Our endangered world

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
INTERMEDIATE | B1-B2

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Tick the correct category for each conservation word.

Word | Threat | Solution | Status | Impact

1 critically endangered [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

2 captive breeding [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

3 illegal trade [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

4 population decline [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

5 rewilding [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

6 climate refugee [animal] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

7 protected area [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

8 ecosystem collapse [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

2 Correct the mistake in each sentence.

1 The species is critically of endangered. _____

2 Zoos use captive of breeding programmes. _____

3 Illegal trade threaten many species. _____

4 Population decline is serious of problem. _____

5 They started rewilding of the area. _____

6 Some animals become climate of refugees. _____

7 This is protected of area. _____

8 Ecosystem collapse affect everyone. _____

3 Choose the more suitable description.

1 For a species at extremely high risk of extinction: critically endangered / thriving.

2 For breeding animals in controlled conditions to save a species: captive breeding / wild breeding.

3 For the illegal buying and selling of animals: illegal trade / legal commerce.

4 For a steady drop in animal numbers: population decline / population growth.

5 For reintroducing species to restore an ecosystem: rewilding / farming.

6 For a place legally set aside to protect wildlife: protected area / open development.

Our endangered world

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4 Complete the reports with words from the box.

captive breeding | critically endangered | ecosystem collapse | illegal trade | population decline | protected area | rewilding | sanctuary

Report A: The species is now considered 1 _____, and conservationists have launched a 2 _____ programme to boost numbers before release.
Report B: Investigators linked the sharp 3 _____ to the 4 _____ in exotic animals across the region.
Report C: The new 5 _____ protects thousands of hectares from development, supporting a broader 6 _____ project to reintroduce native predators.
Report D: Scientists warned that continued biodiversity loss could eventually trigger 7 _____, with cascading effects throughout the food web. A local wildlife 8 _____ now cares for animals rescued from the illegal trade.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

The race against extinction

Conservationists face mounting pressure as the rate of species decline accelerates worldwide, driven by habitat loss, illegal trade and the effects of climate change. Captive breeding programmes have helped some critically endangered species recover, though success stories remain relatively rare, since reintroduced populations often struggle without sufficient protected habitat to return to. Increasingly, conservationists argue that addressing the drivers of extinction, such as deforestation and demand for illegal wildlife products, matters more than emergency interventions alone. Rewilding projects, restoring ecosystems and reintroducing lost species, are gaining attention as a longer-term strategy that addresses root causes rather than symptoms.

1 What pressure do conservationists face? _____

2 Name two drivers of species decline mentioned. _____

3 What have captive breeding programmes helped some species do? _____

4 Why do success stories remain relatively rare? _____

5 What do conservationists increasingly argue matters more than emergency interventions? _____

6 What are rewilding projects gaining attention as? _____

6 Rewrite each phrase using the word in capitals.

1 The species faces extremely high risk of dying out. CRITICALLY ENDANGERED _____

2 They bred the animals in controlled conditions. CAPTIVE BREEDING _____

Our endangered world

3 The animal numbers dropped steadily. POPULATION DECLINE _____

4 They reintroduced species to restore the ecosystem. REWILDING _____

OVER TO YOU

Write a 100-120 word account of how conservation efforts could help protect an endangered species. Include specific strategies and challenges.

[ ] Use at least ten target expressions. [ ] Include polite, precise wording. [ ] Organise the account clearly.

Our endangered world

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ANSWER KEY

1 Categories

1 Status 2 Solution 3 Threat 4 Impact 5 Solution 6 Impact 7 Solution 8 Impact

2 Corrections

1 critically endangered 2 captive breeding programmes 3 threatens many species
4 a serious problem 5 rewilding the area 6 climate refugees
7 a protected area 8 affects everyone

3 Suitable descriptions

1 critically endangered 2 captive breeding 3 illegal trade 4 population decline 5 rewilding 6 protected area

4 Reports

1 critically endangered 2 captive breeding 3 population decline 4 illegal trade 5 protected area
6 rewilding 7 ecosystem collapse 8 sanctuary

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 The rate of species decline accelerating worldwide.
2 Any two: habitat loss, illegal trade, effects of climate change.
3 Recover.
4 Reintroduced populations often struggle without sufficient protected habitat to return to.
5 Addressing the drivers of extinction, such as deforestation and demand for illegal wildlife products.
6 A longer-term strategy that addresses root causes rather than symptoms.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 The species is critically endangered. 2 They used captive breeding.
3 There was population decline. 4 They carried out rewilding.

Over to you

Answers will vary. Check range, respectful register and clear organisation.