

## LA PROBLEMATIQUE DE L'ADAPTATION A STP

The Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe is an archipelago made up of two main islands and four islets, located in the Gulf of Guinea, 360 and 269 km respectively from the west coast of the African continent. The surface area of the country is 1 001 km<sup>2</sup>, 859 km<sup>2</sup> for the island of São Tomé and 142 km<sup>2</sup> for the island of Príncipe. The population is about 200,000 inhabitants, mainly young - with more than 43% of the population under 14 years old - and mostly urban (about 68.8%).

STP has a humid tropical climate, with abundant rainfall throughout the year, with the exception of the "gravana" period between June and August, which sees a drop in rainfall and temperature, with winds blowing from the south - southwest quadrant. The average annual rainfall is 2,000-3,000 mm/year, reaching 7,000 mm/year in the cloud forests. Due to the topography, there are many microclimates. Precipitation varies along a north-east-south-west gradient, following the distribution of the mountains. Humidity is very high, reaching over 90% at high altitudes. The average annual temperature is 26°C (NAPA, 2007).

The existence of several dense and diverse marine, terrestrial and intermediate ecosystems, including forests, mangroves and riparian areas, has made the country one of the most important biodiversity hotspots in the world.

STP has made significant progress towards achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), reflecting successful national efforts in social policy, health care and human development. Primary school enrolment continued to increase, reaching 98% in 2016. Meanwhile, infant mortality fell to 36 per 1 000 live births in 2016, down from 38 per 1 000 in 2014, and maternal mortality decreased to 56 per 100 000 mothers in 2016, down from 76 per 100 000 in 2015. Life expectancy is 66 years. 97% of the population has access to an improved water source and 60% to electricity (World Bank, 2018).

Malaria is now almost non-existent while HIV/AIDS has also become less prevalent (UNDP, 2016). Poverty remains a concern, however, with the number of poor people in STP still standing at two-thirds of the population.

Urban poverty is high compared to rural poverty due to limited employment opportunities, especially for youth (WB, 2018). This reflects the challenges authorities face in creating appropriate mechanisms for job creation, entrepreneurship and skills development. In addition, the vast majority of

workers are in the agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors, and too often receive incomes that are insufficient to meet their basic needs.

The country has established a policy framework that sets out long and medium-term priorities for achieving poverty reduction and sustainable economic growth. The Vision 2030 "The Country We Want" highlights the country's long-term development priorities beyond 2015. It is structured around four broad thematic areas:

- good governance for a strong democracy,
- - sustainable economic growth,
- - human development and
- - cross-cutting issues, including behaviour and values.

In order to support the coherent and integrated implementation of the country's climate change adaptation framework in general and the NDC in particular, a group of international donors and partners led by the World Bank came together to develop a draft NDC partnership support mechanism.

The overall results envisaged from this project are as follows:

- Increased technical capacity of the National Climate Change Commission and vulnerable sectors to understand climate change risks;
  - - Improved coordination between different government institutions to develop climate change resilience strategies and plans;
  - - Improved capacity to access climate change financing for identified priorities.
- To this end, a legal and policy framework has been progressively put in place to support adaptation to climate change in the country:
- - Law No. 10/99 - Basic Law on the Environment of 15 April 1999 which establishes the legal framework for the environment in STP.
  - - Three national communications on climate change (2005, 2012 and 2019)
  - - The National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (NCCAA) developed in 2004 which aimed to consolidate knowledge on climate change in STP, to study the measures needed to integrate climate change into the national

sustainable development planning process and to monitor the implementation of the identified adaptation interventions.

- The National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) was developed in 2007 and identifies 22 immediate adaptation interventions in a wide range of sectors including artisanal fisheries, agriculture, forestry, water, civil protection, health and behavioural change communication to increase the resilience of the population of Santomé to the negative impacts of climate change. NAPA adopts a project-based approach to raise funds to address urgent adaptation needs.
- STP's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) submitted to the UNFCCC in 2015. This document notes that although STP has identified additional mitigation measures, its priority remains adaptation and risk reduction due to its high level of vulnerability to climate change impacts. The government has recognised that it needs external assistance in terms of financial resources, access to technology and capacity building in order to implement its 5 priority short-term and 6 priority medium-term adaptation interventions.
- The National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management (NSDRM) sets out the government's vision for reducing the impact of disasters for the period 2016-2021 by identifying strategic priorities for disaster prevention, mitigation and responses.

#### Main adaptation concerns in STP:

- Reduced agricultural production ;
- Landslides and coastal erosion with implications for tourism and coastal infrastructure
- Seawater intrusion with implications for coastal settlements
- Loss of fishing equipment with consequences on fisheries production and productivity.
- Reduction in fisheries production
- Loss of biodiversity
- Availability and quality of water for different users
- Increased dependence on off-farm employment opportunities under pressure.

PRIORITY ADAPTATION OPTIONS OR PROJECT IDEAS are in the following sectors:

- Agriculture and livestock (14%),
- Forestry and biodiversity (24%),
- Energy (12%)
- Tourism (12%)
- Fisheries (9%),
- Water resources (9%),
- Coastal areas (9%),
- Mining 4 (9%)