

## TITLE AND SUMMARY

### ***"The importance of Ecotourism in the architectural heritage of Cape Verde - the potential to practice"***

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This paper aims to discuss and analyze the importance of ecotourism in the architectural landscape of Cape Verde and sustainable tourism that will be just a theoretical idea, an ideal model of activity or expected to be applicable, be observed in practice.

Since the last decade of the century. Century, tourism in Cape Verde has been one of the fastest growing sectors, attracting greater foreign direct investment. However, this growth has also generated increased pressure on existing resources, with negative impacts on several levels. Has been reflected and discussed the sustainability of tourism in the country, with clear objectives of enhancing the tourist destination of Cape Verde, through the conservation and improvement of the natural environment, social and cultural.

The focus of the Cape Verdean authorities in increasing tourism to the century. Century led to the election of ecotourism as a future activity, with the aim of improving the competitiveness of tourism, be an alternative to the sector. An activity that can be implemented on any island, if well harnessed the vast array of existing products, wrap and form on the importance of biodiversity conservation and contribute to the eradication of poverty by generating economic resources for local communities.

Ecotourism and Rural Tourism can also be considered a novelty for all islands of the archipelago of Cape Verde, taking into account the growing need for product diversification and tourism. The guest house is a type of tourism that is not very well publicized in Cape Verde. Some residents rent rooms to tourists providing them a family environment. This type of tourism is widespread on the islands of Santo Antao and Fogo, and in general the owners are migrants after several years abroad decided to return to their country of origin.

There are already some initiatives that meet sustainability and deserve to be widely publicized and supported. With regard to tourism, Protected Areas have been identified as a good bet in the fight to curb the imbalance of the environment. These areas ranging from national parks, natural monuments and wildlife refuges, national forests through to reservations faunas, among others.



Proven the potential of tourism in Cape Verde, you must now invest in its sustainability. Sustainable tourism involves, first, the adoption of a long-term perspective in which there is a management that is based on the ecological balance, economic efficiency and social equity.

The commitment to sustainable tourism brings clear advantages to Cape Verde. So much for the environment and the populations of various localities. Since, in addition to fostering an understanding of the impact of tourism highlights the need to adopt the strategy of tourism and planning, particularly in infra-structure of the surrounding areas and access. What can contribute to the retention of the stocks, easing internal migration, can demonstrate the importance of cultural traditions.

However efforts suggest promising prospects and productive. The road ahead is still long and the challenges remain great: tourism needs to be more sustainable fragile ecosystems need protection, renewable energy is vital to reducing dependency, access to markets and better terms of trade are essential to enhancing relations with the outside world, information technology can reduce isolation, security measures are expensive in relation to national income; diseases must be tackled, the vulnerability is that the subject must be overcome, the ability to exploit links with the immigrant community, in terms of trade links, promote trade and investment.

It is important to promote the tourism sector (using the multiplier effects of tourism expenditure), given that he favors promoting development and reducing regional disparity, and contributes to the external balance. It is also essential to motivate the private sector, internal and external, to develop and grow, without necessarily losing sight of respect for the natural environment, cultural and human (ecotourism).

Thus, it is argued that the growth prospects of tourism are shown as a development opportunity for Cape Verde, but some questions require attention and research. Currently, the country through tourism, especially designed for ecotourism and cultural-historical tourism, sees an opportunity to preserve their heritage and encourage the maintenance of its main features.

The natural, architectural and cultural Cape Verdean can be enhanced considerably by using the the purposes of tourism, by developing alternative forms of tourism, for example, cultural tourism, ecotourism, nature tourism, highlighting the need to promote policies which enable all people to enjoy the benefits of alternative tourism, sustainable, and to reflect adequately the special characteristics and needs of the spaces in which they operate.

The synergy between heritage and tourism produces conditions and reciprocal influences. The tourism sector is a source of wealth and benefits of positive economic reasons to encourage the rise of the level of local life and facilitates exchanges and cultural contacts. It also promotes the



conservation of the heritage sector, environment and urban development by contributing to generate income.

The mutual benefits that derive from the relationship between tourism - heritage mean that both have common economic objectives. The conservation of heritage resources and the process of transformation in the tourism product is an incentive for the revitalization of cultural identity at the regional, national and international. The tourist market needs of heritage resources for the development of new products. Heritage and tourism, are highly compatible, the interdependence between the two areas is inevitable.

Today, its construction in Cape Verde are very similar to European. The framework adopts new building materials, solutions and techniques used in countries with different climatic characteristics of the archipelago. The Portuguese influence, taking into account the fact that being responsible for the colonization of the islands, is clear in the islands. The Portuguese construction, applied to a temperate climate, which has a high thermal amplitude between the two major seasons, winter and summer, should be adapted when applied in Cape Verde to meet the challenges posed by climate, tradition, culture and, finally, social relations.

The import and use of foreign methods and techniques may be a risk that will provide a burden to the environment. Can increase errors in the construction sector during the construction phase due to the application of different techniques. This may increase the disease and jeopardize the life cycle of the building. The discomfort in these buildings will be offset by the increase in energy demand and, inevitably, increasing environmental impact.

So, if that requires thinking architecture for the planning and implementation of physical infrastructure for the proper development of tourism in Cape Verde. Are directly involved as architects, civil engineers and planners have a huge responsibility to design and carry out works for tourism, mainly in very fragile ecosystems such as those that characterize the natural areas. Being a relatively new subject in the country, has not yet established standards, rules, clear guidelines for the development of this type of tourism infrastructure. In many cases, are their own designers and builders and their customers, while demonstrating some sensitivity in the conservation and preservation of areas of ecological significance, set up its own design criteria and ethical codes that ensure minimal environmental impact and a harmonious and sustainable interaction between the physical work and the surrounding spaces.

The deployment of hotel developments in suitable places, guided by sustainable principles, is one way to encourage conservation of natural and architectural heritage, and pursues the development of environmental awareness through the interpretation of the environment and promoting the welfare of populations involved.



Approach bioclimatic architecture allows the buildings to relate to the environment in greater harmony as well as providing environmental comfort and energy conservation. This approach is through the conscious application of design solutions and construction materials suited to local climatic characteristics using generally renewable resources such as sun, wind and vegetation. Thus it is possible to provide the desired comfort to the users, and contribute to the reduction of energy consumption and conservation.

This term applied to ecotourism as well as conserve natural resources contributes to improving the quality of life of local people. They should participate in projects of sustainable tourism development and it is fair to organize, build and operate, with adequate guidance, use of natural resources. Ideally, an infrastructure ecotourism is that the construction is of sustainable natural materials from the site, which produces its own energy via the sun or wind and turning their own waste.

The concept of bioclimatic design in ecotourism areas is closely related to the local climate and its environment, proposing methods of packaging based on environmental analysis of climatic conditions in different places and compare them with the demand for comfort of guests. The behavior of buildings, to produce appropriate levels of comfort provided by human activity, is dependent on the application of techniques for packaging natural and avoid as much dependence on mechanical systems, HVAC.

It is difficult to implement a true ecotourism project, especially if you want to meet all of its principles. Some businesses are limited to follow some ecological principles and consider themselves and are promoted so as "ecotourism", using the term improperly. A building bioclimatic not have to involve additional costs as no need of complicated technological devices. Thus, its success depends solely on the experience, knowledge and creativity of its designer.

Understanding the climate is basic requirement for the architect building project a comfortable thermal point of view. The walls, floor coverage, gaps and glass surfaces should be tailored to the specific characteristics of climate, which are expressed through elements such as temperature, relative humidity, speed and wind direction, among others . The study of climatic elements allows the identification of the main requirements, thereby guiding the decisions taken at the time of elaboration of the project.

In general, tourist facilities in Cape Verde are generally structures that could be built anywhere in the world, whose architectural fashion of the moment is tightening without major concerns about the climate, culture, history and especially the kind of architecture. The geometry of architecture has to be according to the place where the tourist is, ie should not copy or import architectural forms or styles foreign to enforce them only because it's fashionable.



In spite of wanting to create physical infrastructure for the development of ecotourism, especially in fragile natural areas, this is not already there and what can be considered as proposals for installations targeted for ecotourism are isolated cases result from the desire to a prosecutor or their own architects and designers who establish as their own criteria, the harmonious interaction of tourism infrastructure with the environment.

For physical planning and architectural design of ecotourism infrastructure in Cape Verde may suggest certain criteria and guidelines, not as a complete or replace the professionals, but as a general guide to the development of models aimed at specific aspects and the ecological characteristics of sites, mainly in remote areas. The correct choice of resources to improve or bioclimatic design optimizes thermal conditions when the combination of temperature, humidity and outdoor temperature range do not provide the comfort conditions within the building.

In this case, the strategies they present themselves as more effective to achieve thermal comfort, ie for protecting the building envelope, to prevent the heat to penetrate inside (shape and building orientation, shading, thermal mass, reflection solar insolation and radiation, area and type of glazing, internal gains by conduction, etc.). and the systems that dissipate heat from the indoor (natural ventilation, radiative cooling, evaporative cooling, etc..) are generally referred Technologies Passive Cooling.

As ecotourism centers are usually located in or near natural areas (protected legally or not) that often have a difficult access and a relative isolation and, of course, is characterized by a very delicate ecological balance and vulnerable, it is clear that all the construction of buildings, roads and miscellaneous equipment must be designed so as not to adversely affect the environment and achieve a certain level of functional self-sufficiency.

Cape Verde has adverse climatic characteristics that are generally considered as factors inhibiting their economic performance, mainly due to its instability rain. The temperature ranges are very low and, in general, the islands with temperatures within the comfort zone. The areas of discomfort can be overcome using solutions of passive solar energy simple and easy to implement.

We can conclude that the comfort, most of the year, planning for detached buildings and urban areas can be achieved through a common strategy. The implementation of an integrated planning that meets the demands of weather conditions, social and technical help to find solutions to resolve the issues of comfort for users.

Concern about the built environment is now leading to a critical view of the construction. Countries with economic instability and high growth potential have a responsibility for the environment while ensuring a sustainable construction. Respect for tradition and culture is fundamental to improve the identification of the building and people.



This is very important, the construction must be a map-guide or manual with the ability to show us the story of a people and a place. We learn about some history of the region through its roads and buildings.

The bet on Sustainable Tourism is clearly advantageous to Cape Verde, both for the environment and the people, because in addition to increasing understanding of the impact of tourism, also highlighted the need to adopt strategies for planning and ecotourism, particularly at infrastructure.