



## News

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### Darwin Initiative project receives top award

A Darwin Initiative project has been awarded the top prize at the 2007 BIAZA (British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquaria) Awards. The Assam Haathi Project was recognised for its human animal conflict resolution project which aims to protect the large elephant population remaining in the forests of the Himalayan foothills while assisting the local peoples.

The awards highlighted the Zoo's efforts in maintaining high levels of animal welfare, field conservation and educating the public. The award-winning programme demonstrates how modern zoos can be a powerful force for conservation, tackling issues such as species extinction in the wild.

Joan Ruddock, Minister for Climate Change, Biodiversity and Waste said:

"This award by BIAZA is really good recognition of the hard work of those involved in the Assam Haathi Project.

"Darwin projects have provided valuable research and support in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in financial resources for the last fifteen years, and the Assam Haathi Project is just one of the many important projects we have supported to conserve the world's wildlife."

The Zoo was one of 14 winners chosen from 62 entries. Held annually for over a decade, the BIAZA awards recognise outstanding contributions and achievements in the fields of wildlife conservation, advances in animal welfare and husbandry, sustained breeding programmes, marketing, PR, education, research, enclosure design and individual outstanding achievement.

### Further information

- [The Darwin Initiative](#)
- [BIAZA](#)
- [Chester Zoo](#)

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