



## Saving the

# Camels of Rajasthan

The camel is part and parcel of Rajasthan's culture and ecology. Once the greatest bulwark of desert people against the drought, this animal holds a special place in their heart and symbolizes love.

There is no animal that is better suited to utilizing desert environments in a sustainable manner. Ecologists studying the behavior and grazing pattern concluded that camels actually keep desertification in check. Their soft-padded feet prevent erosion and their feeding habits can stimulate the growth of desert plants. Best of all, camels do not contribute to the exploitation of groundwater: they can subsist entirely on the local drought resistant trees.

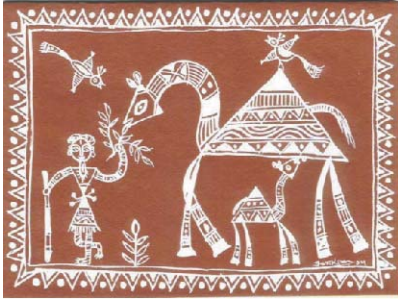
But with the availability of motorized transport, government support for irrigation agriculture,

and “progress”, camels came to be seen as backward and regarded as a threat by farmers. Over the last decade, camel numbers dwindled by 50% and many thousands of female camels are sold for slaughter at Pushkar and other fairs.

The only way of saving the camel from extinction and maintaining it for posterity is by making it economically attractive for its keepers. For this reason our project seeks to diversify income opportunities for camel breeding families and other rural people by value-adding and marketing various camel products.

We are seeking to revive the camel economy by combining traditional knowledge with cutting edge research, design and production technology.





## The Camel Conservation and Livelihood Project

This project seeks to diversify income opportunities from the camel in order to support rural livelihoods and to conserve the camel as part of Rajasthan's heritage.

Based in Jaisalmer, as well as in Pali District, we aim to aid camel breeding families by value-adding and marketing a range of camel products, as well as providing various services.

### Our activities and achievements

The camel breeders of Jaisalmer district have organized in to 7 clusters of 33 self-help groups and have significant savings in the bank. The Jaisalmer Camel Breeders Association is a registered society.

Through the provision of genuine medicines at cost and emergency veterinary services, camel losses due to disease have markedly decreased.

The rate of camel thefts and accidents has significantly declined due to our Camel Task Force and concerted action.

We are empowering desert women, including widows, who normally lead a totally secluded life in isolated villages through exposure, training and new livelihood options.

We have developed new products from milk, wool, and dung and are training camel breeders in hygienic production and processing.



# Camel Charisma

Camel Charisma is the marketing arm of the LPPS camel project.



## Our products

### Camel Milk

Camel milk is a health tonic it improves your resistance to diseases and also helps to combat illnesses like Diabetes and Tuberculosis. Camel milk is especially delicious if it is consumed fresh right after milking. But it also can be used in tea and coffee, or in the form of kir.

Ice cream from camel milk, or rather frozen dessert, is another healthy treat with a low fat content.



### Camel Wool

Camel wool has been used by desert people for many traditional purposes. With the help of wool experts and designers, we have created a range of exquisite apparel (shawls and caps) and home furniture items (rugs) that evoke the spirit of the desert.

### Camel Dung Paper

From camel dung we manufacture the most bio-diverse paper on earth that can contain as many as 32 desert plants. Actually our paper is still alive and it will sprout if you keep it wet. Together with a Delhi based company we have created diaries, stationary, photo-albums and are exploring further options!





## Lokhit Pashu Palak Sansthan



**Lokhit Pashu-Palak Sansthan supports Rajasthan's traditional livestock keepers through training, capacity-building, research, and advocacy for their rights and supportive policies.**

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LPPS is a member of LIFE Network for community-based conservation of livestock breeds

