

3 Conservation programmes are used to save endangered species.

The Scottish wildcat, shown in the photograph, is a subspecies of the European wildcat, *Felis silvestris silvestris*.



The Cairngorms Wildcat Project estimates that there are 150 breeding pairs left, but the Scottish Wildcat Association believes that only 35 cats remain.

A conservation group proposed that a captive breeding programme, and the relocation of Scottish wildcats, would be necessary to prevent extinction.

(a) (i) State why the Scottish wildcat has been described as **endemic**.

(1)

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(ii) The Scottish wildcat can interbreed successfully with domestic cats.

Explain the effect this could have on the genetic diversity of the Scottish wildcat.

(2)

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