

Terms of Reference

National Consultant – Climate Finance for the Education Sector Climate Smart Education Systems Initiative (CSESI) – Maldives

August 2026 – February 2027

1. Overview of the organization

The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) is one of the world's leading independent research centers, working to promote sustainable solutions to the challenges of the 21st century. IISD has more than 30 years of experience in the field of climate change, supporting governments, development partners, civil society organizations, and businesses.

IISD hosts the secretariat of the **NAP Global Network**, which supports developing countries in their adaptation planning and implementation processes.

The Climate Smart Education Systems Initiative (CSESI), funded by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), strengthens the capacity of the education system in the Maldives to adapt to climate change through work in policy, data, climate finance, infrastructure and curricula. The project is implemented by UNESCO IIEP, Save the Children, and UNESCO, in collaboration with partners and national education authorities.

The NAP Global Network Secretariat (IISD) is providing technical support for CSESI's climate finance component.

2. Background

The Maldives is highly vulnerable to the risk of intensifying climate change impacts such as droughts, floods, sea level rise, coral bleaching, and coastal erosion. Climate change impacts can disrupt the education system, including damage to learning facilities, disruption to travel to and from school, and negatively impacts on student health and well-being, and learning quality. Mobilizing climate finance to help the education sector to adapt to climate change is increasingly important.

Over the past decade, the Maldives has mobilized climate finance from multilateral climate funds, multilateral development banks, bilateral partners and domestic revenue. However, despite the availability of international climate finance (Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, GEF, etc.), the education sector's access to these resources remains limited and requires strengthened capacity in climate finance access, proposal development and cross-institutional coordination.

The Maldives' Ministry of Education (MoE) has expressed a strong interest in strengthening its capacity to mobilize this funding in order to support a resilient and inclusive education system.

3. Objective of the assignment

IISD is seeking a National Consultant to support the delivery of activities aimed at supporting the MoE in the Maldives to :

- engage in the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) processes to support access to climate finance.
- strengthen capacities to access and mobilize climate finance for the education sector

4. Overview of the assignment

The assignment is structured into two main phases:

Activity 1: Support the MoE to engage in the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) processes to support access to climate finance

- Step 1: Conduct training workshop on climate change adaptation for education and links to the NAP and climate finance.
- Step 2: Assess cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms and prepare recommendations for MoE engagement in the NAP process.
- Step 3: Facilitate technical exchange between MoE and MTE to inform education inputs and coordination arrangements for the NAP.

Activity 2: Build climate finance capacity in order to diversify access to climate finance instruments

- Step 1: Prepare a climate finance landscape report mapping funding opportunities for education.
- Step 2: Conduct a climate finance training needs assessment and deliver a capacity-building workshop on developing bankable proposals.
- Step 3: Prepare a climate finance roadmap outlining priority actions to access climate finance.
- Step 4: Organize a dialogue event to promote private investment and innovative finance for climate-resilient education.

5. Deliverables and schedule

Deliverable	Description	Estimated date
Inception note	Participation in an online kickoff meeting with the CSESI team from Save the Children and the NAP Global Network team and preparation of the call for proposals and a kick-off note summarizing the proposed methodology and workplan.	August 2026
Feedback on landscape report	Review, feedback, and inputs on a draft landscape report on climate finance prepared by IISD staff.	August 2026
Workshop report, including summary of rapid needs assessment on climate finance	Rapid assessment of MoE and relevant government officials' capacity gaps related to climate finance and facilitating an in-person workshop that will cover: - An introduction to Maldives' NAP process - climate finance capacity-building - developing bankable project proposals	September 2026
Report on MoE engagement in the NAP process	Analytical paper assessing existing cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms and outlining recommended entry points, roles, and collaboration options for MoE engagement in the NAP process.	September 2026
1 st draft of climate finance roadmap	Prepare a draft climate finance roadmap outlining priority actions to access climate finance.	November 2026
Workshop report on technical exchange	Facilitate technical exchange (to be held virtually) between MoE and Ministry of Tourism and the Environment (MTE) to inform education-related NAP content, including proposed coordination and governance arrangements for implementation.	December 2026
Roadmap Validation Workshop Report	Organization, facilitation, and report on validation workshop (to be held virtually) for the climate finance roadmap	January 2027
Final draft of climate finance roadmap	Final, validated version identifying priority actions, sequencing, and responsibilities to support MoE access to climate finance, aligned with government priorities and NAP processes.	January 2027

Workshop report	Private investment dialogue/event (to be held virtually) on climate and education: Stakeholder event to promote private sector engagement in climate-resilient education, including discussion of innovative financial instruments (catastrophe bonds, risk transfer mechanisms, etc).	February 2027
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7. Reporting Arrangements

- **Technical supervision:** NAP Global Network (IISD) and Save the Children
- **National coordination:** Ministry of National Education
- Participation in regular monitoring and validation meetings

8. Required qualifications

- Master's degree in climate, public policy, economics, education, or a related field;
- At least 5 years of experience in climate change, climate finance, or public policy;
- Proven experience in climate finance analysis and research (studies, assessments, sectoral reviews);
- Good knowledge of the institutional context in the Maldives;
- Experience facilitating workshops and multi-stakeholder consultations;
- Good understanding of international climate finance mechanisms;
- Excellent language skills in English. Fluency in Dhivehi considered a strong asset.
- Ability to work independently and meet tight deadlines.

9. Working Language

- English (required for all deliverables and activities)

10. Application Process

Interested candidates are invited to submit:

- A detailed resume;
- A financial proposal.

Applications must be sent to info@napglobalnetwork.org with the subject line: “**National Consultant – CSESI Maldives**” by Friday, July 31, 2026.

11. Start Date

Estimated start date: **August 2026**