

# São Tomé and Príncipe

Total population (July 2001 estimate): 165,034

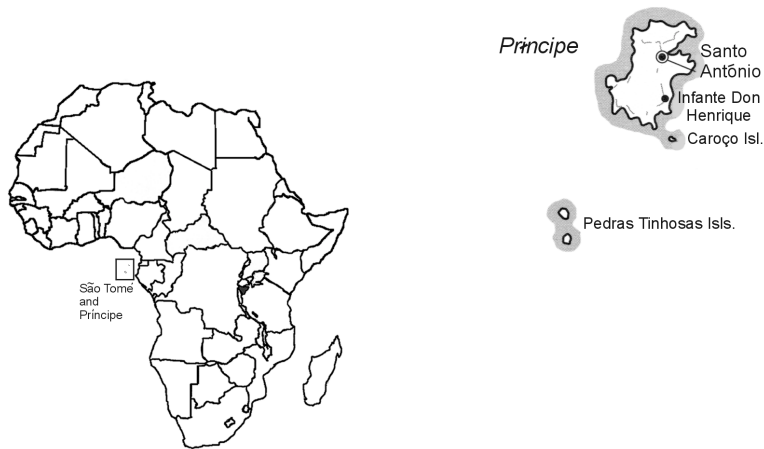
Area: 1001 km<sup>2</sup>

Annual population growth rate (2000): 3.18%

Life expectancy at birth (1998): 64.0 years

People not expected to survive to age 40 (1998): data not available

GDP per capita (1998): US \$1,469



*Atlantic Ocean*



This island state of São Tomé and Príncipe consists of two major and a few very small islands in the Gulf of Guinea, some 275 km west of Gabon and southwest of Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon. The agricultural sector accounts for 23% of the GDP and employs some 27% of the working population. The main food crops are bananas, maize and coconuts. The largest export crop is cocoa, followed by coconut products and cinnamon.

The mineral industry of São Tomé and Príncipe is limited to the production of local building materials, small clay and stone open pit operations. Petroleum exploration in offshore areas has been intensified over the last few years.

### **Geological outline**

All islands of this archipelago are made up of volcanic rocks. They occur as extensions of the 'Cameroon line' (Deruelle *et al.* 1991).

The volcano of São Tomé is a complex strato-volcano type with a total height of about 5,000 m, rising from the abyssal plain of the ocean floor to an elevation of 2,024 m above sea level. The volcano is principally made up of basaltic lavas resting on Cretaceous sandstones. Palagonitic tuffs and pillow lavas, representing submarine eruptions, are overlain by younger subaerial lavas. The oldest dated volcanic rocks are 15.7 million years old (Deruelle *et al.* 1991).

The island of Príncipe is also of volcanic origin, with basaltic, phonolitic and tephritic compositions. The island rests on the ocean floor at a depth of approximately 3,000 m, and reaches 948 m above sea level.

### **Agromineral potential**

The potential of agromineral development on São Tomé and Príncipe is very limited due to the lack of suitable agrogeological resources.

### *References:*

Deruelle B, Moreau C, Nkoumbou C, Kambou R, Lissom J, Njongfang E, Ghogomu RT and A Nono 1991. The Cameroon Line: a review. In: Kampunzu AB and RT Lubala (eds.) Magmatism in extensional structural settings. Springer Verlag, Berlin, Germany: 274-327.