



TV

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

Week of 22 September 2003

Programme No.871

Length: 3'46"

DESERTIFICATION AND WATER SHORTAGE IN CAPE VERDE

VIDEO

ARID LANDSCAPE (13")

WOMEN WALKING WITH
BUCKETS ON THEIR HEADS (16")

WATER TANK (17")

AUDIO

NARRATION

Cape Verde, off the west coast of Africa, faces the full wrath of nature. Volcanic and seismic events are frequent. The dry dusty winds known as *Harmatten* sweep the rugged and arid terrain.

But most serious of all is the scanty and unpredictable rains that caused acute water shortages in the archipelago. Less than 20% of the population has access to running water at home. Most of them have to walk long distances to public water points.

With help from the UN Development Programme, UNDP, Cape Verde authorities are increasing the public water distribution network. The aim is to bring clean water to rural areas 24 hours a day says, Daniel Augusto Martins, an agricultural engineer with UNDP.

MARTINS: (in Portuguese)

DANIEL AUGUSTO MARTINS ON
CAMERA (18.5")

“In order to meet the needs of the population the project will supply 25 litres of water per person, as well as making sure that people don't have to go too far away to get water. No more than 200 metres.”

NARRATION

GUILLERMO MONTEIRO IN
STORE (17")

Among those benefiting from the project is Guillermo Monteiro and his family. They were dependent on unreliable and expensive delivery of water by tanker truck. Now the piped water satisfies all their needs and it's free.

MONTEIRO: (in Portuguese)

GUILLERMO MONTEIRO ON
CAMERA (8.5")

“Without water we were hungry. Now everything is okay.”

NARRATION

ARID LANDSCAPE (8")

The lack of rain and poor irrigation is the cause of another problem. Cape Verde can't produce enough food for its population.

WOMEN COOKING AND
SERVING FOOD TO CHILDREN
(14")

In an effort to ensure school children get enough nutrition, UNICEF and the World Food Programme have organized feeding programmes in local communities. Luiza Martins Afonso is principal of Santa Caterina village school.

AFONSO: (in Portuguese)

LUIZA MARTINS AFONSO ON

“The project has helped by paying the salaries of

CAMERA (9.5")

the cafeteria staff and donating plates, a stove and money for the lunch programme."

NARRATION

W/S OF TOWN (19")

With increasing population density and internal migration, Cape Verde faces over-exploitation of the cultivatable land. Some plant and animal species have become extinct and others are threatened. Desertification is now a major concern. UN System Coordinator is Joseph Byll-Cataria.

BYLL-CATARIA: (in French)

JOSEPH BYLL-CATARIA ON
CAMERA (11")

"Our objective is to give our support to administrative reform and decentralization. Also to give our support to all actions aimed at better economic and development management practices."

NARRATION

WOMEN DRAWING WATER
FROM WELL & WATERING
PLANTS (19")

In an effort to re-establish the natural habitat, a programme of reforestation is underway. It includes educating locals about natural resource management. Plans are being drawn up for further efforts, including eco-tourism, explains UNDP biologist, Ezildo Gomes.

GOMES: (in Portuguese)

EZILDO GOMES ON CAMERA
(13')

"This is one of the few areas in Cape Verde where the natural resources are being used in harmony, in order to create a sustainable

environment.

NARRATION

PAN OF VILLAGE/BEACH (20")

During the International Year of Fresh Water, the UN galvanized action on critical water problems in Cape Verde. They're vital parts of sustainable development programmes to eradicate the desertification and drought that are inextricably tied to poverty. Cape Verde is hopeful of seeing happier times ahead.

LOGO (20")

This report was prepared by Richard Sydenham and Noreen Ahmed for the United Nations.