

Junior's community in the Solomon Islands is one of the world's most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. We're working with local partners on nature-based solutions that will protect his family's future.



UNLOCKING IMPACT

A REVOLVING FUND FOR NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Photo: Conor Ashleigh / Save the Children

THE CHALLENGE

NEARLY ONE BILLION CHILDREN LIVE AT EXTREME RISK FROM CLIMATE CHANGE.

The most vulnerable are growing up in places where climate shocks are exacerbated by poverty, conflict, malnutrition and limited access to basic services.

Nature-based solutions offer a proven way forward:

community-led projects that restore ecosystems, strengthen families' livelihoods and help children and communities cope with the impacts of climate shocks.

These projects can also generate carbon finance – providing a long-term, reliable source of funding for the project and the community.

Designing a project to deliver high-integrity carbon finance takes specialist skills and local knowledge.

Some projects may not be viable due to the social or environmental context or limitations in scale. Dedicating the time and expertise at this stage of project development ensures that the most impactful projects will be taken forward for future investment.

Too often, communities and local organisations lack the early funding they need to turn strong concepts into investment-ready projects. **This gap in development capital is one of the main reasons that nature-based solutions are not reaching the children and communities who need them most.**

THE SOLUTION

BECOME A FOUNDING PARTNER OF SAVE THE CHILDREN'S CLIMATE CATALYST FUND.

Save the Children is establishing the **Children's Climate Catalyst Fund**, a **\$1 million+ revolving fund** to help turn nature-based project ideas into real, investable solutions, and **we're inviting you to be a founding partner.**

Launched with a **\$180,000 recyclable grant from FSD Africa**, the fund finances the early development phase of nature-based solutions projects across multiple countries and contexts. This is the critical phase where local, community-led ideas often stall due to a lack of funding.

Once projects are ready for implementation, they attract investment from businesses looking to offset their emissions with high-integrity credits. This fund's capital is then reinvested into developing new projects.

By recycling funding in this way, the fund generates a continuous pipeline of high-quality projects.

It avoids the start-stop nature of one-off grants and enables Save the Children to reach more children more quickly, as projects expand into different places.

CATALYTIC FUNDING FOR NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS IN ACTION

In Nandi, Kenya, **\$250,000 in development funding** from FSD Africa and a UK foundation supported the design and feasibility work of a smallholder agroforestry programme.

This catalysed [\\$5 million in investment funding](#) from eight UK law firms, who committed capital in return for a share of carbon credits. The project is now moving into large-scale implementation and will develop increased climate resilience and improved nutrition outcomes for tea growing communities in Nandi County. **Over ~30yrs it is estimated the project will generate a total of \$20M in carbon revenue for the community.**

This initial **20x growing to 80x return** shows why early project development is such a powerful investment point – unlocking significant climate finance and lasting change for children and communities.

Save the Children has a pipeline of projects in development that the Children's Climate Catalyst Fund would support.

For example:

- Working with **rural and pastoralist communities in Ethiopia** to adopt climate-smart agroforestry, community-led rangeland restoration, and clean energy solutions to adapt to climate shocks, reduce environmental damage and lower emissions.
- Supporting **rice farming families in Thailand** to diversify income, generating additional revenue through agroforestry and sustainable practices, reducing their reliance on single-crop systems.

THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT

Your investment would strengthen the fund at a critical moment.

By adding to the fund's capital base, your support would allow Save the Children to develop multiple projects at the same time, in new geographies where governments and communities are actively seeking solutions – including Ethiopia, Southeast Asia and parts of Latin America.

The return on this investment is clear. More projects move from the early idea stage to investment-ready solutions. Opportunities open in new countries, and new partners can confidently commit implementation funding because the essential groundwork is already done.

The Children's Climate Catalyst Fund would support several activities, depending on the context:

- **Grassroots community engagement:** To understand drivers of unsustainable behaviours and environmental degradation and design robust solutions grounded in community needs and context
- **Carbon standards and methodologies:** To ensure projects are credible, compliant and investment-ready.
- **Carbon modelling:** To quantify emission reductions and removals.
- **Benefit sharing design:** To align outcomes with local context to support improved livelihoods, child wellbeing, and long-term ownership.
- **Policy and regulatory frameworks:** To ensure projects are legally sound and scalable.
- **Environmental and social impact assessment management plans:** That safeguard children, communities, and ecosystems while meeting investor and carbon standard requirements.
- **Stakeholder and carbon right mapping:** To de-risk projects and ensure equitable, transparent benefit sharing.

ACCELERATING LASTING CHANGE THROUGH CLIMATE FINANCE

This revolving fund represents a step change in how we bring high-impact nature-based solutions to scale.

Over time, the fund will help Save the Children to **deliver projects in new countries, respond quickly** to demand from government and community organisations, and **unlock far greater volumes of climate finance – delivering lasting change for children and communities at scale.**