

From Durban to Sydney Diamantina National Park

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“There are no secrets to success. It is the result of
preparation, hard work and learning from failure”

Colin Powell

- In 2003 I was a mid-level manager when I attended the World Parks Congress in Durban. It changed the way I thought.
- I then moved into natural resource programs and it was immediately evident that the linkages between management, planning, work programs and monitoring were very weak.
- Since that time I have worked in many different areas of QPWS and I am still thinking about how to make the linkages better.

QPWS has been operating a State wide MEE process since 2003.

The MEE program has involved three levels of
assessment

1. A broad categorisation process to assist prioritisation
(Park Categories)
2. A rapid assessment process that can be completed in
1 to 2 hours for each park. This mainly involves output
assessment
3. Park integrity assessments that are completed as part
of the development and review of management plans.
Undertaken each 4 to 5 years

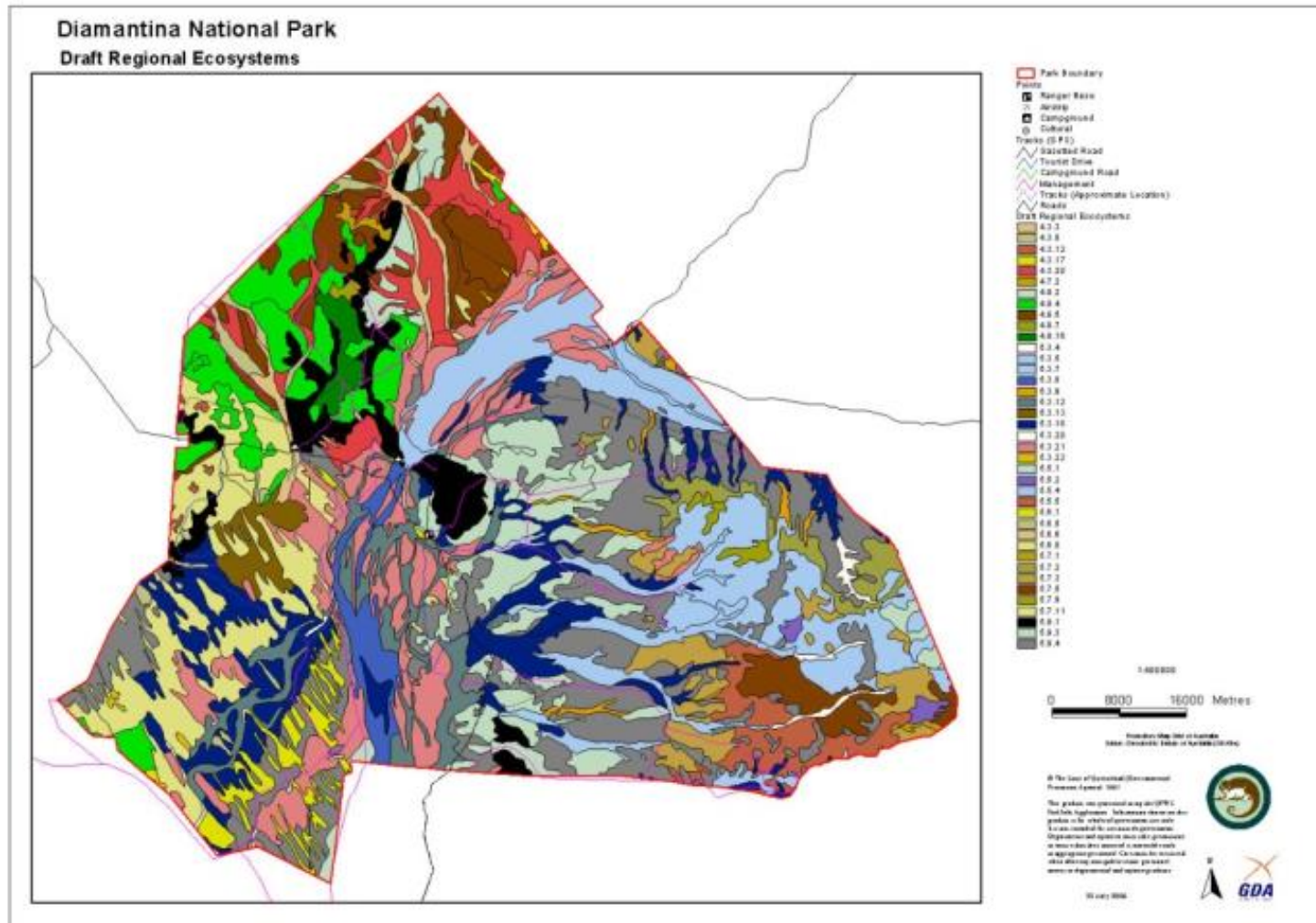
I want to use one particular park, as an
example of results and some of the
lessons learnt



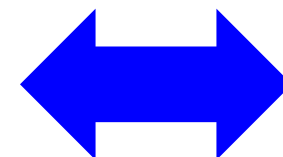
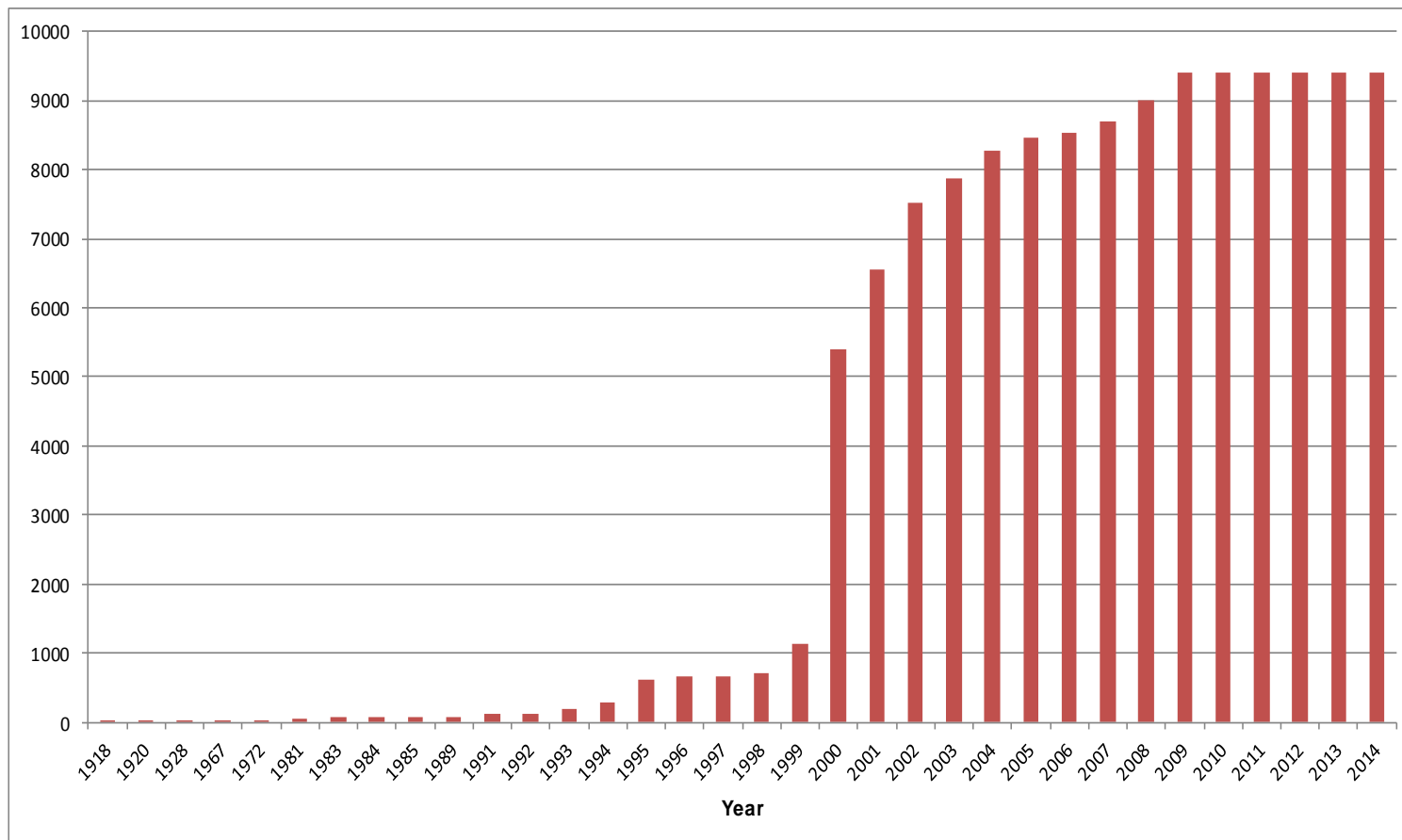
2009 Diamantina Integrity review workshop



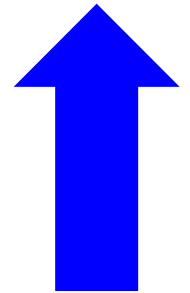




Cumulative number of records on WildNet database



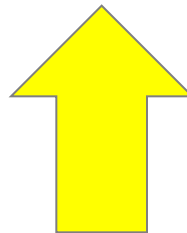




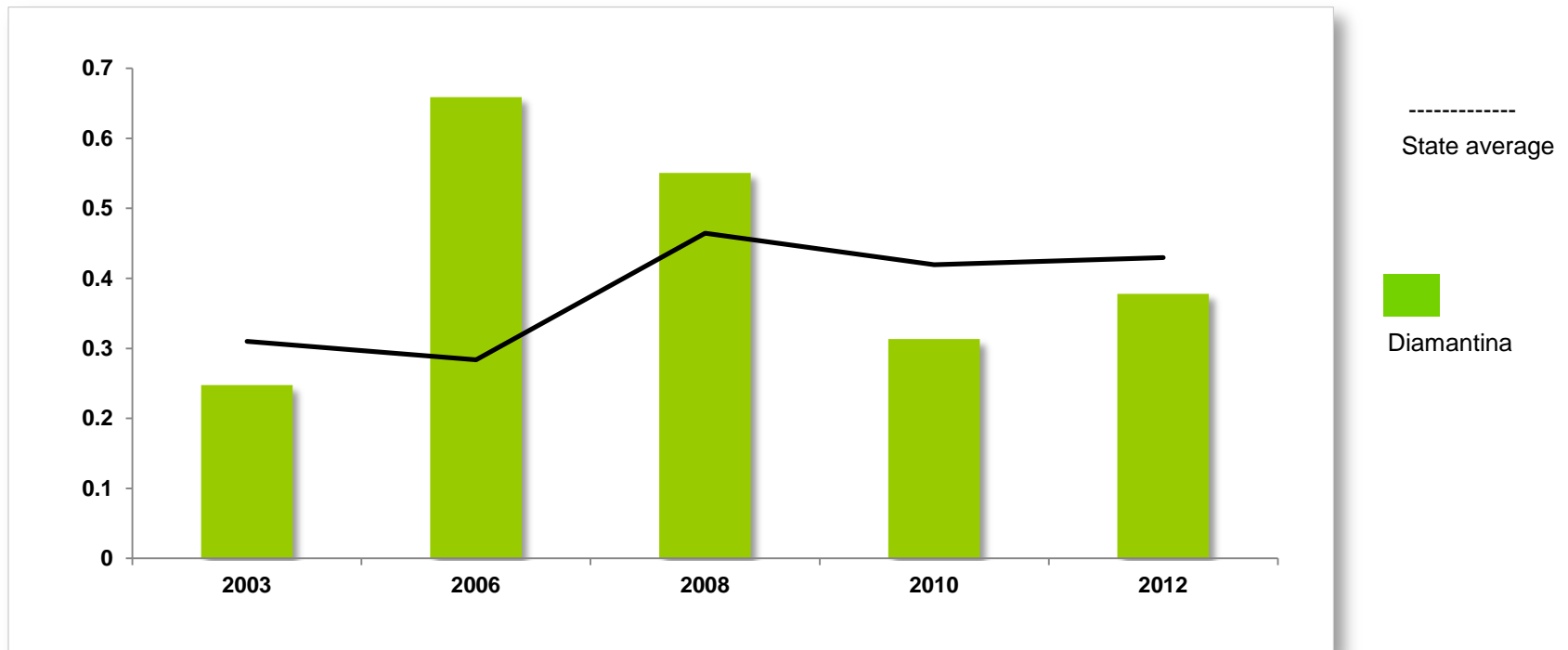


Financial inputs

- Operational budget increased from \$23,000 per year to \$62,000 per year.
- Labour stable at about 2.5 FTE
- 1996 to 2010 > \$500,000 spent on new fencing
- 2010 > \$250,000 spent on parks base
- 2013-14, \$200,000 spent on visitor infrastructure



Rapid Assessment Results

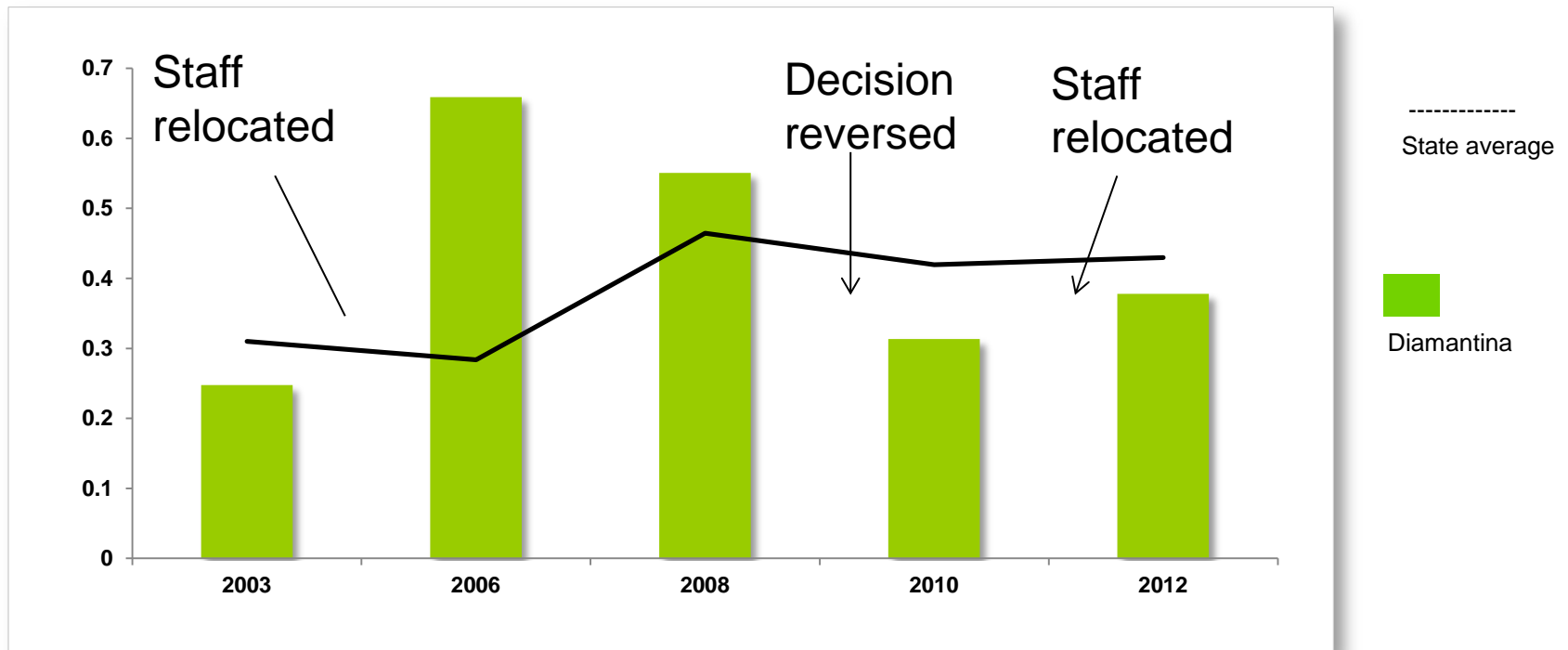


July 2013 new staff arrived





Rapid Assessment Results



Lessons Learnt

- Information feedback loops can be very slow
- Good subjective data is as important as qualitative data
- on-ground staff are the eyes and ears of management effectiveness
- there needs to be a robust, inclusive process to collect this knowledge
- Ensure monitoring is targeted and contains some elements that are short term as well as long term

Until the results of evaluation play a part
in everyday management, feedback
loops will remain slow.

Good protected area management
may be as simple as boundary fence
maintenance.

