



São Tomé & Príncipe Citizenship Program

Marketing Agent Manual

For Marketing Agent Use Only – V1/2026





SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE
AQUISIÇÃO DE NACIONALIDADE POR INVESTIMENTO
CITIZENSHIP BY INVESTMENT

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Introduction

Dear Marketing Agent,

This document serves as a comprehensive guide to the key duties and benefits of a licensed Marketing Agents assisting applicants throughout the citizenship application process under the Program. We are pleased to present to you the Marketing Agent Manual, Version 01/2026, for the São Tomé & Príncipe Citizenship Program.

As a licensed Marketing Agent, you are entrusted with the responsibility of providing accurate and professional guidance to applicants while ensuring full compliance with all Program requirements.

By engaging with the Program, you will help shape a brighter future for both applicants and São Tomé & Príncipe, contributing to the sustainable growth and directly improving the country's economic and social landscape.

We thank you for your commitment to upholding the highest standards of service and professionalism in your role.

The São Tomé & Príncipe CIU

São Tomé & Príncipe Citizenship by Investment Program



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Definitions and Interpretations

For the purposes of this manual, the following terms have the following meanings:

- **“Marketing Agent”** — means a natural person or legal entity which has been granted a Marketing Agent license under Chapter 2, Article 6 of the Citizenship Act.
- **“Applicant”** — means a person who applies for citizenship under the Nationality Law, either as a Principal Applicant or as a qualifying Dependent.
- **“Application”** — means an application for citizenship under the Citizenship Act.
- **“Cabinet”** — means the Council of Ministers of the Government of São Tomé & Príncipe, headed by the Prime Minister.
- **“Citizenship Act”** — means the São Tomé & Príncipe Nationality by Investment or Donation Decree-Law No. 07/2025, as the principal regulations, along with any amendments to them.
- **“CIU”** — means the São Tomé & Príncipe Citizenship by Investment Unit established under Chapter 2, Article 4 of the Citizenship Act.
- **“Dependent”** — means the dependent of the Principal Applicant, as defined in the Nationality Law and Citizenship Act.
- **“Donation”** — means a donation paid under the Citizenship Act to the National Transformation Fund.
- **“Government”** — means the duly constituted authority of São Tomé & Príncipe, including its ministries, agencies, and authorized representatives responsible for administering the Program.
- **“Minister”** — means the Minister responsible for Justice.
- **“Ministry”** — Ministry of Justice of São Tomé & Príncipe.
- **“Nationality Law”** — means the São Tomé & Príncipe Nationality Act 07/2022.
- **“Principal Applicant”** — means the person who, either as a single Applicant or as the head of a family, undertakes to pay a donation and signs the relevant agreements and undertakings on behalf of his or her qualifying Dependents.
- **“Program”** — means the São Tomé & Príncipe Citizenship by Investment Program, governed under the Nationality Law and Citizenship Act.
- **“São Tomé & Príncipe”** — means the Democratic Republic of São Tomé & Príncipe
- **“STPSA”** — means STP Service Advisory FZCO, the government-authorized entity mandated to promote, manage, and operate the CIU, including the acceptance and processing of all applications and the facilitation of related payments, in accordance with the Citizenship Act.



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1. Program Overview

The Program is a government initiative established to attract visionary individuals and families who seek alternative citizenship by investing in São Tomé & Príncipe's National Transformation Fund. In return, applicants who satisfy all requirements under the Citizenship Act are granted São Toméan citizenship.

Donations to the National Transformation Fund are directed into critical national sectors such as renewable energy, infrastructure, education, affordable housing, and the development of tourism and eco-tourism. These investments drive sustainable growth, enhance the country's social and economic landscape, and lay the foundation for attracting further foreign investment into the nation's future. Through this Program, successful applicants not only secure a second citizenship but also play an active role in the transformation of one of the world's smallest and most peaceful independent nations.

Key features of the Program:

- **Global mobility:** Successful applicants enjoy visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to multiple destinations, including South Africa, Singapore, and Hong Kong.
- **Efficient processing:** The entire process is designed to be completed within just two months, providing a fast-track pathway to citizenship without any requirement to visit São Tomé & Príncipe.
- **Family inclusion:** The Principal Applicant can include their family members, provided they meet the eligibility requirements.
- **Documentation:** The Program requires clear and straightforward documentation, to ensure a smooth and efficient application process for applicants.
- **Eligibility:** The Program is open to applicants of all nationalities, including stateless persons, with the sole exception of nationals from North Korea.

1.1. Legal Framework

The Program is governed by the Nationality Law, along with the Citizenship Act. Any amendments to the Citizenship Act will be communicated to you by the CIU in a timely manner.

1.2. CIU

The Program is administered by the CIU, with the support of STPSA and with accountability to the Ministry. It also manages Marketing Agent licensing, collects fees, processes applications, issues relevant guidelines, and performs any other functions as assigned by the Cabinet or Ministry to support the effective implementation of the Nationality Law and the Citizenship Act. The CIU is responsible for processing applications under the Program, conducting due diligence, evaluating information, and making recommendations to the Minister.

All Applications under the Program are required to be submitted through a Marketing Agent.



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2. Marketing Agents

2.1. Marketing Agent's Responsibilities

Your key duties include the following: As a Marketing Agent, you are required to comply with all terms and conditions outlined in the Marketing Agent License Agreement. Your primary responsibility is to ensure a seamless process for applicants seeking São Toméan citizenship under the Program. This includes actively promoting the Citizenship by Investment Program, addressing inquiries from prospective investors, ensuring that applications meet all Program requirements, and keeping Applicants informed throughout every stage of the process.

- **Pre-Screening of Applicants:**
 - Conduct preliminary due diligence to verify basic eligibility criteria, including clean criminal records, financial integrity, and compliance with all guidelines.
 - Screen applicants for potential risks related to money laundering or terrorist financing.
 - Submit only legitimate applicants to the CIU to uphold the Program's reputation.
- **Document Preparation:**
 - Ensure the Applicant completes all required forms and provides the necessary supporting documents.
 - Review prepared documents to confirm they meet the Program requirements, as detailed in Section 3.4.2. of this Manual.
- **Application Submission:**
 - Prepare the final Application package in accordance with guidelines provided in this manual.
 - Submit the completed Application to the CIU on behalf of the Applicant by email to **submission@stpcip.com**, until the official STP Portal becomes operational.
 - Complete the necessary payments on behalf of the Applicant
- **Communication and Updates:**
 - Serve as the primary point of contact between the Applicant and the CIU.
 - Promptly and accurately relay updates, requests for additional information, or further requirements from the CIU to the Applicant.

2.2. Code of Conduct

Failure to comply with the established compliance requirements, any attempt to undersell the Government-set donation to the National Transformation Fund, or any breach of the Marketing Agent Agreement, may result in severe consequences, including blacklisting, financial penalties, and permanent suspension from promoting the Program.



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2.3. Marketing Guidelines

The CIU will periodically review marketing activities to ensure that all promotions of the Program remain accurate, professional, and aligned with its guidelines. Non-compliance, overly aggressive or misleading advertising, could lead to suspension or revocation of a license. Maintaining these standards is essential to safeguard the Program's reputation and to promote ethical conduct across all channels.

2.4. Communication with the CIU

All correspondence between the CIU and Marketing Agents must be conducted via the dedicated email. The CIU will only engage with the following:

- For non-application matters: individuals or companies officially designated as Marketing Agent representatives under the license agreement and listed on the official Program webpage.
- For application-related matters: the registered email addresses of the above-mentioned Marketing Agent representatives.

Note: In the event of a change to the nomination, the Marketing Agent is required to notify the CIU by sending an email, via inquiry@stpcip.com, outlining the changes.

2.5. Marketing Agent License Application

Detailed instructions for applying for a Marketing Agent license under the Program can be on the official Program webpage, www.stpcip.com. If your application is approved, you will need to pay the annual license fee of USD 5,000 to complete the issuance of the license.

As your license approaches its expiration date, the CIU will send you a renewal reminder. To renew your license, you are required to provide updated KYC documents (updated Company license, if expired) and settle the annual license fee. If the renewal fees are not paid within 15 days of the due date, your access to the submission portal will be revoked and your credentials will be removed from the webpage.



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3. Citizenship Application

3.1. Applicants

3.1.1. Eligibility Criteria

To qualify for citizenship under the Program, the Principal Applicant must be at least 18 years old and must meet all Program requirements. Dependents may be included in the application if they fall into one of the following categories:

- **Spouse:** Only monogamous marriage qualifies for the program.
- **Children:** Biological or legally adopted children of the Principal Applicant or their spouse, up to and including the age of 30. Adult children aged 18–30 must be unmarried and financially dependent on the Principal Applicant.
- **Parents and Grandparents:** Parents or grandparents of the Principal Applicant or their spouse, aged 55 or older.

3.1.2. Blacklisted Jurisdictions

Individuals holding citizenship of North Korea are prohibited from applying.

3.2. Fees and Donation

The Marketing Agent shall remit the following fees, collected from the Principal Applicant, upon issuance of the corresponding submission invoice by the CIU:

Submission Fee	US\$
Per application	5,000
Sponsor, if applicable	5,000

Upon issuance of the approval-in-principle, the Marketing Agent shall remit the payment on behalf of the Principal Applicant for the Donation, Citizenship certificate, Passport, and National ID fees as follows:

Donation	US\$
Single Applicant	90,000
Principal Applicant with up to three Dependents	95,000
Each additional qualifying Dependent	5,000
Citizenship Document Fee	
Citizenship Certificate per Applicant	250
Passport per Applicant	350
National ID per Applicant	150



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Adding qualifying dependents after the issuance of the Certificate of Registration of the Main Applicant, the following inclusion fees apply:

Submission Fee	US\$
Per application	5,000
Donation	
Spouse	10,000
Child	5,000
Parent or Grandparent	5,000
Newborn (up to 1 year of age)	500
Citizenship Document Fee	
Citizenship Certificate per Applicant	250
Passport per Applicant	350
National ID per Applicant	150

Marketing Agents are required to cover all bank transfer charges. Please select the instruction ‘**OUR**’ to ensure the full amount is credited to our account.

Note: Subject to prior approval of the Citizenship Unit, the transfer of funds may be affected from the Principal Applicant’s personal bank account.

3.3. Marketing Agent Incentive

Marketing Agents are entitled to a fixed incentive of US\$20,000 for each successful application, provided the full applicable Donation has been received. The Marketing Agent may retain the incentive directly without transfer to the Unit.

The CIU reserves the right to conduct random checks to verify that the Applicant has remitted the full Donation to the Marketing Agent, in cases where there is suspicion of underselling.

3.4. Application Documentation Guidelines

3.4.1. General Documents

Document Validity

All application documents must be issued within six (6) months, with the exception of the Police Clearance Certificate which must be issued within three (3) months, before submission to the CIU, unless the official checklist specifies otherwise.



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Certified True Copies

All copies must be in color. Certification can be carried out by a licensed professional such as a notary public, attorney-at-law, commissioner for oaths, or a São Tomé consular/diplomatic officer. Certifiers must be independent and must not have close personal ties with the Applicant (e.g., spouse or immediate family).

A valid certification must:

- Include the statement: “*Certified to be a true copy of the original document seen by me.*”
- Be signed and dated by the certifier.
- Clearly state the certifier’s full name in capital letters.
- Indicate their professional title, membership/registration number, and credentials.
- Provide full contact details, including address, phone number, and/or email.

Translations

All forms and documents must be in English. If the original documents are in another language, an authenticated English translation must be attached. Translations must be prepared by an accredited translator or, where unavailable, a licensed professional translation company.

Each translation must be printed on the translator’s letterhead and must bear the official stamp and signature of the accredited translator.

3.4.2. Application Checklist and Document Guide

The following is a guide to documents that may be required for submission, depending on the Applicant’s circumstances.

Document	Description
Form S1	This form must be completed in its original format by each Applicant and sponsor (if applicable). For applicants under 18, the Principal Applicant must sign on their behalf.
Form S2	This form must be completed in its original format by each Applicant. Signatures must be witnessed by a notary public, attorney-at-law, commissioner for oaths, or similar authority. For children under 8 years old who cannot sign, mark “N/A” in the Specimen Signature section.
Passport	Certified color copy of the biometric data page of each Applicant’s current valid passport and sponsor (if applicable). For children included in a parent’s passport, include the relevant pages.
Birth Certificate	Certified color copy of birth certificate (or an equivalent document) for each Applicant, showing full name, birth details, and parents’ names from country of birth or citizenship. Ensure accuracy, as these details will appear on the Citizenship Certificate and Passport.



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Second Identification Document	Certified color copy of one valid National ID, Driver's license, Residence ID or similar for each Applicant (front and back) and sponsor (if applicable).
Photographs	<p>Submit a high-resolution passport-sized JPEG photograph per Applicant (taken within the last 6 months).</p> <p>Photo specifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Size: 2 x 2 inches / 5 cm x 5 cm, high-resolution digital copy• Head and shoulders visible, neutral expression, plain white background• Face must be centered, neutral expression and mouth closed (no smiling or frowning)• Ears and hairline visible, hair tied back, if necessary, no head coverings unless for religious purposes• No glasses, or sleeveless/light-colored tops <p>Follow provided guidelines.</p>
Police Clearance Certificate (PCC)	One certified color copy of the Police Clearance Certificate is required for all applicants aged 16 years and above and the sponsor (if applicable), issued by the country of citizenship or residence. The certificate must be dated within three (3) months prior to submission.
Proof of Source of Funds	<p>Certified color copy of supporting evidence matching declarations in Form S1 of the Principal Applicant, Spouse and sponsor (if applicable).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>If employed:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">- Employment letter (dated within the last 6 months, provided template can be used); <i>or</i>• <i>If self-employed:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">- Company Documents, such as Company License and Shareholder Certificate.• <i>If the Principal Applicant is a professional trader and cannot provide any of the above:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">- An affidavit declaring the source of funds- A screenshot of the Trading Account showing the Account number or registered email address- A 6-month Trading statement



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Bank Reference Letter	<p>Certified color copy of a letter issued by a globally recognized bank, dated within the last six (6) months, required by the Principal Applicant and sponsor (if applicable). The letter must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be printed on the bank's official letterhead and contain the bank's full address, telephone number, and official email for verification.• Include the Applicant's full name (as per passport).• Confirm the Applicant's banking relationship with the institution, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Type of account(s) held (savings, current, investment, etc.)- Duration of the relationship (how many years the account has been maintained).- Confirmation that the account is in good standing, with no adverse history.• Be signed and stamped by an authorized bank officer, clearly stating their name, title, and contact details. <p>Provided template can be used as a guideline.</p>
Proof of Residential Address	<p>The certified color copy must show the Applicant's full name and address. Accepted documents are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• utility bill/phone bill (no older than 6 months),• tenancy contract, title deed, lease agreement, household register, government-issued residence certificate,• latest bank statement, covering a period of one month, stamped by the bank. <p>If the proof of address is not in the Principal Applicant's name but in the name of the Spouse or relative, please provide the Proof of Address, a certified copy of the holder's passport, and an explanatory affidavit.</p> <p>Required for Principal Applicant, sponsor (if applicable) and each Applicant aged 18 and above, who is not residing at the same address.</p>
Medical Examination Report	<p>This form must be completed in its original format by each Applicant and by a licensed medical practitioner. The practitioner is required to follow the prescribed medical examination guidelines and complete Sections 2 and 3. The examination must be dated within the last six (6) months.</p>
Proof of Marital Status (if applicable)	<p>Certified color copy of a legalized marriage certificate (regardless of whether the spouse is included in the application), divorce certificate or death certificate (if applicable).</p>
De facto Partnership (if applicable)	<p>Proof of a de facto partnership must be demonstrated through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evidence of cohabitation at the same address, such as a joint lease or tenancy agreement, property ownership documents or utility bills in both names.• Additional supporting documents should be provided, including a Statutory Declaration of Relationship and, where available,



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	confirmation of a joint bank account and/or a child's birth certificate listing both parents.
Affidavit of Support for Adult Dependents (if applicable)	<p>The Principal Applicant must provide an affidavit of support for each Dependent over 18, excluding the spouse.</p> <p>Note: The CIU may also request additional supporting documentation, if necessary.</p>
Declaration of Consent by Non-Accompanying Parent(s) for Minor Applicants (if applicable)	<p>If the Principal Applicant includes a qualifying dependent under 18 but the Dependent's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) will not be included in the Application, the Applicant must provide either proof of full custody or an affidavit of consent from the non-accompanying parent/legal guardian.</p> <p>The affidavit must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relationship with the Principal Applicant and minor Dependent• Full name and valid passport number• A statement confirming their awareness of the Application.• A statement granting consent for each child under their custody rights named in the file to apply for São Tomé citizenship. <p>Note: Each affidavit must be accompanied by a certified color copy of the non-accompanying parent's passport bio-data page or ID (bearing their signature).</p>
Proof of Full Custody (if applicable)	<p>If the Principal Applicant includes a qualifying dependent under 18 and a Declaration of Consent from the non-accompanying parent or legal guardian cannot be provided, the Applicant must submit Proof of Full Custody in the form of either a court-issued custody or parental authority order or a government-issued Guardianship Certificate issued by a competent civil authority, explicitly confirming sole legal custody or guardianship of the minor. In all cases, this must be accompanied by a notarized affidavit explaining the absence of the non-accompanying parent and confirming that no consent is required. Documents that do not expressly confirm sole legal custody or guardianship will not be accepted.</p>
Name Change Evidence (if applicable)	<p>Certified color copy of legal proof of name change (e.g., statutory declaration, deed poll, adoption papers) excluding changes due to marriage.</p>
Additional Affidavits (if applicable)	<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Name Discrepancy Affidavit - If an Applicant's name differs across their civil documents due to a spelling variation or any reason other than an official name change• Affidavit of Sponsorship - the Principal Applicant must submit an original affidavit from the sponsor confirming their financial support.



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Other Supporting Documents (if applicable or required)	Provide any additional documents that serve as evidence, clarification, or further support for any answers provided or statements made in the forms.
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Once the Application is approved-in-principle and the required Donation and citizenship document fees are paid, the following must be submitted:

Document	Description
Proof of Payment of the Donation and Citizenship Document fees	The Marketing Agent must submit a SWIFT copy of the Donation payment. Once the funds are received, the CIU will issue an official receipt and commence the citizenship process with the relevant government authorities.
Oath of Allegiance	Each Applicant aged 18 or older must complete the Oath of Allegiance form after receiving the approval. This form, declaring allegiance to the country and its laws, must be sworn and signed before a notary public, attorney-at-law, consular officer or commissioner for oaths in the Applicant's jurisdiction. Note: The date of the oath must be on or after the approval-in-principle date.
Passport Application Form	A passport application form is required for each Applicant. The date on the passport application form must be on or after the approval-in-principle date.

3.4.3. Document Naming Convention

Once the Application is complete and ready for submission, the Marketing Agent must send it from their registered email address to the CIU's official email address (submission@stpcip.com) until the STP Portal becomes operational.

Each complete Application must be submitted as a **.zip folder**, with a dedicated subfolder for each applicant. All folders and documents must be named in a consistent and standardized manner:

1. Main .Zip Folder

- Name the .zip folder using the **Marketing Agent's name** followed by the **Principal Applicant's full name**, separated by an underscore.

2. Applicant Subfolders

- Create a dedicated subfolder for each Applicant and assign a sequential number.
- The subfolder name must clearly indicate the Applicant's **relationship to the Principal Applicant** (e.g., *Spouse, Son, Daughter*) and include the **Applicant's full name**, separated by an underscore.



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3. Documents

- All documents must be **numbered and named** according to the official **Document Checklist**.
- Each file name must specify the **document type** and the **Applicant's first name**.

Note: If multiple documents of the same type are required (e.g., Application forms S1 and S2 or an Applicant owns more than one company), subdivide the numbering to reflect each document.

Example:

1. STPSA_Maria Costa
2. 1. Principal Applicant_Maria Costa
2. Spouse_José Costa
3. Daughter_Ana Costa
3. 1.1 Application Form S1_Maria
1.2 Application Form S2_Maria
2. Passport_Maria
3. Birth Certificate_Maria
4. Second Identification Document_Maria
...

3.5. Process

The Application process under the Program is structured into five stages:

1. Application submission
2. Application due diligence
3. Decision
4. Post-approval requirement fulfilment
5. Citizenship documents issuance and handover

Once all required documents have been provided, and the applicable Submission Invoice has been settled (see Section 3.2), the Application is submitted to the CIU. The Application process is outlined below.



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Stage	Steps	
1	Application Submission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Application documents are sent in full to submission@stpcip.com.• The CIU reviews the documents and only upon completion, issues the Submission Invoice.• Marketing Agent settles the invoice.• Upon receipt of the funds, the CIU will issue Payment Receipt and the Application Submission Confirmation Letter.
2	Application Due Diligence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Due diligence checks are completed.• The due diligence recommendation is sent to the Ministry and Cabinet.• The Cabinet makes a decision on the Application and notifies the CIU.
3	Decision on Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CIU issues the decision on the Application (Approval in Principle Letter or Rejection Letter) to the Marketing Agent, who notifies the Applicant accordingly.• If the Application is approved-in-principle, the CIU will issue second invoice, containing the applicable Donation and Citizenship Document fees.
4	Post-approval Requirements Fulfilment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Marketing Agent settles the Donation and Citizenship Document fees with the CIU within 90 days, while a 90 days extension can be requested.• Submit the proof of payment for the Donation and Citizenship Document fees along with the Oath of Allegiance and Passport Application Forms for all applicants.• Upon receipt of the funds, the CIU issues the Receipt, initiates the issuance of the Certificate of Registration, and applies for São Toméan National ID and Passport.
5	Citizenship Documents Issuance and Handover	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The CIU handovers all original Citizenship Documents to the Marketing Agent.



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4. FAQs

São Tomé & Príncipe Citizenship

Q: Which countries can a São Tomé and Príncipe citizen travel to without a visa?

A: The São Tomé & Príncipe passport allows holders to travel visa free, visa-on-arrival or with an e-Visa to more than 90 countries, including strategic destinations such as South Africa, Singapore and Hong Kong (SAR China).

Q: Are descendants automatically granted citizenship?

A: Yes, future generations will receive the citizenship as well, in accordance to the Citizenship Act Decree-Law No. 07/2025.

Q: Will the names of those who acquire citizenship through the Program be published?

A: No.

Q: Is a São Tomé and Príncipe passport issued to a citizen who has obtained citizenship under the program different from a natural São Toméan citizen's passport?

A: No. There is no distinction between a naturally born or a citizen who was naturalized through the Citizenship Act. Under the constitution all citizens are entitled to the same rights and privileges.

Q: How long is the São Tomé and Príncipe passport valid, and where can it be renewed?

A: For adults, the passport is valid for 7 years. For minors under the age of 16, the passport is valid for 3 years. Renewal can be completed at any São Tomé and Príncipe Embassy, specifically in Beijing, Brussels, and Lisbon, or directly at the CIU office in Dubai.

Dependents

Q: Can siblings be included in the application?

A: As per the law, siblings are not prescribed qualifying dependents so they cannot be included in the same application.

Q: Can a Dependent be from a blacklisted country, while the Principal Applicant is not?

A: No, all Applicants must meet the Program's eligibility requirements as prescribed in the Citizenship Act.

Q: Can I add Dependents after my application has already been approved?

A: Yes. Additional submission and Donation fees apply. A one-time submission fee of USD 5,000 is charged per request, regardless of the number of dependents added at the same time. For a spouse (married either before or after the approval-in-principle), a USD 10,000 donation applies. For each qualifying Dependent (such as a child or parent), a USD 5,000 Donation applies.

Q: Is there a minimum or maximum age limit for Dependent children or parents to qualify?



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A: Yes, children (biological or adopted) may be included up to and including the age of 30. Parents, grandparents, and in-laws may also be included, provided they are aged 55 or above.

Q: Can unmarried partners be included in the application?

A: De facto partners may be included in the application. Proof of cohabitation must be provided, such as evidence of shared address and additional supporting documents.

Q: Can any person under legal guardianship be added to the application?

A: Yes. Individuals under legal guardianship may be included as dependent children, provided they meet the age requirement of 30 years or below. A certified copy of the legal guardianship document issued by a court such as a full custody order, must be submitted as part of the application.

Process & Eligibility

Q: When does the Due Diligence process start?

A: Due diligence begins once the submission letter is issued.

Q: Can I add a qualifying dependent after the application has been submitted?

A: Qualifying dependents cannot be added during the application process after submission. The only exception is a newborn child born during the application process, who may be added provided that approval has not yet been issued. All other qualifying dependents may only be added after the Certificate of Registration (COR) has been issued.

Q: Can same-sex couples apply?

A: No.

Q: Can more than one spouse be included in the Application?

A: No.

Q: Are sponsors required to be relatives of the Main Applicant?

A: No, the sponsor is not required to be a blood relative of the main applicant.

Q: Can a stateless person apply for São Tomé & Príncipe citizenship under the Program?

A: Yes, restrictions apply only to citizens or residents of North Korea.

Q: Are there enhanced Due Diligence with additional fees for certain nationalities?

A: No. All applicants are assessed based on their individual merits, and no additional due diligence fees apply to specific nationalities.

Q: Can a person rejected from a Caribbean CBI program apply?

A: Yes.



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Q: Must all documents submitted be certified as true copy?

A: Yes, except for the S1 Form, Medical Forms and affidavits.

Q: Are Notarization and Apostille required?

A: A certified true copy issued by an authorized professional such as a notary, attorney-at-law, lawyer, justice of the peace, or an equivalent authority is sufficient. Foreign Affairs attestation or an Apostille is not required.

Q: Can applications be submitted with expired passports?

A: Yes. Applications may be submitted with expired passports, provided a justification is included in the form of a duly executed affidavit.

Q: Are fingerprints required?

A: No.

Q: Do I need to visit or reside in São Tomé and Príncipe to apply?

A: No, there is no visit requirement in order to apply for the program, during the process or anytime in future. The passport renewal can also be done remotely.

Q: Is an interview required?

A: No.

Q: Is there a fast-track option with additional fees?

A: No, the Program's standard processing timeline is already expedited.

Q: How long does the Application and issuance of citizenship documents take?

A: The CIU aims to complete the full process within two months.

Q: If the applicant's name includes letters with special characters or accents, will it appear the same on the São Tomé and Príncipe citizenship documents?

A: Yes. The name will be written exactly as it appears on the applicant's birth certificate. Non-Latin characters (e.g. Cyrillic, Arabic, ideograms) are not admissible and must be transliterated into the Latin alphabet.

Q: Can I keep my existing nationality when becoming a citizen?

A: Yes, São Tomé and Príncipe allows dual citizenship.

Q: Is it possible for the Marketing Agent or Principal Applicant to collect the passport directly from the São Tomé and Príncipe Immigration Authority or at an Embassy?

A: Upon request, the handover of the Citizenship Documents can be arranged at the São Tomé and Príncipe Citizenship by Investment Unit in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. In the near future, and subject to an additional fee, the handover will also be available at the Embassy of São Tomé and Príncipe in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.



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Payment of Contribution and Fees

Q: Are there any restricted countries to receive funds?

A: None, provided that the bank can facilitate the transaction, we have no objection to accepting the payment. Only payments in USD are accepted for the Government Contribution.

Q: Does the CIU accept cash for payments of contributions and fees?

A: No. Payments are accepted only via bank transfer.

Q: Can the source of funds be cryptocurrency?

A: Yes, the source of funds can be cryptocurrency. However, payments must be made in US dollars. Appropriate documentation to prove the source of funds is required (please refer to section 3.4.2 of this manual).

Q: Can the Application be sponsored?

A: Yes, the Application can be sponsored. However, a due diligence fee for the benefactor will apply of USD 5,000, and the benefactor must provide the required documentation.

Q: Can the Contribution be paid in installments?

A: No. Contributions must be paid in full within 90 days of the approval-in-principle date. A one-time extension of an additional 90 days may be granted upon request.

Q: Can Marketing Agents pay the government contribution in bulk (two or more applications)?

A: No. Each Government Contribution must be paid separately and accounted for individually per application.

Marketing Agents

Q: Can an individual or company be eligible to obtain the Marketing Agent license without experience or background in the residency and citizenship by investment space?

A: No.

Q: Can individuals apply or correspond directly to the CIU for citizenship applications?

A: No. Application must be submitted through licensed Marketing Agents listed on the CIU's website.

Q: Can Marketing Agents make payments on behalf of the Applicant?

A: Yes, the payments must come from the Marketing Agent's account. Only upon prior approval from the Citizenship Unit, may the funds be wired from the Principal Applicant's personal bank account.

Q: In what timeframe will the incentive be paid to the Marketing Agents?

A: The Marketing Agent can directly retain the incentive without having to transfer it to the Unit.



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5. Final Considerations

This manual, along with other guidelines issued by the CIU, may be updated periodically. The CIU will ensure that any updates are communicated in a timely and efficient manner.

Should you have any unresolved questions or wish to enhance your understanding of specific areas, please do not hesitate to contact the CIU at info@stpcip.com.

We extend our gratitude for your cooperation and look forward to your valued donations to the success of the Program.



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