Harnessing international marine and coastal tourism and related environmental and digital services in São Tomé and Príncipe

Tentative Agenda

1–2 December 2026, 08:30 - 18:00 hrs. (São Tomé and Príncipe Time GMT)
United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office, São Tomé Island

Draft version – 16 November 2026

Tuesday, 1 December (Invitation-Only Event)

08:30 - 09:00 hrs.	**Registration of participants**
09:00 - 09:30 hrs.	**Opening Session**
Panelists	**H.E. Ms. Abigail Tiny Cosme Bonfim,** Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva **Mr. Kélvio Fernandes,** Chief of Cabinet of the Minister of Economy and Finance/ Representative from the Ministry of Economy and Finance **Mr. António Aranibar,** United Nations Resident Coordinator in São Tomé and Príncipe – TBC **Ms. Chantal Line Carpentier,** Head, Trade, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Branch, UNCTAD (online) Representative of the Portuguese Embassy São Tomé and Príncipe – TBC
Description	Opening remarks and presentation of the workshop purpose and expected results.
09:30-10:30 hrs.	**SESSION 1: Setting the stage: OETS evidence base, analytical approach and expected outputs**
Panelists	**Mr. David Vivas Eugui,** Chief a.i. of the Ocean and Circular Economy Unit, Trade, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Branch, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) **Mr. Henrique Pacini, Economic Affairs Officer and Sustainable Manufacturing and Environmental Pollution Program Lead**, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (online or pre-recorded, subject to confirmation)

Mr. Alessandro Sanches Pereira, UNCTAD OETS Project Consultant and Executive Director, Instituto 17,

Comments from an African Blue Economy Perspective: Ms. Raquel Frederick, Economic Affairs Officer, Sub-Regional Office for Central Africa, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa – online participation

Q&A — Clarification questions follow.

Description — UNCTAD presents international and national context and selected fact-sheet evidence. The external consultant presents the proposed report's scope, methodology, five analytical pillars, and data requirements.

10:30-10:45 hrs. **Coffee Break**

10:45-12:15 hrs. **SESSION 2: National stakeholder coastal and marine tourism panel**

Moderator: Mr. David Vivas Eugui, Chief a.i. of the Ocean and Circular Economy Unit, Trade, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Branch, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Mr. Emilio Lima, Director of Environment and Climate Action, Ministry of Environment, Youth and Sustainable Tourism in the Government of São Tomé and Príncipe – TBC

Ms. Laura Ngomegni, Statistician of the Sub-Regional Office for Central Africa, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa – online participation

Ms. Shellita Viegas, Director of the General of Tourism and Hospitality Directorate (DGTH) – TBC

Q&A — Clarification questions follow

Description — Each panelist will present the status of marine and coastal tourism and the services directly supporting the sector, with a focus on the principal opportunities and challenges within the area represented. Panelists will also identify relevant national information and data sources and propose one priority action to strengthen sustainability, competitiveness or local value creation. We will also discuss the findings and the lessons of the Tourism Satellite Account developed by UNECA.

12:15-12:45 hrs. **SESSION 3: Connectivity for tourism**

Panelists — **Moderator: Mr. David Vivas Eugui,** Chief a.i. of the Ocean and Circular Economy Unit, Trade, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Branch, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Representative of the National Civil Aviation Institute (INAC) or National Airports and Air Safety Company (ENASA)

Representative of the National Ports Administration Company (ENAPORT) or Maritime and Port Institute (IMAP)

Representative of MARAPA - Sea, Environment and Artisanal Fisheries

Q&A	Clarification questions follow
Description	Discussion on how air, maritime, inter-island and digital connectivity affect accessibility, costs, the visitor experience and business competitiveness. It will also explore upward and backward linkages of the costal and tourism sector with agricultural and fisheries supply for tourists' consumption. National stakeholders will identify key constraints and provide the best and most up-to-date data available and lessons learned.
12:45-14:15 hrs.	**Lunch Break**
14:15-16:15 hrs.	**SESSION 4: Participatory Workshop I: Core Tourism Services**
Moderator	**Mr. Alessandro Sanches Pereira**, President and Executive Director, Instituto 17, and OETS Project Consultant
Q&A	Clarification questions follow
Description	Identification of available data sources, assessment of opportunities, challenges and root causes concerning tourism products, accommodation, tour operations, visitor experience, coastal attractions, local procurement, skills, competitiveness and community participation**.** In this session we will also discuss the role of supporting services such as waste management, energy, and digital.
Rapporteur	**Mr. António Alexandre, UNCTAD**
16:15-16:30 hrs.	**Coffee Break**
16:30-17:45 hrs.	**Session 6: Prioritization and Day 1 conclusions**
Panelists	**Mr. David Vivas Eugui,** Chief a.i. of the Ocean and Circular Economy Unit, Trade, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Branch, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) **Mr. Alessandro Sanches Pereira,** President and Executive Director, Instituto 17, and OETS Project Consultant
Q&A	Summary of the main findings, data sources, evidence gaps, and priority actions identified during the workshop. Participants will validate the conclusions and agree on the next steps for preparing the OETS Strategy and Action Plan.

Wednesday, 2 December (Invitation-Only Event)

Welcome session

08:30 - 09:00 hrs. **Registration of participants**

09:00 - 09:30 hrs. **Opening Session**

Panelists' **H.E. Ms. Abigail Tiny Cosme Bonfim**, Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Mr. António Aranibar, United Nations Resident Coordinator in São Tomé and Príncipe

Representative of the Embassy of Portugal in São Tomé and Príncipe, TBC

Representative of the Services, Trade and Development Section, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (online).

Dr. Geoffrey Manyara, Economic Affairs Officer (Tourism), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) (video or online).

Designated national focal point for digitalization, São Tomé and Príncipe, name and title tbc

Description Opening remarks on the importance of digitalization and digital services for the transformation and competitiveness of the tourism sector in Sao Tome and Principe, and their contribution to broader economic transformation and diversification. The session will introduce the objectives and approach of the UNCTAD technical assistance project, highlighting the importance of a multi-stakeholder dialogue in identifying the policy, regulatory, institutional and other enabling conditions for the wider adoption and effective use of digital services in tourism.

09:30-10:30 hrs. **SESSION 1: Dialogue on trade policies for digitalization of tourism**

Panelists **Mr. Bruno Antunes, Economic Affairs Officer,** UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Ministry of Economy and Finance, particularly the units responsible for international trade, trade policy and services.

Designated national focal point for digitalization, name, title and institution tbc

Representative of the Directorate-General of Tourism and Hospitality (DGTH)

Selected external consultant for the digitalization component of the OETS project, name and title tbc

Q&A Clarification questions follow.

Description	The role of trade in services in supporting the digitalization of tourism. The presentation will examine how trade policies can facilitate access to imported digital services and other services inputs, support knowledge and technology transfer. It will consider how growing demand can contribute to developing national capacities to supply digital services, including opportunities for domestic service providers and linkages with other sectors of the economy.
	Open dialogue (60 minutes) – guiding questions will follow.
10:30-10:45 hrs.	**Coffee Break**
10:45-12:15 hrs.	**SESSION 2: Regulatory framework for digitalization and tourism services**
Panelists	**Mr. Bruno Antunes,** Economic Affairs Officer, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
	Representative of the National Personal Data Protection Agency (ANPDP)
	Representative of Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and Services
	Representative of the General Regulatory Authority (AGER)
Q&A	Clarification questions follow
Description	Discussion on how the regulatory framework affects electronic transactions, digital payments, electronic identification and signatures, consumer and personal data protection, online bookings and digital tourism platforms. National institutions will present current reforms, identify regulatory and implementation gaps affecting tourism enterprises, and provide the most recent legal, administrative and market information available.
12:15-12:45 hrs.	**SESSION 3: Digital infrastructure, business adoption and skills**
Panellists	**Mr. Bruno Antunes, Economic Affairs Officer,** UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
	Representative of the **São Tomé Telecommunications Company (CST)**
	Representative of the **Institute of Innovation and Knowledge (INIC)**
	Representative of the **Ministry of Infrastructure and Natural Resources (MIRNA)**
	Representative of **AFAP**
Q&A	Clarification questions follow
Description	Discussion on the availability, quality and affordability of digital infrastructure in tourism areas and the adoption of booking systems, electronic payments, digital accounting and online marketing by tourism enterprises. National stakeholders will identify infrastructure and skills constraints, ongoing initiatives and realistic actions, and provide the best and most up-to-date data available.
12:45-14:00 hrs.	**Lunch Break**

14:00-15:00 hrs.	**SESSION 4: Participatory Workshop I: Digitalization needs and solutions for tourism enterprises**
Moderator	**Mr. Bruno Antunes, Economic Affairs Officer,** UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) **Selected external consultant for the digitalization component of the OETS project, name and title tbc**
Q&A	Clarification questions follow
Description	Building on the morning discussions, participants will assess the principal digitalization constraints experienced by tourism enterprises and identify practical solutions concerning connectivity, online visibility, booking systems, electronic payments, digital accounting, customer management and digital skills. The exercise will distinguish short-term actions from those requiring additional infrastructure, regulation, investment or institutional support
15:00-15:15 hrs.	**Coffee Break**
15:15-16:15 hrs.	**SESSION 5: Digital tools for sustainable coastal and marine management**
Moderators	**Mr. Bruno Antunes, Economic Affairs Officer,** UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) **Selected external consultant for the digitalization component of the OETS project, name and title tbc**
Q&A	Clarification questions follow
Description	Rapid-fire exchange on the use of digital tools for monitoring marine and coastal ecosystems, fisheries, protected areas and tourism activities. Participants will identify existing tools and initiatives, operational and data-sharing constraints, lessons learned and practical opportunities to strengthen environmental management and sustainable tourism.
16:15-17:45 hrs.	**Session 6: Prioritization and Day 2 conclusions**
Panellists	**Mr. Bruno Antunes, Economic Affairs Officer,** UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) **Selected external consultant for the digitalization component of the OETS project, name and title tbc**
Description	Summary of the main findings, data sources, evidence gaps and priority actions identified during the workshop. Participants will validate the conclusions and agree on the next steps for preparing the OETS Strategy and Action Plan.