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# Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort Expands Nature Preserve for World Environment Day

More of Aruba's nature now being protected and ecosystems reawakened through The Bucuti Tara - GMC Nature Preserve

EAGLE BEACH, Aruba – June 3, 2024 – The Bucuti Tara - GMC Nature Preserve located in the heart of Noord recently expanded to 130,000 square meters (32-acres/13-hectares), up from the original 30-acres/12-hectares. <u>Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Aruba</u> is planting roots of change for even more of the island's land just in time for World Environment Day 2024.

The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) established <u>World Environment Day</u> in 1973 and it is held annually on June 5. Bucuti & Tara joins this global movement that brings together millions of people across 150 nations, and engages them in the effort to protect and restore the Earth.

This year's observance focuses on land restoration, halting desertification and building drought resilience – the epitome of <u>The Bucuti Tara - GMC Nature Preserve</u>. Reflecting UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15: Life on Land, this major, multiyear movement benefits all of Aruba.

"While attending COP28 in late 2023 by invitation of the United Nations, the call for the world to collaborate in the fight against climate change was at a fever pitch, and for us, it has been a call that we have long answered and now have had the opportunity to expand with our ongoing efforts of expansion and reforestation with The Bucuti Tara - GMC Nature Preserve, especially for World Environment Day 2024," shares Owner/CEO Ewald Biemans of Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Aruba.

#### **Restoring the future**

The newest land added to the nature preserve provides a greater opportunity for more of Aruba's nature to be reforested. Since gifting the future generations of Aruba with The Bucuti Tara - GMC Nature Preserve in 2022, staff, businesses and organizations, government officials, <u>community members of all ages</u> and even island visitors have come together to donate their time to help with hands-on rewilding of the massive stretch of land spanning over 130,000 square meters (32-acres/13-hectares). The spirit of collaboration led by Ban Lanta y Planta and Bucuti & Tara volunteers has resulted in more than 700 indigenous trees being planted as a continued part of Phase 1. Ultimately, it is anticipated that 15,000 trees will be planted resulting in a carbon sink that will draw down an estimated 375 tCO2 emissions from the atmosphere, an initiative of UN SDG 13: Climate Action.

#### **Conservation meets creativity**

The Bucuti Tara - GMC Nature Preserve is also about to benefit from the creative talents of Frans van der Paal. Along with being a dedicated member of Ban Lanta y Planta, the talented landscape artist will be donating his time and expertise to design natural pathways through the park brimming with Aruban cactus so that everyone can enjoy it in harmony with nature. Visitors will be able to jog or walk through the park and bask in a wild piece of authentic Aruban flora and fauna in the bustling area of Noord

#### Reawakened ecosystem

Bucuti & Tara knows time cannot be turned back, however people can work together to grow forests, revive water sources and bring back soils. The establishment and ongoing work at The Bucuti Tara - GMC Nature Preserve is already reawakening fragile ecosystems. Balance is returning for flora and fauna. People are serving as protectors of the land where both people and the planet thrive, as opposed to developing it solely for human interest.

This World Environment Day, Bucuti & Tara is honored to join the world by leading a major, multiyear initiative to protect even more of the planet with the expansion of The Bucuti Tara - GMC Nature Preserve.

To learn more, visit Bucuti.com and ElementsAruba.com.

### **IMAGES & VIDEOS**

Images in <u>this Dropbox folder</u>. Images and videos are located in <u>this private media gallery</u>.

## About Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort

Declared the first certified CarbonNeutral<sup>®</sup> hotel in the Caribbean in 2018, Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort is the No. 3 Hotel in the Caribbean and No. 21 Hotel in the World according to Tripadvisor. Aruba's premier adults-only boutique resort is led by celebrated hotelier and environmentalist, Ewald Biemans, who holds many accolades including multiple Hotelier of the Year awards. 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. The resort exemplifies an all-embracing commitment to the <u>United Nations Sustainable Development Goals</u> and the United Nations deemed Bucuti & Tara's sustainability program "highly replicable and scalable" for hotels worldwide to emulate.

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