



**APCI**

Agência de Promoção de  
Comércio e Investimento

INVEST SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

# Invest in Transport & Logistics

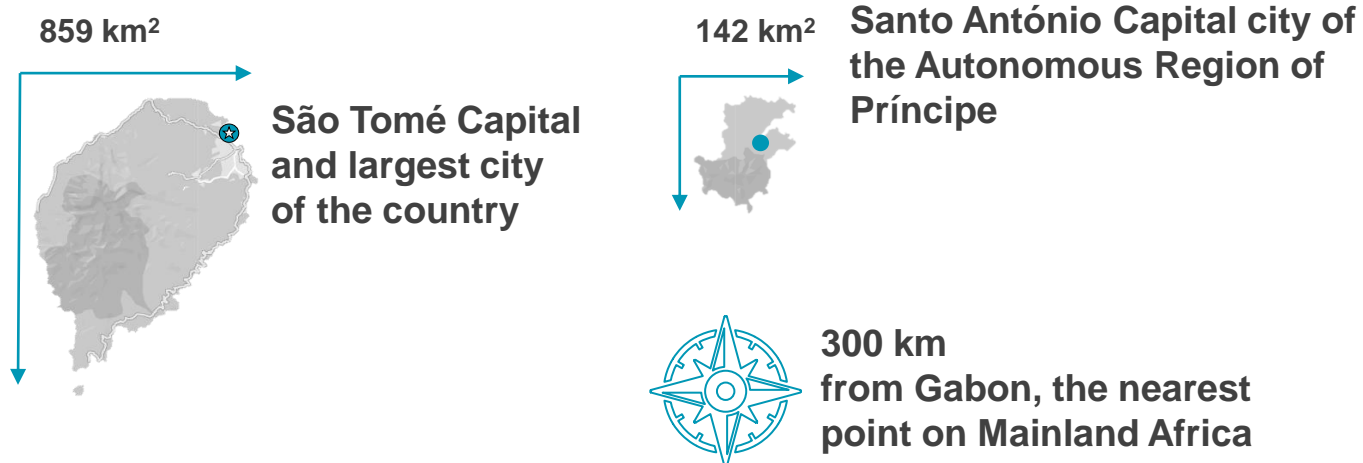


# INVEST SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE



## About São Tomé And Príncipe (STeP)

Located less than a 6-hour flight from Lisbon, Portugal, and just 2 hours from major Central and West African cities, São Tomé and Príncipe is a stable nation with a rich trade history and strong democratic institutions. Its strategic location makes it an ideal business hub, offering unique opportunities for investors looking to tap into the dynamic markets of the wider region.



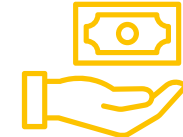
**232,000**  
Population in 2023



**Portuguese**  
official language



**\$670m**  
GDP



**\$2,900**  
GDP per capita

### Endowed with rich natural resources and a strategic location in the Gulf of Guinea



**Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)** 160 times bigger than its land territory



**International subsea cable** currently landed in São Tomé and Príncipe, an important connection between France and South Africa



Potential to tap into **offshore assets for substantial hydrocarbon revenues**, which could fund significant national infrastructure projects

### Stable macroeconomic fundamentals



**Stable growth record** for over 3 decades, with most recent GDP data showcasing economic resilience, particularly when compared to the regional average



**Strong GDP growth forecasts** expected with growth rates of 2.4% in 2024, 3.1% in 2025 and 3.6% in 2026 driven by strong tourist arrivals, infrastructure projects and oil and gas investments



**Stable, Fixed Exchange Rate:** São Tomé and Príncipe Dobra is pegged to the euro, with the exchange rate fixed at 1 EUR = STN 24.5



The only country in Central Africa considered **Free** by the Freedom House Index



**4th** in Africa in the Index of Economic Freedom



**6th** in Africa in the Legatum Prosperity Index



If you would like to find out more or have any questions about São Tomé and Príncipe, [reach out us](#) or [click this link](#) to find out more.





# INVEST SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE



## Improving infrastructure and logistics capabilities

As São Tomé and Príncipe becomes more integrated into regional and global trade networks, the transport and logistics industry has grown to meet the increasing demand for maritime and aviation services in the region.



### Total Merchandise Exports \$29.8 million in 2022

- |                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. Cocoa beans        | <b>\$13.2M</b> |
| 2. Palm oil           | <b>\$7.15M</b> |
| 3. Gas Turbines       | <b>\$2.23M</b> |
| 4. Integrated Circuit | <b>\$838k</b>  |
| 5. Coconut oil        | <b>\$726k</b>  |



### Total Merchandise Imports \$224 million in 2022

- |                             |               |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Refined petroleum        | <b>\$54M</b>  |
| 2. Special purpose ships    | <b>\$10M</b>  |
| 3. Electric generating sets | <b>\$7.1M</b> |
| 4. Rice                     | <b>\$6.4M</b> |
| 5. Cars                     | <b>\$5.6M</b> |



**\$254 million**  
Merchandise trade  
in 2022



**46%**  
Transport services (% of  
commercial service imports)



**1238**  
Merchant fleet by  
flag of registration

Strategically located in the Gulf of Guinea between West and Central Africa, São Tomé and Príncipe offers prime investment opportunities. With a solid transport infrastructure, it's poised for expansion and modernization, making it a top choice for investors.



### 3 Seaports

Focus on diversifying port functions for local needs and expansions for international trade and logistics



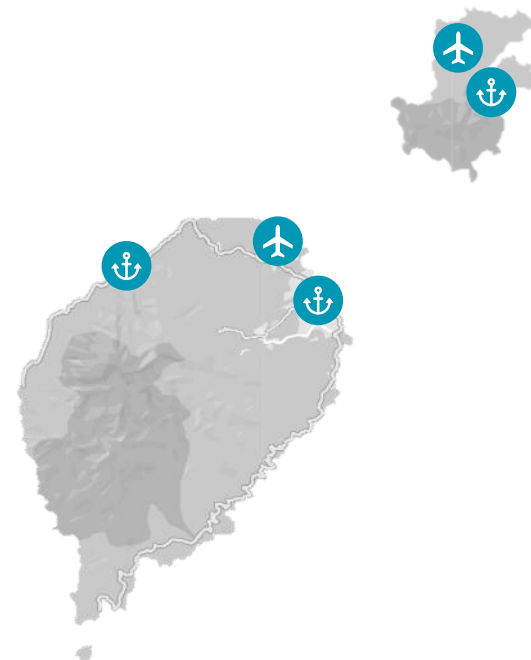
### 2 Airports

Facilitators of international business travel and air cargo movements for West and Central Africa



### 280 m/km<sup>2</sup>

Coast/area ratio allows for the development of additional ports, enhancing import/export capabilities



## São Tomé and Príncipe's competitively ranked infrastructure in Central Africa according to the Mo Ibrahim Foundation



**2nd**  
Road  
infrastructure



**3rd**  
Mobile  
communications



**3rd**  
Regional trade  
integration



**4th**  
Overall  
infrastructure



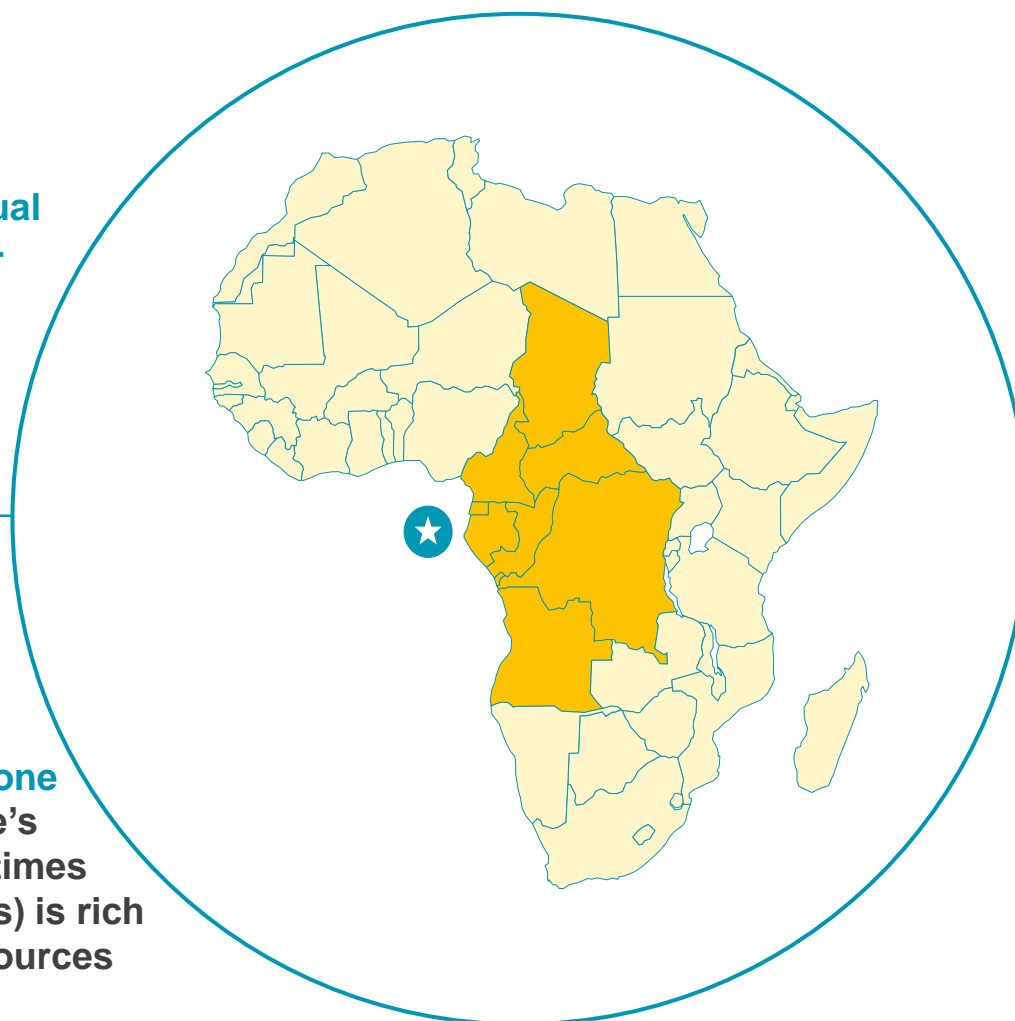
## Regional market opportunities

The evolving logistics landscape in Central Africa opens up opportunities for private operators in São Tomé and Príncipe, an ideal trade hub. Like Mauritius for East Africa, São Tomé and Príncipe can be Central Africa's logistics and trade center, offering stability, democracy, and growing economic potential.

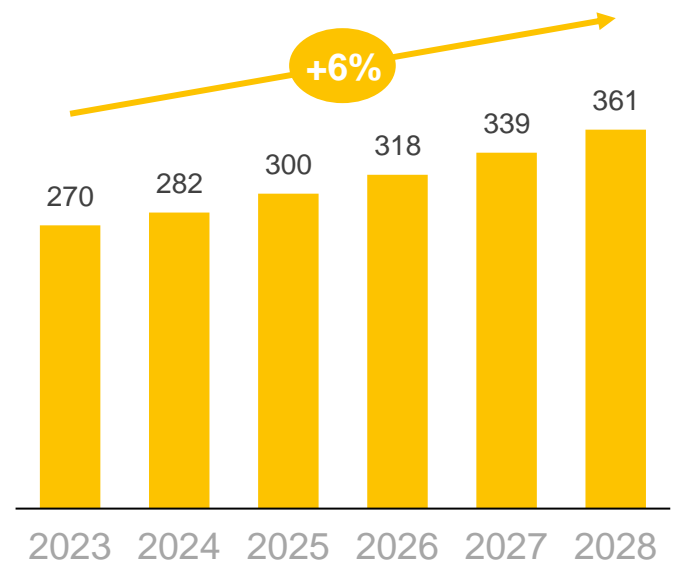
### Strong market growth forecasts

Central Africa's economy was valued at almost **\$270 billion GDP** in 2023, with the Region witnessing **strong annual Growth rates of 5% in 2022, and 3.4% in 2021**, driven by exports of commodities.

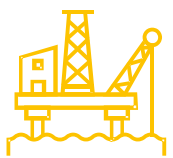
Central Africa's population is expected to see an average **annual growth rate of 3% between 2023-2028**, rising from 197 million in 2023 to 229 million in 2028



**Central Africa GDP forecast 2023-2028, billions**



### Unlocking São Tomé and Príncipe's maritime wealth

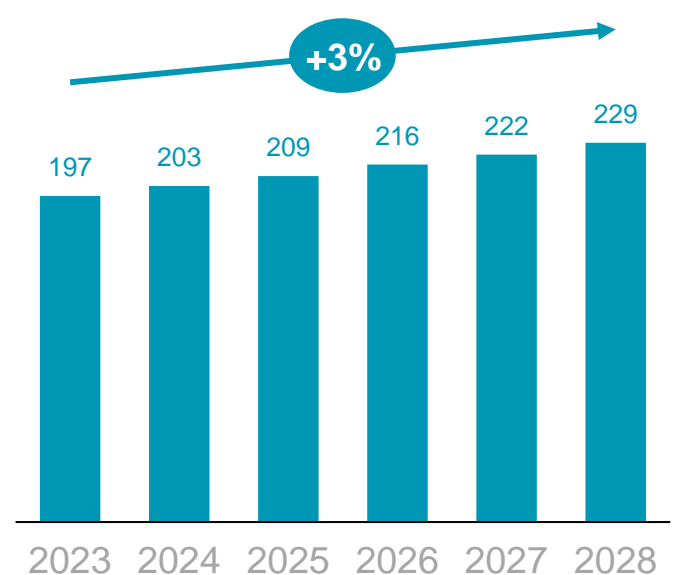


**Exclusive Economic Zone**  
Sao Tome and Principe's 160,000 km<sup>2</sup> EEZ (160 times the country's landmass) is rich in oil and fisheries resources



**Nigeria-Sao Tome Joint Development Zone** approximately 34,000 square kilometers in size with potentially huge petroleum and other marine resources

**Central Africa population forecast 2023-2028, millions**



**3.3m**  
Hectares of arable land



**2.2m**  
Barrels of oil production per day



**2.9m**  
Km<sup>2</sup> of forest area



**3m**  
Tonnes of lithium reserves



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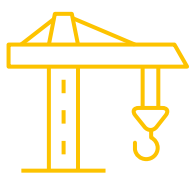




# INVEST SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

## Investment opportunities and regulatory support

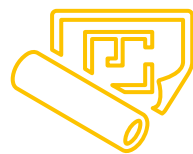
The government's strategic vision is to position São Tomé and Príncipe as a leading hub for maritime and port services in the Gulf of Guinea. This ambitious plan offers numerous high-value investment opportunities for foreign enterprises to develop vital transport and logistics infrastructure projects, strategically positioning themselves in the region.



**Construction and operation of an additional deep-water port on São Tomé Island**



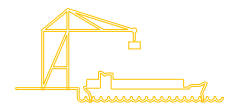
**Construction/Enlargement, modernization & management of the airport**



**Civil Construction of roads, bridges and other land transport infrastructure**



**Naval construction, repair and maintenance for the offshore sector and other shipping**



**Port bunkering and handling services allowing cargo vessels to fuel locally**

**To support the development of infrastructure projects in São Tomé and Príncipe, the government has implemented Law no. 06/2018 on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs); a business model offering security and opportunities for foreign investors.**



The PPP law supports investments in the transport and logistics sector by creating a structured framework for collaboration between the government and private entities.



Enhances transparency, risk-sharing, and efficiency in project implementation, providing clarity on investor roles, responsibilities, and benefits of infrastructure projects



The law covers activities related to the creation, rehabilitation or expansion of production or service infrastructures in connection with or associated with projects



### Income Tax Rate

25% tax rate on resident and non-resident income reduced to 10%.



### Import duty exemption

0% payment on import duties for goods and equipment for new activities or expansions.



### Accelerated depreciation

On investment assets in tourism, education, health, new technologies and export activity.



### Income tax deductions

50% of the amount invested in specialized equipment within 5 years of the start of an activity  
Of the amount invested in the training of Santomean workers.



## How can we help you?

APCI is a one-stop shop for investment in São Tomé and Príncipe, offering personalized service and support before and after your project approval. If you would like to take the next step to set up in STeP or have questions about expanding your business, please contact us.



**Provide  
customized  
services for  
your projects**



**Advisory  
services and  
support with  
applications for  
investment  
incentives**



**Coordinate with  
government  
departments to  
accelerate  
investment  
projects**



**Policy advocacy  
actions to  
promote  
reforms  
conducive to  
strategic  
investments**

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