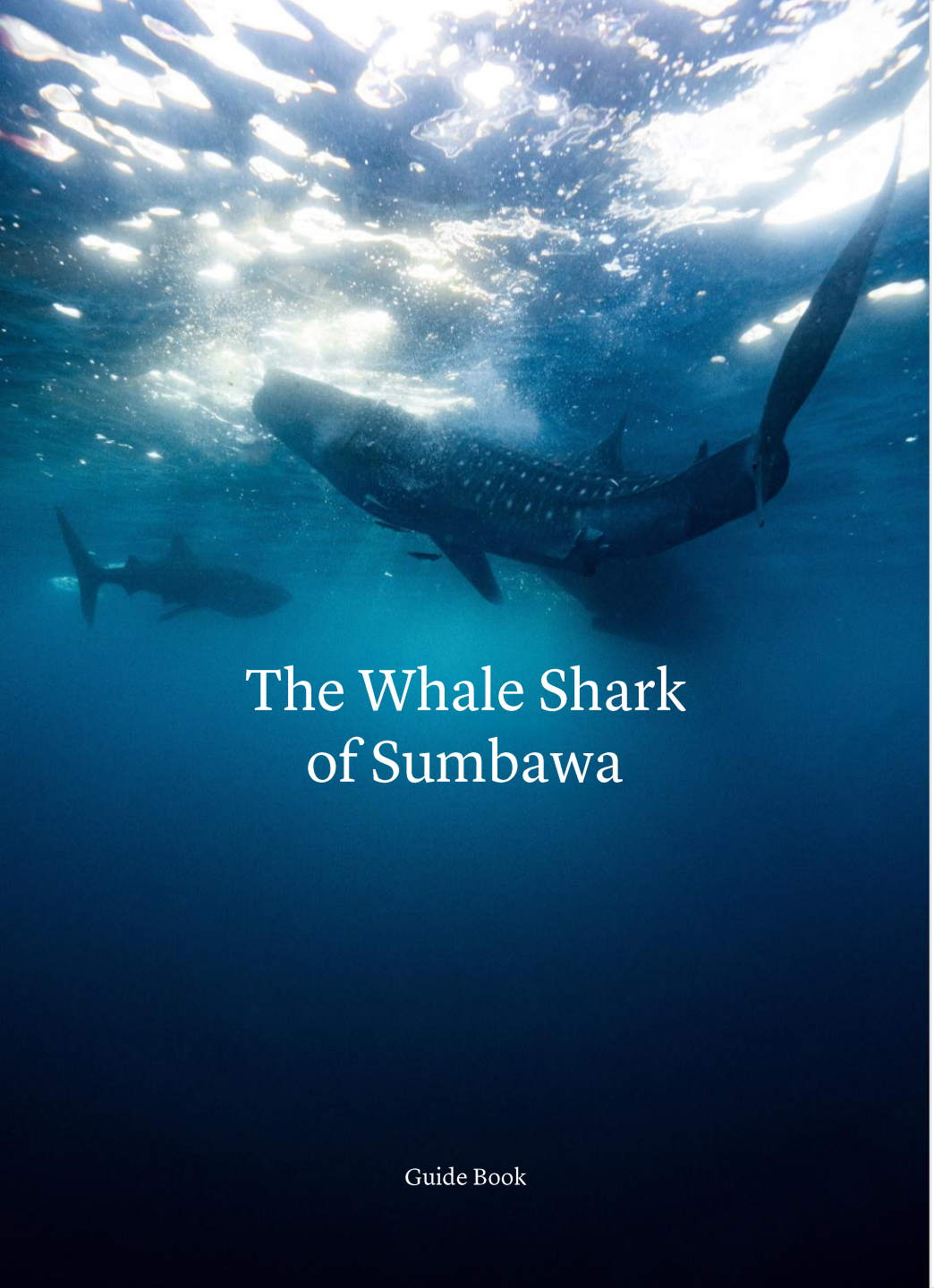


The Whale Shark of Sumbawa

Guide Book

Amanwana eyes the underwater world, bringing guests to get closer with the largest living non-mammalian vertebrate on the planet, the whale shark.

Located just east of Moyo Island, Saleh Bay is known as the location for the second-largest whale shark (Rhincodon typus) population in Indonesia with at least 103 whale sharks detected. UNESCO also recognizes the presence of whale sharks in the bay and adds Saleh-Moyo-Tambora areas to its biosphere reserves list in 2019.

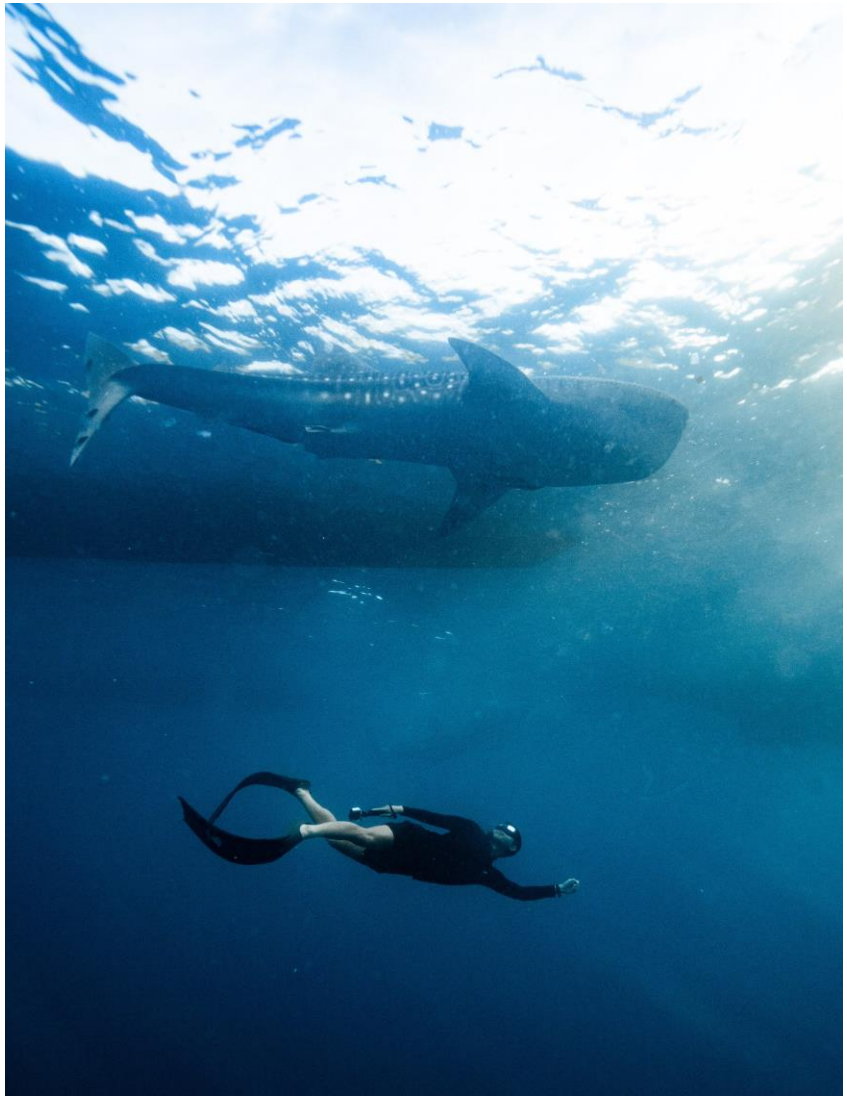
Amanwana introduces a new experience for the well-travelled to encounter with these gentle giants.

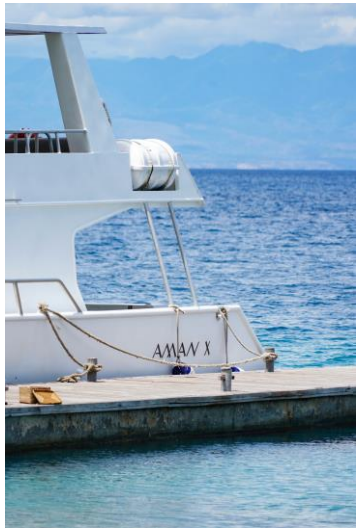
The Route

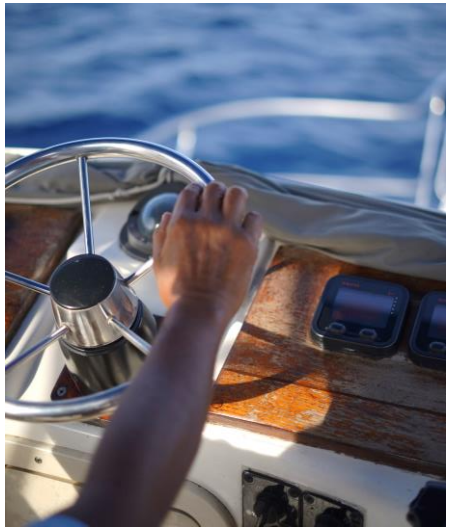
Journey at a glance:

- 4 am — leaving Amanwana
- 5.45 am — arrive in a Bagang at Saleh Bay
- 6.00 am — observing Whale Sharks
- 7.00 am — interactive talks about Whale Shark
- 8.00 am — back to Amanwana

The Journey







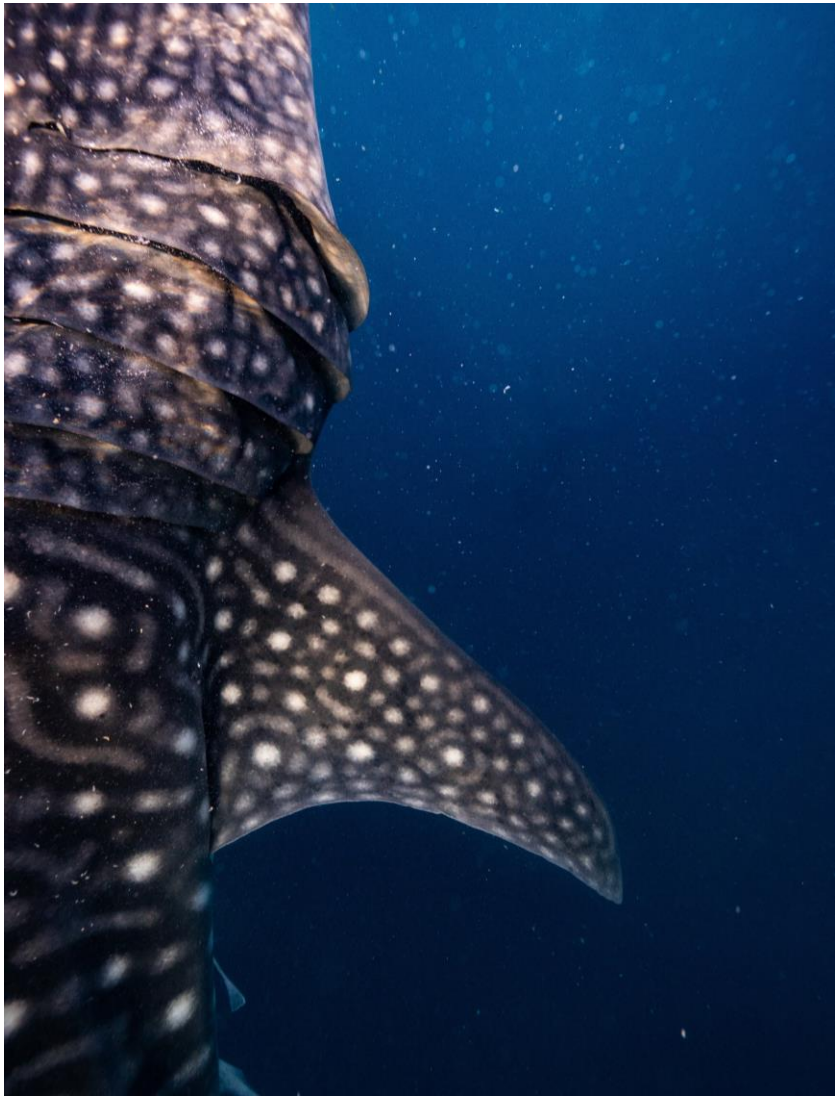
The journey to Saleh Bay takes about two hours by Amanwana's speedboat. We recommend leaving Amanwana at 4am to catch the magnificent sunrise over Mt Tambora while observing the presence of the whale sharks at 6 am.

The calm waters of Saleh Bay is rich with plankton plumes and small fishes that attracts whale sharks to the area. They often congregate around Bagan, local name for a lift net fishing platforms, to eat the small silverside baitfish.

Make the most of your time with these gentle giants as they roaming around the boat and the Bagan. Our team will be ready to guide you in a once-in-a-lifetime underwater experience. Despite their size, whale sharks are actually docile, very gentle and safe to swim with.

The journey to Saleh Bay will be accompanied by a conservation champion from Konservasi Indonesia, a non-profit organization that leads whale shark conservation in the area. They will be hosting talks and sharing their knowledge of the undersea world, in particular telling about whale sharks, their behavior, and what we can do to protect them.

The Package



Amanwana Whale Shark Excursion

Number of guests	Price per guest
2 guests	IDR 24,000,000
3 guests	IDR 16,000,000
4 guests	IDR 12,000,000
5 guests	IDR 9,500,000
6 guests	IDR 8,000,000

*Prices are subject to 21% government tax and service charge.

The whale shark excursion includes

- Return speedboat transfer from Amanwana to Saleh Bay.
- Interactive lecture about Whale Shark by Konservasi Indonesia.
- Opportunity to see the Whale Sharks from the boat or get closer and snorkeling with them in the water.
- Snorkeling gear.
- Indulgent breakfast, and snacks.
- Selected non-alcoholic beverages.
- Max capacity of 6 guests.
- Diving with the whale sharks is available with an additional surcharge.
- 10% from the price will be donated to support whale shark conservation in Saleh Bay.

TERMS & CONDITIONS:
Advance booking is required. Aman reserves the right to withdraw this offer at anytime with 48 hours' notice. Payment and cancellation refer to Aman's standard payment and cancellation policy.

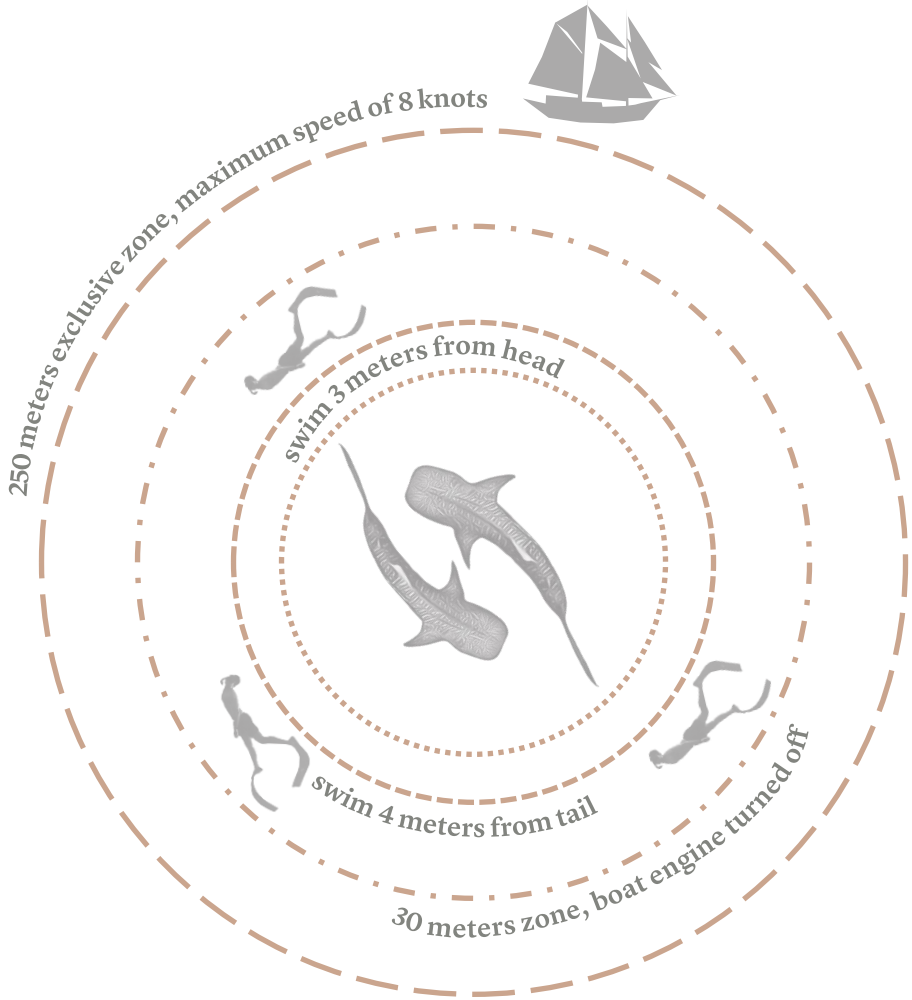
Be Gentle to the Giants

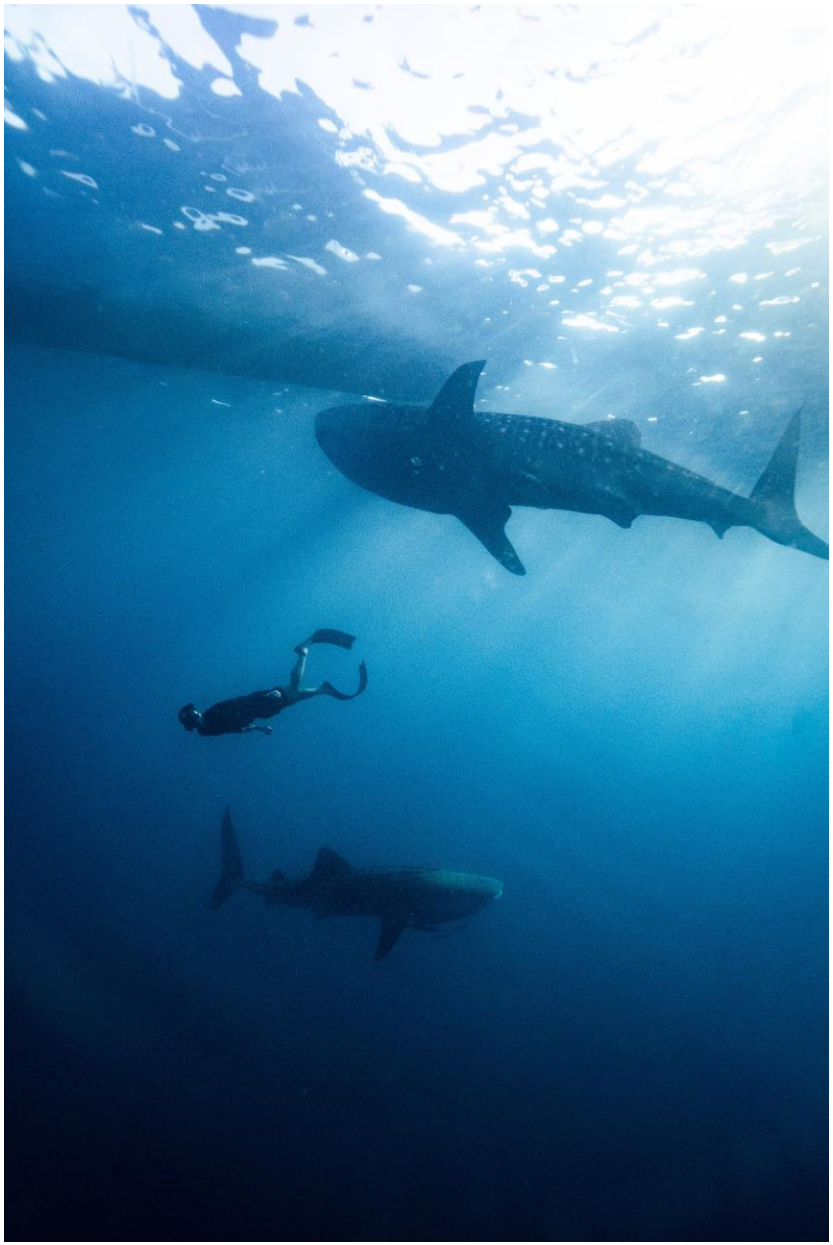
A guidance for guests to follow

Guests participating in Whale Shark Excursion should follow the guidelines below to mitigate the impact on the whale shark, ensure guests' safety, as well as to enhance guests' experience.

- Not using the camera flash when taking picture;
- Dispose of garbage in the trash bin provided;
- Sea scooter and jet ski is strictly prohibited;
- Do not use accessories such as bracelets, necklaces and other jewelry, especially those made of metal;
- Wear special clothing for activities in water;
- It is forbidden to use non-environmentally friendly sunscreens;
- No smoking on board;
- Do not make physical contact with whale sharks (chasing, touching, pulling, riding) except for research needs;
- Do not make movements that startle, make loud noises or disturb the Whale Shark (Rhincodon typus);
- Set a distance of 3 (three) meters from the side and head, 4 (four) meters from the tail side (it is recommended to avoid the tail), and not block the direction the Whale Shark swims;
- Only allowed to be on a rope that has been provided for snorkeling activities.
- During the interaction with whale sharks, either snorkeling or diving, the capacity is limited to a maximum of 8 guests in the water and a maximum of 60 minutes for each rotation.

Note: The above guideline is based on existing codes of conduct for whale shark ecotourism developed by the Ministry of Marine and Fisheries, Republic of Indonesia, as well as research studies by Konservasi Indonesia.





FAQ

What should I bring on the whale shark excursion?

You just need to bring your swim attire, environmentally friendly sunscreen, and tons of excitement. Then let the Amanwana team do the rest.

Can you guarantee that the whale sharks will be there?

Saleh Bay is fortunate to have a large population of whale sharks, but surely, we cannot control nature. Therefore, we cannot guarantee that the Whale Shark will be there. However, we will do our best by suggesting the right timing and choose the right point to spot the gentle giants.

I cannot swim. Can I still enjoy the trip?

If you are not confident enough to swim with the whale shark directly, staying on the boat and observing this magnificent creature in its natural habitat as it glides gracefully and effortlessly through the pristine water of the bay is also a breathtaking experience.

Is there specific season to see whale shark at Saleh Bay?

Unlike other places on the planet, whale shark at Saleh Bay can be seen all year long. However, we need to pay attention to the moon cycle. Best time for whale sharks is around new moon and we will avoid full moon because during that time, whale sharks are most likely disappearing out of sight.

Can I SCUBA dive with the whale sharks?

Diving with whale sharks is permitted. However, please keep a safe distance from the creature (3 meters from side and head, and 4 meters from tail). Also do not block the direction in which the whale shark swims.

Can I book the experience directly upon arrival?

As we only run one excursion per day, we want to make sure that we have availability for you. Hence, an advance reservation is highly recommended.

Adopting Whale Shark

Amanwana in collaboration with Konservasi Indonesia also launch an initiative where guests can adopt individual whale sharks. The initiative aims to encourage greater awareness of the importance of whale shark conservation towards healthy marine ecosystems. It is also an effort to support crucial whale shark research as well as protecting these globally endangered creatures.

How it works?

- Team from Konservasi Indonesia will identify a whale shark and then attach a satellite transmitter to their dorsal fin, with minimal disturbance to the animals.
- The transmitters' batteries last about two years, and data is relayed whenever the whale shark's fin breaks the water's surface. The data is essential for whale shark research, especially to observe their diving and migratory behavior.
- As an exclusive adoptive parent, you will have a chance to witness the tagging process directly at Saleh Bay and give a name to the recently identified whale shark.
- After tagging process, you will receive an official adoption certificate from Konservasi Indonesia as well as regular update every 3 months on your whale shark's movement.
- Adopters will also be provided with Whale Shark Tracker , a tool to track their whale sharks progress daily and in real-time, enabling them to learn about whale shark behavior and the ecosystem on which this species relies.

Contribution:

USD 10,000 per whale shark

The contribution goes directly towards sustaining the year-round research and conservation efforts to ensure that these animals are safe and healthy in their natural habitat.

AMANWANA

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X

KONSERVASI INDONESIA