GOVERNMENT OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

Social Sector Support Project Additional Financing

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK¹

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¹ This is an update from the original report prepared in 2004 for the purpose of the IDA-financed Social Sector Support Project.

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List of Acronyms

EMP – Environment Management Plan
ESIA – Environment and Social Impact Assessment (for sub-projects)
ESMF – Environment and Social Management Framework
GoSTP – Government of Sao Tome and Principe
MoE – Ministry of Education
DoE – Department of Environment
MoH – Ministry of Health
RPF – Resettlement Policy Framework
FP – Focal Point
PASS – Social Sector Support Project
PCMC – Project Coordination and Monitoring Committee
PIU – Project Implementation Unit

FONG – Federation of NGOs

1.0 PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION

This Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) is an update of the original framework prepared in 2004 for a Social Sector Support Project (PASS). This update focuses on the **additional financing of the Social Sector Support Project** (SSSP) granted to the Republic of São Tome & Principe for an amount of US\$2.4 million. The development objective of the proposed additional financing is to contribute to improving delivery of basic health services, with a focus on greater and more equitable access, better quality, and improved local governance.

The Grant will allow for the scaling up of ongoing health interventions launched under the PASS. It will particularly contribute to: (a) improving equity and access to basic health services; (b) improving the quality of basic health services; (c) cross-sectoral issues (HIV/AIDS and Malaria. The following activities to be funded by the CF Grant have been identified:

(i) *Improving access and equity to basic services*. Activities under the first subcomponent include the rehabilitation of the health center in Porto Alegre to complete the set of rehabilitation works of relevant health centers that have been carried out with the support of the project, and the construction of four residences for health staff in the district of Cantagalo and the island of Principe, which are deemed necessary to retain and motivate health staff in these remote areas of the country.

(ii) *Improving the quality of basic health services.* The quality sub-component includes capacity building and training activities such as developing alternatives for the medium-term financing of the health sector, as a first step towards a financial sustainability of the health system; rehabilitation and equipment of the health national school and a high-level training of its personnel, particularly nurses and managers; validation and pilot experiment of the health information system set up with the support of the Project; pursue the use of the media to promote health prevention attitudes among the population, including issues of reproductive health; and training of teachers of primary schools on visual, oral, and intestinal health as a complement of the ongoing deworming program in schools.

(iii)Cross-Sectoral Issues (HIV/AIDS and Malaria): This component has two subcomponents: HIV/AIDS and Malaria. Activities under these sub-components include the rehabilitation and expansion of National Center for Endemic Diseases (Centro Nacional de Endemias) to help improve its functionality; the training of key health staff working on HIV/AIDS program; and the purchase and distribution of condoms for the prevention of HIV/AIDS transmission, in line with what the Project has been doing over the last years

As proposed, the project is classified as a Category 'B' according to the safeguard policies of the World Bank. The majority of the environmental and social effects will be beneficial (like the proper management of natural resources, improvement of the quality

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of life of the population). Nevertheless, the operational policy (OP 4.01) on environmental assessment requires that an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) is developed, owing to the fact that the majority of the sites of the activities of the project are not yet known. This is the update of the original study (2004) to produce an ESMF for the proposed additional financing.

1.1 The Objectives of the Study are:

- To assess the potential environmental and social impacts of the additional financing, whether positive or negative, and propose mitigation measures which will effectively address these impacts;
- To inform the project preparation team and the Government of the potential impact of different anticipated sub-projects, and relevant mitigation measures and strategies;
- To establish clear directives and methodologies for the environmental and social screening of micro-projects to be financed by the project through the additional financing.

1.2 The Main Tasks of the Study are:

- To develop an environmental and social management framework that establishes methodologies for environmental and social impact assessment within project implementation;
- Identify potential policy issues regarding the environment and propose means of resolution that could be undertaken during project implementation;
- Develop a capacity building program for stakeholders to carry out Environmental Impact Assessments for sub-projects and to design potential mitigation measures in line with the World Bank's safeguard requirements and environmental legal requirements of the Government of Sao Tome and Principe (GoSTP).

1.3 Purpose of the Environmental and Social Management Framework Study

The update of the 2004 Environmental and Social Management Framework is required because the Grant will finance the rehabilitation of the health center in the district of Porto Alegre, the rehabilitation of the national center for endemic diseases, and the construction of two residences for health staff in Cantagalo and the island of Principe. Therefore, the proposed project will fund environmental training to ensure effective implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). In addition, the Government team will receive needed guidance from the Bank's safeguards specialists on the project team. Key elements that are specific to project components are:

- Improving access and equity to health: Specific location to be identified.
- The project will not undertake any activities that may require involuntary resettlement.

2.0 SAFEGUARD SCREENING PROCEDURES

The proposed Environmental and Social Management Framework has been designed to fully comply with national environmental codes and legislations in Sao Tome and Principe and with the World Bank's environmental and social safeguard policies. This chapter sets out the key safeguard policies that provide the policy context to the ESMF including World Bank policies and GoSTP's legal requirements on environmental assessment. More details of the policy context are provided in Annex 3.

The additional financing Grant is anticipated to set the pace to ensure that negative impacts on the environment are minimized. One of its main objectives is therefore to promote sustainable land use and ecologically sound natural resources management. Despite these efforts and due to the nature of the interventions in constructing classrooms to be financed under the project, the proposed project has been rated Category B under the World Bank's policy on environmental assessment (OP 4.01), requiring an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). In addition to the OP 4.01, the grant has also triggered the Bank Involuntary Resettlement Policy OP 4.12.

The World Bank Safeguard Policies are:

- 1. Environmental Assessment OP 4.01
- 2. Natural Habitats OP 4.04
- 3. Forestry OP 4.36
- 4. Pest Management OP 4.09
- 5. Cultural Property OP 4.11
- 6. Indigenous Peoples OD 4.20
- 7. Involuntary Resettlement OP 4.12
- 8. Safety of Dams OP 4.37
- 9. Projects on International Waters OP 7.50
- 10. Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60

Sub-projects that trigger the policies on Safety of Dams, Natural Habitats, Forestry, Pest Management, Cultural Property, Indigenous Peoples, Projects on International Waters and Projects in Disputed areas would not be supported under the project.

OP 4.01 Environmental Assessment

This policy requires environmental assessment (EA) of projects proposed for Bank financing to help ensure that they are environmentally sound and sustainable, and thus to improve decision making. The EA is a process whose breadth, depth, and type of analysis depend on the nature, scale, and potential environmental impact of the activities of the additional financing. The EA process takes into account the natural environment (air, water, and land); human health and safety; social aspects (involuntary resettlement, indigenous peoples, and cultural property) and transboundary and global environmental aspects.

The environmental and social impacts of the additional financing will come from the activities of the rehabilitation of the health center in Porto Alegre to expand the set of rehabilitation works of relevant health centers that have been carried out with the support of the project, the construction of four residences for health staff in the district of Cantagalo, rehabilitation and equipment of the health national school, and the rehabilitation and expansion of National Center for Endemic Diseases (*Centro Nacional de Endemias*). However, since all of the construction sites will not have been identified before appraisal of the project, the EA process calls for the GoSTP to prepare a ESMF report which will establish a mechanism to determine and assess future potential environmental and social impacts of the government investments under the proposed Grant, and then to set out mitigation, monitoring and institutional measures to be taken during implementation and operation of the activities to eliminate adverse environmental and social impacts, offset them, or reduce them to acceptable levels.

OP 4.01 further requires that the ESMF report must be disclosed as a separate and stand alone document by the Government of Sao Tome and Principe and the World Bank as a condition for Bank Appraisal of the additional financing. The disclosure should be both in Sao Tome and Principe where it can be accessed by the general public and local communities and at the Infoshop of the World Bank and the date for disclosure must precede the date for appraisal of the project.

The policy further calls for the Project as a whole to be environmentally screened to determine the extent and type of the EA process. The Grant is an additional financing to the health component of the PASS and has thus been screened and assigned a Category B.

Category B projects are likely to have potential adverse environmental impacts on human populations or environmentally important areas – including wetlands, forests, grasslands, and other natural habitats – and are less adverse than those of category A projects. These impacts are site specific, few if any of them are irreversible, and in most cases mitigation measures can be designed more readily than for category A projects. The EA process for category B projects examines the potential negative and positive environmental impacts and recommends any measures needed to prevent, minimize, mitigate, or compensate for adverse impacts and improve environmental performance.

Therefore, this ESMF sets out to establish the EA process to be undertaken before construction activities are launched and when they are being identified. Furthermore, the rehabilitation and construction activities would be small-scale and will not generate hazardous materials, such as asbestos-containing demolition waste; and the Recipient will provide simple guidelines (incorporated into contracts) to the contractors that will be rehabilitating and constructing classrooms. For the rehabilitation work they will focus on workplace safety and disposal of demolition debris as well as avoidance of asbestos or other hazardous materials in the reconstruction work. Workplace safety will be one issue, and application of good construction practice in land clearing, erosion control, dust control, drainage design, avoidance of asbestos, scheduling hours of work to minimize disturbance to local residents, arranging routes and timing of materials deliveries for the same reason, plus to minimize damage to local roads, etc.

OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement

Significant efforts are to be made in the design and screening stages of project activities to avoid impacts on people, land, property, including people's access to natural and other economic resources, as far as possible. Notwithstanding, land acquisition, compensation and resettlement of people may be inevitable for certain classrooms construction. This social issue is of crucial concern to the GoSTP and the Bank as its impact on poverty, if left unmitigated, is negative, immediate and widespread. Thus, a resettlement policy framework has been prepared by the Government and approved by the Bank in compliance with OP 4.12. This framework sets the guidelines for the resettlement plans that would have to be prepared for any activities that trigger this policy. The resettlement plans would have to be submitted to the PIU for approval but would also have to be approved by the Bank before the activity is launched.

This policy would be triggered when an activity causes the involuntary taking of land and other assets resulting in: (a) relocation or loss of shelter, (b) loss of assets or access to assets (c) loss of income sources or means of livelihood, whether or not the affected persons must move to another location.

The resettlement policy applies to all displaced persons regardless of the total number affected, the severity of the impact and whether or not they have legal title to the land. Particular attention should be paid to the needs of vulnerable groups among those displaced. The policy also requires that the implementation of the resettlement plans are a pre-requisite for the implementation of the sub-projects to ensure that displacement or restriction of access does not occur before necessary measures for resettlement and compensation are in place. For activities involving land acquisition, it is further required that these measures include provision of compensation and of other assistance required for relocation, prior to displacement, and preparation and provision of resettlement sites with adequate facilities, where required. In particular, the taking of land and related assets may take place only after compensation has been paid and, where applicable, resettlement sites, new homes, related infrastructure and moving allowances have been provided to displaced persons. For activity requiring relocation or loss of shelter, the policy further requires that measures to assist the displaced persons are implemented in accordance with the resettlement plan of action. The policy aims to have the displaced persons perceive the process to be fair and transparent.

However, the additional financing will not undertake any activities that may require involuntary resettlement.

OP 4.12 requires the RPF to be disclosed both in Sao Tome and Principe and at the Bank before appraisal.

4.0 BASELINE DATA

Sao Tome and Principe is the second smallest state in Africa with a total population of 165,000 and a per capita income of \$290. About 54% of the population is living under

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poverty with limited human development due to weak and inefficient public institutions and limited and fragmented civil society organizations. The delivery of social services is constrained by limited government capacity to plan and implement social strategies and programs and a weak incentive framework which has a negative impact on the performance of public service providers, and weak capacity for social mobilization among civil society. Recently, there has been increasing political instability with four changes of government in two years.

Sao Tome and Principe has recently discovered large oil reserves in the Gulf of Guinea bordering with Nigeria which puts the country on the verge of a major economic change. Large blocks for offshore oil production in a Joint Development Zone with Nigeria will be licensed by end of 2003 and oil production is expected to start in 2007. In light of the expected economic development, it is critical to strengthen the institutions and structures for the delivery of social services and to build the necessary human capital for sustained economic development and poverty reduction.

People

The total population of São Tomé and Príncipe was estimated at 165,000 in 2001. The capital and principal port is São Tomé (population, 1990 estimate, 50,000), located on the northeastern coast of São Tomé island. The population, descendants of peoples who came to the islands beginning in the late 1400s, is composed of six identifiable groups: mestiço, or mixed-blood; angolares, descendants of Angolan slaves; forros, descendants of freed slaves; serviçais, contract laborers from nearby African countries; tongas, children of serviçais born on the islands; and Europeans, mostly from Portugal. Portuguese is the official language, but 90 percent of the people speak Fang, a Bantu language. Most of the people are Christian; 83 percent are Roman Catholic.

Physical and Geographic Description

La République Démocratique de Sao Tome et Principe est composée de deux îles: l'île de Sao Tome et l'île de Principe, situées à l'Ouest du Continent Africain, dans le Golf de la Guinée. Les deus îles sont écartées l'une de l'autre d'une distance de 160 Km alors qu'elles sont séparées de la Côte Africaine, 360 et 269 Km respectivement.

Sao Tome a une surface totale de 859 Km2 alors que Principe ne mesure que 142 Km2, dans une surface totale de 1.001 Km2. Les îles sont d'origine volcanique dont le relief très marqué, présente des formes très irrégulières avec une combinaison entre montagnes et plaines donnant lieu a des zones de microclimats très fréquents.

Le climat est globalement du type tropical humide, avec des pluies abondantes presque tout l'année, variant entre les 1000 mètres dans les zones de baisse altitude et les 7000 mètres dans les hautes montagnes, à l'exception des mois de juin à septembre correspondant à la saison sèche, appelée localement de *gravana*.

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In the south and west of both islands, high volcanic mountains fall precipitously to the sea, although neither island has witnessed any volcanic activity in recent centuries. The mountains descend gradually to small plains in the northeast. São Tomé Peak, the highest point on the main island, rises to 6,640 feet (2,024 metres) above sea level, while Príncipe Peak on the smaller island reaches 3,110 feet (948 metres). These mountainous areas are deeply dissected by the effects of stream erosion, and spectacular isolated volcanic plugs stand out as landmarks. Swift and rocky streams rush down to the coast in every direction.

Diversité Biologique et Ecosystèmes Fragiles

Espèces Végétales et Animales

A. Végétation

Les premières et les plus complètes recherches réalisées sur la végétation de Sao Tome et Principe ont été faites au cours des années 1932 et 1933 par le chercheur Exell et ont été publiées les années 1944 et 1956 respectivement.

D'après cet auteur, à l'exception de quelques zones de mangue très réduites et des dunes du sable dans la côte, la végétation originale de Sao Tome et Principe était constituée par des forêts humides qui couvraient uniformément les îles depuis le littoral jusqu'au sommet des Pics. Dans sa publication, Exell a distingué trois zones forestières bien définies à Sao Tome et Principe, à savoir:

B. Région de Forêt Humide de Basse Altitude

Cette région forestière occupe une surface allant depuis le niveau de la mer jusqu'aux 800 mètres de hauteur. Il existe a ce niveau un nombre très important d'arbres endémiques, à savoir: *Rinorea chevalieri, Xanthoxylum thomense, Chytranthus mannii, Sorindeia grandifolia, Anisophyllea cabole, Polyscias quintasii, Anthocleista macrocalyx et Drypetes glabra.*

À l'heure actuelle cette région forestière est presque totalement cultivée et est occupée par des plantations du cacao, du café, de la banane, du noix de coco et d'autres fruits tropicaux, surtout au nord de l'île de Sao Tome.

C. Région de Forêt de Montagne

Cette région forestière occupe toute la zone située entre les 800 et les 1400 mètres de hauteur. Elle se caractérise par une modification dans la composition des espèces par rapport a des altitudes moins élevées, compte tenu de la diminution de la températures avec la hauteur, une plus grande pluviosité et humidité, présence constante du brouillard et couverture nébuleuse considérables qui sont à l'origine du très réduit niveau de luminosité. Les espèces prédominantes sont les suivantes: *Trichilia grandifolia, Pauridiantha insularis, Paveta monticola, Craterispermum montanum, Thecacoris*

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manniana, T. stenopetala, Erythrococca molleri, Discoclaoxylon occidentale et Tabernaemontana stenosiphon.

D. Région de Forêt de Brume

Cette région de forêt s'étend entre les 1400 et 2024 mètres d'altitude. Les arbres endémiques typiques de cette région sont entre autres, les suivants: *Podocarpus manii, Balthasaria mannii, Psychotria guerkeana e P. nubicola.*

Compte tenu des difficultés de l'accès et compte tenu du relief prédominant très prononcé, cet habitat ne présente aucune modification et se maintient ainsi intact.

E. Endémicité de la Flore

Malgré ses dimensions géographiques réduites, Sao Tome et Principe jouit, grâce aux particularités du climat, du relief et de son isolement relatif, d'un très haut niveau d'endemisme aussi bien de la flore que de la faune. En effet, Sao Tome a **un genre endémique** et **87 espèces de la flore** uniques de cette île, tandis que Principe a **un genre endémique** et **32 espèces endémiques** uniques de cette île et quatre autres espèces partagées entre les deux îles.

F. Endémicité de la Faune

Etant Sao Tome et Principe des îles d'origine volcanique, celles-ci ont peu d'espèces indigènes de vertébrés terrestres, à l'exception des oiseaux. Toutefois, les niveaux d'endémicité sont très élevés dans tous les groupes. La faune des oiseaux terrestres est particulièrement riche en espèces endémiques, avec un total de **26 espèces**.

Pour ce qui est des reptiles il en existe **14 espèces** à Sao Tome, dont quatre sont communes a Sao Tome et a Principe et endémiques des deux îles. Il existe **cinq espèces** d'amphibiens, dont **quatre** sont endémiques a Sao Tome et deux a Principe, alors qu'il n'existe qu'une espèce de mammifère endémique, le chauve souris des fruits, le *Myonyceteris brachycephala*. Il existent aussi quelques sous-espèces endémiques telles que le chauve-souris à nez plat, *l'Hipposideros commersoni* et le chauve souris à grande aile, le *Miniopterus minor*. D'autre part, Sao Tome possède une espèce endémique de musaraigne, le *Crocidura thomensis* et Principe possède une sous-espèce endémique, le *Crocidura poensis*.

G. Espèces Menacées

Quelques espèces menacées au niveau mondial font partie de la faune de Sao Tome et Principe. C'est le cas des perroquets *Psitacus erithacus* et des tortues marines, dont les espèces *Eretmochelys imbricata*, *Dermochelys coriacea*, *Lepydochelys olivacea* et *chelonya mydas* habitent les mers de Sao Tome et Principe et utilisent plusieurs des plages y existantes pour leur reproduction.

H. Ecosystèmes à Valence Ecologique

D'après les travaux réalisés (*ECOFAC*, 1994) deux zones fondamentales ont été distinguées au niveau du pays du point de vue écologique, étant la première, la **Zone Tampon** et la deuxième, la **Zone de Protection**.

La Zone Tampon fait partie de la zone d'exploitation agricole du pays et fait frontière directe avec la zone de protection. Le processus d'exploitation de cette zone doit être fait en accord avec les cultures traditionnelles et l'on peut y inclure l'exploitation forestière, si elle est faite de forme sélective et suivie d'une évaluation de l'impact de cette exploitation sur l'environnement ainsi que sur la mise en place des activités compensatoires de reboisement.

La Zone de Protection proposée occupe une surface approximative de 269Km2 à l'île de Sao Tome et 40 Km2 à l'île de Principe et constituent les parties représentatives et les mieux conservées des écosystèmes des plus grandes valeurs écologiques du pays. Cette zone qui occupe à peu prés, 32,3% de la surface de l'île de Sao Tome et 30% de l'île de Principe, comprend toute la zone du Parc Naturel «Obô» et les Zones Ecologiques.

Cadre Social

Population

La pression démographique exercée sur l'environnement est très grande au niveau de Sao Tome et Principe. D'après les données disponibles, la tendance serait alors pour un taux de croissance de la population élevé alors que les ressources disponibles auraient une tendance a diminuer.

Vu les très bas niveaux de vie au milieu rural, on assiste a une exode rurale en direction de la ville où les structures d'accueil sont très insuffisantes. Le pays compte actuellement près de 165.000 habitants dont 51% est du sexe féminin. La densité pour tout le pays est de 135 habitants par Km2, avec une répartition très irrégulière et des variations significatives d'un district a l'autre.

Education

Le taux de scolarisation est supérieur a 50% de la population en âge scolaire. Concernant l'éducation des adultes grâce aux efforts déployés après l'indépendance, il a été possible de réduire l'analphabétisme a un taux actuel de 25%.

Au niveau du Système Educatif il existe des faiblesses de taille avec des conséquences directes sur la qualité de l'enseignement dont les causes sont dues, entre autres, aux faibles ressources mises à disposition par l'Etat pour l'Education.

C – Santé

La situation sanitaire du pays est caractérisée par l'existence de plusieurs maladies endémiques à tendance épidémiologique, principales responsables pour les taux élevés de

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morbidité et mortalité, surtout infantiles. Parmi ces maladies il faut souligner le paludisme et les diarrhées. D'autre part, il faut souligner aussi la dégradation progressive des services de santé au niveau national à cause du faible investissement dans le secteur. Comme pour l'Education, le pourcentage de l'OGE attribué pour la Santé connaît une réduction progressive, ayant passé de 17.6% en 1990 pour 4,2% en 1997

D - Eau Potable

Concernant la problématique de l'eau potable, il faut dire que le pays bénéficie d'une grande potentialité dans ce domaine. En effet les quantités d'eau existantes sont estimées à près de 2.000 millions de mètres cubes pour Sao Tome et 180 millions pour Principe. Toutefois, il existe des contraintes considérables qui rendent difficile la disponibilité de cette ressource à la population. La qualité de l'eau est un autre point problématique important pour le développement du pays et constitue une grande menace pour la santé publique, dans la mesure où des études effectuées ont démontré l'existence de coliformes fécaux au niveau de toutes les sources d'eau analysées dans des taux largement supérieurs a ceux recommandés par les normes de l'OMS.

Quelques facteurs explicatifs à prendre en compte:

- Le niveau de dégradation avancée du système d'approvisionnement, d'adduction d'eau avec immenses ruptures (perte de près de 60% d'eau produite)
- Manque de protection aussi bien au niveau des captations des systèmes qu'au niveau des sources;
- Manque d'assainissement approprié, près de 85% de la population n'a pas d'installations sanitaires;
- Non suivi des règles d'hygiène.

Economy

The economy of São Tomé and Príncipe is dependent on plantation agriculture, particularly cacao production. The major plantations were nationalized after independence in 1975. The leading agricultural products are cacao, coconuts, copra, melons, and bananas. Cacao accounted for 60 percent of export earnings in the early 1990s. Because agriculture is dominated by export crops, 90 percent of the country's food must be imported. The unit of currency is the dobra.

Decades of colonial stagnation were followed by economic disruption after independence in 1975. Beginning in the late 1980's, the government gradually began to restore a functioning economy by devaluing its currency, restricting the budget deficit, privatizing formerly nationalized companies, attracting foreign investment, and removing price subsidies and controls. About four-fifths of the total land area of the two islands belongs to the state and is divided into 15 large plantation enterprises, several of which have been leased out to foreign management companies. High levels of unemployment coexist with a critical labour shortage on the plantations, where wages and working conditions are poor.

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This small poor island economy has become increasingly dependent on cocoa since independence 25 years ago. However, cocoa production has substantially declined because of drought and mismanagement. The resulting shortage of cocoa for export has created a persistent balance-of-payments problem. Sao Tome has to import all fuels, most manufactured goods, consumer goods, and a significant amount of food. Over the years, it has been unable to service its external debt and has had to depend on concessional aid and debt rescheduling. Sao Tome benefited from \$200 million in debt relief in December 2000 under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) program. Considerable potential exists for development of a tourist industry.

5.0 DESCRIPTION of the POLICY, REGULATORY, LEGISLATIVE, and INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS

5.1 Legislative and Policy Framework

The constitution was revised on the 29 of January, 2003. Articles 49, 50, and 55 state that all citizens should be protected from disease and receive should receive health care from a National Health Care System. They also have the right to education and the state will assist in the eradication of illiteracy through the National Education System. Finally also citizens have a right to a safe environment.

The legislative and policy framework for environmental protection and management has grown much stronger in the past decade, especially with the assistance of UNEP on policy matters. The National Environment Law was passed December 31, 1999, which provides for the management of the environment and all natural resources of Sao Tome e Principe and for all connected matters.

Chapter 3, Article 7states the objects of the law:

- guarantee biodiversity
- protection of the natural habitat
- environmental training and education
- conservation of nature
- adequate waste management
- protection of the air and climate
- prevention of soil erosion
- protection of coastal zones
- guarantee to minimize environmental impact and to use the best technology available to minimize harm

The Regulation on environmental impact assessment (EIA) states that the EIA process must be conducted as follows;

(i) submission of a project brief /application to the Ministry of Equipment and the Environment which must include; a brief description of the activity to be undertaken; a description of all the tasks to be performed- how, what, where and when; a description of the proposed

methods to identify the environmental issues and alternatives; a plan of how the applicant proposes the public participation process – when, where, who, and how; and time and activity schedule setting out when the different tasks will be completed.

- (ii) The MEE will make a decision based on the brief to grant a license.
- (iii) If a license is not obtained on the basis of the brief, an Environmental Impact Statement must be submitted, including; a non-technical summary; a detailed description of the project and its environment impact; a detailed description of how the environment may be affected; a description of all alternatives identified, such as different locations and processes; a description of the public participation process and its results; other issues required by the MEE during the process.
- (iv) The report will then be reviewed and assessed by the MEE. After the assessment a decision will be made indicating; (a) further information or investigations are required, (b) the project will be accepted and considered for licensing or (c) the project must be re-designed or rejected because some issues cannot be approved.
- (v) On Public Participation- the LEA will inform the applicant, if a public hearing is required and a period of consultation and public debates before the granting of a license. The public is thus involved in influencing the project.

Nonetheless, even where there is legislation already in place, there is a lack of capacity and funds to implement this legislation.

The major problem witnessed by the consultant was the lack of inter-sectoral dialogue and planning at all levels of the government. There is now ample legislation in place at the national level, but much of this legislation is not being applied because the Department of Environment is not consulted in the design phase of projects involving urbanization, decentralization, land management, etc. This ESMF recommends the involvement of the DoE at the design level for each sub-project as a way to bridge this fundamental coordination gap.

There are several Decrees and Regulations in place or in the process of being approved including : Loi des Pêches et le Règlement Général de la Pêche, Règlement sur la Conservation de la Tortue marine et ses produits, Loi de la Création des Parcs Naturels Obô de Sao Tome et de Principe, Loi sur la Conservation de la Faune et de la Flore et des Aires Protégées, Loi sur les Forêts, Règlement sur les Résidus Solides Urbains, le Décret sur l'Extraction des Inertes, and the Règlement sur l'Evaluation de l'Impact Environnemental.

Concerning international legal treaties, Sao Tome e Pricipe is a member of the Convention of the United Nations on the Right of the Sea (Montego Bay-1982), it also ratified Conventions on the Bio-Diversity (Rio de Janeiro-1992) of Fight Against

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Desertification (Paris-1994) and the International Convention on Climatic Change (Rio de Janeiro-1992).

5.2 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Background

The Ministry of Education and Culture is responsible for project implementation and accountable for the successful outcome of the various components.

Nonetheless, there is no one in the ministry whose job description includes environmental and social responsibilities as required by the ESMF.

The Grant will be implemented using the same implementation arrangement in place for the PASS. The technical implementation will be fully integrated into the MoH's structures so that the technical directorates at the center, as well as the district level, will be given full and direct responsibility for implementing their activities according to agreed Annual Work Program (AWP). The PASS Fiduciary and Administrative Agency (AFAP) will be responsible for the day-to-day administrative and fiduciary management of the Grant.

<u>The Ministry of Health</u>, supported by externally-recruited focal points, will be responsible and accountable for implementing the activities according to its respective agreed annual work program emanating from their sector strategy. As such, all technical aspects of the project will be folded into the current duties and responsibilities of the MoH. Roles and responsibilities will be defined according to sector strategies supported by the project. Activities will be assigned to organizational units within the ministry according to their comparative advantage.

<u>Project Implementation Unit (PIU--AFAP</u>): In view of ministry's limited capacity in managing fiduciary functions according to Bank's procedures and guidelines, these functions will be provided by the PIU established at the onset of the PASS. The PIU, headed by a Project Coordinator, will provide administrative and fiduciary services to the MoH. The PIU will not implement project activities, but will ensure that the implementing agencies' needs are adequately and timely met in accordance with agreed annual work programs.

Functions of Key Institutions for the Successful Implementation of this ESMF;

1) Focal Point (FP) of the MoH: Consistent with OP 4.01 Environment Assessment, the Focal Point will screen activities for environmental and social impacts at the time of identification. They will apply the environmental and social assessment process outlined in this Framework document, and thus prepare work program consistent with the provisions of this ESMF.

The key elements for successful implementation by the PF are:

- Capacity to manage the environmental and social management process for work program activities: To enable FP to apply the environmental assessment process they will require technical support. At the identification stage, this technical support would be provided through an environmental and social specialist (trained within the Department of Environment in the context of the PASS) who would be responsible for assisting the FP, including resettlement plans (if needed) and environmental and social screening and preparation of mitigation measures as necessary and environmental and social assessment reports consistent with this framework document.
- Capacity to manage potential social impacts: To ensure that social impacts of activities are addressed appropriately, a separate Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) has been prepared. It outlines the principles to be applied in the event that negative social impacts arise due to the need for land acquisition, or access to economic resources is loss, denied or restricted activities. FP will be assisted by a social specialist (trained within the Department of Infrastructure) to prepare the resettlement plans required by the RPF document.

There is no need to employ additional staff as the present staffing levels are deemed adequate. All that is required is for the existing staff to be retrained and assigned additional/new responsibilities, so that the ESMF can be sustainably implemented.

- **The Department of Environment (DoE)** The DoE will perform three vital roles in the implementation of the ESMF:
 - 1. An enforcement monitoring role.
 - 2. Coordinate and implement the training program.
 - 3. Key role in the approval process of work program and potential social or environmental impacts.

Following training and assistance, the ability of the FP to conduct environmental and social screening and to prepare appropriate mitigation measures for activities will be greatly enhanced and will not only raise the environmental awareness among FP, but will also ensure that activities are environmentally and socially sustainable.

The M&E Specialist in the PIU will be responsible for the monitoring of (i) the environmental and social assessment work to be carried out by the FP; (ii) environmental and social monitoring of activities; and (iii) monitoring the implementation of resettlement plans.

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT and SCREENING SYSTEM and TRAINING PROGRAM

The screening process as introduced in Annex 1 of this report is a compilation of the methods that will be applied in screening and evaluating activities for environmental and social impacts.

The project activities that are anticipated to have adverse environmental and social effects are the construction and operation of classrooms in primary schools and pre-schools. This activity would be collectively referred to as rehabilitation of health centers for the purposes of this EA process.

The rehabilitation of health centers will be implemented by the Ministry of Health. The main ingredients of the process are outlined below:

- (a) A basic environmental and social screening form for the Focal Point to complete when applying for activity financing
- (b) Basic environmental and social review form if there is the need for more detailed environmental and social appraisal of the project

In applying these steps the implementers will gain initial experience which will be invaluable to them when they assume responsibility for managing the mitigation measures involved in the implementation, operational and monitoring stages of the project activities.

The process is designed to ensure that the environmental and social assessment process is part of and conducted during the planning stages with full participation of the local community, thereby ensuring that project activities are environmentally and socially sustainable.

6.1 COSTS

- The cost of the environmental training and sensitization program will be covered under the component on capacity building.
- Cost associated with the recruitment of an environmental /social specialist to conduct the refresher training program will also be covered under that component.

The costs estimates are based on the assumption that the training program for Focal Point will be held at the national level; any persons coming from other parts of the island and from Principe will therefore require travel allowances and will be given a per diem. These estimates include an allowance for travel expenses and all costs of the international consultant who will conduct the four day training. The training program at the national level will be done once, within three months of project effectiveness. Additional training will be conducted yearly by the Department of Environment.

The Total Training Budget is estimated at US\$25,000.

Proposed Training Program

Duration

Environmental and Social assessment process

- Screening process
- Assignment of environmental categories
- Rationale for using Screening Form and Environmental and Social Checklists
- Preparation of terms of reference for carrying out ESIA
- How to review and approve work program
- The importance of public consultations in the EA process
- How to monitor project implementation
- Case studies

Environmental and Social policies and procedures

• Review and discussion of country's environmental policies, procedures, and legislation

- Review and discussion of the Bank's safeguards policies
- Review of ESIA, Resettlement Plan
- Collaboration with institutions at the local, regional and union levels

Selected topics on environmental protection

1 day

1 day

- Soil erosion
- Flood protection

• Waste disposal, including construction-related waste, hazardous chemical wastes such as asbestos, etc.

- Ground and Surface Water Management
- Deforestation

While the ESMF proposes an elaborate system of screening for activities, it also proposes that environmental and social considerations are fully mainstreamed into the participatory process for identification, planning, implementation and monitoring of activities. The screening forms and checklist are therefore intended to be integrated fully into the overall system of project management.

9.0 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL PLANNING, REVIEW AND CLEARING PROCESS FOR WORK PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

This document referred to as the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) is prepared to establish the mechanism to determine and assess future potential adverse environmental and social impacts of work program activities that are to be identified and cleared, and then to set out mitigation, monitoring and institutional measures to be taken during implementation and operation of the activities to eliminate adverse environmental and social impacts, offset them, or reduce them to acceptable levels.

2 days

This section therefore, identifies and illustrates the specific steps involved in the environmental and social assessment process leading towards the clearance and approval of the EA process for work program activities. The steps incorporate both relevant GoSTP guidelines/requirements and the Bank's policy OP 4.01 Environmental Assessment, and on Involuntary Resettlement (the safeguard policies that apply for this project as discussed earlier) and are;

- (a). The implementer (FP) will screen activities to be financed to identify environmental and social impacts using the screening form in Annex 1. In a few cases the checklist may require that an activity conducts a subproject environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) for certain types of impacts.
- (b). Then the implementers will introduce into the design the required measures to mitigate impacts identified from use of the checklist before submission of the activity for review and subsequent approval.
- (c). Review and clear the activity by ensuring that its design has identified environmental and social impacts, mitigated these impacts and has monitoring plans and institutional measures to be taken during implementation and operation.

Using the screening form, revised environmental and social checklists and technical assistance from the Department of Environment and information resources supported by the additional financing, proposed activities will be screened by their respective implementers, to identify any potential adverse impacts/effects from such activities.

Once impacts are identified the necessary mitigation measure would then be identified from the checklist and then implemented. For example, from a social standpoint if the screening form identifies land acquisition needs that trigger OP 4.12 on Involuntary Resettlement, then the required mitigation measure would be to chose an alternative land site that does not trigger this policy or, the implementer of the activity prepares a resettlement and compensation plan consistent with the disclosed RPF.

From an environmental stand point, the screening form and checklist may identify impacts from activities, such as contamination of ground water sources due to inappropriate waste disposal. The mitigation measure may be to choose a site far away from the water source so that chances of contamination are not possible and/or incorporate appropriate waste disposal measures into the design such as channeling all waste to a closed system that is periodically emptied and disposed of safely.

Once the implementers have completed the screening of activities and designed into them the necessary mitigation measures, the work program activities would then be sent to the DoE for review and to check for compliance with this EA process.

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The completed screening forms and completed checklists must accompany the work program list of activities that are sent for review. If the screening form has any "Yes" entries, or evidently unjustified "No" entries, the application would need to adequately explain and demonstrate from its design that the issue has been managed to avoid unacceptable adverse effects/impacts. If the application has satisfactorily addressed these issues it will be recommended for approval to the respective approving body. For approved activities, the DoE as reviewer will determine environmental and social approval conditions the implementer must adhere to in the detailed planning, construction and operation of the investment. These conditions may include, for example, such measures as public involvement, sitting or routing restrictions, construction and operation practices, restoration of disturbed areas, the complete implementation of a plan for resettlement or compensation for land acquisition and, construction supervision to ensure the approval conditions are being followed.

If, however the application unsatisfactorily addresses these issues it may be rejected out right or rejected with the requirement to carry out the activity ESIA in cases where one was not done before or with specific recommendations such as to change site, or redesign waste management, reduce air pollution, etc.

The rejected activity will then have to be re-designed and re-screened by the implementer and then re-submitted for review. The revised application will then have to be reviewed again and, if now acceptable, will be recommended for consideration for approval. If it is not acceptable for the second time, it would be referred back to the implementer for more work or denied clearance altogether.

Any proposed activities that do not comply with the requirements of the Environment Laws of Sao Tome e Principe and the requirements of the World Bank Safeguards policies will not be cleared for approval.

This process is designed to ensure that the environmental and social assessment process is part of and conducted during the design process thereby ensuring that activities are environmentally and socially sound and sustainable.

Environmental Management Plan (EMP): work program activities must contain as part an EMP that will consist of a set of mitigation measures, monitoring and institutional measures to be taken during the implementation and operation of the activities to eliminate adverse environmental and social impacts, offset them or reduce them to acceptable levels. The EMP should also include the actions needed to implement these measures, including the following features:

Mitigation: Based on the environmental and social impacts identified from use of the checklists, the EMP should describe with technical details each mitigation measure, together with designs, equipment descriptions and operating procedures as appropriate.

Monitoring: Environmental and social monitoring during the implementation, in order to measure the success of the mitigation measures. The EMP should

include monitoring objectives that specify the type of monitoring activities that will be linked to the mitigation measures. Specifically, the monitoring section of the EMP provides:

• A specific description and technical details of monitoring measures that include the parameters to be measured, the methods to be used, sampling locations, frequency of measurements, detection limits (where appropriate), and definition of thresholds that will signal the need for corrective actions, e.g. the need for on site construction supervision.

• Monitoring and reporting procedures to ensure early detection of conditions that necessitate particular mitigation measures and to furnish information on the progress and results of mitigation, e.g. by annual audits and surveys to monitor overall effectiveness of the ESMF.

The EMP should also provide a specific description of institutional arrangements, i.e. who is responsible for carrying out the mitigating and monitoring measures (for operation, supervision, enforcement, monitoring of implementation, remedial action, financing, reporting and staff training.)

Additionally, the EMP should include an estimate of the costs of the measures and activities recommended so that the additional Grant can budget the necessary funds. The mitigation and monitoring measures recommended in the EMP should be developed in consultation with all affected groups to include their concerns and views in the design of the EMP.

Public Consultations: Public consultations are critical in preparing an effective and sustainable work program. The first step is to hold public consultations with the local communities and all other interested /affected parties. These consultations should identify key issues and determine how the concerns of all parties will be addressed in the terms of reference of the design of activities. To facilitate meaningful consultations, the local governments through their implementers will provide all relevant material and information concerning the activities in a timely manner prior to the consultation, in a form and language that are understandable and accessible to the groups being consulted. Depending on the public interest in the potential impacts of the activities, a public hearing may be requested to better convey concerns. Once the activity has been reviewed and cleared, the implementers will inform the public about the results of the review. This approach would be consistent with the Bank's OP 4.01 Environmental Assessment as well as STP's efforts to enhance its participatory planning process.

Annex 1 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SCREENING FORM

The Environmental and Social Screening Form (ESSF) has been designed to assist in the evaluation of sub-components from which the additional is building its objectives. The

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form is designed to place information in the hands of implementers and reviewers (Focal Point and the Department of Environment) so that impacts and their mitigation measures, if any, can be identified and/or that requirements for further environmental analysis are determined.

The ESSF contains information that will allow reviewers to determine the characterization of the prevailing local biophysical and social environment with the aim to assess the potential activity impacts on it. The ESSF will also identify potential socioeconomic impacts that will require mitigation measures and or resettlement and compensation.

Name of Sub-project:

Development Sector of Activity:

Name of Activity Execution Organization:

Name of District where is to be implemented:

Name of Local Government:

Name of Approving Authority:

Name, job title, and contact details for the person who is responsible for filling out this form.

Name:

Job Title:

Telephone number:

Fax number:

E-Mail address:

Date:

Signature:

1. Brief Activity Description

Please provide information on the type and scale of the activity (project area, area of required land, approximate size of total building floor areas, etc.)

2. The Natural Environment

(a) Describe the land formation, topography, and vegetation in/adjacent to the area

(b) Estimate and indicate where vegetation might need to be cleared

(c) Are there any environmentally sensitive areas or threatened species (specify below) that could be adversely affected by the project?

(i) Intact natural forests Yes____No____

(ii) Riverine forest Yes____No____

(iii) Wetlands (lakes, rivers, seasonally inundated areas) Yes_____No____

(iv) How far are the nearest Wetlands (lakes, rivers, seasonally inundated areas)? _____km

(v) Habitats of endangered species for which protection is required under Comorian laws and/or international agreements. Yes____No____

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3. Rivers and Lakes Ecology

Is there a possibility that, due to construction and operation of the sub-project, the river and lake ecology will be adversely affected? Attention should be paid to water quality and quantity, the nature, productivity and use of aquatic habitats, and variations of these over time.

Yes____No____

4. Protected areas

Does the project area (or components of the project) occur within/adjacent to any protected areas designated by government (national park, national reserve, world heritage site etc.)?

Yes____No____

If the project is outside of, but close to, any protected area, is it likely to adversely affect the ecology within the protected area (e.g., interference with the migration routes of mammals or birds)

Yes____No____

5. Geology and Soils

Based upon visual inspection or available literature, are there areas of possible geologic or soil instability (erosion prone, landslide prone, subsidence-prone)?

Yes____No____

Based upon visual inspection or available literature, are there areas that have risks of large scale increase in soil salinity?

Yes____No____

6. Landscape/aesthetics

Is there a possibility that the sub-project will adversely affect the aesthetic attractiveness of the local landscape?

Yes____No____

7. Historical, archaeological or cultural heritage site.

Based on available sources, consultation with local authorities, local knowledge and/or observations, could the sub-project alter any historical, archaeological or cultural heritage site or require excavation near same?

Yes____No____

8. Resettlement and/or Land Acquisition

Will involuntary resettlement, land acquisition, or loss, denial or restriction of access to land and other economic resources be caused by sub-project implementation?

Yes____No____

9. Loss of Crops, Fruit Trees and Household Infrastructure

Will the project result in the permanent or temporary loss of crops, fruit trees and household infra-structure (such as granaries, outside toilets and kitchens, etc)?

Yes___No____

10. Noise pollution during Construction and Operations

Will the operating noise level exceed the allowable noise limits?

Yes___No____

11. Solid or Liquid Wastes, including Medical Waste

Will the sub-project generate solid or liquid wastes, including medical waste?

Yes____No____

If "Yes", does the project include a plan for their adequate collection and disposal?

Yes____No____

12. Pesticides, Insecticides, Herbicides or any other Poisonous or Hazardous Chemicals.

Will the sub-project require the use of such chemicals?

Yes___No____

If, "Yes", does the sub-project include a plan for their safe handling, use and disposal?

Yes____No____

Annex 2 Procedures for Sub-project Investments Requiring EA

Step 1: Screening

To determine the depth of EA required, potential impacts in the following areas need to be considered:

- Social issues
- Health issues
- Protected areas
- Cultural heritage, archaeological sites
- Existing natural resources such as forests, soils, wetlands, water resources
- Wildlife or endangered species' habitats

Step 2: Scoping

To identify the relevant environmental and social issues, this step determines:

- Level of detail required for the EA
- Extent of the area to be covered in light of the potential impact zones
- Time frame for the EA based on the potential impact zones
- Sequencing and scheduling of the various EA tasks
- Preliminary budgets

Step 3: Preparation of Terms of Reference for sub-project EAs

Based on the screening and scoping results, EA terms of reference will be prepared. A local service provider will conduct the EA, and the report should have the following format:

- Description of the study area
- Description of the sub-project
- Description of the environment
- Legislative and regulatory considerations
- Determination of the potential impacts of the proposed sub-projects
- Public consultations process
- Development of mitigation measures and a monitoring plan, including cost estimates

Annex 3: Typical Checklist to Identify Impacts and Mitigation Measures of Construction Sites under the Project

Environmental and Social Components	Impacts	Mitigation Measures
Physical Environment	X	0
Soils	 Erosion of lands down slope from borrow areas. Landslides and slips Contamination from waste materials, e.g. cement and paints, engine oils, etc. Excavating borrow pits for aggregate materials (sand and stone) for concrete Cutting of stone for use on façades 	 Construction in dry season; protection of soil surfaces during construction; re-vegetation or physical stabilization of erodable surfaces. Land restoration measures Adequate protection from livestock entry by fencing the
		site perimeters
		Control and daily cleaning at construction sites
		Provision of adequate waste disposal services
		Proper disposal of chemicals and other hazardous materials
		Dust control by water, appropriate design and siting, restrict construction to certain times
		Appropriate and suitable storage of building materials of site
Water Resources	 Creation of stagnant water pools Increased sediments into streams Clogging of drainage works Decline in water quality 	Special attention to drainage; prevention of erosion; consideration of alternative alignments; retention ponder proper disposal of oil and other hazardous materials
	 Increase in runoff and flooding conditions 	Siting of Latrines at safe distances from wells and using
	Introduction of hazardous wastes	closed systems for sewage drainage
	Contamination of wells	
Air Quality	Dust during construction	Dust control by water or other means
Acoustic Environment	Noise disturbance	Restrict construction to certain hours
Bio-physical Environment		
Natural Habitats	Disturbance of natural habitatsDisturbance to protected areas	Consideration of alternative alignments or sites

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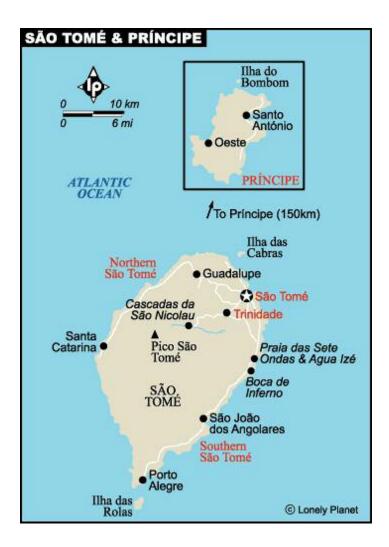
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Fauna and Flora	Disruption or destruction of wildlifeThreats to rare and endangered species	Minimize loss of natural vegetation during construction; alternative sites; various special measures for sensitive species
Social Environment		
Aesthetics and Landscape	Marred landscapesDebris	Restoration of vegetation; cleanup of construction sites
Historical/Cultural Sites	Degradation of sitesDisturbance to structures	Alternative alignments and/or sites Special measures to protect cultural heritage sites
Human Health	 Transport of hazardous substances Traffic accidents Pedestrian accidents 	Regulation of transport of materials Safety designs (signage) Ensure availability of clean potable water for use in latrines, canteens and for drinking Use of appropriate building materials. No asbestos etc.
Human Communities	Involuntary resettlementLoss of crops, buildings, property, or economic livelihood	Prepare Resettlement and Compensation Plans consistent with disclosed RPF as per OP 4.12

Annexe 4 LIST OF DOCUMENTS CONSULTED (original ESMF, 2004)

- 1. Terms of Reference
- 2. Project Concept Note (PCN)
- 3. The draft Project Appraisal Document (PAD)
- 4. The approved Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet (ISDS)
- 5. Aide Mémoires
- 6. Decreto N 35/99 on extraction in coastal zones and rivers
- 7. Regulamento Sobre o Processo de Avaliacao do Impacto Ambiental
- 8. Constitution of the Republic of Sao Tome e Principe
- 9. Law N 3/91 on Land Management
- 10. Lei N 10/99 Lie de Base do Ambiental
- 11. World Bank Safeguard Policies

Annex 5 Country and Island Maps



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