



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Big Five empowers local fisherman in Colombia**

February 9, 2020, Stuart, FL – Big Five Tours & Expeditions is working to help local communities in Colombia replenish and restore natural mangrove forests that have been depleted through waste dumping in the waters and urbanization.

The winds from the northeast blow through the islands carrying the mangrove seeds that then are washed up on the main beaches. Clean-up crews regularly sweep the beaches for seaweed and debris, and usually place the seeds into a central garbage with other collected waste. The seeds are retrieved and washed with a saltwater solution to remove chemicals and foreign substances.

“Together with our catamaran partners, we collect red mangrove seeds from the garbage, which are washed with a saltwater solution to remove chemicals and foreign substances. Then, on all our catamaran excursions, our guests can choose to help replant the seeds,” says Ashish Sanghrajka, president of Big Five. “Guests can be as involved as they want to be. This is what sailing with a purpose looks like.”

The project not only benefits the environment but also serves to provide work for local fishermen, aiding them in supporting their families. Communities such as Bocachica and Tierra Bomba represent some of the 100,000 people that Big Five, partnering with Cartagena Unida, has been helping to provide food.

“I recently traveled there with the Colombian Navy and we helped feed 300 more families. We want to get them back to work through tourism, showcasing their unique fishing style to our guests,” Sanghrajka added. “This project is about empowering the communities around Cartagena to become self-sufficient and provide for their families through tourism.”

This unique experience can be added to any visit to Cartagena. Catamaran trips already booked with Big Five automatically include this experience. Travelers can Cartagena on one of Big Fives’ Colombia adventures such as the 10-day *President’s Pick Colombia In the Heart of It* .

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## **About Big Five Tours & Expeditions**

Founded in Kenya in 1973 by Mahen Sanghrajka, Big Five Tours & Expeditions is renowned for customized, luxury adventure travel to more than 45 destinations worldwide. Big Five has been recognized for its sustainable tourism commitment: The company is twice winner of the Virtuoso® luxury travel network Sustainable Tourism Leadership Award in 2014 and in 2016, while Condé Nast Traveler magazine recognized Big Five with a World Savers Award in 2013. For more detailed information about Big Five customized trip itineraries, contact [info@bigfive.com](mailto:info@bigfive.com) or call one of Big Five's destination specialists at (800) 244 3483. Also visit [www.bigfive.com](http://www.bigfive.com), or email: [info@bigfive.com](mailto:info@bigfive.com). For more information, visit [bigfive.com](http://bigfive.com), or contact: Deborah Kilcollins, Brand Manager 800 244 3483, [deborah@bigfive.com](mailto:deborah@bigfive.com), or Ashish Sanghrajka, President, 800 244 3483, [ashish@bigfive.com](mailto:ashish@bigfive.com).