



Weather  
and climate  
data for  
resilience

**Earth Information Day 2024**  
**11 November 2024**

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**Bridging observation gaps:  
Role of the Systematic Observations  
Financing Facility (SOFF) and  
innovative financing models**

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# Closing major systematic observation gaps

## Global Basic Observing Network (GBON)

Established by 193 countries of **World Meteorological Congress**

Defines basic weather and climate variables that **all countries must generate and exchange**

GBON compliance **mandatory since 2023**

## GBON compliance mandatory, but major data gaps exist

**SIDS & LDCs:** 9% compliance of surface stations

**Africa:** fewer compliant surface stations than Germany

**Fragile and Conflict Affected States:** 7 compliant surface stations in 39 countries

## ECMWF report 2024

Investing in surface-based observation **highly beneficial**

Investing in **data sparse regions** largest impact

# SOFF, the UN fund for systematic observation

## A new fund

Created by **WMO, UNDP, UNEP**  
Established as a **UN climate fund**

## A unique fund

Exclusive focus on **systematic observation**  
Crowding in **additional resources** to make use of observation

## A unique business model

**Open-ended** grant financing  
Long-term **peer-to-peer** technical assistance

## A fund with a growth vision

beyond SIDS/LDCs - expansion to **Lower Middle-Income Countries**  
beyond today's GBON – World Meteorological Congress 2025 to consider **GBON expansion**

# SOFF, delivering at speed and scale

## A new fund

2.5 years in operation

## A fund in demand

101 countries  
requested support

## A fund speedily delivering

66 countries programmed

60 countries Readiness support approved

18 countries Investment support approved

## A fund with an initial capital of USD 110+ million

mobilized from 12 initial funders

# **SOFF, innovating finance for systematic observation**

Systematic  
observation  
data is a  
**global public  
good**

**12 initial  
funders** as  
pioneers

**Fundraising  
urgency** to  
respond to  
demand

Planned  
**GCF- SOFF  
Fragile &  
Conflict  
Affected  
States**  
Accelerator  
Programme

Envisioned  
**SOFF  
impact/  
outcome  
bond**

# **SOFF, innovating the country support model**



**Systemic  
approach**

**Long-term  
approach**

**Peer-to-  
peer  
approach**

**Community  
of practice  
approach**

# The SOFF community: 72 partners under one roof

## Governance

### 18 partners

including funders,  
AOSIS, LDC Group  
Climate

## Advice

### 16 partners

including  
multilateral climate  
funds, ECMWF,  
GCOS

## Operations

### 28 national met services

as peer advisors, including from Global South

### 9 UN organizations & MDBs

as Implementing Entities

### WMO

as SOFF Technical Authority

# **New form of partnership for systematic observation**

## **Importance of 149 SIDS/LDCs/ODA countries**

Critical contribution to strengthen global observing system

## **New funding model required**

Long-term, grant only

## **New partnership required**

From “aid” relationship to partnership on equal footing

# More information

**SOFF high-level event at COP29**

14 November 2024

## **Sustained Climate Finance for Systematic Observation**

**Time:** 15:30 to 16:30 (Baku)

**Venue:** Spain pavilion

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