TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN

Cabo Verde

An integrated vision
Acknowledgments

Towards Sustainable Urban Development in Cabo Verde

An integrated vision

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P.O. BOX 30030, GPO Nairobi 00100, Kenya
Tel: 254 20 7623 120; Fax: 254 20 7624 266/7 (Central Office)
Email: info@unhabitat.org
Website: www.unhabitat.org

HS/022/15E

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States.

CONTRIBUTORS
Mathias Spaliviero, Senior Human Settlements Officer, Regional Office for Africa, UN-Habitat

Janice da Silva, UN-Habitat Programme Coordinator for Cabo Verde

Editor: Katharina Rochell, Associate Human Settlement Officer, UN-Habitat
Design and Layout: Arianna Francioni, Johanna Franke

Cover Photo: Mindelo, Mindelo Town, São Vicente Island © Jeiza Tavares

The preparation of this brochure was coordinated by
Mathias Spaliviero (Regional Office for Africa) and Janice da Silva (UN-Habitat Programme Coordinator for Cabo Verde).

Principal Author: Arianna Francioni
The preparation of this booklet was supported by:

Axumite Gebre-Egziabher
Director, Regional Office for Africa, UN-Habitat

Alioune Badiane
Director, Programme Division, UN-Habitat

Joseph Guiebo
Senior Human Settlements Officer, Regional Office for Africa,
UN-Habitat

Mansour Tall
UN-Habitat Programme Manager, Senegal

Anita Pinto
Communication Analyst, joint United Nations Office,
Cabo Verde

Miryam Vieira
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MIREX)

Isabel Monteiro
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MIREX)

Jeiza Tavares
Ministry of Environment, Housing and Territorial Planning (MAHOT)

Jair Rodrigues
Ministry of Infrastructure and Maritime Economy (MIEM)

Lígia Timas
Ministry of Culture (MC)
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Foreword by Cabo Verde

Cabo Verde needed a brochure that takes stock of the country’s efforts towards well planned, more inclusive, and more resilient cities, where people can live better.

It gives me privilege to present this brochure which illustrates the processes, policies and related actions to tackle the challenges presented by changes in the spatial distribution of people and related use of resources and urban land, in order to meet the country’s vision for 2030.

It outlines the extent and the impact of the partnership between the Government of Cabo Verde, through the Ministry of Environment, Housing and Territorial Planning (MAHOT), and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and reports how the country has strengthened the capacity of local authorities in the sectors of democracy, urban citizenship, urban security and safety for enabling sustainable urban development.

This brochure reveals the challenges of rapid growth and the vulnerabilities of Cabo Verdean cities, but also stresses their opportunities and prospects in areas such as infrastructure, services, tourism, and how the country is committed to a sustainable transformation process.

The brochure also highlights the leading role of Cabo Verde regarding the new United Nations’ strategic approach. The pillars of UN-Habitat’s intervention in Cabo Verde fit within the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2012-2016 and enhance the partnership with MAHOT in the establishment and implementation of an urban agenda based on the new demographic, social and economic paradigms of the country.

In particular, it reports on past, on-going and future activities and intervention strategies under the National Programme for Urban Development and Empowerment of Cities (NPUDC), including supporting the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme with a view to promote outcomes consistent with the Millennium Development Goals for 2015.

Finally, this brochure informs the preparation of Cabo Verde for Habitat III, including the Terms of Reference for the establishment of a National Habitat Committee and the development of a National Urban Policy. These are key steps to reaffirm the urban space and territoriality, and provide the necessary guidance and course of action to support sustainable urban development. This brochure gives important insight in the efforts towards a national urban policy and an urban vision for Cabo Verde in 2030.

Dr. Emanuel Antero Garcia da Veiga
Minister of Environment, Housing and Territorial Management
In a true One UN spirit, UN agencies in Cabo Verde are working towards the achievement of the countries’ development goals. UN-Habitat, in line with its mandate, is supporting the Government in achieving its urban vision for 2030 - to have better planned, more inclusive and more resilient towns.

Together with the Ministry of Environment, Housing & Territorial Planning, UN-Habitat addresses urban challenges such as capacity development for territorial management, urban citizenship, slum upgrading, basic urban services, as well as the generation of income opportunities. To that end, UN-Habitat’s interventions are fully aligned with the National Programme on Urban Development and Empowerment of Cities. Concerted efforts of the partnership also involve the design of policies and frameworks to promote a more sustainable future of urban development for the country.

As a Small Island State, Cabo Verde is exposed to natural hazards and climate change-induced risks. Urban areas are often the most vulnerable to disasters, due to dense populations, accumulation of assets and variety of activities within comparatively small geographical areas. There is a need to re-imagine sustainable urbanization with an emphasis on urban risk reduction, as recognized in the urban vision for 2030. UN-Habitat is fully supporting the country’s efforts in creating urban risk reduction and resilience.

The milestones of UN-Habitat’s work with the people and Government of Cabo Verde are encouraging testimonials ahead of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Urban Development (Habitat III), where the world will take stock of achievements of the past 20 years and lay out new urban development paradigms.

Foreword by UN-Habitat

Joan Clos
Under-Secretary General, United Nations
Executive Director, UN-Habitat
Towards a New Urban Vision

Cabo Verde is beyond its urban tipping point with currently 64.8 per cent. While the urban growth rate has reached its peak, the current growth rate of two percent annually will have important implications for future spatial configurations, resources and land use.

UN-Habitat is providing technical expertise to the Government of Cabo Verde in an effort to design policies and frameworks that can leverage the urbanisation process for increased development gains and guide it towards sustainable patterns.

Sponsored in recent years through the One UN Fund, UN-Habitat focused on strengthening the local authorities’ capacity to promote urban citizenship, urban security and safety as well as local economic development.

According to its mandate and within the wider framework of the Millennium Development Goals, UN-Habitat is collaborating with its main governmental counterpart, the Ministry of Environment, Housing and Territorial Planning (MAHOT). The Ministry’s urban vision for 2030 is to have better planned, more inclusive and more resilient towns. UN-Habitat is supporting the Ministry to achieve its vision towards adequate supply of infrastructure and basic services, affordable housing and generation of income opportunities for all citizens.
National Urban Profile: Factsheet

Geography and Demographics
Total Population (2014): 504,000
Country Total Area: 4,033 km²
Population density (2014): 124.97 inhabitants per km²
Capital city and population (2014): Praia (145,000)
Annual population growth 2010-2015: 0.83%
Annual urban population growth 2010-2015: 2%
Annual rural population growth 2010-2015: -0.97%

Poverty and Human Development
Human Development Index (HDI) in 2013: 0.636
Poverty headcount ratio at national poverty line (2007): 26.6%
GDP per capita (2013): 3,785 USD

Water and Sanitation
Access to improved drinking water: 54.4%*
Access to improved sanitation: 63%*

FROM 5 TO 24 TOWNS: new urban challenges
Since 2010 the Government of Cabo Verde created 19 towns in addition to the original five cities through the delineation of administrative boundaries. The country is thus facing new challenges in terms of urban development and mobilization of partners to maximize achievements through concerted efforts.

*Data from the National Urban Profile / Ministry of Environment, Housing and Territorial Planning; Data Sources: World Bank, World Development Indicators 2014; United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2014). World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision.
National Urban Profile: Rapid Assessment

CHALLENGES AND VULNERABILITIES

- Rapid urban growth and expansion of low quality constructions without adequate access to basic infrastructure and services
- Lack of urban land and consequential increasing costs and land speculation
- Unplanned urbanisation leading to increasing environmental impacts
- Informal settlements’ growth in vulnerable areas
- Absence of sewerage and drainage systems, green spaces, public transport, urban services and means to ensure urban security in informal settlements
- Unemployment and poverty

OPPORTUNITIES AND PERSPECTIVES

- Demand for land, housing, social and technical services
- Expansion and consolidation of the urban housing market
- Increasing value of land
- Social housing projects promoted by the government (“Casa para Todos”)
- Tourism-related economic growth
- Foreign direct investment growth
- Improvement of living standards in urban and rural communities

Praia City, Santiago Island © Francisco Livramento (top); Arianna Francioni (bottom)
‘Delivering as One’ in Cabo Verde

In 2006 the Executive Committee of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) and the Government of Cabo Verde agreed to establish a joint United Nations Office (former: Office of Funds and Programmes of the United Nations in Cabo Verde). This integrates UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF as resident agencies while FAO and WHO operate as accredited resident agencies with foreign diplomatic representatives.

In 2008 the Government of Cabo Verde has embarked on the Delivering as One United Nations pilot programme, including the agencies mentioned above, as well as ILO, IOM, ITC, UNAIDS, UNCTAD, UNEP, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, UNHCHR, UNODC, UNWOMEN, UNV and WFP.

STRATEGY OF DELIVERING AS ONE

The ‘One UN’ system enables United Nations Agencies to collaborate closely and work together to achieve four ‘Joint Actions’: one programme, one budget, one leader and one office.

A common communication strategy has been agreed upon to realise these goals and objectives. Through this reform all UN Agencies ensure that resources and activities are fully aligned with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

### UN-Habitat Interventions within the UNDAF 2012-2016

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### National Programme on Urban Development and Empowerment of Cities (NPUDEC)

- Supporting the Implementation of the NPUDEC
- Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme
- Urban Resilience
- Local Leadership
- Local Economic Development
- Territorial and Urban Citizenship
- Safer Cities Programme
- Preparation of Habitat III
UN-Habitat’s Role in Cabo Verde

APPROACH

• Promote the inclusion of the urban agenda into the country’s development strategy
• Cooperate with the Government at the national and local level to elaborate strategies and policies for sustainable urban development
• Contribute to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda through advocacy actions for territorial and urban citizenship and the establishment of partnerships
• Promote the implementation of urban development programmes in coordination with different actors, Government bodies, UN agencies, the private sector, the civil society, local authorities and communities

CORE AREAS OF WORK

Within the framework of the National Programme on Urban Development and Empowerment of Cities (NPUDC), promoted by the Government, UN-Habitat is focusing its activities on:
• Supporting the implementation of NPUDC
• Participatory Slum Upgrading
• Urban Resilience
• Capacity Building of Local Leadership
• Local Economic Development
• Territorial and Urban Citizenship
• Urban Safety

The Ministry of Environment, Housing and Territorial Planning (MAHOT) and UN-Habitat: a common effort towards sustainable urban development of Cabo Verde

UN-Habitat is working in close collaboration with MAHOT to support the ministry in tackling the country’s main challenges with regard to sustainable urban development. In order to define a more consistent and inclusive urban policy that integrates sustainable development and urban resilience, MAHOT has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UN-Habitat and mobilised the required funds to start implementing NPUDC.

UN-Habitat provides technical assistance to support implementation as well as the mobilisation of funds and human resources. The latter contribute to the elaboration of assessment studies which represent important tools to support decision making processes at different government levels.
A development partners’ roundtable for the presentation of NPUDEC was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and funded by UN-Habitat in 2011. The programme, approved by the Government of Cabo Verde in 2012, aims to improve urban areas as spaces in which economic, social and cultural opportunities can be generated and extended, thereby contributing to increased quality of live. UN-Habitat has provided technical support to MAHOT for its elaboration.

MAHOT is the Government department responsible for designing, coordinating, implementing and evaluating public national policies related to spatial planning, housing and urban development. It plays a fundamental role in defining the goals for actions of various public and private entities in terms of sustainable development of the towns of Cabo Verde. MAHOT has promoted fundamental urban development tools such as: the NPUDEC; the National Spatial Planning Strategy (Diretiva Nacional do Ordenamento do Território); the development of local urban plans and detailed plans on territorial management; the establishment of the Territorial and Urban Citizenship Week; the mobilization of funds for the preparation of municipal development plans. The ministry is currently defining a policy for the housing sector and strengthening the government capacities in terms of land management and provision of access to water and sanitation.
## Supporting the Implementation of the NPUDEC

In 2013, the Government of Cabo Verde and UN-Habitat signed a financial contribution agreement for catalysing implementation of the NPUDEC. Besides technical assistance and resource mobilisation, UN-Habitat’s efforts concentrate on the development of a national urbanization policy. The project further aims at providing MAHOT with tools for establishing effective institutional and financing mechanisms.

### Objective of the NPUDEC catalytic project:

Support the implementation of the NPUDEC in Cabo Verde, through specialised technical assistance, resource mobilization and advocacy.

### Expected Accomplishments:

- MAHOT is provided with effective tools for starting the implementation of the NPUDEC.
- Government and cooperating partners are mobilised for establishing proper finance mechanisms of the NPUDEC.

### Outputs

#### OUTPUT 1

- Institutional framework and detailed action plan for Implementing the NPUDEC elaborated and approved

#### OUTPUT 2

- Resource mobilisation and advocacy strategy for supporting the NPUDEC implementation prepared and carried out.

#### OUTPUT 3

- Capacity development and technical tools elaborated and subsequent activities carried out to facilitate NPUDEC’s implementation.

#### Outputs

- Supporting the preparation of the institutional framework and detailed action plan for implementing NPUDEC
- Organising meetings and conducting at least one national workshop to discuss, present and finalise the framework and action plan

- Supporting the preparation of resource mobilisation and advocacy strategy for implementing the NPUDEC
- Supporting the implementation of the advocacy/communication strategy and dissemination of the detailed action plan
- Negotiating with government and donors for securing resources for the NPUDEC implementation

- Elaborating capacity development and technical tools to facilitate the NPUDEC implementation, in particular the National Urban Policy (NUP) framework
- Delivering subsequent training/capacity building activities
Between 2009 and 2011 UN-Habitat and MAHOT completed the first phase of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP I) funded by the European Commission. The overall objective of the programme is to allow an intersectional collaboration between the different stakeholders at the national and local levels in analysing urban issues and designing priority interventions for informal settlements. During first phase of the programme an urban sector profile of every city in Cabo Verde as well as a national comparative profile were drafted with a view to contributing to the development of policies and strategies to reduce urban poverty at the national level. The urban profiles’ elaboration criteria were based on standards provided by the European Commission which have already been applied by UN-Habitat in other countries. Starting with the completion of three urban pilot profiles (Pedra Badejo, Espargos and Praia), Cabo Verde has been the only country participating in the programme that succeeded in completing the urban profiling of all municipalities in its territory.

**ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE 2009**

**22 Municipal Urban Profiles** completed for the municipalities of the country and validated through local consultations with each municipality. The profiled cities are: Praia; Pedra Badejo; Espargos; Achada Igreja; Assomada; Calheta; Cova Figueira; Cidade de Santiago de Cabo Verde; Cidade de Igreja; João Teves; Mindelo; Ponta do Sol / Ribeira Grande; Pombas; Porto Inglês; Porto Novo; Ribeira Brava; Sal-Rei; S. Filipe; Tarrafal de Santiago; Tarrafal São Nicolau; Várzea da Igreja and Vila Nova Sintra.

**1 National Urban Profile** published in December 2012.

**400 Participants** attended the 23 public consultation sessions in order to discuss the results and select priority projects.

**1 Memorandum of Understanding** signed in 2013 between UN-Habitat and the Government of Cabo Verde to approve the work plan for the second phase of PSUP II (2014-2015). The overall objective of the second phase is to translate the urban profiling results into priority interventions to address the identified vulnerabilities of slum dwellers.
PSUP II will focus on: (i) analysing the slum situation at the national level; (ii) capacity building towards sustainable urbanisation in selected human settlements; (iii) the elaboration of a slum upgrading resource mobilisation strategy; and (iv) the definition of pilot projects for implementation during the next phase. After signing the MoU in 2013 that ratified the cooperation between UN-Habitat and MAHOT for the programme’s second phase, a PSUP country team was established consisting of more than 20 institutions, including central and local government, civil society as well as the Board of Engineers. This forum is meeting on a quarterly basis. The country team coordinator participated in the Kigali PSUP tripartite conference between the EU, ACP Secretariat and UN-Habitat in September 2013. The first official meeting of the country team took place in Praia in February 2014, during which the members shared the results achieved in the first phase and approved the terms of reference and the work plan for the second phase of the programme. Subsequently, nine members of the PSUP country team benefited from a regional training for implementing the second phase of the PSUP and formulated its work plan for Cabo Verde.

The following are the envisaged primary results of PSUP II in Cabo Verde:

- Further engagement in addressing slum dwellers’ needs to reduce urban poverty in national and city development frameworks based on the findings of the participatory urban profiling during PSUP Phase I
- Expansion of the PSUP country team to widen stakeholder representation at city level through representatives of academia, external support agencies, civil society, media, slum dwellers, community organizations and other active players in the selected cities/towns
- Participatory slum situation analysis, including mapping and stakeholder analysis
- Participatory review of the policy and regulatory frameworks affecting slum formation, prevention and upgrading
- Participatory citywide slum upgrading strategy
- Resource mobilisation strategy with focus on the “creative neighbourhoods” approach, promoted by the government
- Concept notes to implement priority interventions in identified areas
- Stakeholder consultations, awareness raising campaigns and trainings to facilitate the preparation, dissemination and revision of findings and results of the slum situation analysis as well as the concept notes
Since 2011, UN-Habitat has partnered with United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction’s (UNISDR) “Making Cities Resilient Campaign” and has been undertaking a series of related programmes and activities at the global, regional and national levels. At the global level UN-Habitat is implementing the City Resilience Profiling Programme as well as the Cities and Climate Change Initiative. At the regional level, UN-Habitat and UNISDR are facilitating the establishment of a Technical Centre for Disaster Risk Management, Sustainability and Urban Resilience in Southern Africa (DiMSUR) to be headquartered in Maputo, Mozambique, and funded by the World Bank and the European Union. Based on its technical experience at the global and continental level on urban risk reduction and resilience, UN-Habitat has recently embarked on a new regional project funded through the United Nations Development Account. It intends to address urban risk and build resilience of Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau and São Tomé e Principe. The three lusophone countries are exposed to similar natural hazards, in particular coastal erosion linked to sea level rise, flash floods, inland erosion, droughts and landslides. Their municipalities will benefit from UN-Habitat’s capacity building efforts.

**EXPECTED RESULTS BY 2016**

1. Increased levels of technical understanding and knowledge of urban risk reduction and resilience of the municipal authorities
2. Integration of urban risk reduction and resilience aspects into the municipalities’ respective government structure, urban plan and municipal strategies
3. Enhanced communication and information exchange on good practices between cities and towns to strengthen urban risk reduction and resilience

**ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE 2009**

1. **National Observatory** on Housing and Urban Development implemented by MAHOT with technical assistance of UN-Habitat.
2. **Conference** on Urban Mobility in Cabo Verde organized by MAHOT and the Public University (UNICV) with support of UN-Habitat to address contemporary urban challenges.
3. **Plenary Lecture** on the theme of Cities and Climate Change delivered by Alioune Badiane, Director of the Programme Division, UN-Habitat, at the National Forum of Cities on 20 October 2011.
CHAPTER 10

Capacity Development for Local Leadership

From 24 June to 3 July 2010, a training for trainers for strengthening local leadership has been held in Praia, within the framework of the Delivering as One (DaO) in Cabo Verde. The main objectives of the training were to establish a pool of trainers able to design and conduct capacity building sessions on leadership for local decision makers; as well as raising awareness on the contents of local leadership training tools developed by UN-Habitat. The workshop was structured around three elements: 1) presentation of UN-Habitat’s training tools and introduction to theoretical approaches of the training of trainers as well as key concepts related to adult education; 2) simulation of planning and designing training sessions for trainers, under the supervision of a facilitator; 3) a pilot workshop held by the trainers for local decision-makers.

ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE 2009

25 professionals trained to become trainers in local leadership themes: One for each municipality, one for the National Association of Municipalities of Cabo Verde (ANMCV) and two for the Directorate General for Decentralization

1 class module of 90 hours during 15 days delivered on: policy development; communicating decision making, facilitating, mobilising, negotiating and managing resources; controlling; exercising power; as well as on manager and leadership profile

EXPECTED RESULTS BY 2016

1. Replication of the training module
2. Strengthened capacities of locally elected officers and leaders
3. Development of a training programme for local decision makers
The Local Economic Development (LED) Programme entails a participatory process where local communities collaborate to stimulate economic activities. It is a way to foster job creation and to improve quality of life for communities, especially the poor and marginalised.

In line with the first UNDAF pillar of intervention, UN-Habitat supported MAHOT in the elaboration of a strategy of Local Economic Development of Cabo Verde’s Municipalities, to strengthen capacities of local actors to increase economic activities and promote competitiveness. The strategy proposes a pilot phase that will involve the local economic analysis of three to six selected municipalities, which are chosen based on criteria provided by MAHOT and representing large, small and medium cities of Cabo Verde. The second phase will involve the design of interventions based on the analytic study. Lessons learned will be shared in order to support the implementation of the LED in all municipalities of Cabo Verde.
CHAPTER 12

Safer Cities Programme

The Ministry of Environment, Housing and Territorial Planning in partnership with UN-Habitat and in line with the second pillar of UNDAF has elaborated a quantitative and qualitative study of the relationship between urban spatial organization and urban violence, using the rapid situation assessment (RSA) method. The study demonstrates that urban violence is not a spontaneous and isolated phenomenon. It is the result of a society characterised by inequality and exclusion as well as by lack of institutional and social control. Thus violence can be generated by unstructured urban environments that do not provide easy access to basic social services and public spaces.

The study was conducted in the urban centres of the islands of Santiago, Santo Antão, São Vicente, Sal, Boa Vista, Fogo and Brava. It provides objective data and information that may help developing policies, programmes and actions to improve the organisation of urban space and reduce crime and related negative social and economic impacts.

ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE 2009

11 local reports elaborated, applying the RSA method covering 7 islands

11 local consultations for the presentation of study results, covering all seven islands and gathering more than 200 participants

All municipal RSA reports and a national comparative report produced and launched on 14 November 2011
ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE 2009

- **2 Seminars** organised to raise awareness on urban citizenship among media professionals of Cabo Verde based on UN-Habitat’s “I’m a City Changer” Campaign
- **6 TV Spots** produced and broadcasted on national television during October 2010 to sensitize the population on UN-Habitat’s World Urban Campaign “Better City, Better Life”
- **4 Delegates** from different ministries invited to participate to the Fifth Session of the World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 22 to 26 March 2010
- **8 Delegates** from MAHOT, Municipality of Praia, Architectural National Association and Media invited to represent their country at the Sixth Session of the World Urban Forum in Naples, Italy, from 11 to 17 September 2012
- **Several seminars on territorial and urban citizenship** organised in different municipalities by MAHOT with technical support of UN-Habitat addressing social workers, CBOs and students
- **Support to the Government in the participation of Cabo Verde in AMCHUD** (Conference of African Ministers of Housing and Urban Development)
  - Assistance provided by UN-Habitat to the National Council of Cities.

EXPECTED RESULTS BY 2016

1. Organisation of awareness raising sessions on urban and territorial citizenship in informal settlements, with emphasis on urban resilience in partnership with the UNV Programme for the creation of the National Urban Development Youth Network.
2. Partner consultations’ follow-up on the implementation of a Local Cities Forum on Participatory Slum Upgrading and Urban Resilience.
3. Preparation of a round table and three coordination workshops in selected communities to focus the attention of several stakeholders on “Creative Neighbourhoods”, a project of cultural and economic revitalization of slums.
4. Development and implementation of a work plan for the “Week of Territorial and Urban Citizenship”, with focus on “Resilience and Informal Settlement in Cabo Verde” in different forums.
5. Adaptation of the International Decentralization Guidelines on Access to Basic Urban Services (UN-Habitat) to the national context.
towards sustainable development in cabo verde – an integrated vision
Preparations towards Habitat III

The first United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Habitat I, was held in Vancouver in 1976. World leaders recognised the challenges of addressing the requirements of human settlements and rapid urbanisation. The second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Habitat II, was held in Istanbul in 1996 and led to the Habitat Agenda and the Istanbul Declaration, forming the basis for Governments and partners to define urban policies and programmes.

The United Nations General Assembly decided to convene the third United Nations Conference on housing and sustainable urban development, Habitat III, in 2016, as endorsed by the General Assembly Resolution 66/207. As a global summit, Habitat III will provide an invaluable opportunity to review and assess the knowledge and progress made since 1996 and to strengthen the commitment of Member States to sustainable urbanisation through the definition of a New Urban Agenda.

As part of the preparations for Habitat III, UN-Habitat is supporting the Ministry of Environment, Housing and Territorial Planning and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to establish a National Habitat Committee. The latter may initiate a National Urban Campaign to mobilise and engage all partners to articulate pressing urban issues and propose innovative solutions. The National Forum of Cities in Cabo Verde is an important framework that allows capitalizing on a participatory consultation process consolidating the country’s national urban agenda prior to Habitat III.

Country level preparations are further being supported by preparing the National Report of Cabo Verde for Habitat III.

NATIONAL HABITAT COMMITTEE: EXPECTED ACHIEVEMENTS BY 2016

The National Urban Forum of Cabo Verde, supported by UN-Habitat, will focus on the following main activity areas:

- Country level preparations for Habitat III
- Assessment of the impact of urbanisation on national and local development
- Territorial and Urban Citizenship awareness raising campaigns on “I’m a City Changer”
- National Urban Policy with focus on issues such as affordable housing, basic services, resilience, legislation, land, urban economy, local governance, etc. and the promotion of a sustainable system of cities
- Engagement with the World Urban Campaign

COMPOSITION OF THE NATIONAL HABITAT COMMITTEE:

**National Government:** Key ministries and institutions dealing with urbanization, including local government, urban planning and development, housing, land, infrastructure, labour, economic development, finance and gender

**Local authorities:** National associations and/or the capital city, as well as medium and small towns, the latter being also geographically, functionally and historically important

**Civil society and private sector:** NGOs, the media, professional societies, the private sector, women’s and youth groups and special interest groups

**Academia:** Universities and training institutions

**External support agencies:** Bilateral and multilateral agencies, the United Nations, international NGOs and other supporting agencies
After the approval of the National Programme on Urban Development and Empowerment of Cities, Cabo Verde has embarked on the elaboration of a National Urban Policy (NUP). UN-Habitat is supporting the Government in the development of the NUP as a key step to reassert urban space and territoriality and to support sustainable urban development, based on the country’s goals for 2030 and the global agenda post-2015. The NUP provides an overarching coordinating framework to address the most important issues related to rapid urban development, including slum prevention and regularization, access to land, basic services and infrastructure, municipal finances, adequate housing, urban legislation, delegation of authority to subnational and local governments, financial flows, urban planning regulations, urban mobility and urban energy requirements, as well as job creation. Approved at the highest national level, the NUP can serve as the general framework to guide public and private interventions in urban areas and a reference for sectorial ministries and service providers. If developed through a consultative process, the NUP could serve as one of the key references for legislative, regulatory and institutional reforms.

Through the development of the NUP, the following results are expected:

1. Identification of future urban development priorities supported through the preparation of territorial development plans
2. Better institutional coordination between different sectors and with lower levels of government
3. Increased and more integrated private and public investments in urban development to leverage agglomeration economies and enhance urban productivity, economic inclusiveness and environmental footprint

DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL URBAN POLICY

1. Identification of urban development priorities
2. Guidance on the future development
3. Better coordination and guidance of actions
4. Increased and more coordinated investments
Programme of Cooperation between UN-Habitat and the Government of Cabo Verde

**NATIONAL LEVEL**
Support the design and implementation of policies and strategies

- Elaborating a NUP in order to:
  - Harmonize the framework of existing sectorial policies
  - Clarify the mechanisms and responsibilities of institutional stakeholders in the implementation of strategies defined by NPUDEC
  - Establish a policy framework for existing planning instruments considering the issue of housing and its surrounding environment, the neighbourhood within the city/town as well as the individual and its integration in the community
  - Providing support to the National Institute of Territorial Planning in the application spatial planning instruments for elaborating urban/regional plans, in particular to improve and prevent the formation of informal settlements

**MUNICIPAL LEVEL**
Implementing the Programme “Resilient Cities”

- Promoting capacity building of local authorities in terms of urban planning, with focus on disaster risk management, urban resilience and climate change adaptation
- Improving municipal finance
- Revising building codes (Promotion of the use of local materials, adaptive architecture, climate proofing infrastructure, etc.)
- Carrying out awareness campaigns about climate change adaptation and mitigation in urban areas
- Implementing pilot projects

**LOCAL LEVEL**
Implementing the Programme “Creative Settlements”

- Implementing PSUP
- Promoting urban safety and social integration through:
  - improvement of public spaces (“creative neighbourhoods” concept, design of public spaces for sports, social activities and green areas)
  - awareness raising regarding cultural heritage and territorial citizenship
  - promotion of employment and self-employment, especially through income generating activities
- Reinforcing the concept of a compact city
- Capitalise on the self-organisation capacity of selected neighbourhoods
UN-Habitat’s strategy in Cabo Verde combines strategic and operational activities. While the former are directed at Government authorities, the latter targets the communities and other stakeholders. Both activities adhere to the wider strategic framework of the Millennium Development Goals, the Strategy Document for Growth and Poverty Reduction as well as the Declaration of Barbados. UN-Habitat’s strategy involves technical cooperation, networking and partnership and takes into account four cross-cutting issues: human rights, gender, poverty and environment. The strategy in Cabo Verde is guided by two elements: enhance the ownership of the World Urban Campaign and provide technical support to the central government for the elaboration of a National Urban Policy. Within this framework, the expertise provided ranges from spatial planning and strategic access to basic infrastructures and services; improvement of slum environment and urban poor conditions; capacity building on good governance, local leadership and economic development; and awareness raising campaigns on urban citizenship and civic responsibility.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT**

- Sustainable urbanization needs to involve urban planning for new developments, the control of spontaneously evolving informal settlements and the improvement of existing urban areas
- Informal settlements should be integrated into the formal urban texture through infrastructure and cultural networks
- Cabo Verde’s geographic location should be further leveraged with regard to its integration into the global economy
- To ensure future territorial and urban sustainable development, the coordination of national and local government authorities, UN agencies, private sector and civil society is crucial
- The valorization of the country’s cultural and natural potential is a key factor for its economic and territorial development
- A sustainable territorial approach in terms of spatial planning, services and touristic infrastructure needs to be cohesive and balanced among the different islands
- Transport and communication infrastructure has to be reinforced as drivers of economic development
- Environmental and energy policies should be integrated into territorial planning strategies, focusing on energy self-sufficiency and integrated waste management
This brochure describes the work carried out by UN-Habitat in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Housing and Territorial Planning of Cabo Verde in recent years, which has consistently focused on sustainable urban development.

Since 2009 UN-Habitat has implemented several projects in different intervention sectors, to provide response to different urban issues, such as: local authority’s capacity building, promoting urban citizenship, urban security and safety and local economic development.

The common denominator of these interventions is the need to address the challenges and opportunities derived from the rapid urbanisation process taking place in Cabo Verde, thus consolidating social and economic development.