

## Chapter 12

# Cooperation Strategies Towards Sustainability in Insular Territories: A Comparison Study Between Porto Santo Island, Madeira Archipelago, Portugal and El Hierro Island, Canary Archipelago, Spain

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Nowadays, the high environmental sensitivity and economic constraints, as well as future prospects for development, require a strong sustainable energy policy. Such policies should be based on the local resource valorization – which gains more emphasis in ultra-peripheral territories as the case of the Madeira and Canary Archipelagos. In fact, renewable energy sources become more competitive from the economic point of view – however, with high environmental and social benefits in both Archipelagos. Thus, the local policies of Porto Santo Island will be inspired on the neighbor archipelago (Canary Islands), more specifically in the El Hierro Island – which is one of the worldwide leaders in sustainability issues. Contextually, the work enables a view through the cooperation perspective, highlighting sustainability strategies in Porto Santo Island (Madeira, Portugal) and El Hierro Island (Canary, Spain). Therefore, it will address diverse forms of energy production through natural resources with influence on spatial planning.*

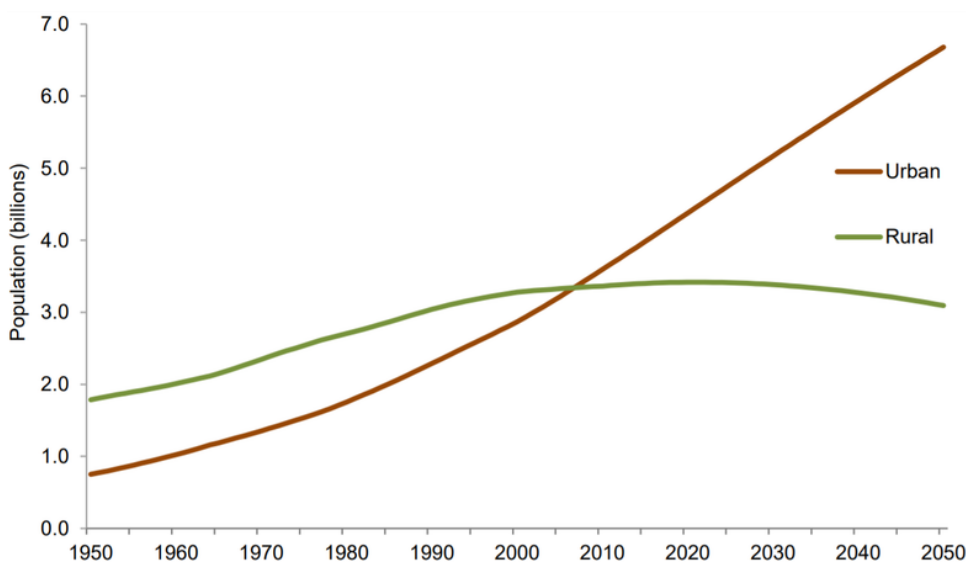
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## INTRODUCTION

The contemporary age was primarily marked by the accelerated growth of cities which were widespread throughout the world, through the impulses and transformations arising from capitalism, even in underdeveloped nations with non-significant industrialization (Silva & Barroso & Rodrigues & Costa & Fontana, 2014). In this sense, the cities are constituted by a system of interconnection between people, companies, trades, transport, communication, and services, and up to 2015, about 50% of the world population was resident in urban areas, with the trend of growth to 75% up to 2050 (UN World Urbanization Prospects, 2012). It should be noted that megacities emerged in the 21st century, which gather about 10% of the world population, and most of them have severe concentrations of poverty and socio-environmental problems (UN World Urbanization Prospects, 2014).

Regarding the accelerated growth of cities, Johnson (2008) states that the growing and complex agglomeration of people tends inevitably to make the places more confusing and disorganized. For Rodríguez-Bolívar (2015), the rapid shift to an excessively urban population causes societies and their respective governances to encounter unprecedented challenges such as: unemployment, education, sustainable development, energy and the environment, security, public services and others. It is only in the middle of the 20st century that the global edition of legal regulations for urban planning was initiated, in order to regulate the agenda and promote social peace in urban areas (Humbert, 2017).

Figure 1. Urban and rural populations of the world 1950-2050. Source: UN, 2018.



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