

Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot

Cabo Verde

Factsheet about future investment in biodiversity conservation projects in Cabo Verde by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)



Measuring Loggerhead turtles, Island of Sal © Projeto Biodiversidad

Established in 2000, the **Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)** is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan and the World Bank. A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation.

WHAT IS CEPF?

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) provides grants to non-governmental and private sector organizations to help protect biodiversity hotspots. Since its establishment in 2000, CEPF has awarded more than 2,120 grants in 92 countries and territories. A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation.

WHAT IS THE MEDITERRANEAN BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT?

Stretching from Cabo Verde to eastern Turkey, the Mediterranean Basin is identified as one of the world's 35 biodiversity hotspots, earth's most biologically rich, yet threatened, areas.

CEPF has been active in the hotspot since 2012, and has begun a new 5-year investment phase in 2017, with **US\$ 11.2 million** to invest until September 2022.

CEPF's initial investment phase demonstrated that through funding, along with mentoring, partnerships and innovative communication strategies, **civil society groups** play an important role in conservation efforts.



A map of the Mediterranean Hotspot, which includes Cabo Verde

WHAT IS CEPF'S INVESTMENT STRATEGY?

Before providing funding to a hotspot, CEPF develops an "Ecosystem Profile" that informs its investment strategy. In the Mediterranean, more than 500 civil society organizations and other stakeholders in the region were consulted over a period of 6 months for this in-depth analysis, helping to develop a shared strategy from the outset that has a bigger impact for nature.

When developing an **Ecosystem Profile** for a biodiversity hotspot, CEPF decides on a few priorities, which are known as "strategic directions." These are important to grant applicants because each project must address a strategic direction and one or more of its investment priorities. For the Mediterranean, these are the current **Strategic Directions**:

1. Support civil society to engage stakeholders in demonstrating integrated approaches for the **preservation of biodiversity in coastal areas**.
2. Support the **sustainable management of water catchments** through integrated approaches for the conservation of threatened freshwater biodiversity.
3. Promote the **maintenance of traditional land use practices** necessary for the conservation of Mediterranean biodiversity in priority corridors of high cultural and biodiversity value.
4. Strengthen the engagement of civil society to support the **conservation of plants** that are critically endangered or have highly restricted ranges.
5. Strengthen the regional conservation community through the **sharing of best practices and knowledge** among grantees across the hotspot.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR A GRANT?

All NGOs, community groups, private enterprises and other civil society organizations may apply for funding. Our grant recipients range from small farming cooperatives and community associations to international organizations. What do they all have in common? They are dedicated to protecting biodiversity. For more details, please visit our page:

<https://www.cepf.net/grants/eligibility>

HOW DO I APPLY?

For information on how to apply, please visit: <https://www.cepf.net/grants>.

Calls for Proposals are announced on the CEPF website at: <https://www.cepf.net/grants/open-calls-for-proposals>.

Why is CEPF investing in Cabo Verde?

To protect priority Key Biodiversity Areas and build the capacity of civil society



Monitoring the endemic plant *Echium vulcanorum*, Island of Fogo © Projecto Vito

Cabo Verde is an archipelago composed of 10 diverse volcanic islands found off the West Coast of Africa in the Atlantic Ocean. The arid climate and geographic remoteness of this archipelago ensures that it hosts a number of endemic species, particularly birds and reptiles, such as the Cabo Verde Shearwater *Calonectris edwardsii* and Leaf-toed gecko *Hemidactylus bouvieri*.

The islands are also globally important breeding sites for seabirds, and the beaches boast the world's third largest nesting site of the Loggerhead turtle *Caretta caretta*, playing a strategic role in ensuring the protection of this endangered species. The protected bays around the islands are also important breeding grounds for marine species such as the Humpback whale *Megaptera novaeangliae*.

Cabo Verde is also home to a unique variety of plants, with 78% of the studied endemic plant species classified as threatened by IUCN, with 29% as Critically Endangered. Most of these endemics have a limited geographical range, and work is needed to find and classify the many more unidentified species and populations.

Cabo Verde is a developing nation with a rising tourism sector that is steadily encroaching on the country's coastlines, often with little regulation due to a lack of available resources and research knowledge. Climate change, invasive species, habitat degradation and unregulated fishing are other major threats to terrestrial and marine biodiversity, and require careful monitoring and prevention.

There's a growing body of local civil society organizations who are able to work on these issues, and building the capacity of these is a key priority as well as providing education and training to the younger generations. Local communities are becoming more aware of the unique nature they share a home with, and need to be carefully included in the conservation efforts taking place to ensure they work in the long-term for both biodiversity and people of the islands.

Eligibility of projects in Cabo Verde:

CEPF investment in Cabo Verde will focus on the following investment priorities:

Strategic Direction 1: Coasts: Support civil society to engage stakeholders in demonstrating integrated approaches for the preservation of biodiversity in coastal areas with the following investment priorities:

1.1: Engage local stakeholders in conservation actions that address threats to key elements of biodiversity in priority KBAs in the coastal zone.

1.2: Engage private sector stakeholders to adopt sustainable practices that deliver positive impacts for conservation in priority KBAs in the coastal zone.

1.3: Support civil society to engage with local or national governments to mainstream biodiversity conservation into integrated coastal zone management, land-use and development planning processes.

Strategic Direction 4: Plants: Strengthen the engagement of civil society to support the conservation of plants that are critically endangered or have highly restricted ranges through supporting the following investment priorities:

4.1: Increase knowledge and skills to support assessment and planning for the conservation of plants, and foster the emergence of a new generation of young professionals in plant conservation.

4.2: Support integration of plant conservation into the management of protected areas.

4.3: Support innovative actions for the conservation of important populations of plants, working with landowners and managers.

How can I get involved?

Contact Information

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Web & Social Media

www.birdlife.org/cepf-med

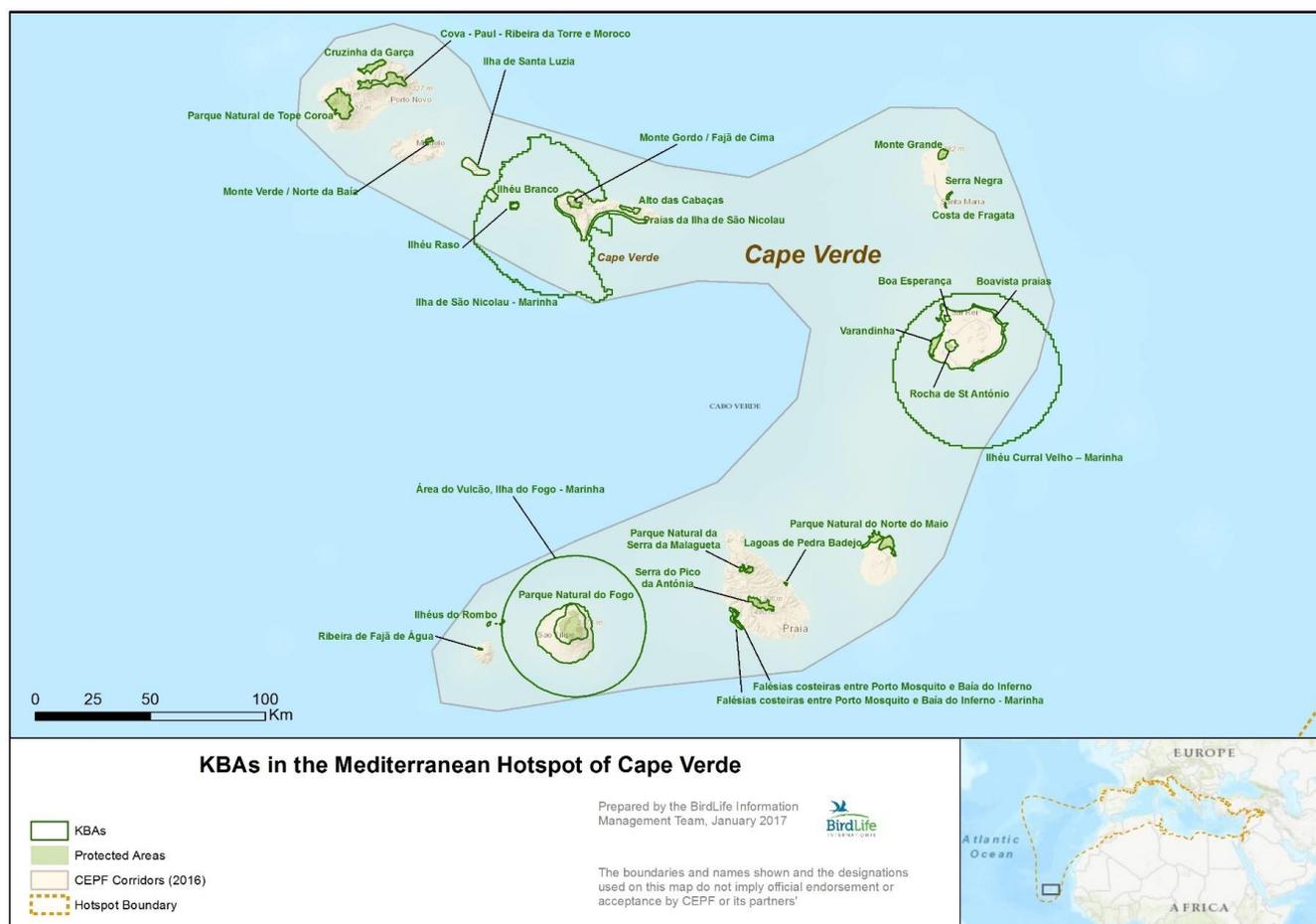
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Monitoring the Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*), Isle of Raso © Biosfera

A map of draft Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in the Mediterranean hotspot of Cabo Verde



KBA code	KBA name	KBA code	KBA name
CPV01	Alto das Cabaças	CPV16	Lagoas de Pedra Badejo
CPV02	Área do Vulcão, Ilha do Fogo - Marinha	CPV17	Monte Gordo / Fajã de Cima
CPV03	Boa Esperança	CPV18	Monte Grande
CPV04	Boavista praias	CPV19	Monte Verde / Norte da Baía
CPV05	Costa de Fragata	CPV20	Parque Natural da Serra da Malagueta
CPV06	Cova - Paul - Ribeira da Torre e Moroco	CPV21	Parque Natural de Tope Coroa
CPV07	Cruzinha da Garça	CPV22	Parque Natural do Fogo
CPV08	Falésias costeiras entre Porto Mosquito e Baía do Inferno	CPV23	Parque Natural do Norte do Maio
CPV09	Falésias costeiras entre Porto Mosquito e Baía do Inferno - Marinha	CPV24	Praias da Ilha de São Nicolau
CPV10	Ilha de Santa Luzia	CPV25	Ribeira de Fajã de Água
CPV11	Ilha de São Nicolau - Marinha	CPV26	Rocha de Santo António
CPV12	Ilhéu Branco	CPV27	Serra do Pico da Antónia
CPV13	Ilhéu Curral Velho - Marinha	CPV28	Serra Negra
CPV14	Ilhéu Raso	CPV29	Varandinha
CPV15	Ilhéus do Rombo		