

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

CAPE VERDE

By Philip M. Mobbs

Mining's contribution to the economy of Cape Verde, which is 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 \$580 million in 1999, the last year for which data were available (World Bank, 2000, Cape Verde at a glance, accessed April 13, 2001, at URL http://www.worldbank.org/cgi-bin/sendoff.cgi?page=%2Fdata%2Fcountrydata%2Faag%2Fcpv_aag.pdf). Most of the nation's mineral requirements were imported. Salt was produced on the

island of Sal, and volcanic rock, primarily pozzolana, was produced on Santo Antão. There was intermittent production of clay on Boa Vista, São Vicente, and Sal; gypsum on Maio; and limestone on Boa Vista, Sal, and Santo Antão. The Government strongly discouraged mining beach sand for construction material.

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