Alliance for Hydromet Development

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

Hydromet Alliance Report 2024

Executive Summary

In 2024, the Hydromet Alliance took important steps to support the effort of reducing the hydrometeorological (hydromet) capacity gap. Key efforts focused on revitalizing and better operationalizing the Alliance while strengthening alignment on future priority actions. The Alliance agreed on promoting the universal adoption of Country Hydromet Diagnostics (CHD), delivering on Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) investments, publishing regular Hydromet Gap Reports (Hydromet Gap Report 2024), support efforts for financial investments tracking in early warning systems, enhancing regional development partner coordination, addressing gaps in middle-income countries, advocating for sustainable national funding and supporting National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in mobilizing climate and development finance.

Looking ahead to 2025, the Alliance aims to build on this momentum by further operationalizing key initiatives, refining methodologies, and integrating actions into institutional decision-making processes to support sustainable development and disaster risk reduction.

2024 Alliance Member Priorities

Revitalizing the Alliance

- Strengthen alignment with global initiatives, such as the UN Early Warnings for All (EW4All) Initiative, to ensure hydrometeorological services effectively contribute to disaster risk reduction. The Hydromet Gap Report 2024 features a dedicated EW4All section with relevant analytics, offering valuable insights to strengthen this alignment.
- Below is the list of 26 CHDs published in 2024, many of which began in 2023 and were completed in 2024: Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belize, Bhutan, Cambodia, Cabo Verde, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Comoros, Cuba, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Senegal, Samoa, São Tomé and Príncipe, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. Others began in 2024 and are still ongoing and expected to be published in 2025.

- Transition from policy discussions to actionable implementation to deliver tangible benefits to national and regional meteorological agencies.
- Increase the frequency of Alliance meetings to enhance collaboration and strategic engagement. In 2024, the Alliance convened online in April and met in person alongside the SOFF meeting in October.

Enhanced Coordination through Regional and National Engagement

- Strengthen coordination by leveraging the financial resources and expertise of Alliance members at regional and sub-regional levels.
- Utilize existing platforms such as the Africa and South Asia Hydromet Forum and regional technical workshops to facilitate dialogue and operational actions for NMHSs.
- In 2024, WMO advanced the development of the Regional Partner Coordination Mechanism (PCM) for Africa (APCM) and the Pacific (PPCM). The PCM enhances collaboration and coordination among donors, implementing partners, and stakeholders involved in Hydromet development projects. It serves as a platform for the systematic exchange of project and program information, aiming to harmonize and align interventions, prevent duplication of efforts, and ensure that development partners' objectives are aligned with regional and national priorities.
- Advocate for structured country-level partnerships that promote knowledge exchange and financial sustainability.

Resource Mobilization & Financial Tracking

- Advocate for increased resources to support SOFF in closing hydromet data gaps in developing nations.
- At COP29, SOFF was featured at Earth Information Day as an innovative financing model, the SOFF Action Report 2024 was launched, and additional pledges to the SOFF UN fund were announced.
- Explore co-financing opportunities and innovative financing mechanisms to ensure continuous funding for NMHSs.
- Advance financial tracking initiatives to assess and optimize investments in early warning systems, providing insights to guide future policy and funding decisions.
- In December 2024, WMO and UNDRR launched the Global Observatory for Early Warning System Investments designed to share information about funding from multilateral development banks and funds supporting early warning system (EWS) to support building coherence, alignment, increased leveraging of EWS funding and understanding of funding gaps. The Observatory supports the EW4All Initiative.

High-Level Advocacy & Political Engagement

- Leverage global forums, such as UNFCCC COPs and other high-profile events, to promote hydrometeorological investments and increase awareness among policymakers.
- Strengthen advocacy efforts to drive commitments toward enhanced hydromet services.

- Collaborate with national governments to integrate hydromet services into climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies.
- Elevate NMHSs' role within key economic ministries by demonstrating their value in economic planning, risk reduction, and sustainable development.

Agreement on the way forward

In 2024, the Hydromet Alliance identified eight priority areas to be taken forward:

1. Promote the universal adoption of CHD to inform investments and project planning.
2. Continue publishing regular Hydromet Gap Reports to capture trends and insights.
3. Optimize financial tracking of early warning systems investments.
4. Sustain and expand SOFF.
5. Strengthen regional development partner coordination to improve targeted support.
6. Address hydrometeorological capacity gaps in middle-income countries.
7. Enhance NMHSs' ability to mobilize climate and development finance.
8. Advocate for sustainable national funding for NMHSs.

Proposed Actions 2025-2026

1. Analytics: CHD and Hydromet Gap Reports

- Enhance CHD accessibility through online platforms and webinars.
- Establish CHD as a key tool for project and program planners.
- Promote country engagement in CHD implementation with Alliance support.
- Expand CHD application, including to middle-income countries.
- Encourage CHD reassessments every 3-4 years.
- Publish regular Hydromet Gap Reports, incorporating disaggregated regional and thematic data and sector-specific analysis.
- Explore modalities for ensuring sustainability and the constant flow of up-to-date diagnostics.

2. Financing: Strengthening Financial Tracking and Expanding SOFF

- Support the further development of the Global Observatory for Early Warning Systems (EWS) Investments.
- Engage with the Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) Adaptation Working Group to enhance financial collaboration.
- Align financial tracking efforts with the Joint-MDB Climate Finance Report.
- Expand SOFF to include additional Earth observation domains, such as greenhouse gases, marine, and hydrological variables.
- Advocate for increased SOFF support for middle-income countries.

3. Coordination: Enhancing Regional Coordination and Partner Engagement

- Strengthen WMO regional partner coordination mechanism (PCM)
- Integrate partner coordination mechanisms with other national and regional platforms.
- Participate in regional coordination mechanisms, including those in Africa and Pacific.
- Assign focal points to coordinate data collection for hydromet projects.
- Improve understanding of investment racking dashboards to streamline data use.
- Organize a dedicated working session on Partner Coordination Mechanisms (PCM).

4. Empowering: Advancing Climate Science for Action

- Scale up technical and capacity development support for NMHSs in mobilizing climate finance.
- Position NMHSs as key actors in national climate decision-making, ensuring strategies and investments are science-based.
- Promote the WMO Guidance Note on "Enhancing the Role of NMHSs in Mobilizing Climate Finance."
- Link pipeline proposals with the Climate Science Information for Climate Action (CSICA) initiative, particularly related to demonstrating the climate impact potential of interventions.
- Strengthen NMHSs' engagement with National Designated Authorities (NDAs) and Direct Access Entities (DAEs).
- Organize dedicated presentations on CSICA and its outputs at Alliance members' events or other relevant global events.

5. Expanding the Alliance, Advocacy, and Knowledge Sharing

- Formalize invitations to key stakeholders, such as SOFF and CREWS, to join the Alliance.
- Explore hosting a side event or issuing a joint statement at COP30 to highlight the hydromet capacity gap.
- Develop a Knowledge Hub on the Alliance website to provide best practices, research, and technical resources.
- Enhance strategic communications and advocacy to increase visibility.
- Develop a service menu outlining WMO's capacity development support.
- Advocate for sustainable national funding for hydrometeorological services.
- Highlight the economic, social, and environmental benefits of investing in hydromet infrastructure.
- Strengthen support for middle-income countries, ensuring tailored assistance.
- Organize another in-person Alliance meeting.

Conclusion

The Hydromet Alliance remains committed to strengthening global hydrometeorological services, closing investment gaps, and enhancing resilience to climate risks. The progress made in 2024 establishes a strong foundation for expanded initiatives in 2025. Through enhanced coordination, increased investments, and sustained political engagement, the Alliance will continue to drive climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction worldwide.