

THE AUSTRALIAN FERAL CAMEL MANAGEMENT PROJECT: 'LEARNING BY DOING' AT A NATIONAL SCALE

OVERVIEW

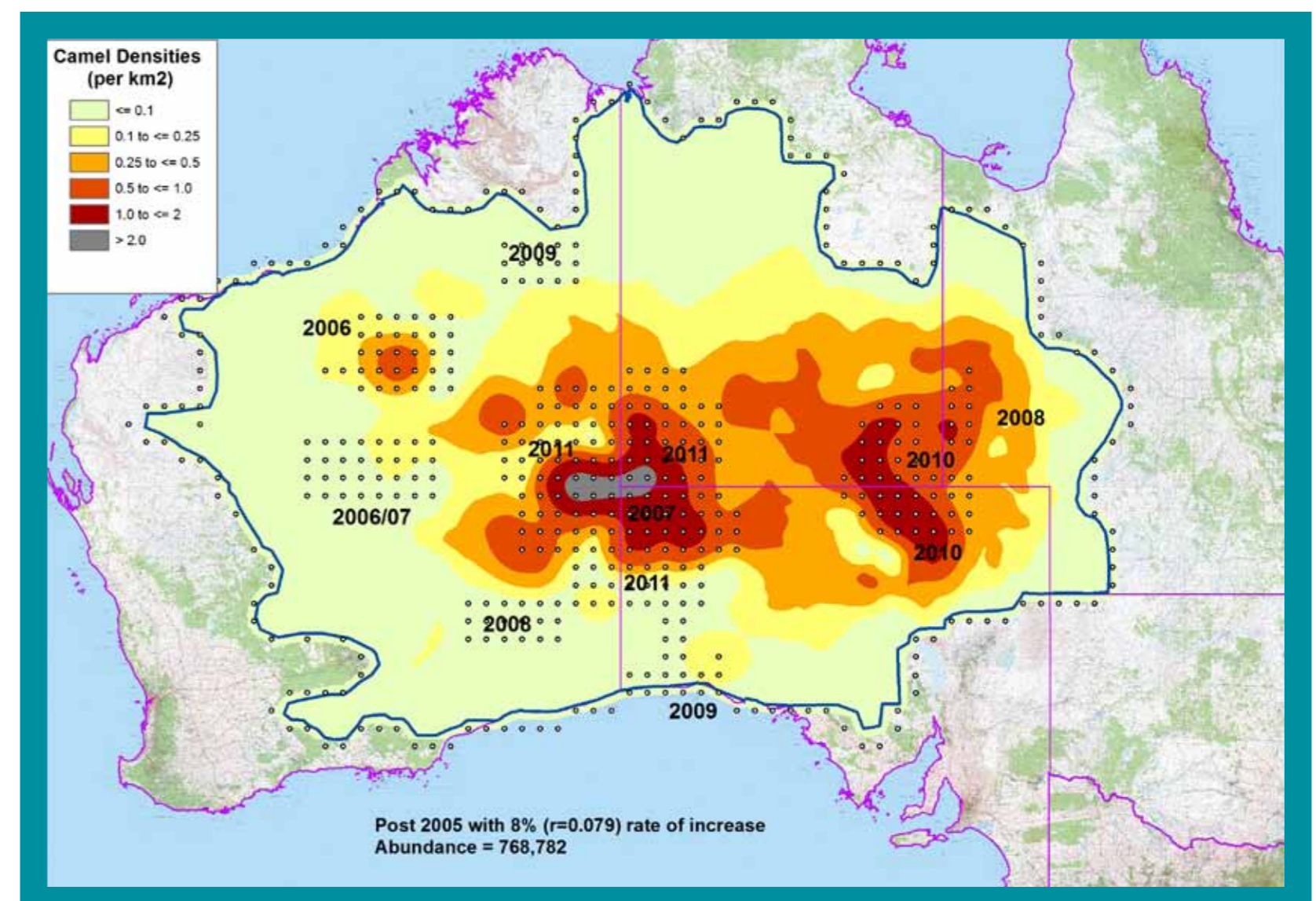
The Australian Feral Camel Management Project (AFCMP) addresses the urgent need to significantly reduce feral camel densities to lessen their impacts in remote Australia on biodiversity, wetlands, waterholes and sites of cultural value to Aboriginal people, infrastructure (fences, houses, cars) and personal safety. The AFCMP has 20 partners and represents the largest Australian Government Caring for our Country commitment to a single project.

OPERATIONS

The AFCMP enables landholders across a range of tenures to determine where, how and when feral camels are removed from the landscape. Aerial culling, ground culling and mustering for commercial use (human consumption or pet food) have all been used to reduce feral camel densities. Informing landholders about feral camel impacts and management options has been a large undertaking by the AFCMP and will facilitate future work in this area. Rigorous compliance with standard operating procedures is ensuring a high standard of animal welfare in removal operations.

OUTCOMES

Around 150,000 feral camels have been humanely removed from the landscape. Improved knowledge on feral camel demographics, movements, impacts and control options have been developed. Methodologies for assessing vegetation and waterhole impacts and training over 500 Aboriginal rangers to be involved in this work is another major outcome of the AFCMP. The AFCMP has shown that landscape-scale management of large feral animals is effective in reducing densities and the subsequent damage caused. Future management of feral camels and other large feral herbivores will be more effective and efficient as a result of this project.



NINTI ONE INNOVATION FOR REMOTE AUSTRALIA



CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY

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