

## TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Cape Verde is a unitary republic with a single-tier subnational structure made of 22 municipalities.<sup>1</sup>



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).<sup>2</sup>

## 1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

Early on, consultations were organized on MDGs and SDGs to build consensus on SDGs' integration in the national post-2015 development agenda. The **Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development 2017-2021 (PEDS)** is aligned with the 2030 Agenda, the 2063 Africa Agenda and the SAMOA Pathways.<sup>3</sup> The Government Plan, the Sector Plans and the budget are also aligned with the SDGs. The national government of Cape Verde also developed and started to implement a **National Policy for Territorial Planning and Urban Development**, in the light of the New Urban Agenda (2016-2036).

Taking into account the end of the PEDS in 2020, the government organized a broad debate ("Cape Verde: Ambition 2030 – Strategic Agenda for Sustainable Development") with many stakeholders. It will be the main reference document for the next **Strategic Plans for Sustainable Development 2022-2026** and 2027-2031. An SDG Roadmap was approved by the government at the end of 2019.

### 1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Ministry of Finance** is responsible for monitoring the integration of the International Development Agendas, including the 2030 Agenda, into national planning. As the national focal point for SDGs, the **National Planning Directorate** under the Ministry of Finance is mandated to coordinate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It is supported by an **interagency Working Group** composed of representatives from key Ministries, public agencies, regulating agencies, UN agencies, the private sector and civil society.

### 1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2018 VNR process was coordinated by the Ministry of Finance. A Drafting Group was constituted with representatives from some sectors relevant to the process, the National Statistics Institute, local governments, some United Nations agencies, private sector and civil society. The 2021 VNR was also coordinated by the Ministry of Finance and carried out by a Working Group led by the **National Planning Directorate (DNP)**, through the **Directorate of the Strategic Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Service**, which is in permanent articulation with the National Statistics Institute (INE). Several presentational and online workshops have been led by local authorities, civil society organization and private sector in different municipalities and islands, to ensure a whole-of-society engagement.

### 1.3 MONITORING

The **National Institute of Statistics (INE)** takes on the production of data for monitoring the PEDS and the SDGs. The 2018 VNR recognized that the establishment and reinforcement of post-2015 SDGs monitoring mechanisms and capacities were still challenges for the country. Statistics were acknowledged as crucial to the leave no one behind approach. The 2021 VNR acknowledges that there is a lack of indicators for measuring the goals, impact and progress of the SDGs, disaggregated by municipality.

1. See: [https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI\\_2019\\_report\\_country\\_profiles\\_DEC2019\\_UPDATES.pdf](https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf)

2. See: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19580Cabo\\_Verde\\_VNR\\_SDG\\_Cabo\\_Verde\\_2018\\_ING\\_fi\\_280618.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19580Cabo_Verde_VNR_SDG_Cabo_Verde_2018_ING_fi_280618.pdf) (2018); [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/282392021\\_VNR\\_Report\\_Cabo\\_Verde.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/282392021_VNR_Report_Cabo_Verde.pdf) (2021)

3. The PEDS 2017-2021 was developed following a participatory approach, and along with central public administration and local governments, it included the involvement of various national entities and institutions, including civil society and private sector organizations, and Cabo Verde's development partners.

## 2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Local governments participated in the elaboration of the PEDS 2017-2021. Under the leadership of the Prime Minister, the **Territorial Consultation Council** integrates representation of the municipalities.<sup>4</sup> Its essential function is to stimulate institutional cooperation between the central administration and LRGs, in line with the objectives of the PEDS and the 2030 Agenda.

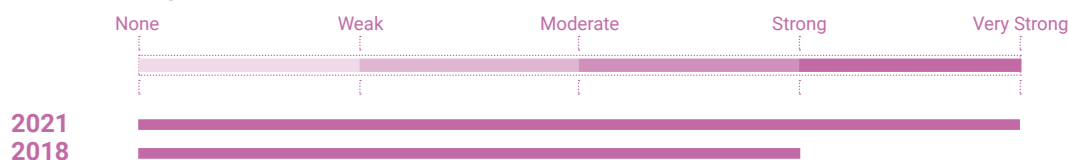
As the SDGs are an approach and a tool of recent application in Cape Verde, their implementation was preceded by activities to raise awareness and capacitate local elected representatives, municipal technicians and leaders of CSOs, organized by the national government with technical assistance from UN-Cape Verde.

To localize the SDGs at the municipal level, a **Platform Program** was implemented by the central government. It aims at the creation of **Municipal Platforms** to review existing local and regional plans in order to identify the main needs, priorities, gaps and inter-sectoral links of the territory and their relationship with the SDGs and the national priorities. The Platforms bring together all the actors to assist the municipalities in the process of preparing the **Municipal Strategic Plans for Sustainable Development (PEMDS)**. Currently, 20 of the 22 municipalities have prepared and approved their PEMDS. Some municipalities went further by creating and/or strengthening Sustainable Development Technical Offices.<sup>5</sup>

Along with other stakeholders, LRGs participated in meetings organized during the 2018 VNR process and were represented in the drafting group. In 2021, the national government decided to give greater visibility to the localization of the SDGs in the VNR. As a result, the **National Association of Cape Verdean Municipalities (ANMCV)** has been part of the Writing Group of the VNR.

### 2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

#### ► In the VNR process



Comments: The ANMCV has presented a contribution to the national report, and was part of the Writing Group (GTF Survey 2021).

#### ► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: LRGs participated in the elaboration of the PEDS 2017-2021. The Platform Program is specifically dedicated to mainstreaming the SDGs in the municipal strategic plans for sustainable development (PEMDS).

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNRs and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

### 2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There was a subsection of the 2018 VNR on the integration of the SDGs in the coordination frameworks, dedicated to the local level (see VNR, 2018, p. 26-27). The report highlighted the fact that the **regionalization of the PEDS** had as its main objective to support the decision to valorise the potential of each region and to correct regional asymmetries. In the 2021 VNR, there is a subsection entitled "Best Practice: Cabo Verde - Pioneering country in the localization of the SDGs" (see VNR, 2021, p. 38) that summarizes the Platforms program and other national initiatives for SDG implementation at the local level. The VSR prepared in 2021 (and the ANMCV) is also mentioned in a specific paragraph in the section on the report's methodology (although the VSR is presented as a "VLR").

### 2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The municipality of **Praia**, the capital of the country, was mentioned a few times throughout the 2018 report. Municipalities

4. Political leadership is ensured by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, with the operationalization, articulation and coordination with all partners for the implementation of the PEDS being the responsibility of the National Planning Directorate.

5. In most cases, these are headed by former Focal Points of the Municipal Platforms Program. Many of the former Focal Points were elected Councilors in the municipal elections of October 2020 and became responsible for the sustainable development of municipalities, thus ensuring the continuity and capitalization of the experience developed, from 2017 to 2020.

in general were referred to, but without mentions to specific projects or initiatives they led.

► In the context of an ongoing project on SDG localization, conducted in partnership with UNDP, the **National Association of Municipalities in Cape Verde (ANMCV)** has organized several training sessions in eight pilot municipalities, to support the creation of thematic committees for local development platforms and the SDGs. Each platform will put together a Strategic Municipal Plan for Sustainable Development for the 2017-2030 period.<sup>6</sup>

► The municipality of **São Miguel**, one of the poorest in the country, is implementing the “Socio-economic inclusion and development of São Miguel families” project, focused on the SDGs 5 and 8. The objective is to provide a group of 9 women farmers, heads of households, with access to resources that would ensure their inclusion in the production chain of horticultural products for the national hotel sector, making agriculture a financially profitable and economically sustainable activity.<sup>7</sup>

► The municipality of **Maio** is implementing the “More Health, More Life” (Mais Saúde, Mais Vida) project, contributing to SDG 3. It aims at improving the living conditions of the neediest families by expanding the water supply and improving basic sanitation.<sup>8</sup>

## 2.4 VOLUNTARY SUBNATIONAL AND/OR LOCAL REVIEWS (VSRs / VLRs)

The VSR published in 2021 by the **National Association of Municipalities in Cape Verde (ANMCV)** acknowledges the crucial role of municipalities as the main actors and leaders in the process of localizing the SDGs through the Municipal Platforms.<sup>9</sup> The report presents several successful experiences that have contributed to the process, such as: the **Municipal Program for Sustainable Development Platforms**, to accompany the implementation of the PEMDS in 9 municipalities; the **Requalification, Rehabilitation and Accessibility Program** launched by the government and implemented by the municipalities through “program contracts”. It is observed that there is a difference in the prioritized SDGs between the two programs, which denotes a difficulty in integrating these National Programs in the Municipal Development Plans, creating a dichotomy between the projects executed with resources from the municipal budgets and those executed with municipal extra-budgetary resources through Program Contracts covering the same territory. Moreover, in order to facilitate the connection of the SDGs to the realities of the local communities, it is recommended to elaborate Community Sustainable Development Plans (PCDS), under the motto of “not leaving any community (Neighborhoods and Towns) behind”, integrating it in the “bottom-up” land planning process within each municipality.

## 2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Despite the existence of PEMDS, the centralization of the main public policy instruments is still accentuated. One of the consequences of this is the strong financial dependence of the municipalities on the central administration. This dependence is also the result of an international, bilateral and multilateral public financing system, heavily concentrated in the national government. Local governments have few possibilities of direct access to international public financing sources. The financial weakness of the municipalities and the low level of local economic development are the main obstacles to the implementation of the SDGs, as well as the insufficiency of qualified human resources.

# 3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

## 3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Leadership and political participation of women were promoted by the Second National Plan for Gender Equality 2015-2018. The 2021 VNR states that Cape Verde made remarkable progress in the area of gender equality, with full achievement of gender parity in political decision-making bodies, with the implementation of the parity law.

## 3.2 COVID 19

As a result of the pandemic, in 2020, there were 536,080 fewer tourists and 60.4% fewer overnight stays. Tourism revenues may be reduced by 61.6%, making the country fall back to the level of 11 years ago. Overall, Cape Verde experiences its deepest economic recession since the date of its independence in 1975, aggravated by climate vulnerabilities and the deepening of inequalities and poverty. The existing social vulnerabilities are amplified, therefore health, economic and social emergency are the budget priorities, with the support of the international community specially on the implementation of the National Plan for Response, Recovery and Promotion of the Economy. Cape Verde reaffirmed its commitment to sustainable development through the **COVID-19 Post Pandemic Economy Promotion Plan in Cape Verde 2030 Ambition for Sustainable Agenda**.

6. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

7. See: [https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cape\\_verde\\_2021.pdf](https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cape_verde_2021.pdf)

8. See: [https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cape\\_verde\\_2021.pdf](https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cape_verde_2021.pdf)

9. See: [https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cape\\_verde\\_2021.pdf](https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cape_verde_2021.pdf)

## 4. SDG INDICATORS<sup>10</sup>

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		41.8 (2020)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	-
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		-
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		70.6 (2012, Praia)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		62.2 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		0 (2021)

<sup>10</sup> The data used for this table come from the UN SDG Indicators Database. See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/UNSDG/IndDatabasePage>.  
More information on the country's progress towards the SDGs here: <https://country-profiles.unstatshub.org/cpv>