

ZAM-net Foundation, annual report 2016 (summary)

After the repositioning of ZAM as a *Platform of African Renewal* between in 2013/2014, the organisation continued to focus on

- the maintenance and growth of our network of African creatives in the fields of investigative journalism, photography, arts and opinion;
- the introduction of (the productions of) African creatives to international audiences and institutions;
- supporting the African Investigative Publishing Collective (AIPC);
- facilitation of collaborations between creatives 'here' and 'there';
- advising (colleagues in the) journalism, education, art institutions, publishing, research and policy;
- the running of special projects and events.

Investigate!

In the first half of 2016 ZAM published a series of six investigative productions: 'Uneasy Truths.' As a result th productions were also puboished by other media worldwide. A team of 26 people, including 20 investigative journalists from 7 African countries, were involved in the research. The productions published were:

Feeding the Parasites. How donor campaign are setting the fight against malaria back.

The Siren Call. Let down by ruling elites, it is difficult for youth is East and West Africa to withstand the 'siren call' of jihadi movements.

Military Millionaires. President arms dealers and securocrats rule Africa's 'success story' Botswana.

The Good Civil Servants. Conscientious African officials and their fight against corruption.

The Rube Plunder Wars og Montepuez, Mozambique. Howw villagers fight a mining pact from hell in the world's richest ruby deposit.

The Demonic Universe. Witches are real. Theu exercise political power in West African societies.

Read about The Making of Uneasy Truths [here](#)

ZAM's online editor Evelyn Groenink, operating from Pretoria, was instrumental in the further developments of the African Investigative Publishing Collective through fundraising, editing and coordination of the Unease Truth project. As a result a unique collaboration between ZAM and AIPC resulted in a structural partnership.

ZAM's support and assistance is aimed at creating the conditions for our African colleagues to focus on building professional capacity.

Reach out!

In order to reach out to bigger audiences, ZAM undertook a redesign of its website, central to the distribution of stories, images and news flashes via ZAM social media pages. Studio Parkers in Amsterdam took responsibility for the redesign. This result in a far more appealing, cool looking site with a clear and accessible structure. The number of daily visitors increased up to an average of around 600 per day.

The number of subscribers of ZAM's monthly newsletter increased with 7% up to a total of 3050. Facebook likes increased with 12% up to 4.200. Late 2016, ZAM's Twitter account has been revived and an Instagram page opened.

Interestingly, ZAM's constituency is more international than ever, with more than half of the Facebook likes coming from African countries, around 30% from the Netherlands and almost 20% from other European countries and the USA.

The Dutch representation amongst the subscribers to the newsletter is slightly bigger but representation from elsewhere is steadily increasing.

Special Projects

- Mid-2016 ZAM launched a additional page to its website: Photo Edition. This page aims to bring contemporary African photography back into the heart of the ZAM universe. The page was conceptualised by Nicole Segers, the art director of ZAM magazine between 2008 and 2012. The first edition featured recent images made by South African photographer Zanele Muholi.
- In November 2016 ZAM organised the Dutch book launch of 'Growing into Darkness', by Mozambican photographer Mario Macilau.
- In August 2016, ZAM organised a screening of 'Mama Goema', a documentary about South African musician MacMcKenzie, followed up by a performance by the artist, in collaboration with the Amsterdam based Galerie 23.

Collaborations

ZAM was involved in a range of collaborations. Amongst them:

- The 2016 Afrovibes Festival (September/October 2016)
- Africadelic, Paradiso(25 May 2016)
- AKA, Afrikaans Kulturfrees Amsterdam, (April 2016)
- Afrika010, Rotterdam (Wereldmuseum, Kunsthal, Boymans van Beuningen, etc)

Support and advise was given to the curators of the Good Hope Project of the Amsterdam Rijksmuseum as well as organisers of smaller exhibitions and fairs in the Netherlands.

Appr. 24 students, researchers and producers were assisted in their projects. From the ZAM Library a number of unique photobooks covering African independence were made available for a presentation at Basler Afrika in Suisse.

Faithful to its root in the Dutch solidarity movements with the struggles against apartheid and colonialism, ZAM closely followed worrying developments in South Africa. The ZAM constituency was provided with insight, exposure and analyses of the ongoing abuse of power and state resources under the presidency of Jacob Zuma. In the first second quarter of 2016, ZAM published an Open Letter by former members of the leadership of the Dutch Anti Apartheid Movement in support of South Africans standing up against 'state capture' and corruption.

ZAM Board & Team

In line with ZAM's constitution, the ZAM Board discussed the replacement of members by 'fresh blood.' Mid-2016 Lodewijk de Waal resigned as chairperson of the foundation. By the end of the year the following people agreed to join the Board: Annelies Verdoolaege (chairperson), Jan Meyer (treasurer), Gerard Wieffer (secretary), Alexander van Trigt, Babah Tarawally and Randall Maarmann (members). Ton Bervoets agreed to stay with the Board as a senior advisor.

In 2016, the Team composition was as follows: Bart Luirink (editor-in-chief), Evelyn Groenink (investigations editor), Christina Mansson (online editor) and Leonie Jansen (volunteer, marketing).