



## Annual Report

2021/2

This report covers the period from when HNF set up operation as an independent trust in June 2021 until the end of its first financial year, 28 February 2022.

### Background

The Taco Kuiper Fund, based in Wits Journalism, has operated since 2007 giving grants and other support to investigative journalists in South Africa. It was backed by the Valley Trust, the Ford Foundation and latterly the Millenium Trust. Over the 15 years of its operation, it gave out over 70 grants to the value of just under R5-million.

In 2001, the Fund was renamed the Henry Nxumalo Fund and set up as an independent non-profit company, the Henry Nxumalo Foundation for Investigative Journalism. It was registered with SARS as a tax exempt Public Benefit Organisation (PBO) for the support and promotion of investigative reporting. An agreement was signed with Wits to continue the relationship with the Wits Centre for Journalism.

### Grants

During this financial year, HNF gave 19 grants for a total of R1 172 138 in 10 countries (South Africa, Malawi, Ghana, Togo, Rwanda, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Uganda).

These grants fell into three groups:

- From our South Africa Fund, we gave six grants totaling R540 300 (of which R85 100 was carried over for completion payments). Four of these were in response to a call for applications dealing with the July 2021 KZN riots and looting; the others dealt with a murder/terrorism case and a book on the oil industry.
- In partnership with the Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime (GITOC), we gave seven grants in seven countries totaling \$25 752 (of which \$12 891 was held over for completion payments) for the investigation of environmental crimes.
- In partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the African Investigative Journalism Conference (AIJC), we gave six grants in five countries totaling \$22 767 (of which \$5 691 was held over for completion payments) dealing with health issues.

Alongside these grants, we paid for three mentors at a cost of R14 400. Mentors are offered to journalists who are less experienced.

Of these 19 projects, five are incomplete. Delays were caused by the pandemic and by the exigencies of stories, usually out of the control of journalists. The balance are on track to be completed within the next few months.

### Highlights of published work

Some of the highlights of recent work published with our support (including work we inherited from Wits) were:

#### **From our Core Fund:**

Karyn Maughan and Kirsten Pearson (Tafelberg): [Nuclear – Inside South Africa's Secret Deal](#)

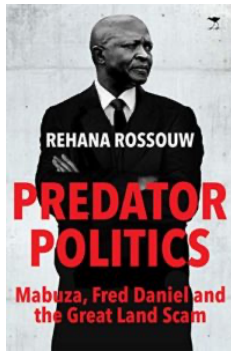
Alastair Otter (MediaHack/Outlier): [Riot – Eight Days of Protests and Looting that Shook South Africa](#)

Madala Thepa (Sunday Independent): Battles at the De Paarl farm experiment in restitution



Daniel Knoetze (Viewfinder): Criminal Cops – an investigation into what lies behind police criminality and lack of accountability

Rehana Rossouw (Jacana): Predator Politics – Mabuza, Freddie Daniels and the Great Land Scandal



Tanya Pampalone, Eliot Moleba, etc (Sound Africa): One Night in Snake Park – An investigation into the killing 2015 killing of 14-year old Siphwe Mahori in Snake Park, Soweto, which ignited a wave of xenophobic attacks as across South Africa.

Mignonne Breier (Tafelberg): Bloody Sunday – the nun, the defiance campaign and South Africa’s secret massacre

### **In partnership with the Global Alliance Against Transnational Crime (GITOC)**

Collins Mtika (Malawi): Malawi’s soaring illegal pangolin trade

Gideon Sarpong (Ghana): Chinese-owned vessels ‘threaten Ghana’s tourism industry’

Djatougbe Aziaka (Togo): Wildlife Trading – The case of Togo

Muhizi Olivier and Kelly Rwamapera (Rwanda): How Ivory is trafficked from Tanzania into Rwanda

Faith Sudi and Donald Magomere (Kenya): Booming Trade in undersized fish threatens Lake Turkana’s future

Ini Ekott (Nigeria): Inside Nigeria’s shocking wildlife crimes and how criminals escape justice



## In partnership with the Gates Foundation and the African Investigative Journalism Conference (AIJC)



Thomas Bwire and Ruth Keah (Kenya): [Covid Certificate Cartels](#)

MAWA Foundation (Nigeria): [How health workers collect bribes, issue Covid-19 certificates without vaccination](#)

Risdel Kasasira (Uganda): [Poor mothers bleed to death as unscrupulous health workers sell blood](#)

### The Wits Agreement

In this two-year agreement, Wits Journalism will support and promote the fund through the Wits Centre for Journalism and will appoint a board member. HNF will provide Wits with audited annual reports. Wits appointed Dr Franz Kruger as a member of the board.

Wits handed over R342 295 of outstanding moneys to disperse on their behalf. This included R125 550 owed to grantees for outstanding work, and R216 745 to be used for further grants.

We inherited four incomplete projects from Wits. We receive regular reports on each of these and expect them to be completed soon.

### The Board

The HNF has a four-person board:

- Thabo Leshilo, chairperson. Thabo is a former newspaper editor and currently Politics and Society editor at The Conversation.
- Thandeka Nxumalo, who represents the Nxumalo Family.
- Dr Franz Kruger, former editor, appointed to represent Wits
- Prof Anton Harber, who runs the Foundation.

## The Grant Panel

We have four senior journalists on our grant-approval panel. For the first few months of the year, these were Thabo Leshilo, Lizeka Mda, Sarah Carter and Anton Harber. During the course of the year, Lizeka Mda withdrew and Mahlatse Mahlasi joined the panel.

We constituted special panels for the partnerships with GITOC and Gates/AIJC, including representatives from these organisations.

## Rules and policies

At its first meeting, in November 2021, the board accepted an operational and policy framework. Key points included:

Criteria for grants:

We favour work which serves the public interest; aims to reveal information which might otherwise not be known in the public arena; is in-depth and investigative in nature; uses innovative techniques, approaches or technology

Rules:

- The Core fund only accepts projects which deal with contemporary issues that affect southern Africa. We do not award educational scholarships or grants for professional training.
- Grants are selected by an independent panel of experienced journalists, appointed by the board. This panel will have sole and final discretion on the grants as well as the criteria used and any conditions attached to them.
- Recipients will be required to sign a grant agreement with the fund which stipulates the work to be done, a time frame and budget.
- Recipients will be required to report on the progress, outcome and expenditure of the project, to provide copies of all published material and to document the proper use of funds.
- We offer mentors where we can for the less experienced.
- The fund will accept no responsibility for the work produced or the conduct of the grantee, but will retain the right to use any material published as a result of a grant

for publicity and promotional purposes providing due accreditation is given to the individuals and organisations responsible for the work.

- The Fund will ask publishers/journalists to give credit to the Fund when material is published as the result of a grant.
- If you have received a grant, you cannot apply again within three years of the completion of the project.

Webber Wentzel Attorneys drew up a contract for us to sign with grantees.

### Administration

The Foundation has no staff. We contracted an administrator for occasional part-time support, and a financial consultant to manage our financial records and reporting. These costs were covered by the administration charges in our partnership agreements with GITOC and Gates Foundation.

As a result of this lean operation, over 90% of the expenditure went to grantees, with less than 10% being spent on administration, bank charges, legal fees (for set-up) and website set-up and maintenance.

### Funding

Our main sources of funding this year were the Millenium Trust, Jonathan Beare, The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime (GITOC) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

We have applications for further funding with a number of foundations, businesses and individuals. We are working to diversify our funding sources and build up a reserve.

### The Future

We are building partnerships with organisations with the potential of enhancing and expanding our work. These include the Pulitzer Centre, the Open Society Foundation and the Ida B Wells Society.

We will experiment further with thematic calls for applications, as this draws new applicants into our pool.

We will be spotlighting our and our grantees' work at the African Investigative Journalism Conference in October 2022.

Contact: Anton Harber  
[anton@harber.co.za](mailto:anton@harber.co.za)  
+27-83-3039497