

# Seedlings for Cape Verde



## Change begins with Knowledge

*The word “broadcast” means “to scatter seeds.” With these programs, you can plant seedlings throughout your daily broadcast to become a Green Station. Seedlings are short pieces about climate change that can include facts, simple solutions, nature poems, songs, and listener ideas.*

### 1. This is Seedlings.

At the end of December 2015, the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa gave Praia Grande a grant to build a desalination plant powered entirely by the movement of ocean waves. The self-powered plant will be the first of its kind in the world, producing drinkable water for almost 50,000 people on São Vicente. Desalination plants have become critical sources of fresh water all around Cabo Verde, but there can be problems with older technology. Plants that are not sustainably powered must burn large amounts of fossil fuels to process sea water, and this contributes to climate change, and may even worsen local drought conditions that make the desalination plant necessary. If older desalination plants aren't careful with hyper-salty waste water, this can kill marine life and disrupt island ecology and fishing industries. The technology used in Wave20, the name of Praia Grande's new plant, could potentially be used to supply São Vicente with electricity as well.



### 2. This is Seedlings.

Plastic waste is a big problem for our islands, but the new government initiative, “Cabo Verde Sem Plastico,” is putting us on a path to completely banning plastic bags by 2018. Plastic waste, especially bags, is dangerous for marine life as they can eat the plastic and become poisoned by chemicals or get entangled and drown. Manufacturing plastic is also bad for the environment, as it uses oil, which contributes to climate change. Plastic that is not recycled lasts for a very long time, and can poison groundwater or float in the ocean for thousands of years. “Cabo Verde Sem Plastico” will require an adjustment for businesses, as it means bags may not be produced in Cape Verde, imported, or given to customers in shops. The government plans to make the transition to plastic-free gradually. There will be advertisements, conferences, contests, and community cleanups to help change the culture around plastic waste in our country. This will be a great economic opportunity as well, as green jobs can be created making paper, banana leaf, and fabric bags as environmentally-friendly alternatives to plastic.



United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa



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### 3. This is Seedlings.

Now we will read a poem by Manoel de Barros, an award-winning Brazilian poet who was considered by many to be the country's greatest living poet until his death in 2014. De Barros often wrote poems on the theme of nature.

O Apanhador de Desperdícios

Uso a palavra para compor meus silêncios.  
Não gosto das palavras  
fatigadas de informar.  
Dou mais respeito  
às que vivem de barriga no chão  
tipo água pedra sapo.  
Entendo bem o sotaque das águas.  
Dou respeito às coisas desimportantes  
e aos seres desimportantes.  
Prezo insetos mais que aviões.  
Prezo a velocidade  
das tartarugas mais que a dos mísseis.  
Tenho em mim esse atraso de nascença.  
Eu fui aparelhado  
para gostar de passarinhos.  
Tenho abundância de ser feliz por isso.  
Meu quintal é maior do que o mundo.  
Sou um apanhador de desperdícios:  
Amo os restos  
como as boas moscas.  
Queria que a minha voz tivesse um formato de canto.  
Porque eu não sou da informática:  
eu sou da invencionática.  
Só uso a palavra para compor meus silêncios.



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# Seedlings ....from Developing Radio Partners

## 4. This is Seedlings.

Now we will read another piece by Manoel de Barros, the award-winning Brazilian poet. This is an excerpt from a longer poem titled “Mundo Pequeno.”

Caçador, nos barrancos, de rãs entardecidas,  
Sombra-Boa entardece. Caminha sobre estratos  
de um mar extinto. Caminha sobre as conchas  
dos caracóis da terra. Certa vez encontrou uma  
voz sem boca. Era uma voz pequena e azul. Não  
tinha boca mesmo. “Sonora voz de uma concha”,  
ele disse. Sombra-Boa ainda ouve nestes lugares  
conversamentos de gaivotas. E passam navios  
caranguejeiros por ele, carregados de lodo.  
Sombra-Boa tem hora que entra em pura  
decomposição lírica: “Aromas de tomilhos dementam  
cigarras.” Conversava em Guató, em Português, e em  
Pássaro.

Me disse em Língua-pássaro: “Anhumas premunem  
mulheres grávidas, 3 dias antes do inturgescer”.  
Sombra-Boa ainda fala de suas descobertas:  
“Borboletas de franjas amarelas são fascinadas  
por dejectos.” Foi sempre um ente abençoado a  
garças. Nascera engrandecido de nadezas.

How does hearing a poem or a song that describes nature in beautiful ways make you feel? Does it make you see the environment you live in differently?



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