

Terms of Reference

Climate Finance Consultancy for the Climate Smart Education Systems Initiative (CSESI) in the Pacific

1. Background

The Climate Smart Education Systems Initiative (CSESI) Pacific is an 18-month regional project (May 2025–November 2026) funded by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) to enhance the climate resilience of education systems across the Pacific. CSESI Pacific part of a wider, [global CSES Initiative](#), is led jointly by Save the Children (SC), UNESCO and UNESCO-IIEP, and is implemented in close coordination with national Ministries of Education and regional bodies. CSESI seeks to enhance countries' capacities to mainstream climate change adaptation and environmental sustainability into education sector plans, budgets, and strategies as well as to enhance education ministry capacity for cross-sectoral coordination on climate and environment-related policy and programming. CSESI Pacific will also build the capability and readiness of ministries of education to access financing from whole of government climate financing mechanisms.

CSESI Pacific officially covers ten priority Pacific Island Countries (PICs) (Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu), with possible support to five additional non-GPE-prioritized countries (Cook Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, and Tokelau). CSESI's activities and priorities are structured around seven key, interrelated components:

CSESI Component	Lead
1. Evidence-Based Policy & Planning	UNESCO IIEP
2. Cross-Sectoral & Internal Coordination	SC
3. Access to Climate Finance	SC
4. Climate Data & Evidence for Educational Planning	UNESCO IIEP
5. Safer and Greener Infrastructure	SC
6. School Safety and Educational Continuity	SC
7. Greener Curricula, Pedagogy, and Teacher Training	UNESCO

This consultancy focuses on component #3: Access to Climate Finance.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this consultancy is to support CSESI and Save the Children to provide ministries of education with the information and tools required to understand what climate finance opportunities are available and viable to them, make informed decisions as to whether or not to try to access these climate finance opportunities (and if so, which ones), and to enable ministries to begin the process of accessing the selected opportunities.

3. Activities and Deliverables

Working directly in collaboration with the CSESI/SC team, this consultancy will conduct the following activities and deliverables:

Develop a climate and education finance briefing document and webinar(s)

Develop a briefing document and associated webinar(s) on what climate finance opportunities exist for ministries of education in the Pacific. This briefing document should serve as a landscape report and provide ministries of education and their relevant government counterparts with tailored information on what opportunities exist, how they are accessed and by whom, what the time and financial cost of accessing them are likely to be and what co-financing requirement there are, if at all. It will include a mapping of active donors in the Pacific (education and climate change donors) who might be interested in supporting with co-financing opportunities with funds that have a co-finance requirement as well as mapping donors who can fund the designing of proposals or concept notes. This will be a desk study with key informant interviews. The briefing document should be a concise, user-friendly report (e.g., 15-20 pages) and maintain a regional focus; however, individual country climate finance profiles will also be developed and included as Annexes (priorities from national level adaptation and education planning, existing national level policies or frameworks to access climate finance, national designated authorities for the main climate finance mechanisms and concrete opportunities to link those to climate finance projects). The briefing document and key findings will be disseminated to ministries and CSESI stakeholders via webinar(s).

Conduct pre-workshop country consultations and develop climate finance action plan report

Using the briefing document and annexes, support CSESI/SC to conduct country-level consultations to explore with countries whether they wish to access climate financing and if so, which funds and opportunities, thematic priorities, timeframe, key personnel, etc. Communications and logistics around consultations will be handled by CSESI/SC staff. Discussions will include the initial scope of activities ministries might want to undertake. Findings from these consultations will then be compiled, analysed, and drafted into a short (e.g., 5-10 pages) CSESI climate finance action plan report. This draft report will synthesize the consultations, highlight the funding opportunities and prioritized topics countries are most interested in, explore the possibility/feasibility as well as country appetite for multi-country collaboration on potential opportunities (and if so potential country groupings), and propose a concrete way forward. This report and its findings will be instrumental to the climate finance and education strategic-level workshop (see below).

Support climate finance and education strategic-level workshop

CSESI/SC will convene the Pacific Heads of Education Systems (PHES) and, budget allowing, key, relevant climate change governmental counterparts (e.g., National Designated Authorities, etc.) in a 2-3 day workshop to discuss and agree if countries or grouping of countries wish to access climate finance and if so which funds and when. Discussions will include the initial scope of activities ministries might want to undertake. The consultant will work with the CSESI/SC team to develop and facilitate relevant sessions, engage with country representatives, and gather the information needed to develop a road map for accessing the prioritized climate finance opportunities (see below).

Develop road map(s) for accessing identified climate finance opportunities

Based on the findings and decisions from the consultations and workshop described above, a road map(s) and supporting materials with step-by-step guides of what ministries of education and their partners need to do to pursue the opportunities that were identified and prioritized. This should be done in collaboration with relevant government officials and stakeholders and will require some post-workshop, bi-lateral and group follow-up discussions to ensure government buy-in and ownership. The road map(s) should include an overview of the required timeframes, costs, technical inputs, co-financing (if any), partnerships and fiduciary standards for accessing and programming gender inclusive and responsive climate finance in the education sector. Depending on analysis of the regional exercise the roadmap(s) should identify top priorities for funding, include a pipeline of regional and or national projects, and a climate finance tracker for the Pacific education sector. This would involve data analysis, identifying and interviewing key donors for potential co- and parallel finance, in addition to the multilateral climate funds. The roadmap(s) would likely need to focus on either subregions in the Pacific or thematic (which would correlate to the components from CSESI outlined above), however this will need to be determined during the strategic-level workshop. SC will also contribute to the preparation of this deliverable by providing a template, engaging in initial consultations for the development of the roadmap(s), and reviewing drafts.

4. Collaboration and feedback

The consultant will work directly with CSESI coordinator and technical specialist, however, additional support and collaboration will be required from SC's climate change and climate finance specialists, new business development expert, etc. Outputs will be reviewed by this team with potential for review from SPC's Climate Finance Unit (CFU), NAP Global Network, etc.

5. Outputs and Time Frame

The following table outlines the specific deliverable outputs and estimated time frame:

Output	Deadline	~Day count
1. Briefing document (without Annexes) and webinar	15-Feb-26	15
2. Country annexes (x10) for briefing document	15-Feb-26	10
3. Country consultations (x10) and draft action plan	15-Mar-26	5
4. Strategic-level workshop prep and delivery	1-April-26	8
5. Regional road map(s) for accessing climate finance	1-May-26	22
Total		60

6. Candidate Profile

The candidate must have experience working in and be currently based in the Pacific Region. In addition, in order to undertake the role successfully, the candidate should possess the following attributes:

SKILLS/ABILITIES

- Ability to problem-solve, multi-task, determine priorities, take initiative, and work independently and in multi-cultural settings.
- Strong interpersonal, oral and especially written communication skills, including strong public speaking skills and experience.
- Demonstrated strategic planning skills, along with monitoring and evaluation experience.
- Ability to focus analysis at a sector level.
- Ability to advocate, influence & negotiate with a range of diverse stakeholders.
- Rapport building, networking & relationship building abilities.
- Proven project management skills.
- Fluency in written and spoken English
- High levels of computer proficiency including MS packages and good writing skills
- Strong multisectoral coordination and multistakeholder engagement skills

KNOWLEDGE/EXPERIENCE

- Over 10 years of experience of designing and delivering in climate finance, climate change, DRR, and resilience programs, particularly in the Pacific Region, with at least 5 years of experience specifically in climate finance.
- Proven track record for the successful implementation of climate finance, climate change, DRR, and resilience programs, particularly in the Pacific Region.
- Knowledge and experience in working with governments and ministries on climate change and climate financing work.
- Expertise in climate finance, climate change, risk reduction and resilience
- Experience in program design of technical assistance projects
- Experience in representation with national governments, UN agencies, international bodies, and / or donors
- Experience designing and leading trainings and capacity building exercises for diverse target audiences (partners including governments, country office staff, headquarters staff, others).
- Initiative, flexibility and ability to work independently as well as in a team.
- Willingness to work in challenging and sometimes insecure physical environments and capacity to work effectively in those environments.
- Experience in working with regional coordination bodies or multicounty projects

QUALIFICATIONS/ACCREDITATIONS

- Master's degree in international development, Climate, Climate Finance, Economics, Education, Social/Political Science or relevant and/or related discipline or equivalent work experience

Reporting to: Pacific Programs
Operations Advisor

Work Location: Home based (Pacific
Region)

Classification Level: TBC

**Driver's Licence
Required:** No

Direct Reports: None

Travel: Potential

Assets: Laptop

**Working with
Children Check:** No