

São Tomé and Príncipe – Island Resilience: Enhancing Early Warning Systems for Climate Adaptation

Country

São Tomé and Príncipe

ACP-EU Disaster Risk

Management Program

Component

Operational early warning systems in targeted ACP regions and countries

Amount Approved

€300,000 / \$315,000

Duration

24 months

Context and Objectives

São Tomé and Príncipe is confronted with hydrometeorological hazards in the form of coastal and river flooding, landslides and storms as well as occasional droughts. An important challenge that the country encounters is the establishment of effective early warning systems due to the weak weather monitoring network, accuracy of forecasts and lack of proper infrastructure for data and warning dissemination. Moreover, there is a technical deficiency in terms of weather specialists at the national meteorological agency and an overall systemic early warning and communication system. In December 2024, the country launched the EW4All process and carried out a comprehensive capacity assessment and gap analysis to evaluate existing capabilities and identify key weaknesses across the four EWS pillars: (i) Disaster risk knowledge; ii) Hazard detection, monitoring, analysis, and forecasting; iii) Warning dissemination and communication; and (iv) Preparedness and response capacities.

The objective of this project is to enhance early warning systems in São Tomé and Príncipe by improving technical capacity, communication, and community preparedness while prioritizing gender equity and social inclusion, and to reduce climate-related risks and support the São Tomé and Príncipe Coastal Areas Resilience and Sustainable Tourism (WACA+) Project¹.

Main Activities and Expected Results

Meteorological Training

This activity focuses on specialized training for meteorologists in weather forecasts with the aim of enhancing forecast accuracy for coastal communities and the fishing industry.

Expected Results:

- Improved accuracy of weather forecasts for better informed decision-making.
- Increased number of trained meteorologists on national weather forecasts.

Risk Management and Emergency Response

The activity focuses on training for National Civil Protection and Fire Service (SNPCB for its Portuguese acronym) on risk management and response to hazards with particular attention on gender equity and social inclusion.

¹ <https://projects.worldbank.org/pt/projects-operations/project-detail/P180982>

Expected Results:

- Trained SNPCB staff on risk management and emergency response.
- Emergency response plans are elaborated and operational once weather warnings are issued.
- Engagement of more women in disaster management activities and trainings.

Community Workshops

The community workshops provide training to fishers and coastal community leaders on the interpretation of weather warnings and how to respond when natural hazards occur. This activity will ensure to engage women and marginalized groups.

Expected Results:

- Increased understanding in preparedness and precautionary actions in times of hazards.
- Numerous workshops held for fisherman, community leaders and women.

Communication and awareness strategy

Through this activity, a communication strategy for vulnerable areas and population groups is being elaborated and implemented in support of the EW4All initiative.

Expected Results:

- Enhanced outreach and inclusivity: Vulnerable populations, including women and marginalized groups, receive timely and actionable early warning information through specific targeted and multi-channel communication strategies.
- Increased public awareness and trust: Communities demonstrate greater understanding of and confidence in the early warning system, leading to more proactive and timely response to warning messages.
- Improved feedback and adaptation: Communities provide input that strengthens warning messages and dissemination.

Partnerships and Coordination

The World Bank implements this project in close coordination with the Ministry of Environment Youth and Sustainable Tourism, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Natural Resources, the National Meteorological Institute (INM), the National Council for Disaster Prevention and Response (CONPREC), and the Ports Authority. There is also close coordination with the EU Delegation São Tomé and Príncipe. In addition, the project will collaborate with UNDRR which conducted technical workshops on “Enhancing Risk Information for Impact-Based Early Warnings and Resilience Building in Small Island Developing States”. Similarly with FAO, close collaboration will be maintained as they have worked on enhancing disaster preparedness and response mechanisms for the safety and resilience of artisanal fishers. Other collaborations included the World Meteorology Organization and the Portuguese Hydrographic Institute.