



SYSTEMATIC OBSERVATIONS FINANCING FACILITY

WEATHER AND CLIMATE DATA FOR RESILIENCE



ANNUAL PROGRAMME NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT 2024

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2024

SOFF SECRETARIAT, MAY 2025

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Steering Committee Approved \$36 Million Investment Phase Funding Requests.

In 2024, SOFF strengthened its portfolio and focused on implementation of SOFF investments to accelerate progress in countries.

The Steering Committee (SC) convened three times, making key decisions at its 7th, 8th, and 9th meetings. The SC approved USD 36 million in Investment funding for Bhutan, Cabo Verde, Ethiopia, Solomon Islands, and Tanzania. Chad and Uganda were approved, with five additional countries conditionally approved. Additionally it welcomed the results of the first phase of the SOFF Impact Studies

by the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) and endorsed enhanced roles for the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

A total of 66 Countries Actively Engaged with 23 Countries Successfully Completing Readiness Phase. By 2024, SOFF's portfolio of programmed countries expanded to 66 countries. While no new Readiness funding approvals were made that year, focus shifted toward execution, with [23 countries](#) having completed the Readiness phase. These countries made substantial progress

on key deliverables namely the GBON National Gap Analysis, National Contribution Plan, and Hydromet Diagnostics, supported by 20 active peer advisors and seven active Implementing Entities under WMO's technical oversight. Over 130 Readiness outputs were reviewed and verified by WMO.

13 Countries Secured Investment Phase Funding. Thirteen countries received SOFF Investment funding by 2024, up from six in 2023. Of these, nine received their first disbursements, while others await finalization of legal arrangements. Five additional Investment Phase funding requests were conditionally approved. Annual and semi-annual progress reports submitted by countries show notable progress, including project launches, institutional setup, procurement preparations, implementation measures for WMO Information System 2.0 (WIS2.0), and collaborative stakeholder engagement. Countries also advanced in areas of gender inclusion, grievance mechanisms, safeguards application, and resource mobilization through alignment with initiatives like Green Climate Fund (GCF), Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS), and Early Warnings for All (EW4All).

Strengthening the SOFF Community of Practice through Regional Workshops and knowledge exchange. In 2024, SOFF organized regional workshops in Africa, South Asia, and the Pacific, convening operational partners, regional organizations, and development and climate finance institutions to

review progress, explore regional opportunities, and coordinate support for systematic observation. These workshops reinforced institutional partnerships, promoted gender-inclusive approaches, and advanced dialogue with civil society and the private sector. Complementing these efforts, the SOFF Peer Advisor and Implementing Entity Workshop was hosted by the Netherlands at the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI) Office, with the aim to share lessons learned and knowledge between operational partners.

SOFF Formalized Key Strategic Partnerships at COP29. At COP29, SOFF strengthened partnerships to close climate data gaps. The High-Level Event gathered senior leaders to announce donor pledges, and launch the SOFF Action Report 2024. SOFF formalized key partnerships, including a Letter of Intent with the African Development Bank to address Africa's urgent data needs and an agreement with the Weather Ready Pacific Programme to support climate resilience in the Pacific. At Earth Information Day, SOFF called for a new equitable partnership with developing countries – recognizing their essential contributions to global forecasting. These efforts expand upon SOFF's COP28 collaboration framework with major climate funds to leverage support for GBON implementation.



1 SOFF GOVERNANCE

SOFF STEERING COMMITTEE AND ADVISORY BOARD

During 2024, the [6th](#), [7th](#), and [8th](#) SOFF Advisory Board meetings were held to provide recommendations and advice to the SOFF Steering Committee, particularly on technical and operational aspects.

In March, the [7th Steering Committee](#) meeting approved Investment funding requests for Bhutan, Cabo Verde, Ethiopia, Solomon Islands, and Tanzania, totalling USD 36 million. Additionally, the first SOFF Independent External Review was endorsed, highlighting SOFF's relevance, transparency, and effectiveness.

The [8th Steering Committee meeting](#) was held in person in Reykjavík, Iceland, on 18–19 June 2024, hosted by the Icelandic Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The meeting marked significant progress, with the announcement of an additional USD 14.7 million pledged by Austria, Belgium, Iceland, and the Nordic Development Fund, bringing SOFF's total resources mobilized to USD 94 million within its first two years. Key outcomes of the meeting included the approval of USD 13.2 million in Investment funding for Chad and Uganda, conditional approval for five more countries pending further resource mobilization, and the programming of Niue, Cook Islands, Guinea, and Sierra Leone for SOFF support, expanding the facility's reach to 66 countries.

In October, the [9th Steering Committee](#) convened virtually, welcoming the results of the first phase SOFF Impact Studies prepared by the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) and acknowledg-

ing the World Meteorological Organization's (WMO) enhanced role in SOFF. The committee encouraged further regional collaboration and partnerships and requested the development of a Green Climate Fund (GCF) – SOFF Fragile and Conflict-Affected States Accelerator Programme.

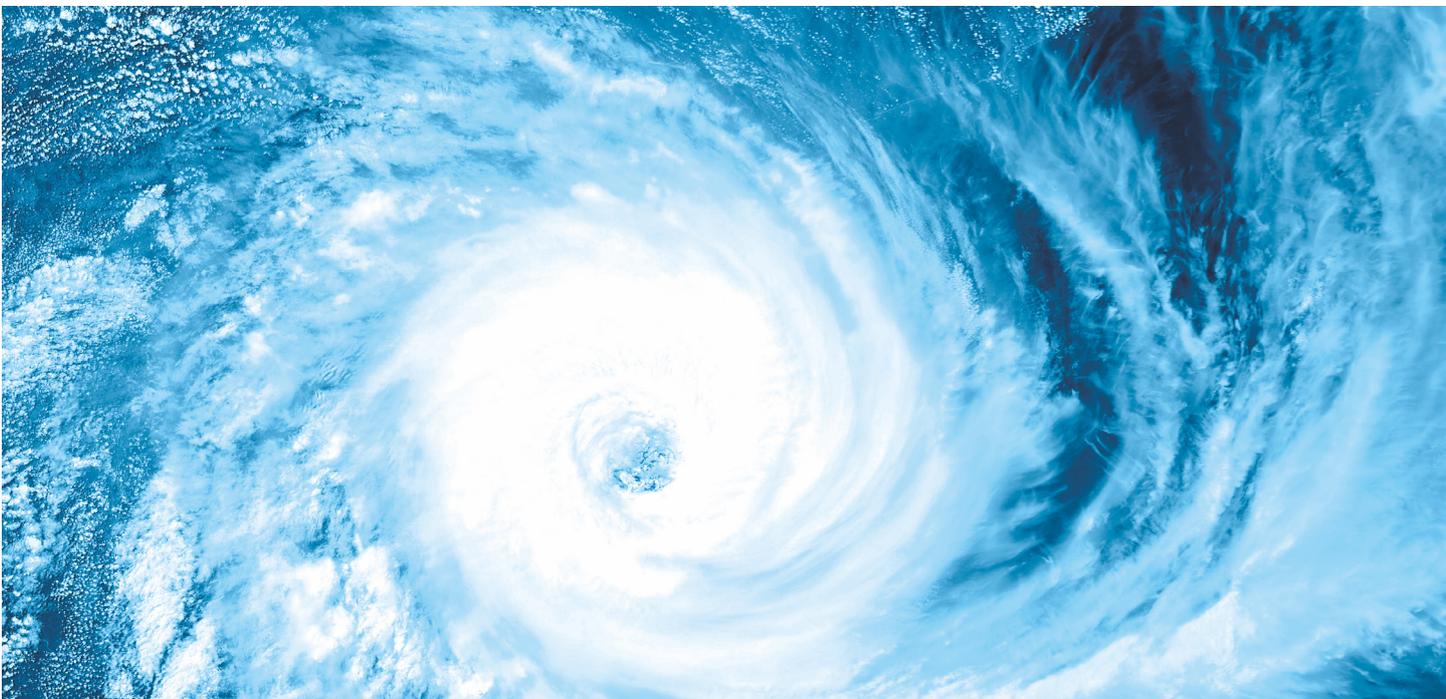
Furthermore, Dr. Sinead Walsh, Climate Director at Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs, was appointed as Co-Chair of the SOFF Steering Committee. This appointment followed the Nordic Development Fund's co-chairing with WMO for two years.

Next, the Steering Committee scheduled its 10th meeting to be held virtually in February 2025, and its 11th meeting in a hybrid format in Dublin, Ireland in May 2025.

SOFF SECRETARIAT

The SOFF Secretariat is accountable to the SOFF Steering Committee and operates under its overall guidance. It is hosted by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and follows WMO financial and staff regulations and rules with respect to all administrative policies and procedures. Below is the composition of the SOFF Secretariat. The SOFF Secretariat work plan and budget for the SOFF First Implementation Period can be viewed [here](#).

Position	Name
Director	Markus Repnik
Programme Management Officer	Ana Heureux
Partnership Officer	Mario Peiró Espí
Programme Officer	Serena Odianose (until November 2024)
Scientific Programme Officer	Zulkarnain
Associate Coordination Officer	Anjeline Odialla
Associate Advocacy and Communications Officer	Pauline Trepczyk
Associate Programme Officer	AJ Untalan
Assistant Programme Officer	Tshering Lhamo
Data Analyst (50%)	Ha Young Lee
Data Management Consultant	Zarifou Djibril
Communications and Partnership Intern	Anaëlle Deneuve
Operations Intern	Rebecca Nambooze
Global Facilitators	Laura Tuck Khadeeja Naseem Johannes Linn



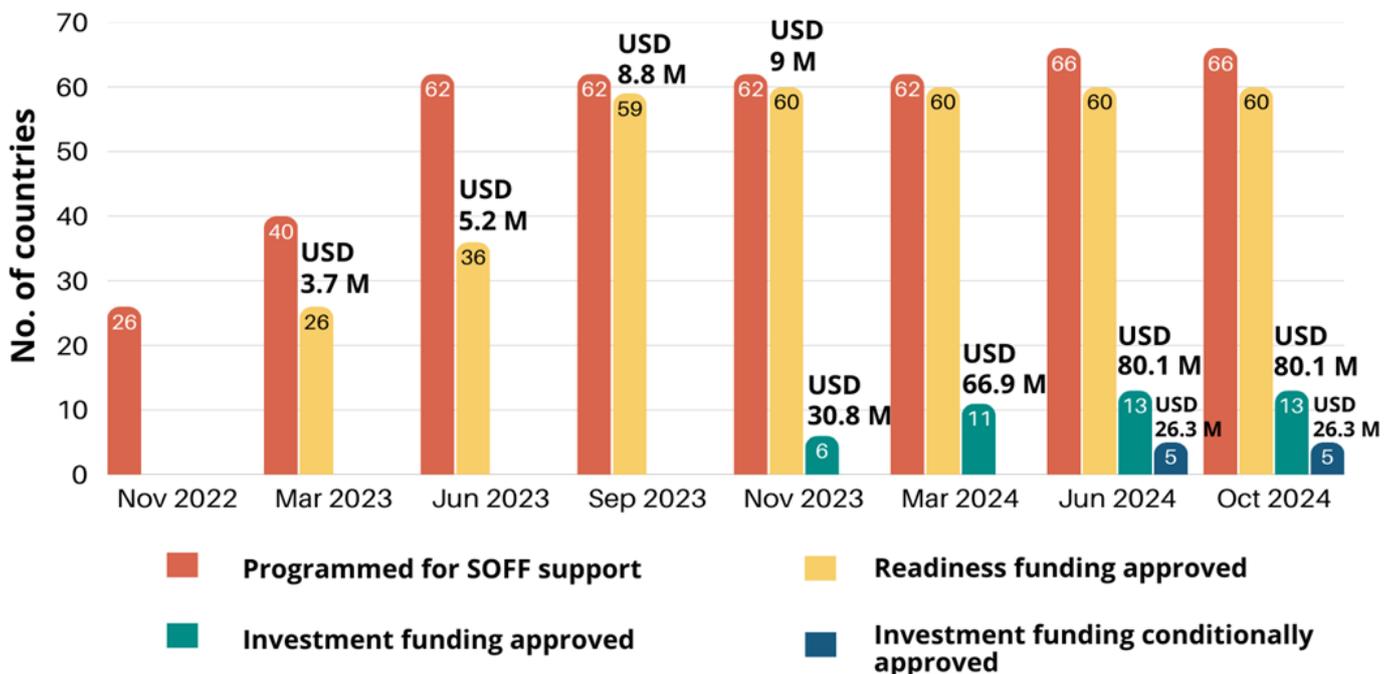
2 EVOLUTION OF SOFF PORTFOLIO

In 2022, SOFF established its governance structure and operational framework. This included the development of the [Operational Manual](#) and key programmatic documents and defined the work plan for the first implementation period.

In 2023, 60 countries had their Readiness funding requests approved by the SOFF Steering Committee through [Decisions 4.3](#), [Decision 5.3](#), [Intersessional Decision 1.1](#), and [Decision 6.2](#).

In 2024, the number of programmed countries increased to 66. While no new Readiness funding request approvals were made in 2024, the focus shifted towards supporting implementation.

The figure below shows an overview of the evolution of the SOFF portfolio since the November 2022 Steering Committee. The number of countries at each phase are represented by bars according to the legend (bottom) and the amount approved in USD displayed in text.

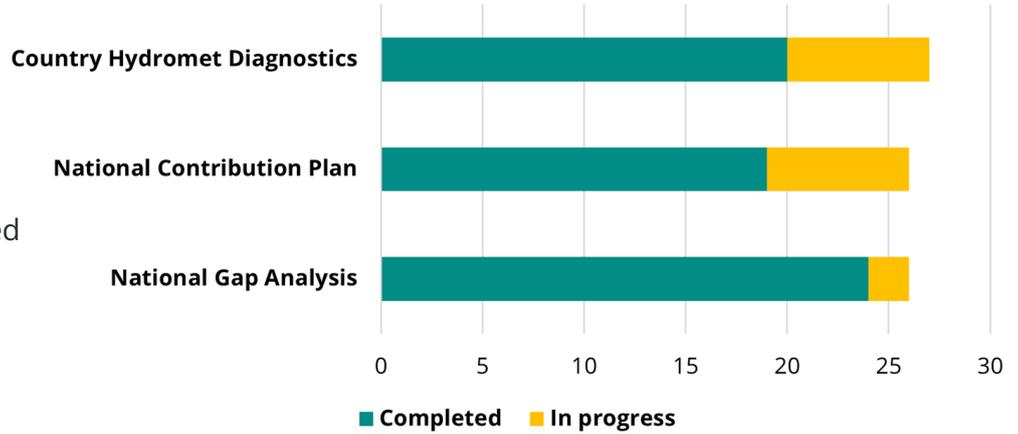


Overview of the evolution of the SOFF portfolio since the November 2022 Steering Committee

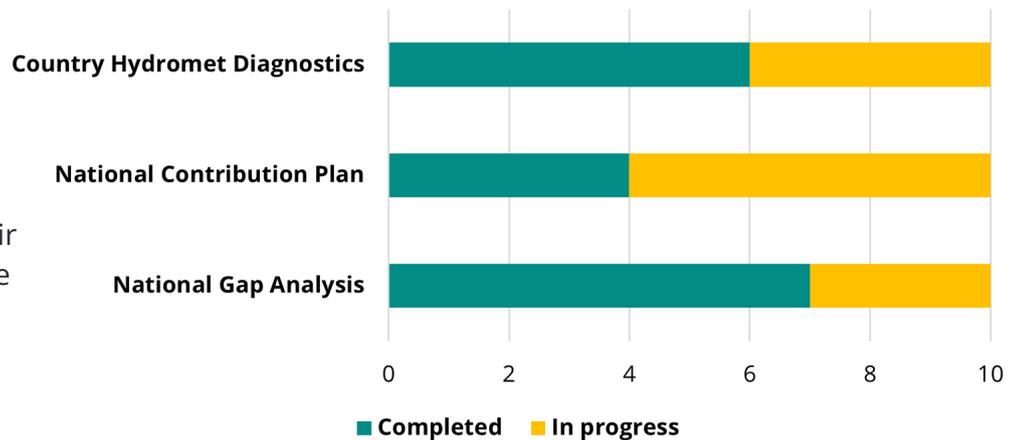
SOFF READINESS PHASE

The SOFF Readiness phase provides technical assistance for the development of the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON) National Gap Analysis, National Contribution Plan, and the Country Hydromet Diagnostics. As of 2024, Readiness funding for 60 countries were approved in three batches. Progress of these countries are shown in the figures below.

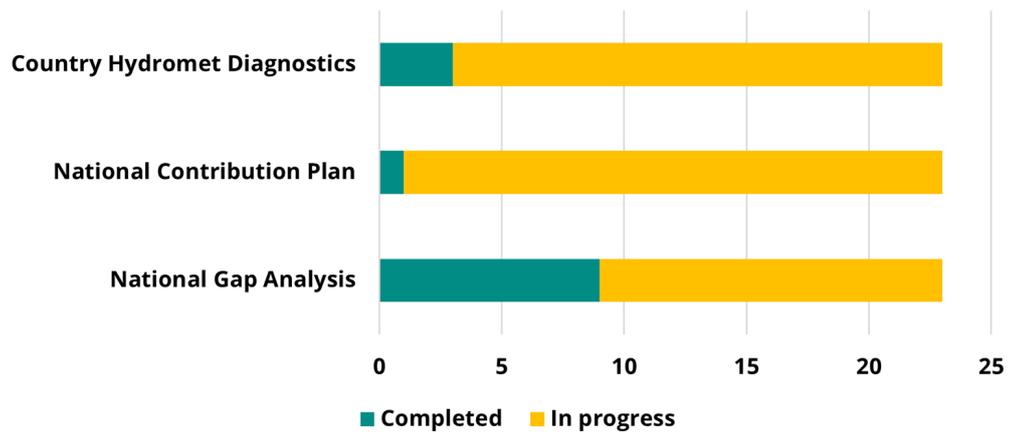
The first batch of SOFF Readiness funding requests were approved for 26 countries through [Decision 4.3](#). Out of these 26 countries, 18 completed their Readiness phase.



The second batch: 10 countries had their Readiness funding requests approved in June 2023 through [Decision 5.3](#). Out of these, 4 completed their Readiness phase while the others are on-going.



In the third batch, 23 countries had their Readiness funding requests approved through [Inter-sessional Decision 1.1](#) in September 2023.



Additional Readiness funding requests: Haiti was programmed together with the third batch of countries, however the funding request was only approved in November 2023 through [Decision 6.2](#) due to delays in the submission of the funding request. Additionally, works only began in June 2024 due to the situation in the country that does not allow for the implementation to start immediately.

Significant progress was achieved in the implementation of the Readiness phase.

All 60 countries with Readiness funding approved made significant progress in completing their Readiness phase deliverables. These deliverables as outlined in the SOFF Operational Manual include GBON National Gap Analysis, GBON National Contribution Plan, and the Country Hydromet Diagnostic. Implementation was supported by 20 active peer advisors (advanced National Meteorological and Hydrological Services), seven active Implementing entities (UN organizations and Multi-lateral Development Banks) with technical oversight from the WMO technical authority. By 2024, the WMO had reviewed and screened more than 130 Readiness outputs.

The following figures provide an overview of the breakdown of SOFF Readiness phase implementation. The figure below highlights the regional breakdown of the 60 countries with Readiness funding approved. More comprehensive information is available on the [SOFF dashboard](#).

GBON GAP ANALYSIS

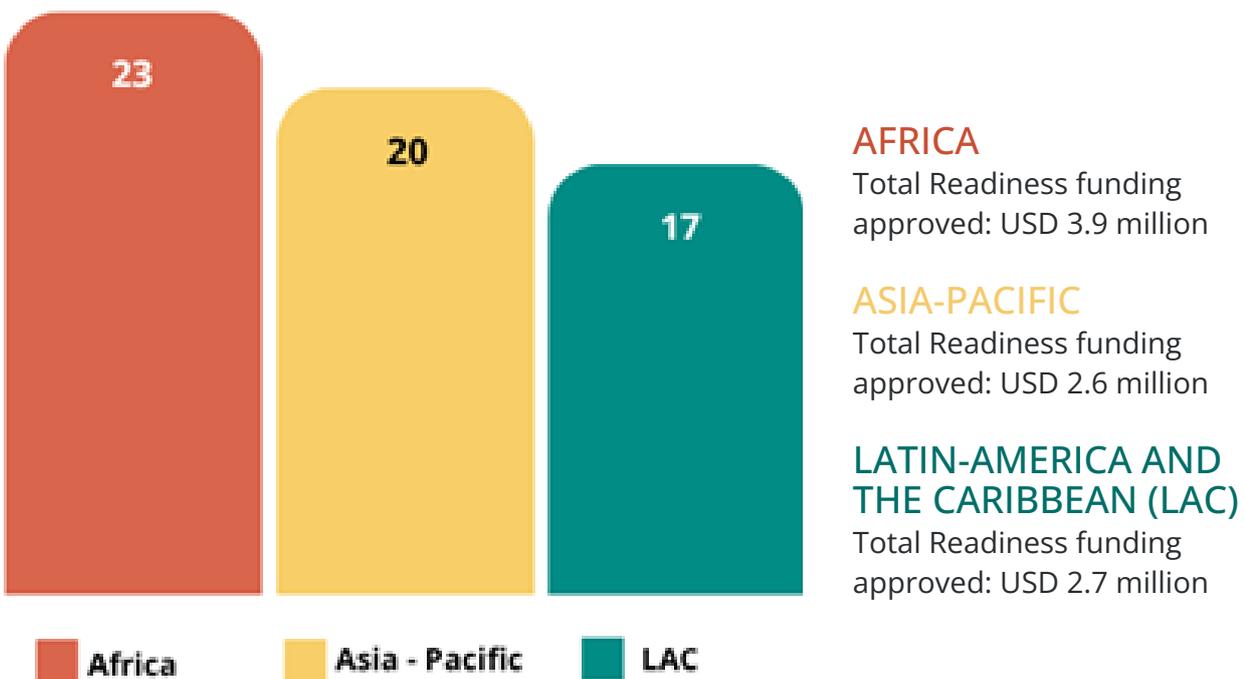
defines the gap between the mandatory requirements of the GBON regulations and the existing country surface and upper-air networks. In other words, it serves as the basis for identifying the number of observing stations that need to be installed or rehabilitated to comply with the mandatory requirements of the GBON regulations.

GBON NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION PLAN

identifies the infrastructure, human and institutional capacity needed to achieve a progressive target toward GBON compliance, including the sustained operation and maintenance of the national observing network.

COUNTRY HYDROMET DIAGNOSTICS

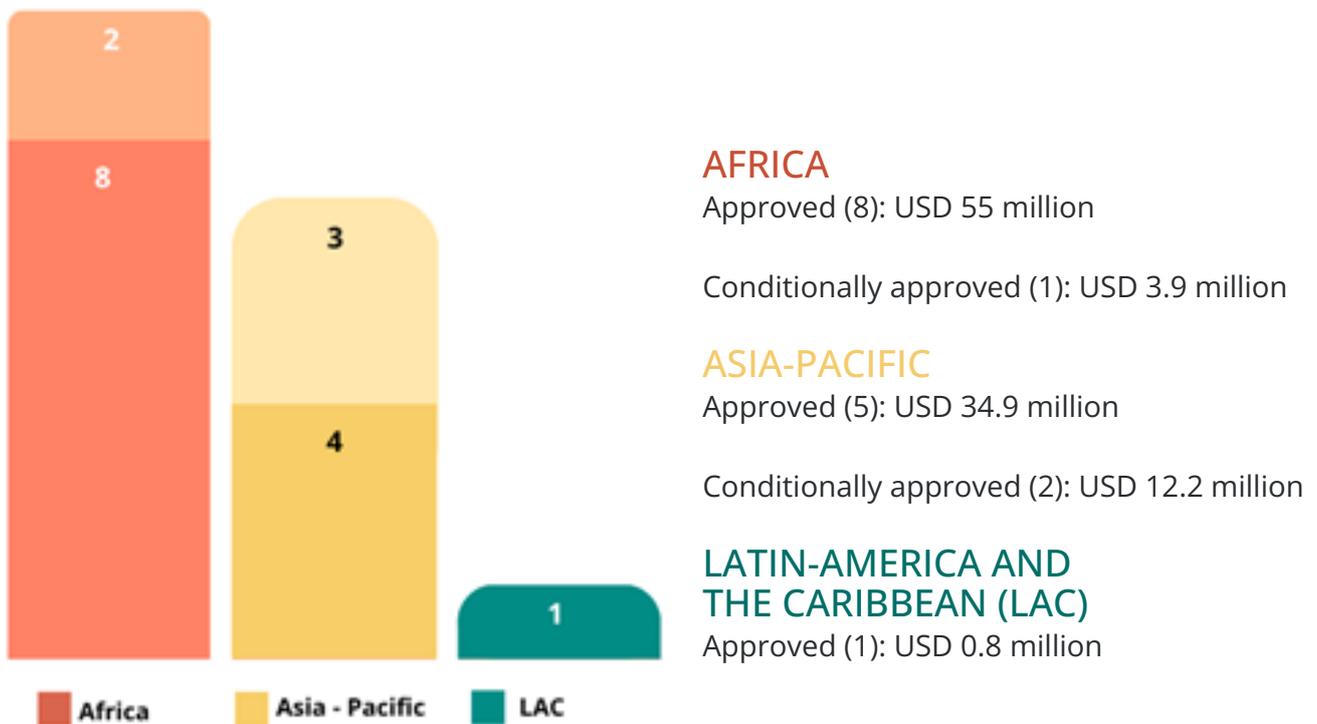
is offered on a demand basis (not mandatory) to beneficiary countries and Implementing Entities.



Regional distribution of the 60 countries receiving Readiness support

SOFF INVESTMENT PHASE

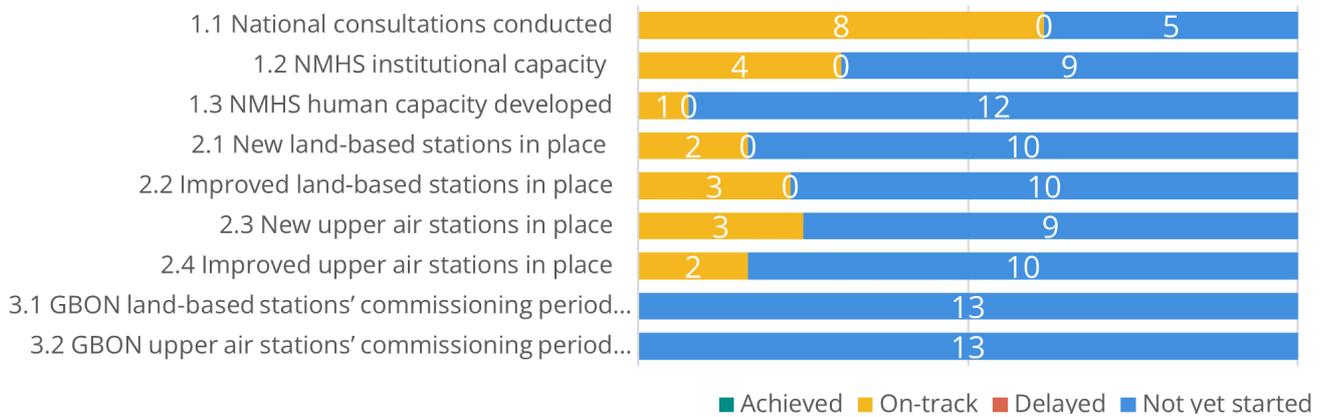
The number of countries with approved Investment Phase funding increased from 6 in 2023 to 13 in 2024, through [Decisions 6.3](#) (2023), [Decision 7.3](#) (2024), and [Decision 8.4.1](#) (2024). Additionally, five countries received conditional Investment funding approval in 2024 under the same Decision 8.4.1. Among the 13 countries with approved Investment funding, disbursements for the first tranche were made to 9 countries. The remaining four are awaiting the finalization of legal agreements and fulfilment of administrative requirements with the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (UNMPTF). Disbursements for the five countries with conditional Investment funding will proceed in accordance with the procedures outlined in Decision 8.4.1. The regional distribution of the Investment phase funding requests is summarized in the figure below.



Regional distribution of countries receiving Investment support. Countries with conditionally approved Investment funding requests are represented in the lighter shade

Ten countries, Bhutan, Cabo Verde, Chad, Ethiopia, Kiribati, Maldives, Mozambique, Rwanda, Solomon Islands, and Tanzania submitted annual reports that covered activities from the start of implementation until March 2025, detailing progress under the SOFF Investment Phase. The country reports highlight good progress by SOFF-supported countries with strategies tailored to local contexts. Key updates from these countries include project launching, setting up of Project Management Units, institutional strengthening, building collaborative partnerships, and preparing tenders for procurement of

relevant infrastructure and data sharing software, including for the implementation of WMO Information System 2.0 (WIS 2.0). Most of the countries are currently in the procurement phase, reflecting progress in setting up their GBON networks. The figure below summarizes the progress made in implementing key activities across all Investment Phase countries and the following sections present updates on engagements with the civil society and the private sector; social and environmental safeguards; grievance redress mechanisms; leveraging opportunities; and gender inclusion.



Summary of status of implementation in countries under SOFF Investment phase

Engaging Civil Society and the Private Sector

Several countries have actively engaged civil society and the private sector in various stages of their projects. In Bhutan, civil society, academic institutions, and private sector suppliers are integrated into procurement planning and knowledge exchange. Cabo Verde involves municipal associations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and private companies like CVTelecom and NOSI in project planning. In Chad, civil society organizations and private sector stakeholders participate during the launch and planning phases. Kiribati is planning future collaboration with civil society and private sector

partners. Ethiopia utilizes state-operated infrastructure, with minimal private sector involvement, focusing on procurement and awareness campaigns. The Maldives primarily focuses on private sector involvement in procurement planning, with broader participation expected in later phases. In Rwanda, the private sector is involved in aviation, and civil society is consulted for input. Solomon Islands builds upon previous partnerships with civil society and the private sector to enhance project implementation. Tanzania involves private sector contractors in the construction activities of its weather stations.



Social and Environmental Safeguards

Countries have implemented a variety of social and environmental safeguards to ensure the sustainability of their projects. Bhutan and Cabo Verde both adhere to United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework (ESSF), with Bhutan including community consultations as part of its approach. Chad follows the World Food Programme's safeguards to minimize environmental impact and ensure community engagement. In Kiribati, UNEP's ESSF is applied during the planning phase, with site-specific safeguards being reviewed during technical assessments.

Ethiopia adopts United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Social and Environmental Standards (SES), incorporating risk screening, mitigation measures, and sustainable practices such as using renewable energy and reducing emissions. The Maldives aligns with UNEP's ESSF as well as local regulations for procurement and installation, focusing on environmental best practices. Rwanda ensures compliance with environmental standards, including the use of biodegradable materials. Solomon Islands applies UNDP's SES and has mechanisms in place to ensure compliance, while Tanzania conducts Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) to avoid project impacts in environmentally sensitive areas.

Grievance Redress Mechanisms

Bhutan, Cabo Verde, Kiribati, and the Maldives follow the UNEP Sustainability Framework. Stakeholders in these countries can file complaints through the Stakeholder Response Mechanism (SRM), managed by the Independent Office for Stakeholder Safeguards and Response (IOSSR), using online forms, email, or mail. In Bhutan, the National Center for Hydrology and Meteorology (NCHM) has also established a dedicated grievance mechanism accessible through its official website. Chad uses the World Food

Programme's (WFP) standard complaint mechanisms. Ethiopia has established a grievance redress mechanism focused on social and environmental complaints. In Ethiopia, an email address is listed on the UNDP country office website to receive complaints.

No formal grievances have been reported in any of the countries to date, but Implementing Entities will continue to report on grievances and incidents through the semi-annual and annual reports.



Leveraging Opportunities

Countries are employing various mechanisms to leverage additional resources in support of their climate resilience and early warning efforts. The following are selected examples:

Bhutan benefits from co-financing through the GCF and the World Bank's Climate Resilience Program. Cabo Verde utilizes the University of Twente's Geonetcast system to strengthen its early warning capabilities. In Chad, the WFP and GeoSphere Austria have clearly mapped out ongoing investments in the area and designed SOFF funding requests based on existing investments, building on initiatives such as the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) and Early Warnings for All.

Ethiopia has secured USD 13 million through UNDP and GCF to enhance early warning systems and ensure SOFF investments benefit the entire Early Warning value chain. The Maldives aligns its SOFF activities with UNEP's GCF-funded project and is developing a GCF project focused on marine meteorological stations, complementing SOFF efforts. Rwanda benefits from several initiatives, including the Volcanoes Community Resilience Project, Strengthening Early Warning and Early Action (SEWAA), and CREWS East Africa. The Solomon Islands participates in the Early Warnings For All initiative and the Weather-Ready Pacific programme, which SOFF has signed a collaboration agreement to ensure leveraging of investments.

Mozambique has received funding from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), and WMO. These funds support the implementation of the Programme for Risk Information and Early Warning Systems (PRISM), the development of anticipatory action triggers, and the enhancement

of the Flash Flood Guidance System. Tanzania receives co-funding from the Government of Tanzania, with SOFF supporting the country's EW4All activities.

Gender inclusion

Countries are advancing gender inclusion through various targeted activities. Mozambique has scheduled a gender awareness workshop for INAM staff in Year 2 to explore how women perceive climate information and to integrate gender considerations into SOFF operations. During stakeholder engagement, civil society organizations focused on women's empowerment – Associação de Mulheres, Género e Desenvolvimento (MuGeDe), Fórum Mulheres, and LeMuSiCa (Levante-se Mulher e Siga o Seu Caminho) – were invited to the national consultation. An academy-oriented awareness event is also planned to increase interest among young women in meteorology as a career path.

Rwanda reported 60% female participation in consultations. Cabo Verde achieved 50% female participation in workshops. Bhutan reported 46% female representation in the Project Steering Committee. Chad recorded 28% female participation during the project launch, exceeding its target.

Kiribati applied gender-sensitive approaches in training. Ethiopia included gender-responsive climate governance in its activities. The Maldives is aiming for 30% female participation in training sessions. Solomon Islands is developing a Gender Action Plan. Tanzania is planning future workshops to support the inclusion of women in meteorological services.





3 SOFF REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

A series of regional workshops were organized in 2024 in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific to enhance coordination, knowledge exchange, and implementation of its support to countries. These workshops served as critical platforms for bringing together national stakeholders, operational partners, development agencies, and regional institutions to address gaps in weather and climate data, align efforts with the Early Warnings for All initiative, and foster peer learning. The events focused on identifying concrete opportunities for regional implementation of SOFF investments including through sharing best practices, strengthening institutional partnerships

and identifying opportunities for leveraging and coordinating investments in the region. They have also facilitated alignment with investments from other regional initiatives – a priority strongly emphasized by participating countries. These workshops remain an important platform for stakeholder consultations on key topics such as the design of the SOFF Compliance phase, gender considerations, and the engagement of civil society organizations and the private sector.

[Intersessional Decision 2.1](#) and [Decision 9.4](#) welcomed and encouraged SOFF increased regional collaboration and partnerships.



PACIFIC

From 10 – 12 April 2024, SOFF, in partnership with the Fiji Meteorological Service, hosted a Pacific Regional Workshop in Nadi, Fiji, to support Pacific Island countries in closing climate and weather data gaps. The Pacific regional workshop was a key platform for aligning efforts to deliver the Early Warnings for All initiative across Pacific Island Countries. The workshop reinforced the importance of a Pacific-led, systematic approach to strengthening multi-hazard early warning systems, leveraging SOFF and complementary initiatives like CREWS. Regional stakeholders, including governments, development partners, and technical agencies, discussed the implementation of the Weather Ready Pacific programme (WRPP) and strategies to secure sustainable funding and operational capacity for national and regional observation networks, ensuring resilience and improved early warning coverage for the most vulnerable.

MORE INFORMATION

- ▶ [Pacific Regional workshop outcome document](#)
- ▶ [News story](#) about the workshop
- ▶ [Agreement on collaboration](#) and complementarity between WRPP and SOFF signed at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan
- ▶ [News story](#) about the WRPP and SOFF agreement





AFRICA

From 11 – 13 September 2024, SOFF, in collaboration with the African Development Bank Climate Action Window, hosted a regional workshop in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, to address Africa's significant weather and climate data gaps. The workshop brought together over 100 representatives from countries and development partners to discuss enhancing regional approaches to SOFF support and leveraging complementary funding from the African Development Bank's Climate Action Window, in support of the UN Early Warnings for All initiative. Participants emphasized the importance of peer-to-peer technical assistance, gender inclusivity, and public-private partnerships to foster innovation and efficiency in meteorological services.



MORE INFORMATION

- ▶ [Africa Regional workshop outcome](#)
- ▶ [News about the workshop](#)
- ▶ [Letter of Intent between AfDB and WMO](#) on behalf of SOFF signed at COP29, in Baku, Azerbaijan
- ▶ [News about the partnership](#)

SOUTH ASIA

From 24 – 26 September 2024, SOFF and Bhutan’s National Centre for Hydrology and Meteorology co-hosted a regional workshop in Thimphu, Bhutan, focusing on closing significant weather and climate data gaps in South Asia. The workshop gathered participants from South Asian countries, SOFF operational partners, the World Meteorological Organization, and various development partners to discuss strategies for enhancing weather and climate data collection and translating this data into effective climate action. Key discussions included the importance of effective partnerships, strengthening gender inclusivity in National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, and engaging the private sector in SOFF implementation. The workshop also underscored the role of the South Asia Hydromet Forum and the potential for complementary funding from CREWS to further strengthen regional collaboration and accelerate progress toward resilient, climate-adaptive communities.



MORE INFORMATION

- ▶ [South Asia Regional workshop outcome document](#)
- ▶ [News story](#) the workshop



4 BUILDING THE SOFF COMMUNITY AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Since its inception, SOFF has prioritized the creation of a structured community of practice to support sustained and technically sound implementation of the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON). In 2024, this effort translated into a series of targeted initiatives designed to enhance collaboration, knowledge exchange, and technical alignment among key stakeholders – SOFF countries, peer advisors, Implementing Entities, and the WMO as technical authority.

Key activities included the **SOFF Peer Advisors and Implementing Entities Workshop** held in De Bilt, Netherlands (9 – 10 October 2024), with a follow-up workshop planned for Morocco in 2025. The outcomes of the peers and Implementing Entities Workshop are elaborated [here](#). Collaboration with WMO's technical departments and its governing bodies has ensured that SOFF investments align with WMO standards and regulations.

Specific engagements have taken place with teams including the Commission of Observation, Infrastructure and Information System (INFCOM), Regional Associations, Regional WIGOS Centres (RWCs), Global Information System Centres (GISCs) and the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) team. These engagements have helped clarify investments in SOFF countries on various topics such as WIGOS metadata, calibration, and data exchange.

To facilitate ongoing peer-to-peer learning, supported by the WMO Education and Training Office, SOFF launched a dedicated Moodle platform for peer advisors and Implementing Entities. This digital space supports structured engagement on readiness outputs, technical challenges, and investment preparation, reinforcing SOFF's goal of embedding systemic and sustainable change in national observing systems.

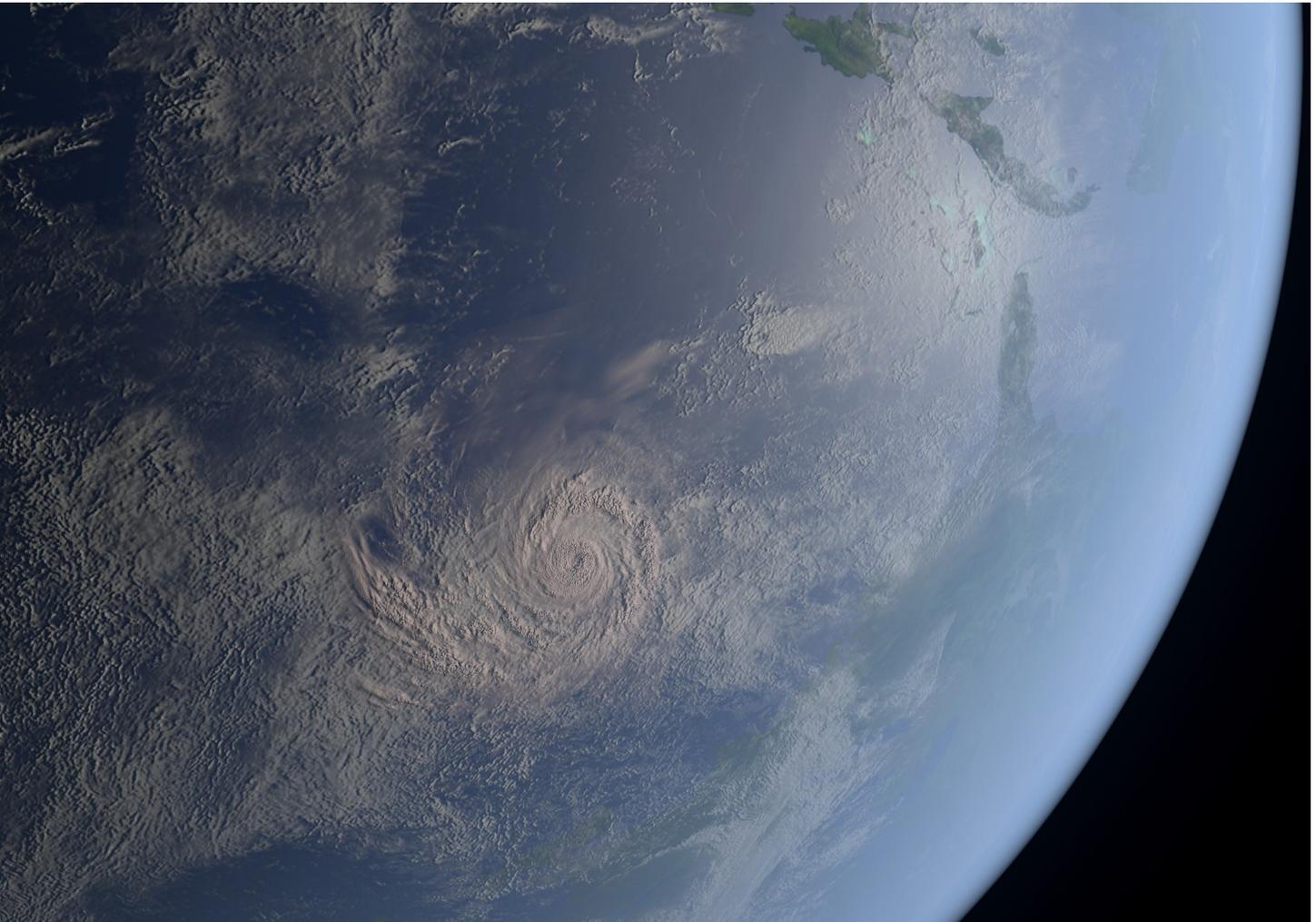


5 SOFF IMPACT REPORT

The SOFF Steering Committee, through [Decision 6.8](#), approved funding for the production of SOFF Impact Reports as part of the SOFF Work Programme 2022 - 2025. Impact is defined as the impact of improved observations on forecast skill. The reports are being conducted in two phases. The first phase will prepare a summary of the findings of existing scientific studies, i.e. answers the question “what do we know and what do we not know”. It also proposes scenarios for SOFF-tailored further research and experiments in phase two in order to further develop understanding of the impact specifically for SOFF investments. WMO has engaged the ECMWF, one of the World Meteorological Centres and a member of the SOFF Advisory Board, to undertake the studies.

The phase one report was prepared and submitted to the 9th Steering committee. The report finds substantial evidence that investments in additional surface-based observations yield significant benefits for weather prediction and climate services, which are essential for disaster preparedness and climate adaptation, especially in vulnerable regions. However, it also notes that further scientific studies are needed to better quantify these impacts and guide SOFF’s investment priorities. The phase two report, completing the SOFF tailored impact experiments, will be presented at the 11th SOFF Steering Committee meeting.

► [SOFF Impact Report](#)



6 SOFF AT COP29

The Paris Agreement calls on strengthening systematic observation. The legally binding international treaty on climate change was adopted by 196 Parties at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP21) in 2015. Action under the agreement should be carried out in accordance with the best available science. To enhance understanding, action and support, the Agreement identifies the need to enhance and strengthen systematic observation.

SOFF was featured in SBSTA61 conclusions (FCCC/SBSTA/2024/10). The conclusions of the 61st session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) highlight the essential role of Earth observation systems in supporting climate adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage efforts. SBSTA noted with appreciation the support being provided for addressing gaps in systematic observation in developing countries and SOFF's continued efforts, inviting SOFF to consider extending its support to more countries. It encouraged Parties and relevant organizations to further strengthen their provision of support to the systematic observation community.

At COP29 Earth Information Day, SOFF called for a new systematic observation partnership with developing countries. A new partnership for systematic observation is critical, one that SOFF is contributing to. Firstly, investments in systematic observation are needed where it matters the most, in developing countries and regions with the largest data gaps. Secondly, basic weather

and climate data need to be valued as a global public good. Thirdly, this requires a new partnership with developing countries, one not built on “aid” but on equal footing.

The SOFF high-level event on “Sustained Climate Finance for Systematic Observation” at COP29 welcomed senior leadership from SOFF partners as well as from SOFF countries and funders. The event created a space to highlight the importance of basic weather and climate data, announce donor pledges and present the SOFF Action Report 2024.

Formalizing partnerships, SOFF and the African Development Bank (AfDB) signed a Letter of Intent to address Africa’s urgent climate observation needs. The partnership leverages SOFF’s grant-based finance and technical assistance together with AfDB’s Climate Action Window (CAW), aiming to provide timely financing for accurate early warnings in the continent’s most vulnerable countries. Additionally, WMO signed an agreement on behalf of SOFF with the Weather Ready Pacific Programme, underscoring the complementarity of efforts to strengthen climate resilience in the Pacific region.

These partnerships expand upon the collaboration framework signed at COP28, where SOFF and the secretariats of key climate funds – including the Adaptation Fund, Climate Investment Funds, CREWS, Global Environment Facility, and GCF – committed to enhancing systematic climate observation and the use of weather and climate data.

► [SOFF Action Report 2024](#)

7 SOFF RESULTS OVERVIEW

INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The table below presents an overview of results achieved against the SOFF Results Framework ([See SOFF Terms of Reference](#)), highlighting progress toward planned targets.

As of 2024, SOFF has supported 60 countries in the Readiness phase, with 23 countries completing the phase and significant progress on outputs such as 40 National Gap Analysis reports, 24 National Contribution

Plans, and 29 Country Hydromet Diagnostics developed and verified. In the Investment phase, 13 countries have been approved for funding against a target of 50, with implementation ongoing. Capacity-building efforts continue, with training, institutional activities, and consultations underway, while infrastructure development is progressing, with many countries entering the procurement phase for surface and upper-air station installations.

Outcome 1

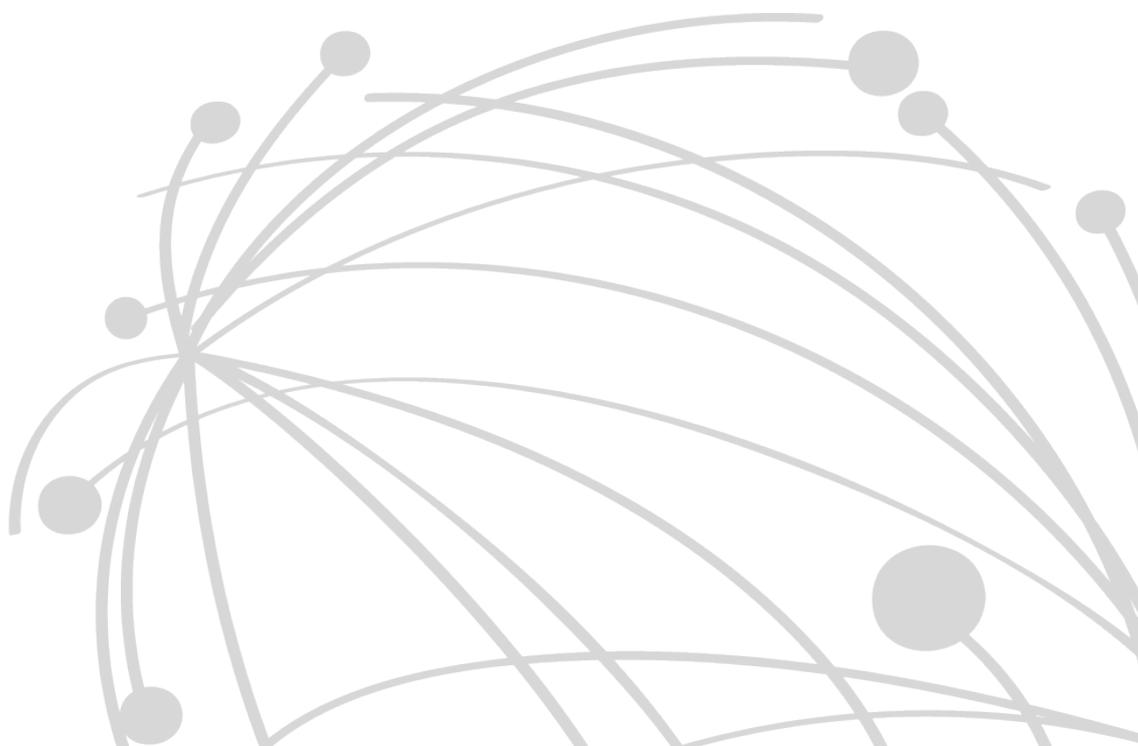
SOFF Readiness phase implementation

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Achieved target	Source of verification
# of beneficiary countries approved for SOFF Readiness phase	0	75 countries by June 2025	60 countries approved	Readiness funding requests available on the SOFF website
Progress toward three Readiness phase outputs			23 countries completed	
Output 1.1 # of GBON National Gap Analyses produced and verified	0	75	40	National Gap Analysis verified by WMO Technical Authority available on the SOFF website
Output 1.2 # of GBON National Contribution Plans developed	0	75	24	National Contribution Plans verified by WMO Technical Authority available on the SOFF website
Output 1.3 # of Country Hydromet Diagnostics developed	0		29	Country Hydromet Diagnostics verified by WMO Technical Authority available on the SOFF website

Outcome 2

SOFF Investment phase implementation and sustained compliance with GBON

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Achieved target	Source of verification
# of beneficiary countries approved for SOFF Investment phase	0	50 countries by June 2025	13 countries approved	Investment funding requests available on the SOFF website
Output 2.1				
# of NMHS staff trained		120 staff trained		
# institutional capacity building activities	0	20 institutional capacity building activities	implementation ongoing	Annual reports submitted by Implementing Entities available on the SOFF website
# of national consultations		60 national consultations		
Output 2.2				
# of surface stations rehabilitated and/or installed with SOFF support	As defined in the GBON National Contribution Plan	40 surface stations	implementation ongoing	Annual reports submitted by Implementing Entities available on the SOFF website
# of upper air stations rehabilitated and/or installed with SOFF support		1 upper air station		



ANNEX 1: SOFF COUNTRY LIST: PROGRAMMED, READINESS, INVESTMENT

▲ Programmed ○ Phase ongoing ● Phase completed

Country	Peer Advisor	Implementing Entity	Readiness	Investment
Antigua and Barbuda	United Kingdom	UNDP	○	
Bahamas	Finland	IADB	○	
Bangladesh	Norway	IsDB	●	
Barbados	Finland	IADB	○	
Belize	United Kingdom	IADB	●	○
Bhutan	Finland	UNEP	●	○
Burkina Faso	Spain – Nigeria	AfDB	○	
Cabo Verde	Netherlands	UNEP	●	○
Cambodia	United Kingdom	World Bank	○	
Chad	Austria	WFP	●	○
Comoros	Morocco	AfDB	○	
Cook Islands	New Zealand	UNEP	▲	
Cuba	Spain	UNDP	○	
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Switzerland	WFP	○	
Djibouti	Austria	UNDP	○	
Dominica	Austria	WFP	○	
Dominican Republic	Spain	WFP	○	
Ecuador	Switzerland – Argentina	IADB	○	
Ethiopia	Norway – Finland	UNDP	●	○
Federated States of Micronesia	United Kingdom	UNEP	○	
Fiji	Australia	World Bank	●	
Grenada	Spain	-	○	
Guatemala	-	-	▲	
Guinea	Germany	UNDP	▲	
Guinea-Bissau	Portugal	UNEP	○	
Guyana	Austria	IADB	○	
Haiti	Switzerland	IADB	○	
Jamaica	Finland	IADB	○	
Kiribati	Australia	UNEP	●	○
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Austria – China	World Bank	○	
Liberia	Nigeria	AfDB	●	
Madagascar	Germany	AfDB	●	

▲ Programmed ○ Phase ongoing ● Phase completed

Country	Peer Advisor	Implementing Entity	Readiness	Investment
Malawi	Norway – Iceland	UNDP	●	
Maldives	Finland – Indonesia	UNEP	●	○
Marshall Islands	United Kingdom	UNEP	○	
Mauritius	South Africa – India	AfDB	○	
Mozambique	South Africa	WFP	●	○
Nauru	Australia	UNEP	●	
Nepal	Finland	UNEP	○	
Niger	Nigeria	AfDB	○	
Niue	New Zealand	UNEP	▲	
Palau	United Kingdom	UNEP	○	
Papua New Guinea	Australia	UNDP	●	
Rwanda	Finland	UNDP	●	○
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Finland	IADB	○	
Saint Lucia	Austria	WFP	○	
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	Austria	WFP	○	
Samoa	Australia	World Bank	●	
Sao Tome and Principe	Netherlands	UNDP	○	
Senegal	Netherlands	IsDB	○	
Seychelles	South Africa	AfDB	○	
Sierra Leone	Austria - Germany	WFP	○	
Solomon Islands	Australia	UNDP	●	○
Somalia	Nigeria	UNDP	○	
South Sudan	Austria	AfDB	●	○
Sudan	-	-	▲	
Suriname	Netherlands	UNDP	○	
Tajikistan	Finland	World Bank	○	
Timor-Leste	Finland– Indonesia	UNEP	●	
Tonga	New Zealand	World Bank	○	
Trinidad and Tobago	Finland	IADB	○	
Tuvalu	New Zealand	UNEP	○	
Uganda	Netherlands	IsDB	●	○
United Republic of Tanzania	Denmark	UNDP	●	○
Vanuatu	New Zealand	World Bank	○	
Zambia	United Kingdom	WFP	●	

ANNEX 2: SOFF INVESTMENT PHASE: PORTFOLIO SUMMARY

Country	Date of approval	Amount approved (in USD)	Amount transferred (in USD)	Status
Belize	Nov. 2023	864,543		Not yet started
Bhutan	March 2024	4,624,024	3,514,453	Under implementation
Cabo Verde	March 2024	3,879,118	2,883,272	Under implementation
Chad	June 2024	6,980,083		Not yet started
Ethiopia	March 2024	9,956,803	6,701,576	Under implementation
Kiribati	Nov. 2023	11,155,102	9,715,184	Under implementation
Maldives	Nov. 2023	4,907,326	4,149,791	Under implementation
Mozambique	Nov. 2023	7,892,560	5,373,477	Under implementation
Rwanda	Nov. 2023	3,535,377	2,473,185	Under implementation
Solomon Islands	March 2024	8,488,524	5,732,049	Under implementation
South Sudan	Nov. 2023	2,480,496		Not yet started
United Republic of Tanzania	March 2024	9,067,504	5,272,437	Under implementation
Uganda	June 2024	6,316,536		Not yet started
	Total	80,147,997	45,815,424 (57%)	



Systematic Observations Financing Facility

Weather
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data for
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