

NiZA annual report 2005

Netherlands institute for Southern Africa

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Netherlands institute for Southern Africa

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1 Foreword

Africa builds. NiZA joins in. On democracy, freedom and rights.¹

These words do not truly take shape until they are put into practice. In May 2005, over twenty journalists from East Congo gathered in Bukavu for a course on elections and the role of the press. To attend, they had to travel long distances by car, bus and boat and on foot. They were more than happy to do so. It was the first time that many of the participants had taken a course. It was the first opportunity for them to talk to other journalists about the meaning of journalistic objectivity and independence in a setting where you have to pay for information. It was also their first encounter with elections and electoral campaigns. That is not surprising: there have been no elections in Congo for 45 years. They are now planned for the summer of 2006.

The long journey that the participants took symbolises the long road that democratisation still has to travel in the Democratic Republic of Congo and other countries in Africa. Congo is as big as all of Western Europe, with almost no infrastructure; the country has been fissured by war and violence for decades. What do over twenty journalists mean in such an immense country with such enormous problems? For those involved, they mean a lot: hope of a better future for them and their kin. Better living conditions, safety and access to correct information. NiZA supports that hope.

The Dutch people are aware of the necessity of international solidarity; to put it in technical terms, “the support base for development cooperation” is firm. Research shows that the Dutch people prefer to give money for concrete projects that quickly achieve visible results. Only then, apparently, is donor money well spent. Proper spending of funds was reviewed in an extensive evaluation performed by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs of subsidies granted to organisations like NiZA. The activities reviewed included NiZA’s Human Rights and Peace Building Programme. The final assessment was very positive. However, this programme does not produce quick results. Its results are visible in terms of better-trained people and more effectively equipped organisations, but not in terms of the prevention of human rights violations. That is a goal that is less easy to quantify, but a great deal can be learned on the topic. That is another area where NiZA scored well in the evaluation: what we learned in working with the partners, we actually put into practice. We do this in order to achieve better results, even on thorny topics like democratisation, the heart of our work.

A democracy cannot be built within the deadline of a subsidy application. Countless organisations and people, each in their own way, support this slow and vulnerable process. In the Dutch government and among development organisations there is widespread support and understanding of this factor. That same awareness also applies to the necessity of strengthening local organisations to become powerful players in the field of civil society development and (political) lobby and advocacy. We even appear to agree that there is a connection between Western wealth and African poverty – and

¹ See section 4.1 about NiZA’s new campaign entitled Africa Builds.

that measures to reduce poverty go beyond better education, more hospitals, access to clean water and knowledge of agricultural technology, no matter how essential all these things are.

We believe it is far past time for civil society organisations and governments to join together to adapt the public image of development cooperation – which is still largely based on the old formula of providing aid to dependent poor people – to match the reality of the modern world.

Every organisation addresses the public with appealing examples that ‘sell’ well. That is fine, as long as we keep communicating honestly. Democracy and an end to poverty cannot be achieved from one day to the next. What we (want to) tell about our work has to do justice to the complex and difficult reality of international cooperation. Otherwise we would not be taking the Dutch public seriously. If that happened and people found out, it would mean the end of the support base for development cooperation – and rightly so.

Peter Hermes
Executive Director

2 NiZA in brief

A democratic southern Africa. That is what NiZA is striving for. That is the core of NiZA's mission. NiZA considers the democratisation process to be absolutely necessary for the people of southern Africa to be able to realise a fair distribution of power, means and opportunities. NiZA supports individuals and organisations in southern Africa that strive to achieve such a fair distribution. NiZA's activities in this context can be classified into three themes:

- **Human rights and peace building.** Democracy is based upon the guarantee of human rights in law and in practice. Peace and stability are essential conditions for making that possible;
- **Media and freedom of expression.** Independent and professional media exercise control over political and business elites, offering citizens access to the information they need to form an opinion and participate in the democratic process;
- **Economic justice.** In a democracy, people have a say in national economic policy, such as management of natural resources. In addition, the voice of the people is heard in international economic policy. This is necessary to ensure fair and sustainable development.

Improvements in southern Africa not only depend on what is done in Africa, but also require changes at an international level, such as different legislation, different trade agreements, more conflict prevention and a more balanced portraying of the southern African region. Citizens in the Netherlands play a role in this process. That is why NiZA combines its work in southern Africa with campaigns, lobbying and advocacy in Europe and the Netherlands.

In 2005, NiZA continued the implementation of the thematic long-term programmes. Building capacity in partner organisations, increasing national and international cooperation, exchanging information, lobbying and advocacy activities are integral parts of this process. Some of the partners work to realise *shared* goals, such as corporate social responsibility in the diamond sector or acknowledgement of the role that paralegals play in the legal protection of the poor.

In 2005, NiZA also researched the **impact of HIV/AIDS on democratisation**. The pandemic threatens the society and democratic structures of southern Africa. There are insufficient guarantees for the rights of people who live with HIV/AIDS. The fight against HIV/AIDS is essential to the future of Africa. Therefore, in the past year NiZA laid the foundation for a new programme that will focus on the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS, among other topics.

Cooperation

NiZA cooperates with some 100 organisations in southern Africa, which vary from emerging activism organisations to professional networks comprising many member organisations and lobby avenues at the highest level. Many activities that NiZA supports are aimed at building capacity in partner organisations. Strong organisations are more capable of exposing injustice, calling for change and protecting vulnerable groups. In concert with its partners, NiZA lobbies and campaigns in Europe and the Netherlands. Particular emphasis

is placed on ensuring that the partners share knowledge and information as much as possible: with each other, with NiZA and also – generally via NiZA – with organisations in their own country, in neighbouring countries and in Europe.

All activities in southern Africa take place under the auspices of the partner organisations. The partners plan the projects; they select and recruit any experts; they monitor progress and evaluate results. NiZA itself does not carry out projects in southern Africa.

Key figures in 2005*

- In the three programmes, NiZA cooperates with some 100 partner organisations. Together they spend € 4,1 million on projects in southern Africa. They carried out activities in the areas of organisational capacity building, cooperation, research, information exchange, lobby and advocacy;
- € 650,000 went to projects in Southern Africa that are not part of the thematic programmes, such as PEPSA (see section 5.2) and SANPAD (see section 5.4).
- NiZA spent € 765,000 on activities in the area of public campaigns, lobby and awareness raising in the Netherlands and Europe;
- On 31 December 2005, 61 employees (51 FTEs) were working at the office in Amsterdam, as well as 2 permanent volunteers;
- NiZA received almost € 415,000 in contributions and donations. The organisation is supported by more than 21,000 donors;
- The work done by NiZA and its partner organisations was evaluated a number of times in 2005, including by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, one of the biggest financial supporters of NiZA's work. The evaluations all ranged from positive to extremely approving. NiZA's system for monitoring and evaluating the quality of the work was particularly well received.

* See also Chapter 9 'Financial accounts' (p. XX).

3 Activities in southern Africa

NiZA supports organisations in southern Africa that work towards a more democratic society. Freedom of expression, the right to information, respect for human rights, a fair distribution of the wealth of natural resources, and the participation of citizens in decisions that define their lives, say much more about the level of democratisation than the frequency of regular elections.

To NiZA and its partners, universally acknowledged human rights are an end in themselves and a means to an end. Political, social, economic and civil rights are the cornerstones of a democracy. At the same time, shaping these rights and putting them into practice are dynamic processes and the constant subjects of discussion. A democracy is never done.

More influence on politics

NiZA had a number of goals for 2005; one was to place more emphasis on the politically engaged character of its work and to encourage political lobby and advocacy in the North and South.

Many problems in Africa are partly caused or maintained in the North. That is why NiZA increasingly tries to support organisations that want to take their own governments to task for their policies and injustices, as well as international authorities and companies. The following sections discuss various examples.

NiZA offers effective support to individual partner organisations in Africa via three programmes, helping them to develop organisationally and improve their own effectiveness. In addition, NiZA is increasingly shifting the focus of its work to joint activities: researching and publishing results, campaigning in southern Africa and Europe, lobbying with their own governments and international forums. In these complex processes, organisations are clearly stronger when they work together.

In recent years, fruitful contacts have been made between African organisations that work on the same theme in different countries, for example: providing information about human rights or corporate social responsibility. Further, NiZA encourages organisations to join forces in their own country, for example: to work together in preparing for elections. These unified efforts bring partners out of isolation and help them to learn from each other's experiences. Where it is possible and effective, NiZA also looks for South-North connections. That is the essence of NiZA's work.

3.1 Human Rights and Peace Building Programme

Most of the countries in southern Africa signed the human rights declarations put forth by the UN and the African Union. However, those principles are only reflected in the policies and legislation of a few southern African countries. One of the basic human rights is access to free, fair elections. This right was trampled flagrantly in Zimbabwe in March 2005. President Mugabe manipulated the elections and showed little respect for international treaties after his victory. One example was his decision to clear out the slums in and around the cities on a large scale. This type of mass eviction is also

standard practice in Angola. The difference in Angola is that it is project developers snatching up that land in the centre city, with the support of the government.

Civil society organisations have to put pressure on their governments to live up to the human rights declarations they signed. They also must ensure that the specific human rights take on significance for an ordinary person. This is possible by ‘translating’ the abstract agreements into everyday life, for example by pointing out his or her right to land, legal aid, food and healthcare.

What did the Human Rights and Peace Building Programme do in 2005?

In 2005, NiZA’s Human Rights Programme set its highest priorities as:

- Stimulating cooperation between the partners;
- Connecting the work done by the partners to lobbying opportunities in the North;
- Improving the protection of African human rights activists.

The 24 partners in the Human Rights Programme planned a total of 125 activities and carried out 121. Four activities were cancelled, in part due to the deteriorating situation in Zimbabwe.

The programme spent € 1,025,000 on activities in the field of capacity building, research, information exchanges and lobby and advocacy activities in southern Africa and in the Netherlands. This resulted e.g. in hundreds of trained paralegals, information officials and conflict mediators and improved organisational systems in the areas of planning, monitoring, evaluation and finance. A number of partners carried out joint research, exchanged information and developed training material in the field of human rights.

Want to know more? See www.niza.nl/humanrights

Human rights in practice

NiZA wants to reduce the gap between formal treaties and daily practice.

That is why NiZA supports 24 organisations in six countries in the context of the Human Rights and Peace Building Programme: Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. The support goes primarily to projects that promote access to the law – especially for disadvantaged groups, such as women. Public information plays a key part.

NiZA and its partners also work hard to embed human rights in national legislation and government policy. For example, the Forum Mulher women’s organisation participated intensively in the reformulation of family law in Mozambique. The old law still dated back to the colonial era. It gave women the status of underage children. The new legislation brings the position of women into line with the standard of international human rights.

The following sections describe several activities in which the partners work together on public information, legal aid, women’s rights and peace building.

Knowing more about your rights

Many people in southern Africa know too little about their rights. This is especially true of people living in rural areas. Citizens know very little about what the law dictates in such areas as dismissals, divorce or elections. Public information is important because it gives people the awareness that they can play a role in improving their own lives. It grants them access to their society, so that they can actually participate instead of being excluded.

NiZA supports six major human rights organisations in Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and South Africa. Each of these organisations does its public information work through a large group of volunteers, varying from 500 to 1,000 people. In spring 2005 in Zimbabwe, the partners were very active in providing independent voter information.

Together, the six organisations took steps toward setting up a volunteer policy that commits people to give time to their organisation for longer periods. Moreover, in 2004 they jointly wrote a training handbook to teach their volunteers the different methods that can be used to notify people of their rights. In 2005, ten thousand copies of this book were distributed throughout southern Africa. The handbook is so greatly appreciated that requests have been flooding in from all over the continent.

I need a lawyer

In southern Africa, people living in rural areas or in townships who need legal aid often cannot go to a lawyer. Lawyers are frequently too expensive or work too far away. Sometimes there are *paralegals* (informal legal aid workers). They offer advice with no strings attached and help people with their legal problems.

Paralegals have no official status. In six countries, eight NiZA partners work on the formal recognition of these legal aid workers, in part by setting standards for the training programme. An official status will help paralegals to be taken more seriously, both in their lobbying for better legislation and in the practical support they give citizens. The NiZA partners are well represented from a national level down to a local level and have an extensive support base. In 2005, they organised national meetings for legal organisations and politicians on the importance and status of paralegals. In South Africa, they lobbied to gain support in the Ministry and the Parliament for a bill proposing formal recognition.

The legal aid organisations train paralegals themselves. To that end, they wrote a training handbook for paralegals in 2005 and exchanged their training materials amongst themselves. Both initiatives benefit the daily work that paralegals do – an important step toward accreditation.

Protection of human rights activists

International directives for the protection of human rights activists have proven ineffective in southern Africa. For example, if a citizen under threat maintains regular contact with a foreign embassy, it will increase his safety. If something happens to him, it will not go unnoticed. However, few activists are aware of these and other practical and legal avenues of recourse. This became apparent from a study conducted in 2005 by NiZA, Amnesty International and Hivos.

In the coming years, the three organisations will be taking a stand in support of better protection for human rights activists. Besides paralegals and public information providers, many other groups could also be considered part of this category, such as journalists, environmental protection activists, social workers and teachers. The study was discussed with the relevant partners in Angola, leading to a plan for a better distribution of safety and survival tips among people in the field. The same process will take place in Zimbabwe and Mozambique in 2006.

Women's rights: make it happen

The disadvantaged position of women has been on the global political agenda for a long time. The topic should be reflected in all areas of policy, but it has lost the centre stage. The result is that far too little money is set aside to improve the disadvantaged position of women. Similarly, there are hardly any evaluations of the results in this area. Politicians are losing sight of women's rights and focusing far too little attention on the relative positions of men and women.

From threat to opportunity

African soldiers have a poor image. This is understandable, considering the atrocities of the many civil wars in recent decades. After a war, the people continue to be very afraid: former soldiers are supposedly all dangerous, posing a serious threat to peace. Peace negotiations often include too many discussions regarding "the problem of the former soldiers" and how they can be kept "under control".

The fact that ex-military personnel can also promote peace and stability is often overlooked. The people of ProPaz in Mozambique – all former soldiers – show that it is possible. ProPaz mediates in conflict situations, from neighbourly disputes to regional political tensions. In this manner, the staff tries to recreate a niche for themselves in 'ordinary' society after years of living as soldiers.

*NiZA initiated and financed the publication of *Struggles in Peacetime*, in which ProPaz talks about these attempts. The book was distributed throughout all of southern Africa, especially among interest organisations for former soldiers. It is also intended to spark awareness among Western policy-makers of the fact that former African soldiers can play a constructive role in a post-war society.*

Want to know more? See www.niza.nl/strugglesinpeacetime

NiZA works with six women's organisations who have participated extensively in UN conferences on women's rights in recent years. These partners work in Angola, Mozambique, Zambia and South Africa: four at the national level and two locally. The national organisations in particular put pressure on their governments in 2005 to keep women's rights on the agenda. They reminded political leaders of the glorious promises they made in international forums. They also made an effort to make the topics of international conferences accessible to their grassroots support. Further, they organised their own public information campaigns on HIV/AIDS and violence against women.

The partners noted that their organisations also still do too little to deliberately try to improve the position of women. They searched their own consciences and wrote a handbook that is intended to help them and other African organisations to shape gender equality in practice in terms of employment, personnel policy and daily interaction.

Peace building from an unexpected source

Effective reintegration of returning soldiers into society serves stable peace. Reintegration takes more than rapid demobilisation and disarmament. In several countries in southern Africa, war veterans have joined together in an organised context to support conflict mediation and trauma counselling for war victims. NiZA supports four of these organisations in Angola, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

In 2005, representatives from these partner organisations attended an in-depth course in conflict mediation and trauma counselling at a South African training institute. NiZA financed the course. The organisations then used the knowledge they learned in the course to train their own staff.

Eyewitness

"In war, there is no time to ask why someone does something to you. You flee or you fight. ProPaz shows that you can resolve a fight by talking. Our work gives a new role in the community to people who have lived as soldiers from their childhood on."

Salomão Mungoi, from NiZA partner ProPaz, on reintegration of former soldiers in Mozambique

In 2005, one of the partners, ProPaz from Mozambique, started documenting the experiences of former soldiers working as conflict mediators. The peace organisation also organised a conference for interest groups of former soldiers from throughout the region. The meeting was about the constructive role that soldiers can play after the war as conflict mediators.

3.2 HIV/AIDS and democratisation

Of all the people in the world infected with HIV, sixty percent live in southern Africa, a region that represents less than twenty per cent of the global population. Women and girls are infected most frequently. In South Africa, a woman under the age of 24 is more likely to have been raped than to have completed primary school.

In 2005, NiZA conducted a study on the relationship between HIV/AIDS and democratisation. It initiated a shift in thinking within the organisation. Where NiZA saw AIDS as a huge medical and social problem until recently – and it was not alone in this view – NiZA has now also become aware of the political dimension. HIV/AIDS undermines all the institutions and facilities that are essential to a stable, democratic society. Education, healthcare, sanitation services, the civil service, the police, the army: HIV/AIDS erodes the public sector from within, becoming a contributing factor in the loss of confidence that citizens experience in the state's ability to continue functioning. HIV/AIDS generates millions of orphans and stretches families' resources far past what they can accommodate. In short, HIV/AIDS has a devastating impact on the economic, political, administrative and social conditions throughout all of southern Africa.

The pandemic naturally also has a huge influence on NiZA's partner organisations and their staff. Employees and their families fall ill or die. At the same time, HIV/AIDS reaches into their daily work, in the form of questions about such topics as the legal position of sick employees and the availability of medication. Journalists can no longer avoid the topic, but how do you depict people who are HIV-positive, and how can public information contribute to effectively combating the disease?

NiZA therefore no longer considers AIDS to be the sole province of (medical) relief organisations. In 2005, NiZA decided to develop a programme targeting the relationship between HIV/AIDS and democratisation. The overwhelming priority is to support lobbying in Africa at national and local levels to achieve effective policy – policy aimed in particular at safeguarding the rights of women and girls with HIV/AIDS. NiZA also stimulates widespread, structured attention for the disease – among its own ranks, among its partners and in all its activities. In 2005, NiZA held two internal staff training courses and asked for policy advice from such organisations as Action Aid International; a policy for its entire staff will be introduced in 2006. NiZA also assists its partners in the introduction of an HIV/AIDS policy.

3.3 Economic Justice Programme

Most countries in southern Africa play only a marginal role in the global economy and are afflicted by great poverty. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NePAD) is an African development programme. NePAD is working for reforms, striving to achieve more economic partnerships between African countries and a stronger

economic position for Africa at an international level. Thus far, government leaders have determined the plans. The people have no influence on the planning process and simply have to wait and see what the reforms will mean for them.

Eyewitness

“We took thirty people to visit a forestry concession. First we travelled down the river for two hours in a hollow tree trunk. Then we slogged through the jungle for hours. The logging is tragic. Every time you see another gigantic, 100-year-old tree lying felled, you almost have to cry. But it is very understandable that people who have almost nothing profit from what little they can access. It is unfortunate, though, that they only get about ten dollars for trees that fetch 500 dollars on the open market.”

NiZA employee Kirsten Hund on her visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo.

NiZA strives to achieve greater involvement of civil society organisations in NePAD. For example, NiZA supported partners in Mozambique and Zambia in their contributions to position papers. In these documents, civil society groups offered their views on the NePAD plans in both countries. The partners also provided information on NePAD to their grassroots support – such as members of farmers’ and women’s organisations. In addition, they organised meetings with government officials, aiming to exercise influence on government policy that is geared toward the NePAD targets.

The extraction of and trade in natural resources are important sources of income in southern Africa. The prices that oil, platinum and copper fetch on the world market are rising, primarily due to the growing demand from China. Southern Africa should be growing increasingly wealthy, but few people are noticing any effects. The majority of the revenues from the extractive industry end up with foreign companies and an elite that happily lines its own pockets. There is absolutely no democratic control.

In Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the mineral riches have been both the stakes and the catalyst of conflict. The different sides fight over the valuable natural resources that they use both to grow wealthy themselves and to buy guns in order to war on each other. That competition contributes to the continuation of wars and human rights violations. Because the social and ecological problems involved in the extraction of natural resources are also a major issue, the local population should have more say in the way mining takes place and in how the revenues are distributed.

In its programme component on corporate social responsibility and natural resources – entitled Peace, Principles and Participation (PPP) – NiZA works on capacity building in civil society organisations. NiZA works with them on lobbying and public awareness, not only in southern Africa itself, but also internationally – for example in the Fatal Transactions campaign.

What did the Economic Justice Programme do in 2005?

In 2005, the Economic Justice Programme set its highest priorities as:

- Increasing the knowledge of the partner organisations regarding NePAD, international economic policy and the role that natural resources play in democratisation and conflicts;
- Integrating the Fatal Transactions campaign into the PPP programme, in order to give lobby and advocacy activities in the North a basis in the work of partner organisations in the South.

Within the PPP programme on corporate social responsibility in the mining industry NiZA and 39 partners planned a total of 64 activities and carried out 44. Some planned

activities were combined; moreover, more activities were carried out than originally planned, particularly in the area of lobby and advocacy.

In 2005 the PPP programme spent € 587,930 on the following:

- Intensifying the knowledge of the partner organisations and improving their skills in the areas of information management, project management, lobbying and research;
- Increasing partner participation in national and international networks, developing research among the grassroots support base such as miners and diamond diggers, and analysing of legislation that does or does not promote corporate social responsibility and the economic development of the poor;
- Lobbying and advocacy activities in Africa and the international sphere.

From the start in July 2004 until December 2005 the NePAD programme and its 20 partners planned 151 activities in the field of capacity building, improving partner participation in national and international networks and lobby and advocacy activities. 134 projects were carried out for a total amount of € 659,347. Some projects were delayed and others cancelled due to a shift in priorities of the involved partners.

Want to know more? See www.niza.nl/economy

Strong organisations

2005 was the first year of the PPP programme. The other programme component, which focused on NePAD, started six months earlier. In six countries (Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Zambia and South Africa) NiZA spent more than 1,1 million euros on support for the activities of 39 partners. In the initial stage, NiZA primarily focused on capacity building in the individual organisations. NiZA's support in drawing up strategic plans, giving lobby training courses and gathering information helped them to develop into strong parties in the decision-making process regarding NePAD and the extractive industry.

In the autumn of 2005, the partners and NiZA evaluated the two programmes. The most important finding was the need for more joint activities, both at a national level and throughout all of southern Africa. Many of the problems in this region are the same for each of the countries. To illustrate: some oil companies have sites both in South Africa and in Angola. Joint action is the most effective option. Several partners already cooperated on some activities in the final quarter of 2005. In the coming years, the emphasis will be on strengthening regional networks, researching and lobbying.

Strong networks

A central aspect of the Economic Justice Programme is the promotion of world-wide alliances. Hard work was done in 2005 to create stronger ties between the Fatal Transaction campaign in Europe and NiZA's partners in southern Africa. One successful example is the Diamond Matters exhibition. Due to efforts by local NiZA partners, the exhibition was displayed in Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Africa (see section 3.4: Fatal Transactions).

Examples of activities in 2005:

- An unusual law is in effect in the two diamond-rich Lundas provinces of Angola. This legislation sets aside the rights of the local population. The law offers a few individuals the opportunity to have complete control of the diamond mining. The police and security companies take punitive action against the population on behalf of the controlling few. Corruption, illegal land grabs, murder, assault and unlawful arrests are the order of the day. Early in 2005, NiZA published the research report ***Lundas. The Stones of Death***, by researchers Rafael Marques and Rui Falcão de Campos. A thousand copies were distributed in Angola. The report received extensive press coverage in Angola. A major national newspaper, for example, devoted an entire supplement to it. The study also received a great deal of attention in the rest of southern Africa, the Netherlands and other European countries. The report was downloaded from the NiZA website about 1,000 times.
- NiZA partners in Zambia **investigated the situation in the copper mines** and the conduct of the mining companies in society. The report inspired the Zambia government to start its own investigation. The partners incorporated the information from the report into workshops. These workshops informed the local population of their own rights in relation to large corporations.
- In cooperation with the SOMO Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations, the University of Kwazulu Natal and partner organisation groundWork, NiZA developed a **joint training programme**. In this programme, participants learn to compile information and conduct research on mining companies. NiZA partners from the Media Programme were also involved.

Leaky pipelines: Shell in Durban

Oil can be a source of vast riches. However, the oil industry in Africa is accompanied by many problems. It feeds the war in Cabinda (Angola) and is often a source of corruption. NiZA believes that oil should make a positive contribution to the development of a country.

That is why NiZA supports organisations in South Africa that focus on the environmental and health problems surrounding local Shell refineries. Shell and BP own the Sapref oil refinery in the South African town of Durban. The site is the largest in southern Africa and causes many problems for the area. More than 85 kilometres of antiquated, leaky piping run along and under the residential neighbourhoods and schools of Durban.

NiZA wants more attention for the interests of the inhabitants in the surrounding area and the employees in the extractive sector. Civil society organisations should be able to get involved in the dialogue between the industry and the politicians – from a local to an international level.

That is why NiZA and Friends of the Earth Netherlands organised a visit by ten activist groups from all over the world to the Shell assembly of shareholders in June. One of them was NiZA's South African partner groundWork. Just before the assembly began, the activist groups presented a black book of the harmful effects that the Shell operational management has on the environment, the employees and the inhabitants in the surrounding area. During the actual meeting, groundWork handed the Corpse Award to Shell CEO Jeroen van der Veer. The Corpse Award is a 'prize' for insufficient measures taken by companies to prevent their factories from causing pollution. A debate regarding the issues raised was then held for more than two hours. It was a unique occurrence for the shareholders' assembly of the oil corporation. It accordingly gained extensive media coverage.

In response to this action, Shell victims from all over the world spoke with Mr Van der Veer in December. In those talks, Mr Van der Veer agreed to improve the dialogue between the company and the people living around its locations. Moreover, the measurements of the emissions of harmful substances will have

to be made more accurately. As far as the factory in Durban is concerned, Shell announced in February 2006 that the antiquated pipelines would be replaced this year. Years of campaigning have finally culminated in success.

Want to know more? See www.groundwork.org.za

3.4 Fatal Transactions Campaign

“Liberation at work!” That is how Joseph Bobia, employed by a NiZA partner in Congo, summarised the Diamond Matters photo exhibition. The photos from Kadir van Lohuizen showed Congolese miners for the first time the huge difference between what Africans and Europeans earn from the same diamond.

Successful photo exhibition

In September 2005, the exhibition was displayed in the Congolese mining town of Lubumbashi. In one week, it attracted more than 12,000 visitors. The photos show the long journey that an African diamond makes: from the mines in Africa, via the diamond traders in India and Belgium, to the wealthy clients in Europe and America. It was a true eye-opener for many visitors.

Diamond Matters premiered in the FOAM photography museum in Amsterdam several months earlier. The photos then went to Brussels. At the initiative of NiZA and the non-government organisation West Africa Witness, the exhibition also travelled through South Africa, Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sierra Leone. It often went right into the diamond areas themselves. In southern Africa, NiZA’s partners handled the organisation on site. The photo show proved to be an effective means of sparking off the dialogue with the government and major mining companies. The topics broached included not only human rights violations in the mines, but also the poverty of the miners and the local population. Inspired by Diamond Matters, one of the partners in the DRC made its own photo series, about child labour in the mines. Both exhibitions are now travelling together through the country.

Diamond Matters is part of the international campaign entitled Fatal Transactions. The exhibition shows that too often, natural resources such as diamonds present an obstacle to development. Fatal Transactions wants to prevent the population from continuing to suffer from its own natural wealth. All the inhabitants should profit from the natural resources of their country. Various studies show that there is a clear connection between war and armed conflict in African countries on the one hand, and the presence of natural resources in conflict areas on the other.

In cooperation with southern partners, the European organisations behind Fatal Transactions promote awareness among governments, consumers and companies of the consequences of their conduct. The trade in natural resources should contribute to peace and development, not to conflicts and human rights violations.

In October 2005, Diamond Matters was awarded the Dick Scherpenzeel Photo Prize. This award was followed by prizes from the VVOJ Association of Investigative Journalists (1st prize) and – in 2006 – the World Press Photo (2nd prize in the category of ‘contemporary themes’).

Who controls the Congolese natural riches?

In the autumn of 2006, Fatal Transactions organised an international conference with the Free University of Brussels. The main theme: the

natural riches of the Democratic Republic of Congo. What could they mean to the economic development of the country? What role should the new government play in this? More than 100 delegates from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Europe attending, ranging from scientists, journalists, company representatives and public officials to human rights and environmental activists.

The conference was a useful encounter. Congolese civil society groups emerged from their isolation and entered into alliances. Joint activities by Congolese journalists and human rights activists are scheduled for the 2006 elections. Besides strengthening national and international networks, the conference also resulted in concrete recommendations for the business sector and political leaders in Congo and Europe.

NiZA runs the secretariat for Fatal Transactions in the Netherlands and the international campaign. The following organisations are affiliated with Fatal Transactions: Oxfam Novib (The Netherlands), 11.11.11 and Broederlijk Delen (Belgium), Medico International (Germany) and Intermón-Oxfam (Spain).

Want to know more? See www.fataltransactions.org

From the Diamond Matters guest book

- *“I want the miners to be informed as to the actual value of the diamond”* (Father Lembe, priest in the DRC)
- *“Diamonds cause Africa problems if we do not have good leaders”* (anonymous; Sierra Leone)
- *“It was very educational to discover how we lose our sources of prosperity without benefiting, while helping Europe achieve great development”* (S. Kargbo from Sierra Leone)
- *“Thank you for this striking illustration that I included with my letter of resignation from my job in the diamond industry. I thought before that the problems were exaggerated, but that is really not the case...”* (Masha from the Netherlands)

3.5 Media and Freedom of Expression Programme

The freedom of the media in southern Africa varies from country to country. Although the media can operate independently in many countries, there are still many areas where freedom of the press is not a given.

Journalists are also regularly in danger. Progress was made in a number of countries in 2005 in the form of changes in legislation in the area of freedom of expression and access to information. For example, a law on the right to information was drafted in Mozambique. In Swaziland, which did not even have a constitution before 2005, a new media policy was approved that offers openings for law reforms. Work is also being done on new legislation in Angola. Zimbabwe is the sad exception, where highly restrictive legislation still largely determined the political and media climate in 2005.

NiZA is convinced that freedom of expression is essential to a democratic society. The Media and Freedom of Expression Programme encourages independent media, journalists and media organisations to keep the selection and access to information as varied as possible. The programme aims to improve the freedom of the press, the quality of the news, the access to information for all groups of the population and the financial viability of media initiatives.

New phase

The second four-year phase of the Media and Freedom of Expression Programme started in 2005. In comparison to the previous four years, the programme has limited the number of partner organisations from 40 to 27 permanent partners and seven separate

Thank you

“Since the day that I received a bush radio, the scope of my life has changed.”

“The radio saved both my life and the life of my community.”

Excerpts from thank-you letters from Zimbabweans who received a windup radio.

organisations. The number of countries has also been limited: from all the SADC countries to seven countries: South Africa, Zimbabwe, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Namibia, Angola, Mozambique and Swaziland. This concentration promotes effectiveness and more structural cooperation. NiZA will also stimulate regional projects.

The media activities that NiZA supports focus specifically on the following themes: new information and communication technology (ICT), gender, HIV/AIDS, measures to fight poverty and the promotion of democratic processes such as elections and constitutional changes.

The following activities in 2005 illustrate the new line that the Media and Freedom of Expression Programme has taken:

- With financial support from NiZA, the **Africa Media Barometer** was set up in 2005. This barometer makes an analysis of the freedom of the press each year in all the countries in southern Africa. The project started in 2005 with Botswana, Swaziland, Zambia, Kenya, Angola and Namibia. What makes the African Media Barometer unique is the fact that it is a self-analysis which goes beyond counting how many newspapers there are in a country or how many journalists have been arrested. The researchers also conduct interviews with people from the local media, civil society organisations and scientific institutions. On the basis of that information, a ‘map of the freedom of the press’ is compiled for each country. This gives media organisations reliable, factual materials to support their lobby for press reforms.
- One important ICT project is the **Highway Africa News Agency (HANA)**. This press agency was started late in 2003 at the first United Nations conference on the information society and information technology (WSIS). Since then, a team of some twenty African journalists has been monitoring the developments in international ICT policy and the consequences for Africa. For now, HANA only comes into existence during major ICT conferences, where the employees receive on-the-job training from experienced African journalists. HANA reports on the conferences on location, but also supplies reports to other press agencies and international media. The aim is to operate year-round in the near future.
- The supply of news in Zimbabwe continued to be appallingly poor in 2005. Repressive laws mean that journalists and independent media hardly have a chance to do their work. That is why NiZA decided to distribute 1800 **short-wave windup radios** powerful enough to pick up signals from other countries – both in the city and in rural areas. This allowed people to keep abreast of the situation in their own country via foreign reports. In the run-up to the elections, that was not an unnecessary luxury. “Since the day that I received a bush radio, the scope of my life has changed,” reported one of the recipients. This step produced many positive responses in the Netherlands, thus contributing to increased awareness of the problems in Zimbabwe. Besides this pragmatic assistance, the media in Zimbabwe also need structural

solutions to give the supply of news in their country a new lease on life. That is why NiZA brought together representatives from the media in Zimbabwe, the Zimbabwean diaspora and donor organisations at a meeting in Johannesburg. For three days, those present discussed new ideas, exchanged information and made plans.

- Investigative journalism is not a popular profession in the African media. Besides being expensive, journalists (and their employers) often do not dare to risk it – especially in unsafe situations, such as in Zimbabwe. A few journalists working in that field united in 2003 in the **Forum for African Investigative Reporters (FAIR)**. The forum is intended to exchange experiences, support each other and work together on research. With NiZA's support, they developed a work website and a newsletter.

In the autumn of 2005, there was an international conference on investigative journalism in Amsterdam. Thanks to financial support from NiZA, a number of FAIR journalists were able to attend.

What did the Media and Freedom of Expression Programme do in 2005?

The Media Programme set its highest priorities as:

- Building the skills of partner organisations and their target audiences in the area of journalism, ICT, sales and marketing (for e.g. small radio stations or newspapers) and lobbying, among others;
- Lobby and advocacy in the area of media and freedom of expression, at Dutch, European and African levels;
- Working in cooperation with other media donors.

The partners in the Media Programme planned 134 activities and carried out 124. Ten projects were not carried out, due to such factors as the changing context (Zimbabwe), or a lack of capacity within some partner organisation. The Media Programme spent approximately € 2,5 million on capacity building, research and information exchange and lobby activities. This resulted e.g. in hundreds of participants attended training courses on journalism, radio technology, sales and marketing. Research was carried out on the media situation and legislation in the various countries. Partners exchanged expertise in the area of media training and building media entrepreneurial skills. A number of partners participated and lobbied at the SADC Heads of State meeting and the World Summit on the Information Society.

Want to know more? See www.niza.nl/media

NiZA supports democracy with free media

In 2006, the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo will be walking into voting booths to elect a new parliament and a new president. This marks the first free elections in more than forty years. Kizito Mushizi, director of NiZA partner Radio Maendeleo in East Congo, explains that the information supply in his country is patchy. He says that many people know little to nothing about the elections, political parties and situation in the country. "People have to receive information about political, economic and humanitarian injustices. Without that information, there can be no democracy. And without democracy, there is no peace."

The need for news and information is there, says the director. However, the quantity and quality often leave something to be desired. The majority of journalists there, like most of the Congolese people, have absolutely no experience with elections. Nevertheless, they soon will have to explain to the people who is allowed to vote, how to vote and who the candidates are. Their role in reporting wrong-doing in relation to the elections particularly crucial.

In order to train the young media properly, more than twenty radio station employees attended a NiZA-financed training course in May 2005 in Bukavu, in the east of Congo. The journalists practised reporting during elections, attending press conferences and searching for information on the Internet. Technicians also received training in computer skills and digital radio productions, since the radio stations will be exchanging election features via the Internet. The training course will be continued in June 2006, when the elections will be held.

Want to know more? See www.maendeleo.org

3.6 Cooperation between the programmes

NiZA works in cooperation with some 100 organisations in southern Africa, in the context of its three thematic programmes. In addition to these theme-based partnerships, NiZA made a strong case again in 2005 for cooperation between partners from the same countries who are supported in different programmes. A joint approach to promoting democratisation is the primary goal.

NiZA already started pooling strengths in Mozambique and Angola in 2003. In 2005, these activities were expanded to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Zimbabwe and Swaziland. Country coordinators were also appointed. Moreover, country working groups were instituted at NiZA to promote internal communication and cooperation. The choice to focus on these five countries in particular arises from the conviction that each and every one is a highly vulnerable country where democratisation either encounters fierce opposition (Zimbabwe and Swaziland) or is developing very cautiously (Angola, Mozambique and Democratic Republic of Congo). In part for that reason, NiZA also makes a strong case to the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the European Union that these countries should not vanish off the political agenda.

Mozambique: democratisation of a society

2005 was the first year of the new government under President Armando Guebuza. Considering his campaign promises to fight poverty and corruption, expectations were high. How successful would his hammering at changing the laissez-faire mindset of civil servants be – the mindset that creates a breeding grounds for corruption and bureaucracy? In any case, several ministers enthusiastically swept out the perks that many top officials had been accustomed to for years. The future will prove whether this energetic approach is effective, or whether it has the opposite result because it evokes too much resistance. And how democratic is *this* government anyway? When the definitive results of international observers were announced, it became apparent that the fairness level of the last elections was less than perfect. The low voter attendance was also a concern.

In Mozambique, NiZA's partners contribute to the democratisation of the society. They accomplish this through holding and participating in public debates, providing information to illiterate people, providing information on civil rights and lobbying for better electoral law and for access to official information. In the context of the 2005

election programme, a platform was set up of NiZA partners and other groups that contribute in one way or another to this 'work of democratisation'. That took place in the framework of PEPSA, which explicitly targets the conditions needed for free and fair elections.² The platform has now submitted a plan of activities for the coming years and has also started raising the funds.

The 30th anniversary of Mozambique's independence was celebrated on a large scale in Amsterdam on 25 June. The party was organised by NiZA and a group of volunteers that had worked in Mozambique. The attendance was high, some 700 people. In addition, three NiZA publications on Mozambique came out in the Netherlands: a critical report on the elections, a publication on the occasion of the end of the city link between Amsterdam and Beira, and a retrospective of forty years of ties between the Netherlands and Mozambique.

Angola: the long road to elections

Nearly three years after the war, Angola expected to finally be able to hold elections in 2005. However, they were postponed again this year. Angola is now hoping for 2006. Various national and provincial election networks have now been set up. They are focused primarily on providing information about elections and training observers.

In the context of the PEPSA election programme, NiZA stimulated the formation of an Angolan platform of organisations. This platform develops joint activities to pave the road to elections. A great deal still needs to be done. Democratic principles are often sorely lacking, especially outside the capital city of Luanda. This includes such aspects as access to information, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly or room for opposition parties. Moreover, the ruling elite do not provide any accountability for what happens to the revenues from oil and diamond mining. There is very little sign of any investment in society.

In 2005, the PEPSA platform comprising development organisations, religious groups, human rights clubs and journalists wanted to draw up a plan of activities for the coming years. However, this proved less than feasible. There was confusion about the added value of the PEPSA programme in Angola in comparison to the existing election networks, which already compete with each other. In 2006, NiZA and most of the participants involved will decide whether continuing serves a purpose.

Zimbabwe: searching for new opportunities

Zimbabwe was and is a country in crisis.³ The repression of civil society organisations continued unabated in 2005. After five years, this regime has clearly left its scars on most of NiZA's partners. Some organisations have been prohibited or fallen into financial difficulties due to a ban on foreign support. Employees have been arrested, tortured or intimidated. Some have found other jobs or fled the country.

NiZA still supports ten partners in their struggle to achieve a more just Zimbabwe. In addition, NiZA tries to keep Zimbabwe in the international spotlight by lobbying and providing public information through Zimbabwe Watch, an alliance of Dutch

² See also section 5.2: PEPSA.

³ See also section 5.3: Zimbabwe Watch.

Eyewitness

“Critics of the government are still arrested. The systematic repression by the government inevitably leads to the weakening of civil society organisations. The youth militias still do not grant them access to many areas in Zimbabwe for their development programmes. Activists are exposed to the vagaries of these gangs of thugs, who apparently are free to intimidate and attack people at will. If they escape the violence of the militias, then a biased police mechanism is ready.”
Abel Chikomo of NiZA partner MMPZ on the freedom of expression in Zimbabwe.

organisations.

Moreover, NiZA spent € 50,000 in 2005 from the Fund for

Democracy. These funds went to an inventory of flight options for activists under threat, the purchase and distribution of short-wave radios powerful enough to pick up foreign signals and demonstrations at the Zimbabwean border, among other activities.⁴ € 125,000 is reserved for these activities in 2006. Part of the money was made available by Hivos.

NiZA regularly makes it possible for Zimbabwean organisations to develop new strategies and activities together. NiZA supports new plans wherever possible. In 2005, NiZA also appointed a coordinator to promote cooperation between partners and to look into which initiatives still remain in Zimbabwe. Because many Zimbabweans have fled their country, NiZA is also looking at how this diaspora can play a role in the fight for freedom in their country.

At an international level, NiZA is seeing how the Dutch government, the EU, the UN and African bodies can increase the pressure on President Mugabe. The aim remains the same: adherence to the international human rights agreements, the right to food, education, healthcare and freedom of expression. This lobby was and is being developed further in cooperation with Zimbabwe Watch.

Democratic Republic of Congo: the curse of wealth

Two years after the peace treaty was signed, the situation in the Democratic Republic is still a source of great concern in 2005.

Despite the cease-fire and the installation of a transitional government in 2003, the threat of a civil war still looms near. The eastern region of the country still suffers from the violence of armed militias. Elections are planned for 2006. The big question is whether the relative peace will continue after that point or if renewed conflicts will break out.

The war was fought for both political and economic reasons. Congo possesses vast mineral riches, which were the stakes of the fighting. All the parties took advantage of the reigning anarchy to plunder the natural resources.

Despite the enormous size of the country, the tense political relations and the limited European interest in the country, NiZA took a huge step forward in recent years in building partner relations in Congo. After the end of the war, the first contacts with journalists were made. NiZA now works with seven partner organisations on media and on corporate social responsibility in the extractive sector.

In 2005, NiZA appointed a DRC coordinator to promote integration of different activities organised by NiZA partners in the country. The coordinator also consults with other European organisations operating in the DRC and maintains contacts with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the EU.

⁴ See also section 3.5: Media and Freedom of Expression Programme.

NiZA, PANOS-France and several Congolese partners prepared activities in 2005 to provide the people information on the upcoming elections and other politically relevant topics, such as the plundering of natural resources. Cooperation between the media and civil society organisations that know a great deal about the natural resources issue is an important aspect of these plans.

Swaziland: inventory of problems and needs

Swaziland is facing a humanitarian, economic and political crisis. The country, which has a population of over a million, has a 40% HIV/AIDS contamination level, one of the highest percentages in the world. There is widespread poverty and unemployment. The rural areas suffer from serious food shortages due to persistent drought and crop failure. King Mswati III rules with a heavy hand. The freedom of expression is limited and political parties are prohibited. The police cracks down hard on the opposition and the justice system is not independent.

In 2005, after a long, drawn-out process, a new constitution was instituted. The old one had been abolished in 1973 by the ruling monarch and was not replaced. The new constitution was written by a committee that initially also included civil society organisations. They left the committee in protest when it became apparent that they had no say in the proceedings. Critics say that the constitution confirms the great powers held by the king. Moreover, although fundamental rights seem to be incorporated, other articles take those same rights away.

Churches, civil society organisations and political movements organised large-scale demonstrations against the constitution. At the end of 2005, the regime struck back by arresting members of the most important – and prohibited – opposition party, PUDEMO. The charge was suspected involvement in a series of bombings. The detainees are said to have undergone serious torture.

Many Western donors are withdrawing from Swaziland, not only because there is absolutely no democratic rule or transparent governance, but also because Swaziland is considered an important country in a global perspective. The continuing political crisis is reason enough for NiZA to investigate where NiZA's input can make a difference. Talks have been conducted with some fifteen civil society organisations and media, aiming to make an inventory of Swaziland's greatest problems, needs and opportunities. These talks will continue in 2006.

NiZA also financed a strategic workshop for the Swaziland National Association of Journalists (SNAJ). The SNAJ wanted to establish a Journalism Council, but faced internal problems and a lack of clarity regarding its role in the media sector in Swaziland. Consequently, the SNAJ was unable to play any significant role in establishing the council. As a result, a unique opportunity to create a self-regulating – i.e., not government-directed – control mechanism for the media was jeopardised. The internal crisis in the SNAJ was dealt with during the workshop. The establishment of the Council was then resumed.

3.7 Risk analysis

This chapter 3 shows that the work NiZA does, particularly the activities of the partner organisations, is not without its risks. NiZA supports many organisations that are viewed by their governments as a threat. Employees of partner organisations regularly fall victim to intimidation, arrest and even violence. Partner activities can result in vigorous government repression, especially when an organisation profiles itself as an active lobbyist or campaigner. Many governments try to limit the playing field for civil society organisations via legislative avenues, for example by instituting requirements for foreign financing and registration.

These conditions restrict the options that partners have to do their work. However, these same conditions are the reasons for continuing to emphasise human rights, the right to information and the right to transparency in the natural resources sector. Flexibility on NiZA's part and regular contact with partners are very important in this context, as is information on practical safety tips for human rights activists via NiZA's Human Rights Programme.⁵

Another risk that jeopardises the work NiZA and its partners do is the AIDS pandemic. HIV/AIDS undermines economic and social structures, eroding the progress toward democratisation. Personnel in partner organisations are lost, taking with them knowledge, contacts, institutional continuity and sometimes also the motivation. NiZA's response is to offer the partner organisations support in building up a solid organisation in terms of finance, strategy, personnel and management. A large part of NiZA's spending in southern Africa goes to this aspect.

A risk of a different nature is the fact that NiZA and its partners work to achieve goals that do not produce immediate visible progress and results. A democratic southern Africa, in the broadest sense of the word, is not a matter of a few years, but of decades or even longer. The results along the road are not always easy for the outside world to see. Lobbying for a better law or for serious enforcement of a law may not be successful until years have passed. In the meanwhile, letters are written, talks are held and networking takes place, but much of the activity takes place behind the scenes. One visible aspect is the journalists who are better equipped to do their work, as are the paralegals and the human rights spokespeople. The research reports on the plundering of natural resources and the media attention are also higher profile.

The risk that NiZA runs is not meeting the public (and political) demand for direct, quantifiable results. NiZA seeks to solve this problem by focusing attention on the injustices in southern Africa and what our partner organisations are doing about them in daily practice. NiZA also argues in favour of an evaluation system that accurately assesses not only the quantity of our work but also the quality.

⁵ See section 3.1.

4 Activities in the Netherlands and Europe

HIV/AIDS, wars, famine and corruption. Where Africa is concerned, these are mainly the stories that reach the media. “Africa fatigue” is a real possibility. NiZA sees keeping Africa on the map as one of its goals. Africa should be kept in the picture in a balanced, appealing way, focusing not only on the worrying developments, but also on the strength and power of the continent.

NiZA sees it as its task to gather and analyse information on southern Africa on a continuous basis and to disseminate it among various target groups. The Communication department played an important role here. NiZA’s Library, Information and Documentation Centre (BIDOC), *ZAM Magazine* and the lobby department were also very active in informing the public, the politicians and the press. This benefited NiZA’s reputation as a knowledge centre on southern Africa.

Such activities as the Thesis Award, the Living Yearbook, the Mandela Lecture, the Africa Builds campaign, articles and publications notified the public of the political and social situation in southern Africa.

However, NiZA wants to do more in Europe than just distribute information and influence public opinion. In NiZA’s view, necessary changes in southern Africa depend in part on policy and steps taken in Western countries. Using its own analyses, research reports, stories resulting from investigative journalism and contacts with the press, NiZA and the southern partner organisations reinforced their lobby position with policy-makers in Europe.

The departments involved in activities in the Netherlands and Europe were combined into a single department head of European Activities. That benefits the European lobby run by NiZA and its partners. It also facilitates easier policy development and a project-based approach.

There were also various activities aimed at increasing public awareness of NiZA, informing donors and facilitating fund-raising. These activities give NiZA a solid place in society and ensure moral and financial support for NiZA’s activities.

4.1 Communication and public information

Africa Builds

2005 saw the kick-off of the campaign entitled “Africa Builds. NiZA joins in. On building democracy, freedom and respect for human rights.” This campaign on democratisation represents the constructive road that Africa has taken after decades of war and repression. Africans are working to build a free future for everyone, with each step forward and despite each step back.

Africa Builds regularly showcases a different country in southern Africa. In the first half of 2005, the country in the spotlight was Zimbabwe. In the second half, it was the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Want to know more? See www.afrikabouwt.nl

Successful Zimbabwe campaign

In the run-up to the controversial elections in Zimbabwe, NiZA ran a public campaign from February to June featuring the slogan: “What is the point of elections if there is nothing to choose?” The campaign included a radio commercial, election posters for fictitious candidates in the major cities of the Netherlands and a petition for two threatened human rights activists. It elicited extensive media coverage on Zimbabwe, as well as questions put to NiZA by journalists. Within two weeks, two thousand people signed the petition. Some fifty experts and journalists attended an evening programme in De Rode Hoed (the Red Hat, Amsterdam). Many donors gave heed to NiZA’s appeal to support the Zimbabwean democracy, more than expected: € 56,231 came in for the Fund for Democracy in Zimbabwe – more than € 6,000 more than expected. NiZA also received significantly more spontaneous one-time contributions.

The funds went to several partner organisations working to achieve independent media and expose human rights violations in their country. One was *The Zimbabwean*, an independent newspaper founded by Zimbabwean journalists in exile. Money from the fund made it possible for the newspaper to be distributed in Zimbabwe itself. The National Constitutional Assembly (NCA), a human rights organisation, used money from the fund to organise public debates about the elections and provide people information on their basic democratic rights.

Africa on the map

Zimbabwe was not the only story to receive extensive media coverage in 2005. NiZA also organised many activities to gain attention for countries that do not make it into the news very often. A wide range of groups, from donors to experts, had access to all sorts of events. Here are a few of the activities in the past year:

- In the autumn, NiZA organised the **Living Yearbook on Southern Africa**, with financial support from Hivos and STOP AIDS NOW! and the efforts of some fifty volunteers; this annual evening is filled with debates and interviews featuring (African) guests. Due to the important elections in 2006, the Democratic Republic of Congo took centre stage. Kizito Mushizi, the guest of honour, told about how his job as director of the Maendeleo radio station entails a daily balancing act, juggling the need to bring out the news against the necessity of maintaining friendly relations with those in power and the rebel groups. He also discussed the detrimental role that the natural resources in Congo played in the civil war. Some 250 people attended the evening.
- During the **Africa Day** organised by the Evert Vermeer Foundation, NiZA organised two workshops for 100 participants on voter information in Malawi and on the illegal trade in natural resources. A total of 1,000 people came to the Africa Day;
- In cooperation with the Prince Claus Fund, NiZA held a public interview with the **South African cartoonist Zapiro**. About 300 people came to Amsterdam to hear

the winner of the Prince Claus Award. NiZA also organised a workshop with Zapiro for twenty Dutch cartoonists;

- In 2005, both Mozambique and Angola celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of their independence from Portugal. In honour of the occasion, NiZA organised two **festive evenings** for a total of 1,000 partygoers. Both events would have been impossible without the huge efforts of many volunteers who either came from Africa or had worked there as Dutch development aid workers;
- More than 4,000 people visited the **Moving in Time photo exhibition**, about ten years of democracy in South Africa. The show in Zwolle exhibiting the work by photographer George Hallett was made possible with support from NiZA;
- In September, 120 students came to Utrecht University to attend the Southern Africa Evening. After a lively student debate, the **NiZA Thesis Award** was presented by Dutch MP Diederik Samsom. In addition, those present had access to information on internships, work placements and research positions in southern Africa;
- For the third year running, Dutch teenagers had the opportunity via NiZA to participate in a **rap workshop and a lesson series on HIV/AIDS** in South Africa. More than 1,800 secondary school pupils participated.

NiZA had a presence at all sorts of **festivals** throughout the year, including Let's Meet Africa (Eindhoven) and the Full Colour Festival (Emmen). On these occasions, NiZA presented the work done by its partners with the aim of inspiring enthusiasm in new people. These activities will be expanded in 2006.

Digital treasury and other information channels

Over the years, a veritable wealth of information and reports on southern Africa has been collected on the website at www.niza.nl. The site currently contains some 900 reports in PDF format and continues to develop into the digital counterpart to the NiZA library. An average of fifty PDF documents is downloaded from the site each day. The site attracted 123,000 visitors in all of 2005.

NiZA also proved its credentials as a knowledge centre for southern Africa in the traditional channels of public relations and press information and as a publisher of materials for various audiences.⁶ In 2005, NiZA was regularly able to elicit media interest in revealing reports and interviews with its guests from the region. For example, Zimbabwean lawyer Beatrice Mtetwa was featured twice in a full-page article in national Dutch newspapers. The elections in Zimbabwe naturally represented a spike in the number of press contacts: NiZA employees provided analyses and comments in newspapers (ten times), on the radio (eleven times) and on television (three times). The Diamond Matters exhibition featuring photos by Kadir van Lohuizen also received extensive press coverage, including photo spreads in the Dutch magazine *Vrij Nederland*, long interviews on Radio 1 and a number of articles in national newspapers.

⁶ See the appendix (chapter 14) for an overview of publications in 2005.

Visitors to the NiZA site were very interested in the report on human rights violations in the diamond-rich provinces in Angola. *Lundas. The Stones of Death* was downloaded from the site 1,000 times in 2005.⁷

ZAM: new format was well received

NiZA's quarterly publication, *ZAM Magazine*, went through a complete makeover in the last quarter of 2005. It was necessary to make the magazine more accessible to new readers. *ZAM* is improving the contents, trying to attract new readers through its tone, image and choice of topics. Curve Vormgevers gave the magazine a new look free of charge. In 2005, NiZA provided strong support for the new format and the associated promotional campaign. As a publisher, NiZA aims to increase the number of readers by 15% in 2006.

Major Dutch newspaper *De Volkskrant* applauded the new *ZAM* as a counterbalance to doom-mongers who consider Africa to be a lost continent. Moreover, it is a voice that does not carry a moralistic undertone. *ZAM*, writes reviewer Jan Zandbergen, does not want to "take note of all the misery and condemn everyone who is not equally indignant". *ZAM*, Mr Zandbergen concludes, has chosen a third path: appealing "to people who acknowledge the beauty and potential of the continent, but are not blind to its shortcomings. These are the people who appreciate that the problems, power relations and structures are so complicated that there is no off-the-shelf solution for them."

In the past year, *ZAM* made it into the national Dutch media several times. An article on misinformation provided by German medical researcher Mattias Rath, who claims that his vitamin supplements can be used to treat AIDS, even inspired inquiries in Parliament. In response to questions from Kees Vendrik (of GroenLinks, the Dutch GreenLeft Party), Minister Hoogervorst of Public Health indicated his willingness to consider a study on the Dutch websites operated by Dr Rath, who distributes his vitamin pills in the Netherlands from Almelo.

4.2 Fund-raising

Support base remains loyal to NiZA

Compared to previous years, the number of people who supported NiZA in 2005 remained reasonably stable, at 21,461 donors. About half of this group receives a request for a spontaneous donation every three months. It was apparent in 2005 that NiZA's supporters still bear warm feelings toward southern Africa. A campaign regarding Zimbabwe elicited many spontaneous one-time donations for the special Fund

Muslim theologian holds Mandela Lecture

On 20 May, NiZA and Hivos organised the Mandela Lecture for the second time. In a fully packed Nieuwe Kerk in Amsterdam, the South African Muslim theologian Farid Esack held an inspiring talk on "reconciliation after September 11th". He took an extensive look at the hostile relations in the Netherlands between "native" Dutch people and Muslims. According to Mr Esack, the anti-apartheid slogan that "injustice against one is injustice against all" could thaw the current chilly climate. Besides Farid Esack, Amsterdam alderman Ahmed Aboutaleb also spoke; he is known for his work to achieve a better understanding between Muslims and non-Muslims.

He underlined the importance of good leaders in all parties involved in reconciliation. They cannot change the facts, but they can change how people perceive them. De Volkskrant published the full text of the lecture.

Want to know more? See www.niza.nl/mandelalecture

⁷ See also section 3.3: Economic Justice Programme.

for Democracy in Zimbabwe. The group of faithful donors gave more than in comparison to other such appeals.

Donors are extremely valuable to NiZA, not only because of the financial support they provide, but also because they make a contribution in the Netherlands to the grassroots support for development cooperation. Moreover, they lend legitimacy to NiZA's existence. NiZA happily offers something in return. For example, donors receive a newsletter four times a year. They also receive free tickets to public events organised by NiZA, such as the Living Yearbook. Moreover, donors receive special (book) offers and personal thank-you notes with a small memento in response to large donations.

NiZA takes the preferences of its donors into account, such as the number of times that the donors want to be contacted by mail. NiZA received ten complaints in 2005, all of which were handled satisfactorily. NiZA also received and answered 275 telephone calls and 795 letters and e-mails. The majority concerned administrative changes, such as subscribing to or cancelling a subscription to *ZAM*, or reporting or cancelling a direct-debit bank authorisation.

Donations down slightly

In 2005, NiZA received nearly 26,000 donations to the general NiZA fund. This includes (spontaneous) one-time donations, periodic bank transfers and benefactions granted by notarial deed or left in a will. This represents 1,500 fewer donations in comparison to last year. The full amount for the NiZA fund, including the donations for Zimbabwe, came to a total of € 414,642. That is 5 per cent less than in 2004.⁸

4.3 The BIDOC library, information and documentation centre

NiZA's BIDOC Library, Information and Documentation Centre aims to provide access to current and historical information and documentation on southern Africa. The target audience consists of students, journalists, high school pupils, researchers, experts and NiZA staff. The number of external visitors to the BIDOC remained stable, as did the number of questions coming in by telephone or e-mail. Comment forms show that visitors are very satisfied with the collection and service. On the website, Internet pages managed by BIDOC provide significant added value, offering nearly 1,000 publications as a permanent feature.

Collection expanded

The three permanent employees manage to expand the collection extensively each year. The library catalogue grew again in 2005, adding 3,000 new records; the total number of records now exceeds 20,000. Twice a year, the multinational National Inquiry Services Centre – South Africa (NISC SA) includes the BIDOC library catalogue in two internationally distributed compilation CD-ROMs of databases on Africa. Libraries from other countries also supply their details for this purpose.

After a year's delay, the full BIDOC collection will be accessible in 2006 via the website. The video collection has also grown to include over 900 videotapes, in part due to a donation from the Missionary Center in Heerlen, the Netherlands, which has since

⁸ See also Chapter 8 Financial Review.

closed its doors. Besides books, videos, photos and documentation, BIDOOC also has 175 subscriptions to publications from and about southern Africa.

For people who want to quickly get up to speed on a topical subject, BIDOOC compiles dossiers on various subjects each year. The existing dossier on HIV/AIDS in the south of Africa was updated in 2005.

Archive popularity increases

The interest in BIDOOC's archives and documentation from the period of the struggle against colonialism and apartheid continues to increase – not only in the Netherlands, but also in southern Africa. At the request of the American Ithaka organisation, BIDOOC provided dozens of requested publications on the history of the fight for independence in southern Africa to Ithaka's extensive Internet database. Images from NiZA's complete collection of three hundred buttons relating to the anti-apartheid struggles were placed on the website of the African Activist Archive in the United States.

BIDOOC cooperates in various ways with libraries and archives in Europe and southern Africa. In concert with the Historical Archive in Maputo (HAM), NiZA completed a publication in 2005 on the relations between the Netherlands and Mozambique. The book was widely distributed in Mozambique. In the past, the librarians had already sent many photos, posters, films and videos to the HAM. In addition, 600 books (redundant copies) were donated to some twenty libraries, documentation centres and NiZA partners in southern Africa.

Want to know more? See www.niza.nl/library

4.4 The political climate in The Hague and in Europe

Make It Happen. Eliminate Poverty Worldwide!

2005 was characterised by the Millennium Goals. How far has the United Nations come in their agreements made five years earlier, which included halving poverty by 2015? On the eve of the General Assembly of the United Nations in September 2005, the Live 8 worldwide series of pop concerts made millions of people aware of the necessity of measures to combat poverty.

In the Netherlands, a platform of organisations, including NiZA, organised the major public campaign Make It Happen. Eliminate Poverty Worldwide! This platform for the Millennium Goals also exerted extensive pressure on Dutch politicians for them to keep their promises and come back from New York with concrete results.

However, no firm agreements were made at the UN summit in September regarding forgiving debts and increasing development aid.

Rules here = rules there

In order to realise the Millennium Goals, conditions like democracy, respect for human rights and fair economic development are very important. NiZA continues to put this crucial aspect on centre stage in its lobby activities. That is why NiZA's efforts in The Hague and in Europe include a focus on corporate social responsibility in the African

extractive industry. Many of the industry's current measures are too voluntary, and NiZA constantly argues in favour of stricter regulation and enforcement.

NiZA's guiding principle is that European companies, such as Shell, should follow the same code of conduct outside Europe as they do in the own country. After actions taken by NiZA partners from South Africa, the oil company has now started replacing antiquated equipment. That is a success, but to prevent the need for fighting similar cases one at a time, NiZA continues its plea for binding regulations.⁹

In addition, in 2005, Angola was not chosen to act as Vice-Chair of the international Kimberley consultation, which works to ban the illegal diamond trade. Due in part to NiZA's efforts, there was serious resistance to Angola's candidacy. A study published by NiZA entitled *Lundas. The Stones of Death* shows that the Angolan government violates human rights on a large scale in the diamond-rich provinces.¹⁰ Those violations make Angola completely unsuitable to help monitor enforcement of the Kimberley rules. Ultimately, The European Commission became Vice-Chair for 2006. It will automatically become Chair in the following year.

⁹ See also section 3.3: Economic Justice Programme.

¹⁰ Idem.

5 Cooperation

NiZA is working to achieve structural change. Transformation of this sort requires changes in political policy, in the countries in Africa and Europe, including in the Netherlands. Because cooperation is essential to effective operation, NiZA makes an effort to distribute knowledge and contacts as efficiently as possible. It does so in many different ways.

NiZA brings its partners into contact with each other and stimulates their mutual cooperation. It sounds more logical than it is in practice: in young democracies like Angola and Mozambique, civil society organisations often operate in isolation. Contacts with counterpart organisations elsewhere are limited. Thanks to NiZA, environmental activists from Angola and Zambia met South African activists in 2005. They discussed how they can help each other in the fight against mining companies causing environmental pollution in their countries. The offending polluters are often subsidiaries of a single parent company.

NiZA also seeks out cooperation in the Netherlands and Europe. NiZA associates with other organisation on various projects, sometimes on a one-time basis, sometimes more structurally.¹¹ Contacts with partners in southern Africa make NiZA an attractive partner to organisations in Europe.

In 2001, in part based on an initiative from NiZA, Zimbabwe Watch was founded: an alliance of the most important Dutch organisations working in Zimbabwe. By joining forces, the members aim to strengthen their lobby in The Hague and Brussels.

In 2005, NiZA entered into a structural partnership agreement with Hivos. In 2006, negotiations were opened to explore cooperation with Action Aid International.

This chapter examines four structural alliances:

- The alliance with Hivos;
- The PEPSA election programme;
- Zimbabwe Watch;
- The South African-Netherlands Research Programme on Alternatives in Development.

The latter two are housed in the NiZA offices.

5.1 Hivos

NiZA and the development organisation Hivos signed an agreement in May in order to pool resources and cooperate more in various areas. NiZA and Hivos complement each other well. NiZA offers small-scale capacity building geared to tailor-made solutions. Partners regularly report that the capacity developed could be deployed more effectively if the scope of their project were to be expanded. However, NiZA does not provide

¹¹ See the appendix (chapter 13) on Networks and cooperation.

large project subsidies. Hivos does. Hivos and NiZA expect that their cooperation will boost the impact of their activities and expand their coverage.

In the coming years, Hivos and NiZA will be supporting each other's work in southern Africa and setting up new activities together. They will also work together on lobbying and publicity in the Netherlands and Europe. The alliance already led to joint activities in 2005, such as activities in Zimbabwe to improve the terms on which elections are held (see below: PEPSA). Hivos already contributed to the Fund for Democracy, specifically in Zimbabwe.¹² In 2006, € 125,000 will be available for this NiZA-Hivos fund for projects that need to be organised in the short term, such as media campaigns and meetings. In the Netherlands, Hivos also contributed to the Mandela Lecture and the Living Yearbook. This support will continue in 2006.

Want to know more? See www.hivos.nl/english

5.2 PEPSA: Working to support elections

Democracy is more than holding elections. Voting results often say very little about what the voters want. In some countries, elections are manipulated from the outset by intimidation and violence against opposition parties, free media and other sources of criticism; one example occurred in 2005 in Zimbabwe. Even after the election fever has died down, the choices citizens have are nothing to write home about. There is a lack of newspapers and radio stations, especially in rural areas. What's more, the news that is available is often one-sided.

Without such essential conditions as access to information, freedom of expression and freedom of organisation, elections will never be fair. To improve these basic ingredients for democratic elections, NiZA allied itself in 2004 with Hivos, the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA), the Election Institute for Southern Africa (EISA) and the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA).

Operating under the collective title of Preconditions for Elections Programme Southern Africa (PEPSA), they will be organising activities in the coming years in Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. PEPSA's activities focus mainly on cooperation between media and civil society groups and among the various countries.

Election law

In 2005, plans for action were drawn up in the five countries listed in order to improve the information citizens receive on elections (civic education) and the role that the media and civil society organisations can play in this context. In 2006, plans for action will be carried out in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Congo.

In June, PEPSA held a meeting for politicians and civil society organisations from southern Africa regarding improvement of democratic processes in their countries. This observatory focused on the issue of whether the SADC had actually implemented the election rules that they had agreed to amongst themselves. Another aim of the conference was for representatives from the different countries to exchange information.

¹² See section 3.6: Cooperation between the programmes: Zimbabwe.

The meeting will discuss a different topic relevant to elections and democratisation in southern Africa each year.

A study commissioned by PEPSA entitled *Outside the Ballot Box* was presented at the conference. The research report examined the current state of affairs regarding the election rules and democracy in the countries of southern Africa. 1,000 copies of the report were distributed among civil society organisations and the media working to achieve democratisation.

In mid-2005, EISA and OSISA withdrew from the board of the PEPSA programme to free up resources for their own research and lobby. The alliance of MISA, Hivos and NiZA will be continued, in part to organise the annual observatory conference.

5.3 Zimbabwe Watch

2005 brought no respite to the inhabitants of Zimbabwe. Key socio-economic indicators continued to decline, and the human rights situation showed no improvement either. Zimbabwe faced the world's highest inflation rate, peaking at 600 per cent. The number of reports of political violence was higher than ever since monitoring started in 2001. More than three million people were dependent on emergency food supplies during the 'hunger season' from October to February. The state has further increased securitisation of government and ZANU-PF structures, while a vicious power struggle in the opposition party MDC led to a split.

This bleak situation fully justified the work of the independent coalition of Dutch Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Zimbabwe Watch, which tries to keep Zimbabwe on the national and international agenda. Through lobbying and advocacy in cooperation with international and African NGOs, Zimbabwe Watch contributes to the creation of a democratic Zimbabwe that respects human rights and the international rule of law.

Stolen elections

In the first half of 2005, Zimbabwe focused on the parliamentary elections held in March. Zimbabwe Watch had lobbied for Zimbabwe to at least respect the minimum requirements for free elections, drawn up jointly by all the countries of the Southern African Development Community. However, the Zimbabwean government only paid lip service to these demands, effectively preventing free and fair elections both before and during the elections.

Zimbabwe Watch attracted the attention of the general public, media and policy-makers in Europe in various ways. The network organised a public debate in the Netherlands not long before the elections. The coordinator and the guests from Zimbabwe gave numerous interviews in the media and provided exclusive audio-visual material to various TV stations and press agencies.

Zimbabwe Watch also organised various lobby meetings and supported the *Border to Border* rallies organised by international and South African NGOs. Demonstrations at several Zimbabwean borders attracted more than 8,000 participants. The demonstrators protested against human rights abuses and the destruction of civil society in Zimbabwe.

During the night-long vigils, protest marches and concerts, the NGOs from the neighbouring countries and Zimbabwean refugees expressed their concern about the continued infringement on fundamental liberties of the inhabitants of Zimbabwe.

Crack-down on civil society opposition

After the elections, the focus for Zimbabwe Watch was to preserve democratic space for the activities of private citizens and civil society. After the stolen victory in the voting booths, the government embarked on a destructive course as it removed the so-called illegal settlements and informal traders from cities across the country. Known as *Operation Restore Order*, this sweep was aimed at eliminating any form of organised opposition. The opposition party MDC and the civil society, which had a strong presence in the cities, were the most important targets of the heavy-handed approach. As a result of the campaign, more than 700,000 people lost their homes or their jobs.

Both in the media and in African and other international forums, Zimbabwe Watch actively highlighted these human rights abuses committed in the framework of *Operation Restore Order*. It also mobilised support to force those responsible to account for their actions and to provide reparations to the victims.

Dictatorships worldwide

In concert with Dutch NGOs and trade unions operating in Zimbabwe, Belarus and Burma, Zimbabwe Watch organised a series of activities to promote public awareness of the dictatorial regimes in these three countries. A pivotal part of the Campaign against Extreme Dictatorships was a conference on the role of local civil society and Western governments in attempts to improve the situation in extreme dictatorships. For the NGOs attending the conference, it was an excellent opportunity to exchange experiences and draw attention to the harsh humanitarian conditions and repression that they face every day. The conference was concluded with a number of strong recommendations: Western governments should offer continued support for civil society organisations and impose ‘smart sanctions’ that target the government rather than the people. The conference and the ensuing public debate attracted numerous visitors and received extensive media coverage.

Want to know more? See www.zimbabwewatch.org

5.4 SANPAD

The South Africa-Netherlands Research Programme on Alternatives in Development (SANPAD) is a research programme aimed at stimulating high-quality research by South African academics. In particular, SANPAD seeks to promote scientific research by South Africans from disadvantaged groups. During apartheid, these scientists had hardly any opportunities in the white-dominated academic world in South Africa. In the framework of SANPAD, South African researchers collaborate with colleagues at one of the Dutch universities.

SANPAD primarily finances research in social sciences, law and the humanities. All research projects should be relevant to society and preferably focus on influencing policy decision-making.

The research programme has been in place since 1997 and is financed by the Dutch Ministry for Development Cooperation. The Dutch secretariat is housed in the NiZA offices. The South African secretariat handles the financial management of the programme. NiZA takes part in meetings of the Dutch Board as well as the Joint Committee, which also includes representatives from the South African side of the programme.

In 2005, the higher education sector in South Africa went through the final stage of an extensive restructuring process. A number of educational institutions was merged. This process, which started in 2004, caused uncertainty among the scientific staff, among its other effects. Consequently, a number of university staff in South Africa had less time than planned to spend on SANPAD research. The restructuring process is nearly at an end, which has had a positive effect on the work done by the research groups.

Successful courses

Despite the uncertain circumstances, SANPAD received 63 research proposals in 2005. Fifteen of those were approved; 2005 was a normal year in that respect. Since 1997 SANPAD has supported a total of 125 research projects. To date 66 of these have already come to a successful conclusion.

SANPAD organises several courses and workshops each year for participating researchers and students. These activities are showing increasing improvement in terms of organisation and content. In 2005, 26 junior researchers working on SANPAD projects attended a course on research methodology. The course was intended to offer assistance in preparing their PhD research.

In 2005, SANPAD again organised workshops for senior researchers on project management and supervising PhD candidates. Finally, five pre-proposal workshops were subsidised, offering researchers guidance in writing their research proposals.

Want to know more? See www.sanpad.org.za

6 Planning, monitoring and evaluation

NiZA finances its work from public funding derived from private donations and various sources of subsidy. That requires careful accounting. To that end, NiZA draws up various reports each year. For example, an annual report goes to the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which supplies a large percentage of NiZA's subsidies. This public annual report is intended for donors. NiZA also has a certified accountant audit its financial statements each year. A summarised version of the annual accounts has been enclosed in this annual report.

In 2005, NiZA's work was evaluated by independent experts on several occasions. NiZA received a very positive evaluation in the subsidy scheme (TMF, theme-based co-financing system) used by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs until 2006 for smaller development organisations like NiZA. Many scientists reviewed the work done by over sixty organisations who received money from this subsidy scheme. At NiZA, the Human Rights Programme and the quality and evaluation system were subjected to scrutiny.

Well-placed investments

With regard to the Human Rights Programme, the evaluators wrote: "NiZA's input consists, generally speaking, of well-placed and partner-driven investments in capacity building activities, trust and networking. With its focus on capacity building, NiZA seems to generate, with a relatively small input – small at least compared to the input of other donors – a serious output with regard to the improvement and strengthening of their internal organisation of its partners. (...) The input of 'trust' has been very efficient as it enhances co-operation and communication. NiZA is a (political) partner rather than a donor; there is real involvement. (...) NiZA's success in establishing regional networks has resulted in many new contacts, experiences and information exchange."¹³

Learning is key

In its quality and evaluation system, NiZA sets learning *together* as its top priority, under the motto: "Where learning takes place, accountability follows." That is why NiZA invests in training its staff and in its partner contacts. It is only possible to learn lessons from the past together if there is frequent contact between the two parties, a relationship of equality and the trust needed to acknowledge mistakes. To make this possible, NiZA staff discuss the plans, progress, problems and results with the partners several times a year. The results are input back into NiZA's own policy cycle; the results of that cycle are in turn presented to the partners again.

The evaluators commissioned by the Ministry to scrutinise NiZA's quality and evaluation system were very positive, because the cycle is geared not only to learning lessons from an evaluation, but also to implementing those lessons in practice.

Finally, another source of major financial support for NiZA, PSO, evaluated NiZA's Media Youth Programme in 2005. In this programme, young Dutch journalists work for three to six months in the media in South Africa. The committee concluded that the

¹³ *Theme based Cofinancing programme: Study on human rights*, Van Genugten a.o., 2006, p. 79.

exchanges were “highly relevant to the participants. Their knowledge and skills improved and they grew in their profession as journalists.”¹⁴ The intended effect of achieving more balanced reporting on Africa in the Dutch media will not become immediately apparent. The participating media organisations in Africa indicated that they had also benefited from working with well-trained journalists from the Netherlands.

¹⁴ *External review: NiZA Media Youth Programme*, October 2005, p. 20.

7 Internal organisation

NiZA is a learning organisation, as evidenced in 2005 in such aspects as the extensive attention to employee training and development. The organisation had a stable year in other areas: the number of employees remained almost equal to their number in 2004. Absenteeism due to illness rose only slightly.

There were two changes in the managerial organisation: Caroline van Dullemen was appointed as the new chairwoman of the board and a works council was instituted.

7.1 Personnel and Organisation

Over the years, training has taken on an increasingly important role at NiZA. Learning together, in cooperation with and taught by partner organisations, is key. Managers and senior staff officials attended a facilitation training course to learn to work together better and to communicate better with partner organisations. Also, various group training courses were also organised by and for staff members, designed for the direction NiZA is taking and the competences that will be needed to make it possible. Training included (compulsory) sessions on the themes of HIV/AIDS and democratisation and on such skills as information exchange and lobby.

In order to provide proper supervision and to guide the staff members in their own development, the management board and management staff attended a training course on personnel supervision and different styles of management.

Review of problem areas

In response to signals from within the organisation, the management board called in an external expert in December 2005 to conduct a review of problem areas. The review assessed organisational structure, internal communication and organisational culture. On the basis of the results, the board drew up a step-by-step plan that will be implemented in 2006.

Internships in southern Africa

In addition to training courses, NiZA also considers internships and work placements to be good ways to develop the knowledge and skills of its staff members. That is why employees will be able to go on work placement in a partner organisation starting in 2006. That yields several advantages: employees make a concrete contribution to a partner organisation, develop their own skills and gain useful experience and contacts for NiZA. In 2005, three employees were selected to go on work placement for two or three months in 2006. The partner organisations are involved in the work plans for the NiZA interns.

NiZA and the partners work as much as possible with southern experts and want to limit the involvement of experts from the North. NiZA staff members are not sent on location as project leaders.

Staff complement remains stable

At the end of 2005, 61 people were working at NiZA: 46 women and 15 men. At the end of 2004, this figure was 58 employees. Most people work part-time.

Ten staff members are from countries outside the Netherlands. Nine employees are over the age of 50. In 2005, NiZA also deployed interns and consultants on temporary assignments.

In addition to two permanent volunteers, NiZA was also able to gain the assistance of fifty other committed volunteers, who offered temporary support for such events as the Living Yearbook.

If jobs open up for which there are no internal candidates, NiZA places an advertisement on www.niza.nl, on a number of free websites and with the Netherlands Centre for Work and Income (the national employment agency). Because it has become apparent that few non-Dutch candidates apply through these channels, NiZA will be seeking in 2006 to find other ways of increasing employee diversity. To fill openings in the management and the board, NiZA sometimes uses an external recruitment and selection agency.

Employee review procedures were adjusted and implemented in 2005. The same applied to the job descriptions involved in these procedures. At the request of the works council, the procedure will be evaluated at the end of 2006.

In 2005, after input from the employees and the works council, NiZA introduced an **internal code of conduct**. It was expanded in 2006 to include codes of conduct for official trips and an HIV/AIDS policy. NiZA appointed three confidential counsellors and introduced a counselling Code of Confidentiality.

Want to know more? See www.niza.nl/staff

Job health and safety is in order

In 2005, the AGW job health and safety service assessed the office and the working conditions at NiZA. In general, the required job health and safety requirements were in order. All the recommendations were implemented. NiZA trained three company first-aid officers, drew up a NiZA emergency plan and instituted a stricter non-smoking policy.

In addition, all new employees take a special 'anti-RSI' training course and can have their workstation assessed.

Unfortunately, **absenteeism due to illness** rose from 4.2 to 4.9 per cent. The increase was caused in part by several people suffering from long-term occupational disability. Although the percentage is lower than the national average, NiZA is taking structural steps to keep sick leave low. There is extensive attention to the pressures of work, ergonomic conditions at workstations and the management skills of the managers. In case of illness, intensive contact is maintained with the employee, the manager, the industrial doctor and the P&O official.

Facility management

Due to the lack of meeting rooms and storage options, NiZA rented extra room in the office building in 2005. Part of that space was – temporarily – rented out to four small organisations. In 2007, NiZA will have to have found new premises. To that end, a Housing Commission was appointed at the end of 2005 to make the initial preparations.

In selecting its suppliers, NiZA deals as much as possible with businesses that work according to social and ecological quality criteria. Part of the lunch, coffee and tea consists of fair trade products or ecologically sound foods. Printing paper is recycled. NiZA's regular printer has a corporate social responsibility policy for the use of ink and paper and the printing press. The regular copy service has a social employment policy that includes people with limited work experience and education. Large-scale NiZA mailings are handled by *Stichting Nieuwe Werkvormen Amsterdam* (the Amsterdam New Forms of Working Foundation). SNWA counsels people with psychological problems, helping them find paid employment or training.

7.2 The management organisation

Since its establishment in 1997, the NiZA foundation has had a management board and an executive board.

The executive board supervises the performance of the management board and the organisation from a distance. In doing so, it follows the "Wijffels Code" of the VFI Association for Fundraising Institutions, to which NiZA belongs. The executive board holds a meeting at least four times a year. The executive board draws up the long-term plans, annual plans, annual budgets and annual accounts. The report of the board is based on this annual report and is part of the Annual Accounts.

The members of the executive board do not receive any compensation for their work. Any direct costs that they incur on NiZA's behalf are reimbursed on the basis of an invoice; however, they almost never incur direct costs requiring reimbursement. The procedures that apply to the executive board have been laid down in NiZA's articles of association. The control procedures are instituted by the executive board and are described in the Annual Accounts. NiZA has a management code that describes the relations between the executive board and the management board. That relationship is part of the interviews that the executive board holds with the management board in the context of performance review. Assessment interviews are also held.

Members of the executive board are appointed for three years and are immediately eligible for re-election. In 2005, then-member of the executive board Caroline van Dullemen succeeded Coen Stork as the chair.

In 2005, the executive board consisted of the following people:

- **Coen Stork**, chairman (until 17-05-05)
Coen Stork was ambassador to South Africa, Cuba and Romania. He is a member of the Netherlands Helsinki Committee.
- **Caroline van Dullemen**, chairwoman (since 17-05-05)

Caroline van Dullemen is the director of WorldGranny, a non-profit organisation for the elderly in developing countries. She worked at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs as secretary of the National Advisory Council on Development Cooperation. From 2000 to 2004, she headed the Scientific Bureau of GroenLinks (the Dutch GreenLeft Party).

- **Niels Feis**, treasurer

Niels Feis owned a graphic design agency. He is the treasurer of several social and cultural foundations in the Netherlands.

- **Frank Baas**, secretary

Frank Baas was a policy official of the VNO/NCW and member of the Provincial Council of North Holland for D66 (Dutch social-liberal party, Democrats 66). He owns the artists' podium Ruimte. He also chairs the sector organisation of actors' agencies (BOACT) and is a member of the advisory board of the ROC ASA in Amsterdam.

- **Ans Zwerver**, member of the board

Ans Zwerver is a former senator for (the Dutch GreenLeft Party) and a former member of parliament in the Council of Europe. She has acted as an international election observer in various countries and was recently actively involved in the organisation of elections in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The management board handles the operational management of the organisation; the executive board has authorised the management board to act in this capacity by virtue of the management code. In 2005, the management board consists of the general director and the programme director. The total income of the management board is € 134,774 This includes employer and pension contributions. In 2004, the total income was € 129,997. Neither of the directors holds any other positions. Both directors represent NiZA in various committees and networks.¹⁵

7.3 Works council

Because NiZA exceeded the 50-employee limit early in 2005, the employee representation committee was transformed into a works council. In February, elections were held in which the employees could vote for the works council.

The most important topics of the council's activities this year were the new assessment procedure for employees and the associated job descriptions. The council agreed on the condition that both aspects would be evaluated at the end of 2006.

The works council also looked at the transition to a new pension insurance company, the new collective health insurance policy, the reduced security in the office building due to the departure of other renters and the risk inventory performed by the job health and safety service.¹⁶

Finally, the works council set itself the goal of working in particular to achieve better internal communication and control of decision-making procedures that affect all NiZA

¹⁵ See the appendix (chapter 13): Networks and cooperation.

¹⁶ See section 7.1.

employees. Due in part to the significant growth of the organisation, the need for these measures had increased in the last two years.

In 2005, the works council consisted of five members. They were elected by all the employees, with the exception of members of the management board and employees who had been with NiZA for less than 6 months. The council met monthly and met with the management board once each quarter.

8 Financial Review

Financially speaking, NiZA has had a good year. NiZA has once again spend an increased amount on its objectives. More than 8 million euros was used to support democratisation in southern Africa and education and grassroots support strengthening in the Netherlands and Europe. In particular, expenditure on activities in southern Africa has increased. NiZA also realised a positive operating result of over € 60,000. With this result, the desired and necessary growth of the continuity reserve has been achieved.

NiZA's financial situation remains good. Up to and including 2006, NiZA has a four-year institutional subsidy from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs at its disposal. A new application has already been filed for 2007-2010. Additionally, thematic programmes created for partners in southern Africa can be expanded in 2006 as well, thanks to subsidies from PSO.

8.1 Financial situation

In 2005, NiZA made the decision to make full use of the financial space available in the four thematic programmes and to prevent under-spending. NiZA was successful in achieving these goals, and spent the projected € 4,989,884 on partners and projects in southern Africa. Thanks to this, total expenditure on NiZA goals reached the record amount of € 8,334,682. That is €593,526 more than in 2004.

This increase indicates further growth of NiZA activities. All this was made possible by a higher contribution from one of NiZA's most important donors, PSO, and by the institutional subsidy from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

NiZA recorded positive operating results of € 60,346 in 2005. This was credited to NiZA's equity. NiZA's disposable equity increased by € 73,015, and on 31 December 2005 amounted to € 767,486. Net spending for 2005 amounted to € 12,669, which was deducted from the active operating fund.

8.2 Income: explanatory remarks

NiZA's revenues come from fundraising, government subsidies, other subsidies and other revenues. The development of revenue in 2005 is described below.

Fundraising

NiZA received € 414,642 in donations in 2005. This is less than the budgeted € 457,500. Compared to 2004, this represents a 5 percent decrease (€ 19,924). During the elections in Zimbabwe, NiZA collected additional funds to support democratisation projects in Zimbabwe with the public Fonds voor de Democratie (Fund for Democracy) campaign. The campaign raised € 56,231, over € 6,000 more than budgeted. Despite this success, fundraising income after the campaign remained below expectations. NiZA has decided to use a more direct approach for finding new donors. In 2006, an external bureau will perform directive door-to-door recruitment on NiZA's behalf. NiZA commissioned a profile analysis based on the current donor registry. Together with a recruitment bureau, NiZA then identified the regions that offer the best chances for

successful door-to-door recruitment. Initial results from this new recruitment method are promising. NiZA will decide whether to continue using this method at the end of 2006.

Costs for fundraising amounted to € 81,694, almost € 5,000 less than budgeted. In 2004, this was still € 108,354. This is a decrease of over 24 percent. The decrease was caused by lower implementation and fundraising costs. Fundraising costs in 2005 accounted for 20% of income, more than 5% less than in 2004.

Government subsidies and other subsidies

NiZA provides financial support to more than a hundred organisations in the context of four thematic programmes: Media and Freedom of Expression, Human Rights and Peace Building, NePAD and Corporate Social Responsibility in the Natural Resources sector (PPP). The latter two are identified as the Economic Justice programme in this annual report. The subsidies received for the programmes and a number of other projects in southern African amounted to a total of € 4,989,884 in 2005. This is € 208,260 more than in 2004.

NiZA received € 4,184,763 for the four thematic programmes. This was € 408,147 lower than budgeted. This was the result of the fact that the financial commitment to the NePAD programme was drawn entirely in 2004 (see 2004 annual account). In 2005, no income could be included for this program, whereas the budget includes a planned contribution of € 400,000.

Other projects NiZA received subsidies for were SANPAD and PEPSA. NiZA runs the SANPAD research programme on behalf of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. NiZA received € 376,222 for this purpose. NiZA received € 143,525 from Hivos for various election activities in southern Africa (PEPSA). NiZA received € 105,174 for other projects from various national and international donors. This amount was used for, among other things, the photographic exhibition Diamond Matters in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola and Sierra Leone. The Canadian Ministry of Development Aid subsidised a NiZA conference on corporate social responsibility in South Africa.

In addition to support for democratisation in southern Africa, NiZA works to disseminate information on the region and to increase support for development cooperation in the Netherlands and Europe. For these two goals in the Netherlands and Europe, NiZA received € 525,965 in public awareness raising subsidies in 2005. This is as budgeted.

The Dutch Commission for International Cooperation and Durable Development (NCDO) made € 100,000 available for various awareness raising activities. The Fatal Transactions campaign addressing illegal raw materials trade received € 172,193 from the European Union and € 20,000 from Novib. NiZA received € 125,000 from Hivos for a number of public awareness raising activities such as the Mandela Lecture and the Southern Africa Living Yearbook. The Amsterdam municipality made € 27,000 available to NiZA for the Amsterdam-Beira City Link. Considering Amsterdam made the decision to end the city link, 2005 was the last year NiZA received a subsidy for this.

Finally, NiZA received a four-year institutional subsidy in 2003 from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The total subsidy is nine million euros for 2003 through 2006, of which € 2,500,000 was spent in 2005. The annual allocation from this TMF subsidy does increase each year, taking into account the growth of the organisation and annual cost increases.

Other income

The other income comprises the income from interest, the return on the investments and the income from the *Zuidelijk Afrika Magazine*.

Investment change of value

In September 2003, NiZA bought € 1,000,000 in participations in the Equity and Bond Funds. In 2005, the value increase for this investment was € 88,137.

Interest and changed values of investments

In 2005 NiZA received € 111,673 in interest and changed values of the investments. The interest revenues totalled € 23,536. The change of value for the investments with the ASN Bank was € 88,137. This income is not included in the budget. In the event of setbacks, these assets are a buffer that may prevent negative operating results.

The Zuidelijk Afrika Magazine

Since 1997 NiZA has been publishing a quarterly magazine entitled *Zuidelijk Afrika Magazine* (ZAM). The external income for ZAM consists of subscriptions, advertising and individual sales. The difference between this income and ZAM spending is financed by NiZA. In order to attract more subscribers, NiZA started a subscription drive in 2004. This did not lead to the desired result in 2005. Income amounted to € 43,782 in 2005, over € 2,000 less than budgeted. NiZA has decided to raise external funds for the magazine, among other things to raise subscription numbers by increasing the magazine's attractiveness. In 2006, NiZA will evaluate whether the financial goal has been reached, and a decision will be made regarding the magazine's future.

Other income

The other income amounted to € 27,878, while € 20,000 had been budgeted for this item. The higher revenues were primarily due to several small, unforeseen sources of income.

8.3 Expenditure: explanatory remarks

In 2005, NiZA spent € 8,334,682 on his objectives. This expenditure is lower than budgeted. This is primarily because expenditures for the NePAD programme for 2005 had already been drawn in 2004. This is because the contracts with the partners were entered into in 2004 for a 1.5-year period. The 2005 budget included € 400,000 for NePAD, as per PSO commitments. With the exception of this deviation, all programme spending was realised as budgeted.

In 2005, NiZA spent €593,526 (about 9 percent) more on objectives than in 2004. This development is in line with the continued growth NiZA has enjoyed since 2000.

Expenditure on awareness raising and strengthening grassroots support in the Netherlands and Europe amounted to € 1,903,093 in 2005.

This is € 240,656 more than budgeted. This difference occurred because spending for the Fatal Transactions campaign was filed under structural aid in the budget, while this campaign is actually an awareness raising activity, and belongs under Northern activities (awareness raising in the Netherlands and Europe).

NiZA has invested in, among other things, knowledge and policy, lobbying activities, the BIDOC documentation centre and the website. These investments are in line with the choice to develop NiZA as a knowledge broker and a lobbying and networking organisation. These types of activities have relatively high implementation costs due to the significant amount of work involved.

Disposable equity

As of 31 December 2005 NiZA's disposable equity was € 767,486. As planned, that is € 73,015 higher than last year. It is NiZA's policy to use its disposable equity primarily as a buffer against financial setbacks. NiZA's continued growth is accompanied by increased financial risks. This requires an increase in the organisation's equity. In 2004 the branch organisation for registered charities, VFI, laid down the Directive for the Reserves of Charitable Causes. This directive indicates how charity organisations should handle the funds they hold in reserve. NiZA is affiliated with the Central Bureau for Fundraising, which has adopted the new directive.

Accordingly, based on the VFI directive, NiZA decided to perform a risk analysis to determine the desired level of NiZA's continuity reserve. The current equity level seems too low in relation to the size of the organisation. This is currently at 29%, while the VFI directive indicates that it should be a maximum of 150%. NiZA strives to improve this situation, without setting the maximal percentage as a goal.

Investment policy and capital risks

NiZA pursued a neutral, moderately offensive investment policy in 2005. In mid-2003 NiZA purchased participations in the ASN Bank's Equity and Bond Funds. In 2005 this investment yielded a positive return of € 88,137. NiZA considers the capital risks from its investments to be limited, as bonds are seen as a safe investment and the ASN Equity Fund will join in as stock markets pick up.

The financial account for 2005 in this Annual Report is an abridged version of the full Annual Accounts for 2005, a copy of which is available free of charge from NiZA (in Dutch and English): niza@niza.nl or ++ 31 (0)20 5206210.

9 Appendices

- NiZA's mission statement
- Objectives of the NiZA foundation
- Partners in southern Africa
- Networks and cooperation
- Publications
- Abbreviations
- Status of this annual report
- Colophon

10 NiZA Mission Statement

A democratic southern Africa. That is what NiZA is striving for.

On the basis of a long-standing history of solidarity and critical dialogue, NiZA cooperates with people and organisations in Africa and Europe to strive for a democratic southern Africa. We share with them a vision of a southern Africa where the population is able to realise a just division of power, means and opportunities, and where human rights are respected and guaranteed. NiZA supports the struggle against inequalities in power, rights and welfare by supporting civil society and citizens in Africa, particularly women and girls, in their efforts to build countervailing power. Closely linked to this struggle, NiZA and its networks are dedicated to an international power shift that favours democracy and development in southern Africa.

Background

The Netherlands institute for Southern Africa (NiZA) was formed in 1997 as a merger of three former anti-apartheid movements. The Institute for Southern Africa, the Holland Committee of Southern Africa and the Eduardo Mondlane Foundation pooled their experience in the struggle for a free and just southern Africa. They combined their extensive networks of local liberation movements and civil society organisations. Besides this vast network of partners, the broad grassroots support that the organisations had in the Netherlands was also passed on to NiZA. Many of their donors continued to support NiZA, even to today.

NiZA continues to emphasise that it is not a traditional donor organisation that is above the partner organisations in southern Africa, but a **solidarity organisation** that stands beside them. This solidarity focuses principally on the following countries:

- Angola
- Botswana
- The Democratic Republic of Congo
- Lesotho
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- South Africa
- Swaziland
- Tanzania
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

11 Objectives of the NiZA foundation

The NiZA statutes formulate the objectives as follows:

- Making contributions to the development of stable and democratic societies in the region of southern Africa;
- Helping to eliminate disadvantages among large population groups in southern Africa;
- Keeping the Netherlands and Europe interested in the region of southern Africa.

NiZA strives to achieve these objectives by:

- Supplying materials and personnel support to development projects in southern Africa;
- Influencing policy decision-making with regard to southern Africa;
- Awareness raising activities and publications;
- Making information and documentation available through a professional Library, Information and Documentation Centre (BIDOC);
- Fund-raising among private individuals.

12 Partners in southern Africa

12.1 Human Rights and Peace Building Programme:

Gender and Development

- Forum Mulher, Mozambique;
- NGO Coordinating Council, Zambia;
- Rede Mulher, Angola;
- Rural Development Services Network, South Africa;
- Western Cape Anti-Crime Forum, South Africa;
- Women for Change, Zambia.

Legal Assistance

- Center for Advice, Research and Education on Human Rights, Malawi;
- Lawyers for Human Rights, South Africa;
- Legal Resources Foundation, Zambia;
- Legal Resources Foundation, Zimbabwe;
- Liga dos Direitos Humanos, Mozambique;
- Mãos Livres, Angola;
- National Community Based Paralegal Association, South Africa;
- South African Legal Assistance Network, active in southern Africa.

Civic and Human Rights Education

- Associação de Serviços Comunitários, Mozambique;
- Center for Human Rights and Rehabilitation, Malawi;
- Civic Education Network Trust, Zimbabwe;
- Coordinating Body of Refugee Communities, South Africa;
- National Constitutional Assembly, Zimbabwe;
- Public Affairs Committee, Malawi.

Peace Building and Conflict Resolution

- Associação Nacional dos Deficientes Angolanos.
- Projecto de Construção de Paz, Angola.
- ProPaz, Mozambique.
- Zimbabwe Liberators Platform.

12.2 Economic Justice Programme:

Corporate Social Responsibility and Natural Resources

- Association Africaine de Défense de Droits de l'Homme / Katanga, DRC;
- Bench Marks Foundation of Southern Africa for CSR, South Africa;
- Botswana Council of NGOs;
- Catholic Commission for Justice Development and Peace, Zambia;
- Centre National d'Appui au Développement et à la Participation Populaire, DRC;
- Development and Education Community Project, Zambia;

- Greater Rustenburg Community Foundation, South Africa;
- groundWork, South Africa;
- Groupe d'Appui aux Exploitants des Ressources Naturelles, DRC;
- Jubileu 2000, Angola;
- Juventude Ecológica Angolana;
- Mpalabanda, Angola;
- National Children's Rights Committee, South Africa;
- Nouvelle Dynamique Syndicale, DRC;
- Organisation Concertée des Ecologistes et Amis de la Nature, DRC;
- Rede Terra, Angola;
- Somarelang Tikologo, Botswana;
- South Durban Community Environmental Alliance, South Africa;
- Zambia Congress of Trade Unions.

New Partnership for Africa's Development

- Associação para Agricultura Biológica, Biodiversidade e Desenvolvimento Sustentável, Mozambique;
- Botswana Council of Churches;
- Botswana Council of NGOs;
- Catholic Centre for Justice, Development and Peace, Zambia;
- Centre for Public Participation, South Africa;
- Civil Servants Union of Zambia;
- Confederação de Sindicatos Livres e Independentes de Moçambique;
- Conselho Christao de Moçambique;
- Economic Association of Zambia;
- Grupo Moçambicano da Dívida;
- Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection, Zambia;
- Khanya College, South Africa;
- National Youth Council, Botswana;
- National Institute for Economic Policy, South Africa;
- Programme Against Malnutrition, Zambia;
- Rural Services Development Network, South Africa;
- Tlhavhama Training Initiative, South Africa;
- União Nacional de Camponeses, Mozambique;
- Womens NGO Coalition, Botswana;
- Zambia Alliance of Women.

12.3 Media and Freedom of Expression Programme:

Lobby and advocacy

- Freedom of Expression Institute, South Africa;
- Journaliste en Danger, DRC;
- Media Alliance Zimbabwe, flex partner¹⁷;
- Media Institute of Southern Africa, Mozambique

¹⁷ Flex partners receive ad hoc support.

- Media Institute of Southern Africa, Namibia - regional office;
- Media Institute for Southern Africa, Zimbabwe;
- Media Monitoring Project Zimbabwe;
- Southern African Media Gender Institute, South Africa, active in southern Africa;
- Swaziland National Association of Journalists;
- Union Nationale de la Presse Congolaise, DRC.

Access to information

- Acção para o Desenvolvimento Rural e Ambiente, Angola;
- African Community Publishing and Development Trust, Zimbabwe;
- Association of Independent Publishers, flex partner, South Africa;
- Behind the Mask Trust, South Africa, active in southern Africa;
- Development Workshop, Angola;
- Forum of African Investigative Journalists, flex partner, active in southern Africa;
- Magazine Trust / The Big Issue, Namibia;
- Rádio Ecclésia, Angola;
- Radio Maendeleo, DRC;
- Southern African Editors Forum, flex partner, active in southern Africa;
- SW Africa, flex partner, United Kingdom/Zimbabwe;
- The Independent and The Standard Newspapers, flex partner, Zimbabwe;
- Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions / The Worker newspaper.

Quality of information (training)

- College of the Arts, Namibia;
- Gender and Media in Southern Africa, flex partner, active in southern Africa;
- Gender Links, South Africa, active in southern Africa;
- Highway Africa, South Africa, active in southern Africa;
- Institute for the Advancement of Journalism, South Africa, active in southern Africa;
- NSJ Southern African Media Training Centre, Mozambique, active in southern Africa;
- Polytechnic of Namibia;
- Rhodes University, journalism department, South Africa, active in southern Africa;
- Southern African Media Trainers Network, Mozambique active in southern Africa;

Sustainability (training)

- Sol Plaatje Media Leadership Institute, South Africa, active in southern Africa;
- Southern Africa Institute for Media Entrepreneurship Development, Botswana, active in southern Africa.

13 Networks and cooperation

NiZA houses the following campaigns and alliances:

- Fatal Transactions (national and international campaign);
- SANPAD (South Africa – Netherlands Research Programme on Alternatives in Development);
- Zimbabwe Watch.

In 2005, NiZA also cooperated with other parties in a variety of ways. The following provides an overview.

International cooperation

The Netherlands:

- Hivos, strategic partnership;
- Lusofoon Afrika Overleg (Lusophonic Africa Committee);
- NGO-EU Network (NGO Confederation for Relief and Development) Dutch representation to Concord;
- Consultation among TMF organisations: TMF Platform and TMF Steering Group. The steering group is involved in consultations with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the new framework for policy and assessment, the Co-financing System. The steering group also advises the Steering Group on Evaluation of TMF Organisations;
- Partos (sector association of private organisations in the area of international cooperation): member;
- Platform Millenniumdoelen (Millennium Goals Platform) and the Maak het waar campaign (Make it Happen. Eliminate Poverty Worldwide!);
- PSO (Personnel Services Overseas): participation in the association and various working groups;
- SANPAD (South Africa-Netherlands Programme for Academic Development): participation in meetings of the Joint Committee and the Dutch Board;
- SAVUSA (South Africa-Vrije Universiteit Strategic Alliances): series of publications;
- VFI (Association of Fund-Raising Institutions): member.

International:

- British Angola Forum: advisory council;
- PEPSA (Preconditions for Elections Programme Southern Africa): alliance between Hivos, MISA and NiZA.

Economic Justice

The Netherlands:

- Grote Meren Platform (Great Lakes of Africa Platform);
- Jubilee Netherlands;
- Corporate Social Responsibility Platform;
- Friends of the Earth Netherlands;

- National Point of Contact for OECD Guidelines: participation in consultation meetings at the point of contact;
- SOMO Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations;
- West Africa Witness.

International:

- Diamonds for Development Initiative;
- European Network for Debt and Development (Eurodad);
- OECD Watch;
- Publish What You Pay campaign.

Media and freedom of expression

- PANOS-France: joint activities in the DRC;
- Southern African Media Funders' Forum: chair.

Human rights and peace building

- Breed Mensenrechten Overleg (Broad Human Rights Council): consultative body comprising NGOs, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and academics.

Other alliances

- Archiefcommissie Nederland - Zuidelijk Afrika (Archive Committee Netherlands – Southern Africa);
- Facilitair Initiatief Amsterdam.

14 Publications

In 2005 NiZA published the following publications:

- *Lessons not learned: The other Shell report 2004*, Advocates for Environmental Rights, Friends of the Earth, Milieudefensie. – Londen: Friends of the Earth, Amsterdam: Milieudefensie and NiZA, June 2005;
- *Lundas. The stones of death. Angola's deadly diamonds: human rights abuses in the Lunda provinces*, Rafael Marques and Rui Falcão de Campos. – Amsterdam: NiZA, March 2005. - (also published in Portuguese);
- *Making human rights real for all. Baseline survey information of Paralegal Work and Training in Southern Africa*, Mary E. Ndlovu. – Amsterdam: NiZA, June 2005;
- *Observaties van een niet-officiële verkiezingswaarnemer. Parlementsverkiezingen Zimbabwe 2005*, Peter Hermes. – Amsterdam: NiZA, April 2005;
- *The struggle over education in the Northern Transvaal: the case of Catholic mission schools, 1948-1994*, N.J.S. Mathabatha – Amsterdam: NiZA, SAVUSA and Rozenberg Publishers, 2005. - SAVUSA-NiZA Student Publication Series; 1);
- *Verkiezingen in Mozambique. Over waarnemers, overgespoten staatsauto's en obscure software*, Elma Doeleman. – Amsterdam; NiZA, February 2005;
- *Peace and reconciliation. Bridging the gaps and uniting different communities*, Farid Esack.- Amsterdam: NiZA; The Hague: Hivos, May 2005. – (Mandela Lecture; 2), also published in Portuguese;
- *Een vriendschapsband van twintig jaar: stedenband Amsterdam - Beira*, Nini van Driel. – Amsterdam: NiZA, June 2005.

Periodical publications

- *NiZA Annual report 2004*: overview of NiZA's activities and results in 2004;
- *NiZA Informatie*: quarterly publication for donors and relations;
- *Zuidelijk Afrika Magazine*: quarterly magazine about the region compiled by an independent editorial staff and published by NiZA (ISSN 1386-4297);
- *I write as I please*, bi-weekly columns by Wilf Mbanga on www.niza.nl.

E-mail newsletters (quarterly)

- *Fatal Transactions Newsletter*;
- *MediaNews*;
- *NePAD Newsletter*;
- *Newsletter to partner organisations of NiZA's Human Rights Programme*;
- *Peace, Principles and Participation Newsletter*;
- *Publish What You Pay Newsletter* (in cooperation with Pax Christi).

BIDOC-dossiers (ISSN:1574-860X)

- *Hiv/aids in zuidelijk Afrika*, 2^e edition, completely revised.

The following publications received funding from NiZA:

- *African Journalism in the Information Society* in: Rhodes Journalism Review, No. 18 (Nov. 2005). - Grahamstown: Rhodes University, The School of Journalism and Media Studies. Special edition;

- *Brothers from the West. Solidarity in the Netherlands with Mozambique = Irmãos do Ocidente Solidariedade na Holanda com Moçambique 1962-2005*, Sietse Bosgra and Carla Schuddenboom.- Amsterdam: NiZA; Maputo: Arquivo Histórico de Moçambique, June 2005;
- *Corporate social responsibility: perspectives from the South*, Karolien Bais. - Amsterdam: Center for research on multinational corporations, May 2005;
- *Diamond Matters. Van de mijnen naar de jet-set*, Kadir van Lohuizen. – Amsterdam: Mets en Schilt, May 2005;
- *Estado da Liberdade de Imprensa, Relatório 2004*, Media Institute of Southern Africa-Mozambique. - Maputo: MISA-Mozambique, May 2005;
- *Media Training Handbook*, Ransford Antwi, Class Thor and Willie Olivier. – Maputo: Southern African Media Training Trust (NSJ), December 2005;
- *Participation: civic education and community mobilization*, Civic Education and Community Mobilization. – Civcom; Amsterdam: NiZA, July 2005;
- *Outside the ballot box: preconditions for elections in southern Africa 2004/5*, Jeanette Minnie. – Windhoek: Media Institute of Southern Africa, June 2005;
- *Rapport 2005. La Liberté de la Presse en Afrique Centrale*, Journaliste en Danger, May 2005;
- *Diamantes de sangue* in: *Semanário Angolense* No. 109 (23 - 30 April 2005). – Luanda. Special annex; short version of *Lundas: as pedras de morte*.

Want to know more? See www.niza.nl/publications

15 Abbreviations

BIDOC	NiZA's Library, Information and Documentation Centre
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EISA	Electoral Institute Southern Africa
EU	European Union
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
MDC	Movement for Democratic Change
MISA	Media Institute of Southern Africa
NePAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NiZA	Netherlands institute for Southern Africa
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OSISA	Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa
PEPSA	Preconditions for Elections Programme Southern Africa
PPP	Peace, Principles and Participation
PSO	Association Personnel Services Overseas
PUDEMO	People's United Democratic Movement
RSI	Repetitive Strain Injury
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SANPAD	South Africa - Netherlands Research Programme on Alternatives in Development
SOMO	Center for research on multinational corporations
TMF	Thematic Co-financing
UN	United Nations

16 Status of this annual report

In this public annual report, NiZA offers accountability for its policy in 2005 and its implementation. This public annual report is also available in Dutch, and a digital format is also available in Portuguese. To provide an impression of the financial policy, a summarised version of the official financial statements is included. NiZA also publishes a report of the board, which contains the full financial statements for 2005. All reports are available on www.niza.nl/annualreport or can be ordered free of charge: niza@niza.nl or ++ 31 (0)20 5206210.

17 Colophon

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