

São Tomé and Príncipe

Map of African continent



Indicator	Data
Population, 2019 (no.)	215,056
Population density, 2018 (people per sq. km of land area)	219.82
Coastal population, 2014 (no.) ¹	163,740
Share of people living in urban areas, 2019 (%)	73.6%
Total MSW generated, 2016 (tons/year) ²	25,586

Socio-Economic Profile

São Tomé and Príncipe is a lower middle-income small island state 350 km off the coast of West Africa³. It has a small agrarian economy highly dependent on the exportation of cocoa beans⁴. São Tomé and Príncipe is divided into 6 administrative districts and runs a semi-presidential republic system⁵.

In 2019, Sao Tome and Principe's overall GDP (purchasing power parity) fell just above USD 891 million, with a GDP (purchasing power parity) per capita of USD 3,970⁶. With an area of 964 km², São Tomé and Príncipe has a population of 215,056 (2019) and a population density of 219.82 people per km² (2018)⁸. Majority of Sao Tome and Principe's population resides in urban areas – 73.6% in 2019⁹.

¹ Jambeck et al., "Plastic Waste Inputs from Land into the Ocean."

² Kaza, Silpa, Lisa Yao, Perinaz Bhada-Tata, and Frank Van Woerden. 2018. What a Waste 2.0: A Global Snapshot of Solid Waste Management to 2050. Urban Development Series. Washington, DC: World Bank

³ World Bank Group 2021. São Tomé and Príncipe – Overview. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/saotome/overview>

⁴ CIA 2021. World Factbook – São Tomé and Príncipe. <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/sao-tome-and-principe/#economy>

⁵ *ibid.*

⁶ GDP, PPP (constant 2017 international \$) and GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2017 international \$)

⁷ World Bank Group 2020. World Development Indicators. <https://datacatalog.worldbank.org/dataset/world-development-indicators>

⁸ *ibid.*

⁹ *ibid.*

Plastic Industry and Ecosystem

In 2018 and 2019, São Tomé and Príncipe had no domestic resin production or conversion. São Tomé and Príncipe is a net importer of plastics. In 2019, 271,000¹⁰. Only 47,452 kg of plastics was exported from São Tomé and Príncipe that same year, all of which consisted of PE plastics¹¹.

Solid Waste Management

São Tomé and Príncipe generates 0.37 kg of municipal solid waste (MSW) per capita per day and this amounts to an overall daily MSW generation of 70,050 kg¹². It should be noted, however, that about 81.1% of MSW generated in São Tomé and Príncipe is inadequately managed¹³. Plastic waste accounts for just below 13% of MSW arisings¹⁴, with a daily generation rate of about 9,360 kg..

Legislation, policies, and other initiatives

The government ministry responsible for municipal waste management in São Tomé and Príncipe is the Ministry of Infrastructure, Natural Resources and Environment¹⁵. Waste management in São Tomé and Príncipe is driven by the following law:

- Environmental Law No. 10/99, 1999

This law highlights the basic principles for waste management, including prevention and precaution, and user-pays and polluter-pays principles, and also advocates for the reuse of waste¹⁶.

In 2013, the government in São Tomé and Príncipe introduced an extended producer responsibility law which was applicable to a set of priority products and articles¹⁷. Also, since 1993, Sao Tome and Principe's environmental policy law – Law No. 86/IV/93 – has advocated for the application of fiscal and financial instruments that encourage recycling and reuse of waste, as well as a levy – the Environmental Impact Fee – which was applied to all economic agents importing the set of priority products and articles¹⁸.

¹⁰ UN Comtrade 2019. UN Comtrade Database. <https://comtrade.un.org/>

¹¹ *ibid.*

¹² Kaza, Silpa, Lisa Yao, Perinaz Bhada-Tata, and Frank Van Woerden. 2018. *What a Waste 2.0: A Global Snapshot of Solid Waste Management to 2050*. Urban Development Series. Washington, DC: World Bank

¹³ Jambeck et al 2014. Plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean. <https://jambeck.engr.uga.edu/landplasticinput>

¹⁴ *ibid.*

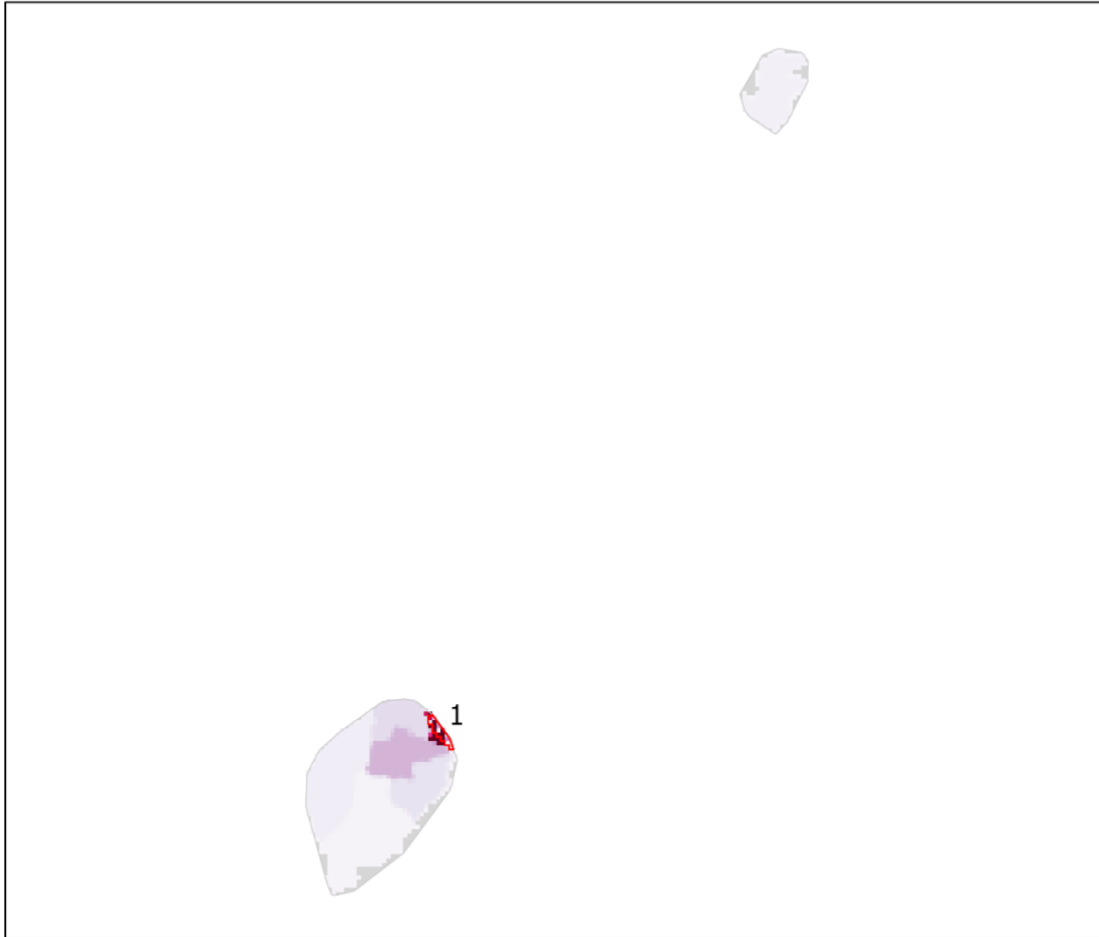
¹⁵ General Directorate of the Environment 2018. *Minamata Initial Assessment Report: São Tomé and Príncipe*. <http://www.mercuryconvention.org/Portals/11/documents/MIAs/Sao-Tome-and-Principe-MIA-2018.pdf>

¹⁶ Chatham House 2020. *Policies*. <https://circulareconomy.earth/>

¹⁷ *ibid.*

¹⁸ *ibid.*

Plastic Waste in São Tomé and Príncipe



Plastic Generation Hotspots

ID	Locale	Rank	Plastic Waste (kt)	Population	Area (km ²)
1	Sao Tome	60	0.6621	39,806	13.7

Total Annual National Plastic Waste Generation: 3.42 kt



Hotspot
Extent

Location in Region

