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CAPE VERDE AND THE MACARONESIA ARCHIPELAGOS IN THE NORTH-SOUTH ATLANTIC CONTEXT: PAST AND PRESENT GEOSTRATEGIC CHALLENGES

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#### **HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES**

- ► Ancient Greece and Persia: Medic Wars
- Athens and Sparta: Peloponesian Wars
- ► Rome and Carthage: Punic Wars
- ► Vikings: Early explorations of the North Atlantic

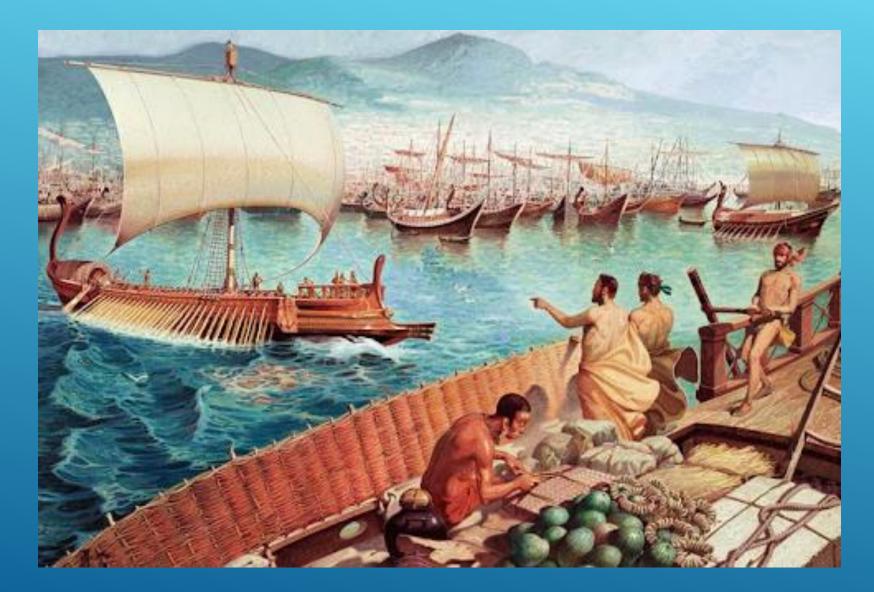
### **PORTUGAL OVERSEAS EXPANSION**

- ► Ceuta
- ► Sagres,
- ► Macaronesia

### **CAPE VERDE**

- Country profile
- ► Regional integration
- Special partnership with the EU
- Strategic potencial
- ► Cape Verde Coast Guard





### **ANCIENT GREECE**

Ancient Greeks travelled far from homeland in their single sailboats and established colonies in almost every coastal area of the Mediterranean Sea.

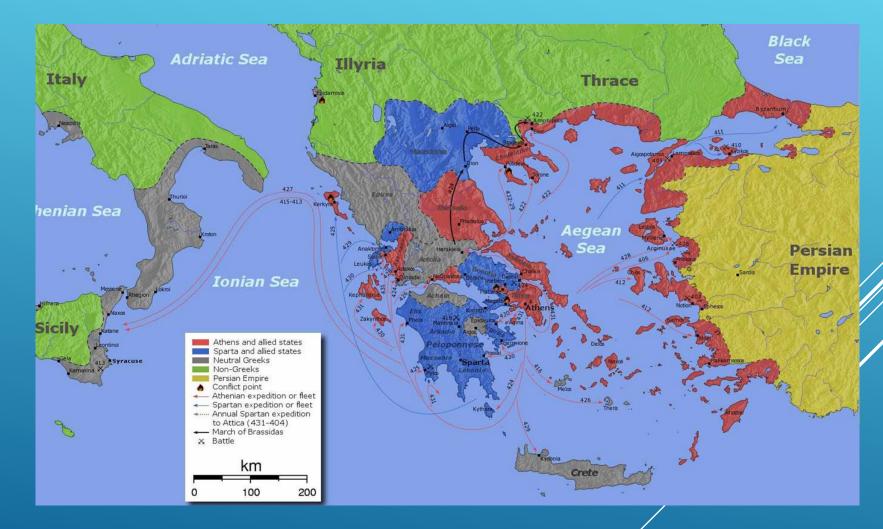
The wealth engendered by the travellings are behind the emergence of the powerful city States of Athens and Sparta and Ancient Greece Golden Age

After disputing the status of regional power with Persia in the Medic Wars, the two cities disputed dominance of the region with each other in the Peloponesian Wars.



**MEDIC WARS** – Conflict between ancient Greece and and Persia from 499 through 449 B.C., which ended with the city-State of Athens affirming itself as the Eastern Mediterranean regional power.





### PELOPONESIAN WAR

Not long after the end of the Medic Wars, Sparta and Athens fight against each other for regional dominance in the Peloponesian Wars.

The wars last for almost 25 years and favored Sparta.

The defeat of Athens takes place at sea in 405 B.C., when Spartan general Lysander decimate the Athenian fleet. This wars are considered to be the main cause of the decline of ancient Greece.

Less than a century later, both Athens and Sparta were conquered by Macedonia.

### **PHOENICIANS AND THE CARTHAGINIAN EMPIRE**

Originally from today's Lebanon, Phoenicians sailed accross the Mediterranean and colonized importand port cities along the coast of North Africa, the most important of them Carthage. It is believed that they crossed the Gibraltar into the Atlantic and sailed northward along the Iberian Peninsula until reaching Great Britain.





### **THE PUNIC WARS**

This famous conflict lasted 23 years and involved 3 different wars, opposing Rome to Carthage for dominance of the western Mediterranean.

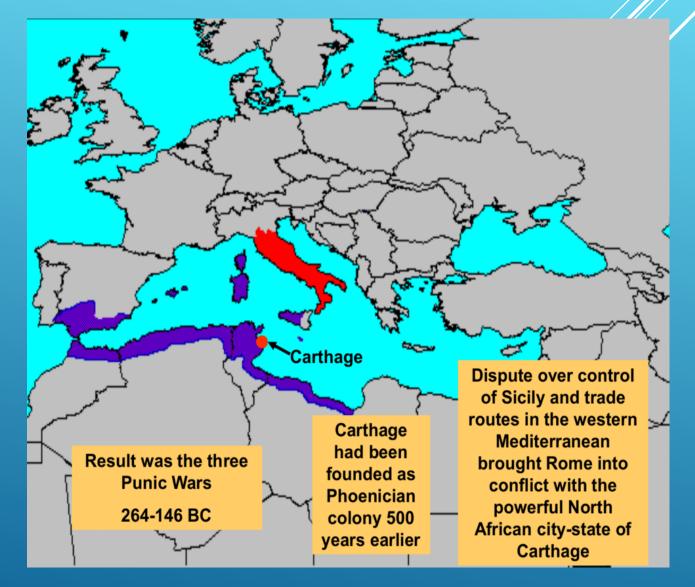
The first war broke out in 264 BC when Carthage claimed as its territory. This was mostly a naval warfare around Sicily.

The second war began in 218 BC with Hannibal's invasion of Italy and involved fighting across the Mediterrenean coastal lines from southern Iberia to Sardinia, and North Africa.

Hannibal's forces were defeated in 202 BC and Rome imposed vey steep conditions to Carthage.

Still,Rome declared yet another war to Carthage in 149 BC and waged the third Punic war.

This was was mostly the Siege of Carthage, which the Romans stormed in 146 BC, slaughtered most of the population and demolished the city, whose





### **ATLANTIC OCEAN**

Vikings exploring the Atlantic through North America Portugal Overseas Expansion: Ceuta, Sagres, Macaronesia

### THE VIKINGS IN NORTH AMERICA

More than 500 years before Columbus, Viking sailors crossed the North Atlantic westwards in large single sailboats and reached American shores.

Apparently the first explores did not go ashore, but later the Norwegian Viking Leif Eriksson led an expedition that step foot on American land around 1000.

Eriksson had converted to Christianity and it is believed he intended to christianize the peoples of America, but didn't succed due to fierce resistance.

Two different versions of Erikson's travellings are found in the "Saga of Erik the Red," and the "Saga of the Greenlanders."



#### THE REPLICA OF LEIF ERIKSON'S SHIP

The ship was built in Korgen, Norway, by local boat builders in 1926. The same year it sailed to North America commanded by Captain Gerhard Folgero, making stops at the Shetland Islands, Faroe Islands, Iceland and Greenland.

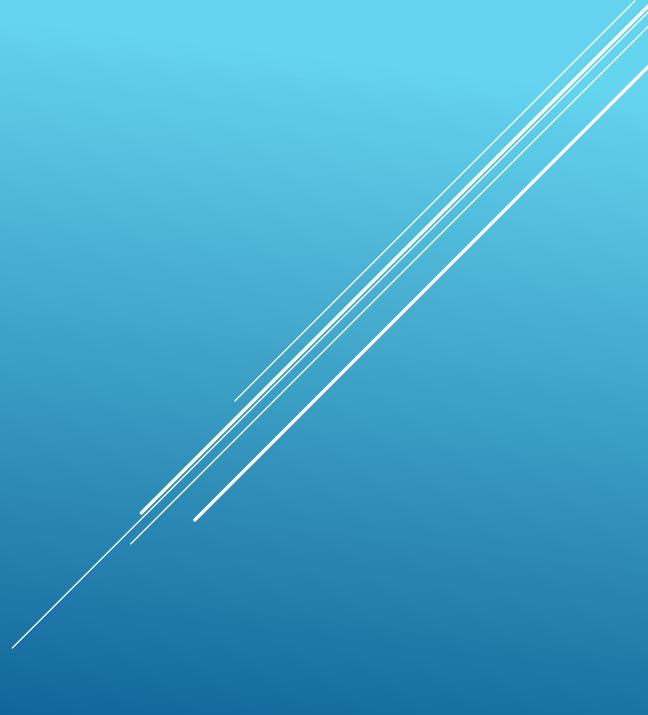
It arrived at St. John, Newfoundland on july 20, 1926. The ship encountered heavy seas when crossing the Atlantic and was ice-locked near Greenland.

After travelling 6700 miles through Boston, The ship left for Minnesota where it completed 10000 miles. With this it was considered that it had acomplishe d Leif Erikson's route.

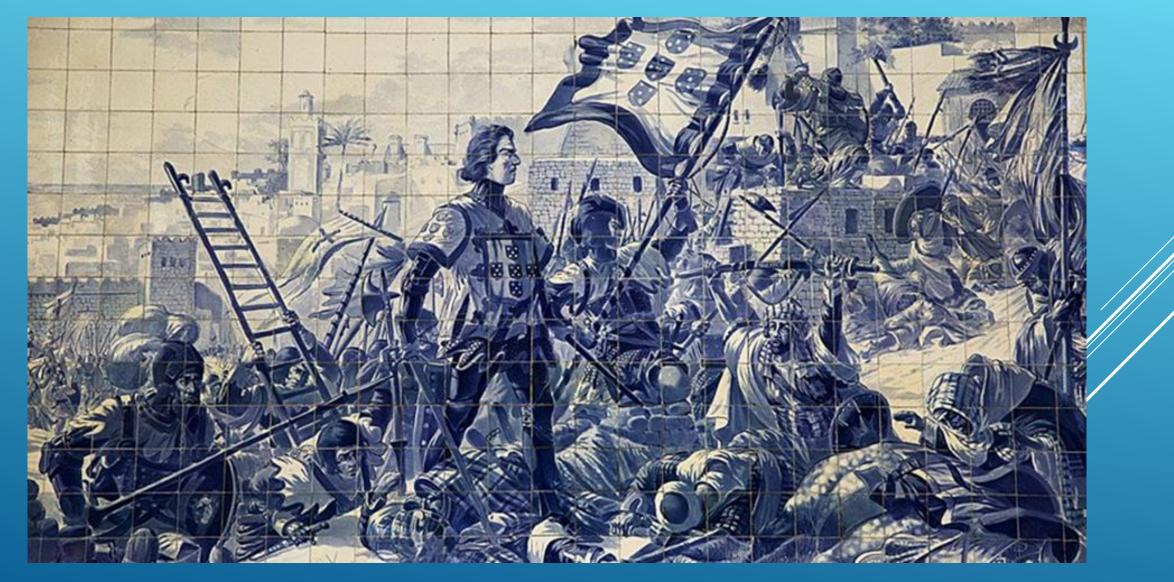


# PORTUGAL

Ceuta Sagres Macaronesia



## CEUTA



On August 21, 1415 a fleet of 200 ships carrying over 20 thousand men on board under the command of King John the 1st of Portugal, sailed from Lisbon to Marrocco to take over the city of Ceuta.

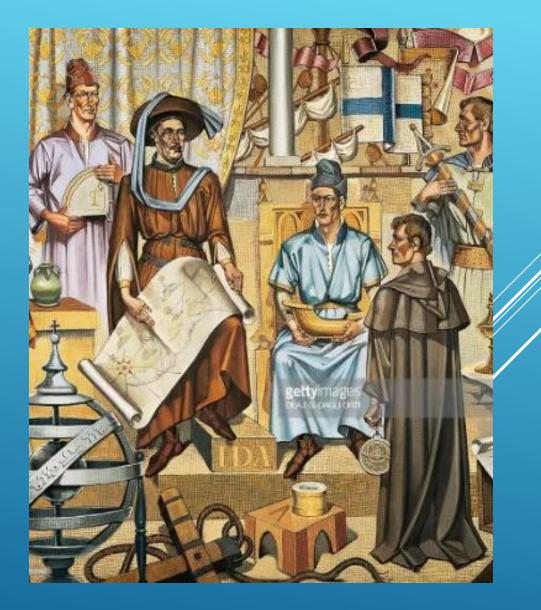
Historians have argued that the conquest of Ceuta sets out the beginning of the Portuguese Maritime Explorations, as well as the beginning of the Modern, age and the first age of Globalization.

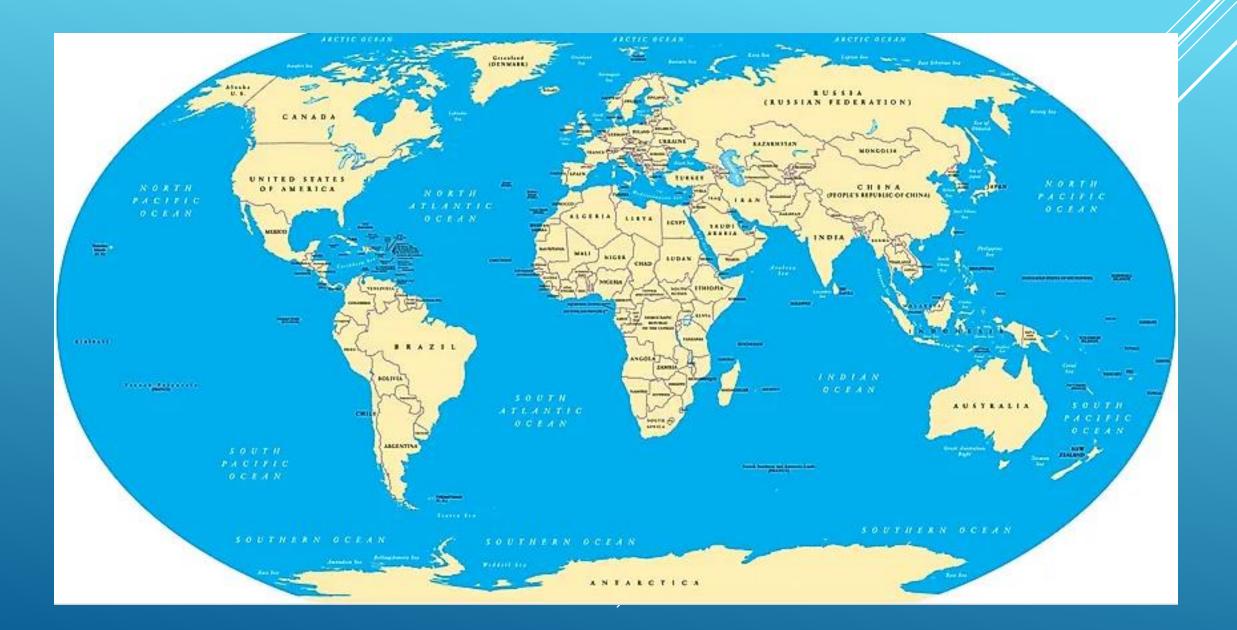
However, there is not a clear understanding of king John's motives. Eventually there was not just one single motivation, but a set of different ones may lie behind such a huge expedition. The most notable of them could be, it has been also argued:

- Deterring constant attacks of North African pirates on the Portuguese Southern coast in the Algarve
- The fact that Ceuta was one of the most afluent enterprises in North Africa and the closest one to Portugal which supplyed the riches and spices from the Orient, cerals from Morroco, and gold from Sudan.
- The fact that Ceuta controled entering and exiting of the Mediterranean through the Strait of Gibraltar, and gave access to new slave markets by sea.
- King John's needed to keep his noblemen busy in arms after the Independence crisis of 1383-1385 with Castela.
- His need to gain the support of the Pope for his African and Maritime ambitions, by making such and investment in fighting against Muslims.

### SAGRES

- In the sixteenth-centrury Damião de Gois suggest in his chronicles that Prince Henry, the third son of King John I, later to be known as Prince Henry the Navigator, established his court and a School in the village of Sagres, in the southwestern end Portugal in the Algarve, where he would meet with his associates to discuss the 'Science of Navigation'.
- In a romanticized 19<sup>th</sup> century biography of Henrique, an English Historian states that in 1418, e.g., 3 years after the capture of Ceuta, Henry founded the Court of Sagres to discuss the state of the art of maritime navigations.
- Although contemporary historians refute the idea that a physical School ever existed in Sagres, there is no doubt that Prince Henry masterminded the Portuguese Maritime Explorations following the fall of Ceuta, and that he recruited a group of knowledgeable figures of the time involved in seafaring to help him conceive the Maritime project that would take Christendom to far lands and find the maritime route to India.
- One could find among his group of closes associates, it has been argued, not only Christians but also Jews and Muslims, something that tells about his resolve in the project, specially considering that he was a staunch Catholic who headed the Order of Christ, the successor of the Templars in Portugal.













Occupided by the Romans, they were called so due to the large amount of dogs on the islands. Archeological sites show that Carthaginians most probably reached them also.

It was the only archipelago of Macaronesia group that was inhabited, by the Guanche peoples, whose origins are believed to be north African.

With the fall of the Roman, the Canaria islands were left in oblivion until the Portugal claimed its passession in 1336.

A long dispute for its possession between Portugal and Spain ended with their ownership being given to Spain by Pope Clement VI in 1435.

Still, due to Guanche Pesistance, Spain was only able to take full control of the islands in 1496.

The Islands started to gain strategic relevance during the Slave trade, and Santa Cruz de La Palma came t be one of the most importante ports of the Spanish Empire.



In 1418, three years after conquering Ceuta, the Portuguese Gonçalves Zarco, Tristão Vaz Teixeira and Bartolomeu Perestrelo, the latter the father in law of Christopher Columbus, would reach the Island of Porto Santo while making some recognition of the coast of Africa.

Since there location was not considered startegically important, bringing in inhabitants was not a priority.

However, aftar de discovery of the Madeira Island in 2019, the 3 discoveres persuaded Prince Henry, that they should be popukated given the favorable conditions for agriculture and lumber extraction.

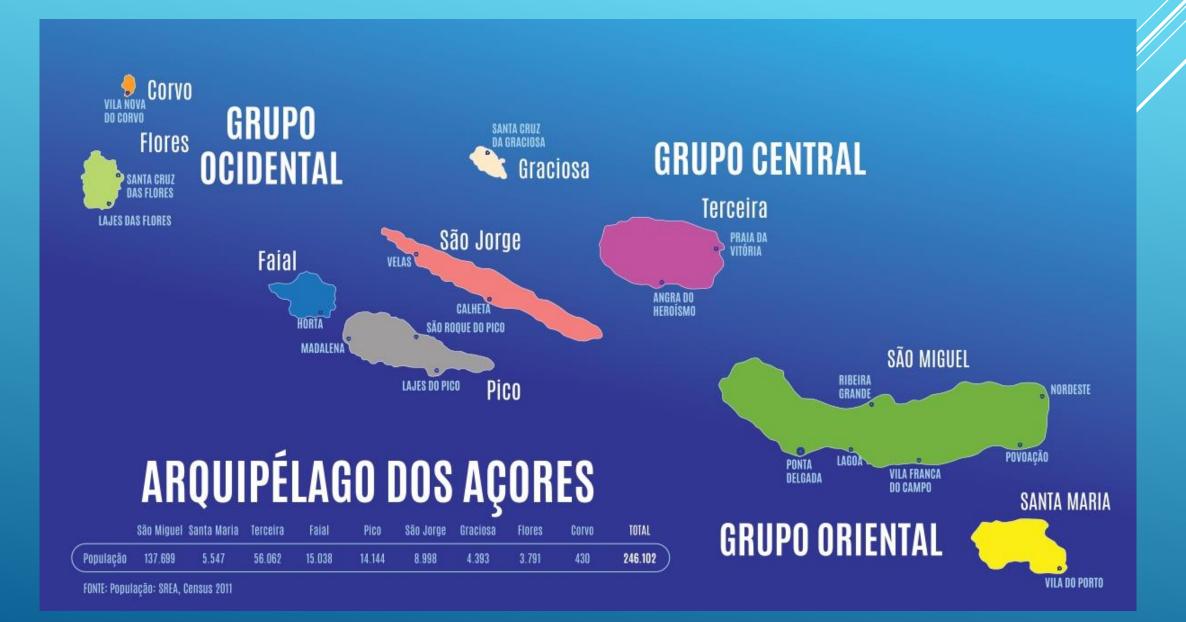
Madeira becomes thus the first territory inhabited by Europeans in the vicinity of Subsuharan Africa, which was a decicive step torwards slave trade and the conquest of America by the Europeans.

Altough slavery as such was not implanted in Madeira, sugar cane and wine production in the archipelago counted largely slave labour.

Presumably the African population of Madeira and Porto Santo was absorbed by the large majority of Europeans.

A studyconducted by the University of Madeira on the genetic characteristics of the Portuguese population indicates that the people of Madeira have higher African characteristics than the population living in continental Portugal.







Genovese maps show some of the Azores islands as early as 1340-1345. But only in 1431 it is documented officially that the Portuguese Navigator Gonçalo Velho reached the island of Santa Maria em 143. And, in a letter by Prince Henrique to his brother Pedro dated july 1439, he makes reference to all the islands except for Flores and Corvo.

In its six centuries of history as a populated archipelago, the Azores have played quite na relevant strategic role in Atlantic and transatlantic relations:

In the XVth century they served as backup support for the conquest of North African territories. Towards the end of the XVI they were one of the Portuguese strongholds in the succession crisis that would end with Filipe of Spain inheriting the throne of Portugal after the death of King Sebastian in Morroco. In the XIXth the Azorean support was decisive for the Victory of the Liberal forces in Portugal

Through the Azores Portugal a most importante strategic parner of the allied force both in the first and seconf world wars. The American Base in Lajes, Terceira Island, was of utmost importance for the West during the Cold War.

Portugal is now in the process of installing the Center of the Atlantic also at Lajes Air Base, which is expected to be a place of brainstorming and concerted policy for the Atlantic region among all 65 bordering the Atlantic basin.

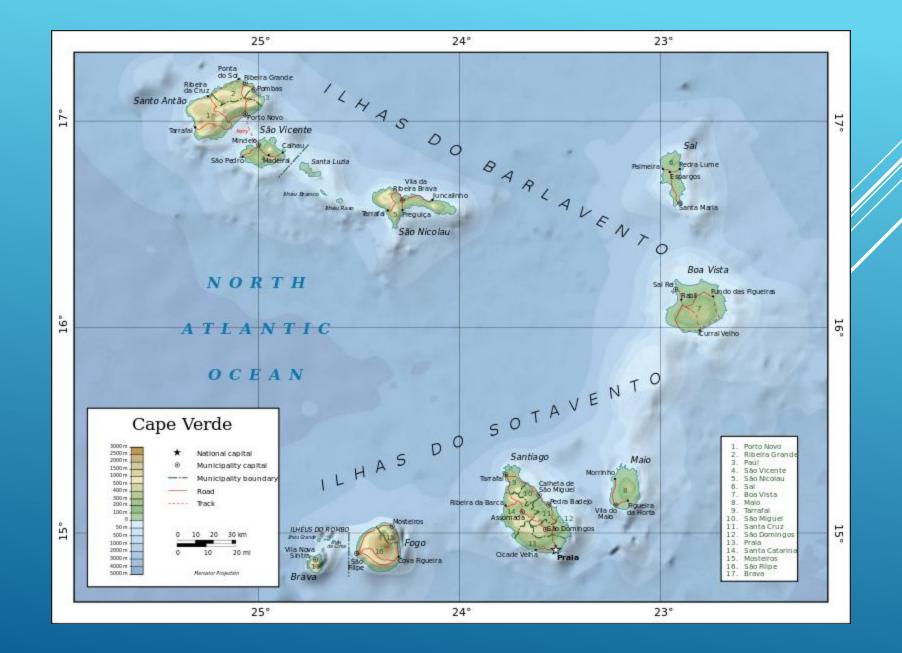
### **CAPE VERDE**

Country profile

**Regional integration** 

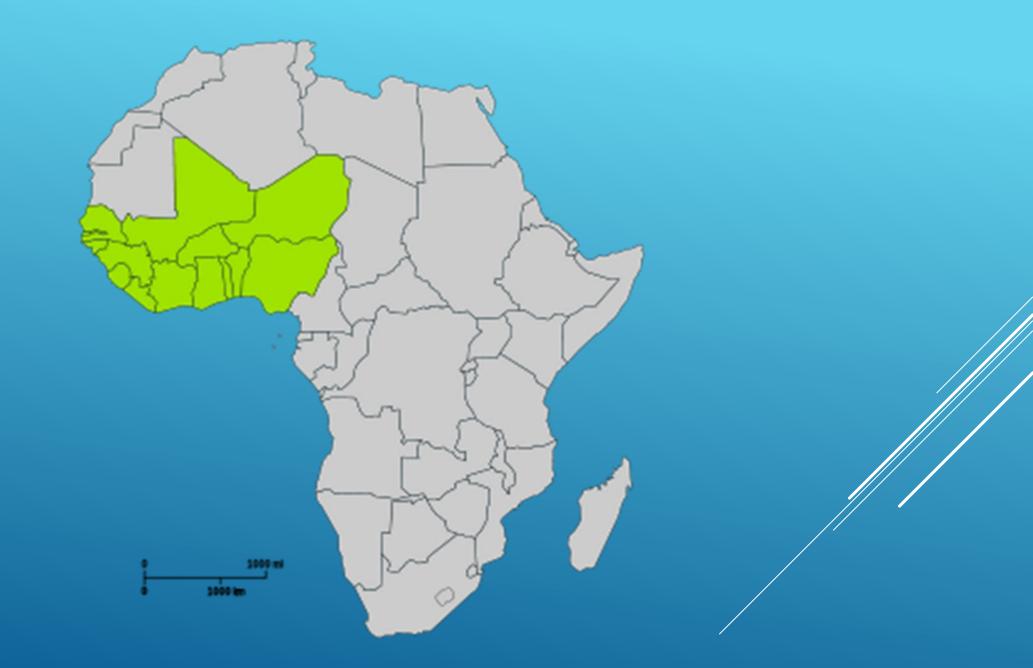
Special partnership with the EU

Strategic potencial





















### **CAPE VERDE COAST GUARD**

- The Coast Guard (Guarda Costeira) is the branch of the Cape Verdean Armed Forces responsible for the defense and protection of the country's interests at sea, and for providing air and naval support to land and amphibious operations. It includes:
- Coast Guard Command
- Maritime Security Operations Center (COSMAR)
- Naval Squadron
- Air Squadron
- The Coast Guard is headed by an officer with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. The Naval and Air Squadrons incorporate, respectively, all the vessels and aircraft of the Cape Verdean Armed Forces









