

FOSS4G 2018 Letter of Intent for Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, Africa

Dear FOSS4G 2018 Selection Committee: As Africa's haven of peace, Dar es Salaam is one of the fastest growing cities in the world. A vibrant, emerging, cultural city on the coast of Tanzania, Dar es Salaam is a beacon for technology, mapping and geo in the country and across Africa. Our organising committee, composed of local and global members, hereby submit this letter to host FOSS4G 2018 in Dar es Salaam. We believe that now is the time to bring FOSS4G back to Africa, to bridge the established communities of Southern Africa with Africa's emerging economies; **Let FOSS4G build a better and accessible geospatial future for all, both in Dar es Salaam and throughout continental Africa.**

Organising Committee

Our organising committee brings together geographers, humanitarians and open source specialists from both globally and locally. We have a diverse set of backgrounds, with the LOC organising prior FOSS4G, State of the Map and other global conferences. Our set of skills and experience will ensure FOSS4G 2018 Dar will be a cost-effective, well run and impactful event leaving a legacy for FOSS4G in Africa.

Co-Chairs

Dr Mark Iliffe is a Geospatial Specialist at the World Bank in Tanzania and was on the LOC of FOSS4G 2013 in Nottingham, UK.

Msilikale Msilanga is Geospatial Consultant with the World Bank in Tanzania. He supports open data and mapping projects including Ramani Huria.

Team

Dr. Joseph Mayunga Lecturer at Ardhi University, in the Center for Information and Communication Technology (CICT); **Yves Barthelemy**, State University of Zanzibar; **Tim Sutton** - QGIS Project Chair, InaSafe project lead, FOSS4G 2008 LOC; **Gavin Fleming** - Kartoza, FOSS4G 2008 Chair; **Enock Seth Nyamador** Open Source and GIS enthusiast, Ghana; **Edward Anderson**, Senior ICT and Disaster Risk Management Specialist for the World Bank in Tanzania, Africa Open Data Conference Lead; **Pierre-André Le Ny**, Le Ny Conseil, Co-founder of OSGeo French Local Chapter, FOSS4G-FR 2016 LOC, GIS Expert; **Ragnvald Larsen** GIS specialist also working with development cooperation GIS in Ghana, Uganda and Tanzania. Seasoned OSM user and contributor, Organiser Tanzania GIS Users Group; **Dr Hessel Winsemius** Senior Flood Risk and Open Data specialist with Deltares, an independent institute for applied research in the field of water and subsurface in The Netherlands; **Professor Juma Lungu**, D-Lab, University of Dar es Salaam; **Freddie Mbuya**, Lead, UhuruLabs. **Jorieke Vyncke**, Expert digitalisation BTC, organiser SotM 2016 and HOT board member; **Geoffrey Kateregga**, HOT Uganda.

Supporting Events and Partner Organisations

This bid has support from the following organisations, both within Tanzania and within the wider OSGeo ecosystem: The Africa OSGeo chapter; The World Bank; Kartoza; Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team; Tanzania GIS Users Group; University of Dar es Salaam; Ardhi University; University of Twente; Tanzanian Commission of Science and Technology; University of Dar es Salaam's Data Lab; Uhuru Labs; State University of Zanzibar; Tanzania Open Data Initiative; Geo4All; Deltares; University of Nottingham and others. **Our diversity is our strength.** We will spread our net far and wide across the region involving NGOs and universities and marketing at other events including FOSS4G South Africa planned for June 2017, [Geo4Africa2017](#) in Uganda and existing Africa Open Data Initiatives.

Financing

This bid does not require financial backing from OSGeo. Based upon the strength of the organising committee and an existing seed commitment of \$100,000 from the World Bank¹, we wish to make this FOSS4G the most accessible yet. We wish to have a sub \$500 price point for all, while offering scholarships and discounts for those who would most benefit from attending a FOSS4G, this would be done in consultation with the OSGeo Community. This would be further complemented with fundraising, by sponsorship from organisations and institutions in-country and globally, with **remaining profit to be reinvested in the local community, in collaboration with the local and global OSGeo community.**

Venue and Provisional Timing

The Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre is in the centre of downtown Dar es Salaam and can accommodate over 1000 delegates in its main hall, with over 10 breakout rooms each holding 150 to 50 delegates. The venue would also provide substantial communal space for networking, exhibitions and relaxation. Workshops would be held at Ardhi University using their state-of-the-art lab spaces. Accommodation is available from luxurious 5-star hotels from \$180 a night to basic hotels at \$50 a night. We aim to hold FOSS4G 2018 in September 2018. We will be working with Studio19, a Tanzanian POC.

Tourism

Dar es Salaam is emerging as one of Africa's global cities and as a regional hub for East Africa with an ever growing population of 6 million. The city itself has a historic quarter showcasing its colonial past surrounded by the architecture of modern Africa. Within easy reach of the city is the Mikumi National Park for an amazing safari experience or sandy beaches for reef diving and sundowners. A short 60min ferry from the city is the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Zanzibar, with its winding streets and historic architecture at the start of the Spice trail. Flights to and from North America/Europe are around \$800, with some stopping via Arusha for Mount Kilimanjaro, the tallest mountain in Africa and the Ngorongoro Crater.

Why FOSS4G 2018 in Dar es Salaam?

We've seen how a FOSS4G event can catalyse the geo community in the host country. Now is the time for Africa! Free and open source software in Sub-Saharan Africa is still in its infancy, but here is where the principles of FOSS4G can have the largest impact, in setting the FOSS4G agenda, together we can build the foundations for generations to come. FOSS4G Dar should be seen as a FOSS4G Africa, quite distinct from FOSS4G 2008 in Cape Town which because of its geography had a localised impact. Tanzania is accessible to much more of Africa as well as the Middle East and Arabian Peninsula and Indian subcontinent and so taps into a new 'impact zone' for OSGeo.

Our vision is for an accessible and inclusive FOSS4G that complements the existing OSGeo stable while empowering the Open Data, Participatory Mapping and Internet of Things work currently underway. This ranges from locating schools to the instrumentation of communities with cheap, open source, 3D printed weather stations that improve community resilience to climate change. Location and geography are at the heart of these challenges: FOSS4G 2018 in Dar es Salaam would invigorate our existing projects bringing them to new users and developers while supporting and nurturing the existing community.

A FOSS4G in Dar es Salaam would not just impact the city or the country but would reverberate throughout the region, catalysing our community and leaving a legacy for the next generation.

Karibu Dar es Salaam, Karibu FOSS4G 2018!

¹ Committed to raise participation and awareness of open source geospatial tools and methods to build capacity within local Tanzanian communities and government.