

Third Meeting of the Capacity Development Panel

Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF)

15 September 2021

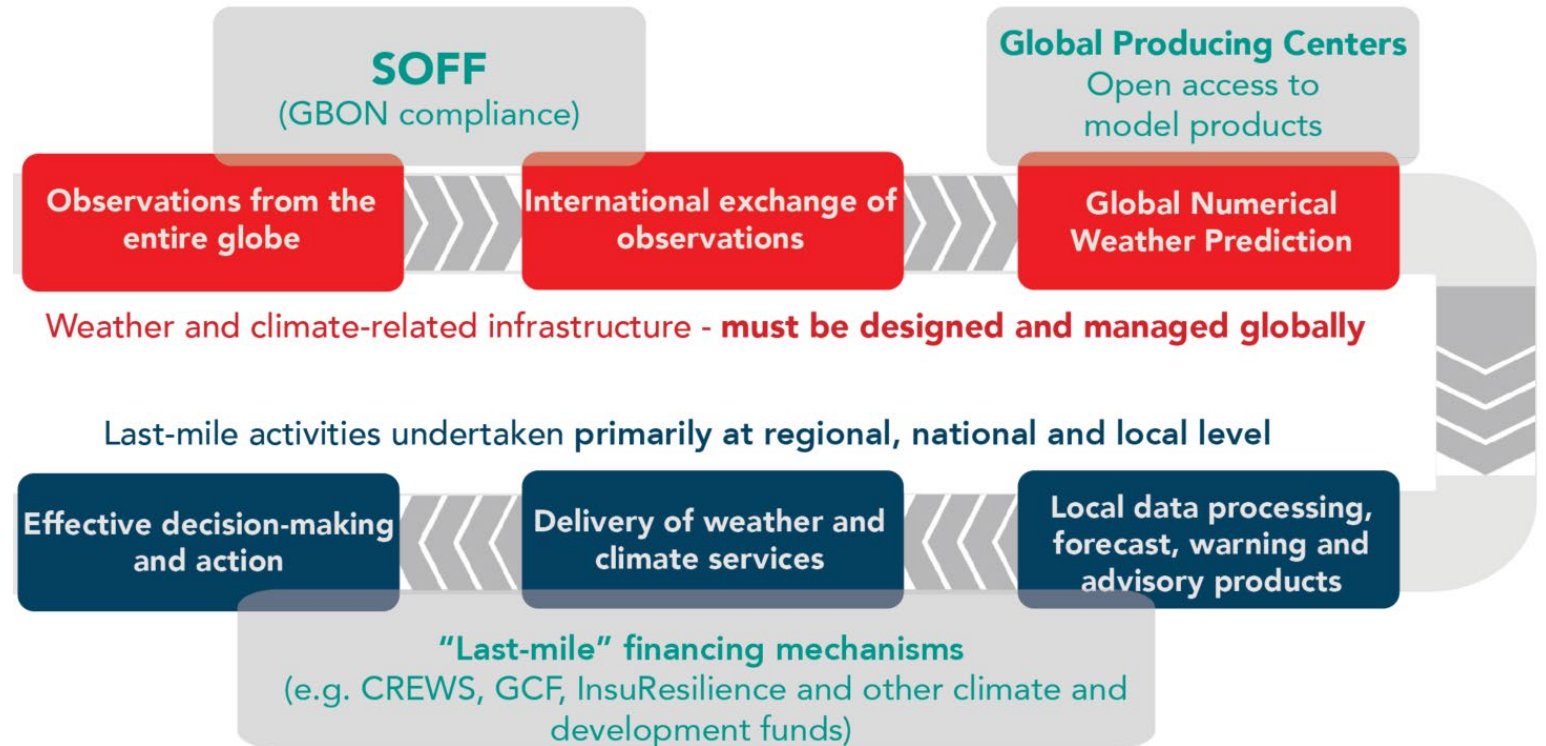
Markus Repnik, Director Development Partnerships

What is the SOFF?

- **A “UN coalition” (WMO, UNDP, UNEP) to address a foundational problem in a systematic manner – missing surface-based observations from developing countries**
- **A dedicated and innovative financing mechanism** that will provide grants and technical assistance to achieve sustained GBON compliance, with a focus on LDCs and SIDS
- A mechanism that is **built on peer-to-peer collaboration and support** among national meteorological services, harnessing their operational experience as providers of peer technical advice and assessments (**Country Support Initiative, Country Hydromet Diagnostics**)
- **A multi-partner initiative and commitment of the Alliance for Hydromet Development** (coalition of 13 major climate and development finance partners), spearheaded by WMO and **supported by beneficiary countries and multiple stakeholders.**
- **An initiative with an exclusive focus on the initial part of the meteorological value chain** that creates the foundation for effective weather and climate information services policy and investment decisions.

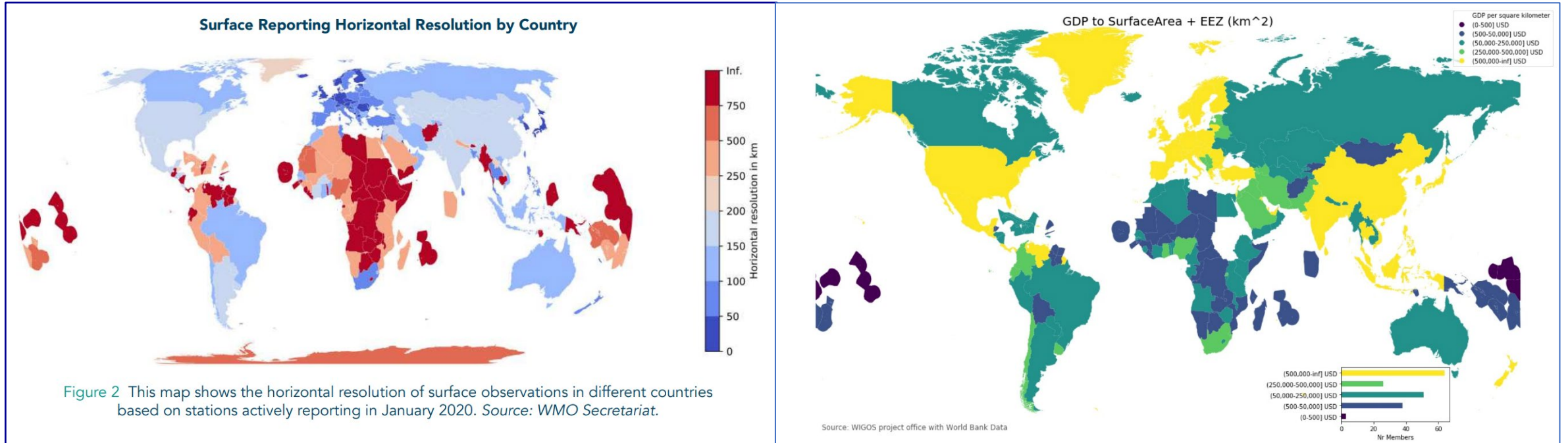
How will SOFF outputs translate into last-mile benefits?

SOFF systematic focus on the initial link in the value chain, as a necessary basis for any regional or national weather and climate services



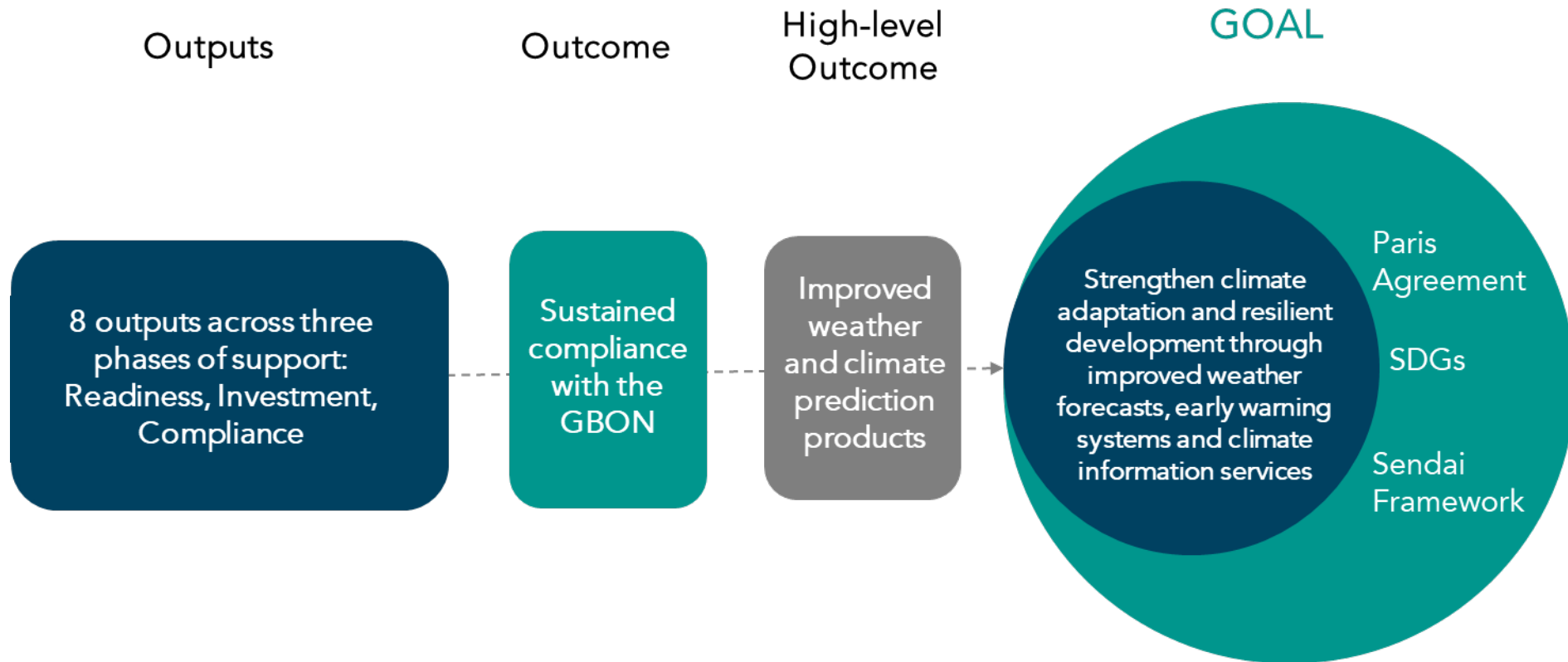
Availability of observations versus national resources

WMO Convention and Paris Agreement implicitly assume that observations is solely a national responsibility



- **Ability to observe (left panel):** Observing systems in countries depicted in red fail to meet minimum observations requirements for weather and climate analysis and prediction
- **Ability to pay (right panel):** Affordability of observing responsibility (GDP/km² of surface area) of countries in yellow up to ten million times higher than for countries in dark blue

SOFF Theory of Change



SOFF value proposition: Effective combination of 10 features

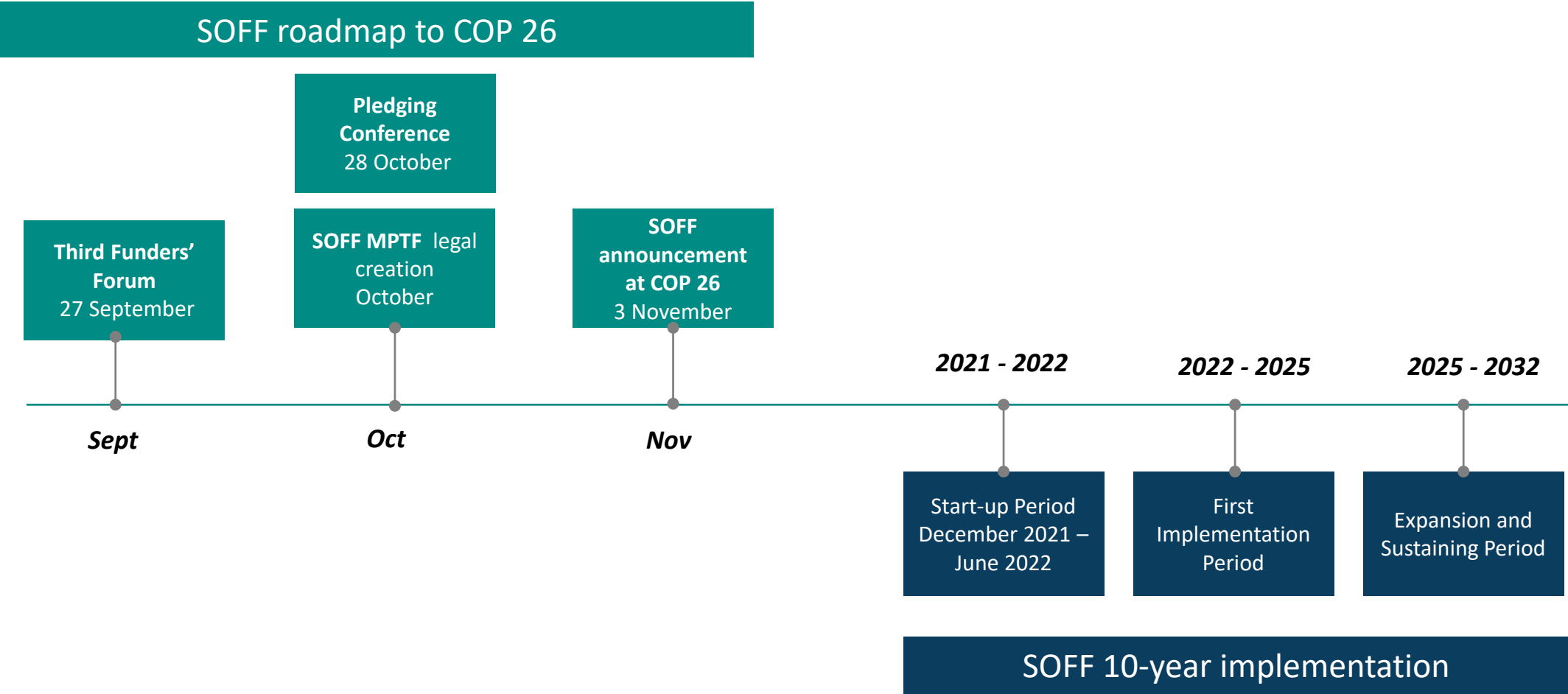
- **Provision of innovative finance**
 - **Long-term predictable grant** finance – beyond short term project cycles
 - Finance for **operations and maintenance** – instead of only investments
 - **Results-based** finance – retroactive financing upon verification of data sharing
- **Global approach with sustained data exchange as measure of success**
 - **GBON metrics** to guide investments – ensure right level of investments
 - Long-term **GBON data sharing compliance** single measure of success
 - **Unified investment** approach to close GBON gap in one single intervention
- **Enhancement of technical competency and coordination**
 - GBON-specialized **peer-to-peer** technical and institutional support incl. South-South
 - Coalition of strong **Implementing Entities** for economies of scale
 - SOFF as **centre of competency** on “what does it take”
 - Effective **collaboration and coordination** among the main stakeholders and partners

Who is supporting SOFF creation?

Beneficiary countries and **international organizations** have urged bilateral and multilateral partners to fund SOFF, including:

- Several **Prime Ministers** and **Ministers** from Africa, Pacific, Caribbean (e.g. Fiji Prime Minister)
- All **African Ministers** responsible for meteorology
- **Least Developed Countries Group**
- **Alliance of Small Island States**
- **African Group of Negotiators**
- **UN Secretary-General**
- Heads of **Alliance for Hydromet Development**
- **IMF** Managing Director
- **UNFCCC** Executive Secretary
- **European** Meteorological Agencies

SOFF roadmap to COP 26 and beyond



More information

- i** Find out more about SOFF in our communication and knowledge products available here:

<https://alliancehydromet.org/systematic-observations-financing-facility/>