

## **Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History & The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation Form Partnership to Focus on Global Conservation**

CHICAGO, Illinois – (October 14, 2008) -- On Columbus Day 2008, during his inaugural official visit to The Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco, in his capacity as founder of The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, along with scientists, curators and educators from The Field Museum of Natural History held a series of sessions to mark their collaborative partnership.

The **highlight** was the signing of a **Memorandum of Understanding** between **The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation** and **The Field Museum of Natural History**.

The main purpose of the MoU is to underscore the relationship between the two organizations and agree to the co-ordination of future projects, knowledge-sharing, and fund-raising activities and events. This two year, renewable agreement will see the Foundation and the Field Museum each appoint a representative to a two-person coordination committee to oversee joint activities in the fields of biodiversity conservation, global warming and climate change including renewable energies, water management and sustainable development.

Among those Field Museum initiatives which may be jointly funded or supported include the Rapid Inventory Program that has led to the conservation of 45,000 square miles of forest in the Andes and Amazon; and the prospects for trading of carbon sequestered in intact forests through the Chicago Climate Exchange. Other joint initiatives may include setting up and improving the effectiveness and sustainability of joint programs and activities, particularly through systematic co-operation at working levels; facilitating the development of strategies that identify national and regional priorities in the main areas of focus (climate change, biodiversity and water management) encourage coordinated donor investment and the development of regional monitoring networks in the same fields.

After signing the MoU, a day-long series of sessions featured talks from some of the Museum's leading scientists, curators and educators on the theme of conservation and preservation: Debra Moskovits Ph.D on the "Rapid Inventory Program" and the prospects for a worldwide "avoided deforestation" protocol for the trading of greenhouse gases; Mark Westneat Ph.D on the Museum's role in the "Encyclopedia of Life" project (one web page for each of the world's 1.8 million species) and Coral Reef Conservation; Neil Shubin Ph.D on paleontology and evolution research in the Polar Regions; Steve Goodman Ph.D on Madagascar biodiversity conservation (the Vahatra Initiative); Lawrence Heaney Ph.D on Island "Hotspot" Conservation - Philippine Islands; and Laurel Ross, Urban Conservation Director of the Chicago Wilderness – a regional consortium of 230 organizations working to conserve 360,000 acres of natural prairies and woodlands in the Chicago metropolitan area.

In addition to HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco and Mr. John W. McCarter Jr, President and Chief Executive Officer, The Field Museum, other notable Foundation attendees from Monaco include H.E. Bernard Fautrier, Vice President & CEO, The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and Mr Lionel Schutz, Director for Development. In September 2008, the Foundation announced its US arm (in line with its recent global outreach, chapters have also opened in Switzerland, France and the United Kingdom). Representing the US chapter is President, John B. Kelly, III, and Hon. Maguy Maccario Doyle, Consul General of Monaco and Vice President of The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation – USA.

To coincide with the Prince's visit, a special exhibition – held over 12 days - showcases Monaco's considerable legacy in conservation. Called Monaco's Environmental Stewardship Gallery, the display comprises three internally-lit 8ftx5ft cylinders (output for each is equal to just one 100W light bulb) which blends creativity, cutting-edge design and with a mind to energy efficiency. Combining audio and visual techniques including short videos, text, graphic design, kaleidoscopic experiences, lighting and architectural elements it seamlessly projects a cool image of a hot topic; via video, Prince Albert outlines his commitment to the environment; and from the Hollywood-based special effects team who worked on "The Incredible Hulk" and "Spider-Man," are some amazing visual effects. This gallery traces the past and present conservation efforts of the Principality and highlights the international work of The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation. Launched in New York in September 2008, this unique installation is on display in the Stanley Field Hall until October 22, 2008.

**The Field Museum of Natural History** maintains a comprehensive program of science-based conservation, which is implemented through US and international projects. The Museum applies its in-depth scientific understanding of the natural world to the active management of real-world environmental challenges, including: declining biodiversity; global warming and deforestation; and the need to support the cultural vitality of indigenous cultures worldwide. [www.FieldMuseum.org](http://www.FieldMuseum.org)

**The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation** In 2006, Prince Albert created the eponymous Foundation which focuses on three main challenges: climate change and developing renewable energies; combating the loss of biodiversity; and water management. By 2008, the Foundation extended its international outreach by opening chapters in Switzerland, France, the UK and the United States. Since its inception, 70+ projects have benefited from Foundation grants - totaling more than \$US17 million - specifically in the Poles, Mediterranean Basin and in some of the world's least developed nations. [www.PA2F.org](http://www.PA2F.org)

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