

SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE 2040  
INVESTMENT FORUM

**RISE**  
**ISTP**

Resilience  
Investment  
Sustainability  
& Equity



# Program for the Promotion and Certification of Eco- tourism and Conservation Services in STP

Certification  
project  
**Opportunity**

São Tomé and Príncipe has strong potential for ecotourism, supported by more than 50% of its territory being protected, high biodiversity, and its recent designation as a World Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO, 2025). Tourism already accounts for 12.1% of GDP and is prioritized by the Blue Economy Strategy, the PNIEA, and the ENDS 2026–2040 as an engine for economic diversification and green jobs.

Despite this, gaps remain—lack of certification, low skills, lack of interpretive infrastructure, and limited institutional capacity.



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The project

Overall objective

To promote a sustainable, high-quality, and resilient tourism model in São Tomé and Príncipe, strengthening the provision of nature and conservation tourism services, in line with the national brand “STP – Biosphere Reserve.”

Specific Objectives

- Improve the quality of tourism services
- Strengthen the institutional capacity of the DGTH and other relevant entities
- Develop technical and professional training programs for guides, operators, and technicians
- Enhance biodiversity and natural ecosystems & Integrate local communities into the tourism value chain



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Expected impact

Expected results:  
The program should produce structural and measurable improvements in the nature tourism value chain.

Systemic impact

- Increase in the number of tourists interested in nature and culture
- Strengthening of STP's international image as a safe, authentic, and sustainable destination
- Growth in tourism revenue and greater formalization of the sector
- Direct contribution to the objectives of the ENDS and the Blue Economy Strategy



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 Maturity level

- O programa apresenta elevada maturidade: diagnóstico concluído, prioridades definidas, estrutura operacional estabelecida e alinhamento com estratégias nacionais e internacionais.
- Envolve as principais instituições e não requer estudos adicionais complexos.
- O conceito e desenho técnico estão concluídos, a estrutura de implementação está definida, e o financiamento será mobilizado no Fórum de Bruxelas.

**Classificação:** pronto para implementação imediata.



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Partnerships

### National partners

- DGTH (coordination, supervision, and certification)
- EHT–STP (technical training)
- Operator and guide associations (local implementation)
- Protected areas / PNOST (trails, visitation, and conservation)

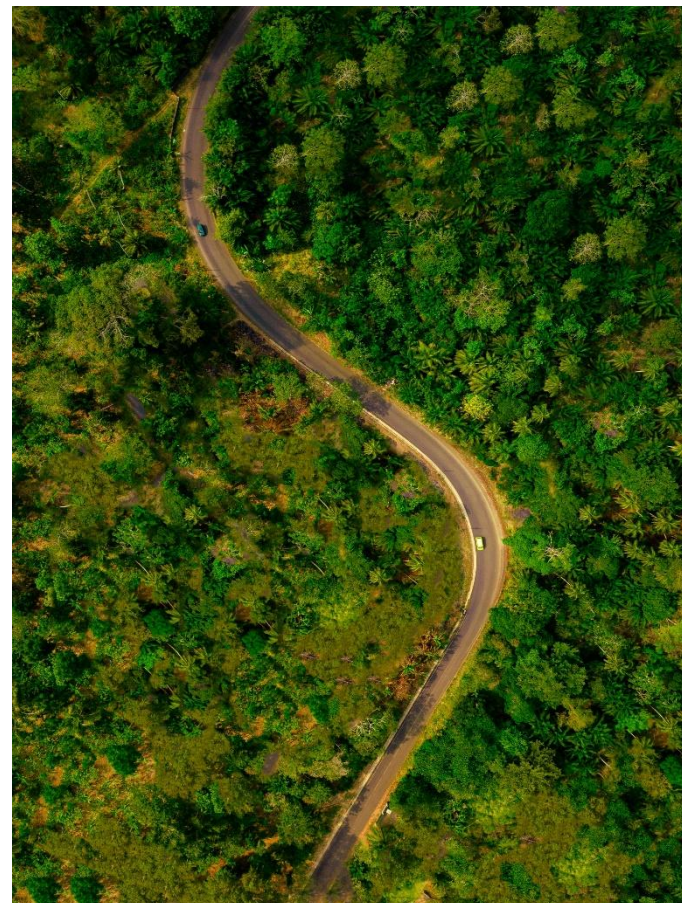
### International partners

- UNDP (institutional strengthening, SDGs/NDCs)
- OHRLLS (technical support and international validation)
- Turismo de Portugal (certification and quality standards)
- International conservation NGOs (content and monitoring)

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 Key conditions

## Incentives and Advantages for Partners

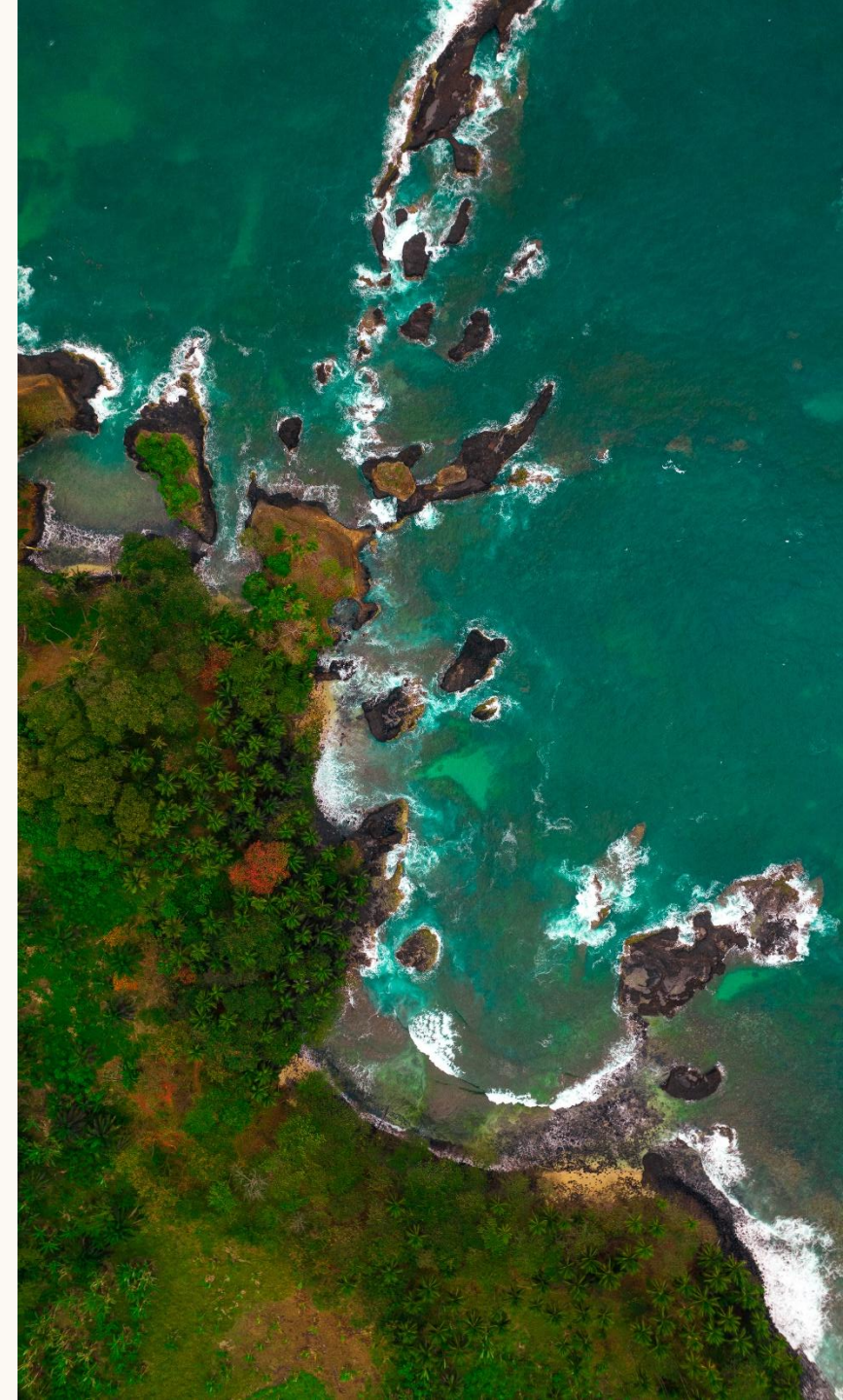
The program is strongly aligned with national priorities—ENDS 2026–2040, Blue Economy Strategy, and NDCs—and is part of the Brussels Forum 2025, which mobilizes strategic projects with international partners. It generates high social and environmental impact (green jobs, community enhancement, biodiversity protection, reduction of ecological pressures) and provides high institutional visibility, reinforced by its status as a World Biosphere Reserve.



This program is a strategic chance to reposition São Tomé and Príncipe as a top **nature destination**, in line with sustainability and the Blue Economy.

Investing in the program lets us take advantage of the World Biosphere Reserve, create a national certification and qualification system, boost the DGTH's institutional capacity, and develop sustainable tourism products.

This is a high-impact investment with low sectoral risk and full alignment with the country's sustainable development and blue economy priorities.



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THE UN, PORTUGAL and AfDB