



Weather  
and climate  
data for  
resilience

03 December 2023

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# Systematic Observations Financing Facility

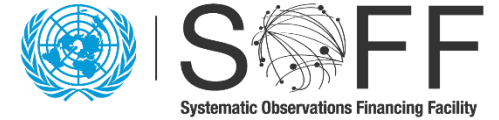
## Ambition - Progress - Looking ahead

COP28  
Earth Information Day

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# Looking back: COP27



## Sharm El-Sheikh Implementation Plan

- Emphasized the need to **address existing gaps in the global climate observing system** and enhance coordination by the systematic observation community
- Welcomed the **UNSG's call to protect everyone on Earth through universal coverage of early warning systems** against extreme weather and climate change within 5 years

## SBSTA

- Noted with appreciation the **progress in supporting systematic observation, such as through the development of SOFF**
- Encouraged SOFF to continue to prioritize LDCs and SIDS and to **evaluate opportunities to support developing countries beyond SIDS/LDCs**

# SOFF: A specialized UN climate fund for closing systematic observations gaps



- **Specialized single purpose UN fund:** Long-term financial and technical support to generate and exchange basic weather and climate observations in compliance with the mandatory Global Basic Observing Network (GBON)
- **In support of GCOS:** Currently SOFF supports 9 ECVs - GBON surface and upper air standard density network
- **Delivery vehicle of the UN Early Warnings for All initiative:** Warnings are only as good as the data they are built upon
- **Integral part of Loss and Damage agenda:** Closing the basic weather and climate data gap through SOFF is key to avert and minimize Loss and Damage

# Ambition: Closing basic weather and climate observation gap



7 %

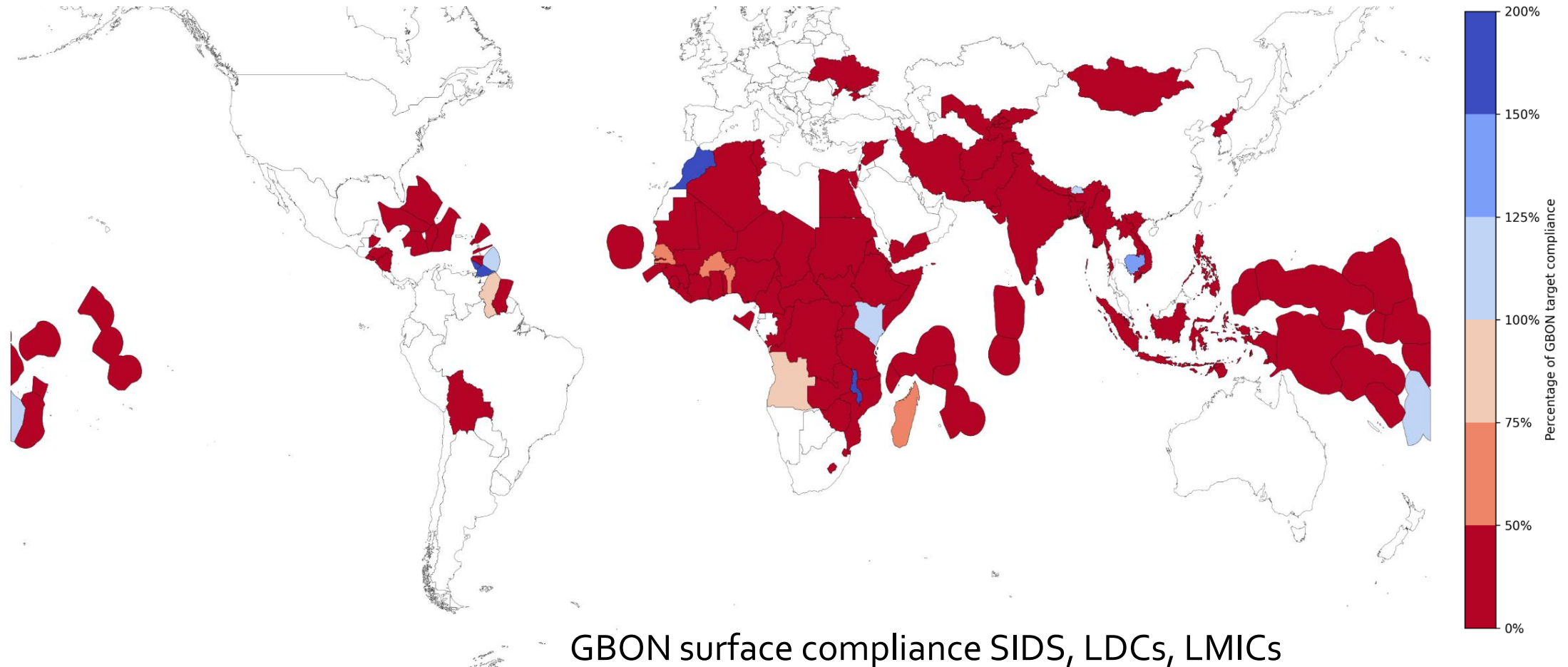
Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States, and Lower Middle Income Countries deliver only **7%** of the **mandatory GBON land surface data**



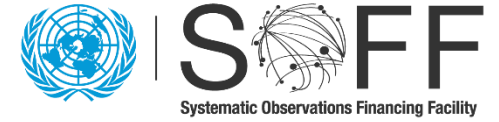
-50 %

In **Africa** the number of **radiosonde observations** provided to the global models **dropped by 50%** between 2015 and 2020

# Major basic weather and climate data gaps

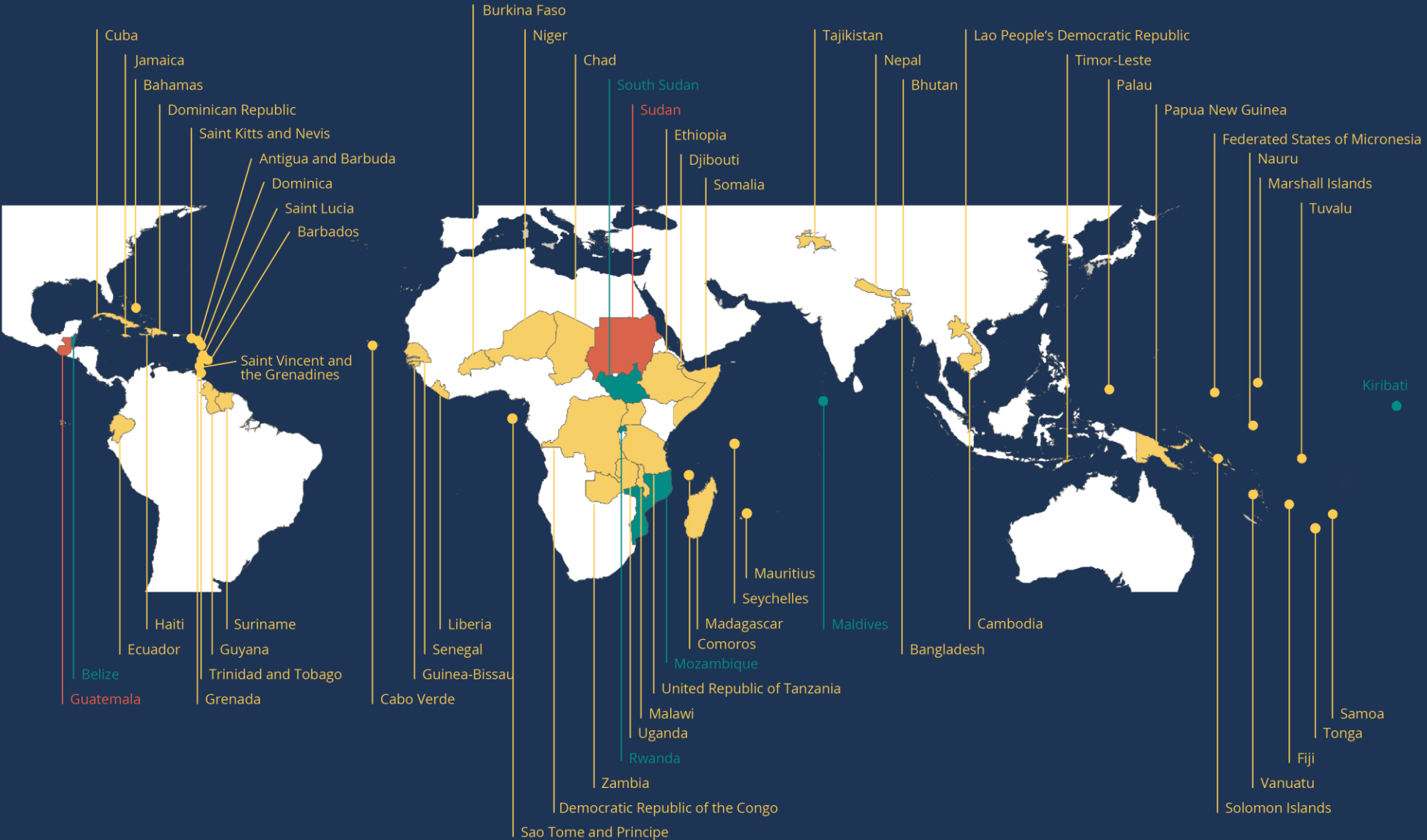


# How does SOFF operate and what is the progress



- **Innovating finance and technical assistance**
  - **Long-term open-ended grant finance**, including for operations and maintenance: data as global public good
  - **Peer-to-peer technical assistance** provided by met offices from 28 countries, including South-South
- **72 partners under one roof**
  - WMO serves as **Technical Authority**
  - Multilateral Development Banks and UN organizations as **Implementing Entities** blend their resources
  - Collaboration agreement with **multilateral climate funds** incl. UNFCCC financial mechanisms signing at COP28
- **Speedy implementation**
  - Operational since **July 2022**, already **60 countries** funding approved and work ongoing
  - Average **3.7 months** from programming decision to preparation and approval of funding request
- **High demand**
  - Already **101 countries** requested SOFF support

# SOFF Portfolio



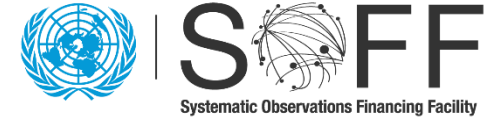
SOFF Readiness work ongoing (Total: 54 countries)

SOFF Readiness phase completed  
Approved SOFF Investment phase funding (Total: 6)

Programmed for SOFF Readiness phase (Total: 2)



# Looking ahead: COP28 and beyond



## ■ SOFF Independent External Review

- Assessed SOFF **highly relevant, transparent, effective, efficient** (10% overheads) and **scalable**
- Concluded that **adequate funding is crucial** for SOFF to continue meeting country expectations

## ■ Financial support

- USD **400 million** SOFF UN Early Warnings for All funding target by 2027
- USD **73 million mobilized** within 1.5 years from 12 initial funders
- USD **55 million short-term funding gap** to keep up with countries' implementation pace

## ■ Political support

- COP28 important milestone to bring systematic observation, GBON and SOFF to the forefront of negotiations and to **reflect SOFF in COP outcomes** and corresponding COP and CMA decisions





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