



Fisheries
Transparency
Initiative

FiTI Candidate Country application

Country: São Tome and Príncipe

Date of application: 30.11.2023

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Important information for the submission of the FiTI Candidate application

In order to be recognised as a FiTI Candidate country – after the completion of all six sign-up steps (as outlined in section A of the FiTI Standard) – the country must submit a formal candidate application to the FiTI.

In order to facilitate this final procedural step, please consider the following aspects:

- The FiTI National Lead (or another senior representative from the FiTI Lead Ministry, e.g. Minister) must submit the FiTI Candidate application – with the approval of the National MSG – to the Chair of the FiTI International Board, Ilair da Conceição ilair1984@gmail.com
- Ideally, the FiTI Candidate application should feature the signature of the submitting national authority, for example on the cover page.
- The FiTI Candidate application must be submitted in English.¹
- The FiTI Candidate application must be submitted as a PDF document.
- The FiTI Candidate application, including all corresponding documents (where necessary), must be provided at least two weeks prior to the next FiTI International Board meeting.
- The FiTI Candidate application must be based on this template. The coloured areas of this template should not be altered.

In case of questions with this template, please contact your country's Regional Coordinator of the FiTI International Secretariat.

Kindly note that in assessing the Candidate Application, the FiTI International Secretariat may contact stakeholders at the national level to ascertain their views on the sign-up process, and may seek comments from supporting governments, international civil society organisations, supporting companies, supporting multilateral organisations and investors.

The FiTI International Board will review the application and assess whether the sign-up steps have been completed. The FiTI International Board will also make the final decision about the applicant country's status. The Board's decision will be publicly communicated.

¹ In order to facilitate participation of all stakeholders, the FiTI National Secretariat may translate the main provisions of this template into another language, if applicable.

Rationales and objectives

Please provide a general statement on the rationales for implementing the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) in your country and on the objectives that your country wants to achieve through the FiTI.

The islands of São Tomé-e-Príncipe, being of volcanic origin, have a cramped continental shelf, poor in phytoplankton and zooplankton so that demersal resources are scarce, but the upwelling zone offers excellent potential for pelagic fish and tuna at some distance from the islands. As result, the estimate of the halieutic potential is at only 29,000 tonnes, spread through its big EEZ (160,000 km²).

The fisheries sector of São Tomé-e-Príncipe remains one of the strategic sectors of the national economy regarding its contribution to the national economy (7% of the national GDP), to the creation of wealth and jobs (15% of the active population) and national food and nutritional security (24.5 kg/capita/year; 90% of animal protein intake).

However, despite its importance, fishing is threatened, similarly as it is all over the world, urging for actions to promote a sustainable fisheries management. While there are many aspects to achieving sustainable fisheries, the public availability of credible information is essential.

Recognizing this, the government of São Tomé and Príncipe, considering that committing to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) will help the country to achieve this objective in an internationally recognized way, through its leading minister, announced its public commitment to join the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) in January 2022, becoming the sixth country to increase transparency and multi-actor collaboration in fisheries management through FiTI Standard.

With this commitment, the government of São Tomé and Príncipe believe to achieve a decisive milestone to promote a more transparent commercial and financial flows in the fisheries sector, helping the country to achieve more responsible, equitable and profitable fisheries, while better governance will reassure potential investors and attract more foreign investment.

Step 1: Public commitment

→ FiTI Standard, Part I, Section A.1

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| <p><i>Name, role/title and contact information of the government's senior official who issued the public commitment:</i></p> | <p>The public commitment was issued by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development, Francisco Martins dos Ramos, who is no longer in charge and was replaced by Abel Silva Bom Jesus, who emphasised and reinforced this commitment. Contact: abel.bomjesus@madrp.gov.st</p> |
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Please indicate below where your government's commitment to implement the FiTI in your country can be found (e.g. website, press release).² Furthermore, please outline whether this statement:

- <https://fiti.global/saotomeandprincipe-joins-fiti>
- <https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/environment-sustainability/s-o-tom-and-principe-becomes-member-of-fiti>

² In case the government's public commitment is not yet available on a government website for download, please attached it as an annex to this application.

Step 2: Enabling environment for stakeholder participation

→ FiTI Standard, Part I, Section A.2

Please describe below your government's commitment to an enabling environment for business and civil society participation. Such an environment refers to relevant laws, regulations, and administrative rules as well as actual practice in implementing the FiTI.

The national constitution of Sao Tome and Principe ensure freedom to all citizen, including access to information, opportunities, justice, etc.

In this regard, even though facing some difficulties, the country has been working to promote transparency and good governance, as shown by the decision to join the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) on 22 February 2008, believing that country's natural resources belong to its citizens, aiming to promote understanding of natural resource management, strengthen public and corporate governance and accountability, and provide the data to inform policymaking and multi-stakeholder dialogue in the extractive sector.

In the category of Participation, Rights & Inclusion of the 2022 Ibrahim Index of African Governance, Sao Tome and Principe ranked 8th, ranking 11th on the overall governance, representing an improve in 2021 compared to 2012, even though the rate of improvement is slowing since 2017³.

The country's Gini coefficient, a summary measure of income inequality that ranges from 0, indicating perfect equality (where everyone receives an equal share), to 1, perfect inequality (where only one recipient or group of recipients receives all the income), as of 2017 (the most recent year) was 56.3%, positioning the country ate the 5th place in the world⁴, meaning that the country is doing well in terms of equality in wealth distribution.

Sao Tome and Principe is also not doing bad in the perception of corruption, compared to other countries with similar social and financial situation, appearing in the position 65th out of 170 countries, with a score of 45 out of 100, of the Corruption Perceptions Index (2022), which measures how corrupt each country's public sector is perceived to be, even though representing a slight decrease compared to 2020⁵.

³ <https://mo.ibrahim.foundation/iiag>

⁴ <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/gini-coefficient-by-country>

⁵ <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2022/index/stp>

Apart from the governmental institutions, none-government organisations are also depositing their hope in good governance on fisheries, through transparency, and showing openness to promote and contribute to FiTI implementation in the country.

Step 3: FiTI Lead Ministry and FiTI National Lead

→ FiTI Standard, Part I, Section A.3

FiTI Lead Ministry:

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| Name, address and contact information (e.g. website, phone) of the appointed FiTI Lead Ministry: | Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries Adress: Avenida Marginal 12 de Julho C.P: 47 Phone: + 239 2243950 |
|---|--|

Please describe below the rationales for selecting the FiTI Lead Ministry:

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development is responsible for the Fisheries sector, outlines policies for the sector and seeks solutions to resolve the problems that affect the sector, which is why it would be the most suitable ministry.

FiTI National Lead:

| | |
|--|--|
| Name, title/role and contact information of the FiTI National Lead: | Ilair da Conceição Technician of the Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture Phone: + 239 9909315 Email: ilair1984@gmail.com |
|--|--|

Please describe below the rationales for appointing the FiTI National Lead (e.g. competences, experiences, authority and freedom to coordinate action on the FiTI implementation across relevant ministries and agencies):

Ilair da Conceição is a senior member of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Directorate and was previously responsible for the statistics sector of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Directorate. He is dynamic and knowledgeable about the fishing sector in São Tomé and Príncipe.

Please describe below where the announcement of the FiTI Lead Ministry and the FiTI National Lead can be found in the public domain (e.g. website, press release):

FiTI Lead Ministry - <https://fiti.global/sao-tome-and-principe>

FiTI National Lead – <https://fiti.global/sao-tome-and-principe>

Step 4: FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG)

→ FiTI Standard, Part I, Section A.4

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| Name, title/role, organisation, and contact information of the <u>Chair of the FiTI National MSG:</u> | Ilair da Conceição Ponto focal ITIE Phone: +239 9909315 Email: ilair1984@gmail.com | |
| State whether membership in the FiTI National MSG is <u>individual or institutional:</u> | Institutional | |
| Total number of members in the <u>FiTI National MSG:</u> | 9 | |
| List of <u>government</u> members in the <u>FiTI National MSG:</u>⁶ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Direção das Pescas e Aquacultura ▪ Serviço de Capitania e dos Portos ▪ Instituto Marítimo Portuário | |
| List of <u>business</u> members in the <u>FiTI National MSG:</u>⁷ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Associação dos Pescadores e Palaiês de Neves ▪ Associação de palaiês Tlabá sô Cada Té ▪ Cooperativa de Pesca Semi-industrial | |
| List of <u>civil society</u> members in the <u>FiTI National MSG:</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ONG MARAPA ▪ OIKOS ▪ Associação Programa Tatô | |

⁶ In case official Alternate members have been assigned to members of the government, business and/or civil society group, please indicate.

⁷ Please also indicate the members' affiliation to either large-scale (industrial) or small-scale (artisanal) fisheries.

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| <p><i>List of permanent <u>observer organisations</u> to the FiTI National MSG (if any):</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ United Nations Development Programme |
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Please state below where information regarding the members of the FiTI National MSG can be found in the public domain (e.g. website):

The document is not yet online, so it will be attached here as an annex.

Please describe below the efforts and measures taken to ensure the openness and inclusiveness of the invitation process to participate in the FiTI National MSG:

Individual meetings were carried out with many potential members to present the initiative and create conscience about its importance and about the MSG needs and role, and two workshops were organized with those who showed their interest in joining the MSG.

Individual meetings with each of the subgroups, civil society, and business members, were organised to facilitate their elections.

Please provide information below on the selection process conducted by every stakeholder group to nominate their own representatives:

The selection process conducted by every stakeholder group to nominate their own representatives were facilitated by the FiTI Coordinator for Lusophone Africa, with the support of the national secretarial for the logistics, and the methodology applied was direct election.

Please document below how the formally-documented Terms of Reference of the FiTI National MSG were approved:

The Terms of Reference of the FiTI National MSG were prepared during the workshops and approved in the first meeting of the group. The document is attached to this application form.

Please indicate the provisions of the Terms of Reference for decision-making procedures in case a consensus cannot be reached (i.e. voting is required):

Vote is required to approve all the decisions in the group, including to approve any document.

Please state below where the formally-documented Terms of Reference of the FiTI National MSG can be found in the public domain (e.g. website):⁸

The document is not yet online, so it will be attached here as an annex.

⁸ In case the Terms of Reference are not yet published online, please attach a copy of this document as an annex to this application.

Step 5: FiTI National Secretariat

→ FiTI Standard, Part I, Section A.5

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| Organisation/host structure and address of the FiTI National Secretariat: | Directory for Fisheries and Aquaculture Adress: Largo das Alfandigas C.P 59 Telf: 2222828 |
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Please describe below the rationales for selecting this organisation to act as the FiTI National Secretariat:

The National Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture is the national entity appointed by the government as responsible for defining and implementing the national policy applied to fisheries and aquaculture.

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| Secretariat | Manuel Jorge de Carvalho do Rio Eng Pesca, Mestre desenvolvimento Rural C. P: 292 Email: jorgecarvrio@hotmail.com |
|--------------------|--|

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|--|--|
| Current number of staff assigned to serve in the FiTI National Secretariat (part-time and full-time), including name, title/role and contact information: | Silvestre Manuel Gomes Duarte Sara Vieira Jackson Carvalho |
|--|--|

Please describe below the process of selecting key staff of the FiTI National Secretariat (e.g. qualifications, experience):

The FiTI's secretariat, as well as the two techniques that support it, are senior technicians at the National Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture with many years of experience in the fisheries sector, having worked both with semi-industrial/industrial fishing and with artisanal fishermen, with connection to various projects, from the collection of statistical data to the investigation and production of regulations, including community projects, which can function as a link to all stakeholders in the process.

Please describe below the measures taken for establishing a properly authorised and resourced FiTI National Secretariat:

The FiTI National Secretariat was proposed by the FiTI National Lead and approved by the FiTI National Leading Ministry and formalised by an official statement.

Please state where the formally-documented Terms of Reference of the FiTI National Secretariat can be found in the public domain (e.g. website).⁹

The document is not yet online, so it will be attached here as an annex

Please state whether operational synergy effects have been explored in case similar secretariats or organisations that support other multi-stakeholder initiatives are already established in the country, if applicable:

Efforts were made to identify possible similar secretariats or organisations that support other multi-stakeholder initiatives, and one was identified. But unfortunately, it was not working properly.

⁹ In case such Terms of Reference are not yet published online, please attach a copy of this document as an annex to this application.

Step 6: Workplan

→ FiTI Standard, Part I, Section A.6

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| Timeframe of workplan: | During 2024 |
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| List the core objectives for the first reporting period, as documented in the workplan: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Obtain the official status of Sao Tome and Principe as “FiTI Candidate Country” ▪ Submit Sao Tome and Principe 's first FiTI Report (consisting of information for calendar year 2024) ▪ Increase the visibility of Sao Tome and Principe's engagement in the FiTI at local and regional levels ▪ Strengthen administration and governance of FiTI implementation in Sao Tome and Principe |
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| State the anticipated financial budget for the achievement of these objectives and indicate, to what percentage this budget has already been secured:¹⁰ | <p>Estimated budget: EUR 39000</p> <p>Financial support yet to be identified</p> |
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Please state below whether input from stakeholders outside of the FiTI National MSG has been included in the preparation of this workplan:

The work plan was prepared and discussed within the GMN and will be published shortly.

Please document below how the first workplan of the FiTI National MSG was approved:

The first plan was unanimously approved at a GMN meeting.

¹⁰ In case the anticipated budget is less than 50% secured at the time of submission this application, please indicate how the FiTI Lead Ministry/FiTI National MSG is planning to obtain the remaining funding.

Please state where the approved workplan for the FiTI National MSG can be found in the public domain (e.g. website).¹¹

The document is not yet online, so we include it here as an attachment.

¹¹ In case this workplan has not yet published online, please attach a copy of this document as an annex to this application.

Additional information

Please provide any additional information deemed useful for the FiTI International Board in assessing this application. While this section is non-mandatory, such information may include:

- *additional relevant organisations and/or individuals involved in the sign-up process (and their activities);*
 - *necessary legal or administrative requirements for establishing the FiTI in your country (e.g. presidential decree), if applicable;*
 - *other national efforts (e.g. open government) that can be used to further anchor the implementation of the FiTI in the country;*
 - *any other information relevant to assess the fulfilment of individual sign-up steps;*
 - *determined calendar year that will be covered by the first FiTI Report.*
-