



# Digital Sector in Cabo Verde



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## A PRIORITY SECTOR

Cabo Verde is embarking on an ambitious digital transformation journey. Under its National Strategy for Digital Economy, Cabo Verde seeks to transform into a **Digital Platform and Innovation Hub** in Africa. By 2030, the objective is for the Digital Economy being a significant wealth generator, contributing at least 25% (from the current 7%) to the GDP. By 2026, Cabo Verde aims to be a robust provider of digital products and services in Africa. The country envisions a 100% digital public service landscape, a cashless digital-based economy, and a robust economic sector centered on ICTs. The government's modernization agenda aims to digitize 60% of public services by 2026 and 80% by 2030, providing significant opportunities for private sector investments. By leveraging its strategic geographic location, Cabo Verde is set to become a key convergence point for digital connectivity between Africa, Europe, and South America. Furthermore, by developing an AI Strategy and formulating a national data strategy, Cabo Verde aims to position itself to fully exploit the benefits of emerging technologies.

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

The country is fostering real opportunities for digital economy through boosting connectivity, energy efficiency, and technological research, unlocking its demographic dividend and attracting "digital nomads". The rollout of 5G technology in Cabo Verde supports economic diversification and offers unique opportunities for international collaboration and investment in African start-ups. Cabo Verde's **TechPark**, with campuses in Praia and Mindelo and home to 26 companies from 7 countries, is a ZEET (Special Economic Zone for Technologies) providing attractive incentives such as VAT and import tax exemptions, along with a competitive corporation tax rate of 2.5% for eligible businesses. There's a strong demand for **AI-driven solutions** in public services, tourism, and fish processing, sectors contributing over 25% to Cabo Verde's GDP. These developments open scalable, tech-led business opportunities for investors in the rising West African market, generating a vibrant ecosystem.

## GLOBAL GATEWAY – SUPPORTING THE DIGITAL SECTOR IN CABO VERDE

The EU and European Investment Bank (EIB) have established a strategic operation to support Cabo Verde's digital sector, which focuses on upgrading digital infrastructure, fostering innovation, and enhancing connectivity. These operations are attracting more ambitious and extensive projects such as the **Euro Africa Gateway**, aiming to establish a more reliable and robust cable connection, from the Europe to South Africa. These initiatives offer significant potential for private sector engagement, promoting the digitalization of services and the growth of technology-driven enterprises.

## INVESTMENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- **37 million euros** investment through a framework loan to CV Telecom.
- **Key Projects:** enhancement of digital infrastructure, such as replacement of the inter-islands fibre-optic submarine cable and modernisation to improve internet latency and functionality;
- **Benefits:** improved digital connectivity and quality for the local private sector, including small and medium-sized companies; boosting innovation and support the creation of highly skilled jobs in Cabo Verde; regulatory environment ensures stability and attractive investment conditions.

**Join the digital revolution in Cabo Verde.** Private sector leaders are invited to seize these promising opportunities, investing in a market aligned with global sustainability goals and offering unique competitive advantages in a rapidly growing digital sector.





# BLUE ECONOMY IN CABO VERDE





# Blue Economy in Cabo Verde

## A PRIORITY SECTOR:

Cabo Verde is embarking on a transformative journey to harness the potential of its blue economy, with ambitions to generate around 25% of GDP by 2030. The government has identified a strategic investment pipeline, backed by international partnerships, to drive innovation and economic growth. With a maritime exclusive economic zone of 700,000 km<sup>2</sup>, the nation is becoming a regional leader in sustainable marine practices, offering a fertile ground for private sector investment.

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES:

The country's strategic location in the mid-Atlantic between South America, Europe and Africa, and its commitment to modernizing maritime infrastructure make it an attractive destination for investment. Priority projects include port infrastructures, logistics, sustainable fisheries, aquaculture, and yachting infrastructure upgrades. Additionally, there is potential for privatization of port services, offering further opportunities for private sector involvement and efficiency improvements.

Aquaculture is poised for growth globally, and Cabo Verde offers an outstanding opportunity for private investment. With ideal marine conditions and rising global demand for sustainable seafood, it offers a standout investment opportunity. Local start-ups are gaining traction—now's the time to dive in.

## GLOBAL GATEWAY – SUPPORTING THE BLUE ECONOMY TRANSITION IN CABO VERDE

The EU and European Investment Bank (EIB) have established a framework loan to advance Cabo Verde's blue economy transition, particularly in port infrastructure development. This collaboration aims to enhance maritime infrastructure connection, support sustainable practices, and foster private sector engagement, enhancing their operational capacity and adopting cleaner energy solutions. This initiative offers significant potential for private sector involvement in developing these vital infrastructures, and open new opportunities in related markets.

Complementary, the EU finances (EUR 59 Million) a regional programme on Sustainable Ocean Programme, promoting the sustainable and integrated use of ocean resources in West Africa, while strengthening marine and coastal resilience and stimulating inclusive economic growth.

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- **144 million EUR investment:** The EU and EIB's framework loan provides a strong basis for investment in sustainable ports infrastructures, enhancing maritime connectivity, sustainable fishing and interconnection with international maritime corridors.
- **Key Projects:** Investment in modernizing port infrastructure include the expansion and modernization of Porto Grande in Mindelo, Porto Novo in Santo Antão, and Porto de Palmeira in Sal, and upgrading logistics facilities.
- **Environmental and Economic Benefits:** Projects are designed to reduce environmental impact while fostering economic growth, ensuring stability and long-term returns for investors.

*Private sector leaders are invited to seize these promising opportunities to invest in Cabo Verde's blue economy. With a supportive regulatory environment and international backing, investing in Cabo Verde not only aligns with global sustainability goals but also offers competitive advantages in a burgeoning sector.*





# RENEWABLE ENERGY IN CABO VERDE





# Renewable Energy in Cabo Verde

## A PRIORITY SECTOR:

The Cabo Verdean government is spearheading an ambitious initiative to revolutionize its energy sector, focusing on affordable, reliable electricity primarily derived from renewable energy technologies. With the visionary goal of achieving 54% renewable energy production by 2030, the National Plan for Energy Sustainability (2017-2040) presents a compelling investment pipeline of €476.8 million. This includes €248.9 million earmarked for wind and solar independent power producers, battery energy storage, and electric mobility. This is an exciting moment for the private sector to engage in innovative projects that promise substantial economic growth and technological advancement.

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES:

Cabo Verde is set to transform its energy landscape: 650 MW of priority projects have been identified. These projects encompass investments in renewable energy generation, such as wind and solar power, and critical infrastructure upgrades like the modernization of the national electricity grid. Designed to optimize energy management and seamlessly integrate renewable sources, these initiatives offer exceptional business opportunities for private investors and renewable energy companies looking to make a meaningful impact. Additionally, there is potential for privatization of electricity markets, offering further opportunities for private sector involvement and efficiency improvements.

## GLOBAL GATEWAY – SUPPORTING THE ENERGY TRANSITION IN CABO VERDE

The EU and European Investment Bank (EIB) have established a framework loan to catalyze Cabo Verde's energy transition. This strategic initiative, aligned with the EU's Global Gateway strategy, finances pivotal infrastructure for renewable energy generation, storage, and distribution. It aims to enhance efficiency, boost energy security, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels, presenting a golden opportunity for private sector engagement.

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- **149 million investment:** A proposed European Investment Bank (EIB) loan of EUR 120 million, complemented by an EU grant of EUR 29 million, contributes to a total estimated project investments of EUR 149 million.
- **Key Projects:** The design, building, and operation of a Pumped Storage plant and the modernization of the national electricity grid. These initiatives address market failures, reduce energy costs, and strengthen sustainable development, offering lucrative opportunities for businesses specializing in renewable energy solutions.
- **Environmental and Economic Benefits:** Significant reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions decreased fossil fuel import costs, and greater tariff stability. These factors create a favourable environment for business investments aimed at promoting economic growth and social development.

Demonstrating the potential for successful collaboration, the EU and EIB have supported Cabeolica S.A., a leading public-private partnership in Cabo Verde's renewable energy sector. A €39 million loan has been provided to expand its capacity with three new wind turbines, each offering 4.5 MW, alongside advanced battery energy storage systems (BESS). This serves as a blueprint for how EU support can strengthen local renewable energy efforts, creating a pathway for future partnerships.

Private sector leaders are invited to seize these promising opportunities to contribute to Cabo Verde's green transition. With a stable regulatory framework and robust support from EU institutions, investing in Cabo Verde's renewable energy sector not only aligns with global sustainability goals but also propels innovation and economic competitiveness in the region.