



Integrated Country Strategy

CABO VERDE

FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

Approved: June 7, 2022

Table of Contents

1. Chief of Mission Priorities	1
2. Mission Strategic Framework	3
3. Mission Goals and Objectives	5
4. Management Objectives	12

1. Chief of Mission Priorities

The United States has enjoyed more than 200 years of relations with Cabo Verde, which since its independence in 1975 has overcome isolation and a dearth of natural resources to blossom into a stable, Lower Middle-Income (LMI) democracy with a strong commitment to human rights and the rule of law. Because of our shared democratic traditions and the presence of large stateside Cabo Verdean diaspora communities, the country is eager to deepen commercial, security, and educational ties with the United States. Whereas in the past USAID, and later Peace Corps and the Millennium Challenge Corporation, served as the face of U.S. assistance to Cabo Verde, today our Mission aims to expand bilateral commercial relations and U.S. private-sector investment in Cabo Verde, supported as appropriate by the Department of Commerce, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, U.S. Export-Import Bank, and U.S. Trade and Development Agency. Cabo Verde's identification of the United States as its security partner of choice and its strong interest in support for English language education and the potential return of Peace Corps Volunteers open opportunities to strengthen our relations with this strategically located archipelago and ensure it remains a model of stable democracy and growth. To make the most of these opportunities, Embassy Praia aims to advance the Integrated Country Strategy (ICS) goals of promoting broad-based mutually beneficial economic development in Cabo Verde and improving Cabo Verdean security sector capabilities through expanded bilateral cooperation and training. Moreover, it recognizes recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and engagement on climate change as urgent priorities to strengthen Cabo Verde's resilience while promoting sustainable and inclusive development. Emblematic of the growing U.S.-Cabo Verde military relationship, our two nations launched a new partnership in 2021 through the National Guard's State Partnership Program between the Cabo Verde armed forces and the New Hampshire National Guard, which promises to encompass commercial, academic, and tourism-sector engagement as well as military exchanges.

Increasing U.S. investment and bilateral trade is a key Mission objective as this will deepen Cabo Verde's commercial ties to the United States and support its recovery from the pandemic. Opportunities exist for U.S. businesses, including in the tourism industry and digital economy.

Approved: June 7, 2022

With progress being made on plans for special economic zones and resumption of privatization of state-owned entities, including those overseeing the energy and port sectors, these opportunities will only grow. To ensure U.S. companies are aware of and competitive for investment opportunities, Embassy Praia will use all available tools to disseminate information on new developments.

Another top Mission objective is building the capabilities of Cabo Verde's military and law enforcement institutions to protect the country's exclusive economic zone, combat drug and other illicit trafficking, reduce illegal fishing, and oppose transnational crime. Strengthening the judicial and law enforcement sectors so Cabo Verde can successfully arrest, try, and convict criminals is paramount to improving security.

Likewise, through engagement with Cabo Verde on climate action, adoption of renewable energy and water technologies, management and conservation of marine and other resources, and adaptation to environmental change, the Mission hopes to promote greater resilience, social and economic inclusion of remote and vulnerable populations, and progress toward achievement of sustainable development goals.

Embassy Praia's Public Diplomacy Section (PDS) uses the full range of Public Diplomacy (PD) outreach to achieve Mission goals, including alumni programs, grants, exchanges, speakers, English-language education, press relations, and cultural and educational programming.

The security and protection of Americans is among our top priorities. Our consular operation provides comprehensive services that protect the lives and serve the interests of U.S. citizens living or traveling in Cabo Verde. We are also committed to strengthening homeland security and enhancing U.S. prosperity through vigilant adjudication of U.S. passports and visas utilizing the highest standards of fraud detection and other processing models to facilitate legitimate cross-border travel.

2. Mission Strategic Framework

Mission Goal 1: Promote broad-based mutually beneficial economic development in Cabo Verde.

- **Mission Objective 1.1:** Advocate improvements to the business-enabling environment and enhanced trade and investment between the United States and Cabo Verde.
- **Mission Objective 1.2:** Enable Cabo Verde's effective participation in regional and global markets by advancing development of its English language capacity, technological innovation, and economic governance.
- **Mission Objective 1.3:** Facilitate legitimate business, education, and leisure travel between Cabo Verde and the United States while protecting the U.S. homeland and U.S. citizens and their interests.

Mission Goal 2: Improve Cabo Verdean security sector capabilities through expanded bilateral cooperation.

- **Mission Objective 2.1:** Improve Cabo Verde's capabilities to identify and respond to transnational threats posed by organized crime, maritime insecurity, and border insecurity.
- **Mission Objective 2.2:** Bolster Cabo Verde's capacity as an active partner in Atlantic Africa security affairs.
- **Mission Objective 2.3:** Leverage U.S. support to enhance the capabilities of Cabo Verdean law enforcement and justice sectors in upholding and defending rule of law.

Mission Goal 3: Strengthen Cabo Verde's resilience to environmental vulnerability and the impacts of climate change while promoting inclusive development.

- **Mission Objective 3.1:** Support investments in renewable energy, water resources, and natural disaster response to build climate resilience and access to resources for inclusive economic development and diversification.
- **Mission Objective 3.2:** Enhance Cabo Verde's ability to manage its natural resources to adapt to long-term environmental and economic change.

Management Objective 1: Advance progress towards completion of the New Embassy Compound Project.

Management Objective 2: Ensure the operational effectiveness of embassy facilities and personnel through infrastructure improvements, staffing initiatives, and post policy considerations.

3. Mission Goals and Objectives

Mission Goal 1 | Promote broad-based mutually beneficial economic development in Cabo Verde.

Description | Cabo Verde is a regional standout for democratic governance, political stability, and respect for rule of law, but as the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated, its economic dependence on tourism leaves it vulnerable to external shocks. While deep-rooted historical ties, a large stateside Cabo Verdean diaspora community, and shared democratic values constitute the bedrock of strong bilateral relations, the value of two-way trade between the United States and Cabo Verde is quite modest at \$12 million per year. To raise commercial ties to a level commensurate with the importance of the overall relationship, bolster Cabo Verde's resilience by helping to diversify its economy, and enable U.S. companies to serve both Cabo Verde and broader African markets, the mission aims to expand bilateral trade and investment, engage with Cabo Verde on improvements to its business-enabling environment and constraints to economic growth, support its IT sector, facilitate growth of Cabo Verdean exports, encourage entrepreneurship, and assist with building capacity, including through English instruction.

Objective 1.1 | Advocate improvements to the business-enabling environment and enhanced trade and investment between the United States and Cabo Verde.

- **Justification** | Private sector-led growth is at the core of the U.S. model of economic success, but few U.S. firms do business with Cabo Verde. In addition, there is ample room for growth in Cabo Verdean exports to the United States. Encouraging more investment and bilateral trade, including through advocacy of improvements to the business-enabling environment and raising awareness of the opportunities Cabo Verde offers, promises to contribute to expansion of mutually beneficial commercial ties and strengthening of the bilateral relationship.
- **Linkages** | Africa JRS Objective 2.1; Interim National Security Strategic Guidance

Approved: June 7, 2022

pages 9 and 17

- **Risks** | Firms that wish to do business in Cabo Verde may not have access to sufficient financing, in which case support from relevant U.S. government agencies may be available.

Objective 1.2 | Enable Cabo Verde's effective participation in regional and global markets by advancing development of its English language capacity, technological innovation, and economic governance.

- **Justification** | Cabo Verde's continued standing as a nation that overcame physical isolation and scarcity of resources to graduate into the ranks of middle-income countries and evolve into a democratic success story depends on the development of a more diversified economy better connected to others in the region and beyond. Supporting recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, engaging on factors that constrain trade and growth, raising the level of English fluency, and introducing information technologies that securely link Cabo Verde to the world will help make the country more resilient to shocks and more attractive to firms from the United States and elsewhere wishing to do business with Africa.
- **Linkages** | Africa JRS Bureau Objectives 2.2, 2.3, 4.4; Interim National Security Strategic Guidance pages 9 and 17
- **Risks** | New COVID-19 variants could emerge. Russia's war in Ukraine could continue to adversely impact supply chains and economic growth. Recovery from the pandemic could be rocky.

Objective 1.3 | Facilitate legitimate business, education, and leisure travel between Cabo Verde and the United States while protecting the U.S. homeland and U.S. citizens and their interests.

- **Justification** | Business, educational, and people-to-people exchanges are immensely important to strengthening the economic, academic, and personal ties that underlie vibrant bilateral relations, but rates of misuse of nonimmigrant visas – overstays, unauthorized work, and birth tourism – remain unacceptably high. By taking steps to discourage overstays while continuing to facilitate legitimate travel, educational exchanges, and government-to-government engagement, the mission will ensure both countries benefit from desirable activity and reduced rates of unlawful immigration.
- **Linkages** | Africa JRS Bureau Objectives 2.1, 2.3; Interim National Security Strategic Guidance pages 9 and 17
- **Risks** | Misuse of visas could remain persistently high.

Mission Goal 2 | Improve Cabo Verdean security sector capabilities through expanded bilateral cooperation.

Description | Security cooperation, broadly defined, is a priority for Cabo Verde and the United States. Both countries acknowledge Cabo Verde's geostrategic importance buttressing transshipment routes between South America and both Europe and West Africa, with natural deep-water ports and rich fishing waters. Regrettably, these characteristics are not lost on nefarious actors – including drug traffickers, transnational organized criminals, and boats engaged in illegal fishing – that threaten not only U.S. and Cabo Verde interests but broader security in the mid-Atlantic, West Africa, Europe, and the Americas. Enhancing Cabo Verde's capabilities to respond to these and other transnational threats, through assistance that builds capacity to participate in Atlantic Africa security affairs and support for the country's law enforcement and judiciary, including through mutual legal assistance and extraditions, serve to deepen bilateral security cooperation while enabling Cabo Verde to act on its demonstrated resolve to uphold the rule of law and stand up to threats. Moreover, increased maritime

capacity allows Cabo Verde to partner more effectively in regional security activities and exercises, enhancing the value of its contributions to regional maritime security.

Objective 2.1 | Improve Cabo Verde's capabilities to identify and respond to transnational threats posed by organized crime, maritime insecurity, and border insecurity.

- **Justification** | Cabo Verde attracts criminals, drug traffickers, cybercriminals, and other unwelcome actors, in large part because of its strategic location. Helping Cabo Verde better identify transnational criminal activity, increase its awareness of activity in its maritime domain, and improve its border security will enhance its ability to respond to and counter threats and make bilateral cooperation in this area more effective.
- **Linkages** | Africa JRS Bureau Objective 1.2; JSP Strategic Objectives 1.4, 3.1, 3.2; AFRICOM theater strategic objective 2; NSSM-1; Interim National Security Strategic Guidance pages 10, 18, 19, and 20
- **Risks** | Criminal activity levels could exceed capacity to counter it.

Objective 2.2 | Bolster Cabo Verde's capacity as an active partner in Atlantic Africa security affairs.

- **Justification** | With its large maritime territory, Cabo Verde has an important role to play in multilateral cooperation on regional security matters, but capacity limitations have kept it from participating as actively as it might otherwise. Assistance with maintaining and supplementing Cabo Verde's security-related equipment, training its personnel, and strengthening its bilateral and regional institutional ties in the security sector will ensure that it is better able to secure its own maritime territory while contributing to regional maritime security, including through joint exercises and other cooperative efforts.
- **Linkages** | Africa JRS Bureau Objectives 1.1, 1.3; JSP Strategic Objectives 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 3.5; AFRICOM theater strategic objective 1; Interim National Security Strategy pages 9, 10, 14, 19, and 20

- **Risks** | Regional maritime security challenges could continue to grow. Budget shortfalls and other constraints may limit Cabo Verde's capacity to conduct maritime patrols. Trained personnel may rotate or be promoted into other positions.

Objective 2.3 | Leverage U.S. support to enhance the capabilities of Cabo Verdean law enforcement and justice sectors in upholding and defending rule of law.

- **Justification** | Crime levels in Cabo Verde, both transnational and domestic in origin, stretch law enforcement, justice system, and corrections resources, one consequence being a perennial backlog of investigations and court cases. Assistance and training for police, prosecutors, judges, prison managers, and civil society actors increases Cabo Verde's capacity to protect public safety, maintain stability, uphold the rights of vulnerable populations, and counter malevolent transnational actors while strengthening bilateral ties to U.S. counterparts.
- **Linkages** | Africa JRS Bureau Objectives 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4; Interim National Security Strategy pages 10 and 20
- **Risks** | High caseload could persist despite efforts to reduce it. Continued economic woes could contribute to elevated street crime.

Mission Goal 3 | Strengthen Cabo Verde's resilience to environmental vulnerability and the impacts of climate change while promoting inclusive development.

Description | Climate change threatens to add to and exacerbate many of resource-poor and drought-prone Cabo Verde's environmental vulnerabilities. The government has charted a path to securing the country's future energy and fresh water needs while promoting sustainable development. Engagement with Cabo Verde on climate action, adoption of renewable energy and water technologies, management and conservation of marine and other resources, and adaptation to environmental change will promote greater resilience, social and economic inclusion of remote and vulnerable populations, and progress toward achievement of the sustainable development goals of this Small Island Developing State.

Objective 3.1 | Support investments in renewable energy, water resources, and natural disaster response to build climate resilience and access to resources for inclusive economic development and diversification.

- **Justification** | Cabo Verde currently relies on thermal generation of electricity and energy-intensive and environmentally detrimental desalination for much of its supply of fresh water. It has limited resources to respond to natural disasters, including drought. Cooperation with Cabo Verde on climate action, the establishment of a U.S. private sector presence in the renewable energy sector, and introduction of new water supply technologies will better integrate Cabo Verde into international climate efforts to achieve net zero emissions, help provide for water needs, create conditions for social and economic inclusion, and move the country closer to its targets of generating 50 percent of its power from renewable sources by 2030 and 100 percent by 2040.
- **Linkages** | Africa JRS Bureau Objectives 4.2, 4.3; Interim National Security Strategy pages 11, 12, and 17
- **Risks** | Transition to renewable energy and adoption of new technologies could take place more slowly than anticipated. Severe impacts of climate change

could emerge sooner and with greater intensity than projected. Cabo Verde's diffuse population across nine islands (and nine corresponding power grids) could make energy changes expensive on a per capita basis. Cabo Verde is naturally susceptible to drought and flooding.

Objective 3.2 | Enhance Cabo Verde's ability to manage its natural resources to adapt to long-term environmental and economic change.

- **Justification |** Effective management of Cabo Verde's resources, particularly its marine resources, is key to remaining on a path to sustainable development. Engagement on protecting these resources and adoption of approaches and measures adapted to environmental realities will help Cabo Verde conserve resources while sustaining economic growth.
- **Linkages |** Africa JRS Bureau Objective 4.3; Interim National Security Strategy pages 11 and 12
- **Risks |** Depletion of resources may be more advanced than currently understood. Elevated prices of cooking fuel could increase deforestation as rural communities turn to wood for cooking. Elevated ocean temperatures and IUU fishing may reduce fish stocks proximate to Cabo Verde's shoreline regardless of national-level efforts.

4. Management Objectives

Management Objective 1 | Advance progress towards completion of the New Embassy Compound Project.

- **Justification** | The mission's current chancery and annex facilities do not meet minimum security and safety standards, are of a substandard nature, and inadequate to accommodate expanding consular and bilateral engagement needs, protecting our personnel, information, and physical infrastructure from 21st century threats, and the unique challenges of working in an isolated island environment. Construction of a New Embassy Compound (NEC) is vital for correcting these deficiencies and alleviating current space constraints.—Much of the design, land preparation, and construction phases will require an on-the-ground TDY or other presence to facilitate the process.
- **Linkages** | NSS Pillar 3, FSP Objectives 4.2, 4.3, 5.1, 5.2; Interim National Security Strategy pages 21 and 22
- **Risks** | OBO funding constraints, construction timing, third-party land disputes, failure to honor post-closing commitments, difficulty securing approvals/permits, and underlying land conditions (e.g., flooding) could all impact progress on the NEC project.

Management Objective 2 | Ensure the operational effectiveness of embassy facilities and personnel through infrastructure improvements, staffing initiatives, and post policy considerations.

- **Justification** | Embassy facilities are dated and require life and safety upgrades. Personnel growth continues in tandem with expanding mission and interagency needs, straining existing workspaces and local training resources. Off-island training opportunities present unique challenges due to travel and budgetary limitations to meet the increased demand. Existing facilities require infrastructure improvements to meet needs. Identifying training opportunities both in and outside of Cabo Verde will help meet growing demand, support proficiency in use of Department systems, and promote high-level performance.
- **Linkages** | JSP Objectives 4.1, 4.3; Interim National Security Strategy pages 21 and 22
- **Risks** | Overcrowded workspaces and aging and failing facilities and infrastructure could increase risk to safety and security of staff, with maintenance costs increasing dramatically over time. A growing cadre of untrained and partially trained staff could compromise the mission's ability to provide sufficient practical training, resulting in missed opportunities and failures in meeting objectives and customer service standards. Resulting frustrations could drive an increase in USDH curtailment, extended gaps in key positions, and increasing difficulty to attract bidders.