

FELICIANO DOS SANTOS OF MASSUKOS

AWARDED WORLD'S LARGEST ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE FOR GRASSROOTS ACTIVISTS



Leader of Mozambiquan band Massukos, Feliciano dos Santos (43) is the Africa winner of the international Goldman Environmental Prize. Often referred to as the Nobel Prize for the environment, the award has been given to Santos in recognition of his leading role in campaigning for better public health through clean water and adequate sanitation in Mozambique. Music has played a key role in Santos' innovative and unique approach to fighting for the basic necessities of life and Santos is affectionately known as "the Elton John of Mozambique".

Born into extreme poverty in northern Mozambique, one of the poorest parts of the world, Santos was disabled by polio as a result of dirty water and poor sanitation. Committed to changing the lives of those battling against water-borne diseases, Santos set up the NGO Estamos. By day, Santos heads up an impressive programme of public health initiatives as the director of Estamos; by night he is the guitarist of one of Mozambique's most revered bands, Massukos; these two roles are closely intertwined. Santos believes that "music has the power to change people" and so he uses music to gain access to communities and to deliver life-saving public health messages about water, sanitation, hygiene and HIV/AIDS. "Feliciano dos Santos is an inspirational leader who is changing Mozambique. He is unique because he influences people in so many ways. His message and actions are positive, and people of all ages look up to him and want to change themselves and the world they live in." Ned Breslin, Water for People.

Santos's band, Massukos, have been aptly described as "the new pragmatic face of African activism." and have established an impressive reputation since their formation in 1994 at the start of Mozambique's peace process. In 2003, they were voted best band in Mozambique; that same year their debut album *Kuimba kwa Massuko* went Gold. Their second album *Bumping* (released in 2007) went to number 6 in the European World Music charts and gained them international recognition. That same year, they performed at WOMAD and they will be returning to the UK in June 2008 to play at Glastonbury. In support of 2008 being the designated UN International Year of Sanitation, the band will continue to focus attention on the issues of clean water and sanitation and one of their gigs will be held in a former public toilet in Shepherd's Bush, London (Ginglik).

Established in 1990, the Goldman Environmental Prize is awarded each year to environmental heroes from six continental regions. Endorsed by more than 100 Heads of State, the prize allows individuals to continue winning environmental victories against the odds and inspires ordinary people to take extraordinary actions to protect the world. Frequently described as voices in the wilderness, Goldman Prize winners have often taken great personal risks to safeguard the environment. The 2008 Goldman Environmental Prize will be presented in San Francisco on Monday 14 April 2008.



SEE WWW.MASSUKOS.COM

Contact Ella on 020 8760 7336 or ella@poopproductions.org

FOOTNOTES

AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS

Feliciano dos Santos will be available for interviews in London from 18 June to 14 July. He speaks English. Please contact: Ella Milroy (Poo Productions) 020 8760 7336 or ella@poo productions.org

WHAT THE PRESS HAVE SAID

"This band are a joy... Bright sun-drenched music with enough edge to keep your mind as well as your feet engaged" (outstanding) **The Independent**

"a glorious band from Mozambique... infectious and charming" **** **The Guardian**

"the exuberantly catchy force for good and uplifting torch-bearer for one of the poorest parts of Africa" **fRoots**

"inspirational musical optimism...[music with] the power to bring sunshine and hope wherever it is played"

Fly Global Music Culture

"This nation's musical taste-makers have been queuing up to lavish praise upon the seven-piece, among them Andy Kershaw, Charlie Gillett and the recently anointed Michael Eavis CBE." **WOMAD**

"Music that is not only phenomenally beautiful but also a powerful force for change" **Rita Ray**

"A big Radio 3 YES to Massukos of Mozambique" **Andy Kershaw**

"sheer joy... a glorious showing" **Songlines** (nominated Top of the World album)

"I'm a lucky man to sit in front of music like this" **Charlie Gillett**

MASSUKOS UK TOUR 08 (MORE DATES TO FOLLOW)

Jun 19, 2008	Kalabash World, Islington, London (www.kalabashworld.com)
Jun 20, 2008	West End Arts Centre, Aldershot (www.westendcentre.co.uk)
Jun 21, 2008	Africa Oye Festival, Liverpool (www.africaoye.com)
Jun 26, 2008	Ginglik, Shepherd's Bush, London (www.ginglik.co.uk)
Jun 28, 2008	Glastonbury Festival, Glastonbury (www.glastonburyfestivals.co.uk)
Jun 29, 2008	Club Integral @ Hackney Empire, London (www.hackneyempire.co.uk)
Jul 3, 2008	Chilli Fried @ Darbucka, Clerkenwell, London (www.chillifried.com)
Jul 12, 2008	Croydon Summer Festival, Croydon (www.croydonfestival.com)
Jul 13 2008	Rhythms of the World, Hitchin Priory, Hertfordshire (www.rotw.org.uk)

ESTAMOS

Estamos is the NGO founded by Feliciano dos Santos, which is dedicated to campaigning for clean water and adequate sanitation in Mozambique. Estamos assists in the installation of latrines and clean water points, as well as in offering hygiene and HIV/AIDS education. Santos promotes low-cost, environmentally sustainable sanitation that composts human waste into nutrient-rich fertilisers. Santos' innovative approach has now become the model for sustainable development programmes worldwide.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION FACTS

- o 80 per cent of all illness in the world is attributed to unsafe water and poor sanitation
- o over 2 million people (including 1.5 million children) worldwide die from water-related diseases each year
- o An estimated one billion people in the world do not have clean water
- o 2.6 billion people worldwide do not have access to adequate sanitation
- o More children under five die from water-borne illness than AIDS
- o Diarrhoea claims the lives of over 5,000 children a day

ABOUT THE GOLDMAN ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE

- o Founded in 1990, the Goldman Environmental Prize awards \$750,000 annually to be shared between the environmental heroes from six continental regions.
- o Nominated confidentially by a worldwide network of renowned environmental organisations and environmental experts, recipients are chosen for their sustained and important environmental achievements.
- o Prize-winners participate in a 10-day tour of San Francisco and Washington, D.C., for an awards ceremony, news conferences, media briefings, and meetings with political, public policy, and environmental leaders.

For further information, please visit www.goldmanprize.org