



"The FA supports initiatives such as this which highlight the enormous contribution which football can make as a vehicle for social change and improving lives. We also recognise the valuable role which African footballers play, not only in our game here in England but in the lives of their followers across the African continent. We wish Score4africa every success with their dinner and their work with football in Africa".

Lord David Triesman, Chairman, The Football Association.

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SCORE4africa



In association with



Press Release

The winners of the first ever SCORE4africa Awards, celebrating the contribution football makes to African development, were announced at a prestigious event at the House of Lords on October 16th.

Didier Drogba, Nwankwo Kanu, Craig Bellamy and and George Weah were among the footballers honored for their work in the award categories: Peace, Health, Youth, People's Choice, Green, Education, Foundation, Diversity, Mentoring, Partnership and a Lifetime Achievement Award.

'I am very happy to win the Peoples Choice Award – African footballers are great Ambassadors for Africa' said Chelsea star Didier Drogba who received his trophy in person. He called for African footballers and football in general to increase its contribution to African development.

A delighted George Weah welcomed the awards and his double victory in winning the Peace Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award.

He said: "We play for 10 to 15 years as professionals, if we're lucky. We might be heroes for what we achieve on the field in those years. But what we can achieve off the field, in transforming people's live, is more heroic, and lasts forever. "

Other high profile winners on the night included Arsene Wenger who won the Award for Mentoring African professionals. Alongside grassroots organisations such as Sheffield based, Football Unites, Racism Divides, who won the Diversity Awards, and Alive & Kicking which provides jobs for people in Africa through stitching leather footballs from recycled ends.

The winners picked up their award in from an audience of footballers, politicians and business people, including Baroness Amos, Nancy Dell'Olio and event host Kwame Kwei-Armah.

Government Minister, Mike Foster, at the Department for International Development spoke at SCORE4africa. "The beautiful game is also a global game. We know that

football has the power to unite, to motivate and inspire people, whatever country they live in, whatever their background. In the build up to the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, footballers from Africa can play a vital role in the development of this continent."

"African development matters. Africa has great potential but faces huge challenges. Whilst economic growth was above the world average in 2007, extreme poverty is also growing.

"I am delighted to be able to celebrate how SCORE4africa have made a difference in tackling poverty in Africa and I'm looking forward to exploring how we can collaborate even more in the future on this vital issue", Mike Foster added.

SCORE4africa is organised by the African Foundation for Development, in association with Foreign Policy Centre. And supported by The Premier League, Diageo, Equality and Human Rights Commission, and DFID.

For further information please go to www.score4africa.org

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Ends

Notes for Editors:

Full List of Award Winners:

<i>Award</i>	<i>Winner</i>
Foundation Award	Right to Play
Health Award	Nwankwo Kanu
Peace Award	George Weah
Education Award	Craig Bellamy
Diversity Award	Football Unites/ Racism Divides
Green Award	Mathare Youth Sports Association
Mentoring Award	Arsene Wenger
Enterprise Award	Alive & Kicking
Youth Award	Diambars Academy
Partnership Award	Chelsea/Right to Play
Peoples Choice Award	Didier Drogba
Lifet time Achievement	George Weah

SCORE4africa is a fundraiser for the African Foundation for Development (AFFORD). Funds raised from SCORE4africa will be spent in the following way:

- 70% project spending
 - 21% AFFORD Football Business Support Initiative
 - 49% AFFORD SEEDA Project
- 30% SCORE4africa overheads, costs & administration

About The African Foundation for Development (AFFORD)

Since AFFORD's formation in 1994, it has gained recognition as a pioneering African development think tank & charity. AFFORD's groundbreaking research, advocacy and policy development activities have helped highlight diaspora issues; and led to international recognition of the role of diasporas in development. AFFORD has been recognised in particular for its work on remittances; global resource circulation; circular migration; and enterprise development. AFFORD has had direct input in the policy development of diverse bodies such as UN, World Bank, DFID, International Organisation of Migration, UN Economic Commission for Africa, African Union, and European Union. Most recently, AFFORD has piloted effective ways of harnessing African diaspora resources to create and sustain jobs in Africa. AFFORD's recent successes include:

- Mobilising over 70 diaspora professionals in 2006/07 to invest over £200,000 supporting over 600 small businesses in Sierra Leone and Ghana (in partnership with VSO).
- Creating 2 business centres in Sierra Leone in 2007/8. These have to date trained 25 business coaches who provide practical business support to 100s of local businesses and entrepreneurs (in partnership with Comic Relief & University of Sierra Leone). DFID are funding the creation of another 11 such centres in 2008.
- Working with banks, micro-finance institutions and trade associations in African countries to help small entrepreneurs become more structured and efficient.