

WMO Data Conference Preparatory Workshop

Filling the gaps in global data coverage

14 October 2020

Systematic Observations Financing Facility

Markus Repnik, Director Development Partnerships



SOFF
Systematic Observations
Financing Facility

Weather and climate information for the global public good

What is SOFF

The SOFF will **support** countries to generate and exchange basic observational data critical for 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). The SOFF will contribute to strengthen climate adaptation and resilience across the globe, benefitting in particular the most vulnerable.

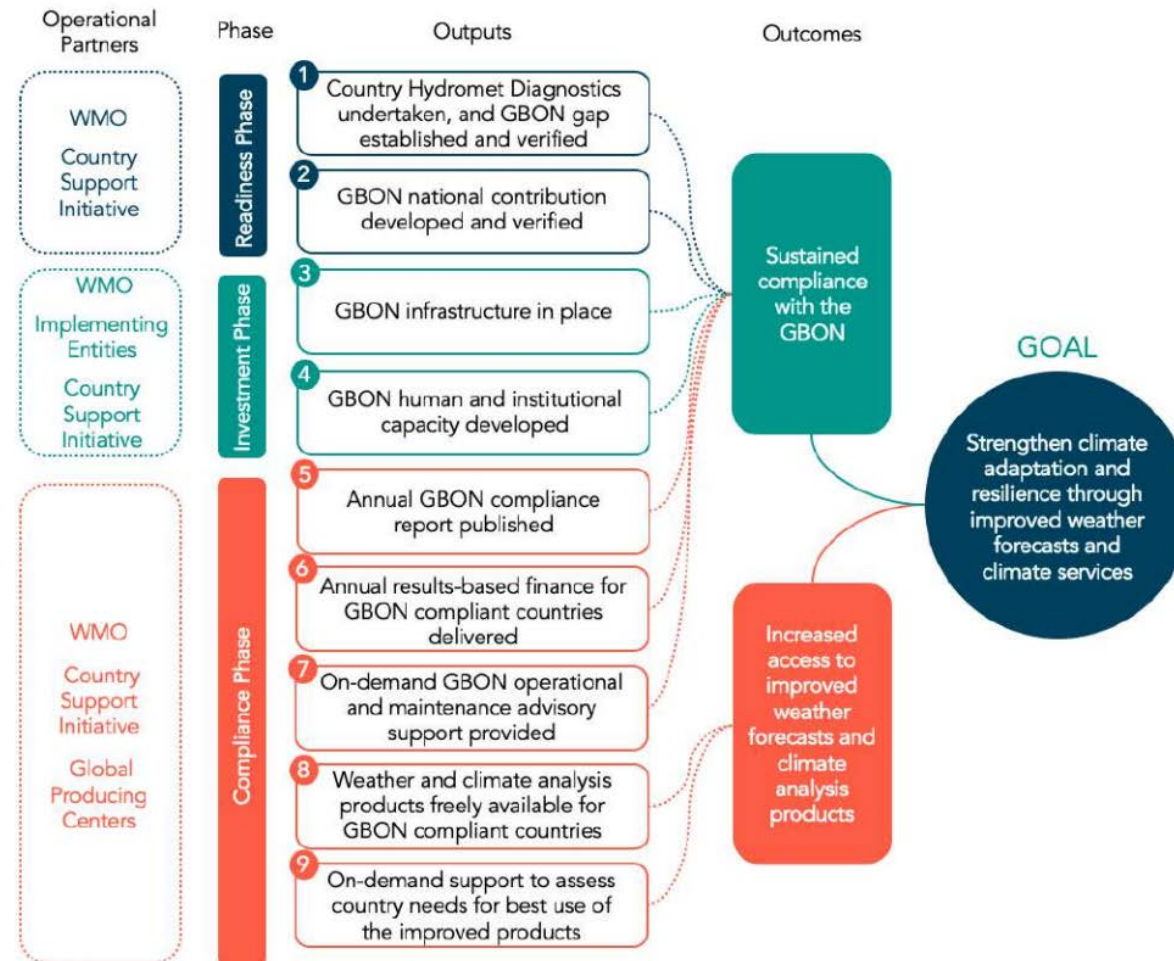
Creation of the SOFF is a **commitment** of the Alliance for Hydromet Development and its creation is spearheaded by WMO in collaboration with 30 international organizations.



SOFF

Systematic Observations
Financing Facility

SOFF goal and outcomes



SOFF

Systematic Observations
Financing Facility

SOFF design features

Applying internationally agreed metrics to guide investments: based on the global optimal and internationally agreed design – GBON, SOFF will allocate scarce resources most effectively as they seek to close the GBON gap.

Using data exchange as a measure of success: SOFF will shift from a focus on short-term capital investments to long-term observational data exchange as a way of measuring success. SOFF will cover investments to close the GBON gap and contribute to the costs for operating and maintaining the system in the long-term.

Creating local and regional benefits while providing a global public good: The global nature of Global NWP means that the benefits of GBON compliance will be realized both in the countries where the improvements are made and globally.



SOFF

Systematic Observations
Financing Facility

SOFF implementation

Three phases of support

- **Readiness:** Enabling countries to assess their national hydromet status, defining the GBON gap and developing a plan to close the gap.
- **Investment:** Closing the GBON gap and enabling 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:** Sustaining GBON compliance and accessing improved weather forecast and climate analysis products. Provision of results-based finance for GBON-compliant countries to contribute to cover operational and maintenance costs.

Sequenced implementation approach: 5-years initial implementation period supporting 68 countries – SIDS and LDCs – to become GBON compliant. This will result in at least 10x more data shared from upper air stations and at least 20x more data shared from surface stations.



SOFF

Systematic Observations
Financing Facility

More information

SOFF communication and knowledge products available here:

<https://public.wmo.int/en/our-mandate/how-we-do-it/development-partnerships/Innovating-finance>



SOFF
Systematic Observations
Financing Facility



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

1:26

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

5

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.