



## SEVENTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL (PMC-7)

*"AT THE FRONTLINE OF WEATHER, CLIMATE, WATER, AND OCEAN ACTION IN THE PACIFIC"*

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*"At the Frontline of Weather, Climate, Water, and Ocean Action in the Pacific"*

17-19 September 2024, Warwick Le Lagon-Vanuatu Resort, Port Vila, Vanuatu

### Agenda Item 8.4: Update Systematic Observation Financing Facility (SOFF)

#### Purpose:

1. **SOFF global update:** Provide the PMC with an update of the progress of SOFF implementation globally.
2. **SOFF Pacific update and outlook:** Present SOFF operations status and outlook for the Pacific region in the context of the regional Pacific landscape of investments.
3. **WRP-SOFF collaboration:** Discuss and agree to develop a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on complementarity and collaboration between SOFF and WRP.

#### Background:

1. **SOFF is a new United Nations specialized climate fund.** It has an exclusive focus on supporting countries in achieving compliance with the Global Basic Observing Network, established by the World Meteorological Congress in 2021 and mandatory for all countries since 2023. Establishing SOFF as a UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund (UNMPTF) was requested by the 193 countries and territories of the World Meteorological Congress. UNMPTF is the United Nations mechanism for pooled funding with a portfolio of 250+ funds amounting to USD 19 billion.
2. **SOFF opened its doors for business in July 2022.** In October 2022 a SOFF Pacific programming workshop was held in Fiji, bring together the Pacific WMO Permanent Representatives, Pacific regional organizations including SPREP, and international partners supporting the region. Following this workshop, the WMO Regional Association President and the Pacific WMO Permanent Representatives requested a SOFF Pacific regional program.
3. **SOFF progress on SOFF Pacific program.** Since March 2023, SOFF has already approved support to 14 Pacific countries amounting to USD 33 million. SOFF hands-on, peer-to-peer technical assistance in the Pacific is provided by the met offices of Australia, New Zealand and United Kingdom. Their Terms of Reference include to connect and engage SOFF with regional bodies and initiatives.
4. **SOFF and WRP are two long-term complimentary funding mechanisms** available to support Pacific countries to achieve their national priorities in the context of the Blue



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Pacific Strategy 2050. While SOFF is focusing its support to achieve Pacific GBON compliance, the [WRP programme has a much broader objective](#) to ensure Pacific countries and communities benefit from advances in forecast and warning systems.

### Objectives:

1. Establish a common understanding on the SOFF mandate, its governance structure and operational arrangements.
2. Identify regional collaboration opportunities between WRP and SOFF.
3. Reach agreement to develop a Memorandum of Understanding on complementarity and collaboration between SOFF and WRP, ideally to be signed at COP29.

### Recommendations:

The Meeting is invited to:

- Note the complementarity and need for close collaboration between WRP and SOFF and the importance of a coordinated approach to implementation of two long-term complimentary funding mechanisms, SOFF and WRP, in the Pacific region.
- Recommends that the WRP Project Management Unit and the SOFF Secretariat develop a Memorandum of Understanding under the guidance of their Steering Committee chairs.
- Further recommends that the Memorandum of Understanding be signed by the chairs of the respective Steering Committees, with a vision to make a joint announcement at COP29.

