



# A BEACON FROM CABO VERDE

CARLOS ALBERTINO VEIGA FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER | No. 10 | APRIL 2026

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Dear friends,*

March was, for us, a month that reminded us very clearly where everything begins, and for whom everything truly makes sense: people. Between projects with children, meetings with communities, moments of knowledge sharing and recognition of those who care, we moved across different realities, always guided by the same thread, the conviction that the future of Cabo Verde is built through proximity,

knowledge and commitment.

We stood alongside initiatives that use culture and creativity to teach, such as the play “From Sea to Cup”, where children show us that learning can also be a way of transforming. We were with coastal communities, listening to those who live from the sea every day, reflecting on the path of our blue economy and reinforcing an idea that is essential to us: without solid knowledge and without data, there are no sustainable decisions.

We also welcomed, in Praia Baixo, one of the world's leading references in the blue economy, in a rare moment of direct exchange with children who, more than just listening, participated, questioned and grew. And we returned to the same school to reinforce something equally fundamental, access to knowledge, through books that today reach the hands of those who tomorrow will have the responsibility of thinking and building the country.

Along the way, we celebrated those who must never be forgotten, those who came before us. Being with Associação Movidoso was more than marking a date; it was recognizing

the value of a generation that remains a pillar of our society and reminding ourselves that development is also measured by how we care for our own.

This journey culminated in the signing of a collaboration protocol with the Institute of Tourism of Cabo Verde, marking the beginning of a new cycle of joint work in a sector that is central to the country's development, with a focus on sustainability, the valorization of territories and the involvement of communities.

In the end, all of this speaks about the same thing. It speaks of a country that has the ocean as its destiny, but its people as its greatest strength. It speaks of a Foundation that grows, that asserts itself, that opens itself to the world, but that never loses what defines it: proximity, commitment and the genuine will to be part of the lives of communities.

A warm embrace to all, we move forward together.

**Paulo Veiga**  
*President of the Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation*

# UNDERSTANDING THE OCEAN, STRENGTHENING COASTAL COMMUNITIES



On March 16th, the Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation took part in the event dedicated to the theme “Understanding the Ocean, Strengthening Coastal Communities”, at the invitation of our partner, the Cabo Verde Association of Fishing Shipowners (APESC). It was a moment of gathering between institutions, specialists and, above all, those who live daily from their direct relationship with the sea. The participation of the President of the Foundation, Dr. Paulo Veiga, as a speaker in a roundtable, represented more than an institutional presence, it was an opportunity to listen, to share and to connect directly with the communities that depend on the ocean as their main source of livelihood.

In a country where the sea is not just geography, but identity and destiny, spaces like this take on

particular importance. By bringing together professionals from the sector, decision-makers and local representatives, an environment was created for reflection on the present and, above all, on the future of the blue economy in Cabo Verde, a dialogue that goes beyond public policies and is also built on practical knowledge and the lived experience of coastal communities.

It was in this context that the President of the Foundation emphasized an idea that we consider central: the sustainable development of the ocean cannot exist without ocean literacy and data literacy. Understanding the sea, its dynamics, its resources and its limits, is as essential as ensuring that decisions are based on rigorous, reliable and accessible information. Only in this way will it be possible to transform potential into real value, creating sustainable economic opportunities while protecting the balance of our ecosystems.

For the Foundation, this moment reinforces a deep conviction: strategy only makes sense when it is anchored in people. It is coastal communities, fishermen, professionals of the sea and their families who live daily the challenges and opportunities of the ocean, and it is with them, and from them, that any vision for the future must be built. It is at this intersection between knowledge, territory and people that we believe the true strength of Cabo Verde as an Atlantic nation lies. ■

## EDUCATION, CULTURE AND FUTURE: FROM SEA TO CUP

During the month of March, the Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation joined a project which, through its simplicity and depth, represents in an exemplary way what we seek to promote in Cabo Verde: the connection between knowledge, culture and community. We contributed to strengthening this link. The play “From Sea to Cup”, presented within the context of World Water Day celebrations, brought to the stage a pedagogical and creative approach to one of the most structuring themes of our reality as an island country, water.

Through accessible language and a strong artistic component, the project succeeded in translating the desalination process, often distant and technical, into a narrative that children can understand, clearly demonstrating that the water that reaches our homes comes from the sea and that, therefore, its preservation is inseparable from our collective future. One of the most relevant aspects of this initiative was precisely the direct involvement of children as protagonists, allowing not only the transmission of knowledge, but its true appropriation and dissemination within families and the community.

For the Foundation, supporting this project carries particular meaning. At a time when our work is expanding in scale, ambition and international presence, we maintain as a priority what has always been at the core of our identity: proximity to people and commitment to communities. It is in this direct contact, through initiatives with concrete and immediate impact, that we find not only coherence, but also purpose.

We believe that the sustainable development of Cabo Verde is built both through major strategies and small transformative actions, and this project is a clear example of that complementarity. By combining education, culture and environmental awareness, “From Sea to Cup” shows that it is possible to shape a generation that is more informed, more conscious and better prepared for the challenges of the future, starting where it matters most: with our children.

Congratulations to the children of Escola Básica de Chã de Cemitério, to Professor and Actress



Education, but because it represents, in a very concrete way, our vision for the future through the creation of a Blue School.

The interaction with the children was, in essence, the heart of everything. More than a lecture, what took place was an open, curious conversation, filled with questions, examples and discoveries. Sustainability, ecosystems and the ocean, and how everything is interconnected, were discussed in a way that children can understand, absorb and carry with them. And that is where everything gains meaning.

This moment was also an exercise in citizen science in its purest form, shared knowledge without barriers, built collectively, with a direct impact on a new generation that is beginning to understand, from an early age, both the value and the responsibility of living in a country so deeply connected to the ocean.

For the Foundation, this was another step in a path we are building with conviction. A path where education, community and sustainability move side by side, and where each initiative reinforces a simple but essential idea: protecting our greatest asset begins with teaching, engaging and inspiring. In Praia Baixo, that is exactly what happened. ■

## A LESSON OF THE FUTURE IN PRAIA BAIXO

The visit of Professor Gunter Pauli to Escola da Praia Baixo was one of those moments that are difficult to describe in words, it was lived, felt and, above all, it stayed..

Internationally recognized as one of the leading figures in the blue economy and ocean advocacy, Gunter

Pauli brought not only knowledge, but a very particular way of sharing it, close, simple and deeply inspiring. Alongside the President of the Foundation, Dr. Paulo Veiga, he visited a school that means a great deal to us, not only because of the work we are developing there under the protocol with the Ministry of





The presence of the President of the Foundation, Dr. Paulo Veiga, at this symbolic moment represented, above all, a clear recognition of the importance of this work. At a time when the future is so often discussed, it is essential not to forget that the future is also built through how we care for those who came before us. Associação Movidoso has been consistent in this path, creating spaces for social interaction, promoting activities and fostering a more active and participatory life for our elderly.

During the celebration, the Foundation was awarded a Certificate of Recognition for its collaboration and support, a gesture that honors us greatly, but which, above all, reinforces our responsibility to remain present and close to initiatives that place people at the center of action.

For the Foundation, this is an essential pillar. We believe that a balanced and future-ready society is one that values all generations, builds bridges between them and recognizes, in its most experienced members, not only memory, but also wisdom and identity. It is with this commitment to communities, to people and to human dignity that we will continue to act. ■

# CELEBRATING THOSE WHO CARE

The Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation was present at the second anniversary of Associação Movidoso, an institution that has established itself as a reference in

supporting the elderly, promoting not only active ageing, but also inclusion, dignity and well-being for a generation that has given so much to the country.



# BOOKS THAT OPEN PATHS



Escola da Praia Baixo once again became the setting for a moment that reflects, in a simple yet deeply meaningful way, what drives the Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation: investing in people, starting with our children.

This time, it came through a gesture that is both symbolic and transformative, the donation of books to the school library, the result of mobilization and outreach efforts

led by Inês Ramos, responsible for the Foundation's communication and image. More than the delivery of materials, this was about reinforcing a clear commitment to education, culture and the creation of real opportunities for new generations.

In a country where access to knowledge remains one of the greatest challenges, but also one of the greatest opportunities, each book represents a door opening, a

possibility emerging, a future beginning to take shape. It is through reading, discovery and critical thinking that we build what can truly set a generation apart: the ability to understand the world and find one's place within it.

This initiative is part of a broader vision that the Foundation has been developing at Escola da Praia Baixo, where literacy, in all its dimensions, is seen as a true social elevator. Not only in the field of ocean literacy, which will continue to be a priority, but also through a broader approach that includes culture, science, general knowledge and personal development.

The continuous strengthening of this library, with new books and educational and scientific materials, will be one of the lines of action we intend to consolidate in the coming months. Because we believe that it is through these small yet powerful actions, consistent and close to people, that stronger paths for the future are built.

Ultimately, this is what guides us: ensuring that every child has more tools, broader horizons and more reasons to believe that their future can be greater than the circumstances into which they were born. ■



# A NEW COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE OF TOURISM IN CABO VERDE



The Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation has signed a collaboration protocol with the Institute of Tourism of Cabo Verde, a moment that represents, at the same time, a sign of trust, an increased responsibility and the beginning of a new cycle of joint work around one of the most decisive sectors for the country.

Tourism is, very likely, the main economic and social engine of Cabo Verde, with a direct impact on our islands, our communities and the quality of life of our people. That is precisely why this partnership holds strategic relevance: it creates the conditions for a more structured, more qualified and more future-oriented approach, where differentiation, sustainability and value creation take center stage.

This protocol does not end with its signing. On the contrary, it represents a starting point for the development of concrete projects that the Foundation intends to begin working on immediately in articulation with the Institute of

Tourism, from sustainable tourism programs to the creation of new experiences, the valorization of territories and the attraction of new tourist flows, always with a clear focus on quality, innovation and community involvement.

The integration of this partnership within the Blue Atlantic Hub also reinforces a broader vision: positioning Cabo Verde as a destination aligned with international best practices, capable of combining tourism, blue economy and sustainable development in a coherent and long-term strategy.

For the Foundation, this is a moment of great satisfaction, but also of great responsibility. Being alongside a sector of this magnitude requires commitment, rigor and the ability to deliver. And it is precisely in this spirit that we approach this new cycle, as an opportunity to think better, do better and take Cabo Verde further.

The work begins now. ■

## PRIDE OF THE NATION



Foto © Pedro Moita

## ONDINA FERREIRA

In the month in which we celebrate Cabo Verdean women, we highlight an indispensable figure in the country's culture, literature and intellectual life, Ondina Ferreira.

A writer, intellectual and one of the most remarkable voices in the affirmation of Cabo Verdean culture, Ondina Ferreira built a path deeply connected to the identity of the country and to the way we understand ourselves as a people. Born within the context of the Cabo Verdean diaspora and educated in Literature in Lisbon, her life has always been shaped by this connection between the islands and the world, a duality that clearly influenced both her work and her thinking.

Throughout her career, she distinguished herself as a teacher, writer and contributor to various publications, but also through the important role she played in public life, having served as Minister of Culture and Social Communication for a decade. Later, as Executive Director of the International Institute of the Portuguese Language, she continued to establish herself as a central figure in promoting language, culture and Cabo Verdean identity within the Lusophone world.

Her literary work reflects, with depth and sensitivity, central themes of the Cabo Verdean experience, such as diaspora, displacement and the search for better living conditions, while never losing sight of the emotional and cultural connection to the islands, particularly to Fogo Island. In her writings, we find not only stories, but also memory, identity and a reflection on who we are.

Ondina Ferreira represents a generation that helped build Cabo Verde also through culture and thought, affirming literature as a space of awareness, resistance and projection of the country into the world.

Celebrating her is to recognize the value of culture as a pillar of development, but also to honor a woman who dedicated her life to thinking, writing and affirming Cabo Verde with intelligence, sensitivity and vision. ■

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Praia • Cabo Verde

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2021 United Nations Decade  
2030 of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development



## ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

*The Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation's mission is to promote the social and economic development of Cabo Verde, based on the values of solidarity and entrepreneurship, contributing to a fairer future for all Cape Verdeans.*

### PARTNERS:



### SPONSORS:

