



# Challenges and Opportunities in Legal Frameworks Post-Conflict São Tomé and Príncipe

Eduardo Gonçalves<sup>1,2</sup>, Francisca Nascimento<sup>3</sup>, Isidro Dias<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, São Tomé and Príncipe Institute for Disease Control

<sup>2</sup> São Tomé and Príncipe University of Technology

<sup>3</sup> Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, São Tomé and Príncipe University of Technology

**Published:** 15 October 2005 | **Received:** 10 July 2005 | **Accepted:** 20 August 2005

**Correspondence:** [egonaves@gmail.com](mailto:egonaves@gmail.com)

**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18820830](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18820830)

## Author notes

*Eduardo Gonçalves is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, São Tomé and Príncipe Institute for Disease Control and focuses on Law research in Africa.*

*Francisca Nascimento is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, São Tomé and Príncipe University of Technology and focuses on Law research in Africa.*

*Isidro Dias is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, São Tomé and Príncipe Institute for Disease Control and focuses on Law research in Africa.*

## Abstract

São Tomé and Príncipe is a small island nation in the Gulf of Guinea with a history marked by political instability and conflict from its independence in to the mid-2000s. An action research study employing semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders including judges, lawyers, and civil servants to gather insights on the current state of legal frameworks governing insurance contracts. Interviews revealed a significant reliance on customary laws in insurance disputes, with approximately 70% of respondents citing this as a major challenge. Additionally, there was limited access to judicial precedents from similar cases, which impacted consistency and predictability in rulings. The legal system in post-conflict São Tomé and Príncipe struggles with the integration of customary practices into formal law, leading to inconsistent application of insurance laws. Recommendation for policymakers is to develop a comprehensive legal framework that integrates both customary and statutory provisions, ensuring consistency and fairness in the interpretation and enforcement of insurance contracts.

**Keywords:** *Postcolonial Studies, Decolonization, Legal Pluralism, Conflict Resolution, Community-Based Justice, Critical Race Theory, Indigenous Law*

## 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