

SOFF Workshop High Level Outcome Report

Africa Regional and Peer Advisor and Implementing Entity Workshops

Casablanca, Morocco October 2025

The General Directorate of Meteorology (DGM) Morocco and the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) co-hosted two workshops in Casablanca, Morocco, in October 2025 to accelerate implementation of the SOFF Investment Phase. The events convened over 50 participants fostering collaboration among African countries, Implementing Entities (IEs), peer advisors, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and key regional and international partners. Key themes included addressing implementation challenges, coordinating regional partners and programmes and consultation on the frameworks for Compliance Phase and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning.

Africa Regional Workshop

- **The meeting convened the 3 African countries** currently implementing SOFF investments or in the pipeline for the SOFF Investment Phase, operational partners (Implementing Entities and peer advisors) and regional partners including ACMAD, ICPAC, NORCAP, CREWS, WHCA and ECMWF, to discuss implementation progress and opportunities for effective collaboration in SOFF implementation.
- **The African region is leading the way in SOFF implementation.** With already 59M in investment funding approved for the region, there is tangible progress, including the first stations coming online in Rwanda and Mozambique. This progress is an opportunity for countries to share lessons and opportunities.
- **In Africa, many regional institutions and programmes play a role in supporting meteorological services** and are contributing to the successful implementation of GBON. The discussions identified priority areas for enhanced collaboration between ongoing initiatives in the region, in particular in the areas of data sharing, operation and maintenance and digitalization. Key actions will be taken, including a letter of intent to be signed between SOFF and NORCAP, regular coordination meetings with SOFF and WHCA countries and a mapping of CREWS activities relevant for SOFF in Africa.
- **Countries requested clear definition of roles** including of SOFF partners, WMO and WMO regional centers, and other regional institutions. Countries requested WMO to tailor support to the needs of all WMO members, including developing countries. A proposal for the updated role of WMO Technical Authority will be put forward at the 13th SC.

- **Ensure common understanding between climate funds and initiatives** of their roles in the climate finance landscape. All funds and initiatives have a role to play in avoiding duplication of efforts and wasted resources. The Framework for Collaboration is a basis for such efforts.
- **Request to continue annual in-person engagement:** Participants emphasized the importance of meeting in-person annually in addition to regular exchanges online including SOFF Moodle platform. It was requested to the SOFF Steering Committee to continue to provide financial support for such meetings.

Peer Advisor and Implementing Entity Workshop

- **Brought together over 30 participants** from SOFF Peer Advisors, IEs, WMO Secretariat and experts, and SOFF Secretariat reflecting on the last year of progress and planning forward.
- **Essential and unique role of SOFF community of practice:** Building this community of practice is an invaluable part of SOFF. Sharing lessons learned, learning from our successes and mistakes, and advancing our common understanding and knowledge is the only way to achieve our common objective.
- **Need for clear definition of roles and responsibilities of all partners:** Participants noted that the roles of different partners in SOFF implementation could be further clarified in the different stages of SOFF implementation. Partners agreed that through SOFF updated peer TOR's, the role of Peer Advisors would be defined in more detail. The role of WMO will also be elaborated by the 13th SOFF Steering Committee.
- **Delays in SOFF Operations due to resource availability:** Participants raised concerns about the delays in SOFF operations and the risk of Readiness outputs and Investment Funding Requests going out of date if not funded in a timely manner. The SOFF Secretariat will provide regular updates on the status of Resource Mobilization (RM) and to update pipeline management as necessary based on RM. RM is also being scaled up through additional SOFF Secretariat staff and the launch of the Systematic Observations Impact Bond.
- **Peers and Implementing entities endorsed the use of the SOFF Learning Platform on WMO Moodle** as an effective way to share lessons learned and exchange within the SOFF community. Participants requested SOFF Secretariat to continue to maintain and update the Moodle and agreed to continue engagement from their side.
- **Consultation on Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) and recommendations from participants** included revising the MEL reporting

schedules for improved effectiveness; endorsing the Country Hydromet Diagnostic (CHD) tool as a valuable resource; and incorporating a project-level evaluation component into the SOFF Compliance Phase.

- **Challenges foreseen in the Compliance phase:** The Compliance phase is going to be complex; ensuring transparency and inputs from the community and countries is essential. SOFF Secretariat will continue with consultations on the Compliance Phase Framework, including a survey to countries.
- **Request to continue annual in-person engagement:** Participants emphasized the importance of meeting in-person annually in addition to regular exchanges online through webinars and online discussion including SOFF Moodle platform