Project Espace OSM Francophone 2013 - Togo

Nicolas Chavent’s report on EOF 2013 Togo set up mission

# Background - goals - activities

HOT with a network of local partners is implementing the pilot project Espace OSM Francophone (EOF). This pilot project benefits from the financial and operational support of the Direction de la Francophonie numérique (DFN) from the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF),

In 2013, the EOF project aims at consolidating the OSM communities in Chad and Senegal and starting the OSM project in Togo and Burkina Faso. These objectives will be met through OSM based training and mapping activities as well as specific support programs around community mobilization and organization. These actions constitute an overall capacity building program targeted to representatives from Government, International Organizations, NGOs, Academy, Private sector (ICT), and Civil Society.

Thanks to the OIF support and in tight collaboration with the Africaine d'Architecture – WoeLab Lomé, HOT deployed his Acting Project Director and coordinator of the Espace OSM Francophone project in Togo from the 24-June to the 6-July, to set up Amadou Ndong, a HOT volunteer from the OSM Senegal project, as the community mobilizer of the OSM Togo community as part of a 10 weeks program aimed at fostering the development of the OSM project in this country. Together the mission carries out the following activities:

* Developing a pool of trainers of trainers within the local partner space and the OSM relays of the country of deploy
* Presenting, outreach and guidance in favor of a major use of OSM in the country and the sub region
* Coordinating with Geomatics actors (Government, Academy, Private Sector, ICT and communities of interests, Civil Society) working in humanitarian and development sectors.
* Animating of mapping parties, hands on workshops around key techniques, tools, and document of the OSM project within the local partner space and the OSM relays of the country of deploy
* Outreach and guidance with Decision makers, Donors and actors likely to support and contribute to OSM; this include International Organizations, Government, Academy, Private Sector, ICT and communities of interests, Civil Society)
* Communication through regular animation of the OSM community : wikis, blog posts and uses of social media

# Mission Achievements.

The mission has been successful at achieving the following :

* Establish Amadou Ndong as the figure head for HOT/OSM in Togo amongst our partners from the Woelab and the IM/GIS/ICT actors in Lomé from Government, Academy, International Organizations and Private Sector (ICT)
* Ensure that the proper environment is set for Amadou to achieve the program of activities defined within the EOF project as well as the findings of the set up mission
* Create a group of 10 proficient trainers of trainers in the WoeLab so that the overall train the trainer scheme planned for this project can operate
* Set up and conduct remote and on-the-ground mapping programs ensuring with the view of including remote mappers from HOT and the OSM communities
* Set up and conduct OSM training for the WoeLab mappers as well as external partners:
  + 20 Geography students (Bachelor of Arts) trained in two session of 5 to 6 hours each,
  + 20 Geography students (Master) trained in two session of 5 to 6 hours each,
  + 6 Researchers from CGILE trained on OSM/ QGIS in two technical session of 3 hours each
  + 6 Civil Servants from MDE/ODEF trained in a series of 3 work session of 3 to 4 hours each
  + 1 mapping party for 20 persons
* Set up and conduct outreach and advising session around OSM tied to OpenSource and OpenData to key actors for the Academy, Government, International Organizations and Private Sector (ICT) as well as OpenSource communities in Lomé
* The Mission has been successful in reaching out to the following actors
  + University
    - Geography Department
      * Bachelor Of Arts teachers and a selection of students
      * Masters teachers and a selection of students
      * Research Labs CGILE
      * Research Labs LARBE
      * Research Labs LARDIMES
      * GIS/ Cartography Focal points and President of the Geography Department
    - Vice President, Dean of the University
    - Representative of Centre de Calcul et Informatique
  + Campus Numérique Francophone de l'Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (CNF/OIF)
    - Director
    - Deputy Director
  + Direction Nationale de la Cartographie – Head
  + Ministère de l'Environnement (MDE)
    - Direction Faune et Chasse – Cartographer
    - Direction – Cartographer
    - ODEF – Head GIS Unit
  + Ministère de l'Administration Territoriale
  + Service Technique de la Voirie (Projet Adressage) – Mairie Centrale de Lomé
  + Croix Rouge Togolaise et Croix Rouge Allememande – German and Togolese Project managers of a 6 years country-wide DRR program
  + President of Association Togollaise des Utilisateurs du Logiciel Libre (ATULL )
  + Togolese Leader of Free OpenSource Sofware Foundation for Africa (FOSFA)

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As planned, the WoeLab has the required skills in the art of surveying/ mapping/ reaching out/ presenting and training to function as center for developing the OSM project in Lomé (Togo) relying on a mix of its own resources and the operational means provided by the EOF 2013 Togo project

The WoeLab and its mapping team lead by Amadou Ndong are recognized as experts in their fields and benefit from the hard work of the set up mission from a relation of trust built up with the key actors of the GIS/ICT scene of Lomé.

The WoeLab can count on the resources of the Campus Numerique Francophone to organize in situ mapping parties as well as benefiting from the visio conferences equipments available at AUF/CNF which allows for remote learning.

Fascinating follow-up activities have been discussed and designed for the next 8 weeks of Amadou Ndong's mission in Lomé as part of the EOF 2013 Togo project; this spans the following:

* Developing curricula with the Geography Department as well as furthering the relation between the University and its Research Labs and the project OSM Togo through its joint HOT/WoeLab mapping collective.
* Develop the Academic OSM Network in country
* Supporting MDE, Mairie and Direction de la Cartography in using OSM and benefiting from a possible/ likely shift towards OSM from those organizations in the form of internships, small scale projects in the field of training, data collection, mapping, mentoring Gov staffs in their operational learning of OSM
* Supporting the Forestry Directorate (ODEF) in using OSM and OpenGIS approach to manage Forestry assets in Togo within a country-wide and multiple years program
* Support and benefit from the support of the National Directorate for Cartography in using OSM within the mandate of a de facto National mapping Agency
* Support Togolese and German Red Crosses in using OSM in DRR, training and community empowerment within their country-wide 6 years Risk Reduction program
* Continue dialogue around use of OSM in DRR within WorldBank portfolio of activities with some of the above mentioned actors (Research Labs, DCN, TRC/GRC, MDE)
* Develop community animation plans within the Archicamp Lome 2013 and joint work with the Local Togolese mapping.

The quality of internet access available at the WoeLab at the initial steps of the HOT OSM set up mission was weak and slow down the work without being a blocker. With the WoeLab upgrading its internet access to a more robust solution and the 3g internet now functional and available for Amadou Ndong, this risk can be considered as mitigated.

Most of the WoeLab mappers are engaging into the OSM TG activities on a voluntary basis, for the two WoeLab focal points there, such a type of contribution can show limits. The mission is looking at covering some of professional transportation fees for workshop facilitation and meetings attendance in Lomé as well as covering in-country & lodging expenses for possible in-country work towards Academic centres. Large mapping parties may require renting additional chairs and calling for additional outreach small spendings (E4/ day) for organizing large workshops. On the same note, small expenses in the realm of ad hoc/ do it yourself office furniture (in between E50 to E100) may be necessary to allow a continued and participated OSM mapping at the WoeLab. These expenses are expected to remain within operational (transportation, lodging, communication) budget lines established for the duration of the EOF 2013 Togo deployment.

The relation establish with the Academy, Directorate of Cartography, Ministry of Environment, WorldBank and Red Cross may develop quickly into projects and require additional follow-up resources to back up Amadou Ndong. This success of the set up mission and its large impact in Togo turn into a risk for the project when it comes to managing partners expectations. The mission is proposing to handle this through a re-allocation of some of the EOF budget lines to allow more of the APD’s time in this area of work of the project.

The overall outcomes expected from the EOF project in those 4 countries are and it looks like the program is well set to deliver on both set of outcomes:

- An enhancement of the OSM base map freely accessible and reusable by all

- The emerging of a local OSM community in each country

- Liberating the potential of Geographic Information through the promotion of open source and open data approaches

- A better understanding of population vulnerability to hazards and crisis

# Daily logs

Monday 24 June - Travel to Lomé:

* Paris: meeting with President Africaine Architecture adjusting scope, strategy, activities, plan, operational details;
* Lomé: one luggage missing; 1.5 hours bargaining with Customs Officers to allow equipments to get in country.
* Lomé: 9-12 PM meeting with Amadou Ndong (AN - HOT volunteer from OSM SN) & WoelLab (FabLab): briefing on mission, strategy, activities & workplan ; training on surveying with GPS & smartphones to compliment AN's afternoon's training OSM – Walking papers – basic edition with JOSM).
* Lomé: Chaired daily group meeting: review of the day, lessons learned, organization and planning next days

Tuesday 25 June

* Training on whole HOT/OSM stack with AN; focus on survey with WP, GPS and Smartphones
* Meeting with Head GIS National Forestry Office (ODEF) part of the Ministry of Environment (MDE)
* Building project communication materials (hand out, training invitation, presentation)
* Arranging meetings with key partners
* Organizing local hardware purchase (printer HP 1050 + ink / cartridges and paper)
* Chaired daily group meeting: review of the day, lessons learned, organization and planning next days
* Baggage claim 1 at airport : unsuccessful

Wednesday 26 June

* Training on whole HOT/OSM stack with AN; focus on editing skills in JOSM
* Building project communication materials (hand out, training invitation, presentation)
* Arranging meetings with key partners
* Organizing local hardware purchase (printer HP 1050 + ink / cartridges and paper)
* Adjust project communication materials (hand out, training invitation, presentation)
* Chaired daily group meeting: review of the day, lessons learned, organization and planning next days
* Baggage claim 2 at airport : unsuccessful

Thursday 27 June

* Training on whole HOT/OSM stack with AN; focus on editing skills in JOSM, Tasking Manager
* Building project communication materials (hand out, training invitation, presentation)
* Arranging meetings and meeting or monitoring meetings by WoeLab staffs with key partners
* Meeting with World Bank DRR specialist, CEO of Location based togolese company, Professor Focal point for GIS/Cartography at University, Head of Geography Department, Professor Climatology, Researchers at Lardimes, President of Association togolaise des utilisateurs du logiciel libre (ATULL) and professor at Centre de Calcul et d'Informatique (University – Computer Sciences), Meeting with Chief Deputy and Chief of Canpus Numérique Francophone (Lomé)
* Tech meeting with GIS unit of National Forestry Office (ODEF) at ODEF meeting room and follow-up/ guidance on TOR for the setup of a GIS solution for Forestry management in Togo.
* Organizing local communication purchase (2 SIM Cards, Internet credit )
* Adjust project communication materials (hand out, training invitation, presentation)
* Chaired daily group meeting: review of the day, lessons learned, organization and planning next days
* Baggage claim 3 at airport : successful

28 June Friday

* Training on whole HOT/OSM stack with AN; focus on editing skills in JOSM, Tasking Manager, data quality and facilitation roles (survey and JOSM) for 30-June mapping party at WoeLab and preparation of the first OSM mapping party in Togo
* Building project communication materials (hand out, training invitation, presentation)
* Arranging meetings and meeting or monitoring meetings by WoeLab staffs with key partners
* Technical work session with researchers from Resarch Labs Lardimes and CGIL
* Adjust project communication materials (hand out, training invitation, presentation)
* Chaired daily group meeting: review of the day, lessons learned, organization and planning next days

29 June – Saturday

* Finalizing project communication materials ( presentation) for mapping party and engaged in last preparation work
* First Mapping party in the OSM history in Togo. Held in Lomé at WoeLab. Attended by GIS researchers from Lardimes, CGIL; GIS/Cartography experts from MDE, IT software developer from OpenSource groups in Togo: information, survey/mapping, OSM resources for reuse
* Chaired daily group meeting: review of the day, lessons learned, organization and planning next days

30 June – Sunday

* HOT internal work session with Amadou Ndong: GIS lecture, review of training plan for week 2 and preparation of mapping parties at University with 20 Geography students (Bachelor of Arts degree) and technical work sessions at MDE/ODEF, review/adjust operational procedures, osmtg file systems and key resources
* HOT/OSM TG work to prepare University and MDE/ODEF work session and continue outreach activities towards University, Government (Central/Local), WB and Red Cross.
* Chaired daily group meeting: review of the day, lessons learned, organization and planning next days

1-July – Monday

* Mapping party Day 1 (7:00 AM – 2:00 PM) at the University in Campus Numérique Francophone (AUF/CFN) with Geography students (Bachelor of Arts level) and hand cartographer of the University. Covers field surveys and mapping with JOSM (basic), Tasking Manager
* Meeting with former President of the University
* Meeting with University Dean
* Meeting with Vice President of the University and actual Director of Research Lab LARBE (Biogeography) as well as president of a master class in geography with GIS modules: decision to present OSM at his students and organize a HOT/OSM training 4 and 5 July in AAUF CNF.
* Technical Work session at ODEF (3:30 – 7:00 PM) Field surveys with smartphones/ WP and GPS, Basic editing in JOSM.
* Chaired daily group meeting: review of the day, lessons learned, organization and planning next days
* EOF 2013:
  + Coordination to firm up missions in BF and SN with HOT interns/volunteers and local partners

2-July – Tuesday

* Mapping party Day 2 (7:00 AM – 2:00 PM) at the University in Campus Numérique Francophone (AUF/CFN) with Geography students (Bachelor of Arts level) and hand cartographer of the University. Covers editing on JOSM (editing tips, quality control, conflict resolution); work on Tasking Manager (Task 262); OSM resources and open questions about next steps in the University and in WoeLab at OSM TG
* Meeting with Researcher in charge of GIS at Research Lab LARB and his student 30 minutes presentation on HOT/OSM and confirmation of HOT/OSM mapping party at AUF/CNF.
* Technical Work session at ODEF (3:30 – 7:00 PM) advanced editing with JOSM and QGIS
* Chaired daily group meeting: review of the day, lessons learned, organization and planning next days
* EOF 2013:
  + Coordination to firm up missions in BF and SN with HOT interns/volunteers and local partners

3-July – Wednesday

* Meeting with Togolese Red Cross and German Red Cross (TRC/GRC) around the use of OSM and involvement of HOT and OSM Togo into their 6 years country-wide DRR program encompassing vulnerability data bases (GIS included), community empowerment and capacity building.
* Meeting with Service de la Voierie / Mairie Centrale de Lomé (Technical services – Adressing system in Urban government for Lomé) around use of OSM.
* Meeting with Civil servant in charge of International and national boundaries in Ministère de l'Administration Territoriale (Ministry for Land Administration) around use of OSM.
* Meeting with Head of Direction Nationale de la Cartographie (National Directorate for Cartography)
* Meeting with Research Lab CGIL/WASCAL to prepare details of 4-July technical work session
* Review of WoeLab team work around JOSM (advanced editing, Tasking manager, quality control), remote mapping and GIS learning by Amadou Ndong.
* Chaired daily group meeting: review of the day, lessons learned, organization and planning next days
* EOF 2013
  + Burkina:
    - Coordination with partners for BF and SN
    - Finalize Alexandra Enache contract for the whole Burkina Faso following last minute notice of non availability of Bassirou Thiam (OSM SN) initially committed to deploy weeks 1-4.
    - Organize for purchase of pelican case and flights tickets NC & AE to BF
    - Organize for coordination chat on next mission to Burkina with local partners

4-July – Thursday

* Morning 1 (7:00 AM – 2:00 PM) of Mapping party in University at UAF/DCFN for students (master in Geography), researcher from LARBE (Biogeography), representant of Ministry of Administration Territoriale and hand cartographer of the University. Covers field surveys and mapping with JOSM (basic), Tasking Manager.
* Meeting with Togolese Focal Point for Organization Internationale de la francophonie to present key achievements of the EOF2013 set up mission
* 3 hours technical work session with researchers of CGIL and Wascale at their premices
* 2 hours technical work session with Togolese Red Cross and German Red Cross (TRC/GRC) around the use of OSM and involvement of HOT and OSM Togo into their 6 years country-wide DRR program encompassing vulnerability data bases (GIS included), community empowerment and capacity building.
* Chaired daily group meeting: review of the day, lessons learned, organization and planning next days
* EOF2013
  + Burkina Faso
    - Organized coordination meeting with BF partners,
    - Check travel itinerary for airplanes (NC and AE) and insurance (NC).
    - Organized visa request in Paris

5-July – Friday

* Morning 2 (8:00 AM – 2:00 PM) of Mapping party in University at UAF/DCFN for students (master in Geography) and reserachers from LARBE representant of Ministry of Administration Territoriale and hand cartographer of the University. Covers editing on JOSM (editing tips, quality control, conflict resolution); work on Tasking Manager (Task 262); OSM resources and open questions about next steps in the University and in WoeLab at OSM TG
* Meeting with Vice President of the University and head of Research Lab LARBE (Biogeography) and Responsible of GIS Master and Deputy Chief of the AUF/CNF to organize evaluation of this master students and HOT/OSM trainees as part of his GIS Master curriculum: first registration of HOT/OSM as a an official academic curriculum.
* Organizing field surveys and remote mapping edition job on Tasking Manager by WoeLab mappers
* HOT internal work NC and AN: review of all reporting procedures, organizing students evaluation,
* Meeting with Head MDE/ODEF: define follow-up activities after completion of set up mission.
* Meeting with Togolese leader of FOSFA (Free OpenSourceSoftwareForAfrica) at WoeLab
* Travel to France
* EOF2013::
  + Burkina Faso
    - Organize coordination meeting with BF partners,
    - Purchased airplane tickets (NC and AE) and insurance (NC).
    - Organize visa request in Paris

6-July - Saturday

* Meeting with Yohan Boniface BF visa
* Travel to Vannes
* Mission report