

## **Cape Verde (Republic of)**

**Last updated: 30-01-2004**

### **Location and area**

The Republic of Cape Verde comprises the Cape Verde Islands in the Atlantic Ocean, 620 km west of the westernmost point of Africa, Cape Vert. The archipelago consists of ten islands and five islets, which are divided into windward (Barlavento) and leeward (Sotavento) groups. The windward group on the north includes Santo Antão, São Vicente, Santa Luzia, São Nicolau, Sal, and Boa Vista; the leeward group on the south includes São Tiago, Brava, Fogo, and Maio. The total area of is approximately 4,033 km<sup>2</sup>. (Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2002).

### **Topography**

The islands are volcanic in origin, and all but three - the low-lying islands of Sal, Boa Vista, and Maio - are mountainous and deeply furrowed by erosion and volcanic activity. The highest point, Pico do Cano (2,829 m) on Fogo, is also the group's only active volcano (Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2002).

### **Peatlands**

No peatlands are known from Cape Verde.