

PRINCE ALBERT II OF MONACO LAUNCHES HIS FOUNDATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

"...We all share the environment; its protection is our duty."

H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco

MONACO, Monte-Carlo - H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco has created an eponymous foundation, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, as part of His personal commitment for the protection of the environment and for sustainable development.

In establishing the Foundation, Prince Albert cited the impact of global warming, including rising temperatures and ocean levels, as well air and water pollution, fast-decreasing biodiversity, and lack of clean water for millions of people worldwide. The Foundation's mission is to be "a permanent source of dynamic and innovative actions for environmental protection and sustainable development and to accelerate action by mobilizing people and resources on an international scale". Its focus is on three major challenges: climate change and developing renewable energies; the loss of biodiversity; improving universal access to clean water and fighting desertification. By bringing together individuals and companies with a shared objective - the protection of the global environment, the Foundation promotes and supports the sustainable and equitable management of natural resources and places the individual - and mankind's future - at the center of its international ventures.

Prince Albert said, "Monaco may not be the biggest country in the world, but I am determined to show it can be among the most innovative when dealing with the environment."

He referred to the Principality's legacy of environmental stewardship. "My great-great grandfather, Prince Albert I, led four expeditions to the North Pole a century ago. On the two recent trips which I made following in his footsteps, our measurements showed significant reduction of the glacier there, one sign of the urgency of the situation. The Foundation aims to play a key role in responding to this urgency."

Monaco, as a signatory - in 2006 - to the Kyoto Protocol, continues its long-standing, nation-wide commitment to environmental protection: public elevators help minimize traffic; electric vehicle recharging stations are free and open to the public; most local Government transportation is electric-powered; waste water is treated and recycled; and garbage is converted into energy-producing fuel for municipal needs. Hotels have implemented eco-friendly goals and the Grimaldi Forum, Monaco's cultural and convention center is fueled by hydropower.

By mid-2008, less than two years since its inauguration, Prince Albert's Monaco-based Foundation extended its international outreach with the opening of chapters in Geneva, London, Paris and New York – with plans to open offices in Canada, Singapore and Germany. To date 67 projects – from more than 450 submitted proposals – have been selected as recipients of grants totaling more than \$US17 million.

Some of those projects include supporting local communities in their efforts to combat deforestation and loss of biodiversity in Brazil, the Congo and Siberut, Indonesia; the One Billion Trees Campaign, co-sponsored with 2004 Nobel Peace Prize winner and Green Belt Movement founder, Prof. Wangari Maathai; developing renewable energies & biofuels like Jatropha Curcas for local energy use in Kenya and Mali; and, with its particular focus on the Arctic, the Foundation supports, for example, the good works of the ASPEN Institute (the ASPEN Commission on Arctic), UNESCO's Arctic World Heritage Symposium and Monaco's Oceanographic Museum's Polar Exhibition. For more information, please visit www.PA2F.com and blog at: www.fpa2.mc/en/organisation.asp

For more information on the Principality of Monaco, please contact the Monaco Government Tourist Office (MGTO) at 565 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10017; telephone (800) 753-9696 or (212) 286-3330; or e-mail info@VisitMonaco.com. Information and links are available via the Monaco Government Tourist Office web site at www.VisitMonaco.com.

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