



A BEACON FROM CABO VERDE

CARLOS ALBERTINO VEIGA FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER | No. 16 | OCT 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THE END OF A CHAPTER, THE CONTINUATION OF A MISSION

Dear Friends,

This is a message unlike any I have written to you over the years. It is my final message as President of the Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation and, inevitably, I write it with emotion, gratitude and an immense sense of pride in the journey we have shared.

This month has perhaps captured, with particular intensity, everything we have always wanted this Foundation to be. We stood close to our communities, supported education and our young people, strengthened our commitment to sustainability and, in the face of the tragedy that struck the island of Fogo, sought to fulfil what we believe to be the first responsibility of an institution with a social mission: to be present.

Over the years, we have sought to build a Foundation open to the country and to the world, capable of turning ideas into projects and relationships into partnerships. We have grown closer to schools, communities, sport, the ocean, young people and all those who share our

belief that serving Cabo Verde also means helping to create opportunities for those who come after us.

None of this would have been possible alone. That is why this final message is, above all, one of gratitude. To our team, the members of the Foundation's governing bodies, our partners, public and private institutions, associations, communities and everyone who placed their trust in us and walked alongside us, I offer my deepest thanks.

It has been an immense honour to preside over a Foundation that carries the name and memory of Carlos Albertino Veiga. I have sought to do so with responsibility, ambition and, above all, with the understanding that preserving a legacy is not simply about remembering what someone achieved, but about continuing to bring the values they left us to life.

The time has now come to pass the baton. I do so with serenity and confidence, knowing that the Foundation will continue to grow,



find new paths and serve Cabo Verde. The projects remain, the ideas continue and, above all, so does a mission that has always been greater than any one of us.

I leave the Presidency, but not this story. I will carry with me every project, every encounter, every challenge we overcame and, above all, the people who made this Foundation what it is today.

It has been a privilege, it has been a responsibility and, above all, it has been an immense honour.

Thank you for walking this journey with us.

Enjoy your reading.

Paulo Veiga

President of the Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation

WHEN BEING PRESENT MATTERS MOST

FOUNDATION PROVIDES SUPPORT TO FAMILIES AFFECTED BY THE TRAGEDY ON THE ISLAND OF FOGO



Cabo Verde is an archipelagic nation, and yet we must never forget that “no man is an island”, because we are all part of something greater than ourselves. Perhaps it is in moments of greatest sorrow that we truly understand the meaning of those words. When one family suffers, a community draws closer. When tragedy strikes an entire island, a country comes together.

And even though we know that words seem inadequate in the face of such profound grief, that no message can truly ease such a loss and that, in moments like these, solidarity is measured above all by our willingness to be present, to share in the suffering and to help those facing their most difficult days, we also

know that solidarity is a bridge we must build and be willing to cross.

It was in this spirit that the President of the Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation, **Dr Carlos Veiga**, accompanied by Executive Secretary **Shaquille Dangerfield**, travelled to the island of Fogo, where he presented support to the Municipality of São Filipe for the victims and families affected by the tragic accident that, this month, plunged the island and the entire country into profound grief and sorrow.

At São Filipe City Hall, the Foundation presented a cheque for **500,000 Cabo Verdean escudos**, seeking to contribute to the support efforts being undertaken for the families affected by the tragedy.

More than the financial value of this contribution, the visit represented the Foundation's determination to stand close to the community during one of the most painful moments Cabo Verde has experienced in recent times. Faced with a tragedy of this magnitude, no institution can erase the pain of those who have lost someone, but every institution can choose not to remain indifferent.

Solidarity is also part of building a community. It is revealed in the way a country responds when some of its people are facing moments of immense hardship, in its ability to mobilise institutions and individuals and, above all, in the conviction that no family should ever feel that it must face such a loss alone.

For the Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation, our presence in Fogo also reflects a principle that we have always sought to place at the heart of our work: a Foundation must stand close to communities not only when there are projects to build or achievements to celebrate, but also when what is needed is simply to stand beside those who need us.

To the victims, their families and the entire community of the island of Fogo, we renew our solidarity and express our deepest sorrow. Some grief belongs first to a family, a community or an island, but its magnitude can ultimately make it the grief of an entire country. ■



FOUNDATION SUPPORTS EUGÉNIA FREIRE
SCHOOL'S CIVIC WEEK IN PRAIA BAIXO

TO EDUCATE IS TO SOW THE FUTURE

Historians attribute to the philosophers of Ancient Greece the saying, **“A society grows great when people plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in.”** Supporting a child's education, giving them better tools to learn and helping them understand the world around them is perhaps one of the simplest and most important ways to begin building the future of a community, planting trees for a more prosperous future for the generations who already are the future of Cabo Verde.

It was in this spirit that the Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation joined the Civic Week of the Eugénia Freire School in Praia Baixo and Castelo Grande, contributing to the initiative through the donation of school kits and other



materials to support pupils and the activities organised by the school. Held under the theme **“Living Ocean, Strong Community”**, the initiative seeks to bring the school community closer to issues of particular importance to Cabo Verde's future, raising awareness of the importance of the oceans, promoting environmental education, community participation and a more conscious form of citizenship committed to preserving our marine heritage. It also represents another step towards the implementation of a Blue School within the Praia Baixo school community.

The Foundation was represented by its Director-General, **Alexis Veiga**, and Executive Secretary, **Shaquille Dangerfield**, reinforcing its close relationship with the school, its teachers, pupils and community, while reaffirming our commitment to initiatives that bring institutions, families and younger generations together around shared goals.

This collaboration holds particular significance for us. Praia Baixo is a community with which the Foundation has been developing a close relationship and where education, the ocean and community development come together in a particularly natural way. It is precisely through this connection between knowledge, environmental awareness and opportunity that we believe a new generation can emerge, better prepared to care for the country's resources while discovering new possibilities for its own future.

The school kits and materials donated represent a simple and tangible contribution, but what we hope to help build extends far beyond the objects that fit inside a schoolbag. We want to help ensure that every child has better opportunities to learn, more reasons to believe in their abilities and a growing awareness that they, too, can play a part in building Cabo Verde's future.

Because when we invest in a school, we are not simply supporting its pupils today, **we are planting trees for what will one day become the future of us all.** ■

DID YOU KNOW?



DO WHALES COME TO CABO VERDE ON HOLIDAY TOO?

Every year, humpback whales travel thousands of kilometres to the warm waters of Cabo Verde, one of their breeding grounds in the North Atlantic. Here, they mate and some females give birth to their calves. And there is more: **the males sing**. They produce long, complex sequences of sounds that they can repeat for hours.

So, while we are talking on our islands, there is an entire world of communication taking place beneath the surface of the ocean. And some whales seem to agree with us: **Cabo Verde is a wonderful place to spend the winter.**

Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation, because getting to know the ocean is the first step towards learning how to protect it.



THE PEOPLE OF FOGO

WHEN AN ENTIRE ISLAND RISES TO SUPPORT ITS OWN

“Post fata resurgo” (“After adversity, I rise again”). This Latin expression associated with the mythical Phoenix reminds us that, often, the greatness of a people is defined not by its achievements, but by its ability to remain standing when everything around it seems to be falling apart.

This month, Cabo Verde was struck by a tragedy that will remain forever in our collective memory. Twenty-five lives were lost, families were plunged into immeasurable grief and entire communities were confronted with a loss for which no one can ever be prepared. On Fogo, time seemed to stand still and, for several days, an entire country stood still with it. It was precisely in the midst of that pain that we witnessed what so often defines the greatness of a people. We saw an island come together, families supporting other families, neighbours caring for neighbours, communities opening their arms to those who needed them most, institutions mobilising and people setting aside their own lives to stand beside those who had just lost so much. We witnessed solidarity, generosity, courage, dignity, mutual support and an extraordinary sense of community.

No force can erase the pain of losing someone, and rising again does not mean forgetting or leaving behind those who have gone. It means finding the strength to keep moving forward while carrying them with us, caring for those who remain and rebuilding, little by little, what tragedy interrupted.

The people of Fogo understand deeply what it means to begin again. On an island shaped by the forces of nature and by generations accustomed to rebuilding in the face of adversity, there is a resilience that should never be mistaken for an absence of suffering. Quite the opposite. It means suffering deeply and still finding, within the community, the strength needed to help those who have fallen rise again. Perhaps that is one of the purest forms of solidarity: when no one asks whose pain it is before deciding to help carry it.

Throughout this month, Fogo has shown Cabo Verde that a community is measured not only by the way it celebrates its best moments, but by the way it protects its people in the worst. By the hand that reaches out, the door that opens, the embrace that offers comfort, the silence that accompanies and the presence of those who simply refuse to leave anyone alone. For the Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation, this month's National Pride could not belong to a single person. It belongs to an entire island. It belongs to the families, communities, professionals, institutions, volunteers and all those who, even while carrying their own grief, found the strength to help carry the grief of others.

This month, our **National Pride is the people of Fogo**, not because they did not fall, not because they did not weep, not because the pain has passed, but because, at a moment when so many needed support, an entire island chose to rise together. ■

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Praia • Cabo Verde

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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:

