel numbers increased during the period from 2003-2008 was Jaisalmer.

Big thank you to

Ford Foundation
LIFE-Network

Rain-fed Livestock Network

Kamal Kishore (Kullu Karishma)

Gopikrishna (Shramik)

Mahima Mehra and Vijendra Singh (Hand paper)

Daniela Vyas

and many others

