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Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER
Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG

1st WASAG International Forum on Water Scarcity in Agriculture

Celebrating
World Water Day 2019

19–22 March 2019 | Praia, Cabo Verde



Programme & Concept Note





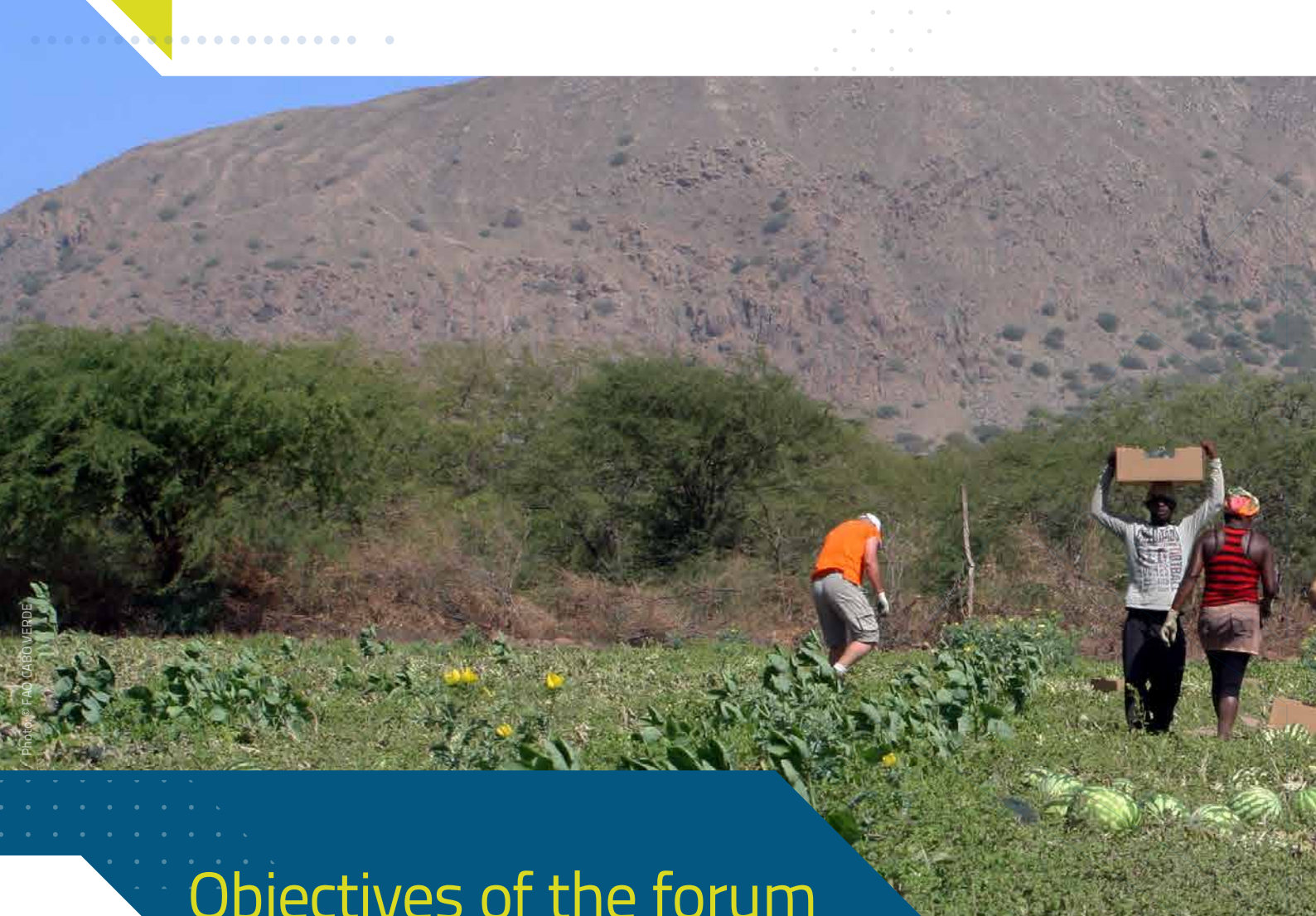
PHOTO: FACTA CABO VERDE

Introduction

The Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG) has been designed to bring together key players across the globe and across sectors to tackle the collective challenge of using water in agriculture more efficiently to ensure food security for all. It is an initiative for partners from all fields and backgrounds to collaborate in supporting countries and stakeholders in their commitments to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement (including implementing nationally determined contributions).

WASAG is organizing its 1st International Forum on Water Scarcity in Agriculture in Praia, Cabo Verde from 19 to 22 March 2019, to coincide with the celebration of World Water Day 2019 which this year adopts the theme of 'Leaving no one behind'. The forum is organized under the patronage of the Government of Cabo Verde, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Ministry of Agricultural Food, Forestry and Tourism Policies of Italy (MIPAAFT) and the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG).

The forum aims at identifying concrete - practical, innovative and collaborative - solutions to address water scarcity in agriculture in a changing climate. With a focus on Cabo Verde, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and West African countries, the forum is expected to illustrate how water scarcity in agriculture can be addressed and turned into an opportunity for sustainable development, food and nutrition security.



Objectives of the forum

The objective of the 1st WASAG International Forum on Water Scarcity in Agriculture is to identify concrete solutions to address water scarcity in agriculture in a changing climate and in particular:

- To raise awareness about the impacts of climate change, the importance of sustainable management of water in agriculture and of healthy ecosystems and their services.
- To identify the specific needs and agree on priority actions to address water scarcity in agriculture, focusing on SIDS and West African countries.
- To share experiences in addressing water scarcity in agriculture in the context of climate change.
- To establish collaboration between partners and stakeholders to ensure their commitment to finance priority actions.
- To mobilize resources to address the growing issues of water scarcity in agriculture in SIDS and in the West African countries.

The forum is organised around six main themes: water and migration, water and nutrition, saline agriculture, sustainable agricultural water use, drought preparedness and financial mechanisms for sustainable management of water resources.



Expected outcomes

After the forum, the following outcomes are expected:

- The sustainable and effective management of water for agriculture, as well as the importance of healthy ecosystems and their services for sustainable agricultural systems are recognized as key points in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement.
- Applicable solutions, including nature-based solutions, are identified and tailored to the local contexts of SIDS and West African countries.
- New and strengthened collaborations between partners and stakeholders are established to address the complex and multi-pronged issue of water scarcity in a changing climate.
- Sustainable investments are identified to achieve positive results in the management of water scarcity.

A report will be produced and disseminated after the forum.



Key messages

In recent years, agriculture has suffered from severe water shortages. Nearly half of the world population actually lives in areas that are potentially water scarce. Driven by economic development and changing lifestyle, water use has been growing twice as fast as the world's population in the last century. By 2025, two-thirds of the world population may face water stress and 1.8 billion people - nearly a quarter of the world population - will be living in countries with absolute water scarcity.

Smallholder farmers who live in rural areas are among the most vulnerable to water scarcity, as they rely on agriculture and natural resources for their livelihoods. Too often, rural poor are overlooked and left behind.

The First WASAG International Forum on Water Scarcity calls for immediate and concerted effort to increase cooperation and act together urgently to manage water wisely, to achieve food security and leave no one behind.

WASAG currently focuses its work on the following six areas which are also the main areas of the forum:

- **Water and migration:**

Water scarcity and droughts, which result in the decline of smallholder agricultural production, can accelerate or amplify forced migration. People in rural areas must have the choice to remain where they live rather than to be forced to move due to the impossibility of sustaining their livelihoods. Providing alternatives to migration includes creating stronger rural communities that are more resilient to water stress and other environmental and non-environmental risks, as well as investing in local diversification.



- **Drought preparedness:**

Droughts have affected more people worldwide in the last 40 years than any other natural hazard. They are expected to further increase in frequency, severity, duration and spatial extent, affecting family farmers living in rural areas who depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Managing droughts by reducing risk and increasing the capacity of rural communities to cope with is key to prevent droughts from turning into famines.

- **Water and nutrition:**

Each drop of water used for agriculture should also contribute to produce more nutritious food, providing a healthy and balanced diet. Water management strategies in the face of climate change should increase food productivity while decreasing malnutrition.

Introducing irrigation to rainfed crops during dry spells gives farmers the possibility to grow new crop varieties. This contributes to diversify and expand availability of more nutritious food that can positively impact food security and nutrition.

- **Financial mechanisms:**

Opening opportunities for smallholder farmers to become more resilient in a changing climate requires more investments to improve access to water and manage water in a more efficient way. It is key to facilitate farmers' access to innovative financing mechanisms to boost these investments. Such mechanisms include new funds targeting climate change adaptation and mitigation, co-financing and the provision of insurance or guarantees by financial institutions.

- **Sustainable agricultural water use:**

Sustainable management of water in agriculture is critical to increase agricultural production. There is an urgent need to improve water use efficiency. This is not only about "more crop per drop", but also about ensuring that the water savings are used effectively at farm, catchment, national or transboundary levels, taking into account a fair allocation among other competing sectors - domestic needs, industries, energy -, as well as the environmental flow requirements.

- **Saline agriculture:**

With sea level rise due to climate change, salinity intrusion will increase and affect not only agricultural production, but also the living conditions of farmers, the quality of natural resources and the whole ecosystems. It is therefore important to support innovative and sustainable food production systems in increasingly saline soil and water environments.



Structure and format of the forum

The 1st WASAG International Forum will consist of a mix of plenary, technical and parallel sessions, side events, poster session, exhibition and networking opportunities.

Plenary sessions will include the opening ceremony and the World Water Day celebration that will take place in the plenary room.

Technical sessions will comprise one technical session on Cabo Verde and six technical sessions on the focus areas of the forum: water and migration, water and nutrition, saline agriculture, sustainable agricultural water use, drought preparedness and financial mechanism for sustainable management of water resources. All of them will take place in the plenary room.

Parallel sessions will provide a space for further discussions on some of the focus areas and for **side events**.

Posters will be displayed in the entrance hall of the venue and a poster session will take place.

The exhibition area will offer an opportunity for government organizations, researchers, farmers, among others to share their experience, best practices, innovations and project ideas. It will also provide an alternative space where people can meet informally outside a forum session.

The networking area will provide an important opportunity for participants to meet and start working together towards project ideas to address water scarcity in agriculture. To this end, a template for project proposals discussion will be distributed with the welcome kit to facilitate networking among participants. The networking area will include six meeting points, one for each of the focus areas of the forum. On the badge, different colored spots corresponding to the focus areas of your interest will be provided to facilitate interaction among participants sharing the same interest.



Participants, organizers and sponsors

Participants:

The target audience of the 1st International WASAG Forum on Water Scarcity in Agriculture are experts and decision-makers from governments, academia, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, the private sector, with an interest in water scarcity in agriculture.

Organizers:

Government of Cabo Verde

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Ministry of Agricultural Food, Forestry and Tourism Policies, Italy (MIPAAFT)

Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG)

Sponsors:

Swiss Confederation - Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER);
Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG)

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)



Programme

Time	Day 1: Tuesday 19 March 2019	Day 2: Wednesday 20 March 2019	Day 3: Thursday 21 March 2019	Day 4: Friday 22 March 2019
8.30–09.00	Registration	Registration	Debrief of Day 2 (15 min)	Debrief of Day 3 (15 min)
09.00–10.30	Field trip	Opening ceremony	Technical session - Sustainable agriculture water use / Parallel session	World Water Day Celebration and launch of the World Water Development Report 2019
10.30–11.00		NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK - for new partnerships and project support mobilization		COFFEE BREAK -
11.00–12.30		Technical session - Cabo Verde	Technical session - Saline agriculture / Parallel session	Closing ceremony
12.30–14.00		LUNCH BREAK		COCKTAIL
14.00–15.30		Technical session - Drought preparedness / Parallel session	Technical session - Financing mechanisms for sustainable management of water resources / Parallel session	
15.30–16.00		NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK/POSTER SESSION		
16.00–17.30		Technical session - Water and nutrition / Parallel session	Technical session - Water and migration / Parallel session	
17.30–18.30	Working Groups Meeting	WASAG Partners Meeting	Conclusions and synthesis	
18.30		RECEPTION		



Logistical information

The venue

All the sessions and side events of the forum will take place in the National Assembly of Cabo Verde, in Praia. The following meeting rooms will be available:

Plenary room

The main sessions (plenary and technical sessions, World Water Day celebration) will take place in the plenary room.

China room

Dedicated to parallel sessions and side events.

Main hall

The National Assembly main hall will hold the poster exhibition.

Press point

A special area dedicated to the national and international journalists.

More information on the room location can be found on the map on the last pages.

Logistical information (continued)

Registration (airport/venue)

Registration desk

You will find a registration desk at the airport and at the venue entrance. You will need to present your passport to receive your badge and the welcome kit.

Services during the meeting

WiFi coverage

Wifi connection will be available.

Catering facilities

Coffee breaks and lunches will be provided during the forum.

Help/Information point

There will be an information point where you will find all the information related to the forum.

Transport

A transport service from the airport to the venue, and from the venue to the hotels and vice versa, will be available.



Other important information during your stay at Cabo Verde

Emergency telephone numbers

Police: 132

Hospital Agostinho Neto: 260 21 40

Fire department: 131, 261 27 27

Information Praia Airport: 263 10 10

Airport tax

You will be requested to pay an airport security fee of 3400 Cabo Verde escudo at your arrival in the Cabo Verde airport. Credit card is accepted.

Currency/Credit cards

The official currency is the Cabo Verde Escudo.

Exchange rate

The current exchange rate is approximately 1 Cabo Verde Escudo = 0.009 Euro; or 1 Cabo Verde Escudo = 0.01 US\$. Up-to-date exchange rate can be provided at the following site: www.xe.com/ucc.

Time zones

Cabo Verde is GMT – 1. For details on time zones, please visit: www.timeanddate.com/world-clock/.

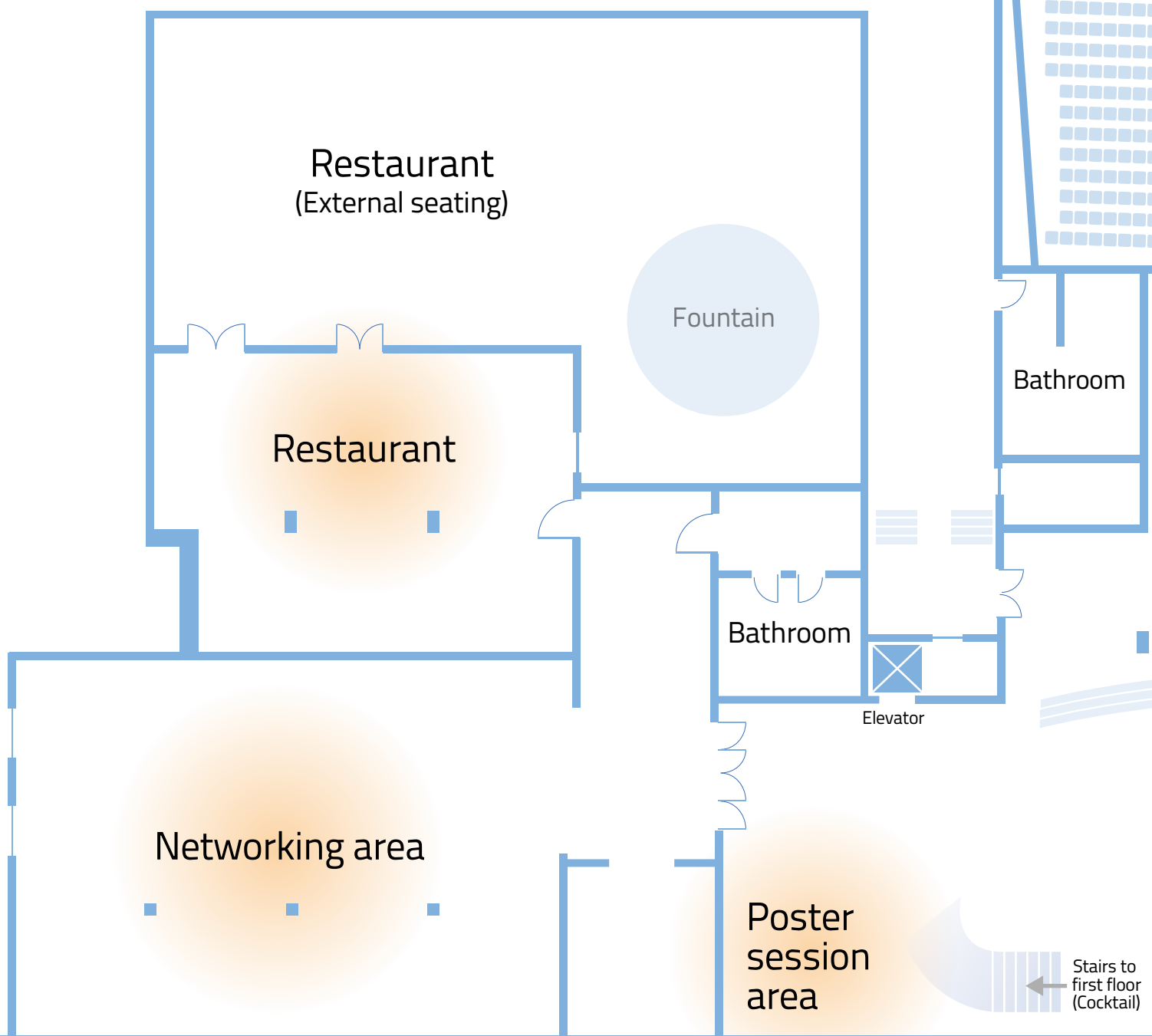
Electricity supply

Cabo Verde has a 220 standard voltage electricity supply, and a standard frequency of 50 Hz. The sockets are C/F type.

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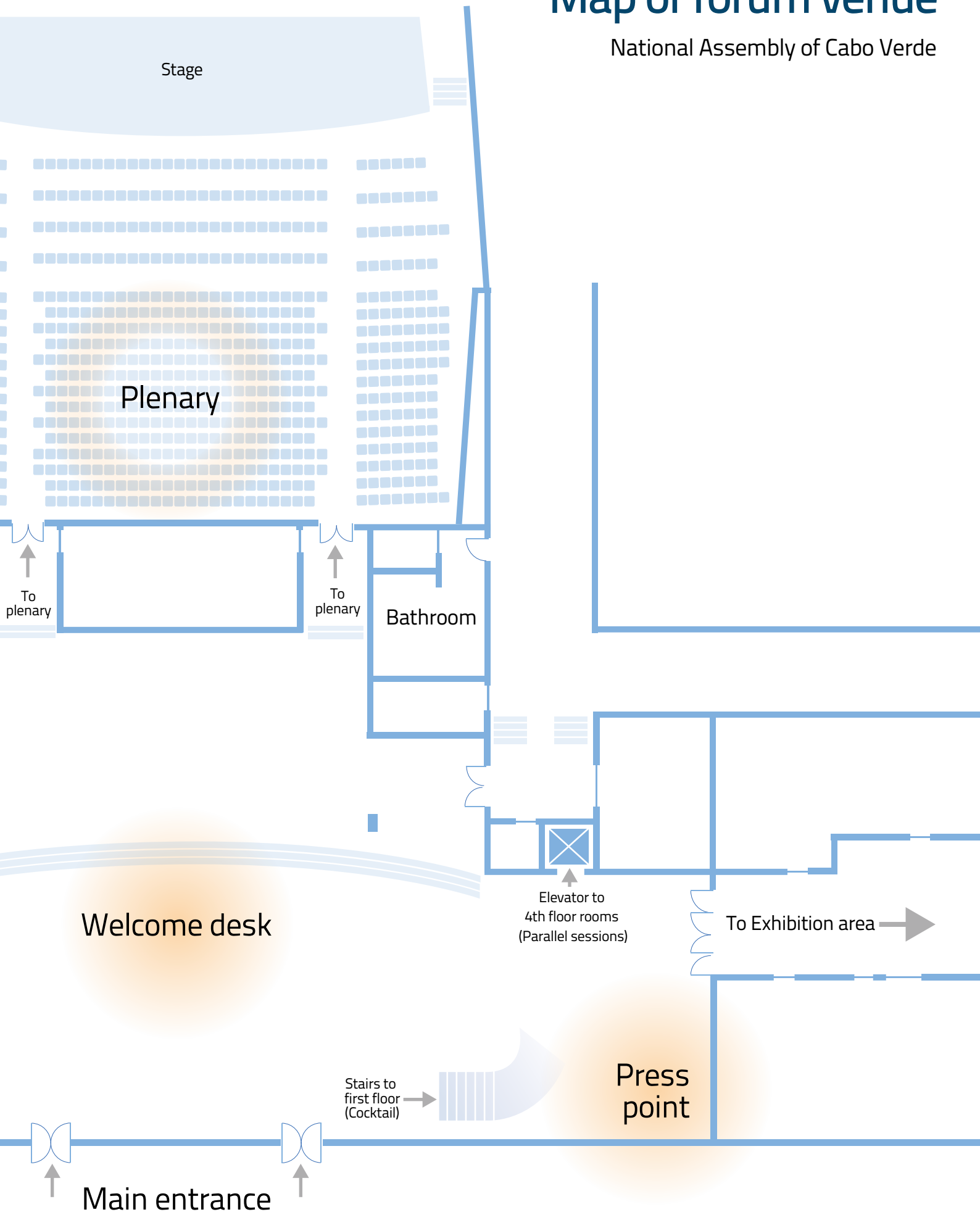
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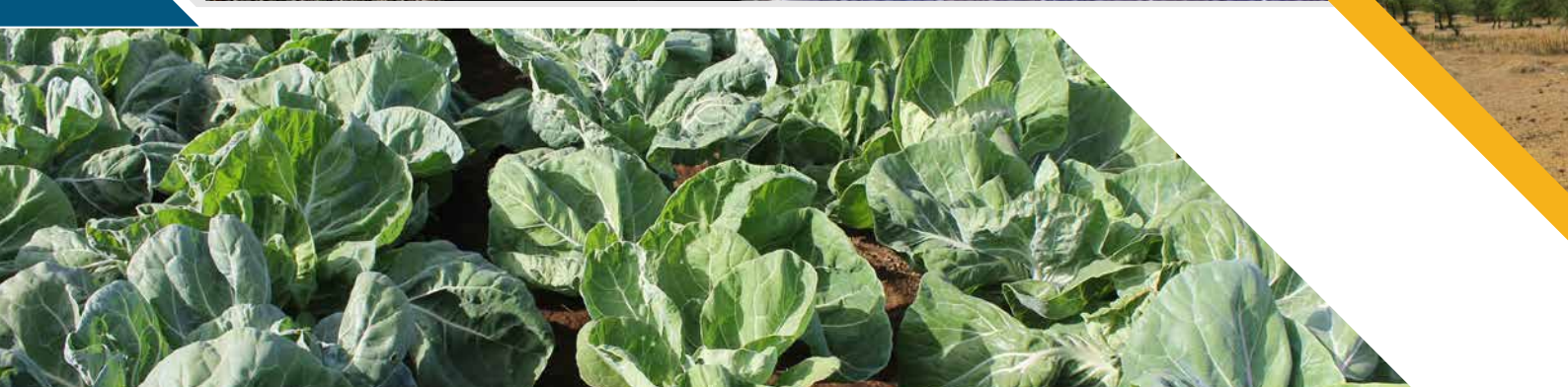
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Map of forum venue

National Assembly of Cabo Verde





Photos: ©FAO Cabo Verde



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