





Systematic Observations Financing Facility MPTF OFFICE GENERIC ANNUAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2022

Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / **Programme Title & Project Number** Strategic Results² Global Programme Title: Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) Early Warnings for All Programme Number (if applicable) MPTF Office Project Reference Number: 3 00133696 **Implementing Partners Participating Organization(s)** World Meteorological Organization National counterparts (National Meteorological and United Nations Environment Programme Hydrological Services - NMHSs) and International United Nations Development Programme Organizations Programme/Project Cost (US\$) **Programme Duration** Total approved budget as per project document: \$,088,920 Overall Duration (months) (data from MPTF Gateway) multi years MPTF /JP Contribution⁴: • \$3,000,000 **Agency Contribution** Start Date⁵ (dd.mm.yyyy) 28 October 2022 N/A Original End Date⁶ (dd.mm.yyyy) Government Contribution **December 2031** (as per the MoU) N/A Current End date⁷(dd.mm.vvvv) Other Contributions (donors) December 2031 TOTAL: \$ 3,000,000 (net funded amount) Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval. **Report Submitted By** Assessment/Review - if applicable please attach N/A Name: Markus Repnik \square Yes \square No Date: dd.mm.yyyyTitle: Director of the SOFF Secretariat 0 Mid-Term Evaluation Report – *if applicable please attach* Participating Organization (Lead): Anthony Rea,

 \square Yes \square No Date: dd.mm.yyyy

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¹ The term "programme" is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

² Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;

³ The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as "Project ID" on the project's factsheet page the MPTF Office GATEWAY

⁴ The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY

MPTF Office GATEWAY

5 The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY

⁶ As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

⁷ If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Systematic Observations Financing Facility was legally established as a United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund by WMO, UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and UN Development Programme (UNDP) at the 26th session of the Conference of Parties (COP26) of the United Nations Framework Conference on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in November 2021. This followed a breakthrough resolution at the 2021 Extraordinary World Meteorological Congress which approved the WMO Unified Data Policy, along with two other sweeping initiatives – the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON) and the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) – to dramatically strengthen the world's weather and climate services through a systematic increase in much-needed observational data and data products from across the globe.

SOFF aims to close the climate and weather observations data gap in countries with the most severe shortfalls in observations, prioritizing Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States. Improving the availability of weather and climate observations from the most data sparse areas is essential for weather forecasts, early warning systems and climate information services that save lives and livelihoods as well as protect property across the whole globe. The lack of such observations limits countries' capacity to adapt to climate change and build resilience.

Throughout 2022, the SOFF has become operational and started its business. To this end, the SOFF governance structure was established, including the Steering Committee and Advisory Board: The SOFF Steering Committee was formed and held three meetings in which decisions were taken regarding the governance structure, such as the SOFF Secretariat establishment, Operational Manual, the work plan for the First Implementation Period and its funding needs, the programming criteria, Gender Action Plan and the first batch of SOFF programming countries that will kick off with SOFF Readiness support in 2023. These fundamental decisions or policies approved by the SOFF Steering Committee also set the operational environment for SOFF implementation; The SOFF Advisory Board was formed, held two meetings in 2022 and provided recommendations to the Steering Committee on SOFF strategic direction. The Advisory Board brings together 16 relevant stakeholders across the meteorological value chain to ensure the impact of SOFF operations is carried across the value chain, including the major multilateral climate funds including the Green Climate Fund.

The initial funders of the SOFF were Austria, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Ireland, Iceland, Spain, USA and the Nordic Development Fund with pledges totalling USD 49 million. The SOFF Resource Mobilization and Outreach Strategy and Short-term Actions were adopted by the SOFF Steering Committee at its 3rd meeting. SOFF was also prominently featured at the COP27, including through a decision on Systematic Observation and Early Warnings for All initiative of the COP27 Sharm-El-Sheikh Implementation Plan.

The first batch of 26 SOFF programming countries was approved by the Steering Committee in November 2022, supported by the SOFF operational partners (27 Peer Advisors⁸ and 8 Implementing Entities⁹). A

⁸ **SOFF Peer Advisor:** NMHSs (National Meteorological and Hydrological Services) that are members of WMO are eligible to become peer advisors for the SOFF. The SOFF peer advisors provide advice and analysis to support beneficiary countries and Implementing Entities in designing and implementing activities related to the Readiness, Investment, and Compliance phases. The peer advisor is responsible for the quality and timely delivery of the advisory services assignments and corresponding substantive and financial reporting per the assignment agreement and its terms of reference.

⁹ **SOFF Implementing Entity (IE):** Major multilateral development partners that play an important role in supporting countries' hydromet development are eligible to serve as the SOFF IEs. The SOFF IE is expected to collaborate with the beneficiary country

workshop was held from 31 August to 02 September 2022 in Vienna, with the aim of preparing Peer Advisors and Implementing Entities for SOFF implementation.

I. Purpose

SOFF is a financing mechanism that aims to support and accelerate the sustained collection and international exchange of the most essential surface-based weather and climate observations in compliance with the internationally agreed GBON. (See SOFF TOR)

II. Results

i) Narrative reporting on results:

• Outcomes¹⁰:

- **Outcome 1:** The SOFF became operational from July 2022.
- **Outcome 2:** The SOFF momentum kept on growing in 2022
- **Outcome 3:** The SOFF got ready to start implementation

Outputs:

- Output 1.1 The establishment of the SOFF governance structure, including the Steering Committee and the Advisory Board
- **Output 1.2** The SOFF operational environment was set
- Output 1.3 The establishment of the SOFF Secretariat, including budget and work plan and creation of WMO Trust Fund for its support
- Output 2.1 Founding funders made pledges
- Output 2.2 The SOFF funding base was expanded
- Output 3.1 The SOFF operational partners (27 Peer advisors, 8 IEs) got ready to work with SOFF and a workshop was held for IEs and Peers.
- Output 3.2 First batch of 26 SOFF programming countries were adopted.

• Describe any delays in implementation, challenges, lessons learned & best practices:

N/A

• Qualitative assessment:

According to the <u>MoU for the establishment of the SOFF</u> signed in November 2021, the SOFF will be operational until December 2031. As per SOFF Steering Committee <u>Decision 1.7</u>, the SOFF adopted a 3-year work plan to cover its First Implementation Period (July 2022 to June 2025). From July to December 2022, the SOFF followed the work plan and fully delivered on it.

The SOFF successfully mobilized collaboration among its co-founders, namely WMO, UNDP and UNEP. To support the operationalization of SOFF Secretariat, UNEP seconded Mr. Jing ZHENG as the P3 level Portfolio Officer in the SOFF Secretariat.

and the peer advisor in the Readiness phase to ensure that the outputs of this phase address the technical needs for the design and implementation of the Investment phase. The IE is responsible for preparing and managing the implementation of the Investment phase grant within the specified terms as approved in the funding request and in collaboration with relevant national partners ¹⁰ As mentioned in the executive summary, SOFF became operational from July 2022. The progress achieved by SOFF in 2022 were mainly related to its inception, namely the establishment of government structure, operationalization of the Secretariat, adoption of key operational policies, etc. SOFF will start implementation or programming of its first to third batch projects in 2023. Therefore, the thematic outcomes will be reported from 2023.

Moreover, the SOFF also successfully built partnerships with Peer Advisors, Implementing Entitie and beneficiary countries. In 2022, 27 Peer Advisors and 8 Implementing Entities were mobilized, and the initial 126 beneficiary countries were programmed.		

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

Using the **Programme Results Framework from the Project Document / AWP** - provide an update on the achievement of indicators at both the output and outcome level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, clear explanation should be given explaining why, as well as plans on how and when this data will be collected.

	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
 Outcome 1 The SOFF became operational from July 2022. Indicator: Established the SOFF governance structure which includes Steering Committee and Advisory Board Established operational environment, namely a series of policies or decisions for the SOFF operation Established the SOFF Secretariat Baseline: 0 Planned Target: Organize 2 -3 Steering Committee meetings per year and prepare all necessary documents Organize 2 -3 Advisory Board meetings per year and prepare all necessary documents Establish a series of operational policies Establish the SOFF Secretariat with approval on its budget and work plan 	 3 Steering Committee meetings were held in 2022 2 Advisory Board meetings were held om 2022 The operational environment was created through adoption of several key operational decisions or policies by the Steering Committee, including SOFF Operational Manual, programming criteria, preliminary work programme, SOFF Results Framework – Readiness Phase Baseline and Targets for the First Implementation Period, SOFF Gender Action Plan: Targets for the First Implementation Period, first batch of the SOFF programming countries, etc. The SOFF Secretariat was established at the First SOFF Steering Committee Meeting, including budget, work plan and the creation of a WMO Trust Fund for SOFF Secretariat Operation 	N/A	The SOFF Official Website https://alliancehydromet.org/soff/

Output 1.1 The establishment of the	Targets achieved under Indicator 1.1.1	N/A	The SOFF Steering Committee
SOFF governance structure including the Steering Committee and the Advisory Board Indicator 1.1.1 number of Steering Committee meetings in 2022 Baseline: 0 Planned Target: • Organize 2 -3 Steering Committee meetings per year and prepare all necessary documents	 3 Steering Committee meeting were held in 2022 The First Steering Committee Meeting was held on 30 June 2022 The Second Steering Committee Meeting was held on 04 October 2022 The Third Steering Committee Meeting was held on 02 November 2022 		Documents Repository https://alliancehydromet.org/governance-documents-repository/
Indicator 1.1.2 number of Advisory Board meetings in 2022 Baseline: 0 Planned Target: Organize 2 -3 Advisory Group meetings per year and prepare all necessary documents	Targets achieved under Indicator 1.1.2 • 2 Advisory Board meeting were held in 2022 - The First Advisory Board Meeting was held on 07 September 2022 - The Second Advisory Board Meeting was held on 19 October 2022	N/A	The SOFF Advisory Board Documents Repository https://alliancehydromet.org/governance-documents-repository/
Output 1.2 The SOFF operational environment was set. Indicator 1.2.1 Established operational environment, namely a series of policies or decisions for operation Baseline: 0 Planned Target: A series of operational polices or decisions are adopted by SOFF Steering Committee	Targets achieved under Indicator 1.2.1 • The first to third SOFF Steering Committee meetings adopted a series of key operational decisions or policies, including SOFF Operational Manual, programming criteria, preliminary work programme, SOFF Results Framework – Readiness Phase Baseline and Targets for the First Implementation Period, SOFF Gender Action Plan: Targets for the First Implementation Period, first batch of SOFF programming countries, etc.	N/A	The SOFF Steering Committee Documents Repository https://alliancehydromet.org/governance-documents-repository/

Output 1.3 The establishment of the SOFF Secretariat Indicator 1.3.1 The establishment of the SOFF Secretariat including budget and work plan Baseline: 0 Planned Target: • The SOFF Secretariat is established	 Targets achieved under Indicator 1.3.1 The First SOFF Steering Committee officially established the SOFF Secretariat The SOFF Secretariat budget and a 3-year work plan were approved through SOFF Steering Committee meeting Decision 1.7 WMO set up a trust fund for SOFF Secretariat Operation. The first allotment with amount of USD 3 million was disbursed by MPTFO to this trust fund 	N/A	The SOFF Steering Committee meeting Decision 1.7
Outcome 2 The SOFF momentum kept on growing in 2022 Indicator: • number of founding funders • SOFF resource mobilization strategy • SOFF exposure in high-level events Baseline: 0 Planned Target: • 7 founding funders	 At the first SOFF Steering Committee meeting, the SOFF had 7 funders and close to 30 million USD in financial pledges. At COP27, 2 additional funders joined the SOFF (United States of America and Spain), and together with a substantial increase in Norway's contribution, the total pledges to the SOFF at the end of 2022 are close to 49 million USD. SOFF Resource Mobilization and Outreach Strategy and short-term actions were approved through SOFF Steering Committee Decision 2.3 and 2.4 SOFF was also prominently featured in the COP27, through a decision on Systematic Observation and Early Warnings for All initiative of COP27 Sharm-El-Sheikh Implementation Plan. 	N/A	Pledge letters from donors The SOFF Steering Committee Decision 2.3 and 2.4 Chapter VII of the COP27 Sharm-El Sheikh Implementation Plan
Output 2.1 Founding Funders made pledges Indicator 2.1.1 number of founding funders Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 7 founding funders	 Targets achieved under Indicator 2.1.1 At the first SOFF Steering Committee meeting, the SOFF had 7 funders and close to 30 million USD in financial pledges. At COP27, 2 additional funders joined the SOFF (United States of America and Spain), and together with a substantial increase in Norway's contribution, the total pledges to the SOFF at the end of 2022 are close to 49 million USD. 	N/A	Pledge letters from donors

Output 2.2 the SOFF funding base was expanded Indicator 2.2.1 SOFF resource mobilization strategy Baseline: 0	 Targets achieved under Indicator 2.2.1 SOFF Resource Mobilization and Outreach Strategy and short-term actions were approved through SOFF Steering Committee <u>Decision 2.3</u> and <u>2.4</u> 	N/A	The SOFF Steering Committee Decision 2.3 and 2.4
Planned Target: • Established SOFF resource mobilization Indicator 2.2.2 SOFF exposure in high-level events Baseline: 0 Planned Target: • SOFF exposure in high-level events	 Targets achieved under Indicator 2.2.2 SOFF was also prominently featured in the COP27, through a decision on Systematic Observation and Early Warnings for All initiative of COP27 Sharm-El-Sheikh Implementation Plan. 	N/A	Early Warnings for All Action Plan unveiled at COP27 Chapter VII of the COP27 Sharm-El Sheikh Implementation Plan
Outcome 3 The SOFF got ready to start implementation Indicator: Number of operational partners, including Peer Advisors and Implementing Entities Workshop for the operational partners Number of first batch programming countries Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 26 programming countries	 The SOFF operational partners (26 Peer Advisors and 8 Implementing Entities) were mobilized. A workshop was held from 31 August to 02 September 2022 in Vienna, in which Peer Advisors and Implementing Entities got ready to work with SOFF. 26 countries were approved by the SOFF Steering Committee through Decision 3.4, covering African, Asian, Pacific, Latin American and Caribbean countries 	N/A	The SOFF Steering Committee Decision 3.4
Output 3.1 the SOFF operational partners (26 Peer Advisors, 8 IEs) got	Targets achieved under Indicator 3.1.1 • 26 Peer Advisors and 8 Implementing Entities were mobilized	N/A	

ready to work with SOFF and a workshop was held for IEs and Peers. Indicator 3.1.1 Number of operational partners, including Peer Advisors and Implementing Entities Committee Baseline: 0 Planned Target: Unlimited Indicator 3.1.2 Workshop for the operational partners Baseline: 0 Planned Target:	A workshop was held from 31 August to 02 September 2022 in Vienna, in which Peer Advisors and Implementing Entities explored opportunities on potential countries and sub-regions.	N/A	A summary of Vienna Workshop outputs as a section of SOFF Steering Committee Decision 3.4 (Part 2 Programming Approach)
 Minimum 1 workshop Output 3.2 First batch of 26 SOFF programming countries were adopted. Indicator 3.2.1 First batch programming countries as approved by the SOFF Steering Committee Baseline: 0 Planned Target: Unlimited 	Targets achieved under Indicator 3.2.1 • 26 countries were approved by the SOFF Steering Committee through Decision 3.4, covering African, Asian, Pacificn, Latin American and Caribbean countries	N/A	The SOFF Steering Committee Decision 3.4

iii) A Specific Story (Optional)

Success Story: SOFF at COP27 and the UN Early Warnings for All initiative

SOFF was prominently featured at COP27.

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres unveiled the Executive Action Plan for the Early Warnings for All initiative at a meeting during the World Leaders Summit of the COP27 with the target to protect every person on the planet with early warnings within 5 years. SOFF is a foundational element of this initiative – warnings are only as good as the data they are built upon – and is a delivery vehicle and funding mechanism of the initiative.

The strong support of many Parties led to a decision on Systematic Observation and the Early Warnings for All initiative as part of the COP27 Sharm-El Sheikh Implementation Plan, emphasizing the need to address existing gaps in the global climate observing system, particularly in developing countries. SOFF is supporting countries in closing the Global Basic Observing Network data gaps, and in the SBSTA 57 conclusions Parties noted with appreciation the progress in supporting systematic observation through SOFF.

SOFF was also showcased in two high-visibility events of the COP27: the <u>SOFF event</u> with Ministers from funder and beneficiary countries and other senior-level speakers including the IMF Managing Director; and the <u>Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action event</u>, where the finance and meteorological communities came together to discuss how to close weather and climate data gaps and how to use climate data for more effective economic policies.

Page 10 of 11



Image. Attendees to the SOFF high-level event with Ministers of funders and prospective funders on stage. Source: Nordic Development Fund.

III. Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)

N/A

$\begin{array}{c} \textbf{IV.} & \textbf{Programmatic Revisions (if applicable)} \\ & N/A \end{array}$

V. Resources (Optional)

- **Human Resource:** Structure of SOFF Secretariat was approved through the SOFF Steering Committee <u>Decision 1.7</u> and key positions were identified.
- **Financial Management:** WMO established a SOFF Secretariat Trust Fund. According to the SOFF Steering Committee <u>Decision 1.7</u>, MPTFO disbursed USD 3 million to this trust fund for the SOFF Secretariat operation.