

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

CAPE VERDE

By Philip M. Mobbs

Mining's contribution to the economy of Cape Verde, an archipelago of 10 islands and 8 islets about 600 kilometers off the west coast of Africa, was minimal. The gross domestic product was estimated to be \$420 million¹ in 1997, the last year for which data were available. Most of the nation's mineral requirements were imported. About 7,000 metric tons per year of salt was produced on the island of Sal. Volcanic rock, primarily pozzolana, was produced on Santo Antão. There also

was intermittent production of marginally economic deposits of clay on São Vicente, Boa Vista, and Sal; gypsum on Maio; and limestone on Boa Vista, Sal, and Santo Antão. The Government strongly discouraged mining beach sand for construction material; beach sand mining was detrimental to the sea turtle nesting environment and the tourism industry.

For more extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Cape Verde, see the 1991 Minerals Yearbook, Volume III, Mineral Industries of Africa.

¹Where necessary, values has been converted from Cape Verde escudos (Esc) to U.S. dollars at the average rate of Esc93.19=US\$1.00 for 1997.