



Systematic Observations Financing Facility - SOFF

A new way of financing basic observations

Challenge

- Extreme weather and climate
- Weather forecasts and climate prediction crucial for better decisions
- Real-time weather observations essential from the entire globe
- Basic surface-based observational data missing - It is not only bad, it is getting worse
- Current financing model not sustainable

- 50%

Decrease of radiosonde observations in Africa from 2015 to 2020



Opportunity

- World Meteorological Congress 2019 landmark agreement
- 193 countries and territories established the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON)
- International obligation to acquire and exchange essential surface-based observational data
- Clear requirements for investments in surface-based observations

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Socio-economic return of investments in GBON

Solution

- Closing the GBON gap requires substantial investments and capacity
- Many countries need support
- SOFF provides financial and technical assistance in new ways

10X

More data shared from upper air stations

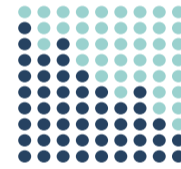
20X

More data shared from surface stations

Readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country Hydromet Diagnostics to assess country hydromet status Define national GBON gap Develop plan to close the GBON gap
Investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close the GBON gap Make GBON capital investments Strengthen GBON human and institutional capacity
Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support sustained GBON compliance Contribute to operation and maintenance costs via results-based finance Enable access to improved weather and climate products On-demand technical assistance and knowledge support

SOFF Targets

68



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

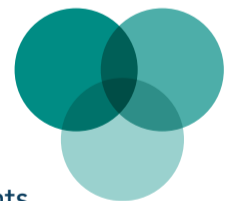
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Year initial implementation period

\$ 400

Million mobilized

SOFF operational partners



- WMO - Technical Authority and Verification
- Implementing entities – Managing investments
- WMO Country Support Initiative – Technical advice
- Global Producing Centres – Knowledge

3 novel features

- Investments guided by internationally agreed metrics - GBON
- Data exchange instead of capital investments used as measure of success
- Local benefits created while providing a global public good

The creation of the SOFF is 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 Alliance unites efforts of major development and climate finance partners to close the capacity gap on high-quality weather forecasts, early warning systems and climate information.