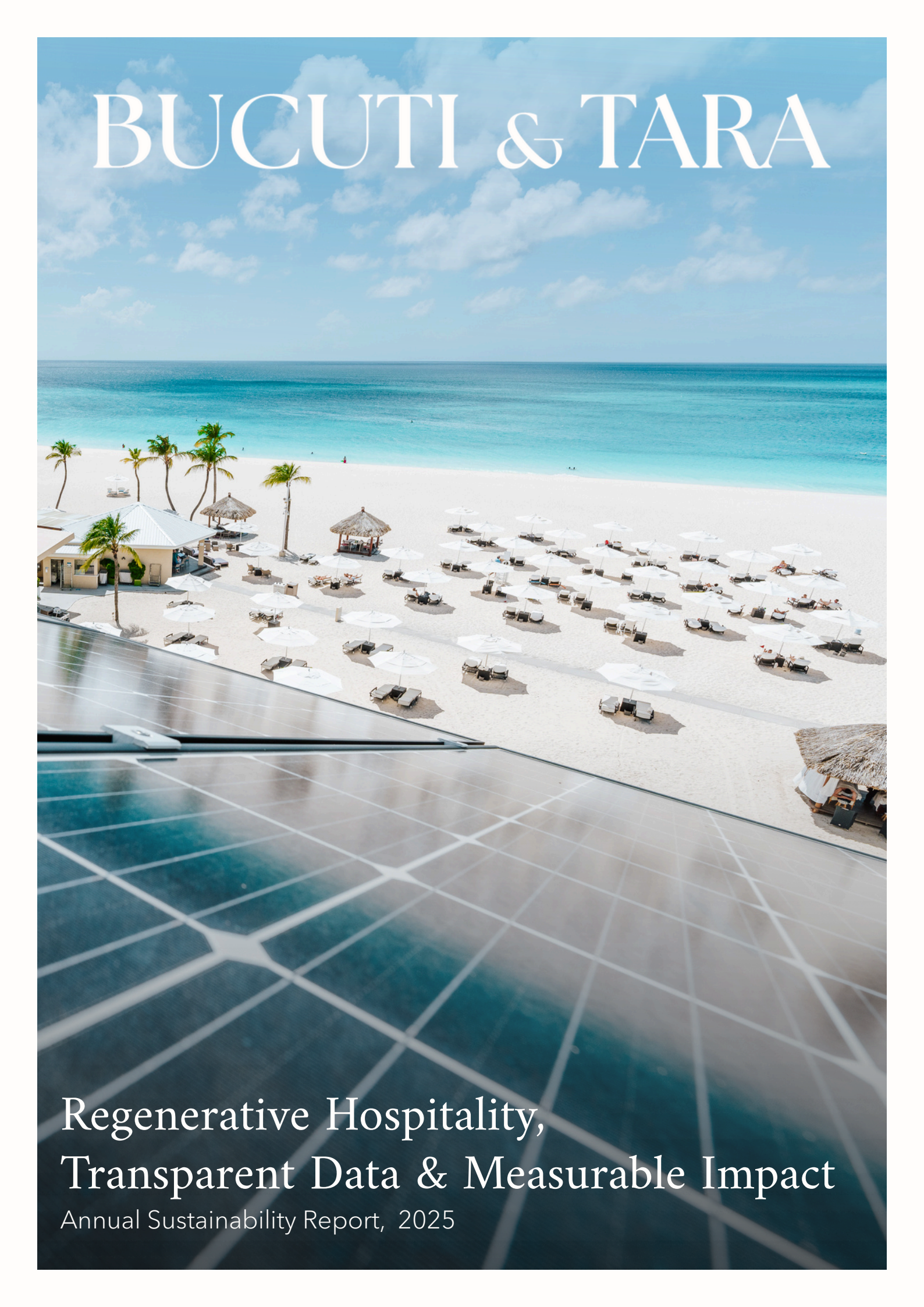


BUCUTI & TARA

An aerial photograph of a tropical beach. In the foreground, a large array of solar panels is visible, reflecting the sky and the beach below. The panels are arranged in a grid pattern. Beyond the solar panels, a wide, white sandy beach stretches towards the ocean. The beach is dotted with numerous white lounge chairs and large white umbrellas, suggesting a resort or vacation spot. Several palm trees are scattered along the shoreline. In the background, the turquoise ocean meets a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds. The overall scene conveys a message of sustainable luxury and regenerative hospitality.

Regenerative Hospitality,
Transparent Data & Measurable Impact
Annual Sustainability Report, 2025

Message from the CEO



Ewald Biemans

Owner & CEO

Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort



At Bucuti & Tara, caring for Aruba's natural beauty is inseparable from caring for our guests. Protecting this island ensures that future generations can experience the same peace, nature, and connection that make this place so special.

Aruba's natural beauty is the reason people from around the world are drawn to our island. The powdery white sand, the clear turquoise sea, and the constant breeze create a sense of peace that many travelers seek and remember long after they return home. This natural beauty is not only what defines Aruba as a destination, it is also what gives us a responsibility to protect it. At Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, we believe that caring for the place we call home is essential to the experience we offer our guests and to the future of our island.

From the very beginning, our mission has been clear. We strive to offer exceptional and tranquil hospitality experiences while protecting Aruba's natural environment and supporting the well being of the local community. Hospitality for us goes beyond providing comfort and service. It means creating an environment where guests can truly relax and connect with the beauty of Aruba while knowing that their stay contributes to the protection of the island's ecosystems and the well being of its people. Every decision we make, from the way we operate our resort to the partnerships we build within the community, reflects this commitment to responsible and thoughtful tourism.

Our vision is rooted in the belief that tourism and environmental stewardship can and must work together. We aim to demonstrate that a successful hospitality experience can flourish while protecting the destination it depends on. By continuously improving our practices, investing in sustainable innovation, and working closely with our community, we seek to ensure that Aruba's nature, culture, and sense of place remain strong for generations to come. We believe that by caring for the island today, we help preserve the beauty and spirit that future visitors and residents will cherish tomorrow.

Thank you for choosing Bucuti & Tara and for being part of our commitment to protecting the extraordinary island we are proud to call home.



Company History



A journey of steady progress showing how hospitality and environmental responsibility can grow together.

1987

Bucuti opens on
Eagle Beach

Bucuti Beach Resort opened along the quiet shores of Eagle Beach as an intimate retreat for travelers seeking tranquility and natural beauty. Owner Ewald Biemans envisioned a resort where hospitality and environmental care would grow together from the very beginning.

1991

Beach Cleanups
Begin

As tourism and construction on Aruba expanded, pollution along the island's beaches became increasingly noticeable. Bucuti joined other hotels in launching organized beach cleanups to help restore the shoreline. While participation from many partners faded over time, Bucuti believed in consistency and continued the effort. This year, the resort proudly completed its 33rd consecutive year of beach cleanups.

1992

Rio Earth Summit

The United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro brought sustainability to the center of global discussion. The widely shared message "Think globally, act locally" echoed far beyond the conference halls. For Bucuti, it reinforced a conviction already forming on Eagle Beach that tourism must protect the environment it depends on. The moment helped shape the resort's long-term commitment to responsible hospitality.

2000

Green Globe
Certification

At the turn of the millennium, Bucuti formally strengthened its environmental commitment by joining the Green Globe program, the leading global certification for sustainable tourism. The resort soon achieved certification, becoming the first hotel in the Caribbean to meet the program's standards for environmental management and responsible operations.



2003

The Tara Wing

A thoughtful expansion introduced the Tara Wing, adding a collection of refined suites designed for privacy and comfort. The name Tara comes from the meaning "Shining Star," reflecting elegance and distinction. With this addition the property became Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort.

2011

Travelife
Certification

By the next decade, sustainability had moved beyond individual initiatives and become part of everyday operations. Bucuti & Tara earned Travelife certification, recognizing its progress in environmental responsibility, fair labor practices, and community engagement. The certification reflected a broader view of sustainability that extended well beyond the shoreline.

2015

LEED Silver
Certification

Another milestone followed when Bucuti & Tara became the first hotel in the Caribbean to achieve LEED Silver certification. Rather than rebuilding from scratch, the recognition was earned through gradual improvements in construction, energy efficiency, and daily operations. It proved that even established resorts can evolve toward more sustainable design.

2016

A Perfect Score

In 2016, the resort further strengthened its renewable energy strategy by installing the largest solar panel system in Aruba's private sector., Generating about 15% of the resort's energy.

2018

Carbon Neutral
Leadership

Years of environmental progress culminated in 2018 with the resort becoming the first CarbonNeutral® certified hotel in the Caribbean. The certification recognized a comprehensive approach to climate responsibility through carefully measuring, reducing, and offsetting emissions. It formalized a commitment to climate action that had been steadily developing for decades.

2020

Climate Action and
Conservation

International recognition soon followed with the United Nations Global Climate Action Award, making Bucuti & Tara the first hotel in the world to be honored by the United Nations for climate leadership in tourism. That same year, the resort achieved another historic milestone, becoming the first hotel ever to earn a perfect 100% score in a Green Globe audit, reflecting decades of dedicated sustainability leadership across energy conservation, responsible operations, and environmental innovation.

Further strengthening this commitment to Aruba's natural heritage, more than 30 acres of native land in Noord were secured and donated by Ewald Biemans and Grete Marie Case as a gift to the island. Today, the protected area forms the Bucuti Tara - GMC Nature Preserve, supporting reforestation, encouraging the return of native flora and fauna, and safeguarding the land for future generations.



Our Achievements

Behind every initiative at Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort is measurable progress. Our sustainability program focuses on reducing environmental impact, strengthening community partnerships, and creating meaningful engagement for our guests and team members. The achievements shown here represent the key results of our environmental and social initiatives in 2025, reflecting our continued commitment to responsible tourism and regenerative hospitality in Aruba.



01. Certifications
Certified CarbonNeutral®, Travelife and Green Globe operations maintained.



02. Renewable Energy
14% of total energy from renewable sources.



03. Solar Energy Growth
+6.33% increase in solar generation.



04. Waste Diversion
64.25% of waste kept out of landfill.



05. Water Efficiency
0.31 m³ used per guest-night.



06. Trees Planted
130 native trees planted in Aruba.



07. Community Volunteers
396 volunteers joined environmental actions.



08. Animal Welfare
6,405 dogs and cats sterilized.

Looking Ahead

Building on the progress achieved in 2025, the resort's focus for 2026 includes eliminating diesel, gasoline, and LPG use in operations, advancing toward Net Zero emissions in Scopes 1 and 2, reducing water consumption by 5%, and diverting an additional 2% of waste from landfill. The planting of 120 native trees across Aruba will further strengthen local biodiversity and ecosystem resilience.

Alongside these environmental goals, Bucuti & Tara will renew its Green Globe Platinum, LEED Gold, and CarbonNeutral® certifications. Each step forward reflects the resort's belief that protecting Aruba's natural beauty and supporting its community requires consistent action and thoughtful leadership.



Growing Aruba's Natural Future

Just a short distance from Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort lies the Bucuti & Tara – GMC Nature Preserve, a protected 13-hectare (32-acre) natural area in Aruba's Noord region. The land was gifted to the community to safeguard one of the island's last undeveloped green spaces from future development while restoring native ecosystems that once defined Aruba's landscape. Today the preserve supports a growing natural habitat where local flora and fauna can thrive. It provides refuge for wildlife and serves as a resting and nesting area for birds, with more than 280 species recorded in the area. Beyond biodiversity, the preserve also contributes to Aruba's climate resilience by acting as a natural carbon sink, helping absorb carbon dioxide while strengthening soil health and ecosystem stability.

Restoration within the preserve is an active and ongoing effort. Bucuti & Tara works closely with its local reforestation partner Ban Lanta y Planta, which translates from Papiamentu as "Let's Plant and Grow." Together they focus on reintroducing native and climate-resilient trees that support biodiversity, restore natural vegetation, and improve soil quality across the preserve. In 2025, a total of 130 native trees were planted through restoration initiatives both within the Nature Preserve and across the community. More than 80 of these trees were planted together with Ban Lanta y Planta, continuing the long-term transformation of the area into a thriving natural habitat that reflects Aruba's native environment.

Guests also have the opportunity to become part of this restoration story through the Plant a Tree of Love initiative. Couples visiting Bucuti & Tara are invited to plant a tree together within the preserve as a living symbol of their relationship and their connection to Aruba. When they return to the island in the future, they can revisit the preserve and see how their tree has grown alongside the surrounding landscape, turning a meaningful moment during their stay into a lasting connection with Aruba's natural environment.

The resort's restoration efforts extend beyond the preserve itself and into the broader community. In collaboration with the Government of Aruba and Living Soil Aruba, more than 50 trees were planted at Santa Jacinta School in 2025, helping transform part of the campus into a developing food forest. The project increases green space while giving students hands-on exposure to environmental education, biodiversity, and sustainable agriculture. By combining habitat restoration, guest engagement, and community partnerships, Bucuti & Tara continues to contribute to the long-term health of Aruba's ecosystems while helping the island grow greener and more resilient for generations to come.



Understanding the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 global goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They were created to provide a shared framework for governments, businesses, and communities to address the world's most pressing environmental, social, and economic challenges.

The SDGs focus on areas such as ending poverty, protecting the planet, improving health and education, promoting equality, and ensuring sustainable economic growth. Each goal includes specific targets and indicators designed to guide action and measure progress toward a more sustainable and equitable future.

For organizations like Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, the SDGs serve as a global sustainability framework that helps align business practices with broader social and environmental priorities. By contributing to these goals through responsible operations, community engagement, and environmental stewardship, businesses can support long-term wellbeing for both people and the planet.



No Poverty

The resort prioritizes local employment, with approximately 70% of its workforce from Aruba, and actively supports micro and community-based businesses. By partnering with local suppliers, artisans, and entrepreneurs, Bucuti & Tara helps strengthen livelihoods and build long-term economic resilience within the island community.



Zero Hunger

Bucuti & Tara promotes sustainable agriculture within the tourism value chain by sourcing locally grown and responsibly produced ingredients whenever possible. This approach supports local farmers, strengthens regional food systems, and enhances the authenticity of the guest dining experience.



Good Health and Well-Being

Bucuti & Tara promotes sustainable agriculture within the tourism value chain by sourcing locally grown and responsibly produced ingredients whenever possible. This approach supports local farmers, strengthens regional food systems, and enhances the authenticity of the guest dining experience.



Quality Education

Continuous learning and development are key priorities. Bucuti & Tara provides training and professional development opportunities for associates while also supporting educational initiatives and schools within the community to help build future workforce skills.





Gender Equality

The resort promotes a culture of fairness, inclusion, and opportunity. Equal pay and career advancement opportunities are maintained for all employees, while partnerships and memberships such as IGLTA and TAG reinforce Bucuti & Tara's commitment to diversity and LGBTQ+ inclusion.



Clean Water and Sanitation

Water stewardship is a central component of the resort's environmental strategy. Bucuti & Tara uses advanced water management systems including greywater recycling, responsible treatment processes, and non-toxic cleaning practices, saving millions of gallons of water annually while protecting local ecosystems.



Affordable and Clean Energy

The resort has installed Aruba's largest private-sector solar panel system, generating approximately 20% of its electricity. In addition, programs such as Solar for Associates support employees in accessing renewable energy solutions for their homes.



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Life Below Water

The resort supports marine conservation through monthly beach cleanups, partnerships with organizations such as Turtugaruba and the Aruba Conservation Foundation, and initiatives focused on sea turtle protection, coral reef conservation, and mangrove restoration.



Life on Land

The 32-acre Bucuti Tara – GMC Nature Preserve supports habitat restoration, native tree planting, and biodiversity protection. With over 1,300 trees planted, the preserve provides critical habitat for wildlife and contributes to the health of Aruba's terrestrial ecosystems.



Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Bucuti & Tara advocates for responsible tourism grounded in transparency, ethical governance, and respect for human rights and culture. The resort works collaboratively with public institutions to support sustainable development and community wellbeing.



Partnerships for the Goals

Collaboration is essential to achieving meaningful sustainability progress. Bucuti & Tara works with government agencies, NGOs, industry associations, and community organizations to strengthen sustainable tourism practices and drive shared progress toward the global SDGs.



A Monthly Commitment to Protecting Aruba's Shoreline

Since the 1990s, Aruba has experienced significant growth in tourism and coastal development. As more visitors arrived and infrastructure expanded along the coastline, pressure on the island's natural environment increased, along with coastal pollution. Plastics, fishing debris, packaging materials, and other waste increasingly began to appear along Aruba's beaches, carried by ocean currents, wind, and human activity. Recognizing the need for collective action, the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association (AHATA) initiated island wide beach clean ups in 1991, bringing together hotels and tourism partners to help protect Aruba's coastline. More than three decades later, this effort remains just as important. As tourism continues to grow and development shapes the shoreline, protecting Aruba's beaches remains essential to preserving the natural beauty that defines the destination.

Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort embraced this initiative early on, integrating beach stewardship into its broader sustainability strategy. While many organizations initially participated, fewer partners continued the structured clean ups over time. Today, Bucuti & Tara remains the only hotel in Aruba that organizes beach clean ups every month. Held on the third Wednesday of each month, these clean ups reflect the resort's belief that environmental responsibility requires consistency. What began as an industry initiative has evolved into a long term commitment sustained by Bucuti & Tara together with team members, guests, and community volunteer

The results demonstrate both the scale of the challenge and the impact of continued action. In 2025 alone, 363.3 kilograms of debris were removed from Aruba's coastline through the resort's monthly clean-ups, with 396 volunteers participating, including 84 resort guests. To put this into perspective, this amount of debris is roughly the weight of twelve fully packed suitcases. Yet the majority of this weight comes not from large items but from countless small pieces of waste. Everyday litter such as drink bottles, food wrappers, cigarette filters, and discarded fishing gear can easily be carried by wind or currents and settle along Aruba's beaches.

During the clean-ups, volunteers remove debris from the sand and coastal vegetation before it can return to the ocean or break down further into microplastics. This effort helps protect marine life, coral reef ecosystems, and Aruba's beaches, which also serve as important nesting grounds for sea turtles. Beyond the environmental benefits, the initiative also strengthens community engagement by bringing together team members, guests, and local volunteers who share responsibility for protecting Aruba's coastline. By continuing these clean-ups month after month, Bucuti & Tara demonstrates that environmental stewardship is not defined by occasional campaigns, but by consistent action that helps ensure Aruba's beaches remain healthy and vibrant for future generations.





Stimami Sterilisami: Compassion in Action

Sustainability at Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort extends beyond protecting Aruba's natural environment. It also reflects a commitment to the wellbeing of the island's community, including its animals. Over the years, the growing number of stray dogs and cats in Aruba became an increasingly visible challenge, affecting animal welfare, public health, and the broader community. Recognizing that long-term solutions required prevention rather than temporary fixes, Bucuti & Tara took action to address the issue at its root.

In 2016, Bucuti & Tara founded the Stimami Sterilisami Foundation, a name that means "Love me, Spay or Neuter me" in Papiamentu. The initiative was created to reduce the population of stray animals through accessible spay and neuter services for pet owners and rescue organizations across the island. In the early years, the program operated as a subsidized model, where the foundation covered a significant portion of the sterilization cost while pet owners contributed a smaller fee. This approach helped make procedures more affordable while allowing the program to grow sustainably.

As awareness increased and partnerships expanded, the program continued to evolve. By 2020, sterilization services became completely free for pet owners, removing the financial barrier that often prevented responsible pet care. This transition was made possible through increased community support, fundraising initiatives, and growing collaboration with veterinary clinics and animal welfare organizations across Aruba.

Participating veterinary clinics, including VSH Veterinary Specialty Hospital and Caduary Veterinary Clinic, perform the procedures while the foundation covers the costs of the surgery along with essential care such as anesthesia, medication, and microchipping. Through this accessible model, the program ensures that responsible pet care is available to everyone on the island.

Over time, the results have been significant. In 2025 alone, 6,405 dogs and cats were sterilized through the program, bringing the total number of procedures to more than 46,342 since the foundation began. A major milestone was reached on August 20, 2025, when sterilization procedures became fully free of charge at participating veterinary clinics across Aruba, supported through partnerships with organizations including the Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) and the Tourism Product Enhancement Fund (TPEF).

Today, Stimami Sterilisami stands as one of Aruba's most impactful animal welfare initiatives. By preventing thousands of unwanted litters each year, the program improves animal welfare, supports local rescue organizations, and contributes to a healthier and more compassionate community. Like Bucuti & Tara's environmental initiatives, the foundation reflects a broader belief that caring for Aruba means caring for every part of the island's ecosystem, including the animals that share it.



Connecting Travel with Community Impact

Pack for a Purpose is a global initiative that invites travelers to bring requested supplies for community organizations in the destinations they visit. Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort joined the program in 2017 to create a meaningful connection between its guests and Aruba's community. On a small island where many goods must be imported, school supplies and educational materials can be costly and sometimes difficult for local organizations to obtain. By reserving a small space in their luggage for items such as notebooks, pencils, art supplies, and other learning materials, guests can easily contribute to local needs before they even arrive on the island.

This simple gesture reflects a shared spirit of care and responsibility. Guests use a small portion of their suitcase while still leaving space for souvenirs and purchases on their return journey, while the donated items travel to Aruba without the environmental impact or cost of additional shipping. The program demonstrates how thoughtful travel can create positive connections between visitors and the communities they visit, allowing guests to play a small but meaningful role in supporting local initiatives.

In 2025, guests donated 469.79 kilograms of supplies, supporting local organizations including Imeldahof Children's Home. These materials provide children with essential tools for schoolwork, creative activities, and daily learning programs. Through Pack for a Purpose, the generosity of travelers becomes part of Aruba's story, helping strengthen community resources while creating a deeper and more meaningful connection between guests and the island they have come to experience.



Imeldahof Children's Home

The supplies collected through Pack for a Purpose are donated to Imeldahof Children's Home in Santa Cruz, Aruba. Founded in 1961, Imeldahof provides residential care for approximately 35–40 children and teenagers who cannot live with their families due to social or family circumstances. The home offers a safe and stable environment while supporting the children's education and personal development. Donations such as notebooks, pencils, and art supplies help ensure the children have the materials they need for school and daily activities.



Collaboration with Local Brands, Artists, and Musicians

At Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, sustainability also means strengthening the local community and celebrating Aruba's cultural identity. The resort actively collaborates with local brands, artisans, and entrepreneurs, integrating their products and talents into the guest experience. Wherever possible, Bucuti & Tara sources locally for guest amenities, culinary ingredients used in the restaurants and bars, and artisan products. These partnerships support small businesses across the island while also reducing supply chain distances and the environmental impact associated with imported goods.

A visible expression of this commitment is the weekly Local Market held on the beach every Monday evening. During this gathering, local artisans and small business owners are invited to showcase and sell their handmade products directly to guests. From handcrafted jewelry and artwork to Caribbean-inspired accessories and locally produced goods, the market offers guests an authentic connection to Aruba's creative community. At the same time, it provides local entrepreneurs with a meaningful platform to share their craft and generate income, ensuring that tourism benefits extend directly to the island's makers and creators.

Bucuti & Tara also proudly supports Aruba's artistic community by collaborating with local artists such as Elisa Lejuez, an internationally recognized artist based in Aruba known for her vibrant Neo-Pop style and mixed-media works inspired by Caribbean culture. Her artwork is displayed throughout the resort, allowing guests to experience contemporary Aruban creativity during their stay. Selected pieces are also available for purchase in the resort's gallery, offering visitors the opportunity to take home a meaningful piece of Aruba while directly supporting a local artist.

Local musicians are equally part of this cultural collaboration. Performances throughout the resort create a welcoming atmosphere for guests while providing opportunities for musicians to share Aruba's rhythms and musical traditions. By weaving local art, music, and entrepreneurship into the guest experience, Bucuti & Tara ensures that tourism not only celebrates Aruba's culture but also contributes to sustaining it. Through these partnerships, the resort helps keep creativity, craftsmanship, and economic opportunity rooted within the island community.





Investing in Our People

The sustainability achievements highlighted throughout this report are made possible by the dedication of the Bucuti & Tara team. Supporting our associates is an essential part of our sustainability commitment, ensuring the people behind the Bucuti experience are healthy, supported, and able to grow.

Associate benefits include:

- Comprehensive health coverage including medical, dental, vision, and disability insurance, supporting preventive care and long term wellbeing.
- Paid vacation of up to 27 days per year, encouraging rest, recovery, and a healthy work life balance.
- Performance bonuses and employee discounts at local supermarkets and Tara Eco Supplies, helping reward dedication and reduce everyday expenses.
- Low interest loan programs, providing financial support when associates need assistance for personal or family needs.
- Childcare and elderly care subsidies, helping associates balance professional responsibilities with family care.
- Solar for Associates, supporting employees in transitioning to renewable energy at home and extending sustainability beyond the resort.
- Wellness initiatives, including a structured five day workweek, nutritious meals on site, and gym membership support that promotes active lifestyles. Associates attending the gym 16 times per month receive full membership coverage, while others receive 50 percent support.
- Training and professional development opportunities, creating pathways for growth and advancement across departments.

This commitment to people has helped foster a strong workplace culture, with more than half of Bucuti & Tara associates serving the resort for over a decade.



Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort

L.G. Smith Boulevard 55B
Eagle Beach, Aruba
Dutch Caribbean

Telephone: +297 583 1100

Reservations: Book directly online at Bucuti.com or email info@bucuti.com

Email: info@bucuti.com

Website: Bucuti.com

Social media:

Facebook: @BucutiTaraBeachResortAruba

Instagram: @BucutiTara

YouTube: @BucutiBeachResort

Founder/Owner: Ewald Biemans

Managing Director: Crescenzia Biemans

General Manager: Rik van der Berg

Sustainability Manager: Elisa Colepicolo

