



Eleventh Steering Committee 19-21 May 2025

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Serving as SOFF Implementing Entity

Decision 11.8

Systematic Observations
Financing Facility

**Weather
and climate
data for
resilience**



Decision 11.8: Adoption of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Serving as SOFF Implementing Entity

The SOFF Steering Committee

Recalls that as stated in the SOFF Operational Manual, major multilateral development partners that play an important role in supporting countries' hydromet development are eligible to serve as SOFF Implementing Entities after a decision of the SOFF Steering Committee.

Notes

- That the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) contributes its expertise in agricultural resilience and food security, helping to generate risk knowledge and tailor early warning systems to the specific needs of farming communities and that FAO is a partner to the UN Early Warnings for All initiative.
- The request from FAO to serve as SOFF Implementing Entity.

Adopts the inclusion of FAO as a SOFF Implementing Entity.

Requests

- FAO to seek affiliation with the Alliance for Hydromet Development as a criterion for SOFF Implementing Entities.
- FAO to sign the addendum to the SOFF Memorandum of Understanding with the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office.

Purpose of this Document

The document proposes the adoption of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN serving as a SOFF Implementing Entity.

Annex 1: Letter from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), accepting South Sudan's request to serve as the Implementing Entity

OFFICE OF THE FAO REPRESENTATION IN SOUTH SUDAN

منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Organisation des
Nations Unies pour
l'alimentation et
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Agricultura y la
Alimentación

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Our Ref: FRSSD/01/02/13/25

Date: 13 February 2025

Mr. Mojwok Agawi Modo
Director of Meteorology
PR of South Sudan with WMO
South Sudan Meteorological Service
South Sudan Civil Aviation Authority
Juba-South Sudan

Subject: Acceptance of the Request to be the Implementing Entity of the SOFF Project in South Sudan.

Dear Mr. Mojwok,

I refer to your letter (Ref: SSCAA/DM/22/2025) dated 11 February 2025. After consultation within the FAO Natural Resources Management Unit, I am pleased to inform you that FAO South Sudan accepts the request to implement the SOFF project in South Sudan. We recognize that this initiative will further strengthen our collaboration with the South Sudan Meteorological Department (SSMD) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Allow me to express my sincere gratitude to SSMD and WMO for the confidence placed in FAO South Sudan by entrusting us with the implementation of this important project. Please rest assured that FAO remains committed to supporting and strengthening meteorological services in the Republic of South Sudan. We are confident that this partnership will yield positive results, and FAO South Sudan will ensure the successful implementation of the SOFF project to the satisfaction of SSMD and WMO.

To facilitate a smooth implementation process, I would appreciate the opportunity to organize a meeting between FAO South Sudan, SSMD, and WMO to discuss the project implementation modalities. Additionally, as soon as the necessary paperwork is completed, FAO South Sudan stands ready to formalize our commitment and commence implementation.

I look forward to meeting you and the SOFF Secretariat representative to further discuss this collaboration.

Yours Sincerely,



Meshack Malo

FAO Representative South Sudan



Annex 2: Letter from the South Sudan Meteorological Services (SSMS) to SOFF, requesting FAO to serve as the Implementing Entity



Office of the Director General for Meteorology

Date: 14/02/2025

Ref: SSCAA/DM/27/2025

Director,
Systematic Observations Financing Facility(SOFF)
Secretariat, World Meteorological Organization(WMO),
Geneva, Switzerland.

Subject: SSMS Request for FAO to be the implementing Entity of SOFF in South Sudan

Dear Sir,

Following the Acceptance of the United Nations Organization for Food and Agriculture (FAO) in South Sudan to be the Implementing Entity for SOFF in South Sudan, I am pleased to request your honour to consider South Sudan of Meteorological Service(SSMS), South Sudan Civil Aviation Authority(SSCAA) for FAO to be the preferred Implementing Entity of SOFF project in South Sudan.

As motivated by the Collaboration between WMO and FAO mentioned in the SOFF project document, that FAO will collaborate with SOFF through purchase of some stations by BREFONS project but to be maintained and operated by SOFF(P16), I am kindly requesting your esteemed administration for FAO to replace the AfDB and to confirm FAO acceptance to be the Leading implementing entity for SOFF in South Sudan.

Sincerely,

Mojwok Ogawi Modo,
Director of Meteorology,
PR of South Sudan with WMO,
South Sudan Meteorological Service,
South Sudan Civil Aviation Authority,
Juba.



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Annex 3: Letter from the Government of South Sudan confirming preference for FAO as SOFF Implementing Entity



Office of the Director of Meteorology

Date: 21/02/2025

Ref: SSCAA/DM/25/2025

Dr Ana Heures
Programme Management Officer,
SOFF Secretariat,
World Meteorological Organization,
Geneva, Switzerland.

Subject: Further request for FAO to be the implementing Entity for SOFF in South Sudan

Dear Madam,

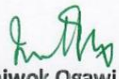
I appreciate your prompt response to our request for FAO as an IE for SOFF and I acknowledge the option of IFAD as SOFF Implementing, as it is not in our interest to reject an implementer before knowing it.

On the other hand, we feel worried to learn that FAO is not an IE for SOFF but I am motivated by your statement that you are open in exploring the possibility for FAO with us and this why I think that if it does not take long (one, two or three months or beyond next SOFF SCM in May 2025) to renew the investment phase and sign the legal agreement between FAO and the UNMPTF Office; then I think it would be better to delay than going for another option; I highly respect the Secretariat's choice for us but think that FAO is the preferable IE mainly for the below Reasons

1. South Sudan Meteorological Service (SSMS) has No direct engagement yet with IFAD office in Juba at the moment
2. FAO provided SSMS with technical support (2 computers and 3 tables) and facilitated 2 staff attendance of workshop in Nairobi in 2011 during Dr Elijah Mukalah in office
3. FAO is giving capacity building to Met. Staff to provide local farmers and pastoralists with Agromet. services
4. FAO is implementing BREFONS and has also support SSMS in expanding its network of weather monitoring system within the country by installing 13 AWS. Besides
5. Collaboration with FAO is clearly stipulated in the SOFF project document

Hence, iam suggesting FAO is the right entity to work with and Collaborate with SOFF in sharing the Old 5 synoptic stations as stipulated in the SOFF document.

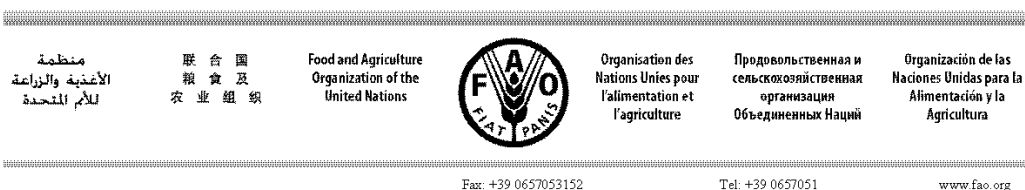
Sincerely,


Mojwok Ogawi Modo,
Director of Meteorology,
PR of SS with WMO
Directorate of Meteorological Service (SSMS)
South Sudan Civil Aviation Authority (SSCAA)
Juba



Cc: File

Annex 4: Expression of Interest letter from the Director of the Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment of the FAO



Our Ref.:

Your Ref.:

-3.IV.2025

Dear Mr Repnik,

I have the pleasure to submit this Letter of Intent expressing the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)'s strong interest in becoming an Implementing Entity (IE) under the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF).

With our extensive experience in strengthening national hydrometeorological and agrometeorological capacities, we are confident that our technical expertise and operational capabilities will enable us to effectively implement and manage projects that align with the objectives of the SOFF.

Our organization has a proven track record of designing and implementing climate action related programmes with a particular focus on enhancing climate services in the agriculture sector worldwide. FAO has demonstrated expertise in improving capacities in weather observations, forecasting, early warning systems, and community engagement. We are firmly committed to upholding the highest standards of transparency, accountability, and impact-driven outcomes in all of our initiatives.

We believe that a partnership with the SOFF will significantly contribute to our shared goals of strengthening climate adaptation and advancing resilient development. In this regard, we welcome any further discussions that may be necessary to assess our eligibility and suitability as an Implementing Entity.

We understand that this will require approval by your Steering Committee, which is scheduled to take place in May 2025, as well as an addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding between FAO and the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund, which serves as the trustee for the SOFF.

Mr Markus Repnik
Director
Systematic Observations
Financing Facility (SOFF) Secretariat
Geneva
Switzerland

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We look forward to the opportunity to engage in the next steps and to collaborate in bringing about meaningful and sustainable transformations within the meteorological value chain, ultimately saving lives and livelihoods through the SOFF.

Thank you for considering our expression of interest.

We remain at your disposal should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,



Kaveh Zahedi
Office of Climate Change,
Biodiversity and Environment
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations