AMOS-RD Project Progress Report

Project Title: Advancing Meteorological Observations Network for Resilient Development (AMOS-RD)

Reporting Period: June 2024 – September 2025

Country: Solomon Islands

Implementing Entity: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Peer Advisor: Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)

Funding Source: Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF)

Approved Amount: USD 8,488,524

Per participating UN entity:

UNDP – USD 7,916,074

WMO – USD 572,450

1. Project Overview

The AMOS-RD project aims to enhance the Solomon Islands Meteorological Service (SIMS) capacity to generate and share high-quality meteorological data in compliance with the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON) standards. The project spans five years (2024–2029) and is implemented by UNDP with technical support from BoM.

2. Summary of Key Milestones and Activities

In the reporting period between January and June 2025, UNDP and its partners continued to fast-track implementation across several workstreams. Details of the progress are as follows:

- In May, the project's national inception workshop was organized by UNDP and SIMS in Honiara. The workshop was chaired by Ms. Susan Sulu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM) and was attended by 40 participants, including Provincial Secretaries from Choiseul, Central, Makira and Temotu Provinces who expressed early support for the

project's construction plans in those locations. The audience also learned about the findings and recommendations from the SOFF Readiness Phase from a BOM expert, and the project's implementation timeline and expected milestones.

- In June, UNDP together with SIMS, Ministry of Lands and Housing (MLHS), Ministry of Communication and Aviation, Civil Aviation Authority of Solomon Islands (CAASI), Solomon Islands Airports Corporation Limited (SIACL) and Ministry of Infrastructure Development (MID) conducted provincial visits to Taro (Choiseul province), Munda (Western), Auki (Malaita) and Tulagi (Central). The objectives were to (a) Identify sites for the constructions of three (3) Upper Air Stations and a surface observation station (b)secure provincial endorsement to transfer land ownership for the prospective upper-air sites from the provincial governments to SIMS; and (b) to carry out stocktake of existing manual observation equipment to facilitate planned procurements and upgrades. Both Tulagi and Taro provincial authorities approved the land transfer to SIMS, which is now pending final approval by the Commissioner of Lands. The equipment stocktake will be finalized in August following trips to Lata (Santa Cruz), Kira Kira (San Cristobal), Tinggoa (Rennell) and both Guadalcanal locations (Henderson airport and SIMS HQ at Vavaya Ridge).
- In line with developing NMHS human capacities to operate the GBON network, SIMS recruited 10 new weather observers to be stationed across the country. As part of the process, SIMS and UNDP designed a specialized training program modelled on the WMO Basic Instruction Package for Meteorological Technicians (BIP-MT). The training will take place over six months in July-December 2025 and will be financially supported by the project.
- AMOS RD also initiated preparatory works to support design of the planned upper-air sites (Taro, Tulagi, Lata) and the staff station in Kira Kira (San Cristobal). This includes commissioning of the site-specific environmental impact assessments (EIA), unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance surveys and development of a comprehensive tender dossier, including geo-technical survey, engineering/architectural plans, designs and bills of quantities, to facilitate procurement of required construction works planned for 2026.
- SIMS training instructor's contract awarded and training progressing well as scheduled.
- Contract for EIA was awarded and awaiting the EIA practitioner to start work as soon once deliverable 1 – Travel and Workplan are approved and paid.
- Evaluation of UXO progressing and should be finalized and contract awarded in the week 20th to 24th October 2025.
- Architectural design and Geotech survey tender notice was posted for 3 weeks and closing on the 15th October 2025.
- Cadastral and topography survey tender notice also published for 2 weeks.
- Equipment specifications for LTA progressing and finalizing on the 15th October 2025.

3. October 14 to December Activities.

- Awarding of contract for the design and Geotech, UXO, Cadastral and Topography survey.
- Procurement of automatic weather stations and a set of manual equipment for 8 SIMS observation sites.
- Completion of specialized BIP-MT training for new SIMS staff.
- Annual project steering committee.
- Development of the project's gender analysis and action plan; and
- Support to SIMS for endorsement of the new Meteo Act, including the national aviation cost-recovery plan as proposed in the Readiness Phase.

Links to project documents and publications

- "Faces Behind Weather Forecasting: Training the Next Generation of Weather Observers in Solomon Islands" (link)
- "Solomon Islands Launch Weather and Climate Resilience Project to Strengthen National Preparedness" (link)

All inception workshop slides & documents can be accessed here

4. Conclusion

The AMOS-RD project has made significant strides in its foundational year, particularly in stakeholder engagement, land acquisition and site assessment. While equipment procurement and infrastructure activities are pending, the groundwork laid in 2025 positions the project for accelerated implementation in subsequent years.