



Thirteenth Steering Committee
18 February 2026

Draft SOFF Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework

INF 13.3

Systematic Observations
Financing Facility

**Weather
and climate
data for
resilience**



Purpose of the document

[Decision 12.7](#), of the 12th Steering Committee postponed approval of the SOFF Compliance Framework and the MEL Framework to the 14th Steering Committee meeting in May 2026. The Committee also requested that a draft MEL Framework be presented at the 13th Steering Committee. This document provides the draft MEL Framework for feedback on its structure and content. Revisions will be made based on the 13th Steering Committee's feedback, and the revised MEL Framework will then be submitted to the 14th Steering Committee for endorsement.

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Draft SOFF Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework

1. Overview

Achieving sustained compliance with the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON) requires substantial investment, strengthened institutional and technical capacity, and resources for operations and maintenance. These requirements are particularly critical in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), where long-term improvements in the availability and quality of observational data remain a challenge.

In response to this need, and as outlined in the [SOFF Terms of Reference](#), the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) provides financial and technical support to strengthen national basic observation capacity. It delivers this support through four key features:

- A global approach with sustained international data exchange as a measure of success
- Provision of innovative financing
- Enhancement of technical competence and integrated approaches
- Leveraging knowledge and resources

1.1. Purpose

As a global, results-oriented financing facility supporting sustained capacity development, SOFF requires a comprehensive Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework to demonstrate results, ensure accountability for investments, and continuously improve effectiveness through learning and adaptation.

The SOFF MEL framework is therefore designed to:

- **Define** the scope, objectives, methods, and timelines for monitoring, evaluation and learning activities.
- **Harmonize** SOFF data collection methods, indicators, and reporting processes to ensure consistency, comparability, and reliability of information across phases and stakeholders.
- **Allow for adaptive management** that involves an ongoing process of working collaboratively and flexibly to learn, make decisions, test assumptions, and adjust actions on this basis (OECD 2023).

1.2. Content and Structure

This document presents an overview of the SOFF Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework, which sets out the principles, scope and arrangements for monitoring, evaluation and learning at both fund and project levels across all SOFF activities.

The Framework is structured around its three pillars—Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning—each addressed in a dedicated chapter. Each chapter sets out, for the respective pillar, (i) the definition and purpose, (ii) objectives and intended users, (iii) key methods and tools, (iv) reporting products and timelines, as applicable, and (v) roles and responsibilities across SOFF partners and implementation phases. The annexes provide supporting detail, including how existing SOFF operational documents are integrated into the MEL Framework, mapping of SOFF contributions to global and regional initiatives, reporting schedules, and partner roles across the three pillars.

The SOFF MEL Framework is anchored in results-based management principles, using as a foundation the SOFF [Theory of Change \(ToC\)](#) while applying a consistent, transparent, and systematic approach across all SOFF phases (Readiness, Investment and Compliance).

It builds on existing SOFF documents, such as the [SOFF Operational Manual](#), Results Framework and Gender Action Plan (other SOFF operational documents that contribute to SOFF MEL Framework are provided in the **Annex 1**).

Beyond internal accountability, it demonstrates SOFF's contribution to global and regional climate action agendas. **Annex 2** provides a detailed mapping of SOFF's MEL contributions to these global and regional initiatives, such as the Paris Agreement and the UN Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative.

2. Monitoring

2.1. Definition

Monitoring is a continuing process that involves the systematic collection and collation of data (on specified indicators or other types of information).

It provides the management and other stakeholders of an intervention with indications about the extent of implementation progress, achievement of intended results, occurrence

of unintended results, use of allocated funds and other important intervention and context-related information.¹

2.2. Objectives

The objective of SOFF monitoring is to systematically track progress, performance, resource use, and risks across all SOFF-supported activities. The data collected provides the Steering Committee, Implementing Entities, Peer Advisors, and countries with timely, credible information on progress and outcomes, thereby supporting accountability, adaptive management, and learning. Monitoring is guided by the [OECD results framework](#) and anchored in the outputs and indicators of the [SOFF Theory of Change](#) and [Results Framework](#), enabling timely course corrections and continuous improvement.

2.3. Monitoring and Reporting Methods

Annex 3 summarizes the reporting timelines and responsibilities for both the Readiness and Investment Phases (Compliance phase under development), specifying the types of reports, reporting frequency, coverage periods, deadlines, and responsible parties to ensure timely and consistent progress reporting to the SOFF Secretariat.

The sub-sections below present the monitoring methods at fund and project level that have been applied and will continue to be used and refined throughout SOFF operations.

2.3.1. Monitoring and Reporting Methods at Fund Level

Monitoring is the continuous, systematic collection of data on key indicators of the outputs and outcomes to track progress and the use of funds, while reporting is the formal communication of these findings to stakeholders to demonstrate results. This link between monitoring and reporting is central to SOFF's Results Framework, which uses multiple interconnected reporting channels to ensure accountability and track progress against agreed objectives, as outlined below.

- **Steering Committee reporting**

At each Steering Committee meeting, the SOFF Secretariat provides a regular update on the progress and implementation of country projects in all three phases, covering their progress, key challenges, successes, and lessons learned through a standard INF document.

- **Dashboard on SOFF website**

The SOFF Secretariat maintains a publicly accessible dashboard that regularly updates implementation status and progress for all the three SOFF phases. The main purpose of the

¹ https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/glossary-of-key-terms-in-evaluation-and-results-based-management-for-sustainable-development-second-edition_632da462-en-fr-es.html

dashboard is to serve as a centralized, transparent, and public-facing tool for visualization of the fund as well as SOFF supported countries' progress.

- **UNMPTF Annual Report**

The UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (UNMPTF) acts as the Administrative Agent for SOFF, providing the Steering Committee with annual consolidated financial and narrative progress reports covering all activities.

Financial reports are prepared directly by the UNMPTF based on submissions from participating organizations, while the SOFF Secretariat prepares the narrative report using semi-annual reports from Peer Advisors and semi-annual and annual reports from Implementing Entities. The narrative report includes updates on gender, social and environmental safeguards; participation of civil society and the private sector; complementary financing and leverage; the grievance redress mechanism; and success stories and provides detailed reporting against the results framework. Consolidated annual financial and narrative reports are published on the UNMPTF website.

- **SOFF Action Report**

Each year, the SOFF Secretariat produces a high-level Action Report alongside the UNMPTF Annual Progress Report, which serve complementary purposes. The Action Report is a strategic communication tool for policymakers, funders and the public, presenting a visually compelling narrative of SOFF's achievements and impact. It is launched at UNFCCC COPs to showcase SOFF and is informed by the UNMPTF Annual Report.

- **SOFF reporting to other global initiatives**

- **EW4All annual progress reports:** The SOFF Secretariat contributes to the EW4All M&E working group on Pillar 2, with its inputs incorporated into EW4All's annual progress reports to the UN Secretary-General via the Advisory Panel co-chaired by WMO and UNDRR. Additionally, SOFF Secretariat regularly participates in the EW4All Monitoring Working Group.
- **UNFCCC COP and SBSTA:** The SOFF Secretariat produces annual Action Reports launched at high-level events during UNFCCC COPs. At the request of Parties, SOFF also provides updates at COP Earth Information Days, which inform the deliberations and conclusions of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA).
- **World Meteorological Congress:** The SOFF Secretariat works with WMO to prepare reports for the World Meteorological Congress, highlighting SOFF's

progress in strengthening global observing systems and its alignment with WMO's strategic objectives.

2.3.2. Monitoring and Reporting Methods at Project Level

SOFF's project-level monitoring is based on the results framework with predefined indicators tailored to each of the three phases of country support. This approach aligns with standard results-based management practices, ensuring monitoring is systematic and data-driven.

- **Readiness Phase**

Peer Advisors are responsible for the timely and quality delivery of outputs under their Assignment Agreement. They must monitor progress closely and, in line with the Umbrella Legal Agreement, promptly notify the SOFF Secretariat of any issues, delays or risks. Semi-annual progress reports are submitted to the Secretariat, which reviews them to track implementation, identify systemic issues and facilitate solutions. Final payment is released only after all Readiness Phase outputs are delivered, technically reviewed by the WMO Technical Authority, and formally signed off by the country.

- **Investment Phase**

The SOFF [Investment Framework](#) defines standardized outputs and outcomes for all investments. During the Investment Phase, Peer Advisors submit semi-annual reports to the SOFF Secretariat on progress against their TORs, while Implementing Entities (IEs) provide semi-annual and annual narrative reports to the Secretariat and annual financial reports to the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund (UNMPTF) Office. These reports track progress against approved indicators. The Secretariat reviews them to monitor milestones, address challenges, and ensure projects remain on track, consolidating findings into the Annual Narrative Report for the Steering Committee and the Progress Update INF document.

In addition, each NMHS, with support and technical quality assurance from the Implementing Entity, prepares a GBON Investment Phase completion report. The report outlines results achieved, lessons learned, and the institutional arrangements established to ensure sustained GBON compliance during the Compliance Phase.

- **Compliance Phase**

GBON compliance is monitored and verified using publicly available data from the [WDQMS web tool](#) and the [GBON compliance web application](#). WDQMS tracks the availability and quality of observational data in near real time, while the compliance application provides quarterly country-level compliance information.

Data are currently supplied by four global Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) centres: the German Weather Service (DWD), ECMWF, the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA), and the U.S. National Centres for Environmental Prediction (NCEP). In addition, at the time of writing

this document, SOFF and WMO are developing a dedicated SOFF GBON Compliance tool, based on WMO data and existing systems, to monitor and report on SOFF-funded stations. This tool will support operational monitoring and be accessible to SOFF partners, including Peer Advisors and Implementing Entities.

The WMO Technical Authority will verify station-level compliance on a quarterly and annual basis. It will issue SOFF-tailored quarterly reports detailing the performance of SOFF-funded stations and the total number of GBON-compliant stations in each country. SOFF countries and Peer Advisors will have access to these reports. The WMO Technical Authority and SOFF will demonstrate the methodology for calculating quarterly and annual compliance for use in SOFF yearly reports.

2.4. Roles and Responsibilities

Monitoring under the SOFF Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework is a shared responsibility across SOFF governance bodies, delivery partners, technical authorities, and beneficiary countries.

At the fund level, the SOFF Secretariat coordinates monitoring and reporting, consolidates information from Implementing Entities, Peer Advisors, and the WMO Technical Authority, and reports progress to the Steering Committee through INF documents, dashboards, and consolidated annual reports.

At the project level, Implementing Entities, Peer Advisors, beneficiary countries, and the WMO Technical Authority are responsible for tracking implementation progress and performance against agreed indicators, including the verification of GBON compliance. Detailed monitoring roles and responsibilities across SOFF phases are set out in **Annex 4**.

3. Evaluation

3.1. Definition

Evaluation is the systematic and objective assessment of a planned, ongoing or completed intervention, its design, implementation and results.

The aim is to determine relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability. Evaluation also refers to the process of determining the worth or significance of an intervention. An evaluation should provide information that is credible and useful, enabling the incorporation of lessons learned into decision-making processes.²

² https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/glossary-of-key-terms-in-evaluation-and-results-based-management-for-sustainable-development-second-edition_632da462-en-fr-es.html

3.2. Objectives

For SOFF, the objective of the Evaluation pillar of the SOFF MEL Framework is to support decision-making, ensure accountability and enable continuous learning and accountability.

SOFF evaluations assess how well interventions deliver their planned outputs against milestones as approved in the SOFF funding requests across all three phases of support. They are guided by the OECD DAC criteria and must include gender integration as outlined in the [SOFF Gender Action plan](#).

3.3. Evaluation Methods

The following methods have been applied and will continue to be used and refined throughout SOFF operations to support evaluation:

3.3.1. Evaluation Methods at Fund Level

- **Independent External Review**

The SOFF Steering Committee may commission independent external reviews of fund-level processes as needed. Conducted at any stage of SOFF operations, these reviews are narrower in scope than full evaluations and focus on specific targeted areas. They provide the Steering Committee with a timely mechanism, complementing but not replacing comprehensive evaluations.

For e.g. In July 2023, the SOFF Steering Committee commissioned an Independent External Review to assess SOFF's design and early implementation. The review was submitted for consideration and endorsement at the Committee's 6th meeting in November 2023. It found SOFF to be highly relevant, transparent, and effective; the best viable option for countries to upgrade, maintain, and operate observation systems sustainably; and a foundation for attracting additional partner investments. (reference [Decision 7.2](#)).

- **Independent External Evaluation³**

The Steering Committee establishes the purpose, scope, and approach of each evaluation, which are reflected in the Terms of Reference. The SOFF Secretariat prepares the terms of reference for each evaluation, which are then approved by the Steering Committee. Independent external evaluations are to be conducted in line with [OECD-DAC⁴](#) and [United Nations Evaluation Group \(UNEG\) Norms and Standards](#).

³ The evaluation of an intervention conducted by entities or individuals outside the funding and implementing organisations (OECD, 2023)

⁴ OECD (2021) Applying evaluation criteria thoughtfully. OECD. Available at: https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/applying-evaluation-criteria-thoughtfully_543e84ed-en.html (accessed 29 June 2025).

According to the SOFF [Terms of Reference](#), an independent external evaluation will be conducted at the end of the first implementation period to assess the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, and sustainability of SOFF operations and results. With the extension of the First Implementation Period to June 2027, the Steering Committee decided to capture lessons learned, commission the evaluation, and develop the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) and Compliance-phase frameworks ([Decision 11.3](#)). The SOFF Gender Action Plan ([Decision 3.3](#)) also requires that gender sensitivities be explicitly addressed in all evaluations.

Independent evaluations may also be commissioned for subsequent phases of SOFF, such as the Compliance Phase, once sufficient implementation experience has been gained. The timing and scope of such evaluations will be determined by the Steering Committee to ensure lessons learned inform ongoing operations and improvements.

- **Impact Studies**

Impact reporting has been central to SOFF's approach from the outset, formally embedded in its work programme and budget to ensure that value is measured and demonstrated from inception. Guided by Steering Committee [Decision 6.8](#), WMO/ECMWF-led impact experiments have evaluated different GBON implementation scenarios and their effect on global forecasting skill. By simulating the addition of new data from under-observed regions, these experiments quantified significant improvements in forecast accuracy both locally and globally, providing rigorous evidence of GBON's value.

At its 11th meeting, the Steering Committee welcomed these results as the strongest scientific evidence to date of the benefits of targeted GBON investments. It requested broad communication of findings and proposals for a potential third phase of impact work, to be considered at the 12th meeting (Decision 12.3). Impact reports thus serve as a key instrument of SOFF's impact evaluation.⁵

3.3.2. Evaluation Methods at Project Level

- **Readiness phase**

The SOFF Readiness Funding Request process requires that both the beneficiary country and the prospective Implementing Entity provide feedback on the support received from the Peer Advisor at the end of the Readiness Phase.

⁵ An evaluation that assesses the degree to which the intervention meets its higher-level goals and identifies the causal effects of the intervention. Impact evaluations may use experimental, quasi experimental and non-experimental approaches (OECD, 2023)

For example, following this requirement, the SOFF Secretariat launched a survey on Peer Advisor support in December 2025 for countries that have completed the Readiness Phase and will continue to do so systematically for all future Readiness Phase closures.

- **Investment phase**

Implementing Entities are responsible for project evaluations⁶, following their own procedures while also adhering to the [SOFF Results Framework](#) and the requirements set out in their approved SOFF Investment Funding Request.

- **Compliance phase**

The Compliance Phase framework is being developed during the Extension Period (see consultation document on the Compliance Phase). Its evaluation component will be designed at a later stage, once the framework is finalized.

3.4. Roles and Responsibilities

Evaluation within the SOFF MEL Framework is overseen by the Steering Committee to ensure independence, credibility, and relevance for accountability and learning.

At the fund level, the Steering Committee commissions independent external reviews and evaluations, while the SOFF Secretariat prepares terms of reference, manages evaluation processes, and supports follow-up on findings in line with Steering Committee decisions.

At the project level, Implementing Entities are responsible for conducting evaluations in accordance with their approved funding requests and applicable standards, with beneficiary countries and technical partners contributing inputs as required. Detailed evaluation roles and responsibilities across SOFF partners and phases are provided in **Annex 4**.

4. Learning

4.1. Definition

[OECD DAC](#) frames learning as an integral purpose and outcome of evaluation and results-based management, where evaluation information and practices are used to inform decisions, improve performance, and adapt future strategies.

⁶ Evaluation of an individual intervention designed to achieve specific objectives within specified resources and implementation schedules, often within the framework of a broader programme, examining its relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability (OECD, 2023).

4.2. Objectives

The Learning pillar of the SOFF MEL Framework promotes continuous improvements, adaptive management, and global knowledge exchange among countries, Implementing Entities, Peer Advisors, and partners.

The Secretariat aims to capture and share knowledge on three priority themes: operational lessons learned across all phases (Readiness, Investment, Compliance); innovations in delivery and private-sector engagement; and technical evidence to support sustained GBON compliance.

4.3. Learning Methods

Learning is embedded across reporting, evaluations, technical assistance, and stakeholder dialogues coordinated by the Secretariat, covering technical, institutional, and cross-cutting areas, including gender integration.

The following learning methods are in use and will continue to be refined throughout SOFF operations to support monitoring, evaluation, and learning:

4.3.1. Learning Methods at Fund Level

- **Steering Committee documents**

In close coordination with WMO technical authorities, Implementing Entities, NMHS Peer Advisors, recipient countries, and the Advisory Board, the SOFF Secretariat continuously gathers implementation evidence and lessons learned. These insights are regularly synthesized into Steering Committee documents to inform and guide decision-making.

4.3.2. Learning Methods and both Fund and Project level

- **Peer Advisor and Implementing Entity workshops**

SOFF Peer Advisor and Implementing Entity workshops are organized to foster collaboration, learning, and operational improvement across delivery partners. They strengthen the SOFF community, enhance technical alignment, and contribute to fund-level learning by capturing insights that inform future programming.

- **Webinars**

SOFF gathers lessons learned through webinars organized by the Secretariat—often with the WMO Technical Authority—as well as through regional workshops with countries, Implementing Entities, and Peer Advisors, and through collaboration with the private sector (e.g. the Association of the Hydro-Meteorological Industry, HMEI).

- **Regional Workshops**

SOFF has convened regional workshops in the Pacific, Africa, and South Asia, bringing together countries, regional actors, and partners to share experiences, identify challenges, and co-develop solutions. These workshops have proven cost-efficient and valuable and should continue, with lessons systematically captured and documented.

- **Moodle Platform**

SOFF has expanded its online learning through a dedicated Moodle platform that hosts forums, interactive modules, recorded webinars, procurement guidance, and country case materials, enabling peer exchange and training. The [SOFF Moodle platform](#) is open to all, though access to discussion forums is limited to registered Peer Advisors and Implementing Entities.

- **SOFF Knowledge Center**

As a further evolution, SOFF is exploring the creation of a membership-based digital Knowledge Center as a single-entry point for its community of practice and wider coalition of partners. Such a platform can provide interactive access to curated libraries, e-learning modules, and discussion forums, while also hosting purpose-specific digital communities and regular virtual events. Advanced features can support member engagement through personalized content, newsletters, and peer-to-peer networking, as well as analytics to track participation and learning outcomes. Over time, the Knowledge Center can become a central hub for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and continuous capacity building across the SOFF partnership.

4.4. Roles and Responsibilities

Learning under the SOFF MEL Framework is coordinated by the SOFF Secretariat and supported by all SOFF partners to promote adaptive management and continuous improvement.

At the fund level, the Secretariat synthesizes lessons from monitoring, evaluations, and implementation experience and shares them through Steering Committee documents, learning platforms, and knowledge-exchange activities, with strategic guidance from the Steering Committee.

At the project level, Implementing Entities, Peer Advisors, beneficiary countries, and the WMO Technical Authority contribute lessons learned through reporting, evaluations, and participation in learning activities. Detailed learning-related roles and responsibilities are outlined in **Annex 4**.

5. Application of the SOFF MEL Framework

This Framework should be used as a reference when planning, reviewing and updating monitoring, evaluation and learning arrangements under SOFF. It provides a basis for checking that MEL activities are aligned with agreed objectives, indicators and reporting requirements, and that responsibilities are clearly understood across partners and phases.

The Framework should also be used to support the interpretation and use of evidence. Monitoring information, evaluation findings and lessons learned should be considered jointly, rather than in isolation, when assessing progress, identifying risks and challenges, and informing management responses and Steering Committee discussions.

Oversight of the application of this Framework is provided by the Steering Committee, in line with existing SOFF governance arrangements. The SOFF Secretariat supports the application of the Framework through coordination, consolidation of information, and facilitation of reporting, learning and follow-up, in accordance with its mandate.

Where detailed operational requirements are needed, users should refer to the annexes and relevant SOFF operational documents. This Framework does not replace phase-specific guidance or contractual obligations, but provides a common reference to support coherence and consistency in their application.

Annex 1: Integrating SOFF Documents into the MEL Framework

The MEL Framework builds on and integrates provisions from existing SOFF governance and operational instruments. Each document plays a distinct role in ensuring coherence and accountability. The documents on which the MEL framework is built are as follows:

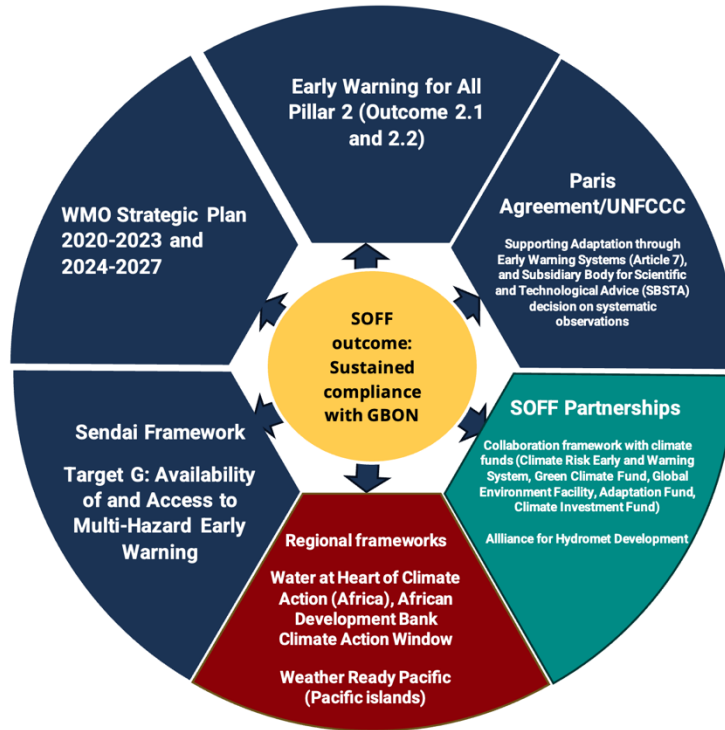
- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
- [Terms of Reference \(ToR\)](#), including [Theory of Change \(ToC\)](#)
- [Operational Manual \(OM\)](#)
- [Updated SOFF Results Framework](#)
- [Gender Action Plan](#)
- [Work Programme](#)
- [Investment Framework](#)
- [Risk Management Framework](#)
- [SOFF Readiness funding request template](#)
- [SOFF investment funding request template](#)
- Compliance Framework (under development)

Annex 2: SOFF contribution to global and regional climate action initiatives

SOFF, and consequently the SOFF Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework, contribute to a range of global initiatives, regional frameworks and partnerships that aim to strengthen climate observation, early warning systems and climate resilience.

These linkages are illustrated in Figure 1, with SOFF's core outcome—sustained compliance with the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON)—at the centre.

Figure 1. SOFF contribution to global and regional climate action initiatives



WMO Strategic Plan

GBON (Global Basic Observing Network) was established through WMO Resolution 75 (Cg-18) to set mandatory requirements for surface- and upper-air observations globally. SOFF was created via [WMO Resolution 76](#) (Cg-18) in 2021, responding to the urgent need to close observational data gaps, especially in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The WMO Strategic Plans (2020-2023 and 2024 -2027) have a long-term “Goal 2: Enhance Earth system observations and predictions: Strengthening the technical foundation for the future” and “Goal 4: Close the capacity gap on weather, climate, hydrological and related environmental services”⁷.

→ **SOFF’s contribution:** SOFF aims to ensure that National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) have the observational data required to deliver reliable, sector-specific services that strengthen climate resilience across priority sectors. During the Compliance Phase, and in collaboration with WMO, enhancements in Earth system observations will be monitored and verified annually.

Paris Agreement / UNFCCC

Article 7 of the [Paris Agreement](#) states the importance of “Strengthening scientific knowledge on climate, including research, systematic observation of the climate system and early warning systems, in a manner that informs climate services and supports decision-making” as essential element for adequate adaptation. Article 8 on Loss and Damage highlights “early warning systems” as a key area of cooperation (UNFCCC, 2015). About half of NDCs, 40% of NAPs, and over 90% of adaptation communications mention early warning systems⁸.

→ **SOFF’s contribution:** By financing GBON-compliant observing networks, data-sharing support, and technical assistance for NMHSs, SOFF enables countries to meet their obligations on systematic observation, deliver on EWS commitments in NDCs and NAPs, and establish the foundation for effective climate services.

- **Early Warnings for All (EW4All) Initiative**

Launched in 2022 by the UN Secretary-General, [EW4All](#) aims to ensure universal protection through multi-hazard early warning systems.

→ **SOFF’s contribution:** SOFF is a foundational element and operational delivery mechanism for EW4All’s Pillar 2 (Detection, Observation, Monitoring, Analysis and Forecasting). The [EW4All’s Dashboard](#) captures SOFF intermediary outcomes 2.1 (increased availability of quality observation data for hazard monitoring) and 2.2 (enhanced data exchange and access for forecasting and warning systems), along with related indicators such as number of Members supported, GBON compliance and WIS

⁷ [WMO Strategic Plan 2024-2027](#)

⁸ UNFCCC & GEO 2024. Realising Early Warnings for All: Innovation and Technology in Support of Risk-Informed Climate Resilience Policy and Action. United Nations Climate Change Secretariat. Bonn.

data-exchange metrics. This enables EW4All to directly aggregate SOFF outcomes into its Pillar 2 implementation indicators.

Sendai Framework

The [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030](#) has a dedicated target on early warning systems (Target G) to “*Substantially increase the availability of and access to, multi hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030*” (UNDRR, 2015).

→ **SOFF’s contribution:** SOFF addresses the very first step of the early warning value chain — accurate detection and monitoring — which is essential for effective multi-hazard systems and risk-informed decision-making.

Regional initiatives

- **[Water at the Heart of Climate Action:](#)** SOFF funds the production and delivery of climate products and services, enabling disaster management authorities in Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, and Uganda to provide accurate and timely warnings to vulnerable communities.
- **[Climate Action Window \(CAW\)](#)** of the African Development Bank: Following the 9th SOFF Steering Committee decision, a partnership was formally established in 2024 with the African Development Bank through its Climate Action Window (CAW). Together, SOFF and CAW coordinate advocacy, resource mobilization and capacity-building to address critical climate data and early warning gaps across the continent.
- **[Weather Ready Pacific Program \(WRP\):](#)** An agreement on complementarity and collaboration with the Weather Ready Pacific (WRP) programme was signed in 2024. Under this partnership, SOFF supports Pacific Island countries in achieving sustained GBON compliance, while WRP strengthens observational networks beyond GBON and advances activities further along the value chain.

Other SOFF Partnerships

- **[Alliance for Hydromet Development](#)**

The [Alliance for Hydromet Development](#) brings together major international development, humanitarian and climate finance institutions committed to closing the hydromet capacity gap by 2030. It seeks to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability

of hydromet investments through coordinated partnerships that leverage the expertise of its members.

The creation of SOFF was the Alliance's priority commitment to address challenges from past investments in observation infrastructure. All Alliance members have contributed to SOFF's development, and almost all are engaged in its governance or operations. SOFF has now been invited, jointly with CREWS, to join the Alliance, as noted in [Decision 12.5](#).

- **Collaboration framework with other climate funds**

The [Framework for Collaboration on Enhancing Systematic Observation](#) was developed at the request of the SOFF Steering Committee ([Decisions 5.5](#) and [6.4](#)). It was signed by the Secretariats of the Adaptation Fund, Climate Investment Funds, Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems Initiative, Global Environment Facility and Green Climate Fund at the SOFF high-level event on 9 December 2023 during COP28. The framework establishes complementarity and joint action between SOFF and major climate funds.

Annex 3. Reporting schedules

	Type	From	To	Frequency	Reporting period	Deadline	Note
Readiness Phase	Semi-annual report	Peer Advisor	SOFF Secretariat	Twice per year	6 months after the signature date of the assignment agreement	Soon after the delivery readiness phase outputs takes more than six months	SOFF peer advisor shall submit a semi-annual progress report to the SOFF Secretariat if the delivery of advisory services takes more than six months
	Final report	Peer Advisor	SOFF Secretariat	Once for the entire implementation period	Start to end of implementation	Latest three months following completion of the three Readiness Phase outputs	
Investment Phase	Semi-annual progress update	Implementing Entity	SOFF Secretariat	Once per year	January to June	End of July	In cases where the deadline for the first progress update is only three months following the start of implementation, IEs may submit the first status report to the subsequent deadline.
	Semi-annual report	Peer advisor	SOFF Secretariat	Twice per year	January to June	End of July	In cases where the deadline for the first progress update is only three months
					July to December	End of March	

	Type	From	To	Frequency	Reporting period	Deadline	Note
							following the start of implementation, peer advisors may submit the first semi-annual report to the subsequent deadline.
	Annual narrative report	Implementing Entity	SOFF Secretariat	Once per year	Jan to December of calendar year	End of March	The first annual narrative and financial report will cover the period between the approval in the UNMPTF Gateway and the end of the calendar year.
	Annual financial report	Implementing Entity	UNMPTF Office	Once per year	January to December calendar year	End of April	The first annual financial report will cover the period between the approval in the UNMPTF Gateway and the end of the calendar year.
	Completion report	Implementing Entity and Peer advisor	SOFF Secretariat	Once for the entire implementation period	Start to end of implementation	Latest six months following completion of all activities	The template for the completion report will be provided in the due course
Compliance phase	To reflect the agreement in the compliance phase framework						

Annex 4. Roles of SOFF partners across Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

Readiness Phase	
Role	Monitoring
Steering Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oversight of progress of by the operational partners submitted by SOFF Secretariat and UNMPTF through INF documents, annual narrative and financial reports.
SOFF Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manages, consolidates, and reviews reports to ensure compliance. Organizes exchange of knowledge and experiences and captures progress and lessons learned which are submitted to the Steering Committee.
WMO Technical Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for the technical screening of the draft GBON National Gap Analysis and the draft GBON National Contribution Plan against the GBON regulations.
Peer Advisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are accountable to the beneficiary country. In dialogue with the beneficiary country, provide independent technical advice, analysis and recommendations to support the beneficiary country in implementing the activities of the Readiness phase. Develop the Readiness phase outputs and are responsible for their quality and timely delivery. Communicate regularly and timely with the beneficiary country and the Implementing Entity. Engage with the civil society, including on the identification of stakeholders of relevance for GBON implementation. Submit the final report with the Readiness phase outputs to the country for comments and to the prospective Implementing Entity for feedback. Submit the final report including the beneficiary country's comments and the prospective Implementing Entity's feedback to the SOFF Secretariat. Notify 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 Entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in the Readiness phase activities and collaborate with the beneficiary country and the Peer Advisor to ensure a common understanding of the

	<p>Readiness phase outputs and that they address the technical needs for the design and implementation of the Investment phase.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the definition of the Terms of Reference and provides feedback on the outputs delivered by the Peer Advisor.
Country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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.
Readiness Phase	
Role	Evaluation
SOFF Secretariat	<p>Provides Evaluation form to the Country and Implementing Entities for evaluation of peer advisory services.</p> <p>Reviews Evaluation forms submitted by country and Implementing Entities</p>
WMO Technical Authority	Signs off approved readiness outputs
Peer Advisors	In Collaboration with Country, sign off approved readiness outputs
Implementing Entities	Evaluate the quality of support received from the Peer Advisor at the end of the Readiness phase using form provided by the SOFF Secretariat
Country	Evaluates the quality of support received from the Peer Advisor at the end of the Readiness phase using form provided by the SOFF Secretariat
Readiness Phase	
Role	Learning

SOFF Secretariat	Activities are ongoing via SOFF's Moodle platform where SOFF Secretariat facilitates the exchange of knowledge and experiences and captures lessons learned.
Implementing Entities	Based on its experience in the beneficiary country, support the work of the Peer Advisor, e.g. by sharing its knowledge and facilitating access to the network of relevant stakeholders.

Investment Phase	
Role	Monitoring
Steering Committee	Oversight of progress of by the operational partners submitted by SOFF Secretariat through INF document to the Steering Committee meetings.
SOFF Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitates communication, coordination and collaboration between the beneficiary country, the Implementing Entity, the Peer Advisor and WMO Technical Authority. Compiles quarterly updates and annual reports and monitors implementation based on information received from the Implementing entity, the Peer Advisor and the beneficiary country. Regularly informs the Steering Committee of progress. Confirms receipt of the final report by the Implementing Entity and completion of the Investment Phase based on WMO verification of data sharing. Maintains and track progress through the Monitoring and Evaluation Dashboard.
UNMPTF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receiving and reviewing Implementing Entity financial reports for completeness and compliance. Tracking fund balances, transfers, and expenditures Publishing financial information on the MPTF Office Gateway (transparency requirement), including annual financial report and narrative reports.
WMO Technical Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides basic on-demand technical assistance to the beneficiary country, Implementing Entity and Peer Advisor on GBON regulations, including on monitoring and assessing the data-sharing status of the stations using the WDQMS web tool¹ Is responsible for the verification of data sharing of the new or rehabilitated surface and upper -air stations as per GBON regulations.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a verification report to the SOFF Secretariat, upon which the Investment Phase can be considered completed. Establishes and administers the pass-through mechanism for contracting and funding of the advisory services provided by the Peer Advisors.
Peer Advisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are accountable to the beneficiary country and the Implementing Entity. Are contracted via the WMO pass-through mechanism and operate on a cost-recovery basis. Provide technical advisory services to support beneficiary countries and Implementing Entities in the design and implementation of the SOFF Investment Phase activities and report on potential practical impediments. Contribute to the semi-annual and final report of the SOFF Investment Phase.
Implementing Entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepares the Investment Phase funding request in collaboration with the beneficiary country and the Peer Advisor, including the Terms of References for the provision of technical advisory services during the SOFF Investment Phase. Manages the Investment Phase activities following the terms specified in the funding request and in collaboration with relevant national partners, including civil society organizations. Delivers the Investment phase outputs and is responsible for their quality and timely delivery, in coordination with the country and the Peer Advisor. Provide regular updates to the SOFF Secretariat using a simple, standardized semi-annual report and an annual report each year, in line with the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office's reporting requirements as specified in the legal agreements. Informs the SOFF Secretariat of circumstances that could materially impede the implementation of the Investment phase or any considerable deviation in the conditions of the funding request to achieve its objectives. Submits the final report to the SOFF Secretariat including the beneficiary country's comments and the Peer Advisors' feedback. The final report describes the institutional arrangements to secure sustained operation and maintenance of the investments made.
Investment Phase	
Role	Evaluation
Steering Committee	Commissions and Review Evaluations.

SOFF Secretariat	Confirms receipt of the evaluation report by the Implementing Entity in accordance with the approved funding request and UNMPTF guidelines.
Implementing Entities	Conduct the evaluation of the project upon completion and submit to UNMPTF in accordance with the approved funding request and UNMPTF guidelines.
UNMPTF	Ensuring audit requirements are met (IEs are audited through their own systems; the MPTF Office ensures audit coverage exists).
Investment Phase	
Role	Learning
SOFF Secretariat	Activities are ongoing via SOFF's Moodle platform where SOFF Secretariat facilitates the exchange of knowledge and experiences and captures lessons learned shared by Peer advisors and Implementing entities through annual and semi-annual reports.
Peer Advisors	Provide information on milestones and challenges of project progress through the submitted annual and semi-annual reports.
Implementing Entities	Provide information on milestones and challenges of project progress through the submitted annual and semi-annual reports.
Compliance phase	
Details to be defined following completion of the Compliance document.	