



KEMENTERIAN TENAGA DAN SUMBER ASLI

KERATAN SURAT KHABAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	STAR ASEAN			
TARIKH	:	12/6/2021	MUKA SURAT	:	17
JABATAN	:	-			

Praise for jumbo herd tracking efforts



Majestic creatures:
A male elephant travelling with the herd before leaving in a separate direction.
— China Daily/ANN

Experts hail tech use to protect wandering elephants

YUNNAN: Wildlife experts have praised China's use of new technology and sympathetic conservation practices to protect a herd of wild elephants marching through Yunnan province.

"China can have a new beginning as it can come up with its own model to deal with the elephant group," said Asian elephant expert Raman Sukumar, an honorary professor with the Centre for Ecological Sciences at the Indian Institute of Science.

With its resources, China could find a way to keep the elephants safe, create a new habitat for them or take them home, Sukumar said.

The herd of 15 wild Asian elephants has trekked 500km after leaving a designated protection zone in Xishuangbanna National Nature Reserve in Yunnan.

After a recent stop on the outskirts of Kunming, 14 of them are now



roaming in Yuxi.

Initially, there were 17 elephants, including one born during the journey. As of Thursday, three males had broken away from the group and were headed in separate directions, China Central Television reported. All the animals are safe and sound.

Local residents and officials have provided them with food and water.

Drones have been used to monitor

the herd's movements and hundreds of emergency personnel have been mobilised to keep the elephants safe.

Media coverage of the pachyderms' progress has aroused interest worldwide, especially in Asian countries such as India, Thailand and Cambodia, which have strong cultural links to the animals.

"The authorities are doing their best to use technology and safeguard these elephants to the best of their ability, which is highly commendable," said Mark Rayan Darmaraj, country director of the Wildlife Conservation Society-Malaysia.

The challenge for authorities is working out what needs to be done next, he said. This includes continuing to provide safe passage for the herd, guiding them towards the closest safe haven and possibly relocating them back to their Xishuangbanna habitat. — China Daily/ANN