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The Bali starling, *Leucopsar rothschildi*, is found on the island of Bali, Indonesia.

Fig. 1.1 shows a Bali starling.



Fig. 1.1

- (a) The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is the world's largest global environmental organisation. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ evaluates the conservation status of plant and animal species.

The Bali starling is categorised as critically endangered on the IUCN Red List, which means that it is nearly extinct in the wild.

The Bali starling is protected by Indonesian law and trapping of the birds for sale as pets is illegal. In 2001 there were only six Bali starlings in the wild and about 1000 in captivity.

- (i) Suggest reasons, other than the trapping of the birds for sale as pets, for the very low numbers of Bali starlings in the wild.

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(ii) Describe the roles zoos can take in the protection of the Bali starling.

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(b) Explain the consequences on genetic biodiversity of having a wild population of just six birds.

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[Total: 9]



