Systematic Observations Financing Facility

Fifteenth Steering Committee
21 October 2026

SOFF approach for regional, sub-regional and multi-country delivery

Decision 15.2

Systematic Observations
Financing Facility



Weather
and climate
data for
resilience

Decision 15.2: SOFF approach for regional, sub-regional and multi-country delivery

The SOFF Steering Committee:

Recalls Decisions 1.4 and 5.8 on regional and subregional gains in SOFF programming and Investment; Intersessional Decision 2.1 and Decision 9.4 on regional workshops, engagement and partnerships; and Decision 14.3 adopting the Compliance Phase Framework, including an option for a regional window;

Acknowledges the need to preserve country ownership and national accountability for GBON compliance while improving implementation efficiency and long-term sustainability; and the role of regional workshops as enablers for developing, validating and putting such arrangements into practice;

Adopts the voluntary and modular regional, sub-regional and multi-country approach for the SOFF Investment and Compliance Phases set out in this document; and

Approves an allocation of USD 75,000, including WMO indirect support costs, for two follow-up regional workshops in the Caribbean and the Pacific in 2027;

Notes that a workshop for African countries covered by the Water at the Heart of Climate Action initiative will be held in Africa in 2027, on the margins of the initiative's Regional Learning Assembly, and funded by the Netherlands grant to the SOFF Secretariat; no allocation for that workshop is requested under this decision.

Requests

the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office to

- Disburse USD 75,000 from to WMO for the SOFF Secretariat to organize the Caribbean and Pacific workshops;

the SOFF Secretariat to

- organize the workshops in consultation with beneficiary countries and relevant operational, regional and subregional partners, and pursue cost-sharing opportunities;
- facilitate operationalization of the endorsed approach, including by facilitating regional, sub-regional or multi-country overview notes for related Investment Funding Requests and supporting country-backed regional proposals under the Compliance regional window, while preserving country ownership and applicable fiduciary requirements; and
- report to the Steering Committee on workshops outcomes, lessons from early application and any recommended refinements to the approach.

Purpose of this Document

This document provides the background and rational for stepping up SOFF regional, sub-regional and multi-country engagement. For this purpose, it defines a modular approach for operational delivery, identifies first applications and seeks Steering Committee approval for the 2027 Caribbean and Pacific regional workshops, as important platforms for implementing the approach.

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SOFF approach for regional, sub-regional and multi-country delivery

1. Background

Although SOFF has not previously formalized a dedicated approach, regional, subregional and multi-country synergies have been embedded in its policies and operations from the outset.

1.1. SOFF documents and decisions

The SOFF Terms of Reference provide that, where a multi-country approach is advisable, an Implementing Entity may combine the GBON plans of several countries under a regional or multi-country programme. The SOFF Operational Manual subsequently established "sub-regional gains" as one of the six SOFF programming criteria, defined as opportunities to create economies of scale and optimize observing-network design through multi-country or subregional implementation. For the Investment Phase, the Manual also provides that multi-country procurement may be considered by the Steering Committee and that Implementing Entities and Peer Advisors may come together to support the implementation of several countries' GBON National Contribution Plans under a regional or multi-country programme.

SOFF Steering Committee decisions approved further developments of these provisions. Decision 4.4 programmed the remaining eligible Pacific countries to prepare Readiness Funding Requests and identified potential benefits from multi-country and regional implementation. Decision 7.5 extended SOFF eligibility to Cook Islands and Niue, following a request from the Steering Committee of a GCF-funded UNEP multi-country programme to help sustain its GBON investments. Decision 5.4 similarly responded to country requests by programming the remaining Caribbean and Indian Ocean countries and identifying opportunities for coordinated implementation, procurement, operations and maintenance, and learning. Decision 5.8 incorporated regional and subregional gains into the Investment Phase Framework through regionally agreed technical specifications, existing regional coordination mechanisms and, where possible, multi-country approaches to procurement. It also provides for regional knowledge exchange and learning, standardized and compatible technical specifications, and regional procurement in cooperation with regional organizations. Decisions 8.4.2 and 11.6 subsequently confirmed that Investment Funding Requests are prioritized using the SOFF programming criteria and may be revised while in the Investment pipeline.

The Compliance Phase Framework adopted through SOFF Steering Committee Decision 14.3 includes a regional window allowing SOFF to consider country-backed proposals to pool Compliance payments through a regional request supporting regional institutions or functions.

1.2. Regional workshops and partnerships

Regional workshops, incorporated in the SOFF Work Program (Decision 6.6) provided a mechanism for developing these considerations further with countries and partners. The purpose was fostering regionally coordinated implementation, leveraging finance beyond SOFF, and supporting knowledge-sharing and regional technical consultations (Intersessional Decision 2.1). Three workshops were held in 2024: for the Pacific in Fiji on 10–12 April; for Africa in Abidjan on 11–13 September; and for South Asia in Bhutan on 24–26 September. A fourth workshop took place in 2025 (5-7 May) for the Caribbean. They identified practical opportunities for coordinated implementation, including procurement, operations and maintenance, calibration, training, data exchange and the use of regional institutions, as well as alignment with complementary financing.

SOFF Steering Committee Decision 9.4 welcomed the workshop outcomes, noted country demand for continued regional collaboration, and requested further regional engagement and collaboration agreements with the Weather Ready Pacific Programme (managed by SPREP) and the African Development Bank Climate Action Window. This resulted in two formal partnerships: a Memorandum of Understanding with Weather Ready Pacific to promote regional efficiencies, strengthen coordination and explore joint initiatives; and a Letter of Intent with the African Development Bank to coordinate advocacy, resource mobilization, capacity-building and technical assistance through the Climate Action Window.

A different multi-country partnership is the Water at the Heart of Climate Action initiative, funded by the Kingdom of the Netherlands and implemented by a consortium comprising SOFF, WMO, UNDRR and Red Cross and Red Crescent partners. The initiative covers Ethiopia, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda to reduce water-related climate risks across the Nile Basin. Within this broader partnership, SOFF strengthens the generation and international exchange of basic weather and climate observations, providing the foundation for improved forecasting, early warning and climate services. A dedicated grant to the SOFF Secretariat supports coordination across participating countries and partners, including through a joint Learning Assembly.

1.3 World Meteorological Congress and WMO Regional Associations decisions

Consistent demand of WMO Members for regional coordination is reflected in decisions of WMO governing bodies and Regional Associations. World Meteorological

Congress Resolution 21 (Cg-19) on GBON Implementation requests the Presidents of WMO Regional Associations to support Members by providing regional or subregional technical coordination for GBON implementation.

At the regional level, Decision 9 (RA V-18) committed the Members of WMO Regional Association V (South-West Pacific) to contribute to the further development and prompt implementation of SOFF. Following this decision, the RA V President submitted to the SOFF Secretariat a request for a SOFF Pacific SIDS regional programme, as documented in SOFF Steering Committee Decision 9.4. More recently, WMO Decision 4 (RA V-19(I)) addressed the scaling up of SOFF implementation in the South-West Pacific.

In Regional Association IV (North America, Central America and the Caribbean) Decision 2 (RA IV-19) endorsed a regional design for the upper-air component of GBON and called for its rapid implementation through SOFF investments in eligible Members. Decision 10 (RA IV-19) also called for consideration of expanded SOFF Investment and Compliance support to currently ineligible middle-income Members, while ensuring subregional efficiency gains.

In Africa, Decision 19 (RA I-18) requested consideration of a comprehensive African regional SOFF programme. Decision 7 (RA I-19(I)) subsequently reinforced this request and called for the resources needed to implement the African regional SOFF programme.

1.4 WMO regional centers and offices

WMO's regional architecture provides an actionable foundation for SOFF's approach to regional, subregional and multi-country delivery. It brings together Regional WIGOS Centres supporting station metadata management and follow-up on data availability and quality issues; Regional Instrument Centres providing calibration services and expertise on instrument performance and maintenance; Regional Training Centres delivering training and capacity development. WMO regional and representative offices facilitate cooperation among Members and connect them with technical expertise and regional partners.

Under the proposed SOFF approach, these capacities can support shared calibration and maintenance arrangements, joint training, technical assistance and closer coordination with regional partners, helping countries address common operational challenges and sustain the quality and international exchange of GBON data during the Investment and Compliance Phases.

2. Rationale

Although SOFF's governing and operational documents provide for regional, subregional and multi-country synergies, operations are largely organized through country funding requests, approvals, implementation arrangements and reporting. Existing provisions

identified opportunities for coordination but did not establish a common approach for developing joint activities. Coordination is further complicated by countries progressing at different speeds and working with different Implementing Entities, Peer Advisors and procurement timelines. The SOFF Independent External Review, endorsed through Decision 7.2, also recommended that SOFF "explore regional approaches to SOFF implementation, including regional entities as executing agencies".

As more countries move into the Investment and Compliance Phases, a formalized approach is needed to identify opportunities early, determine which elements could be delivered jointly, and clarify the roles, financing and accountability of participating countries and partners. This is particularly important because potential regional or multi-country arrangements for the Compliance Phase need to be considered during the design of Investment operations: choices concerning equipment, technical specifications, procurement, maintenance, capacity development and partner roles will determine whether shared long-term functions are viable.

More specifically, there are several reasons for stepping up regional, subregional and multi-country engagement:

- **Responding to country demand and regional priorities**

Countries have repeatedly called for stronger regional coordination through SOFF workshops, WMO Regional Association decisions and requests from regional representatives. A formal approach would provide a practical means of responding to this demand, enabling participating countries to define shared priorities and select the regional or multi-country elements that best meet their needs.

- **Achieving economies of scale and greater delivery efficiency**

Coordinated procurement can aggregate demand, reduce transaction and logistics costs, improve access to suppliers and facilitate common technical specifications, warranties and supplies of consumables and spare parts. Joint approaches may also reduce the cost of technical assistance, training, calibration, installation, operations and maintenance, particularly where countries use the same Implementing Entity, Peer Advisor or equipment.

- **Strengthening capacity and long-term sustainability**

Regional and subregional organizations can complement national capacity by providing specialized functions that may not be viable in every country, such as calibration, advanced training, technical troubleshooting, procurement support or access to specialist expertise. Regional training, communities of practice and shared technical resources can reduce vulnerability to staff turnover and preserve institutional knowledge.

- **Addressing shared and context-specific challenges**

Some groups of countries face circumstances that cannot be addressed efficiently through isolated national operations. Pacific island countries, for example, share

challenges arising from vast distances, difficult logistics, limited specialized capacity and high staff turnover.

- **Mobilizing and aligning additional funding**

A coordinated approach to SOFF investments across countries can strengthen the case for funding and create opportunities for joint resource mobilization that may not be available to individual countries. It can also facilitate alignment between SOFF's foundational investments and financing from regional programmes, multilateral development banks, climate funds and other partners covering the wider hydrometeorological value chain.

3. Overview of the approach

The SOFF regional, subregional and multi-country approach is not a separate delivery model, but a set of modalities allowing to connect country-led operations where coordination can improve efficiency, coherence or sustainability. This chapter defines its guiding principles and identifies the enablers to facilitate a meaningful implementation. Key definitions are provided in Annex 1. The following two chapters will focus specifically on implementation modalities during the Investment and the Compliance phases.

3.1. Core principles

The principles presented below are intended to guide the identification, design and implementation of regional, subregional and multi-country arrangements across the SOFF Investment and Compliance Phases. They are envisioned to ensure that arrangements respond to country needs and add demonstrable value.

- **Country ownership:** The responsibility for achieving sustained GBON compliance remains with each country. Regional, sub-regional and multi-country affiliation requires country agreement.
- **Accountability:** Regional coordination does not diminish the responsibilities of countries, the fiduciary and procurement accountability of Implementing Entities, or WMO's independent GBON verification role.
- **Modularity:** Only functions that create clear added value are shared; other activities remain national. Modules, groupings and delivery arrangements may differ and evolve over time.
- **Long-term sustainability:** Investment choices consider long-term operations, maintenance, calibration, consumables, staffing and data exchange.

3.2. Enablers

Three mutually reinforcing enablers will support the development and implementation of regional, subregional and multi-country synergies. Regional workshops will provide a country-led forum for identifying and strengthening synergies; regional partnerships will sustain collaboration by capitalizing on existing collaboration foundation; and multi-

country initiatives will provide practical platforms for coordinating operations and complementary finance.

- **Regional workshops**

Regional workshops will bring together beneficiary countries, Implementing Entities, Peer Advisors, WMO TA, regional organizations and financing partners to assess common needs, discuss challenges, select functions that may benefit from coordination and agree appropriate delivery arrangements. Identified opportunities and follow-up actions will be documented and, where relevant, incorporated into funding requests, implementation plans and monitoring.

For 2027, the SOFF Secretariat is planning two regional workshops (for the Pacific and the Caribbeans). Table 1 in Annex 3 to this document provides a break-down of the estimates cost of USD 75,000 for these two workshops. The SOFF Secretariat will work towards efficiencies and cost savings by partnering with relevant organizations in the two regions and/or planning these workshops to run back-to-back with other events where key stakeholders will already be present and available.

The format can extend to a sub-regional and multi-country workshop, such as the Water at the Heart of Climate Action Learning Assembly for the Nile Bassin countries covered by the initiative.

More details on the content of the workshops are provided in Annex 3.

- **Regional/sub-regional partners**

Partnerships with existing regional and subregional programmes and organizations can provide continuity beyond individual workshops and country operations. They may support technical coordination, shared services, knowledge exchange, alignment of investments and resource mobilization. Where appropriate, collaboration may be formalized through an agreement setting out the respective roles and areas of cooperation. At the request of participating countries and in agreement with the relevant Implementing Entities, a regional or subregional partner organization may also be embedded in national delivery arrangements as a technical partner. An example of a regional partner under consideration for the Pacific is the Weather Ready Pacific program managed by SPREP.

- **Multi-country initiatives**

Existing or new initiatives involving several countries can provide a framework for coordinating SOFF operations around shared objectives, challenges or financing opportunities. Such initiatives may support joint planning, learning and technical exchange and connect SOFF investments in basic observations with financing for the wider hydrometeorological value chain. Participation in a multi-country initiative does not replace national funding approvals or accountability; jointly delivered elements will be

identified and agreed by the participating countries and reflected in the relevant SOFF arrangements. An example of such an initiative is the Water at the Heart of Climate Action.

4. Regional and multi-country synergies for the SOFF Investment Phase

The Investment Phase provides the main entry point for translating regional, subregional and multi-country opportunities into delivery arrangements. It is during this phase that technical specifications, procurement, capacity development, operations and maintenance, and Peer Advisor support are finalized. Shared functions that may continue into the Compliance Phase should therefore be anticipated during Investment so that infrastructure, contracts, capacities and partnerships are designed accordingly.

Immediate opportunities arise where several countries in the same region, subregion or other justified grouping are preparing Investment Funding Requests with the same Implementing Entity and/or Peer Advisor. Each country would retain its own Funding Request, allocation, approval, ownership and accountability. However, the related requests could be accompanied by a regional or multi-country umbrella document providing a common frame for the proposed operations. Prepared with the participating countries, Implementing Entities, Peer Advisors, WMO Technical Authority and relevant partners, and facilitated by the SOFF Secretariat, the note would identify the shared rationale, participating countries, selected modules, implementation roles, sequencing, financing arrangements and expected efficiencies. The activities and costs would remain reflected in the relevant country Investment Funding Requests rather than creating a separate regional Investment allocation.

Countries already implementing approved Investment Funding Requests could also join or align with emerging groupings, subject to country agreement and applicable procedures. This could involve adjustments to work plans, Peer Advisor activities, procurement or installation schedules, training and maintenance arrangements, or technical partnerships, provided these remain compatible with the approved objectives and budgets. This flexibility would allow groupings to expand as countries progress at different speeds without delaying national implementation. Where such adjustments involve significant changes, an updated Investment Funding Request would need to be submitted to the SOFF Steering Committee for approval, in accordance with applicable SOFF procedures.

The approach is modular rather than one-size-fits-all. Participating countries may select only the shared elements that add value and may use different groupings for different functions. Annex 2 sets out the potential modular areas of intervention and options within each that may be selected, providing a practical checklist for countries,

Implementing Entities and Peer Advisors when designing or adjusting Investment Phase operations.

5. Regional and multi-country "windows" in the SOFF Compliance Phase

The SOFF Compliance Phase Framework establishes an optional regional window under which eligible countries may jointly submit a regional request through the UN entity pooled payment modality. Their individually calculated Compliance payments may support agreed regional institutions or functions. The proposal must be signed by all participating countries, while participation remains the decision of each country's WMO Permanent Representative.

A regional request does not alter the results-based nature of Compliance or transfer country accountability. Payments remain linked to WMO verification of station-level compliance, and each country remains responsible for operating and maintaining its stations and exchanging GBON data internationally.

Potential arrangements should be identified during the Investment Phase, allowing countries to select shared functions, identify a suitable partner and establish the necessary financing and accountability arrangements. They may begin with a smaller group and expand as other countries enter Compliance. To facilitate the process, a modular menu of potential roles for regional or subregional partner organizations will be developed, considering functions such as maintenance, spare-parts management, training, data-exchange support and coordination with Peer Advisors and WMO regional centres.

6. Operationalizing the approach

The SOFF approach would initially be applied to three groupings where countries and partners have already identified concrete opportunities for regional or multi-country coordination. Together, they will allow SOFF to test and refine the approach across different configurations: a geographically dispersed island region, a region with established shared technical institutions, and a multi-country initiative organized around a common climate-risk objective. Lessons will inform its subsequent application across the SOFF portfolio.

Pacific countries eligible for SOFF support

The 14 SOFF-supported Pacific island countries, four of which are in the Investment Phase, face common challenges arising from their geographic dispersion and the high cost and complexity of transport, procurement and regular station maintenance. Sea salt, humidity and severe weather accelerate equipment deterioration, while small Meteorological Services often face staff-retention challenges and limited specialized capacity. These shared conditions are matched by established regional cooperation. SPREP, through its Climate Science and Information Programme and the Pacific Meteorological Council, coordinates regional meteorological support, while the Pacific Community provides complementary technical capabilities, particularly for ocean and climate observations.

In September 2026, the Pacific Meteorological Council, which brings together the heads of meteorological services of SPREP Members, emphasized at its eighth meeting (PMC-8) the importance of pursuing regional synergies and using existing regional architecture during the SOFF Investment Phase. It also supported advancing a Pacific regional approach to the Compliance Phase, drawing on this architecture, including Weather Ready Pacific, subject to participating countries' agreement and applicable SOFF arrangements. The Council's call to accelerate SOFF investments in the remaining 10 eligible Pacific countries and enable their participation in a regional approach to Compliance further reinforces the case for piloting the proposed approach in the Pacific.

Weather Ready Pacific, a Pacific-led programme managed by SPREP and linked to SOFF through a Memorandum of Understanding, could be considered as a regional partner, subject to the agreement of participating countries. SPREP, SPC (the Pacific Community) or relevant technical centres could deliver selected regional or subregional functions. Coordination is further facilitated by the concentration of SOFF operations among two Peer Advisors (Australia's Bureau of Meteorology and MetService New Zealand) and three Implementing Entities: UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank. A regional workshop in the Pacific, tentatively planned for the last semester of 2027 would serve as a coordination platform to further develop and operationalize the existing synergies.

Caribbean countries eligible for SOFF support

The 16 SOFF-supported Caribbean countries, five of which are in the Investment Phase, share fragmented observing infrastructure, constraints affecting procurement, calibration, maintenance and spare parts, and limited technical and ICT capacity. The 2025 SOFF Caribbean Regional Workshop identified data exchange through WIS 2.0, calibration and operations and maintenance, and GBON-related capacity development as priorities for regional action.

The initial application could test voluntary, function-specific groupings rather than fixed geographic or linguistic subdivisions. Potential regional or subregional partners could include the Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO) and the Caribbean Institute for

Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH). Countries sharing the same Peer Advisors or Implementing Entities could pursue joint procurement and delivery arrangements. SOFF is planning a regional workshop in the Caribbean in the second semester of 2027.

SOFF-supported countries participating in the Water at the Heart of Climate Action initiative

Four of the five participating countries (Ethiopia, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda) are in the Investment Phase, while SOFF activities in Sudan remain on hold. The countries are connected by the Nile Basin, their exposure to transboundary floods, droughts and other water-related climate risks, and a common initiative linking SOFF-supported observations with hydrological monitoring, forecasting, early warning and climate services.

The multi-partner consortium, a dedicated grant from the Kingdom of the Netherlands supporting coordination by the SOFF Secretariat, and the Regional Learning Assemblies provide an existing platform for joint planning, learning and partner alignment. This platform can be used to identify operational synergies during the Investment Phase, including technical assistance, procurement, training and data exchange, and develop shared functions that could subsequently support sustainable operations during the Compliance Phase. Sudan could join these arrangements when SOFF activities resume. The WHCA Learning Assembly is planned for June 2027, supported by funding from the Kingdom of Netherlands.

Annex I. Definitions applicable for the SOFF approach for regional, sub-regional and multi-country delivery

Term	Definition	Operational considerations
Region	A broad geographic grouping, ideally aligned with a WMO Regional Association or an established regional institutional architecture through which countries cooperate on meteorological observations and related services.	Regional arrangements may involve all countries in the region or only participating countries.
Sub-region	A smaller geographic grouping within a region whose countries share proximity, operating conditions, technical systems, institutions or logistics that justify closer coordination.	The boundaries may vary according to the function being coordinated.
Multi-country grouping	A voluntary grouping of two or more countries able to cooperate on specific activities under SOFF-supported operations, such as procurement, training, calibration, maintenance or data exchange. It does not need to constitute a formal region, comprise geographically adjacent countries or combine all elements of national SOFF support.	A grouping may be based on geography and logistics; language; common or collaborating Implementing Entities or Peer Advisors; participation in a joint initiative; use of the same regional institution; a co-financing or fundraising opportunity; or relevant scientific and technical criteria. A country may belong to different groupings for different functions, such as procurement, training, calibration or Compliance support.
Regional or subregional partner organization	An organization with a recognized mandate and operational capacity to support countries within a defined region or subregion.	At the request of participating countries and in alignment with the relevant Implementing Entities, it may perform agreed shared functions, including as a technical partner embedded in national delivery arrangements. Its role does not replace country ownership or country- and station-level accountability.

Annex II. Modular options for regional, sub-regional and multi-country synergies in the SOFF Investment Phase

The table below presents a menu of actions and arrangements that may be selected and combined according to the priorities and circumstances of participating countries. Implementing Entities, Peer Advisors and other relevant partners would identify with countries which options are appropriate, operationally feasible and likely to generate efficiencies. The options do not constitute a standard package, and not all need to be applied to every country grouping.

Areas of cooperation	Modular options
Capacity development and training	• Design and deliver joint capacity-development activities. • Develop common training modules and, where appropriate, certification programmes in collaboration with WMO Regional Training Centres and technical partners from the WMO network. • Establish train-the-trainer arrangements to strengthen and retain national capacity. • Create networks of experts and communities of practice to support knowledge exchange and continued peer learning.
Operations and maintenance	• Develop common maintenance procedures, schedules and documentation, aligned with applicable WMO guidance and adapted to country circumstances. • Strengthen and use WMO calibration centers as service hubs. • Establish shared technical-support arrangements, including access to maintenance expertise, technicians, specialist tools and remote troubleshooting. • Coordinate inventories and supplies of consumables, spare parts and replacement equipment. • Engage relevant regional technical partners and institutions in delivering agreed operations and maintenance functions.

Procurement	• Develop harmonized or common technical specifications aligned with applicable WMO regulations, standards and guidance. • Aggregate demand and undertake coordinated, joint or pooled procurement where feasible and cost-efficient. • Establish common supplier, warranty, after-sales service or maintenance arrangements. • Coordinate equipment delivery and installation schedules according to regional, subregional and national capacities and logistics. • Coordinate the procurement of consumables and spare parts to improve their availability and compatibility across participating countries.
Project management and coordination	• Identify synergies across related country Investment Funding Requests and implementation arrangements. • Establish a shared Project Management Unit serving a region, subregion or group of countries where this would generate efficiencies. • Co-locate shared project-management functions with an appropriate regional or subregional organization where feasible. • Establish coordination arrangements across country projects while maintaining country-level funding, fiduciary accountability and reporting. • Use inter-agency implementation arrangements where countries are supported by different Implementing Entities and such arrangements would improve coordination or efficiency.
Peer advisory support	• Coordinate advisory support for technical specifications, procurement, installation and supplies of spare parts. • Provide joint advisory support on infrastructure compatibility, data exchange, telecommunications, WIS 2.0 implementation and related training. • Coordinate advisory support for operations and maintenance, calibration, field verification, metadata and data availability. • Strengthen cooperation with WMO regional mechanisms, including Regional Instrument Centres and Regional WIGOS Centers.

Travel	• Bundle missions to several countries within the same region or subregion. • Coordinate missions undertaken by Implementing Entities, Peer Advisors and technical partners to reduce duplication. • Align missions, consultations and training with relevant regional meetings and events. • Combine in-person and remote support where this can reduce costs without affecting delivery quality.

Annex III. Overview of Regional and multi-country workshops in 2027

The SOFF regional workshops aim to foster and amplify regionally coordinated SOFF implementation, including by leveraging investments and climate finance opportunities beyond SOFF, as well as providing opportunities for consultation and knowledge sharing around technical issues relevant to the respective regions.

In order to further strengthen regional coordination and support the effective implementation of SOFF investments, two regional workshops are proposed for 2027, one in the Caribbean and one in the Pacific, with a total budget of USD 75,000. These workshops will build upon the previous SOFF regional workshops held in the Pacific and the Caribbean in 2024 and 2025, respectively. The table below provides a breakdown of the proposed resource allocation for the two workshops. As on previous occasions, SOFF will aim to co-host and jointly organise the workshops alongside planned meetings, seeking to maximise the use of resources and reduce travel where feasible.

Table 1: Breakdown of costs for the proposed Pacific and Caribbean Regional Workshops

Cost Category	Cost (USD)
Non-staff participants travel	50,500
Contractual services	19,250
Indirect support costs (7%)	5,250
Total	**75,000**

An overview of the tentatively planned regional workshops and other SOFF-related engagements is outlined in the sections below.

1. Caribbean

SOFF programming in the Caribbean aims to streamline GBON goals pursuit in the region with a focus on seamlessly aligned SOFF implementation while leveraging existing networks and previous investments. A SOFF Regional Workshop is tentatively planned for **April 2027**, at the margins of the in-person meeting of the RA IV Hurricane Committee in Curaçao, with the following priorities:

I. **Regional synergies to the SOFF Investment Phase** to standardize project management, technical specifications, equipment procurement, pursuing economies of scale as well as exploring options for regional operation and maintenance practices.

II. **Exploring how all SOFF Caribbean countries can leverage support from regional organizations** such as the Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO), the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC). Alignment and collaboration with all planned CREWS and GCF investments in the region. The workshop will also explore the role of regionals partner for the SOFF Compliance phase.

III. **Technical consultation and engagement** of Caribbean countries for the WMO technical specifications for GBON marine observations and potential future SOFF support.

Table 2: SOFF Operations overview in the Caribbean

Country	IE	PA	Current SOFF status
Guyana	IDB	Austria	Investment ongoing
Bahamas	IDB	Finland	Readiness complete
Barbados	IDB	Finland	Readiness complete
Jamaica	IDB	Finland	Investment Pipeline
St Kitts & Nevis	IDB	Finland	IFR[1] received
Trinidad & Tobago	IDB	Finland	IFR received
Haiti	IDB	Switzerland	Investment Pipeline
Belize	IDB	United Kingdom	Investment ongoing
Suriname	UNDP	Netherlands	Investment ongoing

Cuba	UNDP	Spain	Investment ongoing
Antigua & Barbuda	UNDP	United Kingdom	Investment Pipeline
Dominica	WFP	Austria	IFR received
St Lucia	WFP	Austria	IFR received
St Vincent & The Grenadines	WFP	Austria	IFR received
Dominican Republic	WFP	Spain	Investment ongoing
Grenada		Spain	Readiness ongoing

2. Pacific

The coordinated regional approach in the Pacific will tap into the existing strong regional collaboration in the region. It will align with existing Pacific regional architecture, such as SPREP, SPC and Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) and connect regional programs such as the Weather Ready Pacific with the SOFF Investment activities for a more coordinated approach. The SOFF Regional Workshop in the Pacific is tentatively planned for Q3 2027 and is expected to cover the following items:

I. **Regional synergies to the SOFF Investment Phase** to standardize project management, technical specifications, equipment procurement, pursuing economies of scale as well as exploring options for regional operation and maintenance practices where feasible and cost effective.

II. **Explore how SOFF Pacific countries can leverage support from regional partners** such as SPREP (through the Weather Ready Pacific Programme) connecting Investment activities and future Compliance support, including clarifying the role of a regional partner for the SOFF Compliance phase.

III. **Leveraging collaboration with investments** including CREWS, ongoing and planned World Bank investments, the UNEP-implemented GCF project supporting five Pacific island countries, COSPPAC and the Weather-Ready Pacific Programme. The workshop will explore how SOFF investments can build on these initiatives and leverage existing delivery structures, including embedding SOFF investments within larger Implementing Entity projects, as demonstrated through the World Bank's PREPARE Samoa project, and exploring the potential to leverage the regional Project Management Unit of UNEP's GCF project. These approaches can strengthen coordination, improve delivery efficiency, enhance complementarity with climate finance, and support the long-term sustainability of GBON investments in the region.

IV. **Consultation on technical issues important for the region** including marine observations in collaboration with SPC, to identify regional needs and challenges and inform potential areas for future SOFF support.

Table 3: SOFF Operations overview in the Pacific

Country	IE	PA	Current SOFF status
Kiribati	UNEP	Australia	Investment ongoing
Solomon Islands	UNDP	Australia	Investment ongoing
Naoero	UNEP	Australia	Investment ongoing
Samoa	World Bank	Australia	Investment ongoing
Papua New Guinea	UNDP	Australia	IFR received
Marshall Islands	UNEP	New Zealand	IFR received
Micronesia (Federated States of)	UNEP	New Zealand	IFR received
Palau	UNEP	New Zealand	IFR received
Tuvalu	UNEP	New Zealand	Readiness completed
Tonga	World Bank	New Zealand	Readiness completed
Fiji	World Bank	Australia	Readiness completed
Vanuatu	World Bank	New Zealand	Readiness completed
Niue	UNEP	New Zealand	Readiness on going
Cook Islands	UNEP	New Zealand	Readiness on going

3. Water at the Heart of Climate Action multi-country workshop (Africa)

The Water at the Heart of Climate Action (WHCA) initiative is a partnership funded by the Kingdom of the Netherlands to reduce water-related climate risks in Ethiopia, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. It brings together SOFF, WMO, UNDRR and Red Cross and Red Crescent partners, connecting improved observations and forecasting with early warning and climate resilience.

A multi-country workshop is planned in conjunction with the initiative's Learning Assembly in Q3 2027. It will bring together participating countries, their SOFF Implementing Entities and Peer Advisors, with the following priorities:

I. **Coordinating SOFF implementation across WHCA countries**, identifying opportunities for common technical specifications, coordinated procurement, joint training and data-exchange support.

II. **Preparing for sustained GBON compliance**, exploring shared arrangements for calibration, maintenance, spare parts and technical support that could help countries sustain observations as they transition from the Investment to the Compliance Phase.

III. **Strengthening peer learning and technical cooperation,** sharing implementation experience, addressing common operational challenges and promoting peer-to-peer support among participating countries and WHCA partners.

IV. **Connecting SOFF investments with wider WHCA activities**, aligning support for systematic observations with the initiative's work on hydrological monitoring, forecasting, early warning and climate services through joint planning and coordination of complementary investments.

Table 4: SOFF Operations overview in the Nile Basin

Country	IE	PA	Current SOFF status
Sudan	-	-	On hold - Readiness
South Sudan	FAO	Austria	Investment ongoing
Uganda	IsDB	Netherlands	Investment ongoing
Rwanda	UNDP	Finland	Investment ongoing
Ethiopia	UNDP	Norway; Finland	Investment ongoing