

Press Release

INDONESIA ENGAGES VANTARA'S EXPERTISE TO CURB ELEPHANT DEATHS FROM EEHV

Jamnagar / Jakarta: Vantara, a global wildlife rescue, rehabilitation, and conservation centre founded by Anant Ambani and based in Jamnagar, Gujarat, India, is providing technical expertise to support Indonesia's Ministry of Forestry (Kementerian Kehutanan) in its efforts to curb deaths among Sumatran elephants (*Elephas maximus sumatranus*) caused by Elephant Endotheliotropic Herpesvirus (EEHV). EEEHV is a serious and often fatal disease affecting young elephants and poses an additional threat to the Sumatran elephant, alongside ongoing habitat loss.

The engagement follows the recent death of a young elephant due to EEEHV infection at the Sebanga Elephant Conservation Center in Bengkalis, Riau. In response, the Indonesian government initiated cooperation with Vantara through its local partner, Fauna Land Indonesia, to strengthen early detection, preventive care, and veterinary response to the disease.

As part of this effort, elephant veterinarians, biologists, and other specialists from Vantara, working in coordination with Indonesian authorities and Fauna Land Indonesia, arrived in Riau on Monday to support EEEHV response measures, including medical assessments and preventive interventions. Their work focuses on elephants under human care, with particular emphasis on early symptom detection and strengthening disease management protocols.

Vantara is contributing technical expertise in veterinary diagnostics, preventive healthcare, and research support related to prophylaxis and antiviral treatment options. The effort also includes the development of baseline health data and capacity building through knowledge sharing and training for elephant caretakers and local veterinary personnel.

Located in Jamnagar, Gujarat, Vantara is a global wildlife conservation centre dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, and long-term care of wildlife, with specialised expertise in elephant health and welfare across both Asian and African species. Home to one of the world's most advanced elephant hospitals, Vantara integrates cutting-edge veterinary science with ethical, evidence-based practices, emphasising early intervention, disease prevention, and sustainable conservation outcomes.

While the current phase of this initiative is focused on Buluh Cina Nature Tourism Park in Riau, the preventive framework and technical inputs developed through this effort are expected to be extended to other key elephant habitats, including Tesso Nilo National Park, Sebanga, Way Kambas, and additional locations across Indonesia.

The cross-border exchange of technical expertise and knowledge is expected to strengthen elephant protection efforts and serve as a model for structured, data-driven, and prevention-oriented wildlife health management, contributing to the long-term conservation of the Sumatran elephant, a subspecies of the Asian elephant classified as *Critically Endangered* by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Media Contact: media@vantara.in