

Call for Submissions from UAE 2023
New collective quantified goal on climate finance
Submission from WMO

[FCCC/PA/CMA/2023/L.10](#)

Focus of the call:

Needs and modalities for the enhanced provision and mobilization of climate finance to financially support the implementation of nationally determined contributions, national adaptation plans and adaptation communications, reflecting the needs of developing country Parties.

In 2023, the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) through the Glasgow Climate Pact (Decision 1/CMA.3) recognized that adaptation finance will have to be significantly scaled up beyond the doubling to support the urgent and evolving need to accelerate adaptation and build resilience in developing countries. Climate finance should consider the need to support the implementation of current Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), increase ambition and accelerate action.

Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)

Recognizing the contribution of science-based decision-making in supporting climate action, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) leads the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), which focuses on developing, providing and improving the uptake of climate science and risk information services and capacity development for supporting adaptation and mitigation actions. A key component of the GFCS is the coordination and collaboration of national activities and stakeholders through National Frameworks for Climate Services (NFCS). NFCSs aim to improve the development, delivery and use of climate services at the country level to support decision-making and climate action.

Early Warnings for All (EW4All)

EW4All is co-led by WMO and UNDRR, with ITU and IFRC also serving as pillar leads. The work of these leads is currently financed through a combination of bilateral contributions and project awards from climate funds, in particular from CREWS (see below). The Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) provides financing specifically concerning monitoring of hazards, to be delivered through implementing partners (Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and UN agencies) and technically guided and quality controlled by WMO and its member national technical agencies.

Global cost estimates for achieving EW4All are currently being refined, with initial estimates indicating at least USD 3 billion additional to the current portfolio of early warning systems investment being needed. There are several large pipeline projects with the GCF led primarily by UN agencies, and the MDBs have committed to scaling up their pipelines. The AF, GEF and CIFs also make significant contributions to early warning systems.

^[1] [Global Landscape of Renewable Energy Finance 2023](#)

EW4All would significantly benefit from a reduction in bureaucratic hurdles and administrative burdens imposed by the climate funds, in particular the GCF. Despite the GCF's official commitment to significantly scale up investment in early warning systems, roll out continues to be slowed by long approval processes and inaccessibility of funding by key early warning actors. In addition, the GCF's (and other climate funds') cost eligibility limitations make cost recovery for technical expert executing entities to provide technical assistance very difficult, forcing them to rely on external expertise, which defeats the purpose of engaging such expert organizations.

Assessing and Monitoring Capacities for Climate Services and Climate Finance

Since 2018, under the GFCS, WMO Members have been assessing their capacity for providing climate services and documenting associated socio-economic outcomes and benefits through a Checklist for Climate Services implementation. The checklist addresses functional capacities across the climate services value chain, in six groups: Governance, Basic Systems, the User Interface, Capacity Development, Provision and Application of Climate Services, and Monitoring and Evaluation of socio-economic benefits.

Based on WMO's Checklist for Climate Services implementation data (174 Members have responded to date), 107 WMO Members indicated active engagement in negotiating access to financing from ongoing programs or contributing to the development of new proposals to meet identified needs. Nevertheless, only 87 Members have consulted lists of ongoing and planned climate adaptation and mitigation-related projects, which is an important step needed for leveraging existing ongoing and pipeline initiatives for climate finance and coordination at the national level.

A limited involvement of NMHS in the implementation of early warning systems and hydromet related projects funded by Multilateral Development Banks and climate Finance Institutions emerge from the analysis of EW4All finance tracking tool. WMO and UNDRR jointly collaborate to collect and compile investment data on EWS as a contribution to the EW4All initiative launched by the UN Secretary-General in 2022. The so called EW4All finance tracking tool includes more than 300 projects from Multilateral Development Banks and Climate Finance Institutions. The analysis of the database of ongoing and pipeline projects that relate to early warning systems and hydromet investments, highlight a significant gap in NMHSs involvement in such projects. In particular, 42 projects out of 329, lists NMHSs either as Implementing entities or Executing entities.

Since 2019, WMO through its State of Climate Services reports, has been highlighting the need for investments to strengthen the climate science basis for both mitigation and adaptation, in particular:

1. Investment in climate services for agriculture and food security:
 - o To reduce the disproportionate burden born by poorer countries in the financing of vital systematic observation systems through long-term finance beyond time-bound projects, incentivizing country performance and data sharing, and ensuring the sustainability of investments.
 - o To enhance and operationalize agrometeorological climate services, especially in Africa and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
 - o Resources should be invested in enhancing agro-climatic science as a basis for informing priority climate actions in agriculture; and systematic monitoring and evaluation of the socioeconomic benefits of climate services from the farmer level to the national level and across the entire agricultural value chain from inputs to production to processing and sales.

2. Investments in risk information and early warning systems:
 - o Invest to fill the EWS capacity gaps, particularly in Africa, the Americas, and the Caribbean with a focus on LDCs and SIDS.
 - o Focus investment on turning early warning information into early action, through improved communication and preparedness planning.
 - o Ensure sustainable financing of the global observing system that underpins early warnings and ensure that financing covers all segments of the EWS value chain, including data and knowledge sharing.
3. Investments in climate services for water resource management:
 - o Investing in better hydrological monitoring, data collection, and storage systems. Better water data underpins better hydrological forecasting, hence better planning of the water resources.
 - o Investing in Integrated Water Resources Management as a solution to better manage water stress, especially in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs).
 - o Investing in end-to-end drought and flood early warning systems in at-risk LDCs, including drought warnings in Africa and flood warnings in Asia.
4. Investments in climate services for energy:
 - o Sustained investments and enhanced policies are crucial to scaling up advanced weather, water, and climate services. It is essential for climate-resilient energy transition and to uphold the 1.5°C path outlined in the Paris Agreement. Investment in renewable energy should triple, including in weather, water, and climate services for energy.^[1]
5. Investments in climate services for health:
 - o Extreme heat is the deadliest of extreme weather events, yet only 54% of countries have extreme temperature early warning system and only 7% of those release warnings that are triggered by health and mortality thresholds which can inform programming action
 - o A multifaceted investment plan is critical to fully enable actors and mechanisms at the science-policy interface for climate, environment and health.

Capacity Development for Accessing Climate Finance

WMO delivered a first regional training workshop from 12-16 September 2022 in South Africa (Johannesburg) targeting four Southern African countries: Eswatini, Malawi, South Africa, and Zambia. A second regional training workshop was held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 19-23 June 2023 at the Badan Meteorologi, Klimatologi, dan Geofisika (BMKG) Indonesia Headquarters, targeting five South and Southeast Asian countries: Bangladesh, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar and Timor-Leste. The workshop aimed to help all countries, in particular least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS) and developing countries to identify and select the most effective climate actions to address climate impacts. The key learning objective was to develop skills for GCF proposal development including under the NAP Readiness Programme. This training area

^[1] [Global Landscape of Renewable Energy Finance 2023](#)

develops skills to interpret, formulate and effectively articulate climate science analyses to prepare and implement bankable project proposals. In doing so, the support contributes to country-level decision-making and the mobilization of climate finance.

The workshops highlighted that more support is required to promote and capacitate the ability to synthesize and distil multiple sources of information in the context of specific national priorities. Future training workshops should increase the focus on stakeholder involvement, covering multiple aspects and steps in climate project proposal development, including Theory of Change (TOC) and the climate finance investment criteria. It is expected that future training workshops will emphasize the link between climate finance and climate science and how to use climate science information to enable a transformational climate action paradigm to unleash the climate impact potential of adaptation investments.

WMO is developing a Guidance on Empowering NMHSs in Mobilizing Climate and Development Finance. The document will focus on the role that NMHSs play in providing the sound scientific basis and expertise needed for climate investment decision-making at the national level. The Guidance will be finalized in the second quarter of 2024 and will be launched at COP29.

Financing for the Climate Risk and Early Warning System Initiative (CREWS)

As of December 31, 2023, contributions and pledges to the CREWS Trust Fund totalled USD 130.48 million. Of this amount, USD 104.39 million has been received (CREWS Trustee Report, 31 December 2023). The CREWS Steering Committee had approved funding from the CREWS Trust Fund totalling USD 83.66 million, including administrative costs.

CREWS acknowledges the need for different instruments and sources for mobilizing and scaling up climate finance, hence all CREWS projects must show a satisfactory leverage potential. Moreover, CREWS has designed three windows to access finance to better accommodate the different needs and demands of countries.

The first is the multi-year country and regional projects. Through this first mechanism, CREWS provide technical assistance and operational support on three levels: (i) at the country level where support is provided to national institutions in improving their governance structures, including developing national strategic plans and collaboration with Ministries and financial institutions for resilience planning and climate financing (Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Mali, Malawi, Niger, Papua New Guinea, Togo); and (2) at the regional level where support is assisted to build their capacities to deliver early warning services, improved regional cooperation frameworks for forecasting of climate and weather and to improve regional level risk information and early warnings services (Caribbean, Pacific, West Africa, South-West Indian Ocean, Central Africa, Horn of Africa, South-East Asia and East Africa). As of date USD 52.4 million has been invested in regional projects and USD 23.6 million for country projects.

Complementary to the multi-year country and regional projects, the Accelerated Support Window (ASW) is the second financing mechanism set up to respond rapidly to demands for assistance by countries. It is a time-bound, maximum of 12 months, up to USD 250,000 per request small grants scheme. Through the ASW, CREWS was able to respond to requests for immediate technical assistance, advisory services and preparation of assessments and analysis for 8 countries with a total investment as of date of approximately USD 1.7 million.

Finally, CREWS and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) joined forces to fast-track access to early warning finance. CREWS-funded projects that have reported successful outcomes



can access up to \$25 million through the GCF's Simplified Approval Process (SAP) for their scale-up. The funding will enable those countries with

significant potential to amplify and reinforce CREWS-supported early warning work and impact and ensure its sustainability. Success through GCF-CREWS-supported action will facilitate and foster access to finance more and potentially lead to additional investments from other entities. As of date, two scaled proposals are being prepared to build on CREWS outcomes in the Caribbean and in Togo and at least four more are in the pipeline.

Establishing systematic observation and SOFF as a key priority in the NCQG

Establishing systematic observation and SOFF as a key priority in the NCQG will play an important enabling role by strengthening the data and science foundation of climate finance and increasing climate ambition by COP 30. SOFF strengthens developing countries' long-term capacity, in particular the capacity of LDCs and SIDS, in generating and internationally exchanging weather and climate data and achieving compliance with the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON). GBON was defined and agreed by the 193 countries and territories of the World Meteorological Congress. Achieving GBON compliance is a mandatory obligation for all countries since January 2023 and essential for data-based national climate plans including NDCs and NAPs, for the next GST cycle, and the implementation of the UNSGs Early Warnings for All Initiative. SOFF is a foundational element and delivery vehicle of the UN Early Warnings for All Initiative.

SOFF is a specialized UN climate fund, co-created by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). SOFF recognizes the global public good value of GBON data as any forecast for any part of the globe beyond three days requires GBON data from across the globe. SOFF combines grant-based, long-term, open-ended finance and peer-to-peer technical assistance and brings together National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS), UN Organizations and multilateral banks to support beneficiary countries systematically to close the GBON data gaps.

According to the WMO Global GBON gap analysis of June 2023, LDCs and SIDS generate and internationally exchange less than 10 percent of the mandated GBON data. The situation is particularly dire in Africa (Africa's 36 LDCs and SIDS – home to 600 million people - GBON compliance rate for surface land stations is 7 per cent; Germany has more GBON compliant surface land stations than the whole African continent) and in the countries classified as Fragile and Conflict-Affected states (one eighth of the world population with only seven GBON compliant land surface stations in 39 countries). Closing the GBON data gap is essential for better forecasts and timely early warnings. Therefore, data generated through SOFF-supported systematic observations are essential for global and national forecast products, which are, in turn, crucial to preparing national climate mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage plans.

SOFF opened its doors for business in July 2022 and approved First Country Readiness funding requests in March 2023, and today is supporting 60 countries including 11 countries with approved Investment funding requests. In 2022, SBSTA58 highlighted progress in systematic observation through SOFF and called on SOFF to continue supporting LDCs and SIDS. Building on this, SBSTA59 in 2023, recognized SOFF's continued efforts to address the gaps in systematic observation and it encouraged parties and relevant organizations to further strengthen their support to the systematic observations community. At COP28, SOFF was mentioned in the historically important decision operationalizing the Loss and Damage Fund which identified SOFF as having the potential to play a role in the funding arrangements to address loss and damage.

^[1] [Global Landscape of Renewable Energy Finance 2023](#)

Establishing SOFF as one of the modalities for the enhanced provision and mobilization of climate finance to support the preparation of NDCs and NAPs is crucial to the collective goal of raising climate ambition next year. In addition, because the world is heating at an unprecedented rate, addressing loss and damage is imperative. The basic weather and climate data generated and internationally exchanged with support from SOFF is essential for early warnings and help countries save lives in times of climate disasters. Therefore, establishing SOFF as one of the funding arrangements for the LDF is important as well.