



Weather
and climate
data for
resilience

21 March 2024

Seventh SOFF Steering Committee meeting

Update on Multilateral Development Banks serving
as SOFF Implementing Entities (Decision 7.4)

Request from Cook Islands and Niue to be
included as SOFF beneficiaries with SIDS status
(Decision 7.5)




MDBs serving as SOFF Implementing Entities

- 5 of the 9 SOFF Implementing Entities are Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and 4 are actively engaged: **African Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, World Bank**
- **MDBs are essential for co-financing** and leveraging their own investments as well as resources from other funds to which the MDBs serve as accredited entities
- **Blending resources** with larger investments is crucial to ensure beneficiary countries benefit from a **broader package of support**, beyond SOFF intervention
- Among the **UN Multi-Partner Trust Funds SOFF is the first fund that has several MDBs serving as Implementing Entities**, however complicated legal negotiations are taking more time than initially envisioned
- **29 of the 62 countries programmed are supported by MDBs**. 2 funding requests approved through [Decision 6.3](#). (Belize supported by IADB and South Sudan by AfDB) are still pending signature of the Framework Agreement

Overview of MDBs SOFF portfolio

Implementing Entity	Country	Peer Advisor
African Development Bank	Burkina Faso	Spain - Nigeria
	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Switzerland
	Liberia	Nigeria
	Madagascar	Germany
	South Sudan	Austria
	Comoros	Morocco
	Mauritius	South Africa - India
	Niger	Nigeria
	Seychelles	South Africa
Inter-American Development Bank	Belize	United Kingdom
	Ecuador	Switzerland - Argentina
	Guyana	Austria
	Bahamas	Finland
	Barbados	Finland
	Guatemala	Spain
	Haiti	Switzerland
	Jamaica	Finland
	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Finland
	Trinidad and Tobago	Finland

Implementing Entity	Country	Peer Advisor
Islamic Development Bank	Senegal	Netherlands
	Uganda	Netherlands
	Bangladesh	Norway
World Bank	Fiji	Australia
	Samoa	Australia
	Cambodia	United Kingdom
	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Austria - China
	Tonga	New Zealand
	Vanuatu	New Zealand
	Tajikistan	Finland

 EW4All initial focus countries

Status of UNMPTF Framework Agreements with MDBs

MDB	Status of UNMPTF Framework Agreement
Islamic Development Bank	Completed
African Development Bank	Pending signature
World Bank	Pending signature
Interamerican Development Bank	Pending final agreement
Asian Development Bank	Pending agreement

Draft Decision 7.4: Adoption of actions on Multilateral Development Banks serving as SOFF Implementing Entities

The SOFF Steering Committee

Welcomes that five Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) are expected to serve as SOFF Implementing Entity, namely African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank and World Bank.

Recognizes

- the importance of MDBs serving as SOFF Implementing Entities and their ability to link and leverage SOFF investments with their country or regional programs for larger country support packages.
- the commitment of the MDBs to support implementation of the UN Early Warnings for All Initiative with SOFF as a means to operationalize this commitment.

Notes that at the 6th SOFF Steering Committee two Investment funding decisions for Belize and South Sudan were approved subject to African Development Bank and Inter-American Development Bank signing the Framework Agreement with UNMPTF Office by 15 February 2024 (Decision 6.3)

Notes the request from the African Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the UNMPTF Office to seek an extension of the deadline for signing the Framework Agreement

Approves the extension of the deadline for signature of the UNMPTF Framework Agreement for the African Development Bank and Inter-American Development Bank until 30 April 2024.

Encourages the Asian Development Bank to finalize the legal agreement with the UNMPTF.

Inclusion of Cook Islands and Niue as SOFF beneficiaries with SIDS status

- **Cook Islands** and **Niue** are included in the UN list of **Small Island Developing States (SIDS)**, are WMO members and its affiliates and their programmes and projects, but are **not United Nations Member States**.
- The initial list of SOFF SIDS beneficiary countries (see [SOFF Terms of Reference](#)), did not include Cook Islands and Niue as SIDS, yet included Niue due to its classification as country eligible for Official Development Assistance.
- On 20 September 2023 the Steering Committee of UNEP's GCF-funded programme on *"Enhancing Climate Information and Knowledge Services for resilience in 5 island countries of the Pacific Ocean"* requested the SOFF Steering Committee to consider the eligibility of Cook Islands and Niue to access SOFF resource to ensure the sustainability of the GCF-funded programme.
- Responding to this request, it is proposed to **include Cook Islands and Niue as SOFF eligible countries with SIDS status**, to be considered for programming at the 8th SOFF Steering Committee meeting.

Draft Decision 7.5: Adoption of inclusion of Cook Islands and Niue as SOFF beneficiaries with SIDS status

The SOFF Steering Committee

Acknowledges the status of Cook Islands and Niue as SIDS according to the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

Notes that in the initial SOFF beneficiary list, Cook Islands and Niue were not included as SIDS eligible for SOFF support as they are not United Nations Member States.

Notes the request from the Steering Committee of UN Environment Programme (UNEP) *“Enhancing Climate Information and Knowledge Services for resilience in 5 island countries of the Pacific Ocean”* programme, funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), to consider the eligibility of Cook Islands and Niue for SOFF support to ensure the sustainability of GBON investments funded through this programme.

Notes that the GCF-funded programme was designed with the expectation that SOFF would support operations and maintenance of GBON stations after the lifespan of the programme, as reflected in the funding approved by the GCF Board.

Decides to update the SOFF beneficiary countries list to include Cook Islands and Niue as SIDS eligible for Readiness, Investment and Compliance support.

Requests

- the SOFF Secretariat to update the list of SOFF beneficiary countries to reflect this decision and make the updated beneficiary country list publicly available on the SOFF website.
- Respond positively to letter from the UNEP Programme Steering Committee, communicating this decision.
- Include Cook Islands and Niue in the next round of SOFF country programming for consideration at the 8th SOFF Steering Committee meeting.