

SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE 2040
INVESTMENT FÓRUM

RISE
ISTP

Resilience
Investment
Sustainability
& Equity



Thursday, 11 December 2025

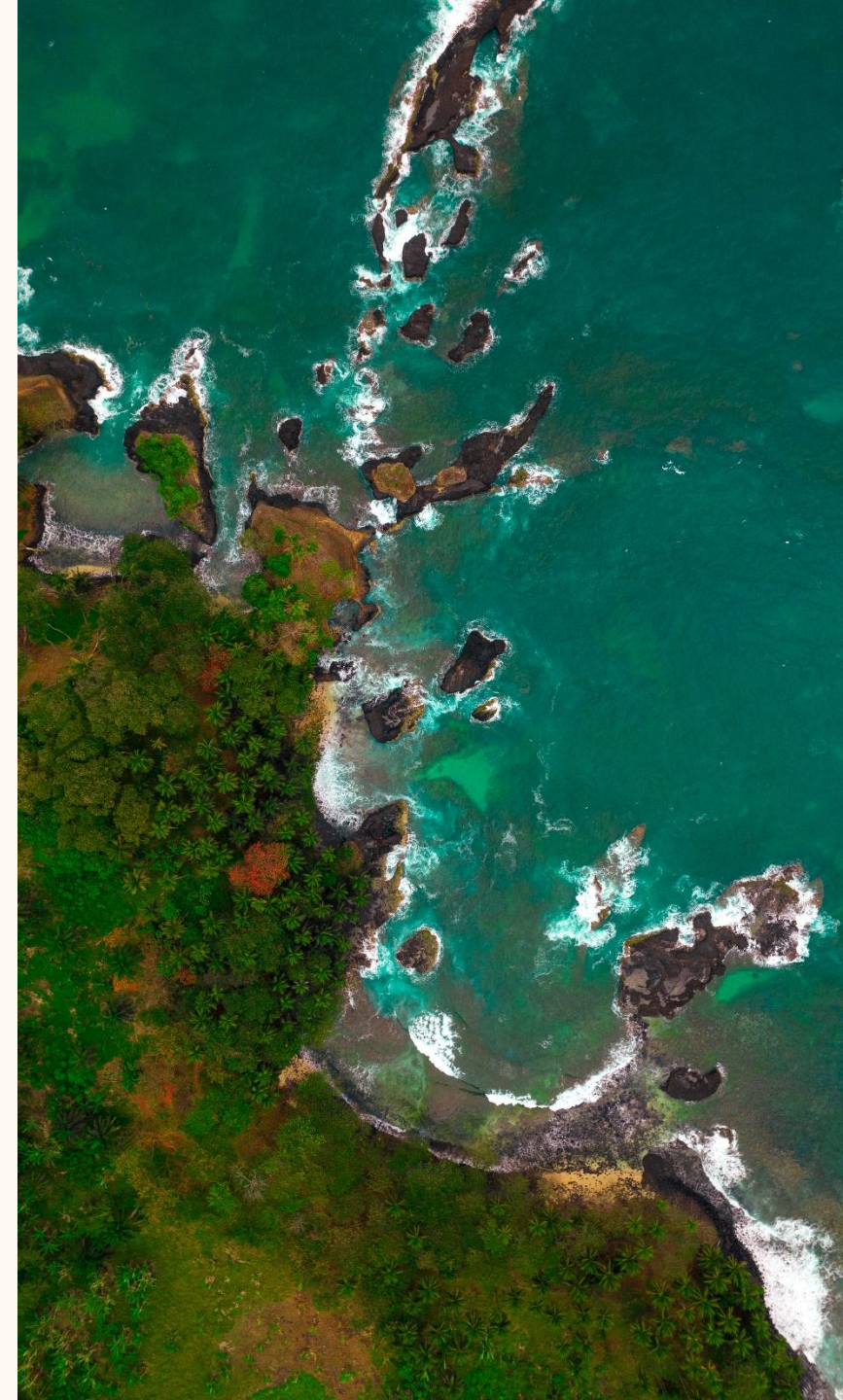
Business Environment in São Tomé and Príncipe

Why Invest?

Legal Framework and Incentives

Decree-Law 19/2016 – Investment Code

Decree-Law 18/2017 – Investment Code Regulations



Legal Framework and Incentives

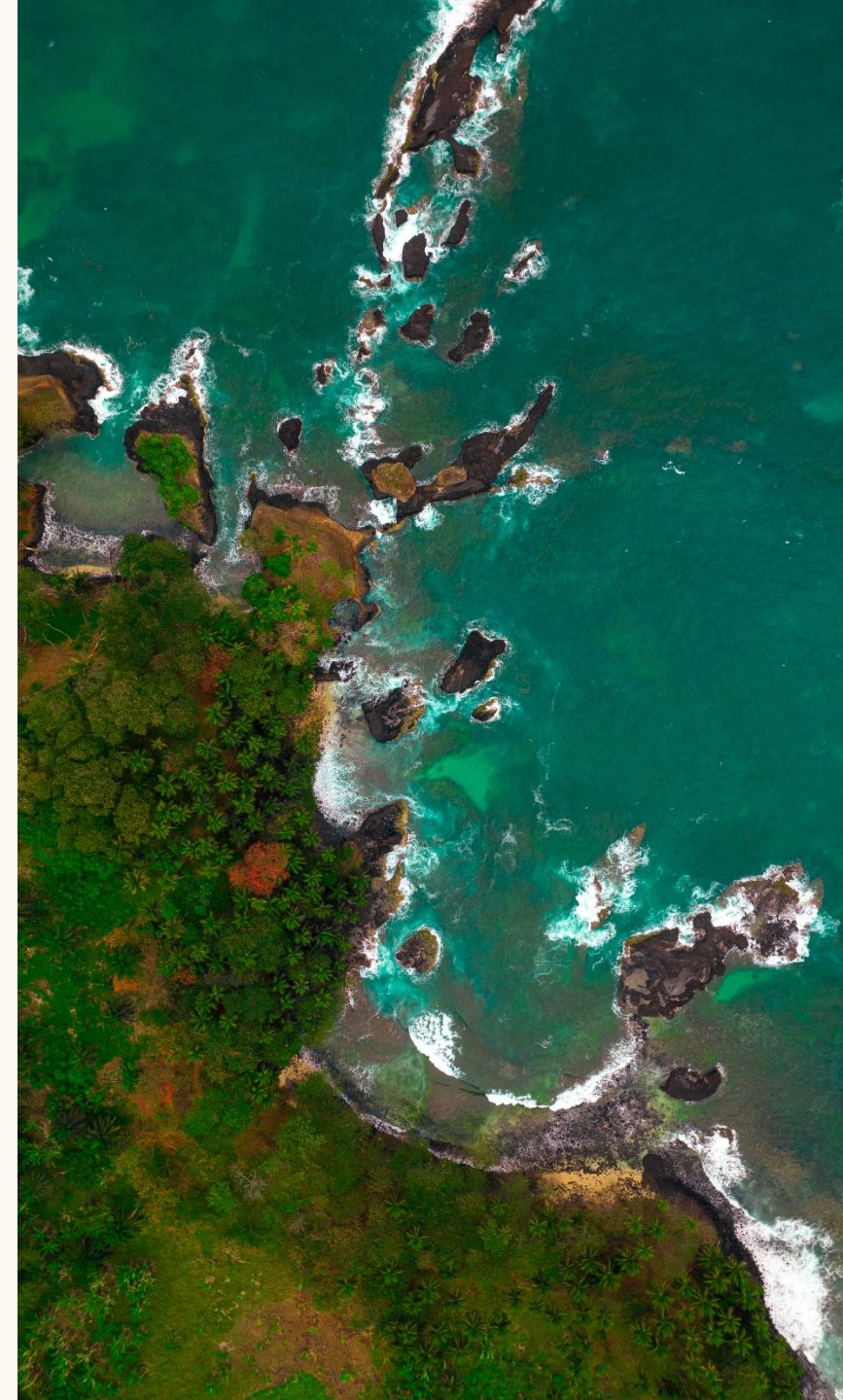
Law 9/2023 (Temporary incentives)

- It is a simplified investment regime
- It grants the Government powers to define the conditions and procedures for authorizing strategic investments under 1.000.000
- Faster and more flexible pathway for investment approval
- Valid until 2027

APCI – Investment and Trade Promotion Agency



Tax and Customs Reform



Tax and Customs
Reform

Decree-Law 12/2023
(Value Added Tax Code)

- Adjustment of IEC rates, making them more reasonable and effective in controlling the consumption of luxury and harmful goods
- Administrative simplification, with greater predictability and consistency between VAT and IEC.

Decree-Law 14/2019
(E-Invoicing)

Creation of the national electronic invoicing system (e-Fatura):

- Introduces a mandatory digital system for electronic communication and processing of invoices through the “Fazenda Non” portal, ensuring real-time control of commercial operations.

Tax and Customs Reform

Decree-Law 14/2023 (Customs Tariff on Import and Export Duties)

The new Customs Tariff, aligned with the 2022 version of the World Customs Organization (WCO) Harmonized System, replaces the 2007 version and introduces simpler, more transparent, and more efficient rules for the classification and taxation of goods.

Tax and Customs Reform

Decree-Law nº 11/2025 (Customs Regime Applicable to the Hydrocarbon Sector)

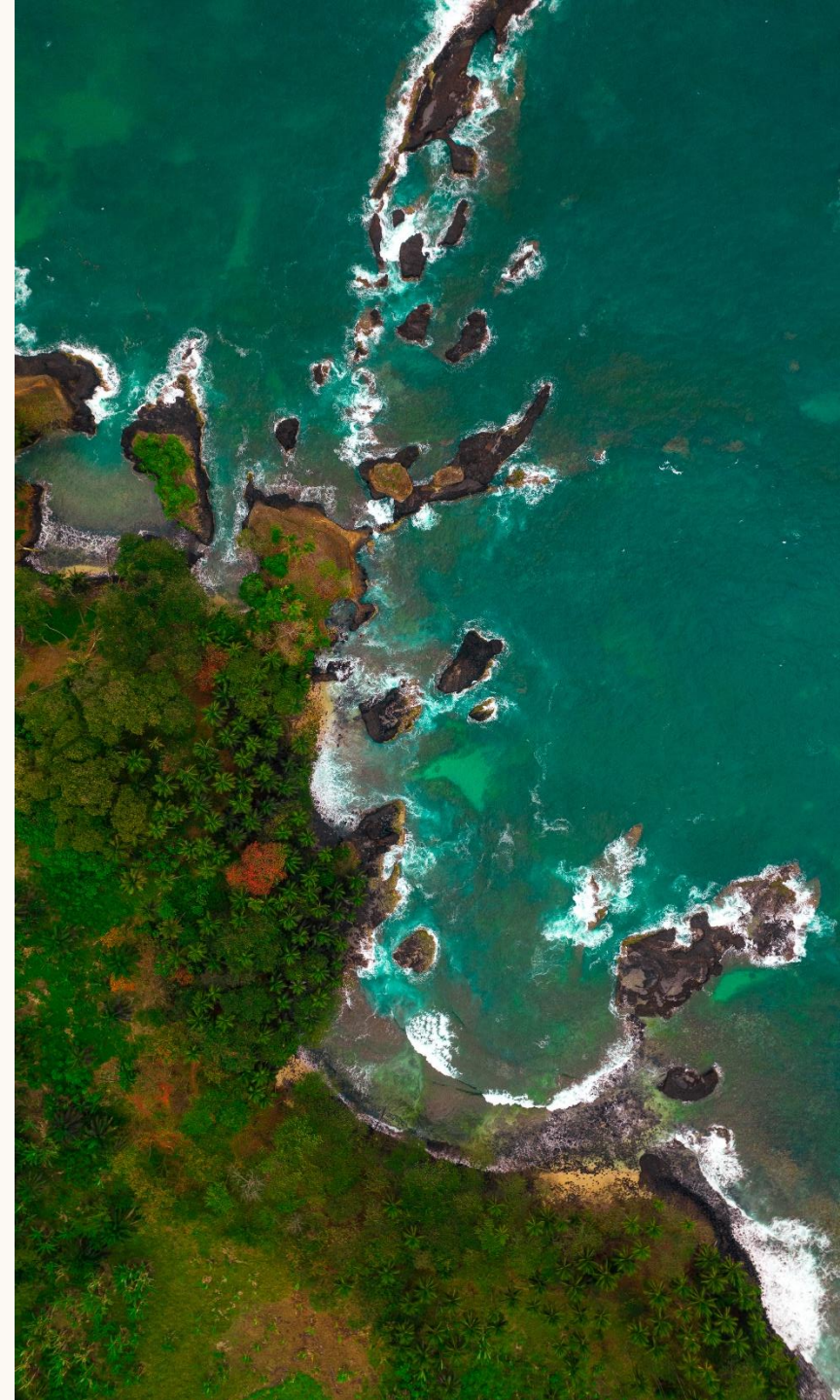
Establishes the customs regime governing petroleum operations in areas under the jurisdiction of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe, applicable to the Contractor, Subcontractor, or other Persons acting on their behalf in the context of petroleum operations.

Goods, materials, equipment, and machinery imported or exported and intended directly and exclusively for petroleum operations are exempt from all customs duties, without prejudice to the payment of customs service fees calculated at a rate of 0.1%.

Flexibility through temporary import and export mechanisms



Key Economic Reforms

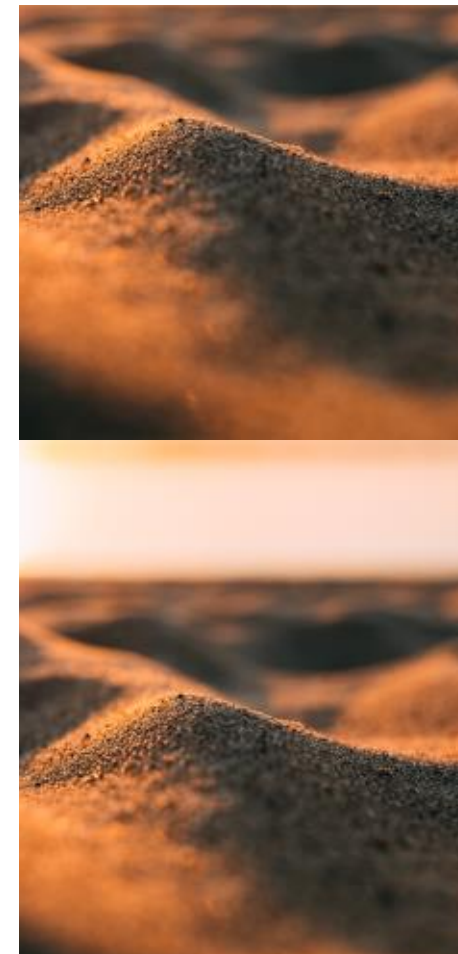


Key
Economic Reforms

Decree-Law 22/2022
(Provision of Services to the National Oil Industry)

Among the main advances, the following stand out:

- Establishment of fees, deadlines, and certification requirements in accordance with international standards;
- Promotion of knowledge and technology transfer, strengthening national technical capacity;
- Strengthening tax collection and transparency in transactions between contractors and subcontractors in the sector.



Key
Economic Reforms

Law 6/2018
(Public-Private Partnerships)

It establishes the legal framework for PPPs, defining the rules applicable to the design, preparation, award, execution, supervision, and monitoring of contracts between the State and private partners, ensuring transparency, efficiency, and a balanced distribution of risks between the State and private partners.

Dedicated PPPs Technical Unit.

Key Economic Reforms

Law 7/2024 (Immigrant Investor Statute)

Attract and retain investment from emigrants by creating more favorable tax and customs conditions and promoting economic ties between the diaspora and the national territory.

- Tax exemption on dividends, interest, and profits earned on investments in the country;
- Ease of repatriating capital and opening commission-free bank accounts;
- Benefits extended to companies owned by emigrants.

Key
Economic Reforms

Decree 25/2024
(Integrated Public Services - SPI)

The services cover:

- Directorate-General for Registries and Notaries (DGRN)
- Tax Directorate
- National Social Security Institute

3 Ways to access the service: online, in person, and by phone.



Key Economic Reforms

Decree nº 19/2024 (Amendment to the Legal Regulation of Treasury Obligations)

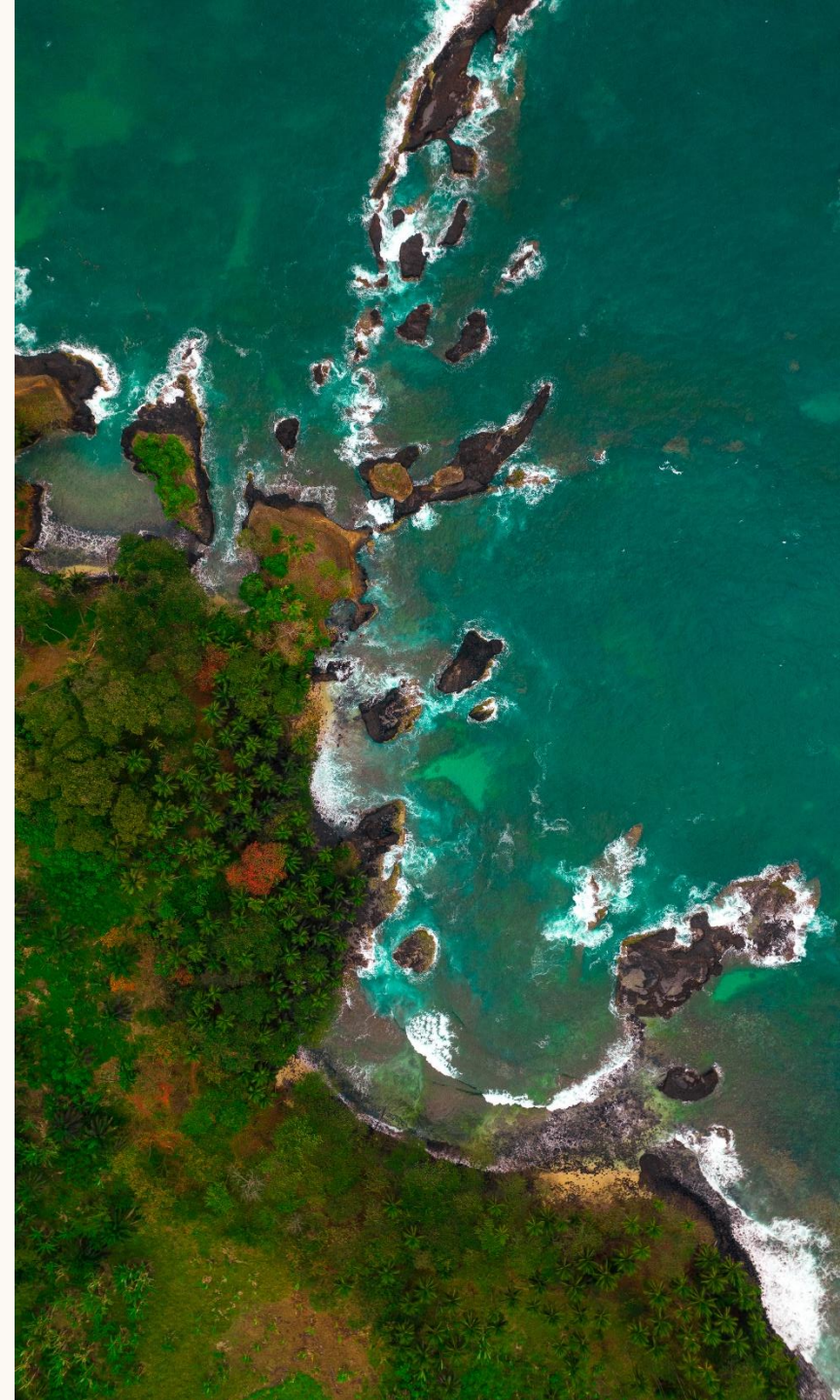
The law introduces greater clarity, flexibility, and transparency into the procedures for issuing and subscribing to Treasury Bonds, in line with international best practices.

Among the main innovations are:

- Modernization of issuance mechanisms, including the possibility of bearer issuance and the use of the ISIN code for international identification of securities
- Expansion of access to auctions, allowing the participation of duly authorized domestic and foreign financial institutions



Facilitation and Mobility

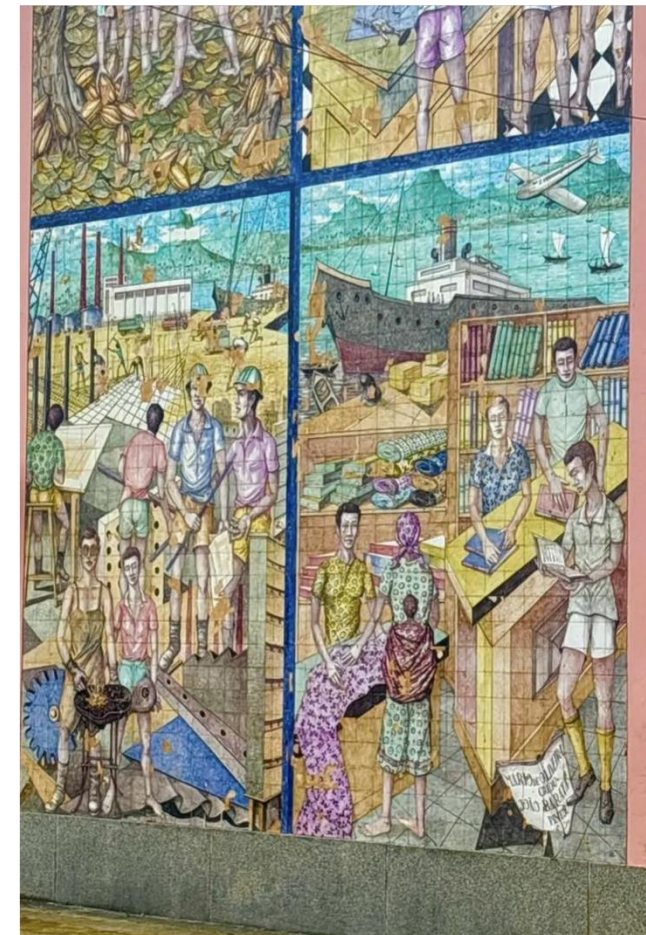


Facilitation and Mobility

Visa Waiver Agreements – more than 30 countries.

Citizens of CPLP, European Union, USA, Canada, Gabon, Togo, Mozambique, Guinea Bissau, Angola Cape Verde, China, Andorra, South Korea, Russian Federation, Japan, Morocco, Monaco, Serbia, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Russian Federation, Gabon, Iceland, Japan, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Morocco, Monaco, Norway, Qatar, San Marino, Turkey, Vatican City, etc.

Generally, a **15-day exemption** and, for some states, 30 or 90 days.



Facilitation and Mobility

Decree-Law 7/2025 (Regulation of Nationality by Investment or Donation)

- Main applicant: Natural person, over 18 years old - USD 90,000.00
- Dependents: Spouse and/or children of the main applicant up to 30 years of age - USD 95,000.00

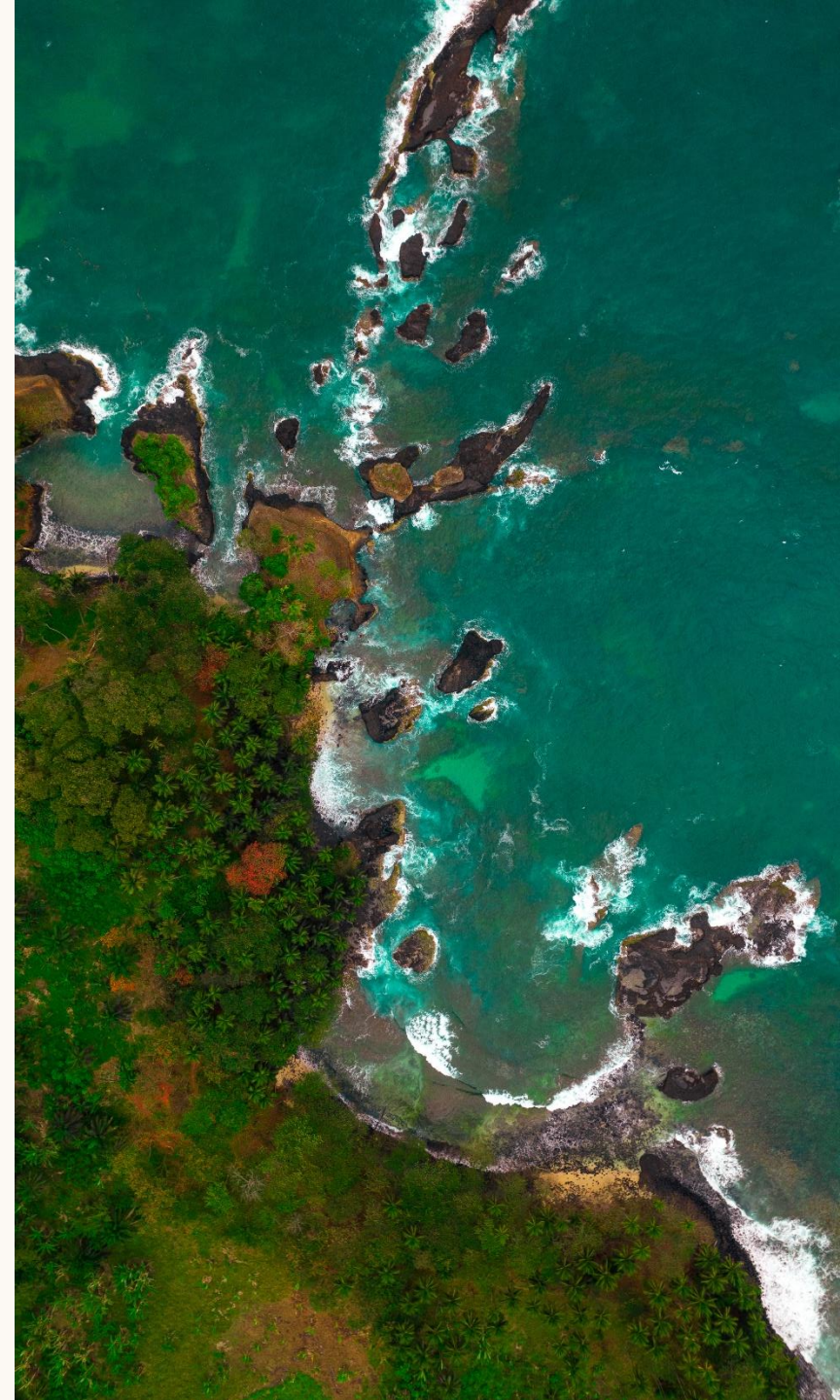
Facilitation and Mobility

Law 12/2018 (Single Window for Companies)

- Complete registration of companies/commercial entities and other collective entities such as associations, cooperatives, and foundations;
- It is possible to set up a company in 3 days (standard fee) or in 24 hours, with the payment of an urgent fee.



Legal Security and Arbitration



Legal Security
and Arbitration

Law 8/2024
(Videoconferencing in the Judicial System)

Allows persons who are required to testify in legal proceedings to be heard if it is not appropriate or possible for them to appear in person in court.

Decree-Law 8/2024
(Notarial Recognition of Telematic Acts)

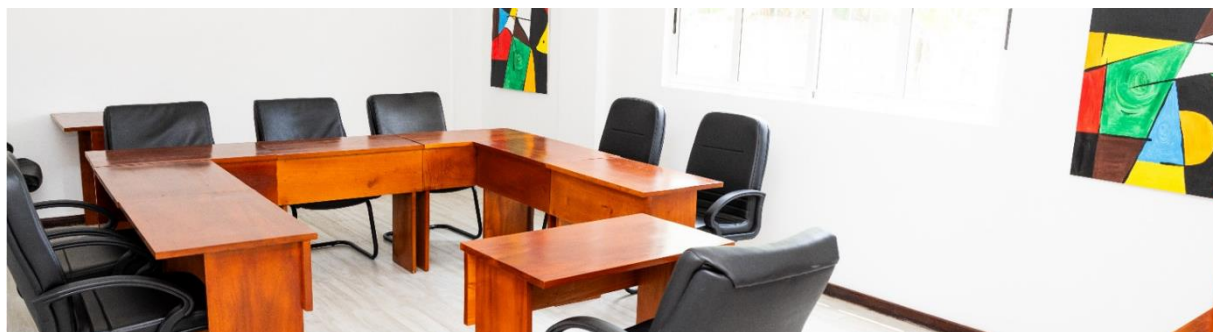
Allow electronic signatures, authentication of private documents

Legal Security and Arbitration

Decree-Law 26/2020

Creation of the Arbitration Center of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture, and Services

- The Arbitration Center is a pillar of legal certainty and national economic competitiveness, ensuring predictability in commercial relations, confidence among economic agents, and efficiency in conflict resolution, all of which are indispensable elements of a modern and sustainable business environment.
- Quick, effective, specialized decisions, made by impartial and independent arbitrators, in a confidential process.



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CO-ORGANIZED WITH
THE UN, PORTUGAL and AfDB

Edinha Soares Lima
December 2025

Let's start now and build a
better world for future
generations.