



CAPE VERDE

Building Adaptive Capacity and Resilience to Climate Change in the Water Sector

LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FUND	
LDCF grant	\$3,410,000
Cofinancing	\$63,699,027
NAPA completion	December 2007
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CEO endorsement	August 2009
Implementation start and completion	August 2009–July 2013
GEF Agency	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Other executing partner	National Institute for Water Resources Management (INGRH)

As a small island state with limited rainfall, Cape Verde is already restricted in its access to fresh water resources. The Initial National Communication (INC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change by Cape Verde (1999) identified four sectors as particularly vulnerable to climate change: water, agriculture, forestry, and coastal development. The INC further identified limitation on water resources as a result of climate change as one of the main constraints to economic development in Cape Verde. Models of future climate change suggest that temperature increases of up to 4 degrees Celsius can be expected by 2100, and decreases in rainfall by up to 20 percent. In the more immediate planning horizon (next 10–20 years), climate induced changes include seasonal water shortages at an increasing number of economically important sites, and year-round

shortages at other sites. In addition, climate variability is predicted to increase, with more storms, floods, and droughts and a shorter rainy season. Clearly, climate change and variability in Cape Verde are possible threats to the entire development process and to all the island's communities.

Over the past two decades, the government of Cape Verde has been relatively successful in introducing economic reforms, maintaining economic stability, and generating GDP growth. The government has established poverty alleviation programs as part of its socioeconomic development strategy and progress toward achieving MDG targets has been encouraging. The problem, however, is that the gains achieved and expected are under additional threat from the impacts of climate change.



Project Activities and Expected Impacts

This project addresses priorities identified in Cape Verde's National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) and lays the foundation for the sustainable use and management of water resources under conditions of climate change. The project ensures that in selected local municipalities water resources remain sufficient under conditions of climate change, thereby providing a basic resource for livelihoods, agriculture, and local industries. At the national level, the project ensures that there is capacity to provide the services, that the national water supply is in line with growing demands, and that water is not a constraint to development, tourism, and poverty reduction.

Several small-scale investments are presently taking place to increase water management capacity locally. However, these are insufficient to manage climate change associated risks. In addition, many highly vulnerable sites do not benefit from these investments. This LDCF project, therefore, builds on these existing investments to include larger or more sophisticated investments in water capture, storage, and distribution. In addition, a series of investments to increase water resources availability is undertaken in highly vulnerable sites in order to increase the resilience of local development against climate change and variability. The investments, where possible, build upon traditional water management practices and technologies. These small-scale investments not only demonstrate appropriate approaches, they also bring direct relief to some marginal and vulnerable communities in Cape Verde. Finally, field knowledge and expertise on how to adapt to climate change are greatly increased through a series of demonstration and action research projects.

At the national level, the project builds the adaptive capacity of institutions and individuals involved in managing the water sector. For example, the project assures access to improved information and improved climate change models, notably at the subnational level. In addition, communities,

municipalities, and national stakeholders gain a thorough understanding of climate change, its implications for Cape Verde, and alternative approaches. Tools for integrating climate change and increasing climate change resilience are made available at national level and in selected municipalities. These tools address risk management, capacity to plan for climate change, and capacity to introduce alternative, climate change-resilient, development scenarios. With this capacity, water serves as a foundation for economic development and poverty alleviation, rather than becoming a major constraint for stakeholders.

Synergies and Coordination

This project has been conceived to complement several other projects, programs, and initiatives within the water and related sectors in Cape Verde. The national investment budget includes a series of programs and projects related to integrated water resources management, with an allocation of almost \$14 million for 2007–08. These projects address sustainable water management, watershed management, information collection and monitoring, construction of small-scale water harvesting mechanisms, and enhancement of the management infrastructure. In addition, many international agencies have engaged in related investments, including (a) a European Union project supporting water distribution and sewage treatment, (b) a French project supporting natural resources management and the development of tourism in rural areas, (c) a Japanese project supporting the establishment of bore holes, and (d) a German project supporting water supply.

Furthermore, the project is coordinated with the United Nations Development Programme/GEF Strategic Pilot on Adaptation (SPA) project Responding to Coastline Change and Its Human Dimensions in West Africa through Integrated Coastal Area Management, in which Cape Verde also participates. This project aims to pave the way for adaptation measures that deal with coastal zones issues through regional collaboration.

For More Information

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