

#OSJUBA Juba. The worlds first open source city? Berlin, June 2012

Presented by: Stephen Kovats (r0g-media), Roman Deckert (mict) and Ela Kagel (SUPERMARKT)

Summary by Jodi Rose of key questions and ideas at *#OSJUBA Juba. The world's first Open Source City* Berlin, June 2012 presented by *r0g-media*, mict and SUPERMARKT.

Open Source Culture in Post-Conflict Development:

#OSJUBA seeks to apply the means and tools of creative Open Source methodologies to the future of development and capacity building, particularly in post-conflict society.

#OSJUBA hopes to encourage a new discourse for development and post-conflict resolution, creating a vocabulary and tool kit of Open Source Culture for Development.

What is an Open Source City?

#OSJUBA proposes to apply means and methodologies of international Open Source / FLOSS, free culture, accessible technologies and hacktivist communities in creating a vision for the new capital of South Sudan. Investing in the potentials of media literacy, community development and individual enterprise with user generated tools, Open Source technologies, mobile platforms and collaborative data sourcing methodologies, Open Source communities are in a unique position to strengthen free and open expression with social and urban development in an Open Source City.

#OSJUBA Berlin combined approaches from independent economic, education, collaboration, information, technology and crowd mapping projects to form a compelling case in support of the Open Source City, with a complex intermeshed vision towards the future of Juba.

How would an Open Source City function?

Open Energy: The question of oil is crucial to the survival and politics of South Sudan, with 98% of government income depending on the oil industry. OpenOil.org introduces the idea of a citizen dividend & real-time monitoring of oil flow, ensuring that the abundant natural wealth is invested back into the infrastructure and citizen needs of the country, with empowered citizen engagement.

Micronation/Macronation "Democratising Energy" from HONF Laboratories in Jogjakarta combines technology with art and media to find large scale solutions to produce alternative energy.

Open Government

Maja Bott: **KfW** development bank is financing research into community engagement, transparent governance, energy, infrastructure, with a very strong program in the area of good governance, as key to poverty reduction in African countries. We intend to use citizen e-participation to improve the government level in partner countries; to improve top down accountability of government to its people; justice & accountability; transparent budget planning and access.

Open Data

The "Silicon Savannah" is a synonym for the development in Africa, heralding a change of concept due to the technological shifts taking place in Africa today.

Daudi Were on **Ushahidi**, an open system for crowd mapping and archiving used 24,000 times, in 152 countries & 32 languages. Every major deployment of Ushahidi is named after an African city, changing the concept and associations of those cities. V2 release "Juba" is named after our newest capital city on the continent, a vibrant place. Version 2 is more open, using open street maps, so the name Juba is very symbolic. In Kenya we are seeing open data government, datasets and maps, insight into budget, health centres around the country.

Good data allows us to plan interventions that go beyond technology. The more open the society, the more people know what is going on and can change it. We are very excited about Juba because there is a chance to do it right, so it's open from the start. Participatory decision making has been at the heart of decision making in Africa for centuries. What we are doing now is going back to democratic participatory structure which is at the heart of any open society

Open Information (Journalism & Education):

Sourcefabric believes in quality, independent journalism, and provides news organisations with the software, expertise and support to produce it, particularly in post-conflict scenarios.

Co-founder Micz Flor: "What's behind the 'Open Source' once you take the code away? It's really very simple: about humans working together, sharing and giving credit where it is due."

MICT - Media in Cooperation and Transition aims to foster the transformation of conflict towards reconciliation, and encourage dialogue among conflicting factions within society.

Roman Deckert: One of the main features of our projects is to increase grassroots reporting, trying to raise awareness of our colleagues in South Sudan to go to ordinary people and get their voices. One thing I learned about South Sudan – it may take 100 years to achieve peace, justice, equality – what we are doing today is laying the cornerstones for that – we have to be in it for the long run.

Nadia EL-Imam, **Edgeryders**: If you're going to push for anything, it is the reversibility of decisions, from how policies are designed to structures of funds, being able to make mistakes and change.

Who will build the Open Source City?

Open Source Ecology is an open and growing network of people working to improve the spectrum of ecological, social and technical systems according to sustainable criteria and open sourcing them. Open development promotes quicker innovation, access to economically significant information and strong local economy to ultimately replace resource conflicts with common welfare.

Tactical Tech is an international NGO that brings together creativity and alternative approaches to learning with strong advocacy and technology skills in post-conflict technology, and has built the skills of thousands of activists worldwide.

Ice Hubs is an expanding African network of grassroots greentech innovation hubs based on principles of open culture, activity and pragmatic technology adaptation, currently undertaking its first collaborative steps in South Sudan through a pioneer project connecting Juba to Addis Ababa and Weimar in the area of architectural prototyping for low-cost and appropriate housing in Africa.

Adam Thomas (Sourcefabric): Critical path schedules; urban planning; these things can't be defined until you've sorted out issues like land ownership and planning. Get designers and process designers involved at an earlier stage. In a humanitarian aid stage of bringing food into camps, at that point it's hard to define urban planning. Bringing that forward is about process planning – bringing interaction and industrial design into this process a lot earlier is key.

Archis Interventions is an experimental think tank in Post-conflict urbanism, where architects and planners can act as "agents of change." Cities in the post-conflict rebuilding phase have recurrent, comparable problems. "The pivotal meaning of the city as an agent for political and social changes becomes particularly obvious in a post-conflict situation."

Open Community & Civic Engagement:

There is always local knowledge, in case of urban development, in every bigger city you find local experts. How you can support these experts so the exchange of knowledge can function, so these platforms can be distributed? Public access is extremely important to get things on the agenda.

Roman Deckert, mict: We are interested in how to encourage participation also through new media "*Liquid Democracy*," to get feedback. South Sudan, is huge and the infrastructure is non-existent, we have this problem of how to know what is going on in remote places - pay very close attention to identifying people you can cooperate with in order to "do no harm," despite good intentions.

knowable.org beta community platform sharing skills and knowledge systems to ensure fair and equitable distribution. “When we started discussing notions of collaboration and their preconditions, some obvious elements emerged: most important was trust, affecting how cooperation is possible. Trust in terms of sharing my own capital and establishing a lasting or sustainable relationship. Trust, Transparency, Leadership and the role of leadership, how that emerges from collaboration.”

Duer Danier Galwak (vice chairman Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) in Germany: South Sudan is a new nation and we don’t expect to have roads like Europe. Are we going to wait for this new nation and all these challenges or do we wait until South Sudan has settled?

Nikolay Georgiev **Open Source Ecology**: Where there is desire there is a way. We have some technology, sharing and optimising communication between people is a basic idea.

Nadia EL-Imam **Edgeryders**: How to listen to needs that emerge in a place, and what mechanisms are there for being able to harness the talent and wisdom and capability of people there.

Georgios Papadopoulos: This is a framework on how to create local solutions – but how do you ask the questions and get the answers from people who are affected?

Transformation and next steps towards an Open Source Nation

These ideas and strategies for connecting, researching, implementing, distributing, findings can be applied not only the capital city Juba but also the entire country and its neighbours.

We have looked at how open source can play a role in the field, of government, urban planning, media, we’ve opened up new doors and channels, connecting certain practices and people to other practices and people who do not normally mix with each other.

How can we start from where we are now, being in the space, exchanging opinions and ideas, what could be a next step, and how can we echo this back to Juba?

It would be very useful to identify those key players in the field, organisations, individuals, key stakeholders, who could help go forward making people accessible and known to each other in Juba. Where all of these things need to be instituted, we can bring many more people into this discussion and there are many methodologies that can be applied to develop a discourse that is taken seriously at many levels up to Government and the UN, on open source in development.

We are not looking at “the” alternative, this form of work must be complementary to different ways of doing things. A strategy to plot and map these methodologies is needed, not only the people and players but how they operate.

Johannes Lehne (Head of the Sudan Task Force at the German Foreign Office):

“What impressed me the most is that there is so much knowledge and so many good ideas in this open source network, you could connect people together who otherwise would be separated by hierarchies or space. How can open source, design thinking address local situations – the experience we have and can bring to these areas? The objective is so important.”

Stephen Kovats r0g_media:

“Let’s do it right in Juba – this is what #OSJUBA is all about; now there is this opportunity, to bring people together and get it done, right, from the start.”

Continuing the work started in Berlin, *media + makers: open source, open knowledge & sustainable media* event in Juba in December 2012, co-hosted by Mict brings together key organisations, activists and thinkers based both in South Sudan, neighbouring countries and internationally to construct a roadmap towards the application of these utopian ideals, working together to create an Open Source Juba.