

# Cape Verde

Total Population (July 2000 estimate): 401,000

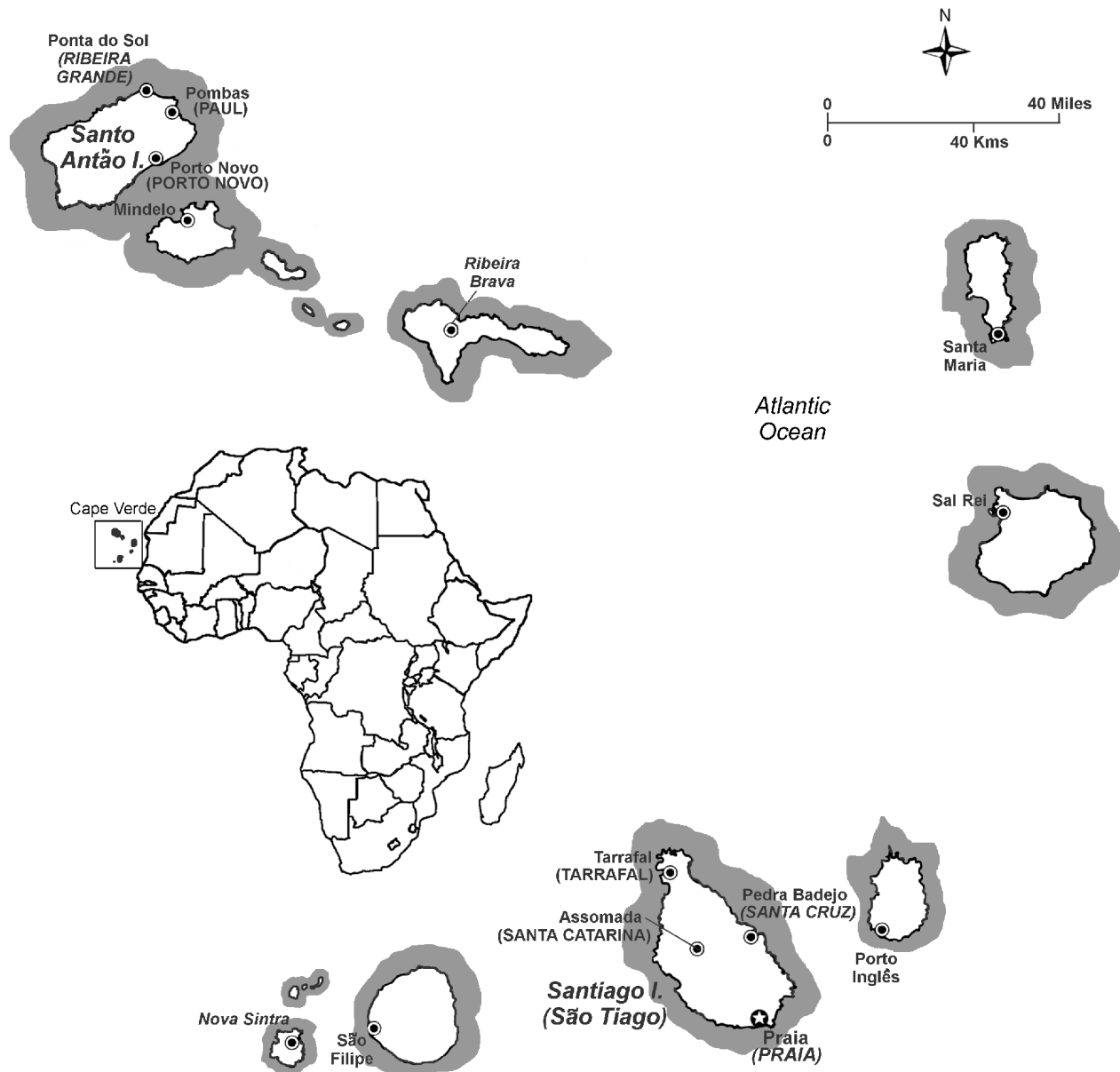
Area: 4,033 km<sup>2</sup>

Annual population growth rate (2000): 0.98%

Life expectancy at birth (1998): 69.2 years

People not expected to survive to age 40 (1998): 10.1% of total population

GDP per capita (1998): US \$3,233



The islands of Cape Verde, located some 500 km west of the Senegalese coast in the Atlantic Ocean, consist of 12 islands, 9 of which are inhabited. The climate is arid. Only about 15% of the land base of these mountainous islands is suitable for farming. Cape Verde is an important trade and transportation centre.

The agricultural sector contributes about 13% to the GDP and employs approximately 25% of the population. Primary food crops are maize, bananas and coconuts. Bananas are the main agricultural export product.

The 'mining industry' in this island state is minimal. Apart from quarrying of pozzolana (some of which was exported to Portugal in the past) and dimension stone and the winning of solar salt, no substantial mineral development activities take place. A small lime operation exists on the island of Boa Vista (Meyer 1981). Whether any of the lime or unprocessed limestone is being used for agriculture is not known.

### **Geological outline**

Geologically, the Cape Verde islands are made up of mainly Tertiary and younger volcanics, primarily of basaltic composition. However, Le Bas (1984) has reported some oceanic Mg-rich carbonatites. Jurassic limestones are found on the islands of Maio and Boa Vista (Stillman *et al.* 1982).

### **Agromineral potential**

The potential of small-scale agrogeological development is limited to the use of limestones. Data relating to soil and crop needs are required to assess whether any agromineral-based development is useful.

### *References:*

- Le Bas MJ 1980. Oceanic carbonatites. In: J Kornprobst (ed.) Kimberlites. I: Kimberlites and related rocks. Elsevier Science Publishers, Amsterdam, Netherlands: 169-178.
- Meyer H 1981. Cap Vert - Mission d'évaluation des ressources minérales. Rapport de mission 3-7 Dec 1980. Unpubl. Mission Report UNDP-DTCD, New York, 12pp.
- Stillman CJ, Furnes H, LeBas MJ, Robertson AHF and J Zielonka 1982. The geological history of Maio, Cape Verde Islands. *J. Geol. Soc.* 139:347-361.