

## PROTECT OUR PUFFINS

Read the following text and choose one option (A-D) to fill the spaces

They're known as the "clowns of the sea" with their (0) \_\_\_\_\_ colours and funny faces. But the decline of the puffin population is no laughing matter, as experts predict the UK could lose up to eight million puffins over the next 50 years.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ many seabirds that call Britain home, puffins are facing a tough time as they come (2) \_\_\_\_\_ against changes to their habitat, new predator threats, (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of food and rising sea temperatures owing to climate changes, all of (4) \_\_\_\_\_ are causing their numbers to wane. In fact, puffins are now so rare they're on the red list of (5) \_\_\_\_\_ species and at much risk of dying (6) \_\_\_\_\_ as the African elephant, the polar bear and the lion.

Thankfully, (7) \_\_\_\_\_, help is at hand for these wonderful birds in the form of a special team of experts at the RSPB. Over the past few months, they've been out along Britain's coastline, and particularly in the beautiful Fair Isle, where they've been (8) \_\_\_\_\_ out a vital project to help puffin welfare. According to Dr. Ellie Owen, (9) \_\_\_\_\_ from the RSPB, 'as puffins spend most of their time at sea, we only see them for a short time while they're on the cliffs'. So what we decided to do was tracking the seabirds using tags to find out where they're going to feed. This means we can protect those places, while (10) \_\_\_\_\_ they have a better chance of feeding their chicks and the colony thriving".