

28 August 2007

### **Illegal Logging in Indonesia Inspires Script for New Film 'Blind Eye'**

Illegal logging and the corruption in the international timber trade has provided the inspiration for what promises to be an emotive Welsh-developed film.

A tale of wide-spread corruption, fear and love, 'Blind Eye' tells the adventure of a Freelance Forestry Consultant who finds his principles challenged when working for the UK Government in Indonesia.

Written by Penarth based Anna Holmes and backed by the Film Agency for Wales, the film is currently in development and follows in a similar vein to the 2006 box office hit 'Blood Diamond' and 2005 Oscar winning 'The Constant Gardener' starring Ralph Fiennes. With no big movie having previously been based on the highly political and sensitive topic, strong interest in 'Blind Eye' is expected from producers later this year.

Having begun her career in Broadcast Journalism, Holmes has been involved with arts production and management for more than 20 years. With her writing experience having included several character-led screenplays, the inspiration for Holmes' latest project is a subject close to her own heart – her Dutch-born partner, Hubert Kwisthout, has been involved with the ethical sourcing of timber for some 20 years and now chairs the internationally recognised Forest Stewardship Council UK Working Group. Together they run Ecotimber, the supplier of the ceiling timber used in the building of Y Senydd Building, the home of the Welsh Assembly Government in Cardiff.

According to New Zealand born Holmes, 'Blind Eye' is a visual and heart-rending story that simultaneously raises awareness of the social and economic impact that illegal logging can have.

"Like any writer, my dream is to see this project realised on the big screen and I genuinely believe that the subject matter means that it has the potential to do so. Illegal logging and the corruption in the international timber trade lends itself so well to a strong plot that is both moving and thought-provoking. This is not an art-house movie, my hope is that the script is commercial enough to have appeal to a general audience."

“The Film Agency has offered great support – both practical and financial – which I am grateful for,” finishes Holmes.

“Anna has developed a relationship with the Agency, having submitted a number of her screenplays informally for us to read and engage with. It’s clear from this body of work that she has real talent and, in supporting this current project, we’re looking forward to providing some profile to a substantive subject, that is told in an emotionally engaging manner. Film’s such as ‘The Constant Gardener’ bear testimony to the fact that screenplays can and do take on big subjects in an effective and indeed entertaining way, whilst not shying away from their social and political messages,” explained Pauline Burt, Chief Executive of the Film Agency for Wales.

“Once again, we’re delighted to have an opportunity to support a Welsh writer who’s developed a strong, tenable feature idea that has international appeal, which is our primary motivation for financially supporting a project, whatever its genre, budget or setting”

The Film Agency for Wales is funded by the Arts Council of Wales, the UK Film Council and the Welsh Assembly Government, via Creative Business Wales, the latter of which was set up to support, encourage and increase the range and number of films being produced in Wales and to foster the abundance of creative talent in Wales.

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**Notes to Editors:**

**About The Forest Stewardship Council**

1. The Forest Stewardship Council guarantees that timber products come from well-managed sources. This means that trees are harvested in compliance with local laws, the forests are managed to a high standard and that the rights of the local communities are protected.

### **About the Film Agency for Wales**

1. Established in July 2006, the Film Agency for Wales is the sole Agency for film in Wales, with a remit to ensure that the economic, cultural and educational aspects of film are effectively represented in Wales, the UK and the world. As a strategic agency, the Film Agency aims to facilitate the emergence of a viable and sustainable Welsh film industry and to promote a vibrant and dynamic film culture.
2. The Agency's priority is to identify and nurture Welsh filmmaking talent – particularly writers, directors, writer-directors and producers – by supporting and encouraging the development of their work, accomplishments and ambitions.
3. We support a broad policy on film education to complement our central priority of creating and maintaining a dynamic film culture across Wales. We aim to enhance film literacy for all and stimulate an appetite for specialised, cultural and non-mainstream films.
4. The Film Agency for Wales wishes to increase the range and number of films being produced by new, emerging and established Welsh talent. We have a particular interest in supporting Welsh writers, writer-directors, directors and producers.
5. The Board of Directors is chaired by Peter Edwards and includes Sybil Crouch (Vice Chairman), Elan Closs Stephens, Angharad Evans, Stephen Cleary, Nerys Lloyd and Ynyr Williams. Pauline Burt is Chief Executive.
6. Further information is available at [www.filmagencywales.com](http://www.filmagencywales.com)

\* Source – Greenpeace UK