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## **Are the United Nations SDGs reproducing colonial practices in Cape Verde in the name of development?**



Image of Cape Verde. Retrieved from: United Nations 2020

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**Abstract:** The focus of this research will be on discourse of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) developed by the United Nations and the discourse of its implementation in Cape Verde. These goals have been globally established with the ambition of improving the lives of human beings. During the colonial era, indigenous ways of living were violated and erased. Africans were forced to adapt to other forms of living alien to their own. In addition, the extraction of raw materials and their devaluation, became synonymous to colonial practices given that profit was the primary goal. In order to achieve these practices, notions of development were developed and promoted by colonizers. Given that the United Nations was founded upon European law and built on concepts such as development and the improvement of lives, this research analyzed how these discourses are present in SDGs documents in Cape Verde. SDGs 8,9,12 and 15 were analyzed, these goals also stimulate development on the islands given the extra challenges they face due to their isolated geographical position. Accordingly, the discourse of 5 additional Cape Verdean governmental documents were analyzed. The Cape Verdean goals are based on the United Nations SDGs. These were analyzed in an attempt to showcase whether colonial legacy is present in Cape Verde. Within these documents the focus was on colonial discourse, such as development and extraction. The results showed that humanitarianism via the UN discourse is being reproduced by the Cape Verdean government in the form of national goals and practices.

Keyword: Humanitarianism, development, colonialism, SDG's, United Nations, Cape Verde.

## **Introduction**

The concept of Human Rights gave rise and forms the basis of the international organization United Nations: a world-wide humanitarian institution which was funded in 1945 from a need to ensure peace- on the basis of human rights- just as the de second world war was about to come to an end (UN, 2023; Kolb, 1998). According to the United Nations (UN), they promote democracy, protect human rights and the rule of law (UN, 2023). By promoting freedom, peace, equality and justice, the UN claims to strive for fundamental human rights among all humans, this is at the core of the Universal Declaration which was agreed among all members of the United Nations (UN, 2023). The human rights concept is one based on French, English and North American Bills of rights that rest on theories of the age of Enlightenment (Kolb, 1998), thus different perspectives coming from 'third world countries' haven't played a role in the formulation of the concept of rights (Ayoob, 2004). Given that human language is expressed

in accordance to its environment and culture (Mudimbe, 1988), it is remarkable that only western standards were utilized in the declaration. These rights eventually made their way to constitutional law (Kolb, 1998), giving international aid organizations a foundation for their existence and work (Lester & Dussart, 2014). This means that aid organizations solely function upon European cultural perspectives. Other theories and perspectives from other parts of the world are not considered as a base, ultimately creating a power and cultural disbalance within the sector. This goes against the Enlightenment idea “Error lies is one-sidedness, incompleteness and abstraction” (Creaven, 2002, p.80).

In 2015 the United Nations developed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (UN, 2023). To achieve this, 17 Sustainable development goals were drafted in an attempt to act globally towards poverty mitigation, tackle inequality, improve education, develop countries, among other factors. In this sense, it is crucial that countries around the world are to work alongside these humanitarianism guidelines from the United Nations in order to successfully implement these global goals. Humanitarianism also played a role in the colonial era, as a normative factor but also as a necessary factor in justifying the mode of governing the colonies (Pallister-Wilkins, 2022).

Lester and Dussart (2014) argue that race and racism are necessary components in humanitarianism, as the process of ‘othering’ the subject, can be supported when exercising ‘humanity’ and development. Moreover, the process of colonialization was accompanied by missionaries defending and propagating humanitarianism as this would be profitable for the colonies (Lester & Dussart, 2014). This Western style of ruling and imagining how countries ought to be can be classified as Said (1978) stresses a “Western style for dominating, restructuring and having authority over” (Said, 1978, p.2). This was only made possible due to the naturalization and narrativization of what being human is, which was constituted by European views (Wynter, 2003).

One of the ideals of colonialism was the expansion of civilization, with came with the advancement of development or progress (Mudimbe, 1988). In fact, the campaign against poverty has its roots in the beginning of colonialism which was heavily promoted by the west. According to these countries was needed in order for the colony to develop (Desai & Potter, 2013). It is with the notion of development that The United Nation propagates the human rights framework (UN, 2023). In an attempt to guarantee these ‘developing’ rights, many humanitarian industries act and delegate developing countries as a response or solution to global harms (Pallister-Wilkins, 2021). This notion of development has been a part of western epistemic tradition for some time, consequently leading the west to appropriate, apply and to

render what modern is and which people get to be classified as modern (Icaza & Vázquez, 2022, p.62).

This western colonial understanding of development continues as a legacy throughout humanitarianism. In the aftermath of the death of African-American George Floyd, many international humanitarian organizations such as *Save The Children* admitted to deploying racist practices (Pallister-Wilkins, 2022). They admitted that their culture, structures and mindsets and that of humanitarian sectors were colonial, racist and white supremacist. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) also admitted to having a dehumanizing and racist organizational culture where the white minority were privileged (Pallister-Wilkins, 2022.) Given these developments, this thesis will analyze the discourse of humanitarianism – in particular the UN SDGs in Cape Verde- as the positionality (Haraway, 1988) of the west has always played an important role there.

According to Ahmed (2021) development organizations maintain and explore their power outside of Europe. The permanent members of the security council of the United Nations consist of Russia, China, France, The United Kingdom and The United States of America (UN, 2023). Making them members with more power than non-permanent members. It is therefore crucial to see how the United Nations establishes its power and how the (colonial) discourse is manifested on the Cape Verdean Islands. Most importantly it is pivotal to understand how the goals of the UN sustainable development goals are physically manifested in Cape Verde while utilizing concepts such as modernity, progress and development. Because colonial powers organized their economic activity in the colonies in such a way that they could maximize their economic returns (Dell & Olken, 2017), it is crucial to see whether these colonial discourses lead to the same extractive structures.

Due to the fact that social and political structures from the colonial era still prevail among others in Africa (Ahmed, 2021), these same structures continue to catalyze global capitalism which subsequently lead to the reproduction of poverty in non-western civilization. One must not forget that poverty is a human made phenomenon, which is deeply rooted in colonialism and the current global system (Healthpovertyaction, 2023). For this reason, the aim of this research is to showcase whether these same colonial discourses and structures are still being replicated in Cape Verde with the help of the concept development. The discourse on the western concept of development will be pivotal within this analysis, as this concept was heavily promoted in the colonial era (Desai & Potter, 2013).

Given the origin of human rights, the role of humanitarianism during colonialism, the role that racism has played in aid organizations, and the fact that non-western values have been

excluded in the formulation process of the notion of the human rights, the objective is to study how colonial discourse and practices are implicitly reproduced in Cape Verde. As such, the research question of this paper is as follows:

**“How are colonial discourses revolving development reproduced in national development goals in Cape Verde through the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?”**

The academic relevance of this paper is to contribute to the academic studies of (de)coloniality and humanitarianism and in this case specifically regarding the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals in Cape Verde. Although there are many studies that make the link between colonialism and humanitarianism, there is less focus particularly on the colonial discourse and their dynamics of the UN Sustainable Development Goals on the Cape Verdean Islands. In this sense, this descriptive discourse study will try to accomplish that. By looking into the discourse of the implementation of the SDGs and documents from the Cape Verdean government.

The societal relevance of this thesis is to showcase to what extent colonial structures are reproduced in Cape Verdean society. It is crucial to understand whether Cape Verdean people have enough agency to decide how they develop their own country. Moreover, this research contributes to the understanding of the concept of development and whether this is accompanied with discourses that reproduce the same mechanisms and consequences of the colonial era via the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Given the Western origins of humanitarianism and the colonial history in the African continent, it is crucial to analyze and conclude whether African countries have their own agency to mobilize and implement values of their own as well as methods of their own choosing. The idea is to showcase how independent these countries are and to analyze to what extent the implementation process of the SDGs is structured and maneuvered by western countries.

Both the academic and social relevance, the research itself and the manner of conducting this research stem from my own positionality. As a European child born to Cape Verdean parents, there is an interest in me which guides me to look at how colonial systems and their discriminatory dynamics interact and enact. The (racist) experiences that I have had in the Netherlands have made very clear that the white man is still very much in charge of how social dynamics continue to depend on him in the world. Although Cape Verde is not a former Dutch colonial country, its current colonial heritage is worthy of analyzing. I very much

want to showcase in which ways “my Cape Verdean people” are dependent on Western development concepts and how colonial practices are put in place via the SDGs. Due to its low middle income character, Cape Verde finds itself dependent on foreign aid (UN, 2023), making it vulnerable to the reproduction of these Western concepts as these institutions decide on the methods of implementation.

### **Theoretical Framework**

In this section the theoretical framework builds on existing literature namely on humanitarianism, colonialism and development which are relevant to give answer to how colonial discourse is being replicated in Cape Verde through the SDGs. This research will be a content analysis and specifically on literature regarding the above-mentioned concepts with a particular focus on development. This is due to the fact that in the colonial era, the concept of development was utilized as an excuse to exploit people and extract land in order to make profit (Desai & Potter, 2013).

With this in mind this research will analyze colonial discourses of governmental documents from Cape Verde and their related SDGs in an attempt to understand how these goals are physically formed in Cape Verde. The objective is to find whether or not there are similarities with past colonial discourses, which give Western institutions in present day the power to control former colonies through colonial practices in present Cape Verde such as extraction of materials and the cheap making of things. Given that the United Nations has established a set of global SDGs upon countries while validating discourses of development and of human rights (UN, 2023), this research will analyze how colonial discourse and practices are being reproduced within national documents and the SDGs implementation documents. To achieve this, the 3 concepts cannot be treated separately as they are interrelated and hence one cannot speak of one concept without the other.

### **(De)colonial Studies**

(De)colonial studies have been applied for the analysis of this research given that it facilitates and enacts the recognition of elements and traits of colonial practices. Furthermore, this also leads to understanding colonial and development discourse and their inherent mechanisms, which foster colonial practices through the SDGs. Decolonial studies stress hidden present practices and are precisely because of this, it important to stress the urgency of this matter. In addition, it invites people to reimage and search for “pluriverse” alternatives to organize the

world, especially in terms of power and co-living with multiple cultural realities. Especially considering “the process by which the various categories, notions or forms of consciousness arise out of each other to inform ever more inclusive totalities until the system of categories, notions or forms as a whole is completed” (Creaven, 2002, p.80).

If we take history into account, European expansion and power have been based on colonial occupation and subjection of non-European countries (Finnegan & Grummell, 2019, p.132). “Colonialism is often understood as a causal factor in contemporary poverty, inequality and violence” (Desai & Potter, 2013, p.5). In this section, colonialism will be treated as the nexus of development, as it was development that supported and which continues to support colonial practices. The extraction of natural resources and the exhaustion of food crisis are examples of new aspects of a basic imperial and colonial structure: the colonial matrix of power (Mignolo & Escobar, 2013). Due to the fact that practices of extractions are directly linked to colonialism and in the name of development this research tries to link colonial discourses of development in the studied documents. This would mean that the UN SDGs would promote and make the practice of extraction acceptable and possible. Possibly igniting ecological devastation within countries (Patel & Moore, 2017).

The hegemonic position of Europeans and Americans has created power imbalances between both the global North and the global South (Mutua, 2001). Specifically, when the United Nations gave the former primary power to define and determine “world peace” and “stability”. The human rights corpus is linked to European colonialism, racial classifications, whiteness and paternalist forms of government aimed at securing a white, colonial Europe (Pallister-Wilkins, 2021). In fact the Human Rights concept was solely draft only after World War II took place (UN, 2023). While European countries had colonies around the world for centuries (Patel & Moore, 2017). There was no such draft developed before. This showed how white Western knowledge and lives were considered more important than others (Said, 1978). This was the self-legitimacy of the West which was self-appointed, giving them the power to rule and manage the world (Mignolo & Escobar, 2013).

Britain did face some strong international questioning and criticism around the colonies resulting in Britain being afraid and in a vulnerable position (Samnøy, 1993). Given this past, it is crucial to understand if and how colonial practices are still being put in place through NGOs following the concept of development. In addition, it is important to understand whether Western institutions continue to dominate and manipulate non-western countries, in this case Cape Verde given their Western legacy. In this sense, it is crucial to understand how development is replicated on the Islands of Cape Verde in the name of this concept.



## **Development**

The concept of development is a crucial element in this research as it explains how the United Nations utilizes this concept in order to achieve the SDGs. Moreover, development is utilized in discourses and is applied as an indispensable element of modernity (Escobar, 1995). It helps humanitarian aid organizations such as the United Nations with a set of discourses and practices that render Africa as underdeveloped” (Escobar, 1995). The United Nations can in this way justify the urgency in achieving the SDGs with discourses as modernity and development as these are its chief goal (Escobar, 1995). The notion of development is intertwined with activities such as extraction, cheap making (devaluing the worth of things) and improvement which are consequently linked to the process of developing a country (Patel & Moore, 2017).

In this research, the concept of development derives from Icaza and Vazquez (2022) where they stress that the notion of development cannot be separated from the history of Western modernity. Furthermore, the concept of development is intertwined with the notion of extracting and the making of things cheap (Patel & Moore, 2017). This notion of development has its roots from the colonial era, where its rule was presented on the basic idea of development and modernizing colonies (Desai & Potter, 2013). Moreover, development has functioned as a concept that represents and at the same time articulates modernity and colonial divide. The division between human and savage, between civilization and nature, stands on the notion of development (Icaza & Vazquez, 2022).

Additionally, development belongs to the epistemic tradition of the West, here the West has taken the crucial role of deciding what and who is developed and in doing so, it has mastered the rendering of the “other” (Said, 1978). Du Bois states that what he calls whiteness is related to an endless assumed ownership of the earth and to mastery over non-white others rooted in colonial exploitation and enslavement (Pallister-Wilkins, 2021). It is with this whiteness and the European law which the United Nation is based on, that the discourse of development is being scrutinized in this research.

Development has often led to the loss of indigenous culture, and the destruction of ways of living but because development is comprised of knowledge, interventions and worldviews, it means that this can solely be achieved with power to transform and rule (Desai & Potter, 2013). “This constant mechanism of exploiting the earth is reinforced with the idea that human life is separated from nature” (Desai & Potter, 2013, p.40). Subsequently giving humans the right to inexhaustible exploit and extract materials on earth, which have led to devastating environmental consequences (Patel & Moore, 2017). Under capitalism, raw materials become

commodities that result in exchanges for money (p.67). This system established a global center power and production of systems that was conducted by exploiting indigenous people.

According to Shaikh (2016) the theory of real competition means that success comes with absolute cost advantage and may subsequently result in systematic and persistent imbalances in the world economy. Accumulation is at the heart of capitalist civilization subsequently resulting in relative monopolies of production (Wallerstein, 2011). “The search for truth, proclaimed as the cornerstone of progress, and therefore of well-being, has been at the very least consonant with the maintenance of a hierarchical unequal social structure in a number of specific respects” (Wallerstein, 2011, p. 82). The research analysis will demonstrate how this is manifested in Cape Verde given the authoritative role of the United Nations in the country. It is well established that human well-being is a key concern for development. Issues of economic and social justice, empowerment, democracy, ethics and human dignity are the basics of development theory which are practiced by institutions such as the United Nations (Desai & Potter, 2013).

This research will examine whether colonial practices are being replicated in the name of development through extraction and the making of things cheap (Patel & Moore, 2017). This research questions the imposed development discourse of the SDGs in the context of that countries should be given alternatives and not be blindly obliged to follow the European concept of development. Development still plays a role in cultural and social control, including how people appropriate development for their own goals (Escobar, 1995). “A poly-centric world means that there is not just one UNI-versal solution but pluri-versal futures” (Mignolo & Escobar, 2013). In this sense, the option for Cape Verde to have its own agency in choosing what they prioritize as a country has to be present especially if this means that there're alternatives for colonial extractive and exploitative practices. It is therefore critical to examine how the discourse of the SDGs physically take form in Cape Verde and see whether this means that colonial practices are being reproduced.

### **Humanitarianism**

The concept of humanitarianism is linked to its very existence and their need to justify this with the help of colonial discourses. This is to say that humanitarianism needs a certain discourse in order to justify their work, the apparatus they work with and the manner which goals are achieved. Humanitarianism, unlike (de)colonial, does not showcase the power imbalance they create because in principle Humanitarianism exists to save people's lives and

show less of their control and imposed rules on the “other”. While this is explicitly clear by coloniality, by humanitarianism this is not the case as it is hidden by the discourse of helping and developing nations.

Recent work on humanitarianism have drawn attention to their embedded white supremacy and racial hierarchies (Pallister-Wilkins, 2021). Pallister-Wilkens (2021) stresses that Eurocentric practices showcase the role of colonialism in the (re)production of the international normalizing of European knowledge and experiences. Such knowledge is reflected in policies targeted to the ‘well-being’ of the enslaved and the targets of white settler-colonial violence (Pallister-Wilkins, 2021). According to Wynter “the only true *Human Self* and its genre-specific mode of symbolic life is Western bourgeois liberal mono-humanist homo economicus” (Wynter, 2003, p.47). Through seeking to relieve the worst excesses of racist violence, humanitarianism did not challenge whiteness but rather secured itself by utilizing an array of apparatus that worked through logics of care and saviour (Mutua, 2001). Helping the troubled souls of white folk which were concerned with both the well-being of Indigenous populations and their own security at the top of racial hierarchies (Pallister-Wilkins, 2021).

As also envisioned by *The Truman doctrine* where he described poverty as a handicap to both indigenous people and the more prosperous areas and described “their” life’s as primitive and stagnant (Escobar,1995). He continues by stating: “I believe that we should make available to peace-loving peoples the benefits of our store of technical knowledge in order to help them realize their aspirations for a better life...What we envisage is a program of development based on the concepts of democratic fair dealing...Greater production is the key to prosperity and peace” (Escobar, 1995, p.50). The SDGs discourse is one similar to Truman’s doctrine which argue that the SDGs “provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth (UN, 2023). This shows that humanitarianism and in particular the discourse of the SDGs, has not changed in regards to the need of development, the discourse is the same.

In this context, it is important to analyze whether the practices of development are currently being replicated and whether this is being done in different ways than colonial practices in the name of humanitarianism. Especially when the discourse and strategy of development has produced massive underdevelopment and impoverishment and exploitation (Escobar, 1995). Humanitarianism’s commitment to saving lives, relieving, suffering and

upholding human dignity provides humanitarianism with its normative power. This same power is one that can be found in the organization of the United Nations as they stipulate the rules that ought to be followed in countries across the globe (UN, 2023). The SDGs are a set of goals that are imposed in an attempt to improve the lives of people planet and its ecosystem. The discourse found within the SDGs are one that promotes and stimulates development for all in the name of Human rights (UN, 2023). By depicting and creating an image of victimhood or a human that has lost its dignity and worth, makes it easier and plausible to offer the victim help (Mutua, 2001). The victim is powerless, helpless and lives with no attributes because these have been negated.

The human rights structure is known to be anti-catastrophic and reconstructive (Mutua, 2001). This is due to the fact that it needs to create more victims in order to prevent more calamities and in addition it is reconstructive because it needs to re-engineer the state and society. This produces an ideal ecosystem to create a savior. This savior is the good angel who will protect, vindicate, civilize, restrain and safeguard the victim. In the human rights industry, the industry itself is both the savior and facilitator of freedom. This means that they have the power to shape and create a 'better' society for the "victims" (Mutua, 2001). The UN has developed goals in order to reduce poverty, and as agriculture is still the main source of income in rural areas it is crucial that people have access to land (Desai & Potter, 2013). Moreover, access to land is crucial for poor people to survive, once it can yield livelihood. On the contrary many farmers are exploiting land beyond its capacity subsequently resulting in unsustainable land use (Desai & Potter, 2013). Furthermore, intensive agriculture and the use of agrochemicals degrade the same agricultural resources that people need. These practices all lead to the degradation of the soil, in addition to pollution and the overall damage to the ecosystem which have negative effects on food security (Desai & Potter, 2013).

It is thus crucial to analyze how the discourse of developing Cape Verde is being deployed via the SDGs and most crucially what are the effects of this discourse on the islands. In this context, this research links (de)colonialism with the concept of development as colonial practices led to the destruction and extraction of the earth through capitalistic and cheap practices. Colonialists were able to achieve this because they argued that colonized people were victims who needed help with developing themselves and their countries (Mudimbe, 1988). Given that Humanitarian institutes also have the same discourse of development and in addition the power to dictate and make victims, this research will analyze how the discourse of these 3 concepts reinforce each other and shape Cape Verde.

## **Methods and Research Design**

### **Methods**

This research is characterized as qualitative and focusses on a discourse content analysis. It is a descriptive research, given the fact that it accurately described the unit of analysis namely, the United Nations report of the SDGs, as well as official governmental documents of the Cape Verdean islands which were formulated based on the SDGs (European Commission, 2023). The document analysis was conducted based on the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda from the United Nations (United Nations, 2023). By analyzing the United Nations SDGs and the Cape Verdean national goals, evidence is made clear of how Cape Verde is currently physically shaped by the implementation of the United Nations SDGs, which as a result stress the consequences of colonial discourse.

Discourse analysis is the study of language use, Van Dijk (2015) defines Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) as a movement or perspective of multidisciplinary discourse. CDA focuses particularly on the discursive reproduction of power abuse, like sexism, racism, and other ways of social inequality, as well as the resistance against such domination. CDA utilizes all important methods of the Humanities and Social Sciences in order to study social problems. In this sense, CDA will be utilized in this research in an attempt to showcase the power and domination of the United Nations in the context of colonial discourse of the SDGs. This power is then conceptualized as a control of structures of context, text or talk (Van Dijk, 2015). In 2015 members of The United Nations developed a set of 17 sustainable goals in an attempt to end poverty, protect the planet and improve the lives of everyone globally (UN, 2023).

This document analysis will focus on colonial discourses as these have led to power disbalance and have had negative consequences throughout colonial history, but are nonetheless still visible on our ecological systems, animal- and human life (Patel & Moore, 2017). As a result, this research centers on discourses characterized as colonial, focusing on terms such as development, (economic)growth, improvement, cheapening (devaluing of things) and extraction but is not limited to these. In addition, these terms have been chosen given the promotion of economic profit and its impact on ecological destruction that is achieved through the devaluation and exploitation of things (Eichenlaub, 2019).

Given that colonial discourse has led to much damage on the earth and impacted climate change, heavily due to the capitalistic ways of consumption, the documents and SDGs which were studied were related to SDG 8, 9, 12 and 15. SDG 8 promotes sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (UN, 2022) SDG 9 focusses on industry, innovation and infrastructure, this has been chosen because

Industry, innovation/development have been strongly linked to extraction and its effects on climate change (Patel & Moore, 2017). SDG 12 aims to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns (UN, 2022). This is an interesting point to examine given the fact that in this research the link between extraction and cheap making is intertwined with development. The analysis shows how this goal is translated and how its discourse and implementation and whether the goal is sustainable. Lastly, SDG 15 aims to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land and degradation and halt biodiversity loss (UN, 2023). It will be taken into account as it is important to analyze how this goal is taking form especially when linking the above-mentioned terms of focus of this research, precisely because development has enacted drastic effects on the climate.

Besides these goals, the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Programme of the United Nations were also scrutinized. This is due to the fact that Cape Verde is a group of islands and as such the islands have an additional set of challenging factors and vulnerabilities given their remote location. The islands lack access to transportation, as well as access to resources and face extra economic challenges (UN, 2023). In this context, it is important to look at the extra goals according to these challenges.

## **Data**

By scrutinizing the discourse on the goals mentioned above, this research focused on whether or not the replication of colonial discourse was present in Cape Verde. Furthermore, it is crucial to showcase whether colonial practices play a role in humanitarian organizations such as the UN due to their viewed goals. Additionally, it is important to study what kind of impact this enacts in Cape Verde. In order to achieve this, 10 documents have been selected. These were found during an internet search by utilizing terms as SDGs; sustainability in Cape Verde; United Nations in Cape Verde; sustainable goals in Cape Verde. Once the documents were found, the goal was to see which UN objectives served as framework for the Cape Verdean national goals. This was done in order to see if following the UN goals, colonial discourse was found in the national policies and 2030 goals of Cape Verde.

In this context, the document selection had a twofold approach hence the two selected sections. In the first selection of documents (see table 1), the analyses were based on documents from the United Nation that serve as guidelines for national documents of Cape Verde, given that the sustainable development goals need to be achieved according to the United Nations. These documents are all related to the Sustainable Development Goals from the United Nation;

it is important to study the discourse of the SDGs as they serve as the framework for the national documents of Cape Verde and translate and enact the physical actions taken in the islands. These documents are described in the following Table:

<b>Table 1. United Nations SDGs analyzed documents.</b>				
<b>Number of analyzed document in this section</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Title of document</b>	<b>Author of document</b>	<b>Goal of analyzing the document</b>
1	2015	The Sustainable Development Goals n. <b>8;9;12;15</b>	United Nations	What is being said in the discourse of the mentioned SDGs?
2	2021	Making Peace with Nature A scientific blueprint to tackle the climate, biodiversity and pollution emergencies	United Nations Environment Programme	What is being said in the discourse on how is nature being treated and what are the limits to the extraction and cheap making of resources
3	2022	Joint Independent Common Country Programme Evaluation: The Republic of Cabo Verde	United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United	What is the discourse of previous implemented goals in Cape Verde? The CCP responds directly

			Nations Population Funds	to the priorities of the 2017-2021 Plano Estratégico de Desenvolvimento Sustentável PEDs, which precedes PEDS II
4	2014	Small Island Developing States (SIDs)	United Nations	The SAMOA Pathway documents aims to address the unique challenges faced by SIDS and to support their development
5	2023-2027	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNCF) for Cabo Verde	United Nations	This framework supports the achievement Sustainable development strategic plan (PEDS II 2022- 2026) and towards the 2023 agenda.



In the second part of the document selection (see table 2), the compromised documents are characterized as national implementation documents and are likewise related to the SDGs but focused on a national level. In these documents, a discourse analyses will be conducted in order to analyze how the United Nation goals are currently being implemented in Cape Verde as well as whether colonial discourses are present as a follow up from the SDGs. Cabo Verde is a semi-arid country characterized by limited arable land, renewable freshwater resources and prone to drought episodes (UN, 2022). The country aims to increase its renewable energy and extend its national protected area given the habitat degradation due to the overexploitation of the coastal ecosystems. It is crucial to understand how the SDGs are physically being manifested on the islands, as a direct consequence of these SDGs. These documents are a direct consequence of the SGDs which justifies the document timeline of 2022-2027 also given that the goals are to be achieved by 2030.

<b>Table 2. Cape Verdean National governmental analyzed documents.</b>				
<b>Number of analyzed document in this section</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Title of document</b>	<b>Author of document</b>	<b>Goal of analyzing the document</b>
1	2017-2021	PEDS I Plano Estratégico de Desenvolvimento Sustentável 2017-2021	UNITED NATION & GOVERNMENT OF CAPE VERDE (GOVERNO DE CABO VERDE)	Analyze discourse of how SDGs are implemented in Cape Verde
2	2023-2027	UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK	UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF CAPE VERDE	Analyze discourse framework; document represents the UN's collective support to the achievement of the five-year Cabo Verde

		(UNCF) FOR CABO VERDE	(GOVERNO DE CABO VERDE)	Sustainable development strategic plan (PEDS II 2022-2026).
3	2022-2026	Cabo Verde Country Programme: for inclusive and sustainable industrial development 2022-2026	UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION	Analyze discourse of document given that it supports the government of Cape Verde in the implementation of its vision and the PEDS II Programme, the Country programme (CP) will contribute to the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2027
4	2022-2026	Cabo Verde: Country and Industry Profile (CIP)	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Government of Cabo Verde	Analyze policy decisions and future purpose discourse in Cape Verde
5	2021-2027	Republic of Cabo Verde: Multi Annual Indicative	European Commission (International Partnerships)	Analyze national discourse in the context of achieving

		Programme 2012-2027		the SDGs in Cape Verde
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### **Reliability and Validity**

The reliability of the research will be guaranteed by strictly and systematically analyzing the document of the 2015 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, the link that was drawn between these goals and Cape Verdean governmental implementation documents are dependent on each other given that national policies and goals are formulated based on the SDGs. For the document analysis, the software program ATLAS.ti. was utilized. The different discourse components of the documents were categorized with different codes where different meanings were studied and implications of the sustainable goals were attributed. Furthermore, the physical consequences of these goals in Cape Verde were also analyzed. The coding process was comprised of three phases namely open coding, axial coding and selective coding (Boeije, 2014). In this way the reliability of the research was guaranteed.

The validity of this research was high due to the fact that the documents that were analyzed were developed and implemented by the United Nations. In addition, official national documents of Cape Verde were utilized. This increases the validity of this research as these official documents were the main focus point of this study. The coding and interpretation of the texts came directly from the documents of the 2015 United Nations Sustainable Development goals and official government documents of Cape Verde with a time line of 2022-2027 as these need to be achieved by 2030. This was conducted in an attempt to give direct interpretation from the actual main source of the research unit of analysis, consequently leaving less room for misinterpretation of the analyzed documents.

### **Results and analysis**

In the results section, the strategy is to look at what the discourse of the SDGs were. Subsequently, the analysis of these goals composed the discourse of the Cape Verdean government and the discourse of the European Union when in the context of the SDG

implementation in the country. Lastly the focus was on how the discourse took form within the national Cape Verdean objectives.

### **Economic growth and the human well-being**

Goal 8 strives to “promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all” (UN, 2023). There were some interesting points while analyzing the goal 8. Firstly, the goal itself is focused on economic growth which is the core of capitalism and colonialism as it pursues profit and endless economic growth. Noticeable, the premise on economic growth has resulted in overproduction and overconsumption and climate change. Subsequently, the UN is pursuing the same mechanisms that lead to overproduction and the destruction of the earth, therefore this cannot be seen as nor called sustainable.

Moreover, what is important to stress is that within this goal, there are two words that try to make the action of economic growth sound less harmful, namely inclusive and sustainable. In the United Nations discourse, inclusivity entails gender equity and also participation from the youth in an attempt to leave no one behind (UN, 2022). Sustainability focusses on a long- term vision and in addition, on protecting and balancing the environment. Noticeably, and what is contradictory within the framework, is that the United Nations also stresses that the current economic systems that focus on economic growth has caused harm to humanity, the earth and its ecosystem. As a result, the UN acknowledges the need to change this system:

“By bringing together the latest scientific evidence showing the impacts and threats of the climate emergency, the biodiversity crisis and the pollution that kills millions of people every year, it makes clear that our war on nature has left the planet broken. But it also guides us to a safer place by providing a peace plan and a post-war rebuilding programme. By transforming how we view nature, we can recognize its true value. By reflecting this value in policies, plans and economic systems, we can channel investments into activities that restore nature and are rewarded for it” (UN, 2021. p. 4).

The UN refers to the way humans have treated nature as if it were an enemy when referring it as war on nature. This implies that the UN does not see humans as nature, it actually regards nature as the “other”, where we humans can manipulate, dominate, and decide on nature and its story from the human experience (Said, 1978). Being human is thus not being part of nature, the UN’s discourse is that nature is a separate ecosystem that one can endlessly

extract and accumulate. The new view is not that we humans are nature, but that nature has a role in our well-being.

The UN stresses that natural resources continue to be an important input for the production processes that stimulate economic growth (UN, 2021). Furthermore, they also admit that economic outputs from the extraction of non-renewable and renewable resources are limited. This dependency on natural resources exacerbates even more pressure on sensitive ecosystems, subsequently affecting human health and the economy (UN, 2021). This means that even though the United Nations is aware of all the harm that the economic current model has caused, facilitated by the mindset of economic growth and expansion, it still strives for continuous economic growth as goal 8 and 9 stimulates. This is in line with what Escobar (1995) refers to; humanitarianism stresses that greater production is the key to prosperity.

Even though the UN is aware of the harm that it causes, they still stimulate the application of the very same methods that cause the problem. As such the UN enacts what Desai and Potter (2013) describe when they mention that exploiting the earth is reinforced with the idea that human life is separated by nature. Humans are regarded as being the center actor of the earth as “the” holy and almighty and therefore, they can use and abuse nature as an economic commodity. The land degradation and habitat loss, is only crucial because it contributes to the human well-being as shown in the following statement and figure:

“Humanity can make peace with nature and tackle the combined environmental crisis by redeploing human skills from transforming nature to transforming the social and economic fabric of society. Such an effort needs to put human well-being centre stage and speed up progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” (UN, 2021, p.47).

### 3.9. The interactions between climate change, land use and biodiversity

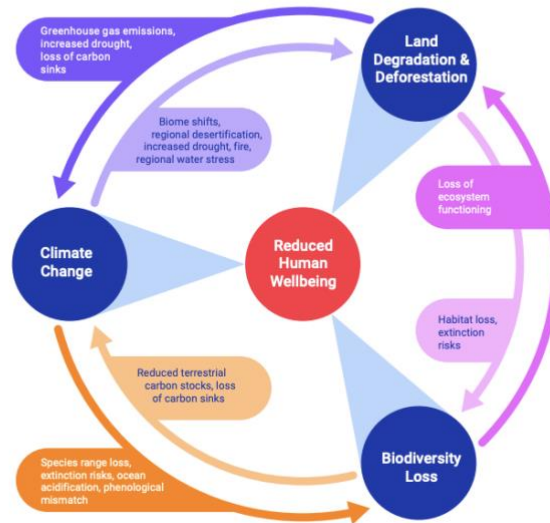


Figure 1: The interactions between climate change, land use and biodiversity (UN, 2021, p.82).

### **An industrialized Cape Verde is a developed Cape Verde**

Goal 9 entails “Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation” (UN, 2023). This goal has several targets that emphasize the importance of achieving development through a structural industrial transformation. The UN reaffirms “the need to achieve sustainable development by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth” (UNIDO, 2022, p.4). Furthermore, industrialization signifies prosperity:

“Goal 9 recognizes industry and industrialization as the main drivers of sustained economic growth, environmental sustainability and shared prosperity. In order to take full advantage of important natural resources and reap the benefits of the demographic dividend, Africa in general must become industrialized...Extreme poverty in Africa cannot be eradicated without a structural transformation of the economies of the continent. The urgency of achieving industrial development in Africa is underlined by challenges and opportunities that the continent faces.” (UNIDO, 2022, p.14)

The UN stresses how important it is for African countries to industrialize, given that it contributes to the economic growth of its countries. This is an important discourse to look at, because on one side this discourse sounds like one utilized during colonialization as

colonizers used the rhetoric of development upon African countries as the only way forward. In this case industrialization is seen and promoted by the UN as the only way towards “development”, subsequently giving the UN the power to control and exploit countries as Patel and Moore (2017) describe. Additionally, this rhetoric also facilitates and supports the cultural and social control of Cape Verde by the UN as Escobar (2015) argues. Furthermore, this sustainable rhetoric is oxymoron, as initial levels of industrialization consume resources and degrade the environment (Kahn, 2005). Moreover, given the current urgency to act upon global warming, this goal does not minimize and enact “green and sustainability” but rather enacts more damage to our ecosystem and the already existing global warming. As animals and (marine) ecosystems are in danger of extinction, humans have to maintain and minimize the use of a certain stock of environmental capital as humans cannot provide or substitute environmental services as provided by the ecosystems (Kahn, 2005).

Moreover, the following discourse suggests that the UN empathizes the need to educate people so that they too can contribute to the industrialization of the country, giving the impression that the education is solely centered on industrialization. It implies that people are being educated for the benefit of the country in terms of industrial and hence (economic) development but not the education of the people itself. Educating people on specific areas is focused on the (economic) prosperity of the country. This is articulated in the discourse below:

“It is essential that the African countries invest heavily in the training and education of women and young people. To achieve inclusive and sustainable industrialization, a skills revolution must be undertaken, particularly in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.” (UNIDO, 2022, p.14).

In synchrony with SDG 8 and 9, The Cape Verdean government has set the goal to “Reinforce investment in oriented professional training and qualification to improve the competitiveness of the industrial sector” (UNIDO, 2022, p.15). The Cape Verdean government utilizes the same discourse as the UN, as their adopted governmental goals discourse are based on the investment and stimulation of competitiveness, trade and industrialization as a way to develop the country. The plan of the government of the Republic of Cape Verde (2021-2026), “considers the resumption of investment in industrialization to

be strategic for increasing the country's export capacity and taking advantage of the opportunities linked to the tourism market, as well as the international agreements like the AGOA with USA, the ECOWAS regional market and the AfCFTA" (UNIDO, 2022, p.15).

### **Cape Verde de strategic partner**

*"Cabo Verde will be, in 2030, an emerging country which guarantees total security, a circulation economy located in the mid-Atlantic, strongly integrated into the ECOWAS economic and social space, with a GDP per capita of above US\$6,000, with full employment eradicated extreme and reduced absolute poverty, with low levels of regional inequality and imbalance, one of the 10 most resilient societies in the world and one of the 10 most advanced democracies, with a private sector leading the economy, a proud reference for the diaspora, and a country contributing to the international community."*

(European Commission, 2022)

In 2020, Cape Verde developed its sustainable development strategic agenda named Cabo Verde Ambition. With regards to goal 8 and 9, Cape Verde aims to be a circular economy integrated in the ECOWAS with a GDP per capita above US\$6,000 with a private sector leading economy. This is a very ambitious project given the fact that Cape Verde suffered a big economic backlash during COVID-19 (European Commission, 2022). The country made a deal in 2021 with the European Union, a partnership called the Inclusive Green Growth Compact (European commission, 2022). As a SIDS Cape Verde holds a vulnerable position given its climate and isolated localization. However, Cape Verde is strategically situated in the mid- Atlantic, making it an interesting partner for the European Union. The country is situated along important trade routes and is a hub for transatlantic communications (European Commission, 2022). Moreover, the country has mutual affinities with the EU e.g security, mobility and trade. As the country has fallen into a recession due to COVID-19, the European Union sees an opportunity to "help" the country recover and foster its economic ecosystem and supporting the country to reach the SDGs 2030 agenda. Furthermore, the European Commission states the following:

"Cabo Verde has a strategic importance in international connectivity for the EU and for its Global Gateway approach. Cabo Verde is a crossroads for digital connectivity with Africa and with Latin America and as such, EU pays particular attention to its approach to policy and regulation for digital transformation and data economy... One must note the significant challenge that the country will have, specifically in the medium-term, to finance its policies



and the 2030 ambition. The country already reached a high level of public debt (151% of GDP by early 2021), fiscal revenues are expected to diminish by around 40% in 2021, and FDI may decrease by 30%, not reaching pre-pandemic level before 2022. In that perspective, the Government needs to successfully mobilise funding from external partners and private investors, in an environment of global recession... The crisis has shown the limits and fragility of Cabo Verde's economy, typical of a Small Islands Developing State (SIDS). As state finances are severely hit, and private sector investment is expected to contract, international partners have an important role to play in Cabo Verde through Budget Support and programmatic interventions. There is also a clear opportunity to put in practice the External Investment Plan... Cabo Verde still stands out in the West Africa region as a beacon of hope for a more prosperous Africa. With EU's support, Cabo Verde could regain its growth path, showing that it is possible to build back better, through a green and inclusive economic model. It is in the EU and Cabo Verde interests to nurture the collaboration" (European Commission, 2022, p. 3).

This discourse shows that in order to achieve the 2030 agenda, and because Cape Verde finds itself in a vulnerable position, the country is bound to take on additional budget support. The European Commission makes use of this as it has the privilege to scrutinize control Cape Verde and by offering external investments plans and budget interventions. In addition, programmes funded by the European Union such as ECOWAS and Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) manage Cape Verdean policies through these programs as they dictate and enforce European agenda upon the country. For example, in order to partake in the GSP+, Cape Verde has to implement 27 internal conventions on human rights, labour rights, the environment and good governance (European Union, 2023). In the case of the AGOA, the United States requires that Cape Verde- and other sub-Saharan African countries - establish a market-based economy, the rule of law, political pluralism, and the right to due process (The United States Trade Representative, 2023). These countries are also coerced to eliminate barriers to U.S. trade and investment, implement policies to reduce poverty, fight corruption, and practice human rights (The United States Trade Representative, 2023).

This showcases that in order to achieve the 2030 agenda Cape Verde has hardly any other options than to participate in additional economical programmes. Cape Verde has a vulnerable position, due to the lack of manageable land, climate fragility, global warming and drought which according to Chandy (2023) will tend to aggravate. It makes the country even

more prone to follow Western agenda given that as the budget provider, they introduce guidelines that are not practiced in the country. The UN claims to acknowledge the traditional culture and knowledge of the member states as the discourse below showcases:

“We recognize that small island developing States possess a wealth of culture, which is a driver and an enabler for sustainable development. In particular, indigenous and traditional knowledge and cultural expression, which underscores the deep connections among people, culture, knowledge and the natural environment, can meaningfully advance sustainable development and social cohesion” (UNIDO, 2022, p 46).

In order to achieve the 2023 agenda, Cape Verdean policy and discourse have to follow Western countries while simultaneously discarding the UN discourse of traditional knowledge as an eventual enabler for sustainable development, as Cape Verde has to adopt foreign culture, policy and rules.

### **Development or degradation?**

SDG 12 aims to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns (UN, 2023). In the previous section, the analyzed SDG discourse led to the same discourse of development in Cape Verde implementation and in this case through industrialization. Industrialization has a direct effect on the way consumption and production are managed in a country, as there is a need to buy and produce in order to develop and industrialize. Goal 15 will also be taken in consideration in this section as these two goals (12 & 15) are intertwined and have direct consequences in Cape Verde. SDG 15 aims to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss (UN, 2023). According to the UN (2023), natural resources continue to be crucial for the production processes that stimulate economic growth. Additionally, worldwide resource consumption continues to grow while the availability of (non) renewable resources is limited and creates great pressure on ecosystems (UN, 2023).

When looking at Cape Verde specifically the island of Santiago, illegal overexploitation of sand mostly on coastal areas, has been taking place for decades (Correia & Pereira, 2016). This has been occurring with great intensification on *Calhetona* beach, resulting in the degradation of the shorelines and land due to salinization (Correia & Pereira, 2016). Land can no longer be utilized for e.g. agricultural purposes due to the degradation caused by high levels of salt that penetrate into the land due to the fact that there is no longer

sand protection. This enacts great environmental degradation to the island. Sand exploitation, which is conducted without extraction plans nor land rehabilitation, is utilized for urban and industrial expansion (Correia & Pereira, 2016). The high demand for sand, give women that are economically vulnerable and head of households an opportunity to work. They collect sand and sell it to buyers which in their turn, sell it to the various industries. The shortage of mineral resources in the archipelago and the harsh conditions of poor families puts the mining areas into great pressure (Correia & Pereira, 2016). The Cape Verdean authorities have legislative policies in practice but for years, they lack the capacity to successfully control illegal activity.

The government of Cape Verde wants to ensure “effective and efficient country’s infrastructure (electricity, water and communication, transportation by land, air or sea, industrial parks) is key for successful operation of companies. The quality of a country’s infrastructure is decisive in the investment decision of both national and external investors and is synonymous with the greater productivity of private investment and cost reduction. The logistics associated with transport... represent a fundamental factor in attracting investors in the country” (UNIDO, 2022, p.8).

Although Cape Verde has intentions of further industrializing the country and expanding its infrastructures, it is not clear to what extent and how this will be achieved. The execution of these goals is not described in detail, making it difficult to analyze them. Nonetheless, it is crucial to take these points mentioned above seriously given that it can lead to further degradation of the land, agricultural practices and the climate.

### **Sustainable goals or climate enemy?**

Still in the context of goal 15 when considering the management of the terrestrial ecosystems and reverse land degradation, it is crucial that international organizations and the UN not only sets goals and coerces them on certain countries. It is true that Cape Verde has made some social and economic progress but it remains a SIDs with limited internal capacities as seen in the section above. Until now de management of the land and sand extraction have formed a big issue for its people and the country’s terrestrial ecosystem. This is a challenge that demands to be addressed in order to better the management of the land. The industrialization

vision is necessary in the eyes of the UN and Cape Verde but the question is; how is the country going to “sustainably” achieve this given its current state? Moreover, are there enough financial resources to do otherwise?

The current situation of the country and its vision is somewhat paradox in the sense that industrialization can create more harm and might just instigate more pressure on the already vulnerable land and on climate change. This is more so if we consider that less developed countries suffer most environmental degradation as soil loss- which is the case in Cape Verde- encroaching deserts and so on (Kahn, 2008). As a result, economic productivity is reduced even further because the land is worn out, which ultimately effects the climate. The goal of pursuing economic growth in a country through industrialization and the continuous urge for resources and its exploitation have to be monitored, limited or even stopped given the current disbalance (Kahn, 2008).

### **Conclusion and discussion**

In this section, the conclusion will be followed by a discussion. Most importantly, there will be an attempt to answer the research question “How are colonial discourses revolving development reproduced in national development goals in Cape Verde through the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?”.

For the purpose of this research there has been a focus on colonial discourse and the concept of development in Cape Verde. This has been done following the United Nations SDGs which every member country is required to abide to. The focus of the research was (but not limited to) on economic growth, exploitation and the cheap making of things. As for the latter, there was no discourse found in this research that supported this concept. There was however, colonial discourse found in the concept of economic growth as a way to develop Cape Verde. The UN supports and stimulates the development of Cape Verde through economic growth.

The analyzed discourse stimulates development as a way to prosper and to end poverty through industrialization. According to the UN, if Cape Verde wants to prosper it has to educate its people in certain subjects, giving them the right tools to industrialize the country. In this process of industrializing, which has also been opted by the Cape Verdean government, the exploitation of resources will be a necessary component in order to achieve this goal. The problem for Cape Verde is that the country has limited resources and it already suffers the consequences of sand exploitation, used to “develop” the country. The stimulation of this kind of development through industrialization instigates more damage to the

environment (local and globally) in terms of ecosystems and land degradation which can potentially lead to further aggravation of the climate change.

This view is only possible because colonial and capitalist thought propagates the idea that human beings are not a part of nature. Humans dissociate themselves from nature giving them the right to treat nature as they please as seen in the discourse of the UN when they take from nature in the search for development but also when they think it's time to recompose nature and its ecological systems because they have learnt that nature benefits their human well-being. Here, colonial practices are embedded upon nature creating ownership of nature and maintaining power imbalances from an ecological perspective. The discourse of the UN is in this sense equal to that of colonial discourse but the main difference is the usage of new words such as sustainable. The use of the word sustainable cannot be employed in this context because this leads to practices of greenwashing and paradoxes. For instance, certain goals may encourage efforts to address climate change while simultaneously promoting the exploitation of resources which give way to climate change.

Even though Cape Verde has opted to be a member state, the discourse of the UN stimulates colonial discourse and practices in the country. Given its vulnerable position, Cape Verde is, in the context of development, forced to receive Western "help" through several financial agreements where they have to follow and implement Western agenda. In an attempt to achieve the SDG, Cape Verde is forced to adopt new ways of governing. Western organizations and the UN follow and coerce their initial European norms and (cultural) values upon Cape Verde even though they "recognize" indigenous knowledge and cultural values as being an important contributor to "sustainable development".

The United Nations is not only colonial but through its goals, Cape Verde is subjected to be colonized and dictated by other Western countries in order to make the SDGs a reality. The United Nations makes use of colonial discourse but it also stimulates colonial discourse and colonial practices in Cape Verde. Moreover, the UN instigates coloniality such as dictation over the less "developed" as is the case of Cape Verde by Western countries resulting in neo subjugation. One can conclude that humanitarianism facilitates colonialism and capitalism through their discourse because it is with their political and economical power that they project and coerce their rules and mechanism upon countries such as Cape Verde.

Colonial discourse was clearly present while conducting this research, Cape Verdean discourse is similar to that of the UN. Nonetheless it was at times a barrier to find precisely where and how policies are being implemented in the country. The goals are clear but not the policies and how these could in reality take form in the country. As such, a suggestion for

further research would be exploring how the country wants to tackle climate change and manage its land. This would be an interesting complement to this topic, because people would generate more knowledge on how to move forward with current climate change issues before starting to deal with even more issues. Moreover, further research on how local practices, cultural values and norms are being lost when Cape Verde joins international organizations would also add to enrich academia knowledge on this matter.

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Student:364883



## CHECKLIST ETHICAL AND PRIVACY ASPECTS OF RESEARCH

### INSTRUCTION

This checklist should be completed for every research study that is conducted at the Department of Public Administration and Sociology (DPAS). This checklist should be completed *before* commencing with data collection or approaching participants. Students can complete this checklist with help of their supervisor.

This checklist is a mandatory part of the empirical master's thesis and has to be uploaded along with the research proposal.

The guideline for ethical aspects of research of the Dutch Sociological Association (NSV) can be found on their website ([http://www.nsv-sociologie.nl/?page\\_id=17](http://www.nsv-sociologie.nl/?page_id=17)). If you have doubts about ethical or privacy aspects of your research study, discuss and resolve the matter with your EUR supervisor. If needed and if advised to do so by your supervisor, you can also consult Dr. Jennifer A. Holland, coordinator of the Sociology Master's Thesis program.

### PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Project title **“How are colonial discourses revolving development reproduced in national development goals in Cape Verde through the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?”**

Name, email of student: Herica Ailine Silva Carvalho- 364883hs@eur.nl

Name, email of supervisor: Jess Bier - Bier@essb.eur.nl

Start date and duration: 1 April 2023 until 6 August 2023

Is the research study conducted within DPAS YES

If 'NO': at or for what institute or organization will the study be conducted?

(e.g. internship organization)

## **PART II: HUMAN SUBJECTS**

1. Does your research involve human participants. NO

*If 'NO': skip to part V.*

If 'YES': does the study involve medical or physical research? NO  
Research that falls under the Medical Research Involving Human Subjects Act ([WMO](#)) must first be submitted to [an accredited medical research ethics committee](#) or the Central Committee on Research Involving Human Subjects ([CCMO](#)).

2. Does your research involve field observations without manipulations that will not involve identification of participants. NO

*If 'YES': skip to part IV.*

3. Research involving completely anonymous data files (secondary data that has been anonymized by someone else). NO

*If 'YES': skip to part IV.*

### **PART III: PARTICIPANTS**

1. Will information about the nature of the study and about what participants can expect during the study be withheld from them?
2. Will any of the participants not be asked for verbal or written 'informed consent,' whereby they agree to participate in the study?
3. Will information about the possibility to discontinue the participation at any time be withheld from participants?
4. Will the study involve actively deceiving the participants?  
*Note: almost all research studies involve some kind of deception of participants. Try to think about what types of deception are ethical or non-ethical (e.g. purpose of the study is not told, coercion is exerted on participants, giving participants the feeling that they harm other people by making certain decisions, etc.).*
5. Does the study involve the risk of causing psychological stress or negative emotions beyond those normally encountered by participants?
6. Will information be collected about special categories of data, as defined by the GDPR (e.g. racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying a person, data concerning mental or physical health, data concerning a person's sex life or sexual orientation)?
7. Will the study involve the participation of minors (<18 years old) or other groups that cannot give consent?
8. Is the health and/or safety of participants at risk during the study?
9. Can participants be identified by the study results or can the confidentiality of the participants' identity not be ensured?
10. Are there any other possible ethical issues with regard to this study?

If you have answered 'YES' to any of the previous questions, please indicate below why this issue is unavoidable in this study.

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What safeguards are taken to relieve possible adverse consequences of these issues (e.g., informing participants about the study afterwards, extra safety regulations, etc.).



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Are there any unintended circumstances in the study that can cause harm or have negative (emotional) consequences to the participants? Indicate what possible circumstances this could be.

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*Please attach your informed consent form in Appendix I, if applicable.*

*Continue to part IV.*

**PART IV: SAMPLE**

Where will you collect or obtain your data?

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*Note: indicate for separate data sources.*

What is the (anticipated) size of your sample?

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*Note: indicate for separate data sources.*

What is the size of the population from which you will sample?

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*Note: indicate for separate data sources.*

*Continue to part V.*

## Part V: Data storage and backup

Where and when will you store your data in the short term, after acquisition?

\_\_\_\_ My data will be stored in my computer and probably in my cloud.

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*Note: indicate for separate data sources, for instance for paper-and pencil test data, and for digital data files.*

Who is responsible for the immediate day-to-day management, storage and backup of the data arising from your research?

I myself will be responsible for the storage and management of the gained data from my research \_\_\_\_\_

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How (frequently) will you back-up your research data for short-term data security?

I will back up the data on a daily basis

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In case of collecting personal data how will you anonymize the data?

During the research I will collect no personal data \_\_\_\_\_

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*Note: It is advisable to keep directly identifying personal details separated from the rest of the data. Personal details are then replaced by a key/ code. Only the code is part of the database with data and the list of respondents/research subjects is kept separate.*

## **PART VI: SIGNATURE**

Please note that it is your responsibility to follow the ethical guidelines in the conduct of your study. This includes providing information to participants about the study and ensuring confidentiality in storage and use of personal data. Treat participants respectfully, be on time at appointments, call participants when they have signed up for your study and fulfil promises made to participants.

Furthermore, it is your responsibility that data are authentic, of high quality and properly stored. The principle is always that the supervisor (or strictly speaking the Erasmus University Rotterdam) remains owner of the data, and that the student should therefore hand over all data to the supervisor.

Hereby I declare that the study will be conducted in accordance with the ethical guidelines of the Department of Public Administration and Sociology at Erasmus University Rotterdam. I have answered the questions truthfully.

Name student: Herica Carvalho

Name (EUR) supervisor: Jess Bier

Date: 6 August 2023

Date:

