

# Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF)

Solomon Ngoze,  
ClimDev Africa Special Fund (CDSF)  
African Development Bank Group (AfDB)



## CCDA-IX

**Ninth Conference on Climate Change  
and Development in Africa**

**Towards a just transition that delivers jobs,  
prosperity and climate resilience in Africa**

Leveraging the green and blue economy

Cabo Verde, 13-17 September 2021

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## Background:

- Borne out of the **challenge** of missing **foundational data** for climate adaptation and resilient development;
  - **Basic weather observations** underpin **weather forecasts, early warning systems, and climate information locally and globally.**
  - There are currently **great gaps in weather observations**, especially in **Least Developed Countries (LDCs)** and **Small Island Developing States (SIDS).**
- **SOFF** was designed in **2020**: spearheaded **by the World Meteorological Organization** in collaboration with a wide range of **international organizations**, including the members of the **Alliance for Hydromet Development** (The African Development Bank-**AfDB** is a founding member of the Alliance).
- Goal:
  - To **strengthen climate adaptation and resilience** to respond to the increased frequency, severity and impact of weather and climate events by contributing to **improved weather forecasts and climate services.**
  - It will provide technical and financial assistance **in new ways** – applying internationally agreed metrics - the requirements of the **Global Basic Observing Network (GBON)**
  - Investments to substantially increase these observations will bring significant local and global benefits, with an estimated **cost-benefit ratio of 1:26;**
- The Alliance for Hydromet Development intends to announce **SOFF at COP26 in November 2021**, with a commitment of at least **USD 200 million**, with another **USD 200 million** to be raised subsequently.

# The SOFF will provide financial and technical assistance in new ways.

Applying internationally agreed metrics to guide investments

SOFF support is based on internationally agreed, quantitative metrics that guide investments in basic surface-based observations – the **GBON**

Using data exchange as a measure of success

SOFF will shift from **short-term capital investments** to the provision of **long-term observational data exchange** as a measure of success.

It will contribute to cover **operating** and **maintenance** costs of a country's basic observation infrastructure through results-based finance.

Creating local benefits while providing a global public good

SOFF will create local benefits while delivering on **a global public good** – improving global weather forecasts and climate information for all nations.

# SOFF Implementation and Target

## Readiness

SOFF will enable countries to **assess their national hydromet status**, define the GBON gap and develop a plan to close the gap.

While SOFF will offer tailored and differentiated support to countries, **all beneficiary countries will undergo the Readiness phase.**

## Investment

SOFF support will be used to **close the GBON gap** and enable countries to achieve **GBON compliance.**

This includes investments in GBON **infrastructure** and developing GBON **human and institutional capacity** to operate and maintain the observing network.

## Compliance

Countries will receive support to **sustain GBON compliance** and to access improved weather forecast and climate analysis products.

This includes the provision of **results-based finance for GBON-compliant countries** to contribute to cover operational and maintenance costs.

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Year initial implementation period

USD 400 M

68

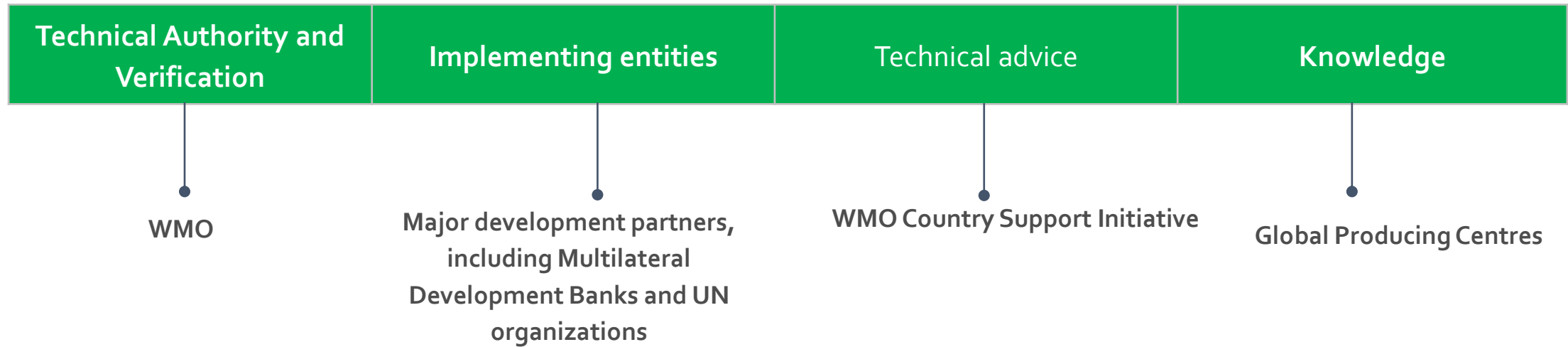
SIDS and LDCs supported to become GBON compliant and accessing improved weather and climate products.

# The African Development Bank's Initiatives Support/Advance SOFF

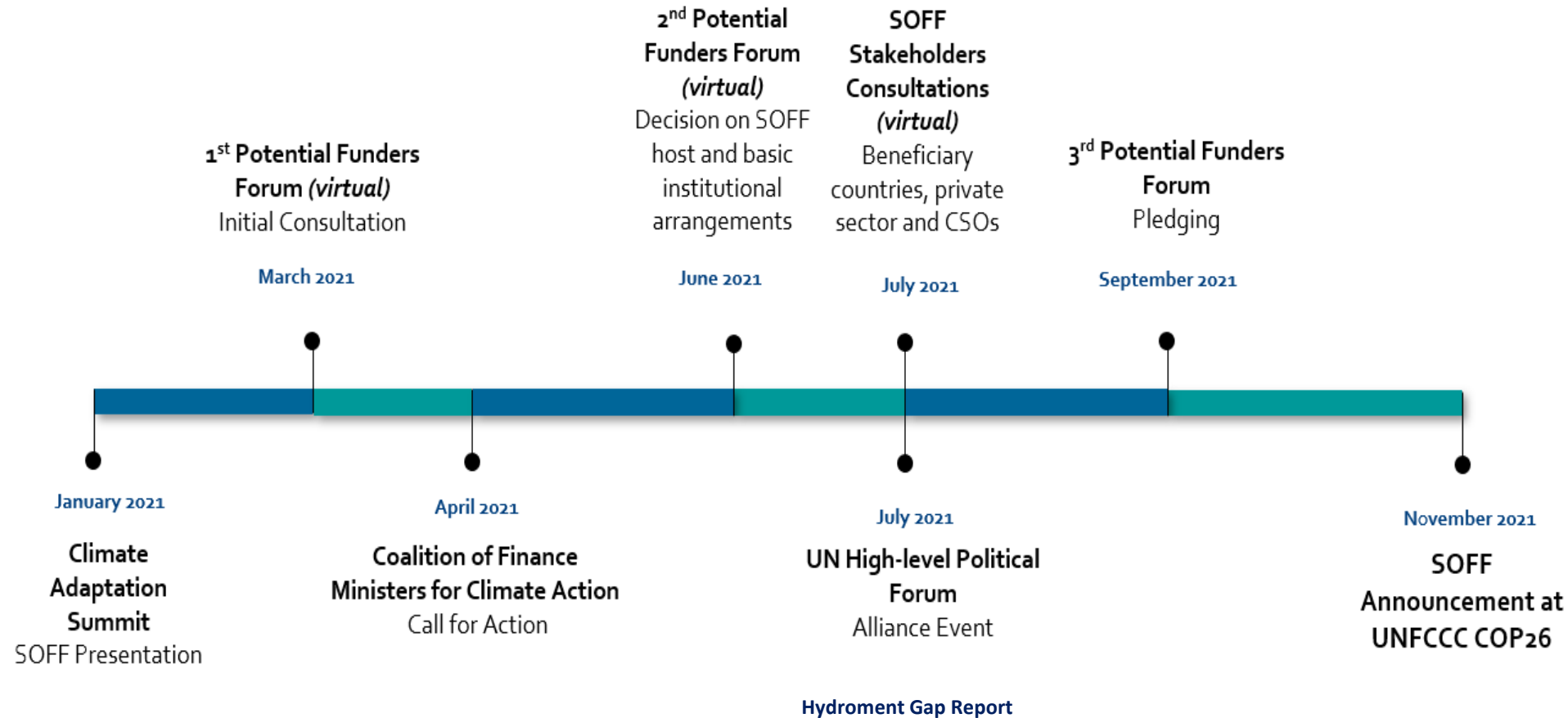
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- The focus of the Bank's work in Africa through, **PECG/CDSF**, is to significantly **increase the coverage of climate and weather observation networks** and **improve the weak access to data** in order to **strengthen the development of climate and weather early warning systems**
- Recently, there has been emphasis to support the recovery of basic observation networks in fragile countries such as **Somalia, Zimbabwe, Liberia and Sierra Leone, Resilience Programme in the Sahel and Greater Horn of Africa**
- The Bank aligns this approach to the **AMCOMET/SOFF**, the **Bank's ADF commitment** to build resilience, the **Climate Change Action Plan** and its **High 5 strategies** to fast track development in its **Regional Member Countries** (RMCs).
- Bank has contributed a total of **US \$74 million** in grant finance to **twelve countries** and **five regional climate centers** that serve **twenty seven countries** to strengthen data capacities, address weaknesses in the delivery of climate and weather services, and reduce loss and damage from extreme weather events and support disaster risk & contingency planning to mitigate climate-induced public expenditure displacement in Africa.
  - **Disaster Risk Management; Climate Forecasting; Hydrology & Water Services; Agriculture and Food Security; Climate Change & Early Warning**
- The Bank supported the **Country Hydromet Diagnostics** for **Liberia and Sierra Leone** to inform the development of a SOFF

# SOFF Operational Partners



# Overall SOFF Partnership Milestones



*More information on SOFF can be found on the WMO website.*

# Thank you