



A BEACON FROM CABO VERDE

CARLOS ALBERTINO VEIGA FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER | No. 5 | DECEMBER 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear friends,

This month brought us moments that will remain in the collective memory of the Foundation and, I believe, also in the memory of Cabo Verde. It was a time of encounters, of sharing, of sea and future, a time in which we once again witnessed the strength of a country that knows how to dream and knows how to act.

The **Ocean Summit 2025**, held in Mindelo, was much more than an event. It was a gesture of confidence in

who we are and who we can become. We brought together leaders, experts, partners from Cabo Verde and abroad, and we watched a new energy emerge before us, a genuine commitment to the ocean that shapes our identity and our destiny. And if there was a moment that touched us in a special way, it was the visit to the Blue School. In the brightness of the children's eyes, in the way they spoke about the sea, we rediscovered the deeper reason behind the work we do. The future lives there, in those small hands that hold tomorrow.

This month proved, once again, that Cabo Verde is far greater than its territory. It is immense in its capacity to inspire, to unite and to project itself onto the world with dignity and ambition.

I want to thank everyone who walked with us, the partners who believed, the institutions that joined us, the teams who worked tirelessly, the friends who accompany us and trust in the mission of the Foundation. Every gesture, every presence, every contribution made a difference. What we achieved was not the result of individual effort, but of a collective construction made of courage, generosity and vision.

I also want to leave a special word of gratitude to our Ambassador, **Lili**

Caneças, whose presence illuminated several moments of the Ocean Week. With her generous energy and her deep connection to the sea, Lili brought closeness, emotion and humanity to the Summit. Her speech at the Mindelo Cruise Port, where she reminded us that *"there are places where the sea is only horizon, and others where the sea is destiny, origin, mirror and home"*, touched everyone present. The Foundation thanks her for her dedication, her constant presence, and the sincere way she embraced this cause that belongs to all of us.

My gratitude also goes to the children and young people we met throughout the Ocean Week. They reminded us that the sea is not just a resource or a strategic sector, it is heritage, it is home, it is future. And it is for them that we will continue working with even more determination.

May this newsletter carry to you the same hope we felt throughout this month. May each story, each achievement and each shared dream inspire you to believe that Cabo Verde can indeed be an example of progress, humanity and leadership

Paulo Veiga

Presidente da Fundação Carlos Albertino Veiga



OCEAN SUMMIT 2025

CABO VERDE EMBRACES THE OCEAN AS ITS FUTURE

On November 7th, 2025, the city of Mindelo hosted the Ocean Summit 2025, a milestone in affirming Cabo Verde as an ocean nation. Under the theme “The Ocean We Know, The Future We Build”, we brought together experts, political leaders, partner institutions and private-sector representatives for a full day of work, reflection and collective commitment around the sea, ocean literacy and the opportunities of the blue economy.

The opening featured the participation of **Lili Cançadas**,



Ambassador of the Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation, and **Jorge Santos**, Cabo Verde’s Minister of the Sea, underscoring the importance of the event for the country and for the African Atlantic. This was followed by the presentation of four structuring projects, including the **Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation Ocean Hub**, an initiative that brings together science, innovation, marine education and community development, and which will be one of the transformational pillars of our work in 2026.



Throughout the day, we hosted institutions such as the Vasco da Gama Aquarium, the Oceanário de Lisboa, the Portuguese Directorate-General for Maritime Policy, the Technical University of the Atlantic, and the Blue School, Portuguese School of São Vicente. The exchange of knowledge, experiences and perspectives was profound and inspiring, reinforcing the central importance of the ocean in today's economy, education and diplomacy.



One of the most symbolic moments of the Summit was the official visit to the **Blue School**, which welcomed us with open doors to showcase its exemplary work in ocean education. This visit strengthened existing partnerships and opened new possibilities for collaboration in training the next generation.



The week also included the **Official Ocean Summit Dinner**, held in partnership with Nortuna, and attended by the Minister of the Sea of Cabo Verde and the Portuguese Secretary of State for the Sea. It was a moment of active diplomacy, strategic dialogue and reinforced bridges between the two Atlantic nations, essential for the path ahead.



The high point of the event was the signing of the **Mindelo Commitment**, formalized by the Foundation's President, Paulo Veiga, reaffirming our determination to implement in 2026 the projects presented at the Summit, including the Ocean Hub, the Diving Bell, the Ocean Observatory and Drones for the Ocean. This commitment embodies the Foundation's vision: transforming the sea into a pillar of sustainable development, a space of knowledge, and a horizon of opportunity for Cabo Verde.



The Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation deeply thanks all



partners involved, from the Governments of Cabo Verde and Portugal to the scientific, academic and business institutions that chose to walk alongside us. What we built in Mindelo was not merely an event, but a turning point.

Ocean Summit 2025 was the beginning of a new cycle. In 2026, we will turn commitment into action and meet again at the Ocean Summit 2026. ■



PARTNERSHIPS THAT OPEN PATHWAYS TO A BLUE FUTURE

During the Ocean Summit, the Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation strengthened its network of strategic alliances that will amplify and accelerate our work in Cabo Verde. Three key protocols were signed: with **Nortuna**, to advance joint initiatives in marine resource valorisation, blue innovation, community training and the international promotion

of Cabo Verde as an Atlantic hub; with **Island Innovation**, reinforcing the country's connection to global island and sustainability networks through training, visibility and ocean literacy projects; and with **AVOS**, our strategic partner in developing the future **Ocean Hub**, as well as in creating projects, studies and initiatives in applied research, capacity-building, social innovation and community development. Each of these agreements represents a solid commitment to knowledge and to building structural solutions for Cabo Verde.

These partnerships translate into concrete action, generating immediate value and preparing the country for a new cycle of blue transformation. By bringing together companies, organisations and specialists who share the vision of a more sustainable and competitive Cabo Verde, we strengthen our capacity to implement ambitious projects, mobilise investment and create real impact in communities. The blue future of the country is built in networks, and these new alliances confirm that this journey has already begun. ■



BLUE SCHOOL THE MOMENT THAT TOUCHED US MOST DEEPLY

Amid conferences, panels, diplomatic meetings and major announcements, one moment during the Ocean Week rose above everything else: the visit to the **Blue School, Portuguese School of Mindelo**. It was there, in a building full of life and dreams, that the Ocean Summit found its truest meaning.

In every classroom we found smiles that shone brighter than any stage. In each child we saw a spontaneous confidence that disarmed us. In every embrace we understood that the future is not only planned, it is felt. There were dreams growing in their eyes, curiosity in the air, small hands holding books, models and drawings as if they were holding the entire ocean.

Each member of our delegation left that visit changed, lighter, inspired, and more certain that it is for these children, and for the blue that inhabits their imagination, that everything we build is worthwhile. In the midst of an intense week full of challenges, this was the moment that reminded us why the Foundation exists: so that the sea continues to be promise, home and future for those who now look at it with eyes full of dreams.

The Blue School taught us the most important lesson of all: the ocean begins in childhood, and it is there, in that luminous purity, that Cabo Verde's future finds its guiding light. ■



THE INSPIRATION THAT COMES FROM THE DEPTH OF THE OCEAN

When **Tatiana Mendes** took the stage at the Ocean Summit, she brought with her more than words, she brought the blue silence where humanity rarely descends, the serenity of the ocean floor and the courage of someone who knows it from within. Her intervention reminded us that the ocean is not only territory; it is memory, body and breath. Tatiana spoke as a diver, but also as a Cabo Verdean, daughter of islands that live between tides. She told us what she feels when she descends into the depths, when light turns to shadow, when the world seems to disappear and only the ocean remains. Down there, she said, there is no space for masks, and the sea returns us to who we truly are.

Her voice brought to the surface what we often forget: that in the depths there is silence, but never absence; darkness, but also life; mystery, but above all truth. And from that deeper truth comes inspiration, the will to protect, to learn, to respect and to transform.

Tatiana reminded us that diving is an act of humility, and listening to the ocean is an act of responsibility. Her intervention touched everyone because it brought us back to the essence of what we defend, where the sea is not only future, it is present, guide and strength.

In a Summit full of ideas, data, projects and commitments, it was she who reminded us of the real reason behind everything: the inspiration we seek lies down below, where few go. And by bringing it to the surface, Tatiana Mendes showed us that the ocean speaks, we only need the courage to descend to it. ■

DIPLOMACY IN SERVICE OF THE SEA

CABO VERDE AND PORTUGAL SHARE THE SAME BLUE HORIZON

At the Ocean Summit 2025, the stage of Mindelo became more than a space for debate, it became a meeting point between two countries for whom the sea is not just a resource, but a profound identity. Cabo Verde and Portugal met again as Atlantic nations, linked by history but above all by future, a shared blue future. The institutional speeches by the **Minister of the Sea of Cabo Verde** and the **Portuguese Secretary of State for the Sea** gave shape to that joint vision. Cabo Verde affirmed the sea as origin, purpose and destiny, reminding us that blue governance is made of people, communities, fishermen, students and young people

who believe in a country that rises through the ocean. Portugal reaffirmed decades of investment in ocean literacy, the creation of the Blue School network, and Atlantic and Lusophone cooperation, with the conviction that each student who understands the sea becomes an ambassador for sustainability. What united these speeches was more than content, it was vision. Both recognised that the Blue Initiative is fertile ground for a modern diplomacy, a diplomacy built on knowledge, education, citizen science, joint projects and shared responsibility. The Portuguese Secretary of State recalled that “each Blue School is a small

embassy of the sea,” while the Minister of the Sea of Cabo Verde highlighted that “to govern is to educate, inspire and involve every citizen.” In both, we heard the same certainty: the ocean belongs to no one, but it is the responsibility of all. The Ocean Summit 2025 made this shared commitment visible. It brought together governments, schools, universities, scientists, and civil society organisations, demonstrating that ocean diplomacy is also people’s diplomacy. And when two countries meet with such clarity of purpose, something rare happens, an alliance capable of transforming the Atlantic into a space of opportunity, knowledge and protection. Today, the Atlantic bridge connecting Cabo Verde and Portugal is stronger, not only because of history, but because of the future they chose to build together. A future in which the ocean is a space of cooperation, science, culture, economy and citizenship. A future where diplomacy serves a greater good, and where blue is the colour of a shared vision. ■

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A HUB THAT SEEKS KNOWLEDGE, AN OBSERVATORY THAT SHARES IT



At this Ocean Summit 2025, the Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation presented four structuring projects for Cabo Verde’s blue future: the **Ocean Hub**, the **Ocean Observatory**, the **Diving Bell**, and **Drones for the Ocean**. Each represents an essential element of the long-term vision we are building for the country.

Among the four, however, two projects stand out from the outset, not only because of their transformative potential but because they will enter directly into implementation at the start of 2026. We speak of the **Ocean Hub**, the engine of blue transformation we are launching, and the **Ocean Observatory**, the scientific and technical instrument that will enable us to understand, protect and better plan our maritime space. These two projects are complementary: the Hub generates and studies the ecosystem; the Observatory concentrates and shares the knowledge. Together, they enable a modern, integrated and sustainable approach to Cabo Verde’s ocean.

By announcing that both projects begin in January, we affirm clearly and responsibly that the Ocean Week was not an event, it was a starting point. The commitment we signed in Mindelo now becomes concrete action, with mobilised teams, consolidated partnerships and a defined work calendar. The other two projects, the Diving Bell and Drones for the Ocean, will continue to be developed and prepared throughout the year, reinforcing the path we want to build: a Cabo Verde that is more knowledgeable, more prepared and more connected to its sea. January marks the beginning of a new stage. Cabo Verde’s blue future begins now. ■

PRAIA BAIXO: WHERE OUR COMMITMENT TO THE OCEAN BEGINS



During the Ocean Week, the Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation took an important step in strengthening coastal sustainability in Cabo

Verde by formalising, with the Ministry of the Sea, the sponsorship of **Praia Baixo**, on the island of Santiago. This gesture represents more than an institutional responsibility, it is an emotional commitment to a community, a school and a stretch of ocean that deserves to be protected and valued. From this partnership, the Foundation will implement a set of initiatives throughout 2026 dedicated to ocean literacy, environmental preservation and community engagement. Praia Baixo will become a space where ocean education is lived by children, teachers, families and fishermen,

transforming the locality into a living laboratory for learning, caring and inspiring. This sponsorship is also the first step toward transforming the Praia Baixo School into a **future Blue School**, giving the next generation the tools to understand the sea and to feel it as an essential part of their identity. With this commitment, the Foundation reaffirms that Cabo Verde's blue future is built both in major international forums and in small communities where the relationship with the sea is lived every day. Praia Baixo is now part of our mission, and we are now part of its story. ■

IN MEMORIAM VASCO MARTINS (1956–2025)

The Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation expresses its deep sorrow at the passing of **Vasco Martins**, musician, composer, writer and one of the greatest figures of Cabo Verdean culture. He passed away this morning at the age of 69, in São Vicente, leaving a legacy that transcends borders and generations. Born in 1956, Vasco Martins was a singular creator, taking Cabo Verde into the realm of erudite, symphonic and experimental music, without ever distancing himself from his roots. Between piano, guitar, musical research and writing, he built a vast, profound and innovative body of work that became an indisputable reference in the national artistic landscape. Self-taught by impulse, a scholar by vocation and an artist by nature, Vasco Martins explored the inner ocean of Cabo Verdean music and elevated it to new dimensions. His career reflects the boldness of someone who constantly sought new paths, new languages, new ways of feeling and expressing the country that inspired him. We also recall the emotional words of his family, who emphasised what everyone already knew: Vasco Martins was a singular man, dedicated wholeheartedly to creation, passionate about music and about the island that welcomed him and shaped him. His passing leaves an immense void, but also a luminous and transformative legacy for our collective culture. The Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation expresses its solidarity with his family, friends and the entire Cabo Verdean artistic community in this moment of grief. Cabo Verde loses a major creator, gaining the eternity of his music. May he rest in peace.

NATIONAL PRIDE



BUBISTA THE LEADER WHO TURNED A DREAM INTO HISTORY

The greatness of a leader is measured by the size of the dreams he inspires in his people.

When Cabo Verde's name echoed among the countries qualified for the 2026 World Cup, it was not just a sporting victory, it was the confirmation of a path built with courage, vision and leadership that always believed in the potential of our players. At the centre of this journey is **Bubista**, the coach who restored the nation's conviction that the impossible can indeed be achieved. With a rare combination of humility, discipline and ambition, Bubista shaped a team that learned to compete with maturity, play with identity and represent Cabo Verde with a determination that captivated the entire country. Under his leadership, the national team found tactical stability, emotional confidence and a collective spirit that became its greatest strength. This November, in Morocco, Bubista was named **African Coach of the Year 2025**, an honour that transcends borders and confirms what the nation already knew: his work is exceptional, his leadership exemplary, and his vision far greater than any stadium. This award is more than a personal title, it reflects a continent's belief in Cabo Verdean talent. With calmness, discipline and a profound understanding of what it means to represent Cabo Verde, Bubista guided our national team toward an achievement once thought impossible. He gave us hope, taught us to believe, and showed that greatness is not imposed, it is built day by day, training after training, victory after victory. Today, we celebrate not only the coach, but the man who united players, fans and generations around a common dream. Bubista has become a symbol of competence, inspiration and national pride. And in a time when the country needs figures who elevate its name in the world, he offered us the greatest of all: the certainty that Cabo Verde can reach wherever it dares to dream. Thank you, Bubista, for guiding us, for inspiring us, and for making history possible. ■

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**2021
2030** United Nations Decade
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:

