

Eighth Steering Committee

18-19 June 2023

Additional Financing Request: Australia Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) Peer Advisory Services for Kiribati and Solomon Islands

Decision 8.3

Systematic Observations Financing Facility

**Weather
and climate
data for
resilience**



Decision 8.3: Approval of additional financing request for Australia Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) Peer Advisory Services for Kiribati and Solomon Islands

The SOFF Steering Committee

Notes the request from Australia Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) for a revision of the peer advisory services and corresponding fee to accommodate increased support for the implementation of the SOFF Investment phase in Kiribati and Solomon Islands as stated in the revised Terms of Reference.

Approves the additional financing request in the amount of USD 583,150.

Requests

- BoM and respective Implementing Entities to prepare the required documentation in the SOFF UNMPTF Gateway Platform.
- WMO to issue revised Assignment Agreements with BoM that includes the updated Terms of Reference as included in the Annex II.
- the UNMPTF Office to disburse the first tranche in the amount USD 194,363.89 of additional financing to WMO for the peer advisory services pass-through mechanism according to the Assignment Agreement between BoM and WMO.
- the UNMPTF to disburse the second and third tranches upon request and according to the payment schedule in the Assignment Agreement and contingent upon availability of funds in the SOFF UNMPTF.

Purpose of this Document

The document provides an overview of the current engagement of the Australia Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) as a SOFF peer advisor and presents the request from BoM for additional financing for Kiribati and Solomon Islands based on the expanded support BoM is requested to provide to these countries for their Investment phase implementation. The request has been prepared in collaboration with the SOFF beneficiary countries, Kiribati and Solomon Islands, and the respective Implementing Entities, UNEP and UNDP.

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Additional financing request: Australia Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) peer advisory services for Kiribati and Solomon Islands

Project Document

<p>Project Title: Additional financing request: Australia Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) peer advisory services for Kiribati and Solomon Islands</p>	<p>Recipient Organizations: Australia Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)</p>
<p>Project Contact: Markus Repnik SOFF Secretariat 7bis Avenue de la Paix Case postale 2300 Nations, 1211 Genève Telephone: +41797901882</p>	<p>Project Location: WMO Secretariat Geneva 7bis Avenue de la Paix Case postale 2300 Nations, 1211 Genève</p>
<p>Project Description: Request for additional financing for peer advisory services in Kiribati and Solomon Islands provided by BoM.</p>	<p>Total Project Cost USD 583,150 (including 7% WMO fee of USD 38,150)</p>
	<p>Project Start Date: 1 July 2024 Proposed Project End Date: 1 July 2029 Project Duration: 5 years</p>
<p>For the Recipient Organizations: Prof. Celeste Saulo Secretary-General World Meteorological Organization Signature: </p>	<p>Chair of the SOFF Steering Committee: Satu Santala Managing Director Nordic Development Fund Co-Chair of the SOFF Steering Committee Signature: </p>

Additional Financing Request: Australia Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) peer advisory fee for Kiribati and Solomon Islands

1. Context

In February 2023, the Australia Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) signed the Umbrella legal agreement with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for the provision of SOFF peer advisory services. In the SOFF Readiness phase, BoM was selected by 6 countries in the Pacific islands as peer advisor, continuing the long-term partnership between these countries and BoM providing technical assistance in the region. Table 1 outlines the countries in which BoM is serving as a peer advisor, the respective Implementing Entity and status of SOFF support. The Bureau has a demonstrated track record of technical assistance and partnership in the Pacific region and therefore is an essential partner for SOFF to ensure quality sustained technical advisory support for SOFF implementation.

Table 1. Overview of countries and SOFF implementation status for countries with BoM as peer advisor.

Country	Peer advisor	Implementing Entity	Readiness status	Investment status
Kiribati	BoM	UNEP	Complete	Approved USD 10,845,152
Solomon Islands	BoM	UNDP	Complete	Approved USD 8,178,574
Fiji	BoM	World Bank	Complete	Not yet submitted
Samoa	BoM	World Bank	Complete	Submitted
Nauru	BoM	UNEP	Complete	Submitted
Papua New Guinea	BoM	UNDP	Submitted	Not yet submitted

Through [Decision 6.3](#) and [Decision 7.6](#), SOFF Investment phase funding for 2 countries, Kiribati and Solomon Islands, was approved by the SOFF Steering Committee in November and March respectively, with BoM serving as peer advisor. SOFF Investment funding requests for 2 additional countries, Nauru and Samoa, are expected to be considered by the SOFF Steering Committee in June 2024 (INF 8.3).

In the approved funding requests for Kiribati and Solomon Island, front runners in preparing SOFF Investment funding requests, BoM calculated its peer advisory services based on a rather limited engagement from the peer advisor. Recognizing the potential need for more extensive engagement in their role as peer advisory, the funding requests approved by the Steering Committee state “should further support be required, this would need to be requested as additional financing.”

2. Request for additional financing

Following a request from Kiribati and Solomon Islands and in consultation with the respective SOFF Implementing Entities, BoM has submitted an additional financing request for Steering Committee approval (see letter in Annex I) in the amount USD 545,000. This request reflects an increase in the scope of peer advisory support to the two countries and commensurate increase in the peer advisory fee for each country in line with revised and expanded Terms of Reference for both countries (Annex II), which outline the increased role of BoM to support SOFF implementation.

No.	Countries	Peer advisor	Implementing Entities	Duration years	SOFF funding USD
	Kiribati and Solomon Islands	Australia	UNEP and UNDP	5	545,000
Subtotal					545,000
WMO indirect support costs (7%)					38,150
TOTAL					583,150

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Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology



Office of the CEO

In reply, please quote:
DIR 24 0084

17 May 2024

Mr Markus Repnik
Director
SOFF Secretariat

Dear Markus

I am writing to you in my capacity as Australia's Permanent Representative to the WMO in relation to Australia's involvement as a peer advisor to Kiribati and Solomon Islands in the Investment Phase of SOFF.

Through this request, in full consultation with the SOFF Secretariat, Recipient Country Partners and the respective Implementing Entities, we are seeking to increase Australia's peer advisory commitment and commensurate funding for each country from USD 262,500 to USD 535,000 in line with revised Terms of Reference (attached).

Submitted for your consideration and approval.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Johnson'.

Dr Andrew Johnson PSM FTSE FAICD
CEO and Director of Meteorology

Cc: Permanent Representative of Kiribati to the WMO
Permanent Representative of Solomon Islands to the WMO
Representatives, SOFF Implementing Entities for Kiribati & Solomon Islands

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Proposed Revisions to Kiribati funding request

Prepared by Bureau of Meteorology, Australia
17 May 2024

Annex 4: Terms of Reference for the provision of technical advisory services during the SOFF Investment Phase

Replace section 3 with the following text:

3. Peer advisors' activities during the SOFF Investment Phase

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology (Bureau) is the peer advisor for Kiribati. To deliver its SOFF peer advisor role during the Investment Phase, the Bureau will establish a peer advisory office within its International Development program. This office will initially be resourced with one subject matter expert (SME) in meteorological capacity building. This first SME will be capable of supporting the first 2-3 SOFF partner countries, with the office potentially expanding to two SMEs as and when further SOFF partner countries are approved for funding. The SME will provide direct peer support as well as draw on and coordinate support from the varied expertise within other parts of the Bureau.

The costing for peer advisor support for Kiribati has been considered holistically with the peer advisor services for our other partner country with approved SOFF funding, Solomon Islands. The peer advisor fees for the two countries combined will allow for the human resources, overhead and administrative costs to deliver the peer advisory services for these initial two countries over the next 5 years. Any additional countries approved for implementation for which Australia is the peer reviewer will also leverage these same human resources at reduced costs to SOFF.

The Bureau's peer advisory office will provide the following advisory and support services to Kiribati Meteorological Services (KMS) during the SOFF Investment Phase:

- On-call advice and technical support – The peer advisory office will provide direct support as well as facilitate access to subject matter experts (SME) within its organisation for on-call consultation, advice and support to KMS via telephone or videoconference. This could include topics such as:
 - Station siting and exposure assessment
 - Equipment or communications issues
 - Quality management
 - WIS2.0 configuration and setup
 - WIGOS, OSCAR/Surface metadata setup and configuration

- Suggestions for suppliers of equipment and services
- Assistance with budgeting for operation and maintenance of stations during compliance phase

The fee in this Investment Proposal amount allows for up to 20 days of Bureau SME support per year. Should further support be required, this would need to be requested as additional financing and would require approval.

- Regional engagement support – The Bureau will assist KMS to connect and engage with other meteorological services, regional bodies, WMO and other hydromet initiatives in the region. This could include activities such as facilitating introductions and multi-party discussions.
- Periodic peer reviews – The Bureau will undertake annual in-country peer reviews of progress during the Investment Phase and will contribute to the annual progress reports as well as the mid-term review and terminal evaluation of the project by UNDP. Each review will include a short assessment report and recommendations for adjustments to the Investment Phase approach if required. The regular reviews will aim to identify and head off any emerging problems or issues to avoid waste or investment funds or delays to the investment program.

The Bureau may also deliver or have some involvement in some of the activities listed under Outputs 1 and 2 above, particularly relating to capacity-building (e.g. BIP-MT training). However, this would be done through a transparent procurement process and covered under the budget allowed for these Outputs by the Implementing Entity.

Proposed Revisions to Solomon Islands funding request

Prepared by Bureau of Meteorology, Australia
17 May 2024

Annex 4: Terms of Reference for the provision of technical advisory services during the SOFF Investment Phase

Replace section 3 with the following text:

3. Peer advisors' activities during the SOFF Investment Phase

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology (Bureau) is the peer advisor for Solomon Islands. To deliver its SOFF peer advisor role during the Investment Phase, the Bureau will establish a peer advisory office within its International Development program. This office will initially be resourced with one subject matter expert (SME) in meteorological capacity building. This first SME will be capable of supporting the first 2-3 SOFF partner countries, with the office potentially expanding to two SMEs as and when further SOFF partner countries are approved for funding. The SME will provide direct peer support as well as draw on and coordinate support from the varied expertise within other parts of the Bureau.

The costing for peer advisor support for Solomon Islands has been considered holistically with the peer advisor services for our other partner country with approved SOFF funding, Kiribati. The peer advisor fees for the two countries combined will allow for the human resources, overhead and administrative costs to deliver the peer advisory services for these initial two countries over the next 5 years. Any additional countries approved for implementation for which Australia is the peer reviewer will also leverage these same human resources at reduced costs to SOFF.

The Bureau's peer advisory office will provide the following advisory and support services to Solomon Islands Meteorological Services (SIMS) during the SOFF Investment Phase:

- On-call advice and technical support – The peer advisory office will provide direct support as well as facilitate access to subject matter experts (SME) within its organisation for on-call consultation, advice and support to SIMS via telephone or videoconference. This could include topics such as:
 - Station siting and exposure assessment
 - Equipment or communications issues
 - Quality management
 - WIS2.0 configuration and setup
 - WIGOS, OSCAR/Surface metadata setup and configuration

- Suggestions for suppliers of equipment and services
- Assistance with budgeting for operation and maintenance of stations during compliance phase

The fee in this Investment Proposal amount allows for up to 20 days of Bureau SME support per year. Should further support be required, this would need to be requested as additional financing and would require approval.

- Regional engagement support – The Bureau will assist SIMS to connect and engage with other meteorological services, regional bodies, WMO and other hydromet initiatives in the region. This could include activities such as facilitating introductions and multi-party discussions.
- Periodic peer reviews – The Bureau will undertake annual in-country peer reviews of progress during the Investment Phase and will contribute to the annual progress reports as well as the mid-term review and terminal evaluation of the project by UNDP. Each review will include a short assessment report and recommendations for adjustments to the Investment Phase approach if required. The regular reviews will aim to identify and head off any emerging problems or issues to avoid waste or investment funds or delays to the investment program.

The Bureau may also deliver or have some involvement in some of the activities listed under Outputs 1 and 2 above, particularly relating to capacity-building (e.g. BIP-MT training). However, this would be done through a transparent procurement process and covered under the budget allowed for these Outputs by the Implementing Entity.