

Aruba media inquiries:
Crescenzia Biemans
cresi@bucuti.com
+297 593 6303

International media inquiries:
Amy Kerr
amykerr@revelconcepts.com



Aruba Resort Champions UN Sustainable Development Goal 15 with Carbon Sink

Media release first in series to share initiatives, report results within globally recognized SDGs

EAGLE BEACH, Aruba – Nov. 21, 2023 – For its 35th anniversary last Oct. 2022, [Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Aruba](#) celebrated by gifting its island home with a nature preserve that honors the universally recognized United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 15: Preserving Life on Land. One year later, the resort reports Phase 1 accomplishments that are continuously bringing together community and visitors, thriving with nonprofit Ban Lanta y Planta, contributing to reversing climate change, and protecting precious remaining land for future generations.



First in media release series

This media release is the first of a series connecting some of the resort's 400+ sustainability initiatives with the [United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals](#), which are the most universally accepted criteria the world has in the shared need to combat climate change, preserve cultures and create social-economic stability. In travel, this comes down to sustainable tourism practice and ethical development. [Bucuti & Tara](#) is the only hotel worldwide to win the Global UN Climate Action Award. While guests are drawn to the resort's powdery white sands, turquoise seas and laidback luxury setting, most have deeper appreciation of their responsible travels when they learn of its extensive initiatives within the UN SDGs. A stay at Bucuti & Tara is delightful for guests while simultaneously helping the island community and the planet such as with the new nature preserve.

Forever protecting and reforesting scarce land on a tiny island

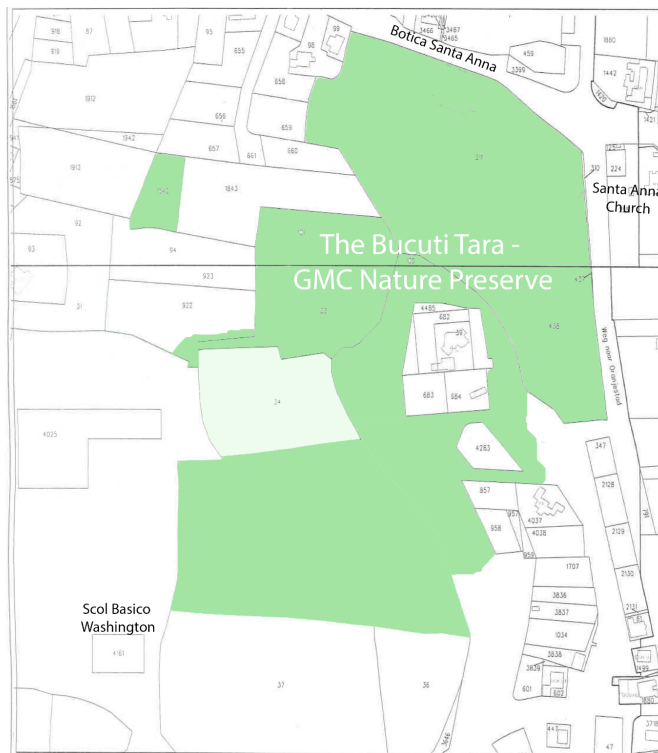
[The Bucuti & Tara - GMC Nature Preserve](#) is nestled on a 30-acre/12-hectare tract of land in one of the island's busiest cities, Noord. Available, undeveloped land is scarce in Aruba. The practice of traditional and modern 35th-anniversary milestone gifts include coral, jade, and emeralds. As the Caribbean's first certified carbon-neutral hotel, Bucuti & Tara's interpretation of these gifts is found in the colorful gemstone shades throughout the preserve's protected flora and fauna. Future plans include the building

of trails for people to walk or jog.

“Gifting Aruba with The Bucuti & Tara - GMC Nature Preserve forever protects this prime land according to SDG15, brings together community, and conveys that our nature is far more valuable than anything else that can be done on it,” shares Ewald Biemans, Owner/CEO of Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Aruba. “We are grateful for the continued work with Aruba nonprofit Ban Lanta y Planta.”

One year later

The [United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 15](#), or SDG15, reads: Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.



Community, government officials including Aruba’s Minister of Environment and Minister of Justice, nonprofit Ban Lanta y Planta, resort staff, and even guests routinely come together to plant indigenous trees. Trees are planted for celebrations, in memory of loved ones, and in honor of special occasions such as [Earth Day](#) and [World Mental Health Day](#). Island nonprofit Ban Lanta y Planta helps facilitate the growth of seedlings and organize plantings. In its first year, 414 trees were planted, with 1,500 seedlings being prepared by Ban Lanta y Planta in the greenhouse.

The nature preserve serves double duty as a carbon sink while also reversing the loss of nature. Oceans, soil, and forests are the three types of Earth’s natural carbon sinks. The vegetation draws down dangerous carbon emissions from the atmosphere while exhaling fresh oxygen. The goal is to reforest with 15,000 trees for an annual drawdown of 375 tCO2.

The Bucuti & Tara - GMC Nature Preserve is the latest in Bucuti & Tara’s long history of operating within the best practices of UN SDGs. Monthly resort staff and guest beach clean-ups remove 500 lbs. of debris annually. Resort grounds only have indigenous plantings, which are irrigated with sanitized gray water. The resort’s wide stretch of world-famous Eagle Beach is kept uncrowded and pristine for nesting sea turtles. The island’s Donkey Sanctuary also benefits from the resort’s support.

A year of progress and accolades for sustainability

Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Aruba, continues to elevate travelers’ experiences by becoming the newest member of [Regenerative Travel](#). To qualify, Bucuti & Tara exhibits a mission-driven, independent spirit, honors a sense of place, has an ethos of service, and provides a vacation that meets guests’ values. It kicked off the year as the island’s Energy Globe National Winner. In June, Bucuti & Tara was named the first winner of the Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association’s AHATA Impact Award for Environmental Protection while also recertifying as Travelife Gold. Most recently, the resort celebrated being recertified CarbonNeutral and remaining the Caribbean’s first and only carbon-neutral hotel since 2018.



Learn more by visiting Bucuti.com

IMAGES & VIDEOS

Additional nature preserve images located in [this Dropbox folder](#).

Images and videos are located in [this private media gallery](#).

About Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort

Declared the [first CarbonNeutral® hotel in the Caribbean](#) in August 2018, Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort the No. 1 Hotel in the Caribbean and No. 18 Hotel in the World according to Tripadvisor. 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."

Home to the Caribbean's Safest, Healthiest Vacation Experience and Aruba's Health & Happiness Code seal, Bucuti has 104 well-appointed guest rooms, suites and penthouses. It offers sunbeds and shade for every guest; freshwater infinity pool; spa; WiFi; and complimentary iPad 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 open-air SandBar offers top-shelf cocktails and live music daily along with the Caribbean's first Healthy Hour. The resort is IGLTA and TAG Approved® as an LGBTQ-friendly hotel. Bucuti & Tara, a worldwide sustainable tourism leader, holds eco-certifications of CarbonNeutral®, LEED Gold, Green Globe Platinum and Travelife Gold and was named the World's Most Sustainable Hotel/Resort in 2016 by Green Globe. New in 2023, the resort is the newest member of Regenerative Travel.

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