

**WMO OMM**

World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale
Organización Meteorológica Mundial
Всемирная метеорологическая организация
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
世界气象组织

Secrétariat

7 bis, avenue de la Paix – Case postale 2300
CH 1211 Genève 2 – Suisse
Tél.: +41 (0) 22 730 81 11
Fax: +41 (0) 22 730 81 81
wmo@wmo.int – public.wmo.int

Our ref.: 02247/2024/S/HWR

23 February 2024

Annexes: 2 (available in English only)

Subject: Invitation to the Initial Planning Meeting of the Southwest Indian Ocean Flash Flood Guidance System (SWIOFFGS) and Early Warning System for Flood (EWS-F) projects to be held on 29 February 2024 (online)

Action required: Inform on participation to the SWIOFFGS and EWS-F Initial Planning Meeting (online)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Recognizing the disastrous impact on lives and properties of affected populations by flash floods, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), jointly with the United States (US) National Weather Service (NWS), the Hydrologic Research Centre (HRC) and the US Agency for International Development/Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), have developed the concept of the Flash Flood Guidance System (FFGS) with global coverage to assist forecasters in providing the guidance to issue timely and accurate flash flood warnings. The concept endorsed by the Fifteenth World Meteorological Congress (Cg-XV, 2007), is implemented through a series of regional projects, and is planned to be expanded further in new regions.

I am pleased to invite you, as the Permanent Representative and the Hydrological Adviser, to the Initial Planning Meeting on establishing a FFGS for the Southwest Indian Ocean region, which will be held online on 29 February 2024. The purposes of this meeting are to provide an introduction to the fundamentals of the FFGS and explore ways for its development, including the commitments and activities that are required for the successful implementation of the system. It is also envisioned to discuss and present the Early Warning System for Flood (EWS-F) component, which will be closely linked to the FFGS expansion in the region. You are kindly requested to provide a 10 minute presentation on your country's needs for flood forecasting using the template provided in [Annex II](#). I kindly invite you to send your presentation to rba@wmo.int by **28 February 2024**.

Based on the conclusions and recommendations of this meeting, endorsed by each Permanent Representative via a letter of commitment to the Secretary-General of WMO, the development and implementation of the Southwest Indian Ocean Flash Flood Guidance System (SWIOFFGS) covering Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles will be carried out with funding being provided by the US, Agency for International Development/Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) and the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) initiative.

To: Permanent Representatives of Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles with WMO

cc: Hydrological Advisers

The Initial Planning Meeting is expected to take place on Thursday, 29 February 2024, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (All times given are in UTC), using an e-conferencing platform (Zoom), which allows simultaneous interpretation into the official languages of the Organization (English and French). The Zoom meeting details are as follows:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://wmo-int.zoom.us/j/96791176065?pwd=WXRyakxFcXpUMWVYWWVhcEh3MGxhQT09>

Meeting ID: 967 9117 6065

Passcode: 049121

In the framework of the Early Warning for All Initiative, I appreciate your support for the mitigation of adverse effects of flash floods in your country and in the region, and I wish you a successful meeting.

Yours faithfully,



Prof. Celeste Saulo
Secretary-General

**SOUTHWEST INDIAN OCEAN FLASH FLOOD GUIDANCE SYSTEM (FFGS) AND
EARLY WARNING SYSTEM FOR FLOOD (EWS-F)**

INITIAL PLANNING MEETING

**29 February 2024 (online)
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. (UTC)**

Ref.: 02247/2024.14 S/HWR

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 10 a.m.–10.10 a.m. | <p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RA I President, Regional Hydrological Adviser – RHA • USAID, NOAA • WMO <p>Self-introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country Representatives (PR + HA) • Stakeholders • WMO Secretariat |
| 10.10 a.m.–10.40 a.m. | <p>Overview and purpose of the meeting (WMO) Introduction to the FFGS and EWS-F and how WMO targets the assistance for hydrological hazards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope of the project • Flash Flood Guidance System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>System Architecture</i> ○ <i>Operational community</i> ○ <i>Partners and stakeholders</i> ○ <i>Roles and Responsibilities of the Regional Centres</i> • Early Warning System for Floods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Project Overview</i> ○ <i>Goals and expected outcomes</i> ○ <i>Concept of Operations, Multi-hazard Environment and Interoperability</i> • Governance |
| 1040 a.m.–1100 a.m. | <p>SARFFGS: key achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Demonstration (case study) and lessons learned</i> • <i>Capacities and capabilities behind the operations</i> • <i>Roles of Agencies in Effective Flash Flood Forecasting and Warning</i> |
| 1100 a.m.–1120 a.m. | <p>Active Country Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How to benefit from the project, Countries commitment</i> • <i>Capacities and capabilities provided by the project</i> • <i>Timeline for implementation of activities</i> • Q&A |
| 1120 a.m.–1220 p.m. | <p>Dialogue and consensus building for national and regional needs (Moderated by WMO):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Country presentations (10 mins per country)</i> • <i>Thematic discussions for mapping the initial needs (institutional capacities, human resources, system, maintenance and operations)</i> |

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Wrap up the session for consolidating the initial needs</i> |
| 1220 p.m.–1250 p.m. | Next steps and actionable items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Expectations and requirements for country</i>• <i>Timelines: letters, next event, and National Capacity Assessment Tool (NCAT)</i>• <i>Any other topics</i> |
| 1250 p.m.–1300 p.m. | Final remarks and closing of the meeting (RA I President, RHA) |

**TEMPLATE OF COUNTRY PRESENTATION FOR
SOUTHWEST INDIAN OCEAN FLASH FLOOD GUIDANCE SYSTEM (FFGS) AND
EARLY WARNING SYSTEM FOR FLOOD (EWS-F)**

INITIAL PLANNING MEETING

(PPT template attached as a separate file)

**Southwest Indian Ocean
Flash Flood Guidance System (FFGS)
and Early Warning System for Flood (EWS-F)
Initial Planning Meeting**

29 February 2024

**Regional and National Hydrological Needs for Floods
(Riverine, Flash Flood, Urban, Coastal)**

**Please add here Name of Country,
Name of presenter**

National needs (Guidance is provided in the Notes)

| | |
|---|--|
| 1. Institutional | |
| 2. Infrastructure | |
| 3. Information and communication technology (ICT) | |
| 4. Models and Forecasting | |
| 5. Dissemination and Communication | |
| 6. Human Resources, Expertise and Training | |
| 7. Sustainability (Operational and maintenance) | |
| 8. Other Hydrological Needs | |

Regional needs (Guidance is provided in the Notes)

| | |
|---|--|
| 1. Institutional | |
| 2. Infrastructure | |
| 3. Information and communication technology (ICT) | |
| 4. Models and Forecasting | |
| 5. Dissemination and Communication | |
| 6. Human Resources, Expertise and Training | |
| 7. Sustainability (Operational and maintenance) | |
| 8. Other Hydrological Needs | |