**Basic Information: African wildcat (*Felis silvestris cafra*)**

**Animal: African wildcat**

**Identification pointers:** sexes similar; similar appearance to domestic cat; fur a sandy brown colour; reddish-brown colour on the back of ears; black stripes on legs; longer legs than the average housecat.

**Can be confused with:** domestic cats, black footed cat – black footed cat is smaller and stockier, with black spots and a short tail

**Activity period:** Mostly nocturnal but adaptable

**Length:** 85-100cm **Height:** 35cm **Weight:** 2.5-6kg

**Gestation period:** ±2 months

**Lifespan:** ±13-14 years

**Diet:** rodents, birds, reptiles, hares, invertebrates

**Predators:** Larger carnivores, martial eagles, pythons

**Preferred habitat:** occurs widely from desert to woodland, absent from tropical forests.

**Red List status:** Least concern

**Population:** decreasing

**Threats:** Hybridization with domestic cats pollutes the gene pool, makes pure wildcats more rare; road kill; persecution by farmers