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Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort Grows Its Environmental Legacy with 2025 Collaborations at The Bucuti Tara - GMC Nature Preserve

Caribbean's only certified carbon-neutral hotel plants seeds of hope for generations to come

EAGLE BEACH, Aruba – Aug. 25, 2025— In the heart of Aruba's sun-drenched Noord region, something beautiful is growing. <u>Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort</u>, the <u>Caribbean's first and only certified carbon-neutral hotel</u>, is proud to celebrate the continued transformation of The Bucuti Tara – GMC Nature Preserve. The flourishing 32-acre (13-hectare) sanctuary for native biodiversity, environmental education and climate action.

The Bucuti Tara - GMC Nature Preserve was dedicated in 2022, and is a part of the living legacy of Bucuti & Tara's mission to preserve Aruba's natural heritage while fighting climate change. Gifted in part by Bucuti & Tara, resort Owner/CEO Ewald Biemans and longtime island friend Greta Marie Case, the preserve is co-managed in partnership with Ban Lanta y Planta, Aruba's grassroots reforestation nonprofit co-founded by Bucuti & Tara in 2019.

What began with <u>the planting of a single mango tree</u> in the resort's courtyard has grown into a thriving movement. That same mango tree, now bearing fruit beside <u>Bucuti & Tara's new, nature-immersed yoga deck</u>, symbolizes the resort's dedication to nurturing nature and community connection.

Nature Flourishes Among Trails, Trees and Teaching Moments

In the first half of 2025, the nature preserve reached vibrant new milestones:

- Nearly two (2) miles/three (3) kilometers of walking trails were expanded and lined with wood chips, making them more sustainable and accessible while protecting delicate tree roots.
- To date, more than 1,000 native trees and plants have been planted
- More than 200 native seedlings are being tended to and growing strong in the onsite greenhouse nursery, for planting this autumn

These trees will be planted by an always inspiring mix of volunteers, schoolchildren, resort guests and staff, and island visitors.

Power in Partnerships: Research, Reforestation & Local Engagement

From community cleanups to climate-smart planting, Bucuti & Tara's environmental efforts are grounded in collaboration and education. Ban Lanta y Planta partners in leading the way, hosting hands-on planting

events and nature workshops across the island with local organizations, youth groups and schools. Together, they're helping to re-green Aruba and rekindle the island's relationship with its natural landscapes.

The preserve also supports collaborative research. The University of Aruba, in partnership with Bucuti & Tara and Ban Lanta y Planta, is conducting a carbon capture study to better understand how different native tree species sequester carbon. As beautiful as the preserve is for park visitors to participate in reforesting or simply witness fragile ecosystems reawakened while strolling one of the new trails, the nature preserve doubles as a carbon sink. At full buildout of 12,000 to 15,000 trees spanning the 130,000 square meter stretch, The Bucuti & Tara - GMC Nature Preserve is estimated to draw down approximately 375 metric tons of CO2 from the atmosphere. The research now will help from insights that will help shape Aruba's long-term environmental and climate strategies.

A Vision Rooted in Sustainability, Brought to Life by Passion

"The Bucuti Tara - GMC Nature Preserve is more than trees and trails, it is a living, emboldened symbol of what we can accomplish together when purpose leads the way," shares Crescenzia Biemans, Managing Director of Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort. "The nature preserve is one of more than 400 action points that create our commitment to Aruba to creating a healthier planet and inspiring the next generation of sustainability leaders."

Crescenzia's recent promotion to Managing Director also provides her grandfather and Bucuti & Tara founder Ewald Biemans an even greater amount of time to work within the Nature Preserve. Ewald's lifelong dedication to conservation is

Whether planting mangroves at Spanish Lagoon, greening schoolyards with the Women's Club of Aruba, or preparing Aruba's youth to become environmental stewards, Bucuti & Tara is showing that local action creates global impact.

These efforts align with <u>UN Sustainable Development Goals</u> and recently earned Bucuti & Tara top honors with <u>two 2025 AHATA Impact Awards for Championing Cultural Heritage and Environmental Conservation.</u>

Hope Grows Here. Join the Movement.

Ultimately, thousands of more trees are scheduled in the resort's long-term reforestation plan. The plantings are vital to preserving native flora and fauna, restore natural balance and reduce Aruba's carbon footprint.

This September, as Aruba welcomes "liquid sunshine" or gentle showers of the season, the next wave of planting begins. The public is warmly invited to participate in upcoming tree-planting events, educational programs and voluntourism opportunities hosted at the preserve and across the island.

Learn more or get involved by visiting <u>Bucuti.com</u> or emailing <u>sustainability@bucuti.com</u>.

Learn more by visiting Bucuti.com.

IMAGES & VIDEOS

NEED LATEST NATURE PRESERVE IMAGES General resort images are in this private media gallery.

About Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort

Declared the first certified CarbonNeutral® hotel in the Caribbean in 2018, Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort is the No. 5 Hotel in the World and No. 1 Best Hotel in the Caribbean 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, a freshwater infinity pool, a spa, WiFi, and a complimentary tablet for use during the 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, live music daily, and 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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