



MEDIA RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Nicholas Daniel calls for sustainable practises in the
woodwind instrument industry.**

Celebrated oboeist and conductor, Nicholas Daniel, has become the Patron of Sound & Fair, a campaign that aims to persuade the woodwind industry to use sustainably harvested African blackwood, the key component in the manufacture of oboes, clarinets and other woodwind instruments.

African blackwood was once common across east Africa but is now confined to a small area of southern Tanzania and northern Mozambique. The disappearance of the species threatens the livelihoods of some of the world's poorest people who rely almost entirely on the resources of the forest for their survival.

Sound & Fair and its international partners, are now promoting a source of sustainably harvested timber, certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), and Nicholas Daniel has committed his support to persuade both instrument manufacturers to use it and consumers to demand instruments made from it.

Nicholas Daniel says: *"In the next few months the first ever crop, a sizeable one, of FSC-certified African blackwood, will be available to be made into instruments.*

"I am so excited and proud to be involved with this remarkable project, that pays for the first time a proper rate to growers in Tanzania, one of the poorest countries in the world.

The world's first harvest of FSC-certified African blackwood was carried out in December 2009 in Kikole village forest reserve in southern Tanzania. Kikole received a payment of around £1,200 in return for 15m³ of African blackwood, a sum 400 times greater more than they would have received before FSC-certification.

Nicholas Daniel says: *"It is time that we, as players, look at the wood of our instruments as something that grew, that someone tended, owned and harvested. It is no longer acceptable that anyone is treated unfairly in the making of our beautiful instruments, or that someone in a country far away with few of the benefits we have suffers as a result of our search for beauty.*

"We can help directly in this situation, and we can make a difference. We just need to express our commitment and enthusiasm for FSC-certified wood with our makers, and make it clear that we want a fair deal for growers in Tanzania."

The wood is currently being processed at an FSC-certified sawmill in Tanzania and will shortly be exported to the UK for use by the woodwind instrument manufacturers.

Nicholas Daniel will be performing and talking about African blackwood at the International Double Reed Society Conference in Oklahoma, USA, from 22-26 June 2010.

Ends

Notes to Editors

1. African blackwood is a slow growing tree that is highly prized for making clarinets, oboes and bagpipes. It has long been over-harvested across the continent to obtain its dark, lustrous heartwood. The wood is greatly prized for its strong structural qualities by international manufacturers of woodwind instruments. Although African blackwood is still relatively abundant in southern Tanzania, illegal logging is widespread and very poor, forest-dependent communities generally receive little benefit from logging on the land around their villages.

2. FSC is an independent, not-for-profit organization established to promote the responsible management of the world's forests. The FSC label provides a credible link between responsible production and consumption of forest products, enabling consumers and businesses to make purchasing decisions that benefit people and the environment as well as providing ongoing business value. FSC's forest certification standard is recognised as the global gold standard for responsible forest management.

Background on the Sound and Fair Campaign

The Sound & Fair campaign aims to realise a sustainable trade in African blackwood through a fully-certified chain of custody linking village communities in Tanzania to woodwind instrument musicians in the UK.

By safeguarding a hugely valuable natural resource, Sound and Fair will help lift some of the world's poorest people out of poverty.

The Sound & Fair campaign is managed by Kilimanyika and funded by the Environment Africa Trust through a grant from Comic Relief.

Mpingo Conservation Project (MCP) is the Tanzanian partner responsible for managing village FSC-certification.

Fauna & Flora International, the environmental organisation, is a UK partner.

Further Information

www.soundandfair.org

Images and further and interviews available on request from:

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For technical information on African blackwood and its exploitation, see www.mpingoconservation.org.