

## Living Open Source Foundation

Living Open Source Foundation (LOSF) is a non-profit organization by Zambian law. It was started by Zambian Santos Chibenga and Sander van Vugt from the Netherlands in 2018, and formalized as a Zambian legal entity in 2024. The mission statement of Living Open Source Foundation is to foster the growth and use of open source in Africa. The motivation for this is as follows:

Open source is about freedom of thoughts. It's also about knowledge sharing. Linux is open source, and has become the leading computer operating system. Kubernetes is open source, and has become the leading platform for running applications in the cloud. Behind these is knowledge. Knowledge has been open source for thousands of years in the history of humanity. Free knowledge allows for the progress of mankind, no matter where, no matter who. That is why Living Open Source University provides structured education in Open Source technology for free.

## Education

Living Open Source Foundation provides education to different audiences in African countries and beyond. For those who cannot afford it, knowledge is provided for free. For professionals and companies who can afford it, training courses are provided for a reasonable price according to the local markets. For international (non-African) participants, the knowledge is available as well, and international attendees can attend courses by becoming an international member.

To provide the education, Living Open Source University (LOSU) was started in 2024. This is a special project, where 20 students have been allowed to study and certify for free. The mission of LOSU is to get more certified people in African countries.

Living Open Source Foundation depends on sponsors. An important sponsor is Linux Foundation. Linux Foundation provides courseware as well as exam vouchers for free, allowing participants to get certified in key open source technologies. Common certificates obtained by the LOSU students, include Linux Foundation Certified Associate (LFCA), Linux Foundation Certified System Administrator (LFCSA), Kubernetes Certified Associate (KCNA), Certified Kubernetes Application Developer (CKAD) and Certified Kubernetes Administrator (CKA).

## Knowledge Hub

LOSF has established itself as a knowledge hub, where organizations from African countries can find expertise in open source technologies. The knowledge hub is seated in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia. Currently, the expertise is used by different governmental organizations, schools and banks. These are organizations where computers play a large role in the business model. Many mid-size and smaller

companies don't use computers, and for that reason aren't using the services of living open source foundation a lot.

The knowledge hub is currently staffed by different volunteers, who want to contribute to the growth of local economies, as well as open source in African countries. Also different international contributors are affiliated to the living open source foundation knowledge hub.

### Organization structure

The core of LOSF is the board. The board has several open source experts from African countries, and in regular board meetings projects and future directions are discussed and determined.

Daily management of LOSF is done by Santos Chibenga from Lusaka. Santos is helped by co-founder Sander van Vugt, the self-appointed benevolent dictator for life (SABDFL) - inspired by Ubuntu Canonical's Mark Shuttleworth. Bill Sangiwa is involved as independent advisor. He has no formal role in LOSF, but his advice is always appreciated for important questions. All management members are doing their work without being compensated.

LOSF also has a small staff, currently consisting of Adam, Chisha and Leah. Adam is the coach for LOSU participants, Chisha is administrative assistant, and Leah is responsible for finance.

LOSF cannot make profit. All money earned is invested in the work of LOSF. It is currently spent on different things, including staff salaries, marketing costs, student support, and sponsoring of schools in rural areas.

The main income from LOSF is coming from donations and events. Courses are organized in the African countries, and the annual Living Open Source Conference (LOSCON) is organized as a knowledge event for larger audiences.