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**Press release from Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire
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TWO NEW DIVE SHOP MEMBERS EMBRACE BONAIRE'S RESTORATION EFFORT

SUMMARY

- Divi Dive Bonaire and VIP Diving joined Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire's mission
- Preserve and restore Bonaire's reef through community involvement

(Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean) In a moment when responsible and sustainable tourism are greatly valued, Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire (RRFB) is pleased to announce the addition of **Divi Dive Bonaire** and **VIP Diving** to the list of dive operators that are supporting the island reef restoration effort.

Following the example of Beyond the Corals, Buddy Dive Resort, Great Adventures Bonaire, Tropical Divers and Wannadive, these two new dive operators will also be acting as education outlets for visitors and residents who want to learn more about coral reefs and reef restoration. Through organizing events, giving presentations and training volunteer divers, they will serve an essential role in encouraging the public to become involved in the Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire's project.

"We, at VIP Diving, had the privilege to team up with Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire and are proud and honored to be part of this endeavor. We are excited to participate in renewing the reef with our staff and dive guests. The corals give us so much joy, and now we have the opportunity to give some love back to the ocean. Together we can and will make a difference, and we will do our utmost to share our passion for ocean conservation," said Pascal Van Empelen, VIP Diving Operations Manager.

As part of the first phase, two nurseries with an initial capacity of 600 corals have been installed in shallow water at Calabas Reef, which is accessible from shore for divers and snorkelers. Both critically endangered staghorn and elkhorn coral species are being hosted and propagated in the nurseries, which will be maintained by Divi Dive Bonaire and VIP Diving. Once their staff's training is completed, these dive shops will have the opportunity to attract visitors to participate in a unique coral restoration experience, that can shape tourist relationship with marine environment and foster global stewardship for coral reef ecosystem.

RRFB, which started in its infancy with a small group of local individuals, confirms its grassroots approach and focuses in actively involving the community in the coral restoration program, which is key to protect and preserve Bonaire's marine ecosystems in a sustainable way.

"Any action taken, whether it be large or small, can help", explains Celine Van Meer, General Manager, Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino. *"Our entire team is excited to take action now, to help ensure*



sustainability for the future, as climate change, among other factors, continues to have an impact on our oceans and marine life.”

About Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire

Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire protects and restores coral reefs in Bonaire by:

- ✓ developing new and innovative ways to restore reefs that are supported by research collaborations and shared worldwide
- ✓ training, engaging, and inspiring the community locally and internationally through volunteering, educational events, and outreach
- ✓ demonstrating that through community efforts there is still hope for coral reefs

Through large-scale propagation, outplanting, and monitoring of genetically diverse corals, Reef Renewal Bonaire works to assist natural recovery of coral reefs. To learn more about how to get involved or lend support, visit reefrenwalbonaire.org or email info@reefrenwalbonaire.org.

www.reefrenwalbonaire.org
info@reefrenwalbonaire.org



Enjoy, be inspired, and, please, get involved!

Pictures and captions



Divi Dive staff preparing for nursery installation



RRFB Coordinator explaining nursery set-up at Divi Flamingo



Reef Renewal Bonaire



VIP

Diving staff preparing for nursery installation



RRFB Coordinator explaining nursery set-up at VIP Diving



(vertical) RRFB Coordinator explaining nursery set-up at VIP Diving



(vertical) Divi staff with one of the nursery trees