



# Informal Sector Regulation in Urban São Tomé and Príncipe: Mapping Legal Gaps and Policy Options

Evaristo Fernandes Silva<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> São Tomé and Príncipe Council for Scientific and Industrial Research

**Published:** 20 April 2003 | **Received:** 15 February 2003 | **Accepted:** 02 April 2003

**Correspondence:** [esilva@yahoo.com](mailto:esilva@yahoo.com)

**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18779227](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18779227)

## Author notes

*Evaristo Fernandes Silva is affiliated with São Tomé and Príncipe Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and focuses on Law research in Africa.*

## Abstract

Informal sector regulation in urban São Tomé and Príncipe is a critical yet understudied area of law and policy. The country's small economy, characterized by its two islands' unique geography, poses distinct challenges for formalizing the informal economy. The analysis is conducted through a review of existing laws, regulations, and policies related to urban governance in São Tomé and Príncipe. Secondary data from official government reports and academic literature are used as the primary sources. A significant proportion (45%) of urban informal sector activities remain unregulated, particularly concerning labour rights and business registration processes. This lack of regulation contributes to persistent poverty and vulnerability among informal workers. The regulatory vacuum in urban São Tomé and Príncipe's informal sector hinders sustainable economic growth and social development. Addressing these gaps is essential for aligning with international best practices and improving the livelihoods of vulnerable populations. Policy recommendations include strengthening existing legal frameworks, introducing incentives for formalization, and enhancing enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance and equitable treatment of informal sector workers.

**Keywords:** *Urbanization, Informality, Regulation, Economic Policy, Development Law, Legal Pluralism, Subsistence Economies*

## ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ **REQUEST FULL PAPER**

**Email:** [info@parj.africa](mailto:info@parj.africa)

Request your copy of the full paper today!

## SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

**Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!**

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

**Submit at:** [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)



Scan to visit [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)

**Open Access Scholarship from PARJ**

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge