

*Fundraising evening - Stelios Foundation - Monaco 16th July 2015  
Proposed address for H.S.H. the Prince*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends,

I would like to thank you all for being here this evening, for this moment of generosity, hope and friendship. At a time when the world and Europe are so often divided, when it is so difficult to unite men and women around shared demands, I am delighted to see common will and sensitivity bring us together.

I wish to express special thanks to Stelios Haji-Ioannou, who again this year has done us the kindness of welcoming us, once more delivering his commitment to the common good and the preservation of nature.

I would also like to thank WWF and its Director General, Marco Lambertini, who is an extremely valuable partner of this operation.

We are all together here to help protect certain species that are especially endangered. The Siberian tiger, the snow leopard, the sea turtle, the bluefin tuna, the striped dolphin and the fin whale are today in a particularly worrying situation. That is why it is important, as we are doing this evening, to deploy the necessary resources and will to help them.

However the situation extends far beyond these few species. It also concerns us directly, because each one of them contributes to the overall balance of our planet.

If we are here today, it is for the planet as a whole. To try and reverse the pattern of destruction and irresponsibility that too often prevails.

If we are here today, it is because we share the same future, a future which is also related to that of the species which we are talking about.

It is for the sake of such a future that I created the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation in 2006, in order to take action and implement various projects, in association with global NGOs and local players, with private companies and public institutions.

This Foundation has since been involved in close to three hundred and fifty projects across the globe, in three key areas: the climate, biodiversity and water. From the African deserts to Canada's northern forests, from the Mediterranean shores to the Pacific islands, all its activities are implemented in close cooperation with local partners.

Through each of these initiatives, the Foundation is in close touch with the stakeholders involved, at the heart of the issues for which we work. And each time it seeks to mobilise goodwill, minds which like you, will not give up.

This Foundation also gives me the opportunity - and this is one of the virtues of this evening - to meet men and women who are driven by the same hope, who do not resign themselves to let tigers, whales and tuna disappear and who want to leave their children a preserved planet.

It is also a great pleasure to be here this evening, among you, and that is why I wish to thank you for your presence and your precious support.

Thank you.