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The EU Special Incentive Arrangement for Sustainable Development and Good Governance (GSP+) assessment of the Republic of Cabo Verde covering the period 2023-2025

Accompanying the document

Joint Report to the European Parliament and the Council

on the Generalised Scheme of Preferences covering the period 2023-2025

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1. Executive Summary

Cabo Verde and the European Union have been linked by a Special Partnership since 2007. Based on shared values, this partnership facilitates regular, high-level political dialogue. It is complemented, since 2012, by the EU's Special Incentive Arrangement for Sustainable Development and Good Governance (GSP+). The EU is the main export destination of Cabo Verde, accounting for a third of its exports (33 %). With EUR 63.8 million in GSP+ eligible exports to the EU (primarily fish preparations) and EUR 11 million in duties saved in 2024, Cabo Verde is among the smaller beneficiaries of the GSP+ scheme. In 2025, the country has moved from lower- to upper-middle income status.

During the reporting period 2023-2025¹, Cabo Verde maintains high compliance with core human rights, labour, environmental, and governance obligations. Positive developments include the adoption of progressive legal frameworks and improvements in access to justice, press freedom, gender equality, poverty reduction, declining child labour rates², advancement of climate objectives, anti-corruption standards and strengthened investigative, judicial, and financial response capability to drug trafficking. Important efforts have been made in combating violence against women and children abuses and certain types of worst forms of child labour, as well as in promoting equal pay, addressing discrimination at work and against migrant workers, and improving prison overcrowding.

Cabo Verde is lagging behind in its reporting obligations on several international instruments relevant for GSP+. Further progress on substance is needed in some areas, including the adoption of an anti-discrimination law. Overall, implementation has advanced but remains uneven particularly in the areas of environment and climate, with key legal frameworks still requiring updating or completion, with institutional capacity remaining limited. Drug trafficking and rising domestic consumption of cocaine also remain a challenge.

Priorities for future engagement, also in view of the new GSP+ framework in place as from 2027, should focus on accelerating the adoption of pending anti-discrimination legislation; fostering social dialogue, establishing effective trade unions, enforcing equal pay and child labour protections; ensuring effective and timely implementation of environmental and climate conventions, including through improvement of reporting and monitoring systems; bolstering anti-drug trafficking efforts through regional cooperation and intelligence-sharing, while stepping up drug prevention; strengthening operational capacity of Cabo Verde's Corruption Prevention Council and finalising accession to the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC) to reinforce anti-corruption mechanisms.

2. Key developments

2.1 Political and economic developments

Cabo Verde's political and economic landscape has been marked by stability and growth during the reporting period. The country has consolidated its democratic institutions while navigating post-pandemic recovery with notable economic resilience. It is approaching presidential elections in November 2026 after having elected a new parliament in May. Real GDP growth is projected at 5.5 % in 2025, from 7.2 % in 2024, and 4.8 % in 2023, driven by robust tourism income and private consumption³. GDP per capita rose to USD 5 671 in 2025, while inflation declined sharply from 7.9 % in 2022 to 1-2 % in 2024-2025, attributed to effective monetary policy adjustments by the Banco de Cabo Verde. Fiscal performance also improved, with the overall deficit narrowing from 4.3 % of GDP in 2022 to 1.1 % in 2025, despite higher capital spending and social programs. External debt distress was assessed as moderate and declining, signalling progress toward debt sustainability⁴. Reflecting recent economic progress, the World Bank first classified Cabo Verde as an Upper-Middle-Income Country (UMIC) in July 2025⁵. After securing this status for another two consecutive years the country would be on track to graduate from the GSP.

2.2 GSP+ trade impact

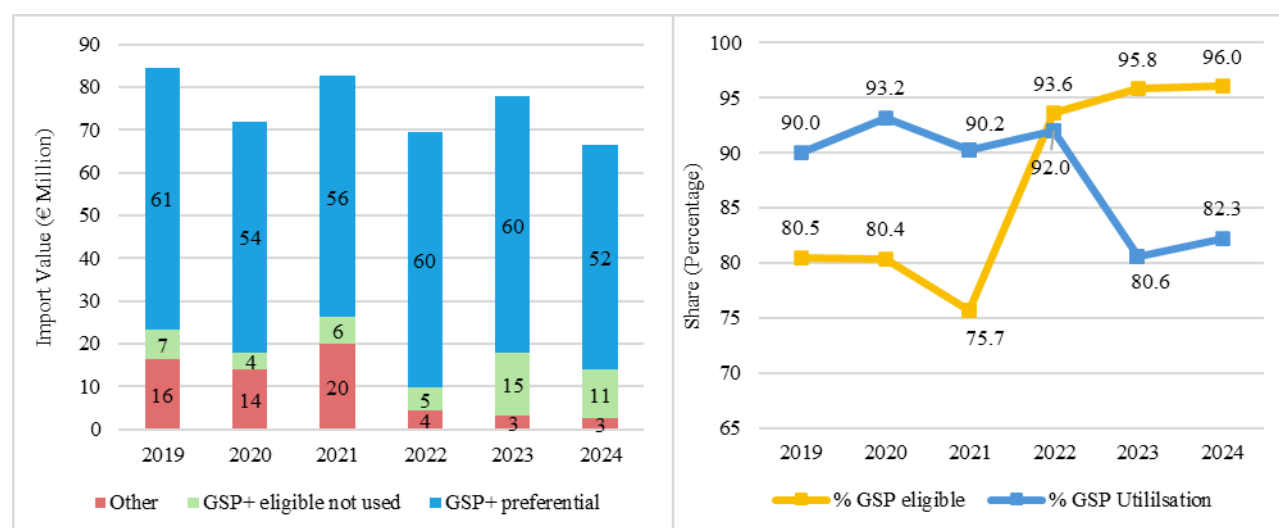
During the reporting period⁶, the EU continued to run a trade surplus with Cabo Verde, which reached almost EUR 690 million in 2024. Imports from Cabo Verde into the EU remained relatively low between 2022 and 2024, declining from EUR 69.6 million to EUR 66.4 million. The EU remained Cabo Verde's main export destination, accounting for a third (33 %) of its exports, as well as its main import source, with imports reaching EUR 755 million, well ahead of Angola and China, its second and third largest suppliers, which accounted for 10 % and 5 % of its imports in 2024, respectively.

Cabo Verde's exports of GSP+ eligible products to the EU remained broadly stable over the reporting period, amounting to EUR 65.1 million in 2022, increasing to EUR 74.7 million in 2023, and then decreasing to EUR 63.8 million in 2024. The GSP+ utilisation rate remained high, at 82.3 %⁷. As a result of GSP+, Cabo Verde benefited from around EUR 11 million in tariff savings in 2024. This corresponds to around 16 % of Cabo Verde's export value to the EU in 2024.

Figure 1. EU imports from Cabo Verde and GSP+ utilisation rate, 2019-2024

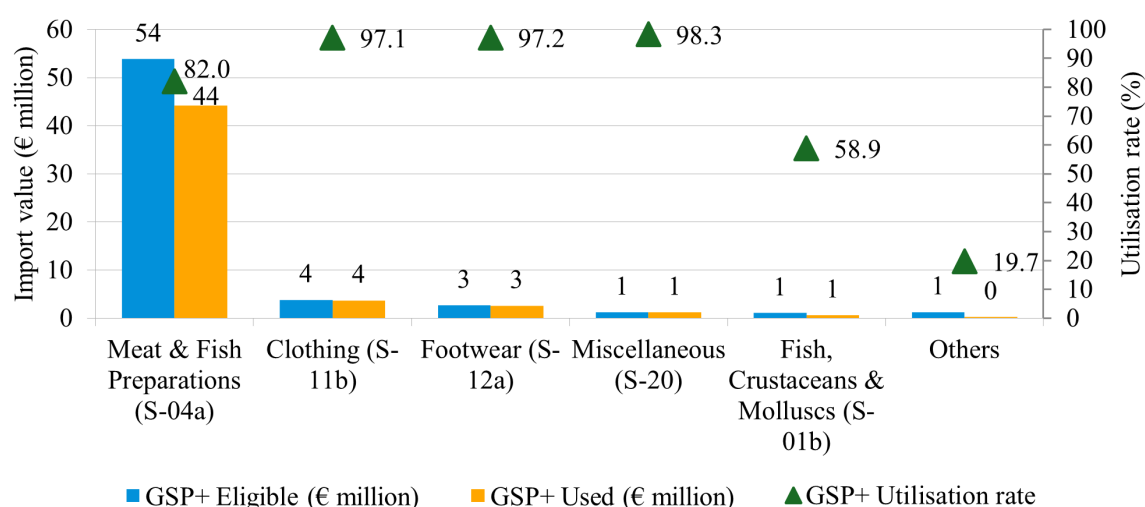
Indicators	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Annual Growth (2022-2024)
Total imports, (EUR million)	84.5	71.8	82.6	69.6	77.9	66.4	-2.3 %
GSP+ eligible, (EUR million)	68.0	57.7	62.5	65.1	74.7	63.8	-1.0 %
GSP+ used, (EUR million)	61.2	53.8	56.4	59.9	60.1	52.5	-6.4 %
Share of GSP+ eligible in total	80.5 %	80.4 %	75.7 %	93.6 %	95.8 %	96.0 %	
GSP+ utilisation rate	90.0 %	93.2 %	90.2 %	92.0 %	80.6 %	82.3 %	
MFN=0 % imports, (EUR million)	17.6	14.1	20.2	4.4	3.2	2.5	-24.6 %
Share of MFN=0 % imports	20.8 %	19.6 %	24.4 %	6.3 %	4.1 %	3.8 %	

Figure 2: EU imports from Cabo Verde by trade regime and utilisation rates, 2019-2024



The sectors⁸ benefiting most from GSP+ preferences in 2024 were (in order of significance) Meat & Fish Preparations (S-04a) (82 % of total EU imports from Cabo Verde⁹), Apparel & Clothing (S-11b), Footwear (S-12a), Miscellaneous manufactures (S-20), and Fish, Crustaceans & Molluscs (S-01b).

Figure 3. Top product groups benefiting from GSP+ tariff preferences for Cabo Verde, 2024



3. Compliance with GSP+ obligations

The following sections are based on the latest UN monitoring body reports and supplemented with information from civil society and GSP monitoring, including updates by the authorities.

Cabo Verde has maintained ratification of all 27 GSP+ relevant conventions and has issued no incompatible reservations. With a few exceptions, mainly in the area of environment and climate, but also relating to human rights and narcotics, Cabo Verde is broadly compliant with its reporting obligations to the monitoring bodies (see Annex). Cabo Verde has actively engaged in the EU GSP+ monitoring process through exchanges of information.

3.1 Human Rights

Over the monitoring period, Cabo Verde continued to make tangible progress in strengthening access to justice, advancing gender equality, improving child welfare, and reducing poverty. At the same time, persistent challenges remain, notably relating to gender-based violence, violence against children, prison overcrowding, as well as outstanding reporting and legislative gaps that would need to be addressed to ensure full compliance with international obligations.

In areas relevant to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (**ICCPR**), Cabo Verde pursued measures aimed at improving the efficiency and accessibility of the justice system. Legislative reforms on judicial organisation provided for additional judicial capacity, including through the establishment of a new district court for São Miguel¹⁰ and a specialised criminal investigation court in Praia¹¹, intended to reduce bottlenecks and strengthen adherence to fair trial standards. Transparency in governance was further enhanced with the launch of the *Boletim Oficial Eletrónico* (BOE) in January 2025¹², improving public access to legislation and official acts.

Freedom of expression and media freedom remain comparatively strong. In the 2025 World Press Freedom Index, Cabo Verde ranked 30th out of 180 countries, improving from a 41st place in 2024¹³. In Freedom House's 'Freedom in the World' 2025 assessment, Cabo Verde maintained its 'Free' status with an overall score of 92 out of 100, including 38 out of 40 for Political Rights and 54 out of 60 for Civil Liberties, unchanged from 2024¹⁴.

In an effort to protect vulnerable groups and promote inclusivity, Cabo Verde adopted the Statute of the Elderly Person¹⁵, which aims to promote the rights and protection of the elderly and ensure their effective integration and participation in society, and a new Citizenship Law, expanding access to Cabo Verdean nationality for descendants born abroad, including children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren¹⁶.

With relevance to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), Cabo Verde continued to make progress in poverty reduction and access to basic services. According to World Bank projections, the national poverty rate (measured at the upper-middle-income poverty line) is expected to decline from 55.7 % in 2023 to 51.2 % in 2025 (equivalent to around 20 000 Cabo Verdeans lifted out of poverty)¹⁷. Implementation of the National Strategy to Eradicate Extreme Poverty (ENEPE 2022-2026) and strengthened use of the Unified Social Registry to identify vulnerable households¹⁸ have contributed to more targeted social support. Recent policy advancements have enabled Cabo Verde to significantly expand social protection coverage, which now reaches around 67 % of the population, up from approximately 44 % in 2016¹⁹. This reflects sustained efforts to strengthen inclusive social policies and extend protection to vulnerable groups.

Cabo Verde also advanced gender equality, particularly in women's political and economic participation. In the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index 2025, the country rose from 41st to 30th place²⁰, with notable gains in political empowerment. Women currently hold 45.8 % of parliamentary seats²¹. Moreover, as noted by the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Basic Law on Public Employment, adopted in March 2023, reinforced the principle of equal pay and prohibited workplace harassment²², further strengthening gender equity in the labour market.

In the field of children's rights, Cabo Verde was recognised in the *Kids Rights Index 2025*²³ as providing one of the most enabling environments in West and Central Africa for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Progress has been recorded in education and child health, with 94.2 % net attendance in 2023 following the COVID-19 pandemic, and child mortality declining, supported by high immunisation coverage²⁴. Malnutrition among children under 5 years of age has declined to 5 % in 2024²⁵, while continued efforts are underway to ensure more equitable access to education, particularly for children from low-income households and children with disabilities²⁶. Also, efforts have been made to strengthen the Cabo Verdean Institute for Children and Adolescents (ICCA) - the state entity responsible for implementing the CRC - including through a review of its statutes, a gradual increase in resources over recent years, and measures to improve staff retention so that the ICCA can fulfil its mandate more effectively. Over 80 % of social protection spending is directed towards programmes benefiting children and adolescents, with support from UNICEF and other donors. The National Commission for Human Rights and Citizenship (CNDHC) has also provided training to government officials to promote a child-rights approach in planning and budgeting processes²⁷.

Furthermore, in 2025, CNDHC, which also serves as the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) under the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), strengthened cooperation with the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences to reinforce investigations into allegations of torture and ill-treatment. It also continues to monitor detention facilities and prison conditions to assess compliance with human rights standards.

Despite these advancements, several concerns persist. Violence against women and children remains a significant challenge, with reports indicating continued high levels of gender-based violence and child sexual abuse. Comprehensive and disaggregated statistical data are limited²⁸, including on investigations, prosecutions and convictions under the 2020 Law on Crimes of Sexual Aggression and Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents. Although programmes have been introduced to prevent gender-based violence and support survivors, information on their effectiveness and impact remains insufficient.

Legislative gaps also persist: a comprehensive anti-discrimination law has remained under consideration since 2022 and has not yet been adopted²⁹, despite recommendations made in the context of Cabo Verde's most recent Universal Periodic Review (2023)³⁰.

Conditions in places of detention also remain a matter of concern, with reports of severe overcrowding, insecurity and inadequate separation of detainees in Cabo Verde's prisons. These issues are compounded by a shortage of prison guards and specialised personnel required to effectively implement the National Plan for Social Reintegration³¹. On average, the CNDHC reports receiving 13 complaints per year, alleging torture or cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment by prison officers; while publicly available information on subsequent investigations, prosecutions and sentences remains limited, weakening accountability and deterrence.

Cabo Verde's reporting obligations under certain treaty bodies show some delay. Reports under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) are overdue since 2006, and follow-up to the List of Issues adopted by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) in March 2025 has not yet been provided within the indicated timeframe.

Priorities for future engagement include the adoption of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation and strengthening prevention, protection and access to justice for victims of gender-based violence and child abuse, in line with CEDAW recommendations. Enhanced capacity-building for police, prosecutors and judges across all islands, together with adequate funding for victim and survivor support services, will be essential to improve accountability. Addressing prison overcrowding and staffing shortages also remains urgent. More broadly, strengthening data collection and public reporting on human rights violations, including investigations, prosecutions, and sentencing, is necessary to enhance transparency, evidence-based policymaking and effective compliance with international human rights obligations³².

3.2 Labour Rights

Cabo Verde has ratified all eight fundamental labour conventions of the current GSP+ scheme and works continuously towards their full implementation. It has advanced compliance with several ILO conventions through legislative reforms, national action plans, and institutional initiatives. Progress has been made in areas such as the protection of children. Concerns remain mainly regarding the protection of children against hazardous work, discrimination in employment and the definition of minimum services in the event of a strike.

With relevance to the ILO Convention concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, No 138 (1973) and ILO Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, No 182 (1999), Cabo Verde made further efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labour. The National Committee for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour evaluated the effectiveness of existing national child labour tools, and collaborated with several Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and public and private institutions³³. Cabo Verde reported that it largely implemented the

National Action Plan to Eliminate Child Labour (PANPETI) and it participated in the 2021-2025 CPLP (Community of Portuguese Language Countries') Action Plan against Child Labour³⁴. Under the EU's 'Trade for Decent work' (T4DW) project³⁵, it undertook awareness campaigns on child labour prevention and organised tripartite workshops to identify gaps in relation to the informal sector in fishing, agriculture, and domestic work, as well as workshops to strengthen inspection capacity. National child labour statistics were published in February 2024 based on an ad hoc survey carried out in 2024. According to the National Institute for Statistics (INE) the child labour rate stood at 4.2 %, among which 2.5 % in hazardous work, which displays progress made over the years. The government also implemented the National Plan to Prevent and Combat Sexual Violence Against Children and Adolescents (2022-'24), which aims at preventing and eliminating sexual exploitation of children. Further, Cabo Verde adhered to the ILO Multinational Enterprises Declaration³⁶ and is promoting the implementation of decent work excluding child work in value chains through national tripartite focal points.

With regards to **equal remuneration (ILO Convention concerning Equal Remuneration of Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value, No 100 (1951))**, the country saw advancement through the new Basic Law on Public Service³⁷, introducing a unified pay scale to address public sector wage disparities³⁸. In order to better align with Convention No 100, the ILO's Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) requested to amend the labour code to explicitly include the principle of equal pay for work of equal value³⁹.

With regards to **discrimination relating to Employment and Occupation (ILO Convention concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation, No 111 (1958))**, the Government developed a guide for domestic workers together with the Cape Verdean Institute for Gender Equality and Equity (ICIEG) and social partners⁴⁰. Further, the Decent Work Country Programme (2023–2027) prioritises strengthening social protection and the formalisation of the domestic work sector⁴¹. The female employment rate was 50.5 %⁴² (male 63.4 %) in 2025 and the number of seats held by women in the national parliament is high in international comparison (currently at 45.8 %)⁴³. However, gender disparities in the labour market persisted, and although women often achieved higher levels of education than men, they tend to be employed in lower-skill occupations. the hourly gender wage gap has been estimated at between 13.9 and 14.4 %⁴⁴. Women still face barriers in accessing formal employment, limiting their economic empowerment, despite positive initiatives⁴⁵.

Under the **Convention No 138** the capacity and reach of the Labour Inspectorate services need to be expanded to adequately monitor and detect cases of child labour in the country, including in the informal economy, the labour inspectorate services not having detected any case of child labour so far. Under the **Convention No 182**, concerns relate to the lack of effective enforcement of existing legislation, manifested in the low investigation and conviction rates for child prostitution and pornography, limited victim support, and the Government's persistent failure to provide data on enforcement of legislation on trafficking, child prostitution and pornography, including the absence of disaggregated information on investigations, prosecutions, convictions and sanctions. In addition, Cabo Verde has not yet introduced a ban on hazardous work for 16-18 year old adolescents, as required by the Convention⁴⁶.

Regarding **forced labour (ILO Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour, No 29 (1930) and ILO Convention concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour, No 105 (1957))** Cabo Verde has not received any observations from the CEACR on Convention No 105 for many years, suggesting satisfactory implementation. On Convention No 29, the CEACR noted

the establishment of the National Observatory on Human Trafficking and the adoption of the National Strategy and Action Plan against trafficking in Persons 2023-2026⁴⁷. However, in particular migrant workers in agriculture and fishing remain subject to extremely poor working conditions and vulnerable to forced labour⁴⁸.

Regarding **freedom of association and protection of the right to organise (ILO Convention concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise, No 87 (1948))**, despite already expected in 2016, no effective independent tripartite committee has yet been set up to determine minimum service in the event of a strike, and alleged gaps in the application of national laws are reported, including barriers to the establishment of trade unions and non-compliance with deadlines and procedures for granting legal personality to trade unions⁴⁹. Further, with regard to the **right to organise and collective bargaining (ILO Convention concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organise and to Bargain Collectively, No 98 (1949))**, insufficient action is taken to promote collective bargaining and it remains unclear whether the National Committee for the Promotion of Collective Bargaining is in operation⁵⁰.

In terms of **discrimination in employment (ILO Convention No 111)** a draft anti-discrimination law remains pending since 2022, leaving gaps in protection against indirect discrimination and discrimination based on national extraction⁵¹. Further, there are concerns about discriminatory and exploitative domestic work⁵² conditions and considerably lower pay for children, women and migrant workers, particularly in the agricultural and fishing sectors⁵³. The Labour Code provides for sanctions for sexual harassment only when harassment is committed by employers (not by other employees or persons related to work). Current reporting mechanisms relating to sexual harassment also appear insufficient despite the prohibition established in Law No. 7/X/2022 of 16 May 2022⁵⁴.

As a cross-cutting issue, the current **number of labour inspectors** of 15 is gravely inadequate for a labour force of roughly 200 000 people, especially in view of the huge informal sector of around 50 %.⁵⁵

Priorities for future engagement should include establishing an independent tripartite committee for determining minimum services during strikes, as well as effective reactivation of the National Committee for Collective Bargaining. To combat discrimination, a comprehensive anti-discrimination law should be adopted. Increasing the number of labour inspectors and strengthening their capacities is key for the effective implementation of labour rights. Workplace harassment protection should be extended to all employees and measurable anti-discrimination targets defined. The ‘equal pay for work of equal value’ principle should be incorporated in legislation and its full implementation ensured. Hazardous work should be prohibited for all children under 18 and inspections stepped up. Finally, the country should strengthen enforcement capacities of child protection laws, undertake better data collection, and enhance police and judicial training alongside social protection programmes to address poverty. Cabo Verde could also consider becoming a ‘pathfinder’ country under ‘Alliance 8.7’⁵⁶ in order to help it effectively address child labour and the trafficking of children.

3.3 Environment and Climate

Cabo Verde has ratified the main environmental and climate conventions and remains formally engaged with the relevant conventions’ frameworks, including through the submission of some reports and participation in regional capacity-building initiatives under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (1973) (CITES) enforcement programmes, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Africa

Network of National Ozone Officers, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) transparency as well as monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) support initiatives, and technical workshops organised by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions regional centres. Implementation is, however, uneven, with reporting delays and implementation gaps persisting under several relevant conventions, limiting the availability of updated information on progress (see Annex).

Progress has been made in climate commitments, with the UNFCCC Secretariat registering Cabo Verde's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) in the Paris Agreement NDC registry in March 2025⁵⁷. The country also remains compliant with the **Montreal Protocol** on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (1987) and timely submitted annual ozone-depleting substances (ODS) data⁵⁸. No new data were available for review under the **Kyoto Protocol** to the UNFCCC.

Cabo Verde has demonstrated formal commitment to the **Convention on Biological Diversity** (1992) with the adoption of a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan covering ecosystem protection, marine conservation, invasive species control, and climate resilience⁵⁹. However, enforcement capacity, institutional coordination, and biodiversity data collection remain constrained. Likewise, Cabo Verde currently protects only about 6 % of its marine area, still far from the 30 % target by 2030 under Target 3 of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Monitoring systems and ecological indicators are not yet fully developed, limiting effective implementation. Overall, while Cabo Verde has established a legal and policy framework for biodiversity conservation, implementation and the timely submission of national reports under the Convention on Biological Diversity continue to present challenges. Under **CITES** Cabo Verde remained engaged with the Secretariat in 2024 and 2025, including receiving legislative guidance in April 2025. However, it continues to be classified as a Category 3 Party under the CITES National Legislation Project, as its national legislation does not yet fully meet the Convention's core implementation criteria⁶⁰.

Under the **Basel Convention** on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (1989), Cabo Verde has strengthened its legal and policy framework, including through the Water and Sanitation Code, the general waste-management regime, specific rules on construction and demolition waste, hospital-waste and waste-transport licensing⁶¹. Cabo Verde also deposited its instrument of ratification of the Basel Ban Amendment on 27.08.2025; the amendment entered into force for Cabo Verde on 17.01.2026⁶².

Implementation gaps nevertheless persist. The current (2022-2026) Strategic Note for Water and Sanitation sets 2026 targets to reach 90 % of the population with proper solid-waste disposal and 54 % of the population covered by a waste-treatment system, indicating that treatment coverage remains incomplete⁶³. The World Bank's Cabo Verde Circular Economy Diagnostic identifies gaps in key infrastructure systems, including materials, waste, energy and water, and points to the need for circular-economy solutions adapted to Cabo Verde's island context⁶⁴. E-waste management is also still being developed: in April 2025, Special Projects Management Unit (UGPE), the National Statistics Institute (INE), and the National Water and Sanitation Agency (ANAS) signed a tripartite memorandum on sustainable management of electrical and electronic waste, and INE launched a household survey to estimate electrical and electronic equipment and related waste⁶⁵.

Under the **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety**, previously identified implementation gaps appear to persist⁶⁶. While information remains scarce as Cabo Verde is delayed in meeting its reporting requirements, the latest national report (dating back to 2020⁶⁷), points to capacity

constraints in risk assessment, monitoring and enforcement, as well as limitations in technical infrastructure and institutional staffing⁶⁸. Publicly available Biosafety Clearing-House records also do not indicate the adoption of new national procedures or decisions relating to the handling, inspection or movement of living modified organisms (LMOs)⁶⁹. In the absence of updated reporting or regulatory notifications, these constraints are understood to remain relevant during the review period.

Cabo Verde has adopted a National Implementation Plan under the **Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants** in 2010, but no updated plan reflecting substances added to the Convention in recent amendment cycles has been identified during the review period⁷⁰. Moreover, implementation gaps persist in national inventories of POPs stockpiles, as well as in relation to contaminated sites and unintentional releases⁷¹.

Priorities for future engagement include Cabo Verde swiftly fulfilling all pending and upcoming reporting obligations⁷² and adopting legislation to fulfil its international obligations⁷³. Cabo Verde is also encouraged to update its national inventories under the Kyoto Protocol and the Stockholm Convention and to establish such inventory under the Basel Convention. Overall, measurement, reporting and verification systems should be strengthened, as well as of analytical, institutional and operational capacity, in particular relating to biodiversity, biosafety and the Stockholm Convention. Also, inter-agency coordination should be strengthened, in particular for enforcement of CITES and for the Basel Convention.

3.4 Good Governance (Anti-Corruption and Drug Control)

Cabo Verde largely complies with its reporting duties under the **UN Narcotic Drugs Conventions**⁷⁴. During the monitoring period, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the EU, individual countries and regional bodies such as the Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA) and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) have provided training and support, strengthening Cabo Verde's investigative, judicial, and financial response to drug trafficking and money laundering while promoting a 'follow the money' strategy, with major seizures in 2023 and 2024 through international cooperation⁷⁵.

Nevertheless, with limited ability to effectively patrol its vast Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in an area prone to the presence of drug traffickers and illegal fishing vessels, Cabo Verde remains a key transit hub for cocaine trafficking from Latin America to Europe and Africa, with cocaine supply and treatment admissions in Cabo Verde rising⁷⁶. The strengthening of the cooperation with FRONTEX in late 2025 and the adoption of an assistance measure under the European Peace Facility (EPF) in July 2025 are, however, helping the country to better monitor its large EEZ.

In terms of the **UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)**, Cabo Verde remains one of the top performers in Africa in the Transparency International 2025 Corruption Perceptions Index⁷⁷, ranking 35th out of 182 countries. Nevertheless, it is critical to further strengthen Cabo Verde's Corruption Prevention Council (Conselho de Prevenção da Corrupção, CPC) to address persistent systemic vulnerabilities and further enhance independent monitoring and public sector integrity. Cabo Verde launched a new National Strategy for **Preventing and Combating Corruption** (2026–2029) for public consultations in March 2026⁷⁸, and it remains to be adopted.

Priorities for future engagement under the Drug Conventions should focus on enhancing in particular maritime interdiction capabilities as well as other patrolling capacity in the country,

updating the national drug strategy, improved intelligence-sharing with international partners, expanding drug prevention education and capacity-building for law enforcement and judicial cooperation. With relevance to UNCAC, the operation capacity of Cabo Verde's Corruption Prevention Council should be strengthened.

4. Cooperation in support of GSP+ objectives

The EU has committed EUR 44 million in grants (budget support + technical assistance) to its partnership with Cabo Verde for 2021–2027, complementing broader multi-country EU programmes. Under the Global Gateway initiative, the EU is expanding investments in renewable energy, ports, and digital infrastructure to accelerate Cabo Verde's green and digital transitions, energy independence, and regional connectivity. At the October 2025 Global Gateway Forum, the European Commission and Team Europe pledged over EUR 200 million in new funding, aligning with Cabo Verde's Ambition 2030 development strategy. To date, Global Gateway investments mobilised for Cabo Verde amount to approximately EUR 400 million. These investments support sustainable growth, focusing on renewable energy—targeting 50 % by 2030—the blue economy, digitalisation, and sustainable tourism.

The EU's cooperation also prioritises human rights and social inclusion, including the expansion of social protection coverage and cash transfer schemes for the most vulnerable, the progressive alignment and extension of social security contribution, child rights protection by combating abuse, exploitation, and child labour, and improved public services, such as water and sanitation access in Praia's disadvantaged areas. The EU also supports the expansion of the social energy tariff to ensure access to affordable electricity for the most vulnerable households. The *Djunta Mon* project, funded by the EU, works to prevent child sexual abuse and support victims by fostering collaboration between government bodies, civil society, and local municipalities to strengthen child protection policies. In parallel, the EU supports improved waste management, including through the CITRES project on the island of Maio, a biosphere reserve, to ensure adequate treatment of solid waste. Additional actions financed under Interreg programmes address plastic waste and fishing gear residues in coastal areas in partnership with local NGOs. A new call for civil society organisations will further reinforce these efforts.

Additionally, the Trade for Decent Work (T4DW) project, launched in 2019 and funded by the EU and Finland, is implemented by the ILO to enhance labour standards in Cabo Verde's tourism and fish processing sectors. Running until 2025, it supported the EU's GSP+ trade scheme by promoting ILO conventions, with key focus areas including eliminating child labour, ensuring equal pay, and advancing labour rights. An independent evaluation of Phase 1 (2019–2024) was conducted in July 2025, though results remain unpublished. This partnership underscores the EU's dedication to sustainable development, social equity, and economic resilience in Cabo Verde.

Annex: Cabo Verde - Compliance with GSP ratification and reporting obligations

Convention	Ratification status / Reservations	Compliance with reporting obligations to monitoring bodies
Human Rights		
1. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948)	Ratified: 10.10.2011 No reservations	No reporting obligations
2. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965)	Ratified: 03.10.1979 No reservations	Not compliant with reporting obligations • Last Committee report: 10.12.2003 • Last report submitted: 05.08.2002 • Next report due: 02.11.2006 (not submitted)
3. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)	Ratified: 06.08.1993 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last Committee report: 03.12.2019 • Last report submitted: 09.02.2018 • Next report due: 31.10.2026
4. International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (1966)	Ratified: 06.08.1993 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last Committee report: 12.10.2018 • Last report submitted: 31.10.2023 • Next report due: not yet set
5. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979)	Ratified: 05.12.1980 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last Committee report: 19.07.2019 • Last report submitted: 28.07.2023 • Next report due: not yet set
6. Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984)	Ratified: 04.06.1992 No reservations	Not compliant with reporting obligations • Last Committee report: 07.12.2016 • Last report submitted: No report submitted. • Next report due: 07.12.2020 (not submitted)
7. Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)	Ratified: 04.06.1992 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last Committee report: 31.05.2019 • Last report submitted: 03.07.2024 • Next report due: not yet set
Labour Rights^{1 2}		
8. Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour, No 29 (1930)	Ratified: 03.04.1979	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last CEACR comments: 2022 • Last Government report submitted: 2024 • Next report due: not yet set
9. Convention concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise, No 87 (1948)	Ratified: 01.02.1999	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last CEACR comments: 2023 • Last Government report submitted: 2022 • Next report due: not yet set
10. Convention concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organise and to Bargain Collectively, No 98 (1949)	Ratified: 03.04.1979	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last CEACR comments: 2023 • Last Government report submitted: 2022 • Next report due: not yet set
11. Convention concerning Equal Remuneration of Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value, No 100 (1951)	Ratified: 16.10.1979	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last CEACR comments: 2023 • Last Government report submitted: 2025 • Next report due: not yet set

¹ Following a decision taken by the ILO Governing Body to modernise the ILO reporting system, as from 2027 Governments will no longer submit separate reports for each ratified Convention, but instead, they will submit thematic reports, grouping conventions in 15 thematic areas. As a transition year, only a limited number of reports will be requested in 2026. See: The future of reporting on ratified conventions. <https://www.ilo.org/international-labour-standards/applying-and-promoting-international-labour-standards-overview-ilo/future-reporting-ratified-conventions>.

² Reservations do not apply in the ILO system.

Convention	Ratification status / Reservations	Compliance with reporting obligations to monitoring bodies
12. Convention concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour, No 105 (1957)	Ratified: 03.04.1979	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last CEACR comments: 1990 • Last Government report submitted: 2024 • Next report due: not yet set
13. Convention concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation, No 111 (1958)	Ratified: 03.04.1979	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last CEACR comments: 2023 • Last Government report submitted: 2025 • Next report due: not yet set
14. Convention concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, No 138 (1973)	Ratified: 07.02.2011	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last CEACR comments: 2022 • Last Government report submitted: 2024 • Next report due: not yet set
15. Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, No 182 (1999)	Ratified: 23.10.2001	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last CEACR comments: 2022 • Last Government report submitted: 2024 • Next report due: not yet set
Environment and Climate		
16. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (1973)	Ratified: 10.08.2005 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations • Annual Trade Report for 2023 submitted 15.01.2024 • Annual Trade Report for 2024 submitted 17.12.2025 • Next Annual Trade Report due 31.10.2026 • Annual Illegal Trade Reports for 2023 and 2024 not submitted³ • Last Implementation Reports: 2018-2020⁴
17. Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (1987)	Ratified: 31.07.2001 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations Last report submitted: • Article 7 data report covering 2024 Next report: • Article 7 data report covering 2025 due 30.09.2026
18. Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (1989)	Ratified: 02.07.1999 No reservations	Not compliant with reporting obligations • National Report (NR) for 2023 not submitted • NR for 2024 missing • Next NR (2025) due 31.12.2026
19. Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)	Ratified: 29.03.1995 No reservations	Not compliant with reporting obligations • Seventh National Report (7NR) due 28.02.2026 (not submitted) • Latest National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) update: submitted 19.08.2016 (until 2030) • Next report: 8NR due 30.06.2029
20. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)	Ratified: 29.03.1995 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations • Latest updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0) submitted 01.11.2025 • Latest National Communication (NC3) submitted 05.10.2018 • First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1) not submitted • Next report (BTR2) due 31.12.2026
21. Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2000)	Ratified: 01.11.2005 No reservations	Not compliant with reporting obligations • Fourth National Report (4NR) submitted 26.02.2024. • Fifth National Report (5NR) due 28.02.2026 (not submitted) Next report: Not yet set

³ Reporting mandatory but not subject to compliance procedure.

⁴ Ibid.

Convention	Ratification status / Reservations	Compliance with reporting obligations to monitoring bodies
22. Stockholm Convention on persistent Organic Pollutants (2001)	Ratified: 01.03.2006 No reservations	Not compliant with reporting obligations • Latest National Report: none submitted • Next report: 6NR due 31.08.2026 • Initial National Implementation Plan (NIP) submitted 12.08.2013 • NIP updates: COP4, COP5 and COP6 amendments included
23. Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1998)	Ratified: 10.02.2006 No reservations	No reporting obligations separate from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
Good Governance		
24. United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961)	Ratified: 24.05.1990 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations 2024 reporting fulfilled Latest INCB mission in September 2005
25. United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971)	Ratified: 24.05.1990 No reservations	
26. United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988)	Ratified: 08.05.1995 No reservations	Not compliant with reporting obligations Reporting on precursors not fulfilled in 2019-2024
27. United Nations Convention against Corruption (2004)	Ratified: 23.04.2008 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations First review cycle: ongoing, executive summary available (27.07.2016) Second review cycle completed in 2018

¹ Key events in 2026 at the moment of writing have been included in this Staff Working Document. All links provided were up to date as of 28 April 2026.

² The child labour rate was 4.2 % according to a study published by the national statistical institute of Cabo Verde in 2024.

³ IMF, ‘World Economic Outlook Database’, IMF, October 2025 update.

https://data.imf.org/en/Datasets#t=coveo117bcfc4&sort=%40idata_publication_date%20descending.

⁴ IMF, ‘Staff Reports: Cabo Verde Country Report’ No. 25/274, IMF, Sept. 2025.

<https://www.imf.org/en/publications/cr/issues/2025/09/19/cabo-verde-sixth-review-under-the-extended-credit-facility-arrangement-request-for-570560>.

⁵ World Bank, ‘Cabo Verde Macro-poverty outlook’, October 2025.

<https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/bae48ff2fefe5a869546775b3f010735-0500062021/related/mpo-cpv.pdf>.

⁶ Source for all statistics in section 2.2: Eurostat COMEXT data based on latest available validated full year data as of September 2025. GSP statistics only cover goods imported into the EU market, i.e., goods released for free circulation in the EU. The GSP statistics do not cover other EU-imports, like goods imported for the customs inward processing procedure or re-imports after the customs outward processing procedure. Trade flows registered as ‘confidential’ do not appear in the GSP+ usage figures and regime 1 normal trade; but do appear in total trade figures (regime 4). https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/ext_go_agg_esms.htm#conf1537195068659.

⁷ While the EUROSTAT COMEXT data, as published by Eurostat in September 2025, used for this report appear to show a decline over time, from 92.8 % in 2022 to 82.3 % in 2024, more recent corrected data for 2024 (as of 1 April 2026) show a continuous, very high, preference utilisation rate of 91.9 %.

⁸ Products that benefit from GSP are separated in sections according to GSP Regulation. Information on which CN codes are included in the GSP sections can be found in Annex V of the GSP Regulation No 978/2012. [EUR-Lex - 02012R0978-20250101 - EN - EUR-Lex](#).

⁹ Last on 6 March 2026 the EU granted Cabo Verde an extension of the temporary derogation of the EU rules on preferential origin in respect of certain types of prepared or preserved tuna and mackerel, allowing those fish products to be considered as originating in Cabo Verde, and thus to benefit from GSP+ preferences. Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/507 of 6 March 2026 granting Cabo Verde a temporary derogation from the rules on preferential origin laid down in Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/2446, in respect of prepared or preserved fillets of tuna and tuna loins (raw, cooked and frozen), prepared or preserved mackerel fillets and prepared or preserved frigate tuna or frigate mackerel fillets, OJ L 9.03.2026, p. 1.

¹⁰ ‘Law No. 61/X/2025 establishes the general principles of the administration of justice and regulates the organisation, composition, jurisdiction, and functioning of the judicial courts and the tax and customs courts’, Assembleia Nacional, Boletim Oficial Electrónico, 21 Aug. 2025. <https://boe.incv.cv/Bulletins/View/86987>.

¹¹ International IDEA, ‘Global State of Democracy, Cabo Verde 2025’, 1 Oct. 2025. www.idea.int/democracytracker/country/cabo-verde.

¹² Boletim Oficial Electrónico, Governo de Cabo Verde, 2025. <https://boe.incv.cv>.

¹³ Reporters without Borders, ‘Country Profile Cabo Verde Index 2025’, 2025. www.rsf.org/en/country/cabo-verde.

¹⁴ Freedom House, ‘Cabo Verde: Freedom in the World 2025 - Country Report’, 2025. www.freedomhouse.org/country/cabo-verde/freedom-world/2025.

¹⁵ Law No. 26/X/2023, establishing the Statute of the Elderly Person, Assembleia Nacional, Boletim Oficial Electrónico, 8 May 2023. www.rssn.cv/index.php/doc/institucionais/summary/14-boletins-oficiais/129-lei-n-26-x-2023-estabelece-estatuto-da-pessoa-idosa.

¹⁶ Law No. 33/X/2023 Defining the conditions for granting, acquisition, loss, and reacquisition of Cape Verdean nationality, Assembleia Nacional, Boletim Oficial Electrónico, 22 Aug. 2023. <https://boe.incv.cv/Bulletins/View/60602>.

¹⁷ World Bank, ‘Macro Poverty Outlook Cabo Verde’, October 2025.

<https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/bae48ff2fefe5a869546775b3f010735-0500062021/related/mpo-cpv.pdf>.

¹⁸ UNICEF, ‘Annual Report 2024 on Cabo Verde’, Feb. 2025, p.4, Children between 0 and 15 years old are still disproportionately affected by poverty (37 %), as are households headed by women (85 %).

¹⁹ IMF, ‘Cabo Verde Country Report No. 26/53’, Feb. 2026. <https://www.imf.org/en/-/media/files/publications/cr/2026/english/1cpvea2026001-source-pdf.pdf>

²⁰ World Economic Forum, ‘Global Gender Gap Index 2025 – Cabo Verde’, 2025. https://reports.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2025.pdf.

²¹ UN Women Data Hub, ‘Country Fact Sheet Cabo Verde’, 2025. www.data.unwomen.org/country/cabo-verde; ‘National Assembly Cabo Verde’, IPU Parline Global Data on National Parliaments.

<https://data.ipu.org/parliament/CV/CV-LC01/data-on-women/>.

²² Law No. 20/X/2023, of 24 March 2023, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Tenth periodic report submitted by Cabo Verde under article 18 of the Convention, 28 Jul. 2023.

<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4037789?v=pdf>.

²³ Erasmus Institute of Social Studies, 'Kids Rights Index 2025', 2025. <https://files.kidsrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/10223817/KidsRights-Index-2025-Report.pdf>.

²⁴ UNICEF, 'Annual Report 2025 on Cabo Verde', Feb. 2026.

<https://open.unicef.org/country/Cabo%20Verde?cid=6820>.

²⁵ UNICEF, 'Child Nutrition Report 2025', Sept. 2025.

<https://www.unicef.org/media/174086/file/CNR%202025%20-%20Feeding%20Profit%20-%20Data%20Tables-%20English%20-%20FINAL.pdf.pdf>.

²⁶ UNICEF, 'Annual Report 2025 on Cabo Verde', Feb. 2026.

<https://open.unicef.org/country/Cabo%20Verde?cid=6820>.

²⁷ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Third national report submitted by Cabo Verde under article 44 of the Convention', CRC/C/CPV/3-7, 3 Jul. 2024.

https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2FC%2FCPV%2F3-7&Lang=en.

²⁸ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 'List of issues and questions in relation to the tenth periodic report of Cabo Verde', 5 Nov. 2024. <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4067908?v=pdf>.

²⁹ Balai Cabo Verde, 'ONU em Cabo Verde reforça urgência da lei antidiscriminação e acesso universal a direitos', 23 Jul. 2025.

³⁰ Human Rights Council, 'Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cabo Verde', 20 Dec. 2023. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/cv-index>.

³¹ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 'Summary of stakeholders' submissions on Cabo Verde', A/HRC/WG.6/44/CPV/3, 23 Aug. 2023. <https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/WG.6/44/CPV/3>.

³² Human Rights Council, 'Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cabo Verde', 20 Dec. 2023, paras. 15, 41, 116, 125.81, 125.82 and 125.151. <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4035240?v=pdf>; and Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 'List of issues and questions in relation to the tenth periodic report of Cabo Verde', 5 Nov. 2024. <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4067908?v=pdf>.

³³ Government of Cabo Verde, Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity, 'National Action Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour (2023–2027)', Praia, ICCA. <https://icca.cv/>.

³⁴ ILO, 'CPRP Cooperation'.

https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@exrel/documents/publication/wcms_882566.pdf.

³⁵ ILO, 'Trade for Decent Work: Cabo Verde'. <https://tradefordecentswork.ilo.org/country/cape-verde/>.

³⁶ ILO, 'Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy'. https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed_emp/@emp_ent/@multi/documents/publication/wcms_094386.pdf.

³⁷ Basic Law on Public Service No. 20/X/2023 of 24 March 2023, Boletim Oficial n.º 20.

<https://boe.incv.cv/Bulletins/View/58522>.

³⁸ ILO, 'Direct Request (CEACR) on Convention No 100', adopted 2023, published 112th ILC session, 2024. https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID_P13100_COUNTRY_ID:4347800,103096:NO.

³⁹ ILO, 'Observation (CEACR) on Convention No 100', adopted 2023, published 112th ILC session, 2024. https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P11110_COUNTRY_ID,P11110_COUNTRY_NAME,P11110_COMMENT_YEAR:4347803,103096,Cabo%20Verde,2023.

⁴⁰ ILO, 'Direct Request (CEACR) on Convention No 111', adopted 2023, published 112th ILC session, 2024. https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P11110_COUNTRY_ID,P11110_COUNTRY_NAME,P11110_COMMENT_YEAR:4347794,103096,Cabo%20Verde,2023.

⁴¹ ILO, 'Programme Pays pour le travail décent Cabo Verde 2023-2027'.

https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2024-05/PPTD%20Cabo%20Verde-%20Verde%202023-2027_0.pdf.

⁴² World Bank, 'Unlocking Women's Economic Potential', Cabo Verde Economic Update, Spring 2025. <https://genderdata.worldbank.org/en/economies/cabo-verde>.

⁴³ UN Women Data Hub, 'Country Fact Sheet Cabo Verde', 2025. www.data.unwomen.org/country/cabo-verde; IPU Parline Global Data on National Parliaments, 'National Assembly Cabo Verde', <https://data.ipu.org/parliament/CV/CV-LC01/data-on-women/>

- ⁴⁴ World Bank, ‘Unlocking Women’s Economic Potential’, Cabo Verde Economic Update, Spring 2025. <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099061925092539202/pdf/P507238-cfebe556-b8ee-4b5f-98ed-07dcd7e53d53.pdf>.
- ⁴⁵ ILO, ‘Observation (CEACR) on Convention No 100’, adopted 2023, published 112th ILC session, 2024. https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNT_RY_ID:4347803,103096.
- ⁴⁶ Committee on Migrant Workers, ‘Concluding observations on the combined initial to third periodic reports of Cabo Verde’, CMW/C/CPV/CO/1-3. <https://docs.un.org/en/CMW/C/CPV/CO/1-3>; and ILO, ‘Observation (CEACR) on Convention No 111’, adopted 2023, published 112th ILC session, 2024. https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P11110_COUNT_RY_ID,P11110_COUNTRY_NAME,P11110_COMMENT_YEAR:4347797,103096,Cabo%20Verde,2023.
- ⁴⁷ ILO, ‘Direct Request (CEACR) on Convention No 29’, adopted 2025, published 114th ILC session, 2026. https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:13100:0::NO::P13100_COMMENT_ID%2CP11110_COUNTRY_ID%2CP11110_COUNTRY_NAME%2CP11110_COMMENT_YEAR:4472321%2C103096%2CCabo+Verde%2C2025.
- ⁴⁸ As highlighted by the UN Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW), <https://docs.un.org/en/CMW/C/CPV/CO/1-3>, referred to by CEACR in Observation (CEACR), adopted 2023, published 112nd ILC session (2024), on discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No 111) – Cabo Verde. https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P11110_COUNT_RY_ID,P11110_COUNTRY_NAME,P11110_COMMENT_YEAR:4347797,103096,Cabo%20Verde,2023.
- ⁴⁹ ILO, ‘Direct Request (CEACR) on Convention No 87’, adopted 2023, published 112th ILC session, 2024. https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNT_RY_ID:4364611,103096.
- ⁵⁰ ILO, ‘Direct Request (CEACR) on Convention No 98’, adopted 2023, published 112th ILC session, 2024. https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNT_RY_ID:4359657,103096.
- ⁵¹ ILO, ‘Observation (CEACR) on Convention No 111’, adopted 2023, published 112th ILC session, 2024. https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P11110_COUNTRY_ID,P11110_COUNTRY_NAME,P11110_COMMENT_YEAR:4347797,103096,Cabo%20Verde,2023.
- ⁵² ILO, ‘Direct Request (CEACR) on Convention No 111’, adopted 2023, published 112th ILC session, 2024. https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P11110_COUNTRY_ID,P11110_COUNTRY_NAME,P11110_COMMENT_YEAR:4347794,103096,Cabo%20Verde,2023.
- ⁵³ Committee on Migrant Workers, ‘Concluding observations on the combined initial to third periodic reports of Cabo Verde’, CMW/C/CPV/CO/1-3. <https://docs.un.org/en/CMW/C/CPV/CO/1-3>; ILO, ‘Observation (CEACR) on Convention No 111’, adopted 2023, published 112th ILC session, 2024. https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P11110_COUNT_RY_ID,P11110_COUNTRY_NAME,P11110_COMMENT_YEAR:4347797,103096,Cabo%20Verde,2023; and ILO, ‘Direct Request (CEACR) on Convention No 111’, adopted 2023, published 112th ILC session, 2024. https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNT_RY_ID:4347797,103096.
- ⁵⁴ Idem.
- ⁵⁵ For instance, the CEACR noted with regret that Labour Inspectorate services have not detected any case of child labour in the last three years. ILO, ‘Observation (CEACR) on Convention No 138’, adopted 2025, published in ‘Application of International Labour Standards 2026’, Report of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Feb. 2026. <https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2026-02/Report%20III%28A%29-2026-%5BNORMES-251223-001%5D-Web-EN.pdf>.
- ⁵⁶ Alliance 8.7, ‘Pathfinder countries’. Alliance 8.7 is a platform for stakeholders (including governments, international and regional organisations, workers’, employers’ and business membership organisations, civil society, academia) to share information, collaborate and demonstrate progress. Pathfinder countries are committed to be at the forefront to achieve SDG target 8.7, which is to ‘take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms’. <https://www.alliance87.org/pathfinders>.
- ⁵⁷ UNFCCC, ‘NDC Registry: Cabo Verde’. <https://unfccc.int/NDCREG>.

- ⁵⁸ UNEP Ozone Secretariat, 'Country profile: Cabo Verde'. <https://ozone.unep.org/countries/profile/cpv>; and UNEP Ozone Secretariat, 'ODS data reporting and status tables'. <https://ozone.unep.org/countries/data-table>.
- ⁵⁹ Convention on Biological Diversity, 'National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2030: Cabo Verde'. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/cv/cv-nbsap-v2-en.pdf>; Convention on Biological Diversity, 'Cabo Verde country biodiversity profile'. <https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile?country=cv>; 'Fifth National Report on the Status of Biodiversity in Cabo Verde'. <https://eciencia.cv/items/ebc14528-12fc-406f-8a2a-d4d933b40c05/full>; and Cabo Verde, 'Third National Communication Report on Climate Change'. https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/0136895_Cabo%20Verde-NC3-1-Cabo%20Verde%20-%20Third%20National%20Communication%20on%20Climate%20Change.pdf.
- ⁶⁰ CITES, 'Reports: Cabo Verde'. <https://cites.org/eng/parties/country-profiles/cv/reports>; CITES, 'Compliance status: Cabo Verde'. <https://cites.org/eng/parties/country-profiles/cv/compliance-status>; and CITES, 'Status of Legislative Progress for Implementing CITES'. <https://cites.org/eng/legislation/parties>.
- ⁶¹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 'Legislative Decree No. 3/2015 Approving the Water and Sanitation Code (CAS)'. <https://www.fao.org/faolex/country-profiles/general-profile/en/?iso3=CPV>.
- ⁶² United Nations Treaty Collection, 'Amendment to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal'. United Nations Treaty Collection, <https://treaties.un.org/Pages/showDetails.aspx?objid=08000002806222c4&clang=en>.
- ⁶³ Government of Cabo Verde, 'Strategic Note of Program for Water and Sanitation', 4 Dec. 2023. <https://peds.gov.cv/caboverde4dev/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/English-Version-of-Strategic-Note-for-Water-Sanitation-.pdf>.
- ⁶⁴ World Bank, 'Cabo Verde Circular Economy Diagnostic, September 2024', 7 Jan. 2025. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/8db164a8-2630-4305-911d-09a60c4868c7>.
- ⁶⁵ Unidade de Gestão de Projetos Especiais, 'UGPE, INE and ANAS Sign Tripartite Memorandum for the Sustainable Management of Electronic Waste in Cape Verde'. UGPE, 7 Apr. 2025. <https://backend-ugpe.gov.cv/en/noticias/ugpe-ine-e-anas-firmam-memorando-tripartidario-para-gestao-sustentavel-dos-residuos-eletronicos-em-cabo-verde-2/>.
- ⁶⁶ In particular in relation to Articles 15–16 (risk assessment and management), Article 18 (handling and identification of LMOs) and Article 33 (reporting) of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/legal/cartagena-protocol-en.pdf>.
- ⁶⁷ Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, 'Fourth National Report: Cabo Verde', 2020. <https://bch.cbd.int/en/database/NR4%7D/BCH-NR4-CV-266690-1>.
- ⁶⁸ Basel Convention National Reports - Year 2021. <https://ers.basel.int/ERS-Extended/FeedbackServer/fsadmin.aspx?fscontrol=respondentReport&surveyid=83&voterid=56157&readonly=1&nomenu=1>
- ⁶⁹ This was not available at the time of Cabo Verde's fourth report on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, 'Fourth National Report: Cabo Verde', 2020. <https://bch.cbd.int/en/database/NR4%7D/BCH-NR4-CV-266690-1>
- ⁷⁰ Stockholm Convention Secretariat, 'National Implementation Plans'. <https://chm.pops.int/Implementation/NationalImplementationPlans/Overview/tabid/565/Default.aspx>.
- ⁷¹ Implementation of the Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in Africa – progress, challenges, and recommendations after 20 year. Environmental Science: Advances (RSC Publishing) DOI:10.1039/D3VA00347G
- ⁷² This includes submitting its first Biennial Transparency Report (noting that SIDS may submit BTR information at their discretion under the UNFCCC transparency arrangements) and update its National Communication under UNFCCC to enable assessment of NDC 3.0 implementation, the outstanding 2022 and 2023 national reports under the Basel Convention; its updated national biosafety report, the updated National Implementation Plan under the Stockholm Convention, and the Seventh National CBD Report to be prepared ahead of the 2026 deadline using the process to revise its NBSAP II to align with the Global Biodiversity Framework (see also Annex on Ratification and Reporting).
- ⁷³ This includes adoption of climate legislation strengthening greenhouse-gas inventory systems, and of hazardous-waste legislation aligned with Basel Convention standards; the update of its ozone-layer protection legislation; revision of its wildlife-trade legislation to meet CITES Category 1 requirements; and the update of its biosafety regulations, including clear procedures for LMO risk assessment and monitoring, while advancing ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the CBD framework. CITES National Legislation Project status page, <https://cites.org/eng/legislation>; Cartagena Protocol – Biosafety Clearing-House country profile. <https://bch.cbd.int/en/countries/CV>; Basel Convention legal framework obligations (PIC, Article 9 illegal traffic). <https://www.basel.int/Implementation/LegalMatters/tabid/2436/Default.aspx>.
- ⁷⁴ Cabo Verde complies with its reporting duties under the 1961 UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the 1971 UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances, but remains non-compliant with reporting obligations under

the 1988 UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances for 2019-2024. The latest year for which Cabo Verde submitted information under 1988 Convention was 2018.

⁷⁵ E.g.: 1) One tonne of cocaine seized on a fishing boat headed to Spain in waters near Cape Verde. Agencia Tributaria, 28 Sept. 2023,

https://sede.agenciatributaria.gob.es/Sede/en_gb/Intervenida_en_aguas_proximas_a_Cabo_Verde_una_tonelada_de_cocaina_en_un_pesquero_con_destino_a_Espana.html;

2) Operação ‘Ventos Alísios’: PJ e Marinha localizam embarcação com 1,6 toneladas de cocaína. Polícia Judiciária, 1 Dec. 2024.

www.policiajudiciaria.pt/operacao-ventos-alisios-pj-e-marinha-localizam-embarcacao-com-16-toneladas-de-cocaina/; or 3) International Narcotics Control Board. Annual Report 2025, par. 332. International Narcotics

Control Board, 2026.

https://www.incb.org/incb/uploads/documents/Publications/AnnualReports/AR2025/Annual_Report/E_INCB_2025_1_eng.pdf.

⁷⁶ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, ‘World Drug Report 2025: Key Findings’, United Nations, 2025.

https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/WDR_2025/WDR25_B1_Key_findings.pdf.

⁷⁷ Transparency International, ‘Corruption Perceptions Index 2025: Cabo Verde’, 2026.

<https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2025/index/cpv>.

⁷⁸ Inforpress, ‘ONU saúda Cabo Verde pela adoção da primeira estratégia nacional de prevenção e combate à corrupção’, 16 Mar. 2026. <https://www.inforpress.cv/pt/onu-sauda-cabo-verde-pela-adocao-da-primeira-estrategia-nacional-de-prevencao-e-combate-a-corrupcao>.