CAPE VERDE

The stunning volcanic archipelago of beautiful beaches and rugged terrain is a true tropical paradise and tourism hotspot



Record numbers of international visitors are discovering the wealth of natural and cultural marvels of these welcoming African islands in the heart of the Atlantic Ocean

Idyllic islands blend ideal climate with natural charms

Cape Verde's reputation for memorable holidays is on the rise, with UK travellers leading the charge

lessed with pristine Bwhite beaches and warm, sparkling crystal clear waters under a blue sky, Cape Verde (also known as Cabo Verde) is the very definition of a tropical paradise

The islands' outstanding reputation for memorable holidays is growing by the day, thanks to its widespread appeal as a year-round sun spot with alluring beaches, volcanic hiking routes, variety of water sports, and a lively music scene

Cape Verde has plenty to offer people of all ages and budgets, with foreign direct investment (FDI) in the tourism industry growing rapidly.

Visitor numbers reached a record 716,000 in 2017, up 11.2% year-on-year. with tourists from the UK representing almost a quarter of all international arrivals to the stunning archipelago off Africa's northwest coast. In addition, British guests averaged the longest stays at almost nine nights.

Cape Verde's wealth of natural and cultural charms astound and enthral in equal measure. A favourable flight time of just five hours from the UK makes the country a much more affordable and closer option than the Caribbean

and most of mainland Africa. In addition, with no time difference to the UK, there is no jet lag that often eats into the first few days of a holiday. The UK is not only the lead-

ing source of holidaymakers to Cape Verde, but also leads the FDI charts. with tens of millions of pounds flowing into the economy each year, particularly in the key areas of tourism and real estate.

First-class transport hub Boasting four international airports — on the islands of Sal, Boa Vista, São Vicente, and Praia Cape Verde is fully prepared to take advantage of the predicted jump in annual visitor numbers to more than one million by 2022.

The country is served by a host of international airlines that offer direct and indirect flights from many of the world's largest cities. Several cruise lines also include the islands on their itineraries, with thousands of passengers disembarking for day trips and various excursions



The majestic mountains of the Paul Valley dominate the skyline of the island of Santo Antão

"

"Historically, the British coal bunkering launched Cape Verde into the international routes; for 50-75 years the British played a major role here," states Cape Verde's Minister for Tourism, Transport and Maritime Economy, José da Silva Gonçalves.

"Nowadays, it is no longer coal, but FDI from Great Britain that we attract in all areas of the economy, but particularly infrastructure development, tourism, and maritime operations.



investment.' José da Silva Gonçalves Min. for Tourism, Transport and Maritime Economy

"There is still a strong British influence in parts of Cape Verde, for example, there are many English words in the native Creole language and even in the area of sports there is a strong influence where the locals play cricket and golf.

"We would like to see more investment from the UK and encourage British investors to participate in the many opportunities we have. We plan to organise a roadshow in the UK to showcase our openings to the wider market.'

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▼ape Verde's ideal position at the centre of several lucrative intercontinental trade routes remains one of the nation's key competitive advantages, with its appeal as a natural logistical and transshipment hub obvious to all.

Substantial public investment in the modernisation of the country's main ports is a clear sign the maritime sector is a priority area for the government, with significant FDI sought to optimise the openings created by its highly advantageous location.

Despite its relatively small size, Cape Verde has an extensive and exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of 789,400 square kilometres, around 9.4% of the total Sub-Sahara African EEZ An expanding fisheries industry focused on the processing of daily catches comprises the majority of exports, with other maritime activities including ship repair operations.

According to official data, the annual fish stock potential deemed sustainable is





Clear skies ahead for aviation sector as tourism takes off

Cape Verde has avoided industry turbulence and the outlook is bright thanks to regulatory support

ape Verde's enviable strategic position at the crossroads between continents means the government is striving to maximise the aviation sector's pivotal role.

Through the creation of a streamlined hub for international air travel, the industry will act as a catalyst for growth and development.

"In our air transport sector, a great deal of investment has been made to develop the country's sound policies," states Minister Gonçalves proudly. "We have a very proactive Open Skies Agreement and many airlines and companies operate here.

"Cape Verde is one of only a handful of African countries that have a category one certified airport. We have two airports — Sal and Praia - that are points of departure to the US, and have international airports in São Vicente and

Boa Vista, which are two of the fastest growing tourism markets in the country.

"We have progressive policies, and a regulatory environment based on best practices. We are developing an aviation hub on Sal and aim to play an important role in the linking of four continents: Africa, North America, South America. and Europe

Spearheading the drive to further develop the national aviation sector for business and leisure travellers is Aeroportos e Segurança Aérea (ASA).

The forward-thinking agency aims to enhance the stability of regulatory frameworks to pave the way for greater FDI, which is ultimately key to guaranteeing the sustainability of air transport in the region

ASA is focused on fostering the development

— airlines, airports, air navigation services providers — and enhancing economic efficiency and transparency, while facilitating access to funding for aviation infrastructure.

ASA also seeks to increase technology transfers and strives to build capacity to support the growth of air transport and associated activities, with the achievement of goals guaranteed to boost government revenue and reduce unemplovment

"The challenge is to keep on building upon what we already achieved, and to improve on it," says ASA Chairman and CEO, Jorge Benchimol Duarte. "At Sal, we had an exceptional year in 2017 and reached our first million passengers due to tourism development.

"We have plans for significant investment and major changes to the institutional framework. The sector is undergoing restructuring, not only the airport business, but the whole aviation industry

"Flag carrier TACV has been rebranded Cabo Verde Airlines and is being privatised, while

of an economically viable civil aviation system | ASA will shortly go through an institutional change and embrace a new business model which will lead to private sector involvement in airport management.

The senior executive is eager for ASA to play an integral role in ensuring Cape Verde contin ues to take advantage of its natural assets to attract many more people from overseas.

"Our main market is tourism and the range of countries we cover is becoming more comprehensive each year," he adds. "We may not have oil or gold, but we do have the sun, sea, sand, and mountains. We cannot sell directly as such, but we can sell them in a package."

"Cape Verde's target is one million tourists per year, and the plan is for Sal to receive around half of that large number," says Sal Mayor, Júlio Lopes.

"We have all the assets to attract many demographics of people; visitors and investors. We have wonderful beaches, of which some are ranked in the top 25 in the world, as well as many other natural wonders, like the Salina which is a salt plain in a crater.'

Fostering new strategic partnerships for aviation and Cape Verdean development

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Cape Verde Airports and Air Traffic Management

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Investment in ports and projects means the cruise and shipping sectors are on the crest of a wave

" **Cape Verde offers**

a stable and secure business environment." Jorge Pimenta Maurício President, ENAPOR activities is national ports authority ENAPOR. Key proj-

ects at present include those related to fisheries, transshipment, and cruise terminal operations, while the creation of a fisheries-focused science

between 36,000 and 44,000 tonnes, with investment opportunities available in a streamlined supply chain that aims to get fish and seafood into international markets as quickly as possible.

Tasked with promoting and developing important infrastructure for maritime

petitiveness, and reliability of Cape Verde's ports and delivery of world-class service mean the country is high on the list for international ship-

the agenda.

pers, especially as a new era of port development is now underway. "We are utilising a new generation of technologies to increase efficiency and productivity, intensify land-use at ports, improve safety and security, and raise the level of sustainability," explains ENAPOR President, Jorge Pi-

and technology is also high on

The quality, efficiency, com-

menta Maurício. "We have 10 islands, of which nine are inhabited, so we have a lot of port infrastructure many people depend on through the circulation of people and goods in a fast and efficient manner.

"Our wish is for Cape Verde to be inserted into the global economy and we are assisting with the gradual transformation of the geography of the maritime sector.

"The UK has always been important for us. We no longer transship coal, but new energies like LNG are a real opportunity as investors could use Cape Verde as transhipment base for LNG.

"History could

Cabo Verde's new-generation of ports are your intelligent gateway into Africa

By introducing the technologies of the future today, our ports now offer unrivalled guality, efficiency, competitiveness, safety, security, reliability and a world-class service - making Cabo Verde the best port of call in the region for cruise ships, fish processing and transshipment operations.

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Sea ports are the lifeblood of the Cape Verdean economy and a powerful magnet for major FDI

itself, but with another fuel resource. This is one of the great business opportunities for UK companies. We offer a stable and secure environment with political stability. The context in which Cape Verde operates s important."

The senior executive says that just because Cape Verde is an African country, does not mean it falls under the same ills and negative notions associated with other African nations "Some people fail to see the organisational structures. mental capacity, judicial capacity, and passion that this country possesses and what we can give to global trade," he adds

"ENAPOR is excited to be the commanding organisation behind the complete development of logistics and infrastructure of our maritime industry, leaving no gaps in our operations.

"The development of our tourism industry will be boost ed by efficient inter-island transport networks that will make it more comfortable to move freely between islands It will help tourists extend and enjoy their time in Cape Verde

"A new cruise ship terminal will be created to improve our handling capabilities of these kind of giant ships that bring many tourists.'

Cabo Verde



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THE RESORT GROUP

Share in the success of our World-Class Resorts









For more information about property investments contact us on:

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The Resort Group PLC is a luxury hospitality company specialising in creating 5-star holiday resorts and hotels. We are the market leader in Cape Verde, one of the fastest-growing tourism markets in the world. We work alongside world-leading hoteliers and tour operators, including TUI PLC, Meliá Hotels International, Steigenberger Hotels and Hilton Worldwide. Properties at our resorts are available for investors looking for an immediate return on their investment, with a fixed yield, and the opportunity for considerable and consistent capital growth. Property owners also benefit from free personal usage at our resorts throughout the year.

Our proven property investments include:

- 7% return paid monthly throughout construction
- Ongoing rental income of 7% p.a. for 5 years after resort opening
- Annual capital growth projection of 5% p.a.
- Personal usage of the property for up to 5 weeks per year*
- Resort managed by a world-renowned hotelier
- Payment options to suit your budget
- Try before you buy with a resort inspection tour

Terms and conditions apply. *Subject to investment plan selected.

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CAPE VERDE A true tropical paradise and tourism hotspot





Be my guest: Creating luxury holidays in an undiscovered paradise

We take an in-depth look at The Resort Group, which is transforming tourism in Cape Verde

t the centre of Cape Verde's tourism and **A**real estate sectors is The Resort Group plc (TRG), a world-class luxury hospitality company that specialises in creating and managing some of the world's best 5-star re sorts and hotels

Excitingly for those looking to buy their own piece of tropical paradise. the apartments. rooms, suites and villas at these show-stopping properties are sold to investors for their private use or to rent. either independently or through the group's managed rental programme. Here, Rob Jarret. founder and CEO of TRG. explains why Cape Verde and TRG offer the ideal holiday and investment location.

What first attracted you to Cape Verde and how is TRG contributing to its economy? Just a short direct flight from the UK. Cape Verde has the perfect holiday blend of sunshine. vear-round temperatures of 25°C to 30°C, endless white

beaches beautiful sceners exciting culture. a laid-back ambience and the famous

Cape Verdean hospitality. It is also incredibly safe. politically stable and very democratic. Even though the islands are now receiving more visitors, they have managed to maintain their undiscovered feel and relaxing atmosphere. Our 5-star resorts run in

partnership with world-leading operators such as TUI Travel, Meliã Hotels International. Steigenberger Hotels and Resorts, and Hilton Worldwide, are proving to be the ideal location for people to relax and enjoy Cape Verde's no-stress lifestyle. We currently host 60% of the tourists coming here.

The figures tell their own story: Cape Verde is Google's most-searched-for holiday destination, tourist numbers have risen 115% since 2000 — most markedly since TRG started investing — and are forecast to double again by 2024. What TRG has also

done is create an exclusive global network of first-class professionals with a variety of unique skills that meet the demands of visitors. Other businesses on the islands have capitalised on our success as well, by offering a variety of activities for our guests that we sup-

cessful that we believe we will be contributing 20% of Cape Verde's gross domestic product in the future, as we continue with our mission to be the leading leisure and hospitality company. and partner of choice for the world's premier hotel and tourism groups.

When and why did TRG find success Cape Verde? As early as 2011, when we opened our first resort and spa, Meliã Beach. Tortuga Recognised as one of the world's most lucrative property investment opportunities, since 2012 it has claimed five World Travel Awards. That was just the start: in 2014, we launched Meliã Dunas Beach resort and spa, which was named Best Lifestyle Resort Worldwide at the Hotel of the Year Awards the following year.

Starting 2018 as we mean to go on, TRG has won accolades from the prestigious Luxury Travel Awards and the renowned TUI Group Awards. which we are exceptionally proud about. For example Meliã Llana Beach resort and spa is a TUI Top Quality Winner for 2018.

We now have a worldwide reputation for top-level resorts and hotels, and superior occupancy in the most enviable locations. Our track record and ability to deliver the very highest quality as well as strong profitability and sound corporate governance, are unrivalled in the industry. Much of our success is due to never spreading ourselves too thinly a model that ensures investor confidence.

Can vou describe TRG portfolio of properties and services?



We now have a worldwide reputation for top-level resorts and hotels. and superior occupancy in the most enviable locations."

Rob Jarret Founder and CEO The Resort Group

We currently have five resorts on the island of Sal, plus Bikini Beach club, a big attraction in its own right. We are developing nine projects on Boa Vista. an island where tourism is thriving, and one in the capital. Praia, which will be the country's tallest and most iconic building. This 5-star hotel will be operated by Hilton and is built completely from glass. In addition, we have two projects planned for São Vicente island. All these locations will have a new Bikini Beach — in Praia if will be at the very top of the Hilton and called Level Heaven.

The way we operate is that TRG handles the entire property development process, from identifying prime land and architectural design through to managing the construction. We deliver 5-star resorts on time on budget and to plan, making us the partner of choice for

world-class hotel op-

erators and leading financial institutions As well as developing the resorts, we manage and operate them, and supply on-site services, in cluding hospitality and entertainment, as part of our dedication to providing the highest-quality resorts and an unrivalled hol idav experience We also have a portfolio of

independent enterprises that we part or wholly own. These allow us to offer additional value — for example we control our own supply chain to a large degree. We are not, however, involved in construction where we partner with Grupo SANJOSE which is listed on the stock exchanges of New York and Madrid, and has done an amazing job in creating value, constructing projects and promoting sustainability

Is the government supporting tourism and is there sufficient infrastructure here?

The government has done a fantastic job and Cape Verde has improved its business environment air transport infrastructure, price competitiveness and environmental sustainability and modernised its utilities and telecommuni cations

On Boa Vista, our nine prop erties will cover 750.000 square metres and TRG is pushing the boundaries of sustainabil ity and building infrastructure within that development. For example we are creating a new road network, extend ing the telecommunications infrastructure. constructing desalination plants, and we will manage the water and electricity supplies as well This infrastructure is critical and we will be investing €20 million in it

Where are your guests and property investors from?

The UK sends the largest proportion of tourists to Cape Verde, followed by Portugal and Germany, But TRG pro motes its properties in 27 juristictions at the moment so we are not dependent on one region for our visitor numbers. As tourism has developed on the islands, the industry has adjusted — for example there are new tour operators, flight planners and

additional flights from Bir ngham, Glasgow, Bristol

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Amsterdam, Milan, Lisbon, Paris and many other places. I believe Cape Verde needs

to keep adding flights at an increasing speed. This makes us available as an exciting new tourist destination for visitors from wider markets. TRG is working diligently to support the government in creating additional routes from many major European cities and to entice different airlines, such as Virgin and Emirates, to the market place.

In addition to tourists. Cape Verde is fast becoming a favourite filming location. Its exoticism. romantic sunsets and beautiful beach walks made it the ideal spot for this vear's Celebs Go Dating and we also hosted 2017's Britain's Next Top Model. That was filmed at our Meliã Dunas Beach resort and spa, and trips to the luxurious Bikini Beach club featured heavily!

TRG runs many corporate social responsibility initiatives. Why is this important? Our Cape Verde Foundation. seeks to assist with issues like education housing health and long-term development. We have, for example, built a university in Praia so people no

We deliver 5-star resorts on time, on budget and to plan. making us the partner of choice for world-class hotel operators."

Rob Jarret Founder and CEO The Resort Group

longer have to leave the islands for a quality education. We have also equipped kitchens in all schools and supply them with food — giving children a healthy meal and an education. Providing jobs is another priority and, once Boa Vista is developed, the number of islanders we employ will double to over 4.000.

Cape Verdeans are amazing in their positive outlook and warm disposition towards their communities and, especially foreigners. Their mantra is "no stress" and they welcome tourism — we want to give something back to them.



8 reasons to invest in a TRG

property in Cape Verde

to double by 2024

port We have been so suc-







Introducing the world's next property hotspot: Boa Vista

Tourism is thriving on the enchanting, undeveloped island, where The Resort Group is developing six 5-star resorts



Adventure and rejuvenation await at White Sands Hotel and Spa

enowned for its 55 kilometres of fabulous beaches, turquoise waters that contain a wide variety of tropical marine life including whales and dolphins, and a culture that blends African and Portuguese influences Bog Vista is one of the least-densely populated island in the Cape Verde archipel-

Having long remained an undiscovered secret and destination of choice for discerning and pioneering visitors, it is receiving an increasing number of direct flights from UK and European cities, tourism is thriving and it is about to become one of the world's property hotspots.

Flights arrive at Sal Rei, the island's capital and a shining example of a traditional Cape Verdean town, with picturesque cobbled streets, and an abundance of restaurants and bars. But the iewel in Boa Vista's crown is the awe-inspiring Santa Monica Beach.

Located in a sheltered position in the southwest of the island, it has the purest white sands imaginable and has been named one of the 25 best beaches in the world at Trip Advisor's 2018 Travellers Choice awards.

Focused on preserving the island's unique and unexplored nature. TRG is in the process of transforming Santa Monica into an plex-style suites that provide more

exclusive and unparalleled beach destination by creating six luxury resorts on a ten-mile stretch of its glorious pristine sands, as well as a dazzling new marina.

Catering for the growing demand for high-quality accommodation on Boa Vista, TRG's stunning master plan has been fully endorsed by the Government of Cape Verde.

The first resort to give Santa Monica the 5-star facilities it deserves will be TRG's White Sands Hotel and Spa. which is scheduled to open in the first half of 2020 and will be fully managed by Meliã Hotels International, ensuring unrivalled service.

Befitting an island whose name means "good view", the natural sloping topography of White Sands' lands means that almost every one of the luxurious resort's 835 keys has spectacular and panoramic sea views

Created by award-winning architects and designers. White Sands has a Moorish feel overall and contains inspirational properties of the highest build quality, with beautiful interiors that use the finest furnishings, fixtures and premium appliances.

Those properties include a range of lavish suites with swim-up pools. hot tubs and outside space, as well as larger penthouse and duflexible accommodation. Even more extravagant are 13 opulent villas that have their own private pool and landscaped gardens

In line with TRG's dedication to delivering the perfect holiday to every guest. the resort will incorporate adult-only and family sections, and a diverse range of facilities will be available enabling visitors to eniov pure relaxation whilst basking in the sun or a full spectrum of activities

For example, there will be an exceptional variety of options for sampling first-class food and drinks that will satisfy any

taste, including fine-dining restaurants a sumptious champagne bar. relaxing lobby bar. lively sports har and wet har

In addition, guests will have access to six swimming pools. a luxuriant YHI Spa for pampering and relaxation, a fully equipped fitness centre, a water-sports centre, tennis and beach vollevball courts, world-class diving, and boating and fishing trips. And for families, there will also be a children's club, adventure play-

ground and haby pools But that is not all:

as well as the marina TRG is creating in Santa Monica, it is also developing a new Bikini Beach club, waterpark, department store and a selection of smaller shops selling everything a holidaymaker could need.

As with all TRG projects, those who take up the opportunity offered by White Sands can enjoy their properties themselves, or benefit rom a substantial rental income.

TRG is renowned for managing the entire development process. whilst keeping purchasers informed at every step along the way – which means that possibly the only decision a buyer has to make is which of the fabulous properties is right for them.

After that, they can sit back and picture themselves relaxing in an oasis of luxury on an idyllic tropical island, watching both the sun set and their investment grow

Bikini Beach: Expect the unexpected!

In creating the first Bikini Beach Club on the island of Sal, The Resort Group (TRG) has reinvented the beach club experience and taken it to the next level. This

unrivalled VIP leisure venue holds a breathtaking spot in a purpose-built lagoon set 40 metres out into the

Atlantic Ocean and has quickly become the place to be in Cape Verde

> Its huge success is bringing expansion and there will be 19 more Bikini

Beach Clubs within ten years - soon. the **Bikini Beach Club**

Experience will define beach style at the world's most festive electric locations Extravagant and

prestigious, from the afternoon until the early hours of the morning these clubs will allow holidavmakers to enjoy luxurious

champagne, delicious cuisine over-the-top fun and games, star cameos, live music and the hottest guest DJs.

Through its Bikini Beach Clubs. TRG is building on its experience in hotels and resorts to command a new global position in the VIP entertainment sector - offering guests an unmatched and unforgettable experience that will keep partygoers coming back for more from this unique and innovative brand.

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Tourism firms gear up for strong growth

With tourist numbers forecast to double over the next few years, FDI opportunities are abundant

Responsible for more than a quarter of GDP, tourism is a priority sector for the government as it looks to attract more of the industry's big names to the country amid fierce competition from other leading holiday destinations.

Major brands such as TUI, Hilton, and Sol Melia have already established a significant presence, but with tourism numbers expected to double during the next decade, there is plenty of room for other players to take some market share.

According to national trade and investment agency CV TradeInvest, potential investors should focus on providing more tourist accommodation, particularly hotels and resorts that will appeal to families and younger travellers.

Opportunities have also been identified in specialist sectors, including rural tourism, eco-tourism, health tourism, and voyages on cruise liners. Increasing numbers of visitors will also want to partake in activities and events, meaning openings for day trips and excursions.

day trips and excursions. "The existence of four international airports, pleasant climate, and the diverse geographical and cultural landscape due to the insularity of the country, are key advantages in this sector," CV TradeInvest highlights. Tourists who experience Cape Verde's variety of natural and cultural charms, often return to sample more of its delights, including music and tasty cuisine.

After all, where else in the world can you swim in salt lakes in ancient craters, climb a towering active volcano, or watch dozens of noble loggerhead turtles leave their nests at night?

Beach lovers are certainly spoilt for choice with mile after mile of white sands on the various islands, including the ever-popular Santa Maria beach.

For visitors seeking to immerse themselves in centuries of tradition and culture, there are many churches and forts on the islands that are open to the public all-year round. Many towns hold colourful craft markets and music events where tourists can get an authentic taste of local life.





Santa Maria Beach Blending white sands with warm waters, this long beach is the most popular on any of the islands. Nestled in the southernmost tip of Sal, the beach provides visitors with the perfect venue to relax and unwind before they head to the selection of shops,

restaurants and bars dotted along the local strip.

Fogo Volcano Stretching majestically into the cloudless blue sky, this striking, active volcano is a natural national treasure that draws

thousands of visitors a year, including many climbers who conquer the 2,829 metre summit.

> Pedra de Lume Salt Pans Stripping off to swim, or just

float, in some of the world's saltiest water is a highly-popular activity for people of all ages. This sun-kissed outdoor spa is ideal for people seeking to rejuvenate body, soul and mind.

Carbeirinho Cave and



Rock Formation As eye-catching as they are mysterious, these amazing natural formations have been carved out by the wind and sea over millions of

years. Found near the town of Tarrafal on the island of Sao Nicolau, the ancient rock formations are complemented by a rare black sandy bay.

Santo Antão Combing tall peaks with fertile valleys and a large plain. the terrain is ideal for activities such as cycling, hiking, and pony trekking. Rich in wildlife, the rugged island is also perfect for bird spotting.

> Viana Desert Venture into the white sand dunes of the Sahara — well, those blown over from the mainland — on foot, horseback, or in special off-road vehicles. Found on the tranquil island of Boa Vista, the desert is popular with people of all ages.



Given Cape Verde is a small archipelago surrounded by almost 900,000 square kilometres of ocean, the islands are at the forefront of the coordinated, global fight to protect and preserve marine life.

In late September, the World Bank Group launched a multi-donor trust fund called PROBLUE to support healthy and productive oceans by tackling marine pollution, managing fisheries and fostering the sustainable growth of coastal economies.

"Healthy oceans protect biodiversity, provide jobs, food, drive growth, and keep the planet cool," said Laura Tuck, World Bank Group Vice President, Sustainable Development. "Our oceans are nearing a tipping point on many fronts, from over-fishing and marine pollution to coastal erosion. PROBLUE is designed to address these challenges and to develop and sustain our precious marine resources for generations to come.

It also supports the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14), which covers the sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources. Meanwhile, the World Bank Group sees the ocean as a new economic frontier worth \$24 trillion.

PRODBLUE was launched in New York City around 14 months after Cape Verde's Minister for Tourism, Transport and Maritime Economy, José da Silva Gonçalves, addressed an influential audience at a UN conference in the Big Apple that focused on ways to achieve SDG 14.

In his address, the minister noted how the ocean represents an essential element of the history, geography, politics and culture of Cape Verde, by its strategic location between several continents and at the crossroads of lucrative shipping lanes.

He also highlighted how the government had adopted a "landmark" charter on Blue Growth and Economy in 2015, meaning the ocean and Blue Economy now stand at the core of national development.

"The sea is our bounty and the main resources of our country," Minister Gonçalves said. "The promotion of initiatives for the sustainable use of our ocean is part of our daily lives for present and future generations.

"Our maritime vocation unequivocally creates both challenges and opportunities. Challenges to provide adequate oversight and control over the threats throughout the vast seas and ocean that surround our small landmass and confront our small population, given limited means and monitoring resources.

"Opportunities for strengthening our identity as an archipelago nation, further cooperation in the region and the international community while promoting sustainable development and economic growth of our marine resources."