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Indians 6th largest downloaders of endangered species ringtones 27 Dec, 2007, 1602 hrs IST, AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: India ranks sixth on a list of 150 countries where people love to download cell phone ringtones of endangered species from the website of the Center for Biological Diversity.

The list comes at a time when the centre is celebrating the 100,000th free download from its endangered species ringtone Web site, rareearthtones.org, which feature the sounds of 70 rare and endangered animals from around the world.

The ringtones of the polar bear, blue-throated macaw, northern goshawk, California red-legged frog, American pika, the killer whale, and Mexican gray wolf are said to be the most popular among internet users.

The US ranks number one in terms of total ringtone downloads, followed by Iran and Italy on second and third positions, respectively.

Wrapping up the top are Canada and Great Britain, at fourth and fifth positions.

<u>Peter Galvin, conservation director with the Center for Biological Diversity, said that through</u> the website, users could also take action to save endangered species worldwide.

"Our endangered species ringtones have become a great way for people to personalize their cell phones and make a statement about the importance of protecting endangered species," Environmental News Network quoted him as saying.

Top nine endangered species ringtone downloading countries:

1. The United States 2. Iran 3. Italy 4. Canada 5. Great Britain 6. India 7. Brazil 8. Australia 9. China