



Short Term Consultancy
“Climate Smart Education Systems Initiative in
São Tomé and Príncipe”
May – October 2026

The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) is one of the world’s leading independent policy research institutions championing sustainable solutions to 21st century problems. IISD has 30+ years of demonstrated experience in the field of climate change. We work with governments, development partners, civil society, communities, and businesses to help them manage climate risk and make adaptation and mitigation part of routine decision-making. Among other thematic areas, IISD works extensively on the design, financing, implementation and monitoring of nature-based solutions for climate adaptation, advising governments and civil society organizations, among others, on effective approaches to addressing the twin challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss.

The Institute hosts the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Global Network secretariat, an initiative focused on accelerating adaptation planning and action in developing countries. The NAP Global Network strives to achieve this goal by a) enhancing national-level action through short-and longer-term technical support on adaptation planning; b) facilitating South–South peer learning and exchange; and c) generating, synthesizing, and sharing knowledge on NAP processes. Established in 2014, the NAP Global Network connects more than 3,000 participants from 170 countries involved in developing and implementing National Adaptation Plans. Financial support for the Network is currently provided by Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, and Ireland.

Save the Children in collaboration with UNESCO International Institute of Educational Planning and UNESCO, is implementing the Climate Smart Education Systems Initiative (CSESI), funded by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), that aims to strengthen the capacity of the education system in developing countries to adapt to climate change through work in policy, data, infrastructure, climate finance, school safety, and curricula.

Save the Children has partnered with NAP Global Network for the implementation of the climate finance component of the CSESI programme in São Tomé and Príncipe.

Background Information

São Tomé and Príncipe demonstrates strong political commitment to education: public expenditure in the sector increased from 11.3% of the national budget in 2015 (3.86% of GDP) to 17.6% in 2019 (5.92% of GDP). The country also prioritizes action on climate change; between 2017 and 2020, domestic resources allocated to climate action nearly tripled. However, work is needed to integrate climate action into the education sector, including the establishment of robust interministerial coordination mechanisms, strengthening of technical capacity, development of sector-specific climate policies and

plans, and mobilizing climate finance., including the preparation of competitive proposals for international climate funds.

São Tomé and Príncipe has a well-established track record in mobilizing external support, with approximately 48% of national revenues derived from international grants and loans. However, this structural dependence, combined with persistent budget deficits, underscores the importance of developing effective processes and mechanisms to mobilize climate finance to address climate change priorities in the education sector.

São Tomé and Príncipe is classified as a Small Island Developing State (SIDS).

The country's transition from Least Developed Country (LDC) status in late 2024 partially alters its eligibility to access a range of climate finance mechanisms. While São Tomé and Príncipe continues to have access to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), the UN Technology Bank, and the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), access to the LDC Fund and UNDP core funds is gradually being reduced. This shift requires a more sophisticated strategy to position the education sector within national and international climate finance priorities.

This context presents both opportunities and urgent needs. It is essential to strengthen institutional capacities to integrate climate finance into education sector planning, ensure coordination among the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sciences (MECC), the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Blue Economy (MPFEA), the Ministry of Public Works, Infrastructure, Natural Resources, and Environment (MOPIRINA), and other stakeholders, and establish a structured approach to mapping opportunities, preparing proposals, and ensuring transparent and effective resource management.

This work will support education sector, especially the MECC, to better understand how to access climate finance.

Overview of the Assignment

IISD is seeking a National Consultant to support the delivery of activities aimed at strengthening the institutional capacity of the MECC and relevant partners to identify, plan, mobilize, and manage climate finance resources for the education sector, ensuring alignment with national adaptation and resilience priorities. This work will enable the MECC, in partnership with MPFEA and MOPIRINA, to develop a climate finance access roadmap for the education sector.

This assignment will involve two main stages:

Stage 1 – In-person support: Climate Finance Training

This first stage focuses on building foundational knowledge on climate finance within the MECC. The work includes:

- **Review and provide input to a climate finance landscape report** for São Tomé and Príncipe, which will guide the training and inform the development of the roadmap. The first draft of the report will be prepared by NAP Global Network Secretariat staff, with the National Consultant providing review, input on the climate finance situation in São Tomé and Príncipe, and translation. The final report must be prepared in both English and Portuguese; translation support will be discussed as needed.

- **Contextualize the CSESI Climate Finance Training Programme**, developed by the NAP Global Network in collaboration with Save the Children; and **prepare a version for an in-person climate finance training** in Portuguese for the MECC and relevant stakeholders. The National Consultant will **organize and facilitate the training session**, that aims to strengthen their understanding of global climate finance mechanisms and their relevance for the education sector.

Stage 2 – In-person support: Preparation of a Climate Finance Roadmap

Building on the landscape report and training, in this second stage the National Consultant will work in collaboration with the MECC and relevant stakeholders to

- **Develop a climate finance roadmap** outlining how the MECC can access climate finance to strengthen the resilience of the education system. The roadmap will be a government document that is drafted by the National Consultant in close collaboration with Save the Children’s CSESI teams and through active engagement with MECC and relevant stakeholders.
- **Working with the MECC, organize and facilitate an in-person validation workshop to present the climate finance roadmap** to stakeholders from the climate and education sectors, and receive their input and approval.

The NAP Global Network Secretariat will be responsible for covering any costs associated with workshops, events and logistics via CSESI funding.

Activities and Deliverables

The National Consultant will work in close collaboration with the Save the Children’s CSESI and NAP GN’s teams and through active engagement with the MECC to deliver the activities set out in the table below. The National Consultant will participate in regular coordination meetings to present progress, discuss findings, and receive technical feedback.

Phase	Activities	Estimated Deadline (2026)	Deliverables
1. Inception	Participate in a kickoff call with Save the Children’s CSESI team and the NAP Global Network team to present the proposed methodology, agree on ways of working together, clarify roles and responsibilities, and confirm the timeline and deliverables.	Mid June	- Kickoff call summary note and updated work plan
2. Climate finance landscape report and contextualization of climate finance training	Review the climate landscape report prepared by the NAP Global Network team, providing context on São Tomé and Príncipe. Prepare a one-day training package based on the CSESI training program and contextualize for São Tomé and Príncipe.	End June	- Inputs to climate finance landscape report - One-day climate finance training programme

3. Climate Finance Training	<p>Organize and facilitate the one-day training session on climate finance, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordination with MECC and Save the Children on the agenda and participants. - Coordination with NAP Global Network on logistics and costs. 	End August	- Climate finance training session report
4. Draft climate finance roadmap development	<p>Produce a draft of the Climate Finance Roadmap using the CSESI guidance.</p> <p>Preparation of the roadmap will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultation with MECC and other relevant stakeholders. - Review of key national climate and education documents to identify climate-related priorities. - Mapping of climate finance mechanisms and opportunities relevant to the education sector. - Identifying feasible pathways and entry points for MEC to access climate finance. - Incorporating comments and input from reviews undertaken by the government, NAP Global Network, and Save the Children. - Developing practical tools to support climate finance access, such as prioritization matrices, concept note templates, concise fund fact sheets. 	Mid-September	- Draft climate finance roadmap
5. Climate finance roadmap validation workshop	<p>Organize and facilitate the validation workshop, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordination with MECC and Save the Children on the agenda and participants. - Coordination with NAP Global Network on logistics and costs. <p>Prepare workshop materials, including PowerPoint presentation of the draft roadmap.</p> <p>Document feedback and recommendations from participants.</p>	End September	- Roadmap validation workshop report

<p>6. Final climate finance roadmap</p>	<p>Revise the Climate Finance Roadmap based on comments from MECC, workshop participants, NAP Global Network, and Save the Children.</p> <p>Finalize the roadmap and ensure clarity on next steps, including roles, actions, and timelines.</p> <p>Support Save the Children and MECC in the process leading to formal endorsement by the government.</p>	<p>End October</p>	<p>- Final climate finance roadmap</p>
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Reporting and working arrangements

For contractual matters, the consultant will report to IISD (Gloria Sengutuvan – gsengutuvan@iisd.ca).

For technical matters, the consultant will report to IISD (Deborah Murphy – dmurphyiisd@rogers.com) and Save the Children (roger.sturaro@savethechildren.org.au).

The required qualifications are:

- Master’s degree in climate change, environmental policy, public policy, economics, education, or a related field.
- Minimum 5 years of experience in climate change, climate finance, or related policy work.
- Proven experience conducting analytical studies (e.g., landscape assessments, policy reviews, sector analyses).
- Experience working with government ministries and familiarity with institutional structures in São Tomé and Príncipe.
- Experience facilitating trainings or workshops, ideally on climate or development topics.
- Strong understanding of global climate finance mechanisms and donor funding processes.
- Excellent report-writing and analytical skills in Portuguese and English, with full professional proficiency in spoken Portuguese and the ability to facilitate training sessions in Portuguese.
- Experience engaging and coordinating with multiple stakeholders, including governments, NGOs, and development partners.
- Ability to deliver high-quality outputs within short timeframes and manage multiple deadlines.

Application process

To apply for this consultancy, please submit your CV, and financial proposal, specifically mentioning in the subject line “Climate Smart Education Systems initiative in São Tomé and Príncipe” to info@napglobalnetwork.org.

In your application, please clearly demonstrate how you meet the criteria outlined above.

Application deadline: June 5th, 2026

Estimated start date: June 12th, 2026