

# SOFF Readiness Funding Request Template

Version 2.0 April 2023

Systematic Observations Financing Facility

Weather and climate data for resilience



## **SOFF Readiness Funding Request**

The funding request should be prepared by the SOFF beneficiary country in collaboration with the SOFF peer advisor in coordination with the prospective SOFF Implementing Entity. In case of questions on how to complete this template, please contact the SOFF Secretariat at: soffsecretariat@wmo.int.

The SOFF Readiness Funding Request template includes the following sections:

- 1. Basic information
- 2. SOFF Programming criteria
- 3. Readiness phase outputs, timeline and budget
- 4. Monitoring
- 5. Readiness Phase Risk Management Framework

The Assignment Terms of Reference are included in Annex 1.



## 1. Basic Information

SOFF Beneficiary Country	NIGER REPUBLIC		
Country Focal Point	National Meteorological Service (NMS) of Niger		
	Direction de la Météorologie Nationale (DMN) du Niger		
	Permanent Representative of Niger with WMO		
	Représentant Permanent du Niger auprès de l'OMM		
	Katiellou Gaptia Lawan		
Peer Advisor	NIGERIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY (NiMet)		
	Permanent Representative of Nigeria with WMO		
Peer Advisor Focal Point	OLUWASEUN WILFRED IDOWU, (NiMet)		
Prospective Implementing Entity	AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (AfDB)		
Prospective Implementing Entity Focal Point	JAMES KINYANGI		
Total budget USD	170,000 USD		
Delivery timeframe	October 2023 – March 2024		
Date of approval	September 2023		
Signature SOFF Steering Com funding request)	mittee co-chairs (after Steering Committee approval of the		



## 2. SOFF Programming criteria

Please provide below an initial short description of the application of the <u>SOFF programming</u> <u>criteria</u> in the country.

#### Table 1: Programming criteria

Close the most significant data gaps	<ul> <li>Republic report based on the January 2022 baseline and assessment, the following gaps were identified:</li> <li>1. Upper-air data: Niger Republic requires a total of six (6) upper-air reporting stations to meet GBON standard density. However, only one station is currently generating and reporting upper-air observations. <ul> <li>The establishment of five (5) Upper-Air stations is recommended to close this gap.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Niger Republic does not have any surface observing stations with GBON standard density of GBON network for the country and 127 stations would be needed for a high-density observation network.</li> <li>3. In closing data gaps, issues of low manpower must be considered.</li> <li>Given the need to have data from the continent feeding into NWP models and regular weather prediction in the country, a SOFF intervention in any of the above-mentioned areas will greatly be good</li> </ul>		
	African continent.		
Target easy fixes	The following can be targeted at immediate gains.		
	1. Upgrade of the 15 surface stations and establishment of additional 17 surface stations to GBON standard with data transmission functionality for Niger Republic would give standard density of observation network to the country.		
	2. Upgrade any existing manual station to GBON standard with data transmission functionality.		
	3. Possibilities of expansion of these stations with additional Stations (Synoptic and Upper Air) with GBON standards and data transmission functionality can be explored. The high-density Observation Network Master plan may be considered.		



	These will quickly raise the observation infrastructure and aid towards meeting GBON standards in the country.			
	Note:			
	<ol> <li>Upper air stations require more resources in terms of finance and manpower to set up and sustain.</li> <li>GTS requires the acquisition of hardware while the new WMO WIS2.0 only requires computer and internet connectivity. WMO may be approached to include Liberia in the Pilot phase of WIS.</li> </ol>			
Maximize delivery capacity	The Peer Advisor (NiMet) conducted the initial Country Hydromet Diagnostic (CHD) Assessment, funded by African Development Bank (AfDB), for Liberia in 2021 that provided an entry point for AfDB intervention in the country. In 2023, NiMet is currently working as the Peer Advisor on SOFF for Liberia and Supporting Spain as the Peer Advisor for Burkina Faso.			
	NiMet has also been involve in fruitful engagements with Niger over the years including a recent Working Technical Study visit to NiMet by DMN.			
	With the provision of Technical Support to some other countries on the Continent, NiMet is suitably positioned to offer support to Niger as Peer Advisor and NiMet has no doubt in the ability of AfDB to provide intervention and implement SOFF in Niger.			
	However, NiMet does not have any ongoing work in Niger nor receive any fund for activities in Niger.			
	The AFDB has a significant presence in Niamey, Niger with country office representation and several country projects being implemented that build resilience. SOFF teams will have access to technical support from the AFDB country team as well as AFDB staff and consultants during missions.			
Create leverage	Niger is part of a resilience program the AfDB has approved for US \$ 200M that covers 16 Sahel Countries. The program will also receive technical support for grants of up to USD 1m to prepare projects to the ADF Climate Action Window this year. Additional support will be provided by the Africa Climate Risk Management project (US\$5.6M) to build capacities for climate services in Niger and four other Sahel countries. In addition, Niger will benefit from a regional SAP access program that will be launched by AfDB/GCF during the Africa Climate Week in Nairobi in September. Under this program, Niger will be included in the regional component for the development of early warning systems as part of the Early Warning for All Initiative. SOFF investments will be foundational to support early warning services			



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	Climate Information Development and Forecasting Project / <i>Projet</i> <i>de développement de l'information et de la prospective</i> <i>climatique (PDIPC)</i> Climate-Sensitive Agriculture Support Project / Projet d'Appui à <i>l'Agriculture Sensible aux risques Climatiques (PASEC)</i>
Sub-regional gains	1. Achieving GBON standard stations in Niger Republic will assist the country in providing quality data as part of input data into WMO Global NWP centres.
	2. The success of the SOFF initiative will also provide a success story that will attract more investments in other countries in the region that need support.
	3. Weather has no boundary, hence improving the observation capacities of Niger Republic will translate to improvement in the capacity to make accurate and timely forecasts for the region especially with regards to dust forecasts due to the country's proximity to the Sahara Desert.
	4. The AfDB will continue to provide linkages through regional hydromet projects with AGRHYMET and ACMAD, particularly on infrastructure for Numerical Weather Prediction and closing the GBON gap to deliver early warning.
Ensure country balance	Niger is a Sahelian Least Developed Country with 1267 000 Km2 area of which more than half is occupied by the Sahara Desert.



### 3. Readiness phase outputs, timeline and budget

The Terms of Reference for the development of the SOFF Readiness phase outputs (see Annex I) provide more detailed information. They also summarize the roles and responsibilities, as stated in the <u>SOFF Operational Manual</u>, of the beneficiary country, the peer advisor, the prospective Implementing Entity and WMO Technical Authority for the delivery of the Readiness phase outputs.

The budget for the development of the SOFF Readiness phase outputs by the SOFF peer advisor shall be a lump-sum, fixed cost amount. It shall be calculated using a cost-recovery approach based on the peer advisors' standard cost recovery rates.

*Please indicate the expected time required to deliver the Readiness outputs and the total budget. See example below.* 

Outpute	Timeline					
Outputs	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6 <sup>1</sup>
National GBON Gap Analysis						
GBON National Contribution Plan						
Country Hydromet Diagnostic (on demand)						
Total budget USD <sup>2</sup>	170,000 USD					

#### Table 2: outputs, timeline and budget

#### 4. Monitoring

The beneficiary country and peer advisor shall notify the SOFF Secretariat on any delays that may impede the timely delivery of the Readiness phase outputs. If the assignment takes more than six months, the SOFF peer advisor shall submit semi-annual progress reports to the SOFF

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> It is expected that the assignment is completed within six months. If more time is required for exceptional circumstances, please add additional months to the table.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Eligible expenditures are limited to: Staff and consultants; Consultations, national technical workshops, and communications; Travel and transportation costs; Other incidental expenditures.



Secretariat (form to be provided by the SOFF Secretariat) stating the delivery status of the outputs.

The Readiness phase completion will be monitored by the peer advisor and the SOFF Secretariat using the following country-level Results Framework for the Readiness phase.

#### Table 3: Result framework

Outputs	Indicator	Target	
1. GBON National Gap Analysis	GBON gap established and reviewed (Y/N)	GBON gap analysed and reviewed by WMO Technical Authority	
2. GBON National Contribution Plan	GBON national contribution plan developed (Y/N)	GBON national contribution plan developed and reviewed by WMO Technical Authority	
	GBON National Contribution Plan includes gender considerations (Y/N)	GBON National Contribution Plan includes gender considerations	
3. Country Hydromet Diagnostic (on demand)	Country Hydromet Diagnostic developed (Y/N)	Country Hydromet Diagnostic developed	

#### 4. Evaluation

An evaluation from both, the beneficiary country and the prospective Implementing Entity on the quality of support received by the peer advisor will be conducted at the end of the Readiness phase and the peer advisor's assignment (form to be provided upon completion of the Readiness phase by the SOFF Secretariat).

#### 5. Readiness Phase Risk Management Framework

Please provide a brief description of the contextual, institutional, and programmatic risks that might hinder the effective delivery of the Readiness phase outputs.



#### Table 3: Risk Management Framework

Risk category	Description	Probability	Mitigation action
<b>Contextual risks</b> Risks related to conflicts, safety and political insecurity jeopardizing the delivery of the Readiness phase outputs	Potential political changes or instability in the country may affect Low the successful implementation of the project		In case of high political instability affecting the ability of the team to implement the project, the activities will be conducted virtually, and third-party consultation will be considered.
	Deteriorating security conditions in the country due Low to terrorist groups' activities		Avoid the insecure areas or use military escort in cooperation with regional and communal security services.
<b>Institutional risks</b> Risks related to the beneficiary country's institutions participation in the Readiness phase activities	Support from administrative authorities and technical services	Low	Early sensitisation of administrative authorities about the importance of the project.
<b>Programmatic risks</b> Risks related to country ownership of the Readiness phase outputs	Inadequate qualified human resources to implement the project	Low	Create a good implementation framework for the project with sufficient qualified human resources. Provide financial resources to ensure the sustainability of the project's outputs



	Delay in the disbursement of funds	Low	Follow up closely with the SOFF Implementing Entity and Peer Advisor.
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## Annex 1. Assignment Terms of Reference for the development of the SOFF Readiness phase outputs

#### 1. Purpose and scope

The purpose of this Assignment is to provide SOFF peer advisory services by **Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet)** to **Niger** to develop the outputs of the SOFF Readiness phase as described in section 3 of these Terms of Reference.

The provisions defined in the Terms of Reference are based on the <u>SOFF Operational Manual</u>, in particular Section 4.4 on Operational Partners and Section 4.5.1 on the Readiness phase.

#### 2. Roles and responsibilities

#### Beneficiary country National Meteorological and Hydrological Service

- Is responsible for implementing the activities of the Readiness phase with the support from the peer advisor and the prospective Implementing Entity.
- Prepares the Assignment Terms of Reference following the standard Terms of Reference provided by the SOFF Secretariat, in collaboration with the peer advisor and in coordination with the prospective Implementing Entity.
- Submits the funding request for the SOFF Readiness phase support using the standardized template provided by the SOFF Secretariat.
- Is responsible for collaborating with the peer advisor to provide all the necessary information and participate in and facilitate the national activities the peer advisor needs to conduct in order to develop the Readiness phase outputs.
- Confirms receipt of the peer advisors' report with the Readiness phase outputs and provides comments on the outputs as needed.

#### Peer advisor

- Is accountable to the beneficiary country.
- In dialogue with the beneficiary country, provides independent technical advice, analysis and recommendations to support the beneficiary country in implementing the activities of the Readiness phase.
- Develops the Readiness phase outputs and is responsible for their quality and timely delivery. Communicates regularly with the beneficiary country and the Implementing Entity.
- Engages with the civil society, including on the identification of stakeholders of relevance for GBON implementation.
- Submits the final report with the Readiness phase outputs to the country for comments and to the prospective Implementing Entity for feedback.
- Submits the final report including the beneficiary country's comments and the prospective Implementing Entity's feedback to the SOFF Secretariat.



• Notifies the SOFF Secretariat and the prospective Implementing Entity of any delays that may impede the timely delivery of the outputs, and for assignments for which the delivery takes more than six months submits a semi-annual progress report.

#### **Implementing Entity**

- Participates in the Readiness phase activities and collaborates with the beneficiary country and the peer advisor to ensure a common understanding of the Readiness phase outputs and that they address the technical needs for the design and implementation of the Investment phase.
- Contributes to the definition of the Terms of Reference and provides feedback on the outputs delivered by the peer advisor.
- Based on its experience in the beneficiary country, supports the work of the peer advisor, e.g. by sharing its knowledge and facilitating access to the network of relevant stakeholders.

#### WMO Technical Authority

- Provides basic technical support to the beneficiary country, peer advisor, and prospective Implementing Entity on GBON regulations.
- Is responsible for the technical screening of the draft GBON National Gap Analysis and the draft GBON National Contribution Plan against the GBON regulations.
- Is responsible for establishing and administering the pass-through mechanism for contracting and funding of the technical assistance provided by the peer advisors.

#### **SOFF Secretariat**

- Facilitates communication, coordination and collaboration between the beneficiary country, the peer advisor, the prospective Implementing Entity and WMO Technical Authority.
- Reviews the Readiness funding request, including the Terms of Reference, for compliance and consistency with the information requirements in the template and provides feedback as needed. Transmits the funding request to the SOFF Steering Committee for its decision.
- Confirms receipt of the peer advisors' report with the Readiness phase outputs.
- Organizes exchange of knowledge and experiences and captures lessons learned.

#### 3. Readiness phase outputs

The peer advisor should perform the following tasks following the technical guidance and using the templates provided in the <u>operational guidance documents</u> for each one of the outputs. A summary of the key steps and modules to be conducted for each output is presented below.



#### **3.1 GBON National Gap Analysis**

The GBON National 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.

To develop the GBON National Gap Analysis, the following steps should be followed

- **Step 1** Country information from the GBON Global Gap Analysis
- Step 2 Analysis of existing GBON stations and their status against GBON requirements
- Step 3 GBON Gap Analysis results
- **Step 4** Country endorsement for integration of the GBON National Gap Analysis into the GBON National Contribution Plan

#### **3.2 GBON National Contribution Plan**

The 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 GBON observing network.

To develop the GBON National Contribution Plan, the following modules should be completed

- **Module 1. National target toward GBON compliance:** Establishment of a progressive national target toward GBON compliance
- **Module 2. GBON business model and institutional development**: public-private business model as appropriate; partnerships, institutional and financial arrangements needed to operate and maintain the observing network
- **Module 3. GBON infrastructure development**: Appropriate investments needed to increase or improve the observing network and its Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure
- **Module 4. GBON human capacity development**: Human technical and managerial capacities required to operate and maintain the observing network
- **Module 5. Risk Management:** Operational risks of the observing network and required mitigation measures
- **Module 6. Transition to SOFF Investment phase:** Support the beneficiary country and the Implementing Entity in preparing the Investment phase funding request (template provided by the SOFF Secretariat).

#### **3.3 Country Hydromet Diagnostics**

The Country Hydromet Diagnostic (CHD) complements the GBON National Gap Analysis and the GBON National Contribution Plan. It is a standardized, integrated and operational tool and approach for diagnosing National Meteorological Services across the meteorological value chain, their operating environment, and their contribution to high-quality weather,



climate, hydrological and environmental information services and warnings. Its assessment serves as a basis for investments beyond SOFF, across the whole value chain, by the SOFF Implementing Entity and other development partners.

The peer advisor should **assess the 10 CHD elements** with its respective indicators following the matrix provided in the CHD guidance document.

- Governance and institutional setting
- Effective partnerships to improve service delivery
- Observational infrastructure
- Data and product management and sharing policies
- Numerical model and forecasting tool application
- Warning and advisory services
- Contribution to climate services
- Contribution to hydrological services
- Product dissemination and outreach
- Use and national value of products and services

To develop the Country Hydromet Diagnostic, the following **steps** should be completed.

- Stage 1 Information gathering. As input, the WMO Monitoring Evaluation Risk and Performance unit will provide available country data structured along the CHD elements and their indicators (performed remotely)
- Stage 2 Validation and analysis (performed in-country if feasible)
- Stage 3 Closure

#### 4. Delivery process

The peer advisor in collaboration with the beneficiary country and in coordination with the prospective Implementing Entity should establish the specific activities and consultations needed to complete the outputs. The development of the outputs should include the following:

• Collaboration arrangements between the beneficiary country and the peer advisor, including at least one country visit, unless the country context does not allow it [Niger National Meteorological Service and the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) have agreed to organize regular consultation virtual meetings for the gathering of relevant information and data. Besides the virtual meetings, it has also been agreed to plan and organize in-country technical visits by the peer advisor for on-site assessment and identification of suitable areas for SOFF intervention in the country.]

Coordination arrangements with the prospective Implementing Entity

[Niger National Meteorological Service, Nigerian Meteorological Agency, and African Development Bank have all agreed to hold regular coordination virtual meetings for information sharing.]



- In-person or virtual consultation meetings with relevant national and international stakeholders and partners [During the implementation period, regular in-person or virtual consultation meetings with relevant national and international stakeholders and partners will be planned and organized by Niger Republic through Niger National Meteorological Service in collaboration with the peer advisor and the Implementing Entity.]
- Delivery partners that support the peer advisor in the delivery of the outputs, as applicable [The delivery partners include: ACMAD, AGRHYMET, WMO, prospective Implementing Entity and Niger Republic (DMN)]

Peer advisor delivery team and focal point [A team of experts (Prof. M.B. Matazu, O.W. Idowu, W.A. Ibrahim, B.O. Nwogbaga, and M.O. Obansola) from the Nigerian Meteorological Agency ably led by Professor Mansur Bako MATAZU. Focal Point: Oluwaseun Wilfred IDOWU]

• Timeline for the development of the outputs [October 2023-March 2024]

Summary of	of Activities
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Activity	Responsibility	Timeline (October 2023- March 2024)		
Information gathering	DMN, NiMet	Weekly Virtual meetings		
Information sharing and progress reports	DMN, NiMet, AfDB, Partners (ACMAD, AGRHYMET, WMO etc.)	Bi-monthly virtual meetings		
Onsite Assessment	DMN, NiMet	Proposed two visits (December 2023 and February 2024		
Draft Report 1	NiMet, DMN	December 2023		
Draft Report 2	NiMet, DMN	January 2024		
Draft Report 3	NiMet, DMN, AfDB	February 2024		
Final Report	NiMet, DMN, AfDB	March 2024		



#### 5. Reporting and completion

**Reporting.** For assignments for which the delivery of advisory services takes more than six months, the SOFF peer advisor shall submit a semi-annual progress report to the SOFF Secretariat (form to be provided by the SOFF Secretariat).

#### Completion

- **Step 1.** The peer advisor submits the draft GBON National Gap Analysis and the GBON National Contribution Plan reports to WMO Technical Authority and, as applicable, the draft Country Hydromet Diagnostics to the Monitoring Evaluation Risk and Performance unit of the WMO Secretariat. The draft reports have to follow the templates provided in the SOFF operational guidance documents.
- **Step 2.** WMO Technical Authority screens the draft GBON National Gap Analysis and the draft GBON National Contribution Plan to ensure consistency with the GBON regulations. The WMO Monitoring Evaluation Risk and Performance unit screens the draft Country Hydromet Diagnostics and provides feedback for revisions as needed.
- **Step 3.** The peer advisor submits the report with the Readiness phase outputs for beneficiary country and prospective Implementing Entity feedback.
- **Step 4.** The peer advisor finalizes the report for confirmation of receipt by the beneficiary country and, as needed, beneficiary country comments. Following beneficiary country receipt of the report, the peer advisor submits the report, including beneficiary country's comments and the prospective Implementing Entity's feedback, to the SOFF Secretariat.
- **Step 5.** The SOFF Secretariat confirms the satisfactory receipt of the report and informs the country and the prospective Implementing Entity accordingly. The SOFF Secretariat authorizes WMO to proceed with the release of the final payment and informs the SOFF Steering Committee of the completion of the SOFF readiness phase.



#### 6. Signatures

By signing this document, the beneficiary country, peer advisor and the prospective Implementing Entity agree with the provisions stated in this Terms of Reference.

