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# Systematic Observations Financing Facility

## Briefing for ADB operations staff

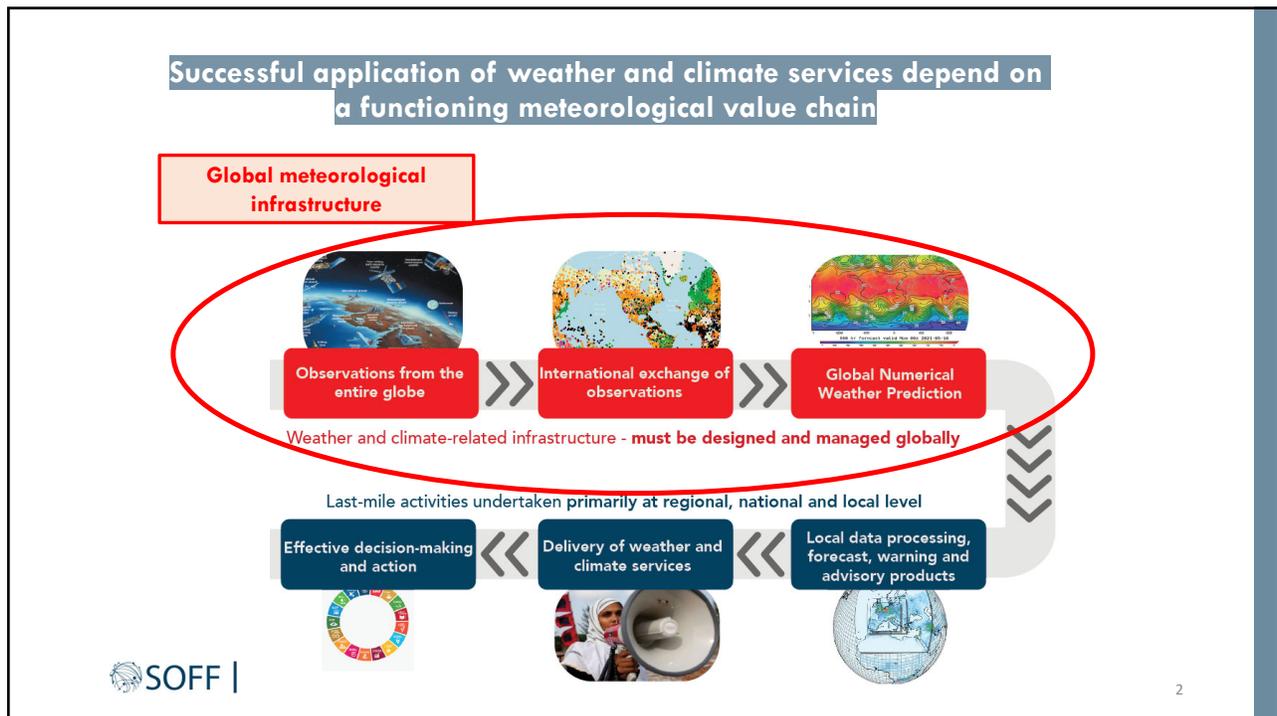
14 December, 2021

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SOFF interim Secretariat



Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF)

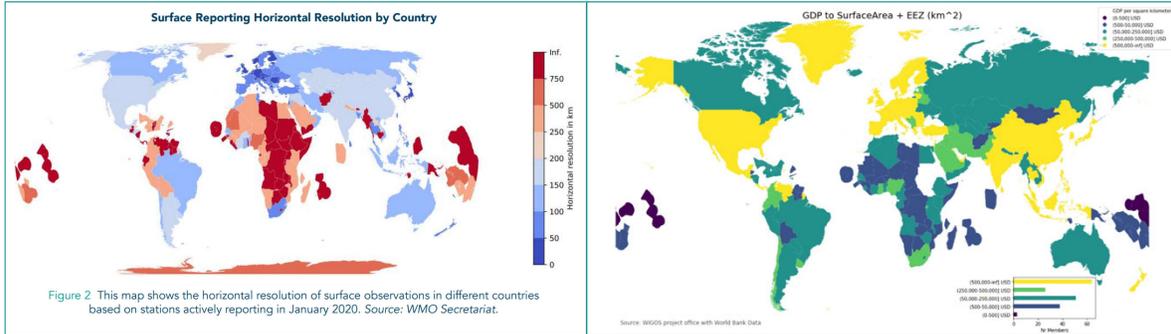
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## Availability of observations versus national resources

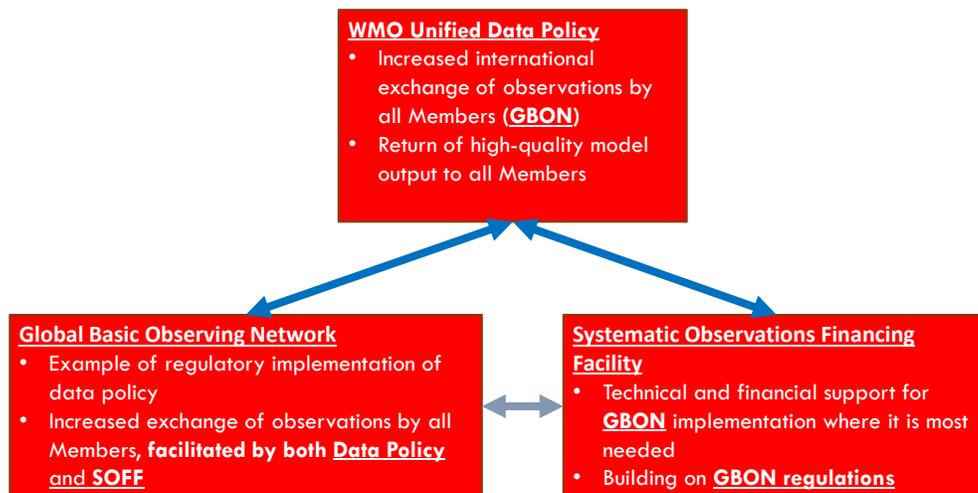
WMO Convention and Paris Agreement implicitly assume that observations is solely a national responsibility



- **Ability to observe (left panel):** Observing systems in countries depicted in red fail to meet minimum observations requirements for weather and climate analysis and prediction
- **Ability to pay (right panel):** Affordability of observing responsibility (GDP/km<sup>2</sup> of surface area) of countries in yellow up to ten million times higher than for countries in dark blue

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## The World Meteorological Congress, October 2021 adopted three breakthrough decisions



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## The Systematic Observation Financing Facility (SOFF)

- A commitment of the Alliance for Hydromet Development – ADB a founding Member
- Jointly created by WMO, UNDP, UNEP to address a foundational problem in a systematic manner
- A new dedicated mechanism that provides financial and technical assistance to Small Islands Developing States and Least Developed Countries
- Aims at ensuring the long-term generation and international exchange of basic surface-based observations
- Exclusive focus on the initial part of the meteorological value chain – the foundation for effective weather and climate information services policy and investment decisions



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## SOFF value proposition

Global approach and data exchange as measure of success

- Optimal, detailed and **agreed global design and metrics** –GBON

Innovative finance

- **Results-based, long-term finance**, incl. support to annual operations and maintenance costs

Technical competency and coordination

- **Peer-to-peer technical assistance** by advanced met offices

Knowledge and resources leverage

- **SOFF interventions underpinning last mile** investments



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## SOFF Governance

UN Multi-  
Partner  
Trust-Fund

### UN coalition fund

WMO, UNDP and UNEP

Specific and complementary roles

### UN MPTF Office

SOFF Trustee

Flexibility, simplicity and speed

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## SOFF Governance

Decision-  
making

### Steering Committee

#### Decision makers:

- Funding partners and WMO

#### Other members:

- UNDP and UNEP as co-chairs Advisory Board
- UN MPTF Office as Trustee
- Head of SOFF Secretariat
- CREWS

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## SOFF Governance

### Implementation

#### Beneficiary countries

- National Meteorological and Hydrological Services

#### SOFF Implementing Entities

- Major multilateral development partners members of the Alliance for Hydromet Development
- Implementing Entities to partner with national and international organizations

#### SOFF peer advisors

- Pool of 25-30 advanced met offices

## SOFF Governance

### Support

#### Advisory Board

- Synergies with adaptation and “last mile” action
- Multi-stakeholder composition

#### WMO Technical Authority

- Verify GBON gap and compliance
- Confirm GBON national contribution plan
- Endorse and support peer advisors
- Host SOFF Secretariat

## SOFF Operational approach

### Who benefits from SOFF?

- SIDS and LDCs benefit most from improvements in weather and climate prediction
- All countries benefit from global improvements

### SOFF direct support: First Implementation Period

- Focus on SIDS and LDCs
- Other developing countries – Readiness technical advisory



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## SOFF Operational approach

### SOFF prioritization criteria - following a risk-based approach

- **Close the most significant data gaps:** highest impact to prediction products
- **Target “easy fixes”:** small interventions and quick wins
- **Maximize delivery capacity:** Implementing Entities and peer advisors readiness to operate
- **Create leverage:** opportunities for blended finance
- **Ensure balance:** among SIDS and LDCs, among regions, and for Fragile and Conflict-affected States



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## SOFF at COP26

- **SOFF legally created** at COP26 as an UN MPTF
- **Several donors announced their commitment** to fund SOFF
- **SBSTA welcomed the creation of SOFF** and encouraged Parties and international organizations to support SOFF
- **Lord Nick Stern COP26 policy note showcases SOFF** as a multilateral instrument filling important gap on climate action and needs urgent funding



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## SOFF milestones and next steps

- **January 2022:**
  - SOFF start-up period kicks off
- **By end-May 2022:**
  - Implementing Entities agreements with UN MPTF in place
  - Implementing Entities portfolio analysis for SOFF co-financing opportunities completed
- **June 2022:**
  - First meeting of the Steering Committee to approve SOFF governance and operational modalities – SOFF opens the doors for business
- **September 2022:**
  - First meeting of the SOFF Advisory Board
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee meeting – approval of first batch of supported countries



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## SOFF opportunities for ADB

- **ADB as SOFF Implementing Entity:**
  - SOFF grant financing
  - Free technical assistance
  - Increase effectiveness of ADB climate adaptation and resilient development projects and programmes
- **Many ADB client countries are eligible** to access SOFF support
- **Further positioning ADB** in implementing an international agreement (GBON), and providing the foundation for Paris Agreement goals

## More information

- More information on SOFF: <https://alliancehydromet.org/systematic-observations-financing-facility/>
- SOFF Terms of Reference: [SOFF-Terms-of-Reference.pdf \(alliancehydromet.org\)](#)
- SOFF COP26 event: <https://alliancehydromet.org/events/innovating-finance-for-weather-and-climate-observations/>
- SOFF Funders' Forum information: <https://alliancehydromet.org/soff-funders-forum/>
- WMO/UNDP/UNEP op-ed in South China Morning Post: <https://www.scmp.com/comment/opinion/article/3154116/cop26-how-plugging-data-gaps-will-transform-our-response-climate>
- Statements of support to the SOFF from Beneficiary Countries, Alliance Members, and International Partners: <https://alliancehydromet.org/systematic-observations-financing-facility/soff-support-statements/>