

Press Kit



monaco.
Direction du Tourisme et des Congrès

GRIMALDI
FORUM MONACO

FONDATION
PRINCE ALBERT II
DE MONACO

WHY MONACO TOURISM PARTNERS ARE GETTING INVOLVED WITH THE PRINCE ALBERT II OF MONACO FOUNDATION?

Providing access to water to as many people as possible, conserving biodiversity, putting forward solutions to curb climate change and its effects: these are the three key action areas to which the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation is dedicated. A huge environmental challenge when we know that tropical forests are home to more than 75% of the Earth's biodiversity and their destruction is responsible for over 20% of all greenhouse gas emissions. Alarm bell has already rung... On the other side of the chain there is an economic sector: Tourism which has a real impact on the environment, and especially the business tourism, heavy consumer of wood and paper (ie: booth structure and printing publications...). Tourism has to be conscious of this Environmental issue.

An important reason that has brought the Monaco Tourist Office and the Grimaldi Forum Monaco to become partners of the "Monaco makes a commitment against deforestation" initiative, waged by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and MC2D.

Monaco Tourist Office gathers partners all together in order to promote the Principality of Monaco as a leisure and business destination. The Grimaldi Forum Monaco, one of the first European convention and cultural centre eco certified, is also an ambassador of the Principality, positioning Monaco as a key destination on the international business tourism stage.

Using certified wood, An economic added value

The conversion of forests into intensive agricultural land is the tropical rainforests' biggest threat today. This destructive practice is exacerbated by land owners interested by a short-term financial interest.

The lack of political will and the negligence of some tropical wood-importing developed countries regarding ecological issues have for years encouraged illegal wood trade in the producing countries.

This trade contributes in the long term to the depreciation of market prices, which prevents proactive, responsible companies from being competitive.

Even if a producing country makes legislation for the exploitation of its forests, forest regeneration issues and social factors are rarely taken into account.

As a result, the best way of protecting forests and ensuring the stability of local economies is to use wood from sustainably managed forests.

The two main labels that guarantee the origin of wood and good forest management are currently FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) and PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification).

Highlight project : The Center of Social Excellence for the Forests of the Congo Basin

The Congo Basin rainforests represent a unique biodiversity reserve for the planet and store millions of tons of carbon. 36% of the total surface area (almost 50 million hectares) is currently used by forestry companies for logging, but only 15 million hectares are under development, representing a form of sustainable management.

Local populations are often faced with the companies' lack of understanding about and application of social requirements which significantly hinders the implementation of sustainable forest management.

Despite the operations' great technical expertise in matters of forestry, Central Africa often lacks experts in the field able to grasp the social issues of forestry management.

The Centre of Social Excellence for the Forests of the Congo Basin (CSE) aims to address this problem by training young specialists in social and human sciences to assist forest enterprises working towards sustainable management and certification with regard to social issues. Through this training, they acquire the skills to incorporate the recognition of local and semi-nomadic communities' rights and the protection of their key resources into forest management plans.

The primary objective of this initiative is to put 7 million hectares of forests under sustainable management and in progression towards certification by the year 2011, involving up to 15 forestry companies in the Congo Basin. To this day, 23 students from the universities of Cameroon, Gabon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Congo have followed the intensive 10-month training course at the CSE.

The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation is the founder and main financier of the CSE.

Join us in supporting the fight against deforestation carried out by the Foundation Prince Albert II

Prince Albert II Foundation supports numerous projects to fight against deforestation or assistance to their eco-certification in various countries hosting the largest rainforests of our planet.

With the Association Monegasque MC2D it wants to develop the use of certified wood in the area and make the Principality exemplary in this field. The goal is to educate all users of wood or derivatives of this issue by encouraging them to commit to the certification or the purchase of certified wood

Thus, the Foundation acts both at the source by supporting the wise management of forests and informing the consumer.

If you would like to get involved and support the CSE project, you can make a donation to the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation:

www.fpa2.com.

**To find out more about the CSE,
Visit <http://www.tft-forests.org>**

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