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## **Top Caribbean Resort Dedicates Nature Preserve to its Home Community**

Plans include reforestation commemorating Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort's 35th anniversary

EAGLE BEACH, Aruba – Nov. 3, 2022 – Undeveloped green space in Aruba is becoming harder to find on the small island. This will soon change according to celebrated hotelier Ewald Biemans, Owner/CEO of Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort. Together with island friend Grete Marie Case and a significant sponsorship by the resort, they have donated 12 hectares (30 acres) of their private land as a nature preserve for the public to enjoy. Under The Bucuti & Tara Nature Preservation Foundation, The Bucuti Tara - GMC Park is debuting including a reforestation initiative to honor the resort's 35th anniversary as a proud supporter of its island community.

## **Preserving Aruba for Aruba**

The stretch of land is a desirable place for development with its convenient location to the high-rise hotels in cosmopolitan Noord. As the last remaining undeveloped private land in Noord, the new nature preserve will serve as a sanctuary in the heart of the island's busiest area. This land holds tremendous value and would be desirable for tourism-related businesses including new accommodations or restaurants. Instead of further crowding and overdeveloping the area, Biemans and Case purchased this natural countryside and are donating it to the people of Aruba so it will be protected from further development, forever.

## The Bucuti Tara - GMC Park

The Bucuti Tara - GMC Park is protected land. Motorized vehicles of any type are prohibited. The preserve is a typical Aruban ecosystem with any number of the 280 bird species including Wara Wara, Shocos and Prikichis calling Aruba home or their favorite layover between hemispheres, and all that thrive in its native flora and fauna. This gifted land will eventually offer residents and visitors a quiet, natural place to walk, jog or sit amongst Aruba's indigenous trees, plant life, and wildlife.

The timing also coincides with the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year of Biemans' <u>Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort</u> on Eagle Beach. To commemorate the milestone anniversary, the resort has been reflecting on its cherished history with its island home. Biemans recalls how undeveloped the island was 60 years ago and with the subsequent booms of tourism, his commitment to protecting Aruba's natural beauty and resources spans Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, the most eco-certified hotel in the Caribbean, and far beyond the hotel.

Biemans' commitment to protecting Aruba's natural beauty is evidenced over the years. He established the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Environmental committee and began the Sponsor-a-Mile program 30 years ago. He continues introducing eco-certification programs to help colleague hotels in Aruba begin their sustainability journeys. Particularly treasured initiatives include teaching entrepreneurship to EcoKids at the local International School, giving guest lectures at the University and welcoming researchers and students for hotel sustainability tours. Encouraging guests to take nature tours is core to the Bucuti & Tara experience. In 2019, Biemans introduced Lanta y Planta, a reforestation organization that came together after photos of the island's earlier days compared to present day showed concerning results from heavy deforestation. As the new nature preserve is dedicated, Bucuti & Tara's commitment to the community and the preservation of Aruba over 35 years continues with this forthcoming reforestation project.

"As a long practitioner of sustainability and the Caribbean's first certified carbon-neutral hotel, Bucuti & Tara's milestone anniversary gives us an opportunity to recognize 35 years of extremely positive impact to Aruba's people and economy, and we wish to continue that by reforesting the area with indigenous trees in celebration for future generations to enjoy," says Ewald Biemans, Owner/CEO of Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort.

To learn more, visit Bucuti.com.

**IMAGES** are located in this Dropbox folder. Photo credit: Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Aruba.

## About Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort

Declared the first CarbonNeutral®/net zero hotel in the Caribbean in August 2018, Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort is one of the Top 10 Hotels for Romance in the World (fourth straight year), No. 1 Hotel for Romance in the Caribbean (seventh straight year) and No. 3 Hotel for Service in the Caribbean. Aruba's premier adults-only boutique resort is led by celebrated hotelier and environmentalist, Ewald Biemans, named by Caribbean Journal as the 2017 Caribbean Hotelier of the Year. The resort is nestled on the powdery white sands of Eagle Beach, home to protected sea turtles and named one of the "Dream Beaches of the World."

Now home to the Caribbean's Safest, Healthiest Vacation Experience thanks to its physician-developed COVID-19 safety protocols and Aruba's Health & Happiness Code seal, Bucuti has 104 well-appointed guestrooms, suites and penthouses. It offers sunbeds and shade for every guest; freshwater infinity pool; spa; WiFi; and complimentary iPad with Skype for use during stay. Award-winning healthy dining is enjoyed at oceanfront Elements, Tara Lounge and private beach dining. Reserved exclusively for guests and their friends, the newly renovated open-air SandBar offers top-shelf cocktails and live music daily along with the Caribbean's first Healthy Hour. The resort is TAG Approved® as a LGBTQ-friendly hotel. Bucuti, a worldwide sustainable tourism leader, holds eco-certifications of LEED Gold, Green Globe Platinum and Travelife Gold and was named the World's Most Sustainable Hotel/Resort in 2016 by Green Globe.