



SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

São Tomé and Príncipe: Adaptation to Climate Change

LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FUND	
LDCF grant	\$3,885,750
Cofinancing	\$3,575,000
NAPA completion	November 2007
Inclusion in LDCF Work Program	August 2009
CEO endorsement	October 2010
Implementation start and completion	January 2011–December 2015
GEF Agency	The World Bank
Other executing partner	Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Environment

Studies conducted as part of the NAPA preparation documented that São Tomé and Príncipe has experienced the following climate-related phenomena during the last few decades: (a) temperature increases; (b) decrease in rainfall and subsequent decrease in riverflow and water supply; (c) deaths of artisanal fishermen and loss of fishing equipment because of increased fog, strong winds, and increased turbulence at sea disrupting traditional navigation and safety-at-sea practices; (d) destruction of fishing vessels along harbors and beaches because of increased storms; (e) increase in women's poverty because of loss of their husbands' lives and fishing equipment; (f) longer dry seasons leading to drought conditions that,

followed by torrential rains, lead to landslides, flooding, and groundwater contamination; (g) increasing coastal erosion leading to loss of houses and infrastructure, and isolation of local communities; and (h) decreased tourism. Climate change is likely to aggravate such long-term trends, putting additional pressure on already vulnerable Saotomean coastal communities.

Project Activities and Expected Impacts

The LDCF project tackles challenges related to the impacts of climate change on Saotomean coastal development in two main areas: coastal erosion and loss of coastal property caused by sea-level rise combined with the effects of increasing



precipitation intensity; and increased loss of life and canoes caused by extreme weather events such as storms, fog, and changes in wind patterns.

The project is structured around both direct physical interventions and capacity building. Among the more “direct” activities, for example, the project constructs shelters to function as refuges for boats during storms and thus limits the economic impact and livelihood losses associated with such events, and provides sea safety equipment, such as simple radar reflectors and life vests to artisanal fishermen, consequently reducing the amount of lives lost at sea due to climate change–induced extreme events, for example, fog, turbulence, and strong winds. Such concrete physical interventions are in turn supported, and reinforced, by broader capacity building measures, such as training fishermen in sea safety under changed climatic conditions and establishing an early-warning system disseminating

timely forecasts to coastal communities prior to extreme events.

Synergies and Coordination

The project closely interacts with the following programs currently under implementation in São Tomé and Príncipe: (a) a national support program for development of the fisheries sector; (b) a program funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID) supporting the national support program focusing on capacity building and market creation in the fisheries sector; (c) a partnership with the Portuguese Institute for Environment aimed at improving modeling of the weather and sea conditions in São Tomé and Príncipe; (d) Portuguese funding for Civil Protection Services; (e) European Union (EU) funding for coastal protection and protection of coastal infrastructure.

For More Information

Global Environment Facility
1818 H Street NW
Washington DC 20433 USA

Tel: 202–473–0508
Fax: 202–522–3240

August 2009
www.theGEF.org