Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF)

Background:

- Borne out of the **challenge** of missing **foundational data** for climate adaptation and resilient development;
  - **Basic weather observations** underpin **weather forecasts, early warning systems, and climate information locally and globally**.
  - There are currently **great gaps in weather observations**, especially in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
  - **SOFF** was designed in **2020**: spearheaded **by the World Meteorological Organization** in collaboration with a wide range of **international organizations**, including the members of the **Alliance for Hydromet Development** (The African Development Bank-AfDB is a founding member of the Alliance).

Goal:

- To **strengthen climate adaptation and resilience** to respond to the increased frequency, severity and impact of weather and climate events by contributing to **improved weather forecasts and climate services**.
  - It will provide technical and financial assistance **in new ways** – applying internationally agreed metrics - the requirements of the **Global Basic Observing Network (GBON)**
  - Investments to substantially increase these observations will bring significant local and global benefits, with an estimated **cost-benefit ratio of 1:26**;

- The Alliance for Hydromet Development intends to announce **SOFF at COP26 in November 2021**, with a commitment of at least **USD 200 million**, with another **USD 200 million** to be raised subsequently.
The SOFF will provide financial and technical assistance in new ways.

- Applying internationally agreed metrics to guide investments.
  SOFF support is based on internationally agreed, quantitative metrics that guide investments in basic surface-based observations – the GBON.

- Using data exchange as a measure of success.
  SOFF will shift from short-term capital investments to the provision of long-term observational data exchange as a measure of success. It will contribute to cover operating and maintenance costs of a country’s basic observation infrastructure through results-based finance.

- Creating local benefits while providing a global public good.
  SOFF will create local benefits while delivering on a global public good – improving global weather forecasts and climate information for all nations.
SOFF Implementation and Target

### Readiness

SOFF will enable countries to assess their national hydromet status, define the GBON gap and develop a plan to close the gap.

While SOFF will offer tailored and differentiated support to countries, **all beneficiary countries will undergo the Readiness phase**.

### Investment

SOFF support will be used to **close the GBON gap** and enable countries to achieve GBON compliance.

This includes investments in GBON infrastructure and developing GBON human and institutional capacity to operate and maintain the observing network.

### Compliance

Countries will receive support to **sustain GBON compliance** and to access improved weather forecast and climate analysis products.

This includes the provision of **results-based finance for GBON**-compliant countries to contribute to cover operational and maintenance costs.

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**Year initial implementation period**

5

**USD 400 M**

**SIDS and LDCs supported to become GBON compliant and accessing improved weather and climate products.**

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The African Development Bank’s Initiatives Support/Advance SOFF

- The focus of the Bank’s work in Africa through, PECG/CDSF, is to significantly increase the coverage of climate and weather observation networks and improve the weak access to data in order to strengthen the development of climate and weather early warning systems.

- Recently, there has been emphasis to support the recovery of basic observation networks in fragile countries such as Somalia, Zimbabwe, Liberia and Sierra Leone, Resilience Programme in the Sahel and Greater Horn of Africa.

- The Bank aligns this approach to the AMCOMET/SOFF, the Bank’s ADF commitment to build resilience, the Climate Change Action Plan and its High 5 strategies to fast track development in its Regional Member Countries (RMCs).

- Bank has contributed a total of US $74 million in grant finance to twelve countries and five regional climate centers that serve twenty seven countries to strengthen data capacities, address weaknesses in the delivery of climate and weather services, and reduce loss and damage from extreme weather events and support disaster risk & contingency planning to mitigate climate-induced public expenditure displacement in Africa.

  - Disaster Risk Management; Climate Forecasting; Hydrology & Water Services; Agriculture and Food Security; Climate Change & Early Warning

- The Bank supported the Country Hydromet Diagnostics for Liberia and Sierra Leone to inform the development of a SOFF.
### SOFF Operational Partners

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<th>Technical Authority and Verification</th>
<th>Implementing entities</th>
<th>Technical advice</th>
<th>Knowledge</th>
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<td>WMO</td>
<td>Major development partners, including Multilateral Development Banks and UN organizations</td>
<td>WMO Country Support Initiative</td>
<td>Global Producing Centres</td>
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Overall SOFF Partnership Milestones

1st Potential Funders Forum (virtual)
Initial Consultation
March 2021

2nd Potential Funders Forum (virtual)
Decision on SOFF host and basic institutional arrangements
June 2021

SOFF Stakeholders Consultations (virtual)
Beneficiary countries, private sector and CSOs
July 2021

3rd Potential Funders Forum
Pledging
September 2021

January 2021
Climate Adaptation Summit
SOFF Presentation

April 2021
Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action
Call for Action

July 2021
UN High-level Political Forum
Alliance Event

November 2021
SOFF Announcement at UNFCCC COP26

More information on SOFF can be found on the WMO website.

Thank you