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SIXTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL (PMC-6) THIRD PACIFIC MINISTERIAL MEETING ON METEOROLOGY (PMMM-3)

● [HTTPS://WWW.PACIFICMET.NET/PMC-6-2023](https://www.pacificmet.net/PMC-6-2023)

## Sixth Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-6)

Sustaining Weather, Climate, Water and Ocean Services for a Resilient Blue Pacific

14-16 August 2023, Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa, Denarau, Nadi, Fiji

### Agenda item 8.4 : Systematic Observation Financing Facility

#### Purpose:

1. To introduce [SOFF UN Fund](#)
2. To provide progress update on SOFF implementation in Pacific SIDS
3. To present potential regional approach on SOFF Pacific implementation

#### Background:

This paper is to provide an update to the members on the progress of SOFF implementation in the Pacific.

Systematic Observations Financing Facility is a United Nations Fund created by World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) at UNFCCC COP26 in November 2021. SOFF opened doors for business in July 2022, with the mission to provide long-term financial and technical assistance to acquire and internationally exchange GBON observations, prioritising the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States. SOFF is driven by the goal of maximizing the critical input from observations to the Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) models. With 29 Peer Advisors (Advanced National Met offices providing technical assistance), 9 Implementing Entities (Major Multilateral Development Banks (MDB) and UN organizations supporting project implementation) and WMO as the Technical Authority, SOFF provides support in three phases, Readiness, Investment and Compliance.

SOFF is a foundational element of the global meteorological value chain and a delivery vehicle of the United Nations Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative.

#### SOFF Pacific Portfolio

SOFF Pacific programme involves 12 countries (Pacific SIDS that are UN members), 3 Peer Advisors and 3 Implementing Entities.

	Beneficiary Country	Peer Advisor	Implementing Entity
First Batch	Fiji	Australia	WB
	Kiribati	Australia	UNEP
	Samoa	Australia	WB

Implementation started in April 2023	Solomon Islands	Australia	UNDP
	Tuvalu	New Zealand	UNEP
<b>Second Batch</b> Implementation started in July 2023	Nauru	Australia	UNEP
	Papua New Guinea	Australia	UNDP
	Tonga	New Zealand	WB
	Vanuatu	New Zealand	WB
<b>Pipeline</b> Funding request expected to be approved in September.	Federated States of Micronesia	United Kingdom	UNEP
	Marshall Islands	United Kingdom	UNEP
	Palau	United Kingdom	UNEP

### **SOFF Pacific implementation progress overview**

SOFF is rapidly progressing in the Pacific SIDS. Readiness work is ongoing in 9 out of 12 countries and 3 countries are expected to start after September 2023. Three outputs will be delivered in the Readiness Phase:

#### **Output 1. GBON (Global Basic Observation Network) Gap Analysis**

The GBON Gap Analysis defines the gap between the mandatory requirements of the GBON regulations and the existing country surface and upper-air networks which will serve as the basis for identifying the number of observing stations that need to be installed or rehabilitated to comply with the mandatory requirements of the GBON regulations.

#### **Output 2. The GBON National Contribution Plan**

The GBON National Contribution Plan identifies the infrastructure, human and institutional capacity needed to achieve a progressive target toward GBON compliance, including the sustained operation and maintenance of the national observing network.

#### **Output 3. Country Hydromet Diagnostics (CHD)**

The CHD is a standardized, integrated and operational tool and approach for diagnosing National Meteorological Services, their operating environment, and their contribution to high-quality weather, climate, hydrological and environmental information services and warnings. It is the common tool applied by the members of the Alliance for Hydromet Development (<https://alliancehydromet.org/>) that brings together all major Multilateral Development Banks and UN organizations for scaled-up and unified support to developing countries.

## SOFF Pacific implementation timeline

Country	GBON Gap Analysis	National Contribution Plan	Country Hydromet Diagnostics
Fiji	Submitted	On Track	To be completed
Kiribati	Submitted	Submitted	To be completed
Samoa	Submitted	On Track	To be completed
Solomon Islands	Submitted	Submitted	To be completed
Tuvalu	To be completed	To be completed	To be completed
Nauru	Submitted	On Track	On Track
Papua New Guinea	Submitted	On Track	On Track
Tonga	On Track	On Track	On Track
Vanuatu	On Track	On Track	On Track
Palau*	Funding Request expected to be submitted in September		
Federated States of Micronesia*	Funding Request expected to be submitted in September		
Marshall Islands*	Funding Request expected to be submitted in September		

\*Pipeline Countries

On Track	Timely Delivery Expected
Submitted	Product Delivered
To be completed	Not yet delivered

Looking ahead, three major milestones are envisioned:

- Completion of Readiness phase in all countries by Q1, 2024
- In-person workshop in January 2024 to develop the regionally coordinated Investment phase.
- Expected SOFF steering committee decision on the SOFF Pacific regionally coordinated Investment program.

### Regional and sub-regional coordination

SOFF Pacific support will be aligned with larger operations of the SOFF Implementing Entities and other partners, building on existing regional coordination mechanisms and institutions. For instance:

- Providing support for the long-term operation and maintenance of new observation networks installed by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and other partners, including a GCF-UNEP programme to boost the observational network in five Pacific SIDS (four of which will be supported by SOFF).
- Supporting mobilizations of additional resources for operations to CREWS regional project in the Pacific SIDS and the National CREWS project in Papua New Guinea, all of which are part of the SOFF first and second batch programming countries.
- SOFF support to achieve sustained GBON compliance in the Pacific as an integral part of the Weather Ready Pacific Program.

- The Country Hydromet Diagnostics (CHD), undertaken in all 12 countries will help facilitate the targeting and prioritization of investments of other partners in the latter part of the meteorological value chain.

The SOFF Pacific Programme is the result of a SOFF programming workshop that took place in October 2022, where Pacific countries urged SOFF to speedily advance with the creation of a SOFF Pacific Programme, taking advantage of the following:

- **GBON regional coordinated implementation:** Investments in observational infrastructure require coordination between neighbouring countries e.g. on the placement of upper air and surface stations to ensure cross-border efficiency; as well as the involvement of entities outside the countries such as Regional Telecommunication Hubs, Global Information System Centres and Regional WMO Integrated Global Observing Systems (WIGOS) Centres. For instance, in the Pacific, countries can tap into the support provided by the Pacific Meteorological Council and Pacific Islands Communication and Infrastructure Panel.
- **Regional procurement and operation and maintenance:** the Pacific and Atlantic SIDS Programs would allow the implementation of GBON with a standardized approach for bulk procurement of equipment and technology, better spare parts availability and economy of scale for GBON implementation. They allow for the possibility of exploring options for regional operation and maintenance practices and collaboration.
- **Regional fora for learning exchange:** interaction and consultations among SOFF partners are facilitated at the regional level. SOFF learning and evaluation, WMO technical training related to GBON implementation, and other consultations will strive to maximize regional collaboration and coordination. The SOFF Secretariat is already exploring with beneficiary countries and partners the subsequent batches of SOFF programming.

### **The objectives of the agenda**

1. To introduce SOFF UN Fund
2. To provide progress update on SOFF implementation in Pacific SIDS
3. To present potential regional approach on SOFF Pacific implementation

### **Recommendations**

The Meeting is invited to:

- **Note** the progress of the SOFF in the Pacific.
- **Welcomes** SOFF investment and compliance support to close the Pacific regional GBON gap in a sustained manner.
- **Welcomes** the planned SOFF Investment planning workshop scheduled to take place in January 2024 that will bring together the beneficiary countries, Peer Advisors, Implementing Entities, and all relevant regional and national partners.