Systematic Observations Financing Facility

Fifteenth Steering Committee
21 October 2026

SOFF Investment funding requests

Decision 15.3

Systematic Observations
Financing Facility

Weather and climate data for resilience

Decision 15.3 SOFF Investment funding requests

The SOFF Steering Committee

Recalls Decision 11.6 which adopts an approach to managing SOFF country funding requests including the establishment of a pipeline for Investment funding requests.

Notes

- The six countries in the SOFF Investment Phase Pipeline, namely Antigua and Barbuda, Cambodia, Haiti, Jamaica, Nepal, and Senegal (in this order) as publicly available on the SOFF website,
- That sufficient resources are available to approve one Investment funding request from the pipeline.

Acknowledges

- The six newly submitted and reviewed Investment funding requests from Dominica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and Grenadines, Seychelles, Djibouti and Papua New Guinea for consideration by the 15th Steering Committee.
- The proposed approach under draft decision 15.2 to step up SOFF regional, subregional and multi-country engagement.

Decides

- To include the six new Investment funding requests after the existing Investment funding requests in the current pipeline: Dominica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Seychelles, Djibouti and Papua New Guinea. The Steering Committee will further consider the funding requests when resources are available.
- To review the prioritization criteria through an intersessional decision, and requests the SOFF Secretariat to prepare the updated prioritization criteria considering Decision 15.2 *SOFF approach for regional, sub-regional and multi-country delivery* to maximize economies of scale.

Purpose of this Document

This document provides an update on the SOFF Investment funding requests. It proposes approval of one country currently in the SOFF Investment Phase Pipeline and introduces a new batch of requests for inclusion in the Investment Phase pipeline.

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SOFF Investment funding requests

1. Investment funding requests proposed to advance from pipeline to approval

Decision 11.6 adopted the approach to managing SOFF country funding requests, including establishment of the SOFF Investment Phase Pipeline. At the 14th Steering Committee, Decision 14.8 approved three countries from the pipeline for progression to the Investment Phase and decided to include three new countries in the pipeline, resulting in the current list of six countries in the pipeline.

Following a recent donor pledge, sufficient resources are now available to approve one Investment funding request from the current pipeline. Accordingly, the first ranked country in the pipeline, namely Antigua and Barbuda is proposed for approval by the 15th Steering Committee, as shown in Table 1 below, with further details provided in INF 12.3. The remaining pipeline countries will be considered for progression to Investment Phase once additional funding becomes available.

The funding request for Antigua and Barbuda remained unchanged since the country was included in the pipeline.

Table 1: Investment funding request proposed to advance from pipeline to approval.

Batch	Order	Country	IE[1]	Peer advisor	Duration (months)	Total budget (USD)
12SC	1	Antigua and Barbuda	UNDP	United Kingdom	36	1,240,174.94
					Total	**1,240,174.94**

2. Updated Investment Phase pipeline and GBON gap

Of the six countries currently in the SOFF Investment Phase pipeline, one country is proposed for approval by the 15th Steering Committee. Subject to Steering Committee approval, the remaining five Investment funding requests will retain their relative order and move up in the pipeline.

[1] Abbreviations: IE = Implementing Entity; UNDP = United Nations Development Programme

In addition, six new Investment funding requests, comprising five[2] Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and one[3] Least Developed Country (LDC), are presented for consideration for inclusion in the pipeline. Further details are provided in Annex I.

Table 2 presents the proposed updated SOFF Investment Phase pipeline, comprising the five remaining requests from the existing pipeline and the six new requests proposed for inclusion.

The proposed inclusion order remains based on the prioritization criteria agreed under Decision 11.6, while also taking into account opportunities for coordinated regional and multi-country delivery under draft decision 15.2. In line with draft decision 15.2 on the proposed SOFF approach to regional, sub-regional and multi-country delivery, the prioritization of the Investment funding requests also consider opportunities to improve delivery efficiency and achieve economies of scale by coordinating countries that share the same Implementing Entity and Peer Advisor.

In this context, a coordinated eastern Caribbean package is proposed to be placed at the top of the new pipeline requests, while following the six existing Investment funding requests already in the pipeline. The participating countries are expected to progress into the Investment Phase within a common regional framework. This approach is intended to facilitate harmonized technical approaches, coordinated implementation and greater economies of scale, while maintaining country ownership of individual investments.

Table 2: Status of the SOFF Investment Phase pipeline, including the six new funding requests proposed for inclusion at the 15th Steering Committee.

Batch	Order	Country	IE	Peer advisor	Status
13 SC	1	Cambodia	IFAD	UK	SOFF Investment Phase Pipeline
	2	Haiti	IDB	Switzerland	
14 SC	3	Jamaica	IDB	Finland	
	4	Nepal	UNDP	Finland	
	5	Senegal	IsDB	Netherlands	
15 SC	6 – 8	Dominica	WFP	Austria	Proposed for Pipeline Inclusion
		Saint Lucia			
		Saint Vincent and the Grenadines			
	9	Seychelles	WB	South Africa	
	10	Djibouti	UNDP	Austria	

[2] Dominica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Seychelles and Papua New Guinea

[3] Djibouti

	11	**Papua New Guinea**	UNDP	Australia	

The six new Investment funding requests proposed for pipeline inclusion bring the total number of countries with Investment funding requests approved or ready for approval, to 38[4]. The Figure 1 below shows the status of these 38 Investment funding requests in a global map. Together, these investments will address 49% of the GBON gap for surface stations and 51% of the GBON gap for upper air-stations over land in all SIDS and LDCs.

[4] 26 countries with Investment funding requests approved, 6 Investment funding requests ready for approval in the pipeline and 6 new Investment funding requests proposed for pipeline inclusion.

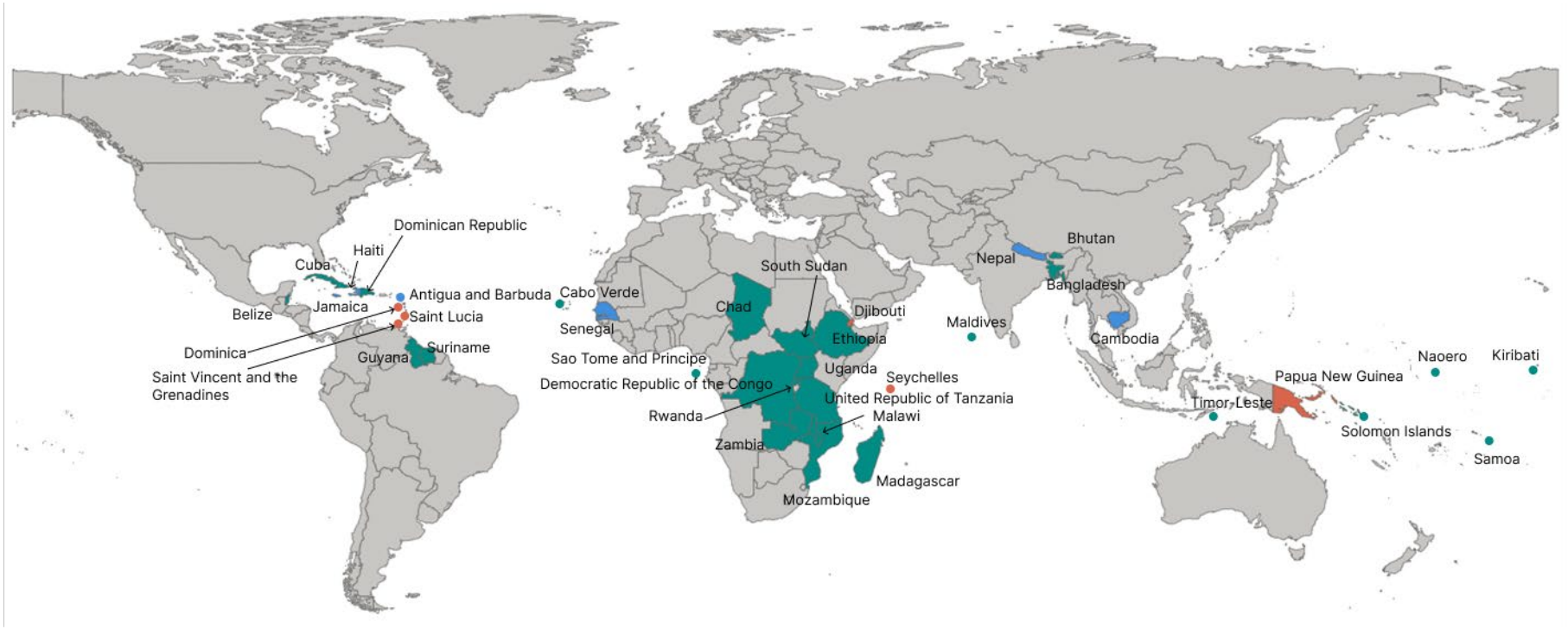


Figure 1: The map shows in green the 26 countries that have Investment Funding Requests approved and in blue the six countries that are in Investment Phase pipeline. Countries in orange are those with funding requests presented at the 15th SOFF Steering Committee meeting for inclusion in the pipeline.

Annex I

1. Prioritization of funding requests

This section outlines the proposed order of Investment funding requests that will be added to the current Investment Phase pipeline. This is based on assessment of four criteria endorsed in Decision 11.6: technical feasibility, timing and scheduling, financial considerations, and risks.

1.1 Caribbean multi country package: Dominica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines

Link	Investment Phase pipeline - Dominica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Countries	Dominica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines
Implementing Entity	World Food Programme
Peer advisor	Geosphere [Austria]
Implementation duration	36 months each
Phased approach	No

Budget overview (USD)

	Dominica	**Saint Lucia**	**Saint Vincent & the Grenadines**	Total
Activity costs	*773,734.84*	*773,734.84*	*796,940.84*	***2,344,410.52***
Implementing Entity fee (7%)	*50,292.76*	*50,292.76*	*51,801.15*	***152,386.67***
Peer advisor fee (incl. WMO indirect cost)	*58,850.00*	*58,850.00*	*58,850.00*	***176,550.00***
Total (USD)	***882,877.61***	***882,877.61***	***907,592.00***	***2,673,347.22***

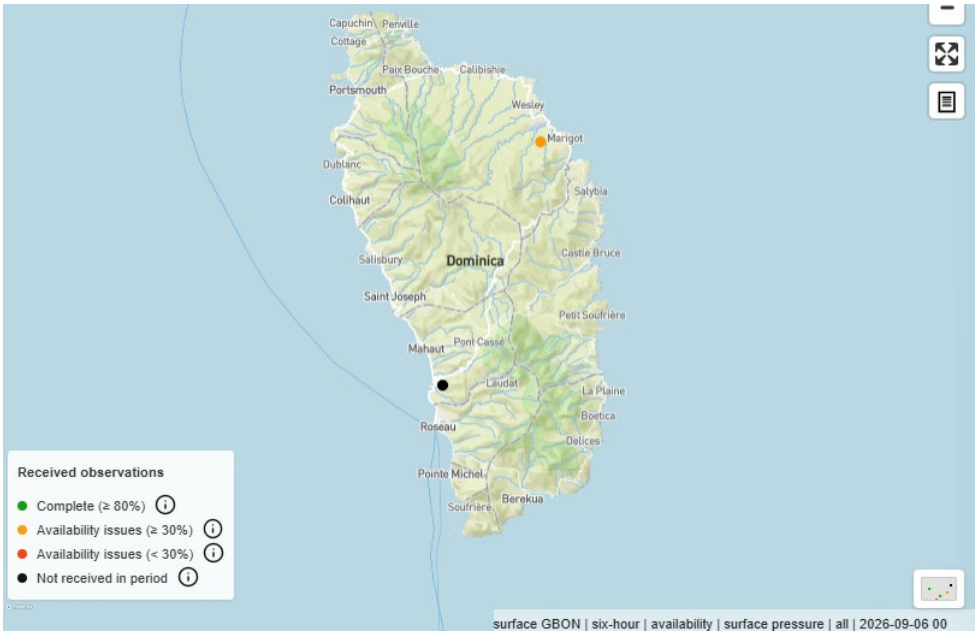
Station overview

		WMO GBON Global Gap Analysis	**National Contribution Plan**	
		Target	**Gap New**	**Gap improve**
Dominica	*Surface*	1	0	1
	Upper Air	1	0	0
Saint Lucia	*Surface*	1	0	1
	Upper Air	1	0	0
	Surface	1	0	1

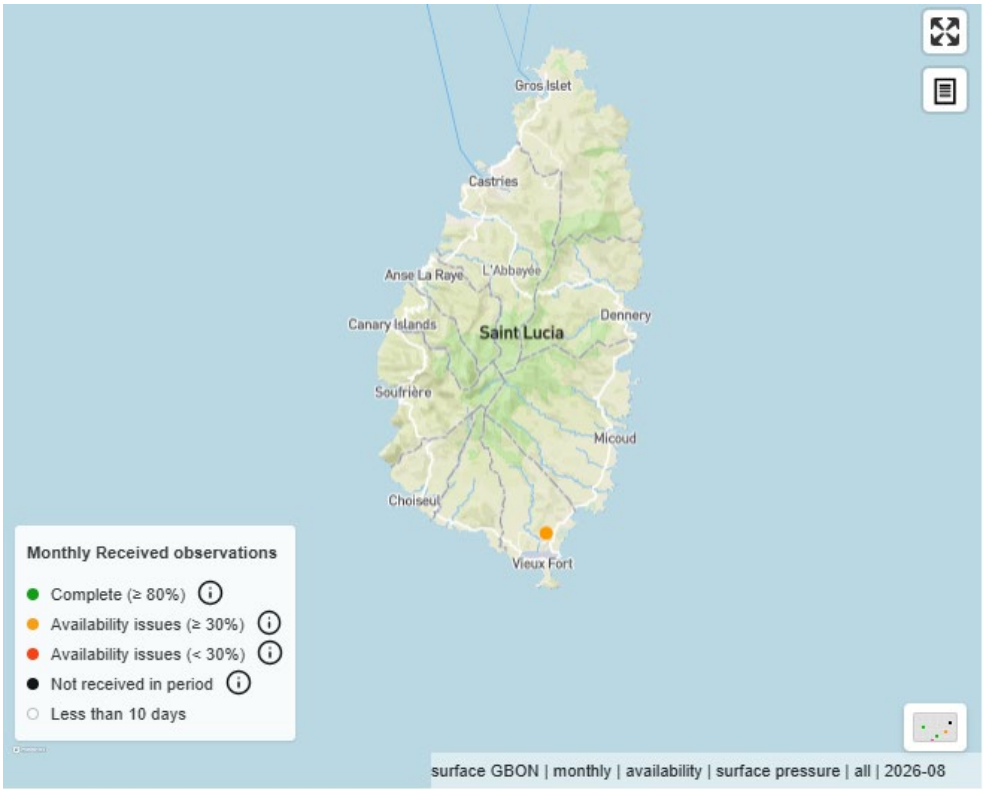
Saint Vincent & the Grenadines	*Upper Air*	1	0	0

Status of surface stations for September 2026 as shown in the WDQMS webtool

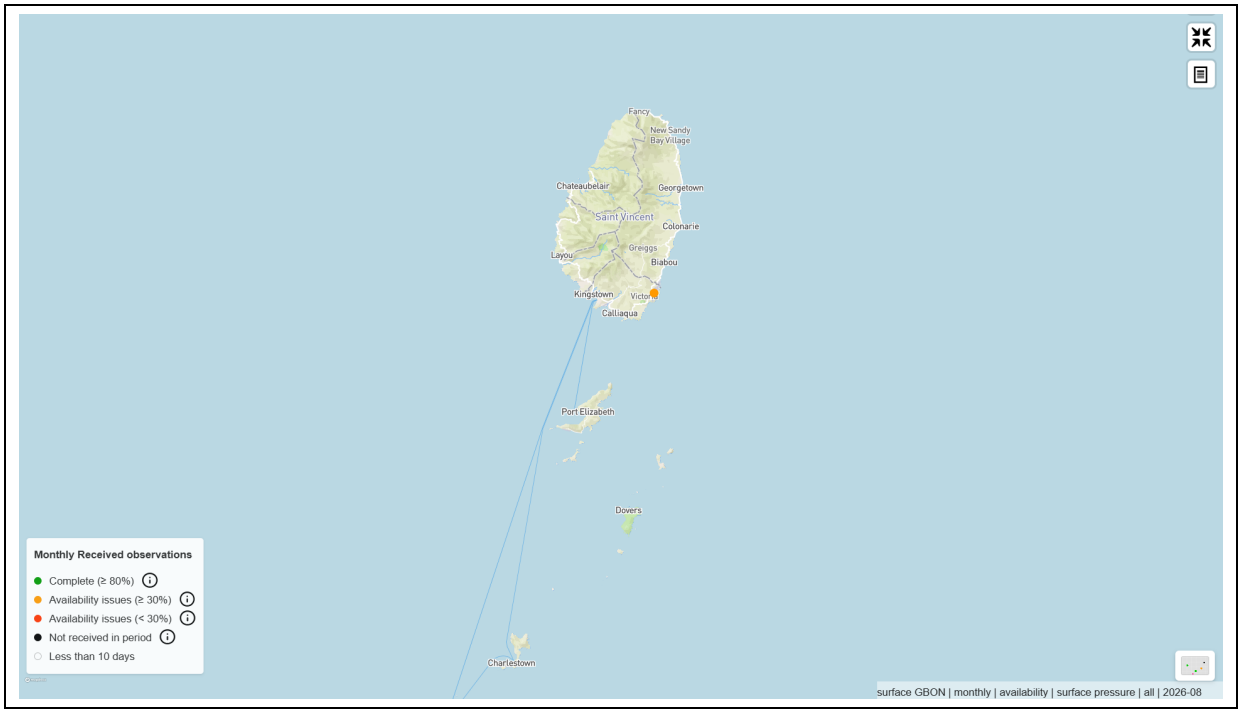
Dominica



Saint Lucia



Saint Vincent and Grenadines



Draft decision 15.2 presents the proposed SOFF approach for regional, sub-regional and multi-country delivery. The approach responds to continued demand for practical regional solutions that can improve implementation efficiency and long-term sustainability while preserving country ownership and national accountability for GBON compliance. In line with this approach, WFP, as SOFF Implementing Entity, and GeoSphere Austria, as Peer Advisor, submitted a coordinated Eastern Caribbean multi-country Investment Funding Request package covering Dominica, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Each of the three countries has a GBON target of one surface station and one upper-air station. For surface observations, SOFF support is requested to upgrade the existing stations in Dominica and Saint Lucia, while a new AWS is proposed for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines at an existing location. No SOFF investment is required for upper-air observations, as Dominica is adequately covered by the GBON-compliant station in Guadeloupe, while Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are covered by the upper-air station in Barbados.

The multi-country approach creates opportunities to harmonize procurement processes and apply common technical specifications where appropriate, facilitating calibration, maintenance, spare-parts management, technical support and the long-term sustainability of the observing network. Capacity strengthening will also be delivered through a regional lens, including regional training, peer learning and coordinated technical assistance. The approach further identifies regional organizations that can support implementation and help establish a more coordinated and practical foundation for future regional compliance phase arrangements.

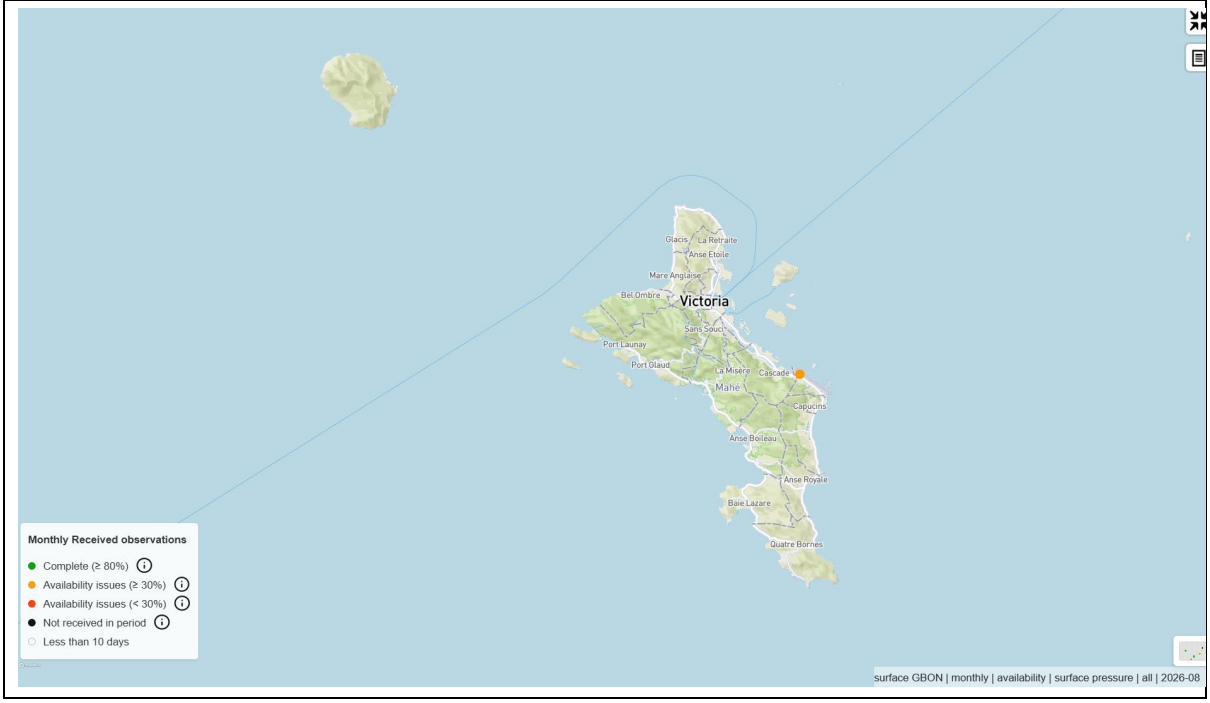
While each country retains ownership of its national investment programme, the package demonstrates how a coordinated regional approach can generate efficiencies and economies of scale. With a relatively modest investment, the three countries can move towards sustained GBON compliance while creating a model that can be adapted by other countries in the Caribbean and across the SOFF portfolio.

The Eastern Caribbean package is therefore proposed as the first inclusion to follow right after the existing pipeline, providing an early practical application of the regional and multi-country delivery approach proposed under Draft Decision 15.2.

1.2 Seychelles

Link	*Investment Phase pipeline - Seychelles*	
Implementing Entity	World Bank	
Peer advisor	South African Weather Services [SAWS, South Africa]	
Implementation duration	60 months	
Phased approach	Yes	
Budget requested	***Total (USD)***	**3,308,974.80**
	Activity costs	2,855,899.81
	Implementing Entity fee (7%)	199,912.99
	Peer advisor fee (incl. WMO indirect cost)	253,162.00

Status of surface stations for September 2026 as shown in the WDQMS webtool



Overview of the stations to be installed and/or improved			
	WMO GBON Global Gap Analysis (June 2023 baseline)	National Contribution Plan	
	Target	Gap new	Gap improve
Surface	6	6	1
Upper-air	2	1	1

Seychelles is ranked 2nd for inclusion in the proposed Investment funding request pipeline. With USD 3.3 million, the country will carry out a phased approach to achieving GBON compliance.

The first phase will focus on rehabilitating seven surface stations and installing one new upper-air station. A second upper-air station is envisaged under a subsequent phase, subject to the findings of a feasibility study to be undertaken during Phase I. As the proposed GBON site for the second upper-air station is located within a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the initial SOFF investment will prioritize strengthening the capacity of the Seychelles Meteorological Authority to operate and sustain its GBON network, while simultaneously undertaking the necessary environmental and social safeguard assessments for a potential upper-air station on Aldabra Island.

Given the remote location of several GBON sites, the SOFF investment in Seychelles is collaborating with Outer Island agencies and local CSOs. These partners will be trained to undertake basic station maintenance, while overall quality assurance and technical oversight will remain with the Seychelles Meteorological Authority. With the World bank as its Implementing Entity, SOFF Investment in Seychelles also benefits from co-financing through the Seychelles Solid Waste Management Project (P181243) project being implemented in the country by the World Bank. This includes cost sharing of Project Management Unit as well as using the existing implementation frameworks to increase efficiencies within the SOFF project.

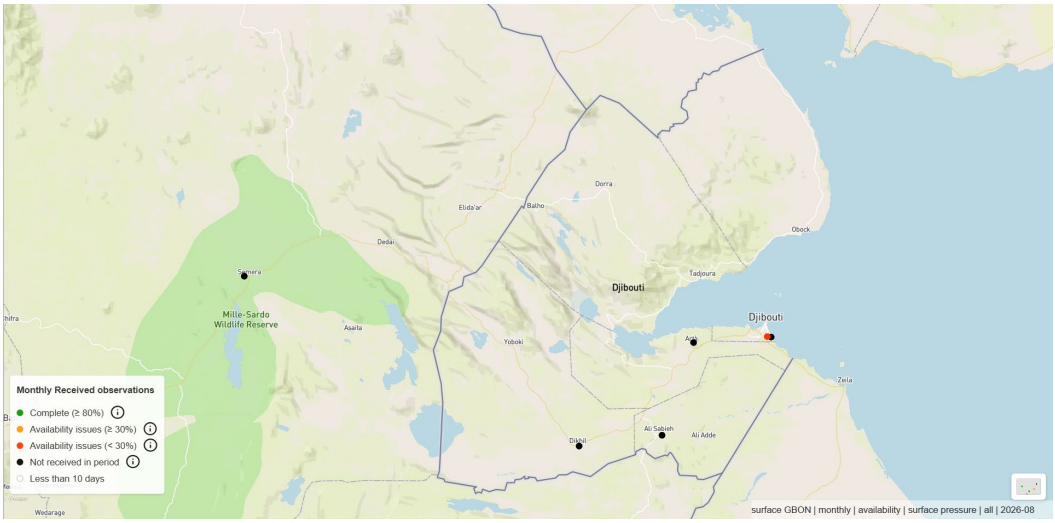
Overall, the SOFF investment in Seychelles is expected to strengthen the sustainability of the national observing network and help close critical observational gaps in the south-west Indian Ocean, improving the availability of essential weather and climate data from this data-sparse region.

1.3 Djibouti

Link	*Investment Phase pipeline - Djibouti*
Implementing Entity	UNDP
Peer advisor	Geosphere [Austria]
Implementation duration	48 months
Phased approach	No

Budget requested	*Total (USD)*	**2,010,460.02**
	Activity costs	1,692,822.60
	Implementing Entity fee (7%)	118,497.58
	Peer advisor fee (incl. WMO indirect cost)	199,139.84

Status of surface stations for September 2026 as shown in the WDQMS webtool



Overview of the stations to be installed and/or improved

	WMO GBON Global Gap Analysis (June 2023 baseline)	**National Contribution Plan**	
	Target	**Gap new**	**Gap improve**
Surface	1	0	1
Upper-air	1	0	1

Djibouti is ranked 3rd for inclusion in the proposed Investment funding request pipeline. With USD 2 million, the country proposes to achieve GBON compliance within 4 years.

The SOFF Investment will involve improving 1 surface station and 1 upper-air station. Djibouti is well-positioned to meet its GBON targets within the Investment Phase timeframe, given that both stations are co-located at the ANM headquarters compound within Djibouti International Airport a secure, staffed, and accessible site that significantly reduces implementation and sustainability risk.

To gain efficiencies and maintain complementarity, the project strategically coordinates with the ongoing GEF, CIDCA, and CREWS projects to build a robust, sustainable early warning framework for Djibouti. Together, they address critical infrastructure gaps and strengthen institutional capacity by expanding weather station networks, modernizing meteorological IT data systems, and training personnel, ensuring seamless interoperability from the community to the national level. Crucially, the SOFF initiative will deliver substantial regional benefits across the Horn of Africa. By establishing the only upper-air radiosonde station within a 500-kilometer radius, the project will provide critical atmospheric data to both regional (ICPAC) and global (WMO) centres. This enhanced observational capacity will improve numerical weather predictions, early warnings, and climate assessments across one of the world's most climatically vulnerable and data-sparse regions.

1.4 Papua New Guinea

Link	*Investment Phase pipeline - Papua New Guinea*	
Implementing Entity	United Nations Development Bank (UNDP)	
Peer advisor	Bureau of Meteorology [BoM, Australia]	
Implementation duration	60 months	
Phased approach	No	
Budget requested	***Total (USD)***	**5,807,458.56**
	Activity costs	4,892,531.36
	Implementing Entity fee (7%)	342,477.20
	Peer advisor fee (incl. WMO indirect cost)	572,450.00
Status of surface stations for September 2026 as shown in the WDQMS webtool		
Overview of the stations to be installed and/or improved		

	WMO GBON Global Gap Analysis (June 2023 baseline)	National Contribution Plan	
	Target	**Gap new**	**Gap improve**
Surface	12	0	12
Upper-air	3	1	2

Papua New Guinea is proposed to be placed last among the new requests in the pipeline. This sequencing would allow its Investment Phase support to be considered within a broader coordinated Pacific approach, as a larger group of Investment funding requests from Pacific countries is expected to be submitted for pipeline inclusion at the 16th Steering Committee in March 2027.

The proposed SOFF investment in Papua New Guinea also builds on significant complementary financing. Papua New Guinea has a GBON target of 12 surface stations and three upper-air stations. Of these, one surface station is being financed under the Asian Development Bank-supported Civil Aviation Development Investment Program (CADIP II). Two of the three upper-air stations are also supported through complementary initiatives: one through the Australian Bureau of Meteorology twinning arrangement, and a second through financing from Ok Tedi Mining Limited. All 12 surface stations and three upper-air stations identified in the National Contribution Plan will receive SOFF support for operations and maintenance, as well as spare parts. SOFF Investment will also strengthen the PNG National Weather Service's technical capacity, data infrastructure, and ability to operate and maintain the network and sustain the international exchange of GBON observations.

2. Operationalizing the Framework for Collaboration for Enhancing Systematic Observation

Batch	Order	Country	Climate fund (Implementing Entity)	Project title	Description & SOFF complementarity	Status	Financing amount (USD)
15 SC	1	**Dominica**	CREWS	Caribbean 2.0	CREWS strengthens MHEWS governance, forecasting capabilities, and inclusive warning dissemination to ensure alerts reach the last mile. SOFF underpins this investment by strengthening the surface observation network and data generation required for accurate weather and climate forecasting.	Ongoing Jan 2024 - Mar 2027	7 M (Regional)
		Saint Vincent and the Grenadines **Saint Lucia**		Caribbean ECTEL (ASW)	CREWS designs and validates a regional Emergency Alert System using Cell Broadcast technology for real-time, targeted dissemination of actionable warnings directly to mobile users. SOFF underpins this investment through strengthening of the observing network and DHM capacity for improved weather and climate services.	Ongoing/closing soon Jul 2025 – Jul 2026	0.25 M (Regional)
	2	**Seychelles**	World Bank	Seychelles Solid Waste Management Project (P181243)	Enhancing the financial and environmental performance of solid waste management in Seychelles **SOFF leverages the existing PMU and country frameworks for the SOFF project, has no duplication with this project**	Ongoing May 2024 – Nov 2028	5M

			CREWS	CREWS South-West Indian Ocean (SWIO)	Uses GBON observations to strengthen forecasting and early warning SOFF underpins project impact through strengthened observation network and human and institutional capacity of SMA	Ongoing Oct 2020 – Dec 2027	3.2 M (regional) 0.2 M allocated to Seychelles
			CREWS	Accelerated Support Window (ASW) - Seychelles	Provides continuous support to SMA's institutional and operational growth SOFF underpins project impact through strengthened observation network and human and institutional capacity of SMA	Ongoing Aug 2025 – Mar 2027	0.25 M
			GCF (Indian Ocean Commission – IOC)	FP161 - Building Regional Resilience through Strengthened Meteorological, Hydrological and Climate Services in IOC Member Countries	This project will support these countries overcome barriers in managing the risks and impacts of climate-induced disaster, by implementing a multi-hazard early warning system SOFF will support the GBON network for SMA, while the GCF project focuses on other types of observation systems (primarily focusing on rainfall)	Ongoing Mar 2021 – Oct 2027	71.4 M (Regional) 16 M (Seychelles)
			WMO	Flash Flood Guidance System (FFGS) and Early Warning for Floods	This project focuses on flood forecasting and hydrological risk management tools requiring reliable rainfall observations **SOFF:** No duplication, SOFF will focus on the GBON network	Ongoing Oct 2015 – Sept 2026	3.5 M (Regional)

			WMO	ClimSA – Climate Services for Africa Programme	This project focuses on climate services and regional climate products SOFF will enable real-time data integration into continental climate service platforms.	Ongoing	10 M (Regional)
			UK Met/ FCDO	WISER (ActionFirst and PASS Programmes)	SOFF strengthens the observation base that underpins this project's impact-based forecasting and seasonal prediction systems	Ongoing	80,000 GBP
	3	**Djibouti**	Global Environmental Facility (UNDP)	Sustainable management of water and rangeland resources for enhanced climate resilience of rural communities in Djibouti	Collaborates to strengthen the entire Early Warning System (EWS) value chain - including data collection, transmission, and communication, ultimately improving decision-making and resilience against climate-induced disasters	Ongoing	21 M
			GCF	GCF Climate Resilience Project	Additional AWS installations, ICT/data management support	TBD (Pipeline)	Pipeline
			CIDCA (China International Development Cooperation Agency)	Meteorological Infrastructure & Disaster Preparedness Support	Enhances meteorological capacity and rapid data sharing by installing servers, centralizing data on a single platform, interconnecting systems, and training staff on ICT tools.	Ongoing	1.8 M

			CREWS	Djibouti – CREWS National Project	Lays the groundwork for integration with SOFF by strategically expanding AWS coverage to underserved regions, modernizing data management systems, and improving forecasting and service delivery.	Ongoing Jun 2024 – Jun 2028	3.7 M
	4	**Papua New Guinea**[5]	ADB	CADIP I & II	**Installation under Phase II of one NCP AWS station that will be part of PNG GBON network**; Upgrades of airports and NWS offices at airports as detailed in Table 2 will increase security of staff and equipment and address power supply concerns; USD $100,000 set aside for NWS staff training – as of July 2027, the exact training is unconfirmed however assumed to align with BIP-MT standard.	Ongoing Expected to close Dec 2028	171.5 M
			BoM	Twinning arrangement	**Development of UA and radar at Port Moresby (part of PNG GBON network)** will build capacity for NWS staff; Training of 3 NWS staff in forecasting (note – not BIP-MT); NWS is upgrading its current Data & Information Management System (DIMS) to include the Forecast generation (DIMFS) – thus, IT capacity is being supplemented in forecasting.	Ongoing	3.6 M
			Ok Tedi Mining Ltd/	Rehabilitation and upgrade of UA in Misima Island	**Rehabilitation and upgrade of Misima Island Airport (part of PNG GBON Network)**, including the 1,200 m runway, to CASA PNG standard under a lease from the Milne Bay Provincial	Ongoing	Not disclosed

[5] The 1 surface station improved, and 2 UA stations installed by complementary initiatives will form part of the PNG GBON network, and SOFF will support O&M costs of these three stations as specified in the NCP

			Misima Minerals Ltd		Government, and financing of the Misima upper-air station identified in the NCP. UNDP and NWS will harmonise equipment specifications, consumables, spares, calibration and training across the three upper-air sites and formalise sharing of Misima observations to the WIS/GTS.		
			Weather Ready Pacific	Training support	One NWS officer has been trained in BIP-MT and two have completed BIP-M training under WRP. This will provide basic capacity to expand use of the GBON-compliant system under SOFF. The IPFR will also benefit from procurement frameworks being developed under WRP to ensure cost-efficient logistics. WRP will leverage the improved observations from SOFF investment as part of its broader focus on hydrometeorological services.	Ongoing	167M (regional overall support)
			BoM NZ Met SPREP SPC	Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac)	Data rescue and IT services which will support the development of the GBON network.	Ongoing	Unknown
			Government of Japan	EW4ALL	OM and UNDP are focusing on scaling up multi-hazard early warning systems and climate risk monitoring with a focus on integrating into local, provincial, and national disaster management frameworks	Ongoing	55 M
			GCF	Strengthening Multi-sectoral Adaptation Responses Through Climate-	Development of a multi-hazard warning system which will utilize GBON data submitted by AWS installed under SOFF and CADIP investments. Focuses on anticipatory action and warning	Proposed	28.9 M

				related information (SMART Climate)	dissemination protocols. Includes monitoring of river flow, flood monitoring systems, and maritime weather warnings for boat operators. SOFF investments will support and augment the planned observation network under SMART Climate with surface observations.		
			Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – DFAT (Australia)	PNG Disaster Risk Management Project	Focuses on building a unified digital risk information management system, to establish an early warning "National Risk Registry" system in PNG. UNDP has recruited a consultant to complete scoping for the digital system, which will support the development of SOFF IP will augment the disaster risk information system with surface observations.	Ongoing	0.88 M
			CREWS	Drought Resilience and Early Warning in the Pacific (DREW)	Improving community-focused, integrated early warning systems and actions (EWSA) for drought in Pacific Islands Countries to enhance decision-making and reduce drought impacts. DREW will add value to SOFF by adding drought monitoring and early warning systems such as soil moisture, temperature, to the surface observation data collected by SOFF.	Ongoing 2026 - 2029	5.6 M (Regional across PNG, Kiribati, Tuvalu)