

ANP-STP - AGÊNCIA NACIONAL DO PETRÓLEO DE SÃO TOMÉ E PRÍNCIPE · SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

São Tomé launches ESHIA for 3D seismic on Blocks 7-14

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São Tomé and Príncipe's national petroleum regulator, ANP-STP, has published an Environmental, Social and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA) for 3D seismic acquisition across Blocks 7, 8, 9 and 14 within the country's Exclusive Economic Zone. The public consultation documents detail the potential effects of seismic survey operations on the marine environment and surrounding communities, inviting all interested parties to review the materials.

The release of an ESHIA for seismic acquisition marks an early but formally required regulatory step in the upstream exploration sequence. It signals that an operator or data-acquisition party intends to conduct 3D seismic surveys across the four named blocks, and that ANP-STP is progressing the necessary environmental permitting before any equipment is mobilised. The ESHIA does not constitute a block award, a signed contract, or a final investment decision — it is a prerequisite study that must be completed and approved before seismic vessels can begin operations.

São Tomé and Príncipe sits in the Gulf of Guinea, a sub-region that has attracted sustained upstream interest given its geological continuity with prolific Nigerian and Equatorial Guinean offshore acreage. The country's EEZ blocks have seen intermittent exploration interest over the past two decades, but commercial production has not been established. A successful 3D seismic campaign across Blocks 7, 8, 9 and 14 would generate new subsurface data, potentially improving the attractiveness of the acreage to international oil companies and reducing exploration risk for future licensing rounds.

The public consultation process embedded in the ESHIA procedure reflects both São Tomé and Príncipe's regulatory framework and international best practice for offshore seismic work, including assessment of acoustic impacts on marine mammals and effects on artisanal fisheries — both of which are standard concerns in Gulf of Guinea EEZ operations. Completion of the ESHIA and any required mitigation planning will need to precede the mobilisation of any seismic acquisition vessel to the area.

For Norwegian service companies, this development is at a pre-contract, pre-award stage. No seismic contract has been announced, no operator has been publicly named in the article, and no licensing decision has been published. The appropriate posture at this point is to monitor ANP-STP communications closely for subsequent announcements of a seismic tender or block licensing round, and to use this window to build relationships with the regulator and potential data-acquisition partners who may be active in the Gulf of Guinea.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This is a pre-contract environmental permitting step — no seismic tender or block award has been announced. Norwegian service companies with Gulf of Guinea exposure, particularly those active in marine seismic support, subsea survey, or environmental monitoring services, should register interest with ANP-STP and monitor for a formal seismic acquisition tender. No procurement outreach is warranted at this stage.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Subsea/FPSO:** Monitor ESHIA outcome as a leading indicator for future block awards and potential deepwater appraisal work in the Gulf of Guinea EEZ.
- **Drilling:** Track ANP-STP licensing developments post-seismic; successful 3D data acquisition across four blocks could trigger an exploration drilling campaign requiring rig and well-services capacity.
- **Service:** Companies offering marine environmental monitoring, acoustic impact assessment, or seismic support vessels should follow the ESHIA public consultation period for early positioning ahead of any tender.

- **Pipeline:** No pipeline scope is apparent at this stage; maintain a watching brief pending any discovery announcement that would justify subsea infrastructure planning.

[Original source: ANP-STP - Agência Nacional do Petróleo de São Tomé e Príncipe →](#)

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