



Integrated Country Strategy

Cabo Verde

FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

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1. Chief of Mission Priorities

Cabo Verde is a democratic, stable, and relatively prosperous country whose center-right government, elected in 2016, is interested in strengthening security cooperation with the United States and is dedicated to macroeconomic reforms. The United States established the first consulate in sub-Saharan Africa in Cabo Verde in 1818, and in 2018 we are celebrating our bicentennial relationship. The U.S. - Cabo Verdean talks held in October 2015 and 2018 focused on the close ties between the United States and Cabo Verde and how those ties could be stronger. Unfortunately, much of the United States, including employees of the USG, considers Cabo Verde a resort destination and not a location where economic, security, and political stakes can be high. This could not be further from the actuality of Cabo Verde's geo-political and strategic location which lies at the crossroads of the transatlantic narcotics trade between the Americas, Europe, and Africa. The establishment of an Office of Security Cooperation (OSC) and the 2018 signing of a Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) has allowed for even more collaboration on maritime security. However, the closing of the Millennium Challenge Corporation's (MCC) final compact in November 2017 left a significant vacuum in our foreign assistance and significant reduced U.S. development aid to Cabo Verde.

Thus, we find ourselves in a position to where we must make considerable impact without significant financial gravitas. Still, we are dedicated to the mission and to finding alternative ways to leverage our distinct ties in an austere economic climate. To accomplish U.S. government policy goals and to continue to build the bilateral relationship between the United States and Cabo Verde, our Mission is working to 1) promote economic growth, development, prosperity, and opportunity; 2) advance security cooperation between our countries; and 3) support social inclusion in Cabo Verde.

For the last ten years the MCC has been our key tool for U.S.-branded economic development in Cabo Verde, providing more than 170 million USD of assistance in two compacts focused on strengthening the investment climate, infrastructure, land, water, and sanitation reforms. In November 2017, Cabo Verde became the first country in the world to complete its second MCC Compact, making MCC join the ranks of USAID and Peace Corps as Cabo Verde transitions out of an assistance-based relationship. We will now look to support broad-based development through AGOA, foreign direct investment, training, and leveraging of U.S. and Cabo Verdean knowledge and skills in entrepreneurship and cultural tourism. Though these activities do not come with a significant purse, they do come with access to information and platforms that can assist business entities and the like in becoming more successful in their endeavors with the United States.

Advancing security cooperation between the United States and Cabo Verde is where we have been consistent and targeted over the last several years. With the new OSC, we have already seen a more pronounced relationship with AFRICOM. The new billet has solidified our pledge of training and equipping Cabo Verde's military and has guaranteed a stronger working relationship with the Defense Attaché Office in Dakar. Additionally, crime has become a serious issue in Cabo Verde, so we proposed a series of community policing exchanges to bolster the police's ability to strategically address street crime and build community trust. We are also working with the FBI, ICE, and DEA to support these efforts. This year we worked with the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Bureau (INL) to fund a partnership between the Boston Police Department and Cabo Verdean Police services. In June 2018, Cabo Verdean police officers went to Boston to learn ways to improve community policing techniques. We will capitalize on Cabo Verde's role as a key partner in the Friends of Gulf of Guinea group and aid the country in developing a national maritime strategy (including maritime security, safety, stewardship, and development) which is essential to an archipelago nation like Cabo Verde, where the size of its national waters, territorial sea, contiguous zone, and Exclusive Economic Zone far exceed its land mass. Cabo Verde needs an assessment of the threats and opportunities in the maritime sector. This assessment would be followed by a written national maritime strategy. A retired Captain of the US Coast Guard and Department of State contractor is working with the Cabo Verdeans to draft a maritime strategy; a draft of the strategy should be completed by the end of calendar year 2018.

In recent years, we have dedicated considerable time, effort, and resources to helping Cabo Verde identify and respond to victims of violent crime. In 2018, Cabo Verde moved from the State Department's Trafficking in Persons Tier 2 Watchlist up to Tier 2, and the Cabo Verdean government is engaged in solidifying its gains. We believe continued engagement will help Cabo Verde lock in best practices, thereby improving the lives of many and the overall strength of the country.

In short, the next few years require us to manufacture creative solutions in the form of providing technical expertise and working with other partners. We will channel our energy toward nurturing our security relationship, furthering economic growth, and helping Cabo Verde to continue its progress towards social inclusion. It is worth noting that the Chinese are also working in these areas and are willing and able to fill any voids.

2. Mission Strategic Framework

Mission Goal 1: Promote broad-based economic growth, development, prosperity, and opportunity in Cabo Verde.

Mission Objective 1.1: Increase support for economic engagement with the United States by boosting understanding of Embassy programs aimed at promoting business and development.

Mission Objective 1.2: Support Cabo Verdean efforts to attract U.S. investors by linking small Cabo Verdean entrepreneurs with appropriate counterparts in the United States.

Mission Objective 1.3: Assist and encourage regulation, restructuring, and privatization of the transportation sector, especially the air and maritime sectors.

Mission Objective 1.4: Promote legitimate travel while also reducing unlawful nonimmigrant visa overstays by Cabo Verdeans in the United States.

Mission Goal 2: Improve Cabo Verdean military and security forces' capabilities through expanded bilateral cooperation and training.

Mission Objective 2.1: Support Cabo Verdean security forces in deterring and combating a full spectrum of threats, especially crime, trafficking and terrorism through increased security collaboration between the United States and Cabo Verde.

Mission Objective 2.2: Assist Cabo Verde as an active partner in West African security affairs.

Mission Objective 2.3: Tighten professional connections between U.S. and Cabo Verdean responders and between U.S. resources and resident Amcits for purposes of any eventual evacuation.

Mission Goal 3: Support social inclusion by encouraging a robust program to address social rights for all Cabo Verdeans.

Mission Objective 3.1: Continue to work with Cabo Verde on providing consistent, professional, and victim-focused responses to acts of violence (SGBV, TIP, child abuse).

Mission Objective 3.2: Improve post's ability to track human rights issues and concerns in Cabo Verde.

Management Objective 1: By end of calendar year 2018, continue facility improvement plan for a growing staff and mission needs.

Management Objective 2: Increase the level of customer service to meet all Collaborative Management Initiatives (CMI) within the Management Section.

3. Mission Goals and Objectives

Mission Goal 1: Promote broad-based economic growth, development, prosperity, and opportunity in Cabo Verde.

Description & Linkages: Good governance, prudent macroeconomic management, trade openness, increasing integration into the global economy, and the adoption of effective social development policies have produced positive economic growth. However, a lack of dynamism as well as the high unlawful emigration of Cabo Verdeans to the United States constrains Cabo Verde's economy. Tourism is the key driver of Cabo Verde's economy. The sector, which accounts for around a quarter of the archipelago's GDP, has shown resilience since the beginning of the euro-zone crisis. Still, there is much room for growth and development in other sectors and room for foreign direct investment into Cabo Verde. Although most of the country's tourism sector is focused on all-inclusive resorts on Sal and Boa Vista, Macau Legend Development has begun building a \$250 million USD casino resort in Praia. The project represents the largest private sector investment in Cabo Verde's history. The U.S. Embassy plans to break ground on the new embassy compound (NEC) in the next three years; it would most likely be the second largest investment in the country. This Mission Goal reflects the Joint State/USAID Regional Strategy's Strategic Goal 2: Renew America's Competitive Advantage for Sustained Economic Growth and Job Creation.

Mission Objective 1.1: Increase support for economic engagement with the United States by boosting understanding of Embassy programs aimed at promoting business and development.

Justification: In order to encourage more foreign direct investment, the Cabo Verdean government recently approved business reforms such as the introduction of unemployment insurance, the adoption of a new law providing for the establishment of a credit bureau, and the reduction of the minimum capital requirement for starting a business in Cabo Verde. By developing exchanges between U.S. and Cabo Verdean stakeholders, U.S. Embassy Praia continues to assist the limited private sector in Cabo Verde, in turn promoting Cabo Verde's development and economic prosperity.

Mission Objective 1.2: Support Cabo Verdean efforts to attract U.S. investors by linking small Cabo Verdean entrepreneurs with appropriate counterparts in the United States.

Justification: Cabo Verde's booming tourism sector is currently dominated by European investment, but the government is eager to encourage U.S. hotel and resort operators to consider investing in Cabo Verde. By facilitating meetings, drafting cables, and researching ideas for expanded tourism and entrepreneurship in Cabo Verde, U.S. Embassy Praia aims to strengthen

ties between the United States and Cabo Verde and encourage the broad-based economic growth of both nations.

Mission Objective 1.3: Assist and encourage regulation, restructuring, and privatization of the transportation sector, especially the air and maritime sectors.

Justification: Inter-island transportation (both maritime and air) remains one of Cabo Verde's greatest challenges. Indeed, the economic potential of outlying rural islands will continue to be unrealized if the reliability of inter-island transport does not improve. By tracking the developments in Cabo Verde's transportation sector and offering assistance regarding sales and service opportunities to U.S. investors, U.S. Embassy Praia aims to encourage continued growth and development in this crucial sector.

Mission Objective 1.4: Promote legitimate travel while also reducing unlawful nonimmigrant visa overstays by Cabo Verdeans in the United States.

Justification: Based on internal consular validation studies and DHS overstay data, Cabo Verdeans have been overstaying their nonimmigrant visas at unacceptably high rates, constraining Cabo Verde's economy and threatening the security of U.S. borders. By educating the Cabo Verdean public about U.S. immigration law, reducing unlawful overstays, and facilitating legitimate exchanges, U.S. Embassy Praia aims to promote Cabo Verdean development while also lessening the burden of unlawful immigration on the United States.

Mission Goal 2: Improve Cabo Verdean military and security forces' capabilities through expanded bilateral cooperation and training.

Description & Linkages: Security cooperation, especially in the maritime domain, remains a top priority for both Cabo Verde and the United States. The past 12 months have seen significant progress in this relationship: in September 2017, the Embassy's Office of Security Cooperation opened, and in September 2018, the U.S. and Cabo Verde signed a Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA). In 2018, Cabo Verde hosted Africa Endeavor, AFRICOM's annual military communications conference, and welcomed visits from the AFRICOM commander and deputy commander. Also in 2018, the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) granted additional funding for Rule of Law and Law Enforcement initiatives. Because of Cabo Verde's strategic location in the mid-Atlantic as well as the country's strong democracy, good governance, and low corruption, the archipelago is a strong security partner for the United States. Through the Department of Defense, AFRICOM, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), the U.S. Treasury, and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), U.S.-Cabo Verde security cooperation and

partnership has helped improve Cabo Verde's ability to monitor its territorial waters, combat transnational crime, and fight money laundering. This Mission Goal reflects the Joint State/USAID Strategy's Strategic Goal 1: Protect America's Security at Home and Abroad

Mission Objective 2.1: Support Cabo Verdean security forces in deterring and combating a full spectrum of threats, especially crime, trafficking and terrorism through increased security collaboration between the United States and Cabo Verde.

Justification: A national maritime strategy (including maritime security, safety, stewardship, and development) is essential to an archipelago nation like Cabo Verde, where the size of its national waters, territorial sea, contiguous zone, and Exclusive Economic Zone far exceed its land mass. By ensuring that both Cabo Verdean security forces and law enforcement agencies have the necessary framework, organization, and resources to combat and deter threats, U.S. Embassy Praia aims to increase bilateral cooperation and security in the region.

Mission Objective 2.2: Assist Cabo Verde as an active partner in West African security affairs.

Justification: Because of Cabo Verde's strategic location in the mid-Atlantic as well as the country's strong democracy, good governance, and low corruption, the archipelago is a strong security partner for both the United States and for Cabo Verde's regional partners. By encouraging Cabo Verde's bi- and multilateral security relationships, U.S. Embassy Praia aims to improve the region's ability to prevent, detect, and prosecute transnational crimes.

Mission Objective 2.3: Tighten professional connections between U.S. and Cabo Verdean responders and between U.S. resources and resident Amcits for purposes of any eventual evacuation.

Justification: The lack of reliable inter-island medevac resources is concerning for both Cabo Verdean and American citizens in need of evacuation. Many islands have limited medical facilities and few evacuation resources that could be called upon in case of natural disaster or medical emergency. By establishing relationships with Cabo Verdean community leaders, first responders, and possible transportation providers, U.S. Embassy Praia aims to protect both U.S. citizens and Cabo Verdeans living and traveling in Cabo Verde.

Mission Goal 3: Support social inclusion by encouraging a robust program to address social rights for all Cabo Verdeans.

Description & Linkages: Cabo Verde's economic growth has outpaced its social and political growth. Inter-personal violence remains a strong force in society, often occurring within families. Women, children, and immigrants from West African countries are vulnerable to both passive discrimination and active violence in their daily lives. Embassy Praia has dedicated

considerable time, effort, and resources to helping Cabo Verde identify and respond to victims of violent crime over recent years. In 2018, Cabo Verde recovered its position in Tier 2, rising from the State Department's Trafficking in Persons Tier 2 Watchlist, and the government is engaged in solidifying its gains. Because resources are very scarce, and because there is a cultural acceptance of certain kinds of violence, post believes continued engagement will help Cabo Verde lock in best practices, thereby improving the lives of many and the overall strength of the country. This Mission Goal reflects the Joint State/USAID Strategy's Strategic Goal 3: Promote American Leadership through Balanced Engagement

Mission Objective 3.1: Continue to work with Cabo Verde on providing consistent, professional, and victim-focused responses to acts of violence (SGBV, TIP, child abuse).

Justification: Inter-personal violence remains a strong force in Cabo Verdean society and U.S. Embassy Praia has dedicated considerable time, effort, and resources to helping Cabo Verde identify and respond to victims of these violent crimes. By researching funding opportunities, convening issue stakeholders, and increasing contact with community organizers, U.S. Embassy Praia aims to continue these efforts.

Mission Objective 3.2: Improve Post's ability to track human rights issues and concerns in Cabo Verde.

Justification: In 2018, Cabo Verde recovered its position in Tier 2, rising from the State Department's Trafficking in Persons Tier 2 Watchlist, and the government is engaged in solidifying these gains. By hosting roundtables for social activists and conducting validation studies aimed at identifying trafficking-related concerns, U.S. Embassy Praia will continue to support Cabo Verde in addressing social rights for all Cabo Verdeans.

4. Management Objectives

All Management Objectives support AF's Regional Strategy management objectives and Joint STATE/USAID Strategic Goal 4 : Ensure effectiveness and accountability to the American taxpayer.

Management Objective 1:By end of calendar year 2018, continue facility improvement plan for a growing staff and mission needs.

Justification: Embassy Praia's current facilities are not adequate for proper staffing and most personnel are often sharing tight quarters. The Chancery is an older building with a floor plate design that is not adequate for today's commercial office buildings. Post must always consider and analyze fire, life, and safety needs before hiring desk positions.

Management Objective 2: Increase the level of customer service to meet all Collaborative Management Initiatives (CMI) within the Management Section

Justification: Embassy Praia will shift management focus to emphasize metrics, customer service, and quality. Better customer service is a constant goal. Developing data to make informed decisions on resources to improve customer service is lacking. A quality control and assurance program should be implemented as soon as possible. Supporting this conclusion are ICASS assessments, survey, and customer feedback. All management sub-sections including general services operations, facilities maintenance, information technology, and health need to be evaluated.