

# The **CaDRi** Partnership

Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative

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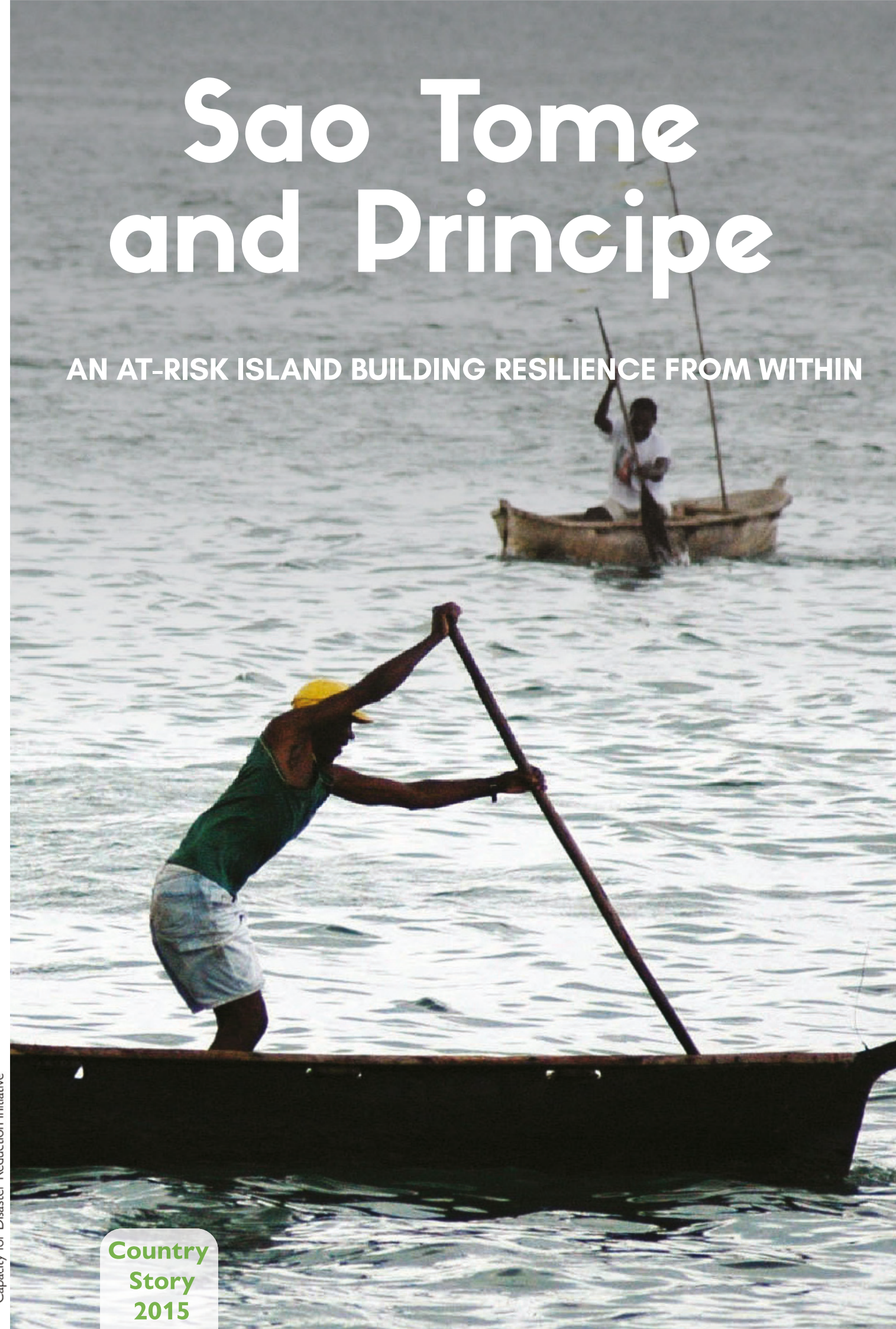
The **CaDRi** Partnership  
Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative

A **CADRI** PARTNERSHIP PUBLICATION

Country  
Story  
2015

# Sao Tome and Principe

AN AT-RISK ISLAND BUILDING RESILIENCE FROM WITHIN





## ISLAND STATE VULNERABILITIES IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

The Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe is a small volcanic archipelago in the Gulf of Guinea, with a mainly agricultural economy and a low average income. Its main export crop, cocoa, has substantially declined in recent years due to drought. The increasing frequency and severity of coastal and river flash floods and storms are causing significant damage and losses in other sectors. Fisheries, which employ 15 percent of the workforce and provide 70 percent of the national protein intake, are particularly impacted. Tourism infrastructure in coastal areas is highly vulnerable. Bush fires also seem to have become an increasing challenge. During disasters, children are particularly at risk of malnutrition and of contracting waterborne diseases in outbreaks caused by floods or pollution of water sources, compounded by poor access to water and sanitation.

“ **The Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) facilitated continuous discussions about clarification of mission and actions of each government body. The country has largely benefited from the CADRI guidance and has improved in diverse ways the relationship between partners. We believe that best practices based on CADRI experience have served to encourage different government entities to have clear interventions in many sectors to incorporate risk reduction approaches into the various national plans and programmes.** ”

Carlos Mendes DIAS,  
Coordinator of the National Disaster Preparedness and  
Response Council (CONPREC)

## SETTING TARGETS THAT GO BEYOND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

In 2015, the National Disaster Preparedness and Response Council (CONPREC) led a national multi-stakeholder capacity assessment with the support of the CADRI Partnership. A selected number of sectors were assessed in detail – namely health, agriculture, environment, tourism and land-use planning. The assessment noted a consensus on the need for the Government to strengthen the disaster risk reduction system at all levels, improve preparedness and coping capacities, and integrate disaster and climate risk reduction across the national and sectoral development programmes, strategies, plans and frameworks.

## MULTISECTORAL PLAN TO STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE

Building on the CADRI recommendations, the National Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2016–2020) was developed. The CADRI Partnership also facilitated training on contingency planning and helped the Government to develop its National Contingency Plan. Additionally, specific recommendations to enhance early warning systems were implemented, including the establishment of 28 hydrometeorological stations serving 60 percent of the country and the set-up of a forecasting and alert system for farmers and fishers.

