

# **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE**

## **Public Administration Country Profile**

Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM)  
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## SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

[Click here](#) for detailed map



Source: [The World Factbook - Sao Tome and Principe](#)

Soon after independence in 1975, the government adopted a socialist form of rule; but by 1985 major political and economic liberalization initiatives were undertaken.

In 1990 a new constitution was adopted, and the first multiparty election took place in 1991, which led to Miguel Trovoada's election as president in March. He was re-elected in June 1996 for a second and last term.

The Movimento de Libertação de São Tomé e Príncipe (MLSTP) won an absolute majority in November 1998, and a new government was formed in January 1999. In July 2001 the presidential elections led to the victory of Fradique de Menezes, who, in September 2001, called for legislative elections. These were held in March 2002.

The multi-party government that took office in April 2002 lasted only a few months, and was replaced by a government led by Maria das Neves, the first woman prime minister in the country. However, in July 2003 the political scene was disrupted by a bloodless coup, which led to a ministerial reshuffling. The latest government reshuffling took place in March 2004 following the resignation of four ministers.

The economy is based almost exclusively on the production and export of cocoa, and its dominance has substantially increased the vulnerability to exogenous shocks.

Source: [World Bank \(Sao Tome and Principe\)](#) - [Sao Tome and Principe: Country Brief](#)

### Government type

Republic

### Independence

12 July 1975 (from Portugal)

### Constitution

Approved March 1990;  
effective 10 September 1990  
([click here](#))

### Legal system

Based on Portuguese legal system and customary law; has not accepted compulsory International Court of Justice jurisdiction

### Administrative divisions

2 provinces; Principe, Sao Tome (Principe has had self-government since 29 April 1995)

Source: [The World Factbook - Sao Tome and Principe](#)

# 1. General Information

1.1 People	STP <sup>i</sup>	Cape Verde	GNQ <sup>ii</sup>	1
<b>Population</b>				a
Total estimated population (,000), 2003	160	463	494	
Female estimated population (,000), 2003	81	242	250	
Male estimated population (,000), 2003	79	221	244	
Sex ratio (males per 100 females), 2003	98	91	98	
Average annual rate of change of pop. (%), 2000-2005	2.49	2.01	2.65	
<b>Youth and Elderly Population</b>				b
Total population under age 15 (%), 2003	41	39	44	
Female population aged 60+ (%), 2003	7	8	6	
Male population aged 60+ (%), 2003	6	5	5	
<b>Human Settlements</b>				c
Urban population (%), 2001	48	64	49	
Rural population (%), 2001	52	36	51	
Urban average annual rate of change in pop. (%), '00-'05	3.19	3.9	4.91	
Rural average annual rate of change in pop/ (%), '00-'05	0.4	-1.16	0.65	
<b>Education</b>				d
Total school life expectancy, 2000	..	..	..	1
Female school life expectancy, 2000	..	..	..	1
Male school life expectancy, 2000	..	..	..	1
Female estimated adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), 2000	..	34.3 <sup>iii</sup>	25.6	2
Male estimated adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), 2000	..	15.5 <sup>iii</sup>	7.5	2
<b>Employment</b>				e
Unemployment rate (15+) (%), 2000	..	..	..	1
Female adult (+15) economic activity rate (%), 2000	37 <sup>iv</sup>	41 <sup>iii</sup>	..	2
Male adult (+15) economic activity rate (%), 2000	77 <sup>iv</sup>	85 <sup>iii</sup>	..	2

Notes: <sup>i</sup> Sao Tome and Principe; <sup>ii</sup> Equatorial Guinea; <sup>iii</sup> 1990; <sup>iv</sup> 1991

1.2 Economy	STP <sup>i</sup>	Cape Verde	GNQ <sup>ii</sup>	2
<b>GDP</b>				a
GDP total (millions US\$), 2002	50	631	2,173	
GDP per capita (US\$), 2002	325	1,378	4,518	
PPP GDP total (millions int. US\$), 2002	..	2,193 <sup>iii</sup>	10,829 <sup>iv</sup>	
PPP GDP per capita(int. US\$), 2002	..	4,788 <sup>iii</sup>	22,514 <sup>iv</sup>	
<b>Sectors</b>				b
Value added in agriculture (% of GDP), 2003	19.0	6.6	6.8	
Value added in industry (% of GDP), 2003	18.0	18.9	88.9	
Value added in services (% of GDP), 2003	63.0	74.5	4.3	
<b>Miscellaneous</b>				c
GDP implicit price deflator (annual % growth), 2003	5.3	2.6	-1.4	
Private consumption (% of GDP), 2003	115.9	103.3	..	
Government consumption (% of GDP), 2003	22.0	12.1	..	

Notes: <sup>i</sup> Sao Tome and Principe; <sup>ii</sup> Equatorial Guinea; <sup>iii</sup> Estimate is based on regression; other PPP figures are extrapolated from the latest International Comparison Programme benchmark estimates; <sup>iv</sup> Most recent estimate from 2001 or 2000

<sup>1</sup> [United Nations Statistics Division](#):

<sup>a</sup> [Statistics Division and Population Division of the UN Secretariat](#); <sup>b</sup> [Statistics Division and Population Division of the UN Secretariat](#); <sup>c</sup> [Population Division of the UN Secretariat](#); <sup>d1</sup> [UNESCO](#); <sup>d2</sup> [UNESCO](#); <sup>e1</sup> [ILO](#); <sup>e2</sup> [ILO/OECD](#)

<sup>2</sup> [World Bank - Data and Statistics](#):

<sup>a</sup> [Quick Reference Tables](#); <sup>b</sup> [Data Profile Tables](#); <sup>c</sup> [Country at a Glance](#)

1.3 Public Spending	STP <sup>i</sup>	Cape Verde	GNQ <sup>ii</sup>	
<b>Public expenditures</b>				3
Education (% of GNP), 1985-1987	3.8	2.9	1.7 <sup>i</sup>	a
Education (% of GNP), 1995-1997	..	..	1.7 <sup>i</sup>	a
Health (% of GDP), 1990	..	..	1	
Health (% of GDP), 1998	..	1.8	..	
Military (% of GDP), 1990	..	..	..	b
Military (% of GDP), 2000	..	1.3	..	b
Total debt service (% of GDP), 1990	4.9	1.7	3.9	
Total debt service (% of GDP), 2000	9.5	2.9	0.4	

Notes: <sup>i</sup> Sao Tome and Principe; <sup>ii</sup> Equatorial Guinea; <sup>iii</sup> Data refer to a year or period other than that specified

1.4 Public Sector Employment and Wages						
<i>Data from the latest year available</i>		Sao Tome and Principe 1991-1995	Sao Tome and Principe 1996-2000	Sub-Saharan Africa average <sup>4</sup> 1996-2000	Francophone Africa average <sup>4</sup> 1996-2000	Low income group average <sup>4</sup> 1996-2000
<b>Employment</b>						
Civilian Central Government <sup>5</sup>	(,000)	..	..			
	(% pop.)	..	..	0.30	0.14	0.46
Sub-national Government <sup>5</sup>	(,000)	..	..			
	(% pop.)	..	..	0.30	0.14	0.46
Education employees	(,000)	..	..			
	(% pop.)	..	..	0.62	0.31	0.91
Health employees	(,000)	..	..			
	(% pop.)	..	..	0.29	0.39	0.62
Police	(,000)	..	..			
	(% pop.)	..	..	0.07	0.05	0.30
Armed forces	(,000)	..	..			
	(% pop.)	..	..	0.26	0.19	0.33
SOE Employees	(,000)	..	..			
	(% pop.)	..	..	..	..	13.10
Total Public Employment	(,000)	..	..			
	(% pop.)	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Wages</b>						
Total Central gov't wage bill	(% of GDP)	..	4.1	6.1	5.3	5.4
Total Central gov't wage bill	(% of exp)	..	..	28.9	31.8	24.7
Average gov't wage	(,000 LCU)	..	..			
Real ave. gov't wage ('97 price)	(,000 LCU)	..	..			
Average gov't wage to per capita GDP ratio		..	..	4.8	6.2	4.4

Source: World Bank - Public Sector Employment and Wages

<sup>3</sup> UNDP - Human Development Report 2002

<sup>a</sup> Data refer to total public expenditure on education, including current and capital expenditures.

<sup>b</sup> As a result of a number of limitations in the data, comparisons of military expenditure data over time and across countries should be made with caution. For detailed notes on the data see SIPRI (2001).

<sup>4</sup> Averages for regions and sub regions are only generated if data is available for at least 35% of the countries in that region or sub region.

<sup>5</sup> Excluding education, health and police – if available (view [Country Sources](#) for further explanations).

## 2. Legal Structure

**S**ao Tome and Principe is a presidential republic with a second constitution, which has been in force since 20 September 1990. This constitution lays down the fundamental principles of a democratic state governed by the rule of law, with a unicameral parliamentary system and separation of powers.

Source: [Federal Foreign Office \(Germany\) - Sao Tome and Principe: Government and Politics](#)

### 2.1 Legislative Branch

Unicameral National Assembly or Assembleia Nacional (55 seats; members are elected by direct, popular vote to serve four-year terms).<sup>6</sup>

*women in parliament:* 5 out of 55 seats: (9%).<sup>7</sup>

The National Assembly is the supreme organ of the state and the highest legislative body.

Source: [U.S. Department of State \(Background Notes\) - Sao Tome and Principe](#)

The single-chamber parliament of 55 members is elected for four years by universal suffrage and by proportional representation by constituency.

It sits for ordinary sessions twice a year or in an extraordinary session on proposal of the President, the cabinet or two-thirds of its members. The Assembly elects its own Speaker and a permanent commission.

The Constitution may only be revised by a three-quarter majority of the Assembly on the basis of the amendments presented by a two-third majority. This revision may be ratified by referendum.

The National Assembly may pass a vote of no confidence against the government. One original aspect of the regime is the fact that the National Assembly also checks matters of constitutional validity.

Source: [Centre d'étude d'Afrique noire \(CEAN\) - Sao Tome and Principe](#)

### 2.2 Executive Branch

*cabinet:* Council of Ministers appointed by the president on the proposal of the prime minister

*elections:* President elected by popular vote for a five-year term; prime minister chosen by the National Assembly and approved by the president

The president of the republic is elected to a 5-year term by direct universal suffrage and a secret ballot, and may hold office up to two consecutive terms.

Candidates are chosen at their party's national conference or individuals may run independently. A presidential candidate must obtain an outright majority of the popular vote in either a first or second round of voting in order to be elected president.

The prime minister is named by the president but must be ratified by the majority party and thus normally comes from a

#### Fact box:

*elections:* Last held 3 March 2002 (next to be held March 2006)  
*election results:* MLSTP 39.6%, Force for Change Democratic Movement 39.4%, Ue-Kedadji coalition 16.2%; seats by party - MLSTP 24, Force for Change Democratic Movement 23, Ue-Kedadji coalition 8

#### Fact box:

*chief of state:* President Fradique DE MENEZES (since 3 September 2001)  
*elections:* Last 29 July 2001 (next July 2006)  
*head of government:* Prime Minister Maria das NEVES (since 7 October 2002)

<sup>6</sup> Source of fact boxes if nothing else stated: [The World Factbook - Sao Tome and Principe](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Inter-Parliamentary Union - Women in National Parliaments](#)

list of its choosing. The prime minister, in turn, names the 14 members of the Cabinet. The Prime Minister reports both to the President and to the Assembly.<sup>8</sup>

Source: [U.S. Department of State \(Background Notes\) - Sao Tome and Principe](#)

### 2.3 Judiciary Branch

Supreme Court (judges are appointed by the National Assembly).

Justice is administered at the highest level by the Supreme Court. Formerly responsible to the National Assembly, the judiciary is now independent under the current constitution.

Source: [U.S. Department of State \(Background Notes\) - Sao Tome and Principe](#)

The legal system is based on a Portuguese model. The court system has two levels: Circuit courts and the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court is the appellate court of last resort.

Source: [U.S. Department of State \(Human Rights\) - Sao Tome and Principe \(2003\)](#)

### 2.4 Local Government

Administratively, the country is divided into seven municipal districts, six on Sao Tome and one comprising Principe. Governing councils in each district maintain a limited number of autonomous decision-making powers, and are reelected every 5 years.

Source: [U.S. Department of State \(Background Notes\) - Sao Tome and Principe](#)

An element of decentralization is guaranteed by the autonomous status of the second island Principe, which has its own local government and regional assembly (parliament), and autonomous administrations including freely elected district assemblies in the main island's six districts.

Source: [Federal Foreign Office \(Germany\) - Sao Tome and Principe: Government and Politics](#)

The district assemblies elect district councils (*Câmaras distritais*). Only officially recognized parties may stand for election, either individually or in coalition.

Source: [Centre d'étude d'Afrique noire \(CEAN\) - Sao Tome and Principe](#)

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<sup>8</sup> [Centre d'étude d'Afrique noire \(CEAN\) - Sao Tome and Principe](#)

## 3. The State and Civil Society

### 3.1 Ombudsperson

Source: [Institution](#) - [Title](#)

### 3.2 NGOs

Source: [Institution](#) - [Title](#)

### 3.3 Civil Society

Press freedom is recognized by the Constitution, but there are not many publications and they are rarely regular in their appearances.

Sao Tome has a national radio station that broadcasts seventeen hours a day and a national television channel that broadcasts 5 to 6 hours per day. It should also be noted that, since 1999, a new regional radio station on Principe has started broadcasting.

The trade union movement is weak. The first general strike since independence (1975) was observed in March 1998, when 3,750 civil servants of the State Workers' Union (STE) called for the payment of salaries in arrears.

In April 2000, an agreement was signed between the unions and the government to set the minimum salary and thus put an end to the longest strike the country had known since independence. Further to this strike, two ministers resigned from the government – those of Foreign Affairs and of the Civil Service.

Source: [Centre d'étude d'Afrique noire \(CEAN\)](#) - [Sao Tome and Principe](#)

## 4. Civil Service

### 4.1 Legal basis

#### **Law no. 5/97 which dictates the Statute of the Public Administration**

*Diário Da República, 1997-12-01, núm. 14, págs. 1-230*

#### **Law no. 5/97 that establishes the Statute of the Public Administration**

*Diário da República, 1997-12-01, núm. 14, 149-230*

Source: [International Labour Organization \(NATLEX\)](#) - [Sao Tome and Principe: Public and Civil Servants](#)

### 4.2 Recruitment

Source: [Institution](#) - [Title](#)

### 4.3 Promotion

Source: [Institution](#) - [Title](#)

### 4.4 Remuneration

In 2003, the legal minimum wage was \$23.50 (220,000 dobras) per month, with an additional stipend of \$2.20 (20,000 dobras) for civil servants.

Working two or more jobs was so common that the Government modified its hours so civil servants could pursue a second career; the law specifies areas in which civil servants may work if they pursue a second job.

Civil servants in "strategic sectors," such as the court system, the ministries of finance, customs, education, and the Criminal Investigation Police, earned up to 400 percent more than their counterparts in the remainder of the public sector.

Source: [U.S. Department of State \(Human Rights\)](#) - [Sao Tome and Principe \(2003\)](#)

### 4.5 Training

Source: [Institution](#) - [Title](#)

### 4.6 Gender

Source: [Institution](#) - [Title](#)

## 5. Ethics and Civil Service

### 5.1 Corruption

2003 CPI Score relates to perceptions of the degree of corruption as seen by business people and country analysts and ranges between 10 (highly clean) and 0 (highly corrupt).

Corruption Perceptions Index							
		2003 CPI Score	Surveys Used	Standard Deviation	High-Low Range	Number Inst.	90 percent confidence range
Rank	Country						
1	Highly clean	9.7	8	0.3	9.2 - 10.0	4	9.5 - 9.9
..	Sao Tome and Principe	..	..	..	..	..	..
133	Highly corrupt	1.3	8	0.7	0.3 - 2.2	6	0.9 - 1.7

Source: [Transparency International - Corruption Perceptions Index 2003](#)

**Surveys Used:** Refers to the number of surveys that were used to assess a country's performance. 17 surveys were used and at least 3 surveys were required for a country to be included in the CPI.

**Standard Deviation:** Indicates differences in the values of the sources. Values below 0.5 indicate agreement, values between 0.5 and c. 0.9 indicate some agreement, while values equal or larger than 1 indicate disagreement.

**High-Low Range:** Provides the highest and lowest values of the sources.

**Number Institutions:** Refers to the number of independent institutions that assessed a country's performance. Since some institutions provided more than one survey.

**90 percent confidence range:** Provides a range of possible values of the CPI score. With 5 percent probability the score is above this range and with another 5 percent it is below.

Source: [Institution - Title](#)

### 5.2 Ethics

Source: [Institution - Title](#)

## 6. e-Government

### e-Government Readiness Index:

The index refers to the generic capacity or aptitude of the public sector to use ICT for encapsulating in public services and deploying to the public, high quality information (explicit knowledge) and effective communication tools that support human development.

The index is comprised of three sub-indices: Web Measure Index, Telecommunications Infrastructure Index and Human Capital Index.

### Web Measure Index:

A scale based on progressively sophisticated web services present. Coverage and sophistication of state-provided e-service and e-product availability correspond to a numerical classification.

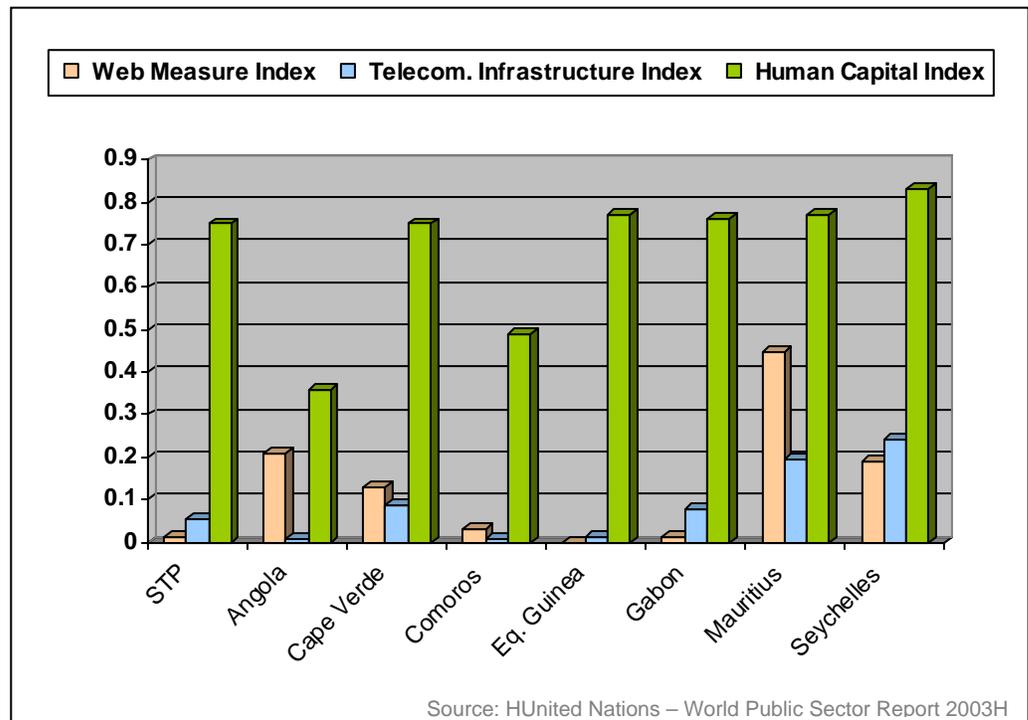
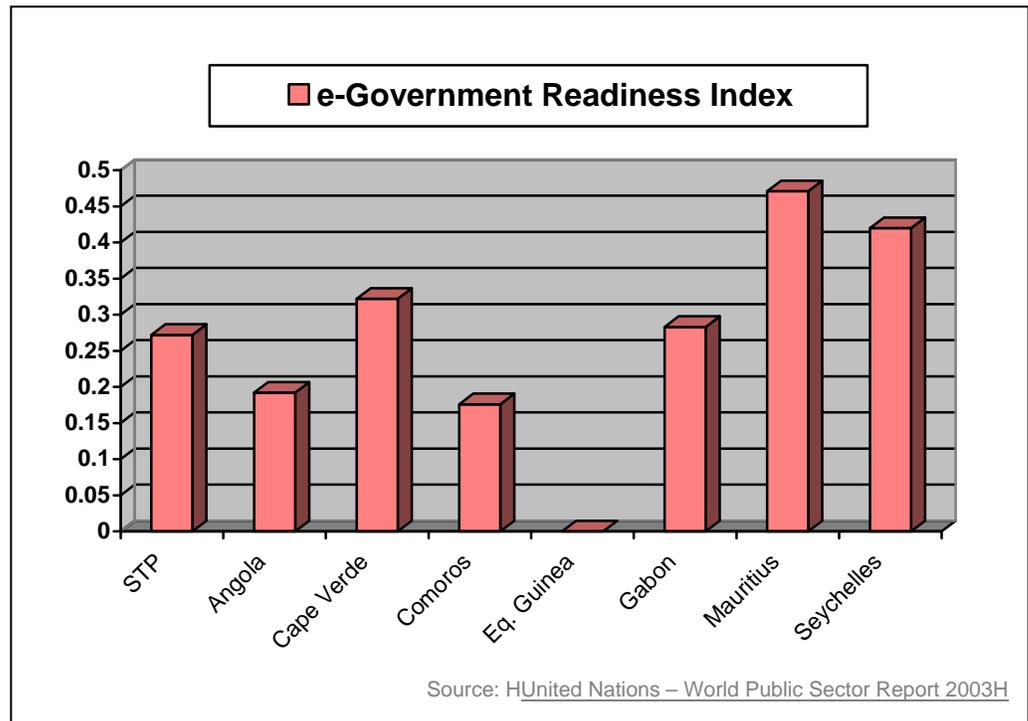
### Telecommunications Infrastructure Index:

A composite, weighted average index of six primary indices, based on basic infrastructural indicators that define a country's ICT infrastructure capacity.

Primary indicators are: PC's, Internet users, online population and Mobile phones. Secondary indicators are TVs and telephone lines.

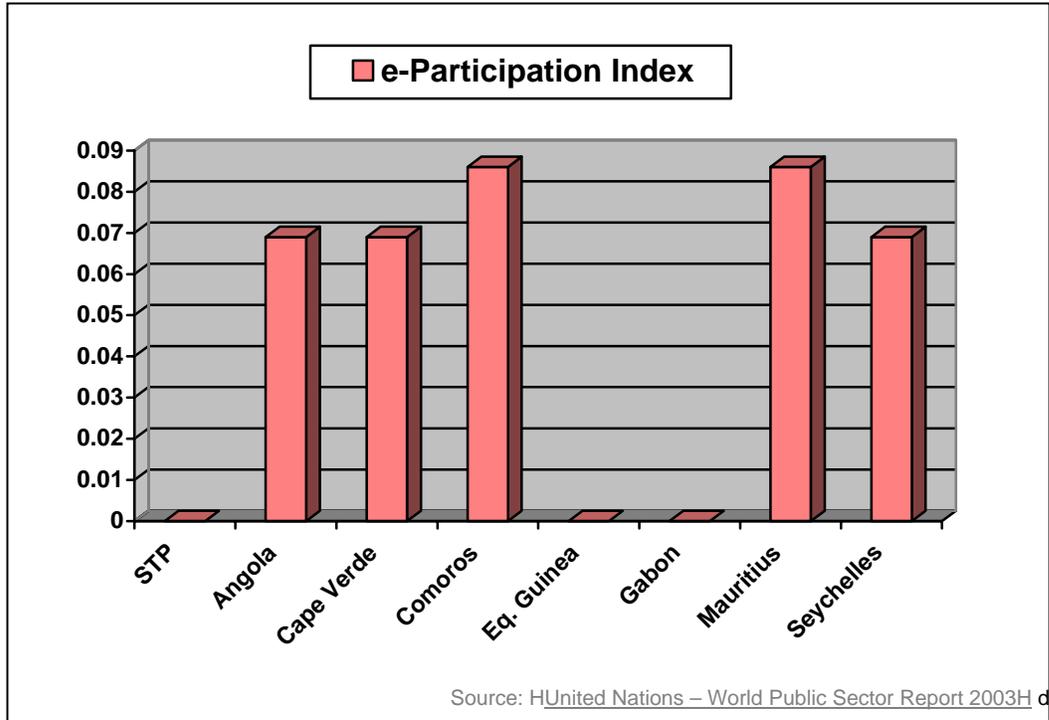
### Human Capital Index:

A composite of the adult literacy rate and the combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio, with two thirds of the weight given to adult literacy and one third to the gross enrolment ratio.



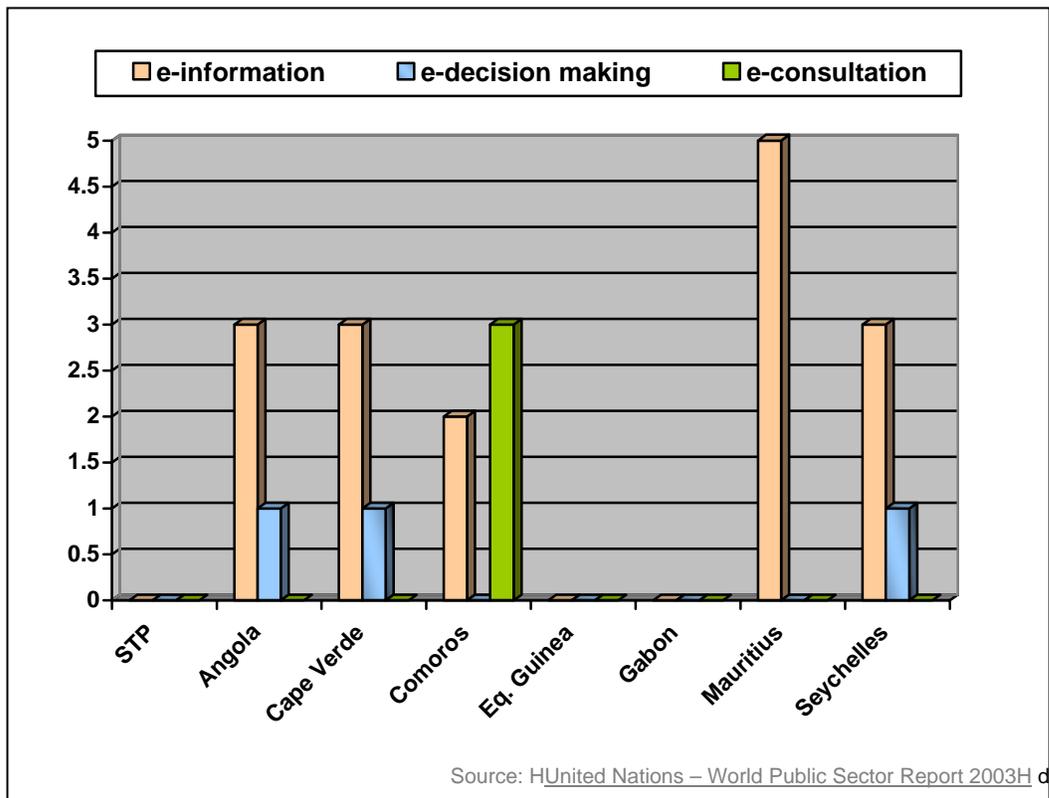
**e-Participation Index:**

Refers to the willingness, on the part of the government, to use ICT to provide high quality information (explicit knowledge) and effective communication tools for the specific purpose of empowering people for able participation in consultations and decision-making both in their capacity as consumers of public services and as citizens.



**e-information:**

The government websites offer information on policies and programs, budgets, laws and regulations, and other briefs of key public interest. Tools for disseminating of information exist for timely access and use of public information, including web forums, e-mail lists, newsgroups and chat rooms.



**e-decision making:**

The government indicates that it will take citizens input into account in decision making and provides actual feedback on the outcome of specific issues.

**e-consultation:**

The government website explains e-consultation mechanisms and tools. It offers a choice of public policy topics online for discussion with real time and archived access to audios and videos of public meetings. The government encourages citizens to participate in discussions.

## 7. Links

### 7.1 National sites

Authority	Topic
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### 7.2 Miscellaneous sites

Institution	Topic
African Civil Services Observatory (OFPA)	<a href="http://www.ofpa.net">http://www.ofpa.net</a>
African Development Bank (ADB)	<a href="http://www.afdb.org/">http://www.afdb.org/</a>
African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP)	<a href="http://www.unidep.org/">http://www.unidep.org/</a>
African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development (CAFRAD)	<a href="http://www.cafrad.org/">http://www.cafrad.org/</a>
African Union (AU)	<a href="http://www.africa-union.org/">http://www.africa-union.org/</a>
Community of Lusophone Countries	<a href="http://www.cplp.org">http://www.cplp.org</a>
European Union (EU)	<a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/ACP_countries">http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/ACP_countries</a>
International Labour Organization (ILO) - NATLEX	<a href="http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.home">http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.home</a>
New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)	<a href="http://www.nepad.org/">http://www.nepad.org/</a>
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	<a href="http://www.uns.st/undp/">http://www.uns.st/undp/</a>
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)	<a href="http://www.uneca.org/">http://www.uneca.org/</a>
United Nations House in Sao Tome and Principe	<a href="http://www.uns.st/">http://www.uns.st/</a>
UNPAN	<a href="http://www.unpan.org/virtual_library-byregion.asp">http://www.unpan.org/virtual_library-byregion.asp</a>
World Bank (WB)	<a href="http://www.worldbank.org/st">http://www.worldbank.org/st</a>