Towards SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
IN MONACO

GREEN ISN’T ONLY AT PLAY AT THE GOLF CLUB

Monaco has always been a dedicated and respected defender of causes in the fields of the environment, ocean protection and sustainable development on a worldwide scale. In this spirit, the Principality’s government, its eco-certified congress centre (Grimaldi Forum) and its entire tourism industry take increasing initiatives to foster all aspects of sustainable development.

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FOCUS
2017, the international year of sustainable tourism for development

ZOOM ON...
Standing Rock faces the black snake

IN SHORT...
Prince Albert II Foundation Ocean Week in Monaco

MONACO
Three exhibitions on the sea. The Oceanographic Institute and the Monaco Scientific Center strengthen their links. Climate change.

GRIMALDI FORUM MONACO
2017, the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development

Madrid, January 17th, 2017

During the official reception given by the King of Spain, His Majesty Felipe II, for the launch of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development
In December 2015, the General Assembly of the United Nations named 2017 the “International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development.” This year thus marks an important step for the 2030 Program and is a milestone on the way to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Monaco Tourist and Convention Authority was present in Madrid on January 18 on the occasion of the official launch of the “International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development” by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

In the presence of tourism ministers from around the world, Taleb Rifai, the Secretary-General of UNWTO, underscored the fact that tourism continued to flourish, despite the crisis: “In 2016, more than 1.2 billion people traveled around the world for tourism purposes and 6 billion have made domestic trips.”

Based on this observation, the Secretary General insisted on the need to ensure that tourism becomes more sustainable, in all its dimensions: “The growth of the sector is accompanied by a greater responsibility to promote sustainability, equity, inclusion and peace in our societies”...

For his part, His Majesty the King of Spain indicated that “the proclamation of this International Year for Sustainable Tourism for Development” has many objectives, such as the valuation of different cultures and, consequently, peace between peoples”.

The World Tourism Organization therefore asks all actors to work throughout the year around five themes:

- Inclusive and sustainable economic growth & social inclusion
- Employment and poverty reduction, as well as the rational use of resources
- Environmental protection and climate change, as well as cultural values
- Diversity, heritage and mutual understanding
- Peace and security
At a time when the whole world, under the aegis of UNWTO, the specialized United Nations agency for tourism, has chosen 2017 to highlight the efforts made by various parties in the field of responsible tourism, how has the Principality chosen to participate?

Firstly, we should reaffirm the involvement of the Principality in this movement to promote responsible tourism. Our presence in January in Madrid, at the Congress of the World Tourism Organization, which served to launch the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, aimed to position the Principality in this area, which we did not wait for the celebration of a special year to tackle. This is an area in which we feel empowered; first of all, in view of the involvement of the Sovereign Prince in all questions related to environmental protection, which is a pillar of his Reign, and whose voice carries weight on the international stage. And then, alongside the many specialized institutions here in the Principality, the Tourism and Convention Authority is proud to rely on structures that exist in-house, including a sustainable tourism unit created in 2009. Its role: to federate the tourism and hotel actors around initiatives aimed at the sustainable implementation of our business. When we see how fast our tourism establishments have accumulated green certifications and labels, I like to believe that this role of a compass has contributed to this chain reaction... With regard to the five themes around which the United Nations have called on countries to mobilize, we have clearly privileged the axis of environmental protection.

Of course, this is a broad theme... How will you define your action plan?

In addition to supporting and encouraging responsible tourism activities organized by our partners (the Prince Albert II Foundation, the Department of the Environment, the Association for the Protection of Nature, etc.) as well as by actors active in the Principality such as the EVER Fairs, SIAM and Monacology, which are actions that we promote in our So Green newsletter, we have decided to be concrete and operational in three areas directly related to our territory. First of all, accessibility for disabled people. At the end of this first quarter, we will publish a brochure on this subject which will list all accesses, equipment, and facilities made available to assist such persons to better discover the Principality as tourists. Our idea is not only to amplify the information efforts made over the past several years around urban development, but also to create a reference
document that will allow, throughout its updates, to record the positive developments in terms of accessibility, and thus encourage other actors to be present within it. And we will thus take full advantage of the new law on handicaps voted last December at the National Council.

« The Heritage Trees Tour will be extended in both Monaco Ville and Fontvieille »

Secondly, when it comes to the broad theme of environmental protection, we will strengthen the actions taken by our partners even more: with FPA2 and the Department of Urban Amenities (DUA), we will develop the Walking Tour Heritage Trees, aimed at identifying and elucidating the rare and remarkable species planted in the Principality in order to better participate in collectively raising awareness to fight against deforestation. Until now limited to Monte Carlo, this heritage trees tour will expand to Monaco-Ville and Fontvieille. Keeping with this theme of gardens, we will support and promote the participation of the DUA, which has scheduled a series of visits as a part of the Jardins de la Côte d’Azur’s Festival Off.

Finally, we will renew the “Monaco Plage Propre” operation, alongside the City Council and the SMA (Monegasque Sanitation Company). This year, we will extend the distribution of beach ashtrays to the solarium of the new embankment, and implement boat visits to the Larvotto Protected Marine Area in collaboration with the AMPN. Thirdly, we will focus on mobility, with the introduction of new systems for guided visits to the city; not only on foot, as we had already experimented last year, but also soon on electric bicycles, with the help of a new company currently being created in Monaco.

Is the Principality really relying on the development of this responsible tourism?

Generally speaking, the Principality does not neglect any segment of the tourism industry, especially since nothing is compartmentalized in our activities. To see this, you simply need to listen to, for example, the many questions asked of us by our German customers regarding green activities in the field of business tourism. One thing is certain: all of these sustainable actions carried out by Monegasque actors constitute so much added value to convince this client segment which is particularly committed to a sustainable approach, especially when it comes to choosing a tourism destination.
The first edition of Monaco Ocean Week will be held from March 30th to April 4th, 2017 and will aim to highlight the actions taken by Monaco towards the protection of the oceans.

The event will bring together key players in both Monegasque and international organizations which are mobilizing to preserve the sustainability of the oceans. Many events open to the public (symposiums, workshops, projections) will be organized to sensitize as many people as possible with regard to the problem of the protection of the oceans.

Raising public awareness, this is the objective of Monaco Ocean Week, in which politicians, decision-makers, scientists and economists will come together to debate, think and find the solutions of tomorrow in order to preserve the oceans. The actors involved in this event are, firstly, all Monegasque institutions and ocean-related players in Monaco which are involved in the protection of the oceans. Beyond the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and the government, we find, for example, of course the Oceanographic Institute, but also the Monaco Scientific Center and the Monaco Yacht Club, each respectively representing a specific section of an activity carried out on the ocean. Additional participants include international organizations or treaties concerned with the oceans and headquartered in Monaco, Monegasque associations involved in the protection of the oceans, as well as a large number of international institutions.

Today, the Principality is a platform for action, research and innovation for the protection of the oceans. The primary objective of this event is to federate the actors working towards this. Ocean Week will thus be the driving force behind this platform and will provide a means to raise public awareness with regard to the actions taken for the protection of the marine environment. In fact, all of the presentations of studies, lectures, documentary screenings and workshops will be open to the general public.

List of Monaco Ocean Week Actors

- **Monegasque Institutions concerned with the oceans:**
  - Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation
  - Government of Monaco
  - Oceanographic Institute
  - Monaco Scientific Center
  - Monaco Yacht Club

- **International organizations or treaties concerned with the oceans and headquartered in Monaco:**

- **Monegasque Association involved in the protection of the oceans:**
  - AMPN, BeMed, AMAC, Trust Fund

- **Partners and protagonists of Ocean Week:**
  - WWF, LOV, Ecomers, Tara, Surfrider, Mava, IUCN, the Students on Ice foundation, the Malpelo Foundation, MedPan, NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council), UNESCO, World Ocean Network

Inscriptions and program: monacoceanweek.org
The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation has initiated the creation of a network of actors involved in the fight against plastic pollution in the Mediterranean.

In collaboration with Surfrider, Tara Expeditions, the Mava Foundation and IUCN, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation aims to change the plastic production and consumption behavior in the Mediterranean.

Its objective is to raise awareness and mobilize civil society around on-the-ground actions and regional communication campaigns. There are positive and innovative initiatives to develop and implement technological, industrial and institutional solutions, as well as other solutions linked to the sensitization and education of the public. The objective of the call for micro-initiatives (CMI) is to financially support local, on-the-ground projects which work to reduce plastic pollution by connecting NGOs, local authorities and private actors working at the local level. 11 projects were selected at the beginning of this year from different Mediterranean countries and will be presented to the public during the Monaco Ocean Week on Thursday, March 30th in Monaco.

**Projects**

1. **Active Skiathos Against Plastic bag** (ASAP) MEDITERRANEAN SOS Network (MedSOS), Grèce
2. **Arts against Plastic. Plastije Hayır!!** EEDSK, Türkiye
3. **Blue Packaging** BELL MARINE SERVICE SOC COOP, Italie
4. **Fighting Plastic Pollution in Cyprus: The Responsible Beach Bars Initiative** AKTI Project and Research Centre, Chypre
5. **Plastic free beaches** Legambiente Onlus, Italie
6. **Promote Marine Plastic Pollution Reduction in Albanian Coast** Agricultural University of Tirana, Albanie
7. **Relieving the Northern Lebanese Mediterranean Sea coast from abandoned nylon fishnets** Lebanese Developers, Liban
8. **PlastiStop** Association Jilj pour l’Environnement Marin AJEM, Tunisie
9. **Plastics Recycling, capacity building and awareness raising** Zero waste Montenegro, Montenegro
10. **Between Adriatic and Ionian Sea** Social Education & Environment Protection, Albanie
11. **Engaging beach users and snack bars for a clean beach in Velika Plaza, Ulcinj, Montenegro – VelikaPlasticFree** Regional Development Agency - Ulcinj Business Association (RDA - UBA), Montenegro
For its 12th edition, EVER Monaco, International Forums & Conferences on renewable energies and eco-friendly vehicles, is looking forward to seeing you from April 11th to 13th.

Green lights under the Grimaldi Forum Monaco’s verriere

The highlights of the 2017 edition

Mobility

An automotive section will highlight the vehicles of today and tomorrow with, among others, eco-friendly sports cars, electric cars, hybrid and rechargeable hybrid cars, and electric utility vehicles. World-renowned vehicle and equipment manufacturers such as KIA (major partner of the show), Toyota, BMW, Honda, Volkswagen, Venturi, Goodyear and Renault have shown their confidence in EVER Monaco and will come to unveil their new creations. Other entities such as GoElectrix, EMH (European Membrane House), ABB, le Confort Electrique, Electric Marathon, Gruau Electric, Mirofret, Mobee, and the La Poste de Monaco will also be present. Clean mobility and access to the latest technologies for sustainable development are important themes for the organizers of the EVER fair.
In light of this, The Groupe La Poste, will present its mobility service innovations. The PostBus autonomous shuttle will be one of the show’s key showcases. The company specializes in urban and interurban transport at the heart of mid-sized agglomerations. It will present the flagship of its technology with a fully self-contained electric vehicle which will crisscross the streets of the Principality.

A 2-wheel section with companies such as ETricks, Clean Energy Planet, Ujet, also present motorcycles, scooters and electric bicycles as well as car-sharing services for electric bicycles, to make urban and interurban mobility accessible to everyone. The Monaco Moto Club will exhibit a wide range of electric motorcycles adapted to all tastes and needs of motorcyclists. (…)

This year, EVER will host the No Fuel company, a startup which designs, develops and markets 100% electric nautical solutions.

The Energy Section

EVER Monaco presents new technological developments in the field of housing, with companies such as KMO, which specialize in architecture and the design of clean and self-sufficient habitats to minimize the environmental impact of each building and, TOTEM with its micro-generator which produces heat and electricity all while protecting the environment. Also present are the Dalkia and Wattways by Colas companies, both involved in clean energy, as well as the historic sponsor of EVER, The Monegasque Electricity and Gas Company (SMEG), the Principality’s supplier of eco-responsible energy.

More information on www.ever-monaco.com

Ride & Drive

It is a free trial space in front of the Grimaldi Forum, allowing visitors to take the wheel or the handlebar of the latest creations of the transport industry in the field of alternative energy vehicles. Paths in the Principality are provided for this purpose.
In 2016, the Grimaldi Forum Once Again Reduced its Environmental Impact

Every first quarter is an opportunity for the Grimaldi Forum’s Green team to analyze the results recorded in its priority action areas, and thus to measure the effectiveness of the environmental management system implemented within the Principality’s Congress and Culture Center since its ISO 14001 certification in October 2008. We should recall that its efforts are focused on optimized and sustainable water management, energy control, waste sorting and recycling, an eco-responsible procurement policy, good risk management and active communication.

Water Resources

The consumption curve has marked a new inflexion by passing under the first time under the bar of 8,000m³ annually, which is 13% less than in 2015. This has had direct consequences: the Monegasque Congress Center has achieved its best ratio of consumption per visitor, namely 35 liters against 48 in 2015. These are significant results which have been achieved through increasingly fine-tuned equipment, enabling faster interventions in the case of leaks, but also through a proactive policy of investment and innovation, carried out over several years. The removal of two small outdoor water basins on the esplanade is also part of this reduction effort.

Energy

In terms of energy efficiency, 2016 will remain the year of the best ratio reached by the Grimaldi Forum (since it has become certified) between the grow power consumption and the occupancy load of the building.
This historic result offsets consumption, which has slightly increased by 3%, precisely because of the increase in activity. We should recall that the building, equipped with 20,000 data recovery points, is managed through a centralized management system allowing for an optimization of energy consumption. The move of the lamp park towards LED lighting continues, mainly with the equipment of the Ravel exhibition space: all while improving the quality of the lighting, 834 traditional lamps have been replaced by 354 LED lamps with a lifespan that is 10 times greater, thus reducing the consumption of the park by 31%, which is equivalent to a gain of 42,000 Kwh/year.

This new, more economical lighting has also been adopted in the Salle des Princes grill, the emergency staircases, the ticket office and skybox corridors. Finally, an energy performance contract was signed with SOGET, our on-site hot-cold equipment provider, which made it possible to invest in the commissioning of a latest-generation set. Ultimately, this state-of-the-art equipment should lower overall electrical consumption by 8 to 10%, which translates to savings of close to a million Kwh!

Our objective of reducing paper consumption was once again achieved. With -2.7%, the annual administrative consumption of paper remains below the threshold of 1,000 reams (A3/A4). This excellent result obtained in a context of increased activities is due notably to the introduction of new dematerialization procedures in the administrative and accounting areas, as well as in the management and follow-up of event files.

Sorting

Finally, the sorting rate, which has been falling since 2015 with the end of the building’s transformation work, has again progressed towards the goal of 50% sorted and revalued waste by 2018. The implementation of a new brown cardboard compactor, made available since the summer by the Monegasque Sanitation Company, has fully satisfied expectations. Another positive point: scrap metal recycling has seen a net increase, going from 2.9T in 2015 to 6.8T in 2016. The selective sorting of waste, which will form the new priority area this year for the Grimaldi Forum’s ISO 14001 certification, will be the subject of an awareness campaign, not only in-house, but also with outside entities, with exchanges of good practices scheduled with our tourism partners.

2016 thus had very satisfactory environmental results. However, our efforts must be constant and long-term in order to be able to move towards the road towards continuous improvement. 2017 is bound to be even more exciting, with many projects under study and a number of actions currently being implemented!
Exchanges of Good Practices

Fairmont Monte-Carlo

Experience sharing

On February 20th, the Green Unit of the Fairmont Monte-Carlo Hotel came to visit the in situ sorting center of the Grimaldi Forum in order to participate in a feedback session regarding the management of this center, the volume of waste sorted, the specific channels put in place, etc. This was an invitation at the initiative of the Grimaldi Forum’s Act Green team, which wanted to get closer to the main events and tourism actors of the Principality in order to exchange good practices implemented within the different institutions.

Monte-Carlo Bay

When sorting rhymes with solidarity

A second life for our old hostess uniforms thanks to the Monte-Carlo Bay

Following the internal wardrobe emptying session organized in February, there still remained 1,000 pieces of textile from old uniforms (jackets, t-shirts, pants, blouses, skirts) for a total of 200 kilos left on the shelves of the cloakroom reception. This was a very significant volume... and the result of our 1st full destocking since our opening! Given that the Grimaldi Forum has no textile revaluation unit, it might be expected that the only possible destination for so many old clothes was the landfill or incinerator. However, this would fail to take into account the current developments in terms of exchange of ideas and good practices between local eco-committed actors.

Thus, the Monte-Carlo Bay’s green team kindly opened to us the doors of its clothing and footwear collector on March 3rd, for a complete revaluation of the textiles deposited with the “Pacôme Recycling” association. By giving them a second life, we adopt a constructive attitude towards current environmental and economic challenges. A big thank you to all of those who have made this possible!
Each quarter the Grimaldi Forum reveals you the current sustainable news of the Principality of Monaco. 

Free subscription on simple request at lemag@grimaldiforum.mc

www.grimaldiforum.mc
At the end of the year, the MAG team had the pleasure of once again meeting with Margaret Smith, who had come from Chicago to spend a few days in the Principality. This gave us the opportunity to bring up to the author of “The Vigil” – which we presented in our Issue 11 – the difficult situation on the Indian Reservation of Standing Rock, threatened by the Dakota access Pipeline project. Alongside the Lakota, environmentalists and veterans of the American army, Margaret joined the ranks of the Water Protectors mobilized to stop the project and safeguard drinking water resources.

Although the photos that she has brought back could almost be called poetic, the fight is no less difficult on the ground, where the American army shows no hesitation to confront the militants.

An incredible situation, which almost seems plucked out of the pages of history, but which nevertheless brings us back to a difficult reality: the fragility of an environmental cause which seemed to have gained strength last year and whose defense by governments seemed beyond challenge in the face of the urgent needs of resources and nature.
It has now been almost a year since thousands of people mobilized in opposition to the “black snake”, as it is known, in northern Dakota, despite the cold of winter. But the cause justifies it: to protect both the sacred lands of this Indian Reservation, the 6th largest in the United States in terms of area, but also and above all to preserve safe drinking water resources, threatened by the layout of the pipeline, which cuts through both the Missouri River and Lake Ohae.

On December 4th of last year, the project paused, to the great relief of the Water Protectors, who saw their first victory: they hoped that the route would be modified in its last portion. But this was without counting on the change in governance of the United States, which entered into a period of climate skepticism, dangerous for environmental protection. As it turns out, one of the first actions of the new President Donald Trump will be to allow the worksite to resume its activities as soon as possible and without any change in the layout, in complete disregard of environmental risks related to the contamination of water should an incident take place somewhere along the pipeline, as happened twice in 2011 and 2015, on Montana’s Yellowstone River. With several tons of crude oil transported every day via the pipeline, we understand the worries of the Water Protectors.

Today, their mobilization shows no sign of weakening. “Fighting to protect water is fighting for life and humanity. It is showing a unified, solidary native American people, men and women mobilized with fervor to preserve their sacred lands, but above all the climate and the right to drinking water for millions of people who could be affected in the event of problems on the pipeline,” stresses Margaret Smith, a witness to the struggle and participant in raising awareness beyond American borders. At a time when adventurers, such as Solar Impulse, show by their exploits that alternative energies are efficient and can thus pave the way for a greener economy, it seems more urgent than ever before to fight against any relaxation of our efforts to argue for the interests of the planet.

A 1,900 km-long pipeline

Indeed, the black snake is planned to slither through 4 different states, from North Dakota to Illinois, via South Dakota and Iowa, transporting some 500,000 barrels of crude oil per day to the refinery, located near Patoka. Already mostly completed, the pipeline’s route is the problem for its opponents: it has not been the subject of a detailed environmental impact assessment. The project, worth some 3.7 billion dollars, is led by the Energy Transfer Partners Company, of which Donald Trump was a shareholder until he entered the White House.
#NoDAPL
The international mobilization movement united under the #NoDAPL to reject the Dakota Access Pipeline Project. Supporters have become numerous on social networks, showing real solidarity to the Standing Rock Lakota and the Water Protectors, and representing a beautiful outpouring of hope for our planet. Thanks to this movement, the site was put on hold. Let us hope that this mobilization will continue to make itself felt and testify to the world’s refusal to sacrifice life and the planet to benefit the fossil fuel industry.
I went three times in 2016 and 2017 and encountered, among the Water Protectors, the best people that I have ever been given to know. As long as we will breathe and drink water, we will need Water Protectors throughout the world. We realized that the injustices done to indigenous people here in the United States are also a threat to rights, to freedom and to the dignity of peoples around the world. Others will join our mobilization to protect the only home that we all have: the Earth. While the camps shown on the photos have since closed, the Water Protectors carry their prayers and messages across the United States. New camps have been formed close to other vulnerable waterways and the Water Protectors community remains dynamic. The movement continues.

Margaret Smith
Monaco Oceanographic Museum

3 exhibitions, 3 different looks at the Sea

Focusing on creating exhibitions mixing scientific knowledge, environmental commitment and artistic creation, the Oceanographic Museum has unveiled its program, centered on 3 exhibitions that are certain to excite both young and old.

EXHIBITION by MICHEL AUBERY
March 9th to 29th

An exhibition colored first of all with some thirty paintings by the Monegasque artist Michel Aubéry who, for his second exhibition at the Oceanographic Museum, worked on the theme of sea turtles.

A work in a unique style which sublimates turtles with the very personal imprint of the artist. Michel Aubéry has also invited the artist Matéo Mornar, who will present three sculptures.

THE RAPA NUI EXHIBITION by CHRISTIAN RAPU
April 3rd to 28th

As a part of the Large Protected Marine Areas project, supported by H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco following his meeting with the RAPA NUI community on Easter Island, the Oceanographic Museum is pleased to host 20 exceptional photographs showcasing the marine biodiversity and submarine landscapes of this region, along with drawings from Rapa Nui children and traditional costumes drawn from the sea.
MICHEL AUBÉRY

EXPOSITION
Du 9 au 29 Mars 2017

Musée océanographique de Monaco

SOUS LE HAUT PATRONAGE DE S.A.S. LE PRINCE ALBERT II
Easter Island, off the coast of Chile (Pacific Coast), is mainly famous for the monumental sculptures which surround it (the Moai). However, it is also home to a population which perpetuates a culture traditional linked to the sea, as well as a remarkable biodiversity. However, threats are facing these human and environmental heritages. This is why H.S.H. Prince Albert II, who travelled on-site in 2015, supports the Protected Marine Area project. The Oceanographic Institute's commitment to supporting this Chilean archipelago aims to promote its richness, through an exhibition bringing together 20 exceptional photographs showing exceptional scenes of marine biodiversity and submarine landscapes, as well as drawings by Rapa Nui children and traditional costumes drawn from the sea.

BORDERLINE EXHIBITION by PHILIPPE PASQUA
May 5th to September 30th

Finally, we have an exceptional and monumental exhibition: BORDERLINE, by Philippe Pasqua who, charmed by the architecture of the building and sympathetic to the commitment of the Oceanographic Museum, has designed an exhibition in its image, both sincere and multifaceted. Twelve monumental works, including seven never-before-seen pieces, will thus occupy the museum in its entirety – from the square to the panoramic terrace, and including the cliff of the Rock, below the centennial building. It is a powerful and surprising exhibition that will undoubtedly find beautiful resonance within the walls of the museum.
ALL TOGETHER AGAINST DEFORESTATION

The Grimaldi Forum Monaco and The Monaco Tourist Office become partners of the project: “Monaco Makes a Commitment Against Deforestation” waged by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation.

Join us in supporting the Fight Against Deforestation carried out by the Foundation Prince Albert II.

Prince Albert II of Monaco 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: www.tft-forests.org/cse.php
The signature of a partnership agreement between the two Monegasque entities, concluded on March 6th, cements a historical and longstanding relationship. In fact, three years ago, the Oceanographic Museum housed the Monaco Scientific Center within its premises.
Through this renewed collaboration, the two partners wish to strengthen their capacity to disseminate to the general public, decision-makers, political and economic actors, the media, as well as opinion-makers, elements of knowledge and understanding of the marine environment, in order to encourage its preservation.

“The Oceanographic Museum played, for a long time, the role of incubator for the Monaco Scientific Center. We have a real history, a true intimacy,” stated Professor Patrick Rampal, defining the relationship between the two institutions.

Time has passed and, “it is today an alliance between equals, that of world leaders in their respective domains, which we are sealing and putting to the service of the policy for the Ocean led by H.S.H. Prince Albert II,” finished Robert Calcagno.

First common action

The installation of a fluorescent coral tray in the old shark basin, which has found a second life.

Although they only make up 0.2% of the surface of the globe, corals nonetheless house 30% of all marine biodiversity. The threat which hangs over them should be taken very seriously, as many will disappear in the years to come, which is a real social and economic problem. Very sensitive to climate change, corals are now in great danger, as the increase in water temperature is fatal to them. Keeping live corals is difficult. This basin is thus a beautiful achievement that will continue to evolve with the implantation of new corals and fish in the weeks to come, for the happiness of both young and old who, we can hope, will take their preservation to heart.
Climate Change

Revealed by the Monaco Scientific Center

The Monaco Scientific Center (MSC) is the only public research organ in the Principality. Created in 1960 by Prince Rainier III, who wanted to equip his country with the means to carry out scientific research and support the work of governmental and international organizations responsible for protecting and conserving marine life, it has gradually specialized over the years. Since 1989, the MSC has become internationally recognized for its studies on the functioning of coral reef ecosystems (both tropical and Mediterranean), in relation to global climate change.

Coral being considered to be a living indicator of the state of the natural environment, this is a scientific endeavor which today has obvious environmental value. By diversifying its activities, the MSC has since expanded its approach to the polar environment, using this time penguins, which are both witnesses to and victims of global warming, as its environmental markers.

We have come far from the initial work carried out in the basement of the Oceanographic Museum on ambient and marine radioactivity; they had led Monegasque scientists to become experts on carbon-14 dating for many archaeological sites, all while keeping an eye on maintaining the Monegasque environment.

It was not until 1989 that, through the foresight of Professor François Doumenge, then the head of the Museum, that the statutes of the different missions of the Scientific Center were dissociated in order to allow it to focus on marine biology.
“Today, the MSC has the largest collection of living corals for scientific purposes, kept in a controlled environment that is studied and observed by over thirty people.”

Leaving to the future Department of the Environment of the Monegasque State the task of local environmental monitoring, the scientists of the time, who already counted among their ranks Professor Denis Allemand, today the head of the Center’s scientific direction, set their sights on coral ecosystems under the leadership of Professor Patrick Rampal. Their mission: to study the effects of climate change on coral. These have been chosen because of both their major role in the global carbon and calcium cycles on a global scale, but also because of their particular sensitivity to climate change, manifested by the bleaching phenomenon, which can form an early warning signal.

“Today, the MSC has the largest collection of living corals for scientific purposes, kept in a controlled environment that is studied and observed by over thirty people. This is a long-term work that makes us one of the most cited countries in this niche scientific field,” stated Professor Denis Allemand, praising in passing the support of the Monegasque public authorities, which endow the MSC with the financial means to function properly.

The polar environment and scientific experiments

In 2006, the MSC became involved in the polar expeditions launched by H.S.H. Prince Albert II as a part of his Foundation. Indeed, it was out of the question that the Prince would arrive empty-handed to the Poles. “This was the starting point for the creation of our Polar Biology Department. By associating ourselves with the University of Strasbourg and the CNRS, we organized an experiment by using penguins as real indicators of the state of the environment. The trick has been to replace the traditional tags affixed to the wings and which allowed us to follow the animals on the pack ice, which were a real discomfort for them when swimming, by a new RFID chip system that doesn’t require a battery,” explained the Scientific Director of the MSC.

12,000 penguins were thus “tagged” to be better studied in terms of their movements, and even monitored in their weight gains or losses. “Indeed, as we know the routes they take to the sea, we are able to install an automatic weighing system. Our analysis shows us that, because of the changes in climactic conditions, penguins have to travel increasingly far to find their food, which has consequences on both their birth and mortality rates.”

Installed since 2013 on 2,500m² spread out over 2 levels on the Quai Antoine 1er, the Scientific Center also includes a Biomedical Department which works mainly across three lines of research: new cancer therapies targeted at the cellular metabolism of cancer cells, intestinal microbiota and the development of genetic therapies to combat muscular dystrophy. In this way, the MSC’s laboratories form a crucible in which various disciplines can interact in an original way for the benefit of science.
New “Anti-Waste” Measures Implemented at the Princess Antoinette Park

Unsold food from the supermarket is the joy of the small farm’s animals... Since January, the teams of the Princess Antoinette Park, under the leadership of the City’s Animations Department, have been collecting each Monday the fruits and vegetables no longer suitable for sale at the Intermarché Express. These products allow the animals of the Park’s small farm to be fed in a more balanced way, using fresh produce as a complement to their usual feed. This initiative falls within the framework of the operation to fight food waste, led jointly by the City of Monaco and the MC2D association for the past several years.

A new vegetable crusher...
As a part of its approach for sustainable development, the City’s Animations Department has recently acquired vegetable crusher. This device was notably used to grind debris resulting from the trimming of the Park’s olive, oak and carob trees, and more often those of the fir trees that embellished the Christmas Village on the Port of Monaco during the Christmas and New Year holidays. Plant debris collected in this way are then harvested and used for the creation of the flower beds. This crusher has several advantages: it makes it possible to limit the movements of the teams from the Park to the Monegasque Sanitation Company, which located in the city, to reduce the frequency of watering of the flower beds, since the soil better keeps humidity, and to facilitate weeding and enrich the soil.

Compost collection...
As a reminder, the Princess Antoinette Park has three collection points for compost, which are accessible to individuals.
On February 6th, the members of the Monaco Humanitarian Collective (Princely Government, Associations, health Centers and Monaco Red Cross) met for their annual meeting. The Collective’s record is very positive as, since the beginning of the project in 2008, 320 children coming in majority from Africa were able to come to Monaco to receive mostly cardiac operations, not covered in their countries of origin. In 2016, 48 children received operations thanks to the Monaco Humanitarian Collective. Among the very active members of this group, we might mention the Monaco Cardio-Thoracic Center, the Princess Grace Hospital, and the Institute of Medicine and Sports Surgery, but also volunteer organisms responsible for the reception of children (Rencontres Africains, Monaco Red Cross, Chaîne de l’Espoir) and the Aviation Without Borders association, which ensures the transportation of the children.

Finally, the support of footballer Olivier Girous, ambassador of the MCH, was recalled during the meeting, mentioning in particular his involvement in the second crowdfunding campaign, which allows two children to be saved. 2017 will mark the beginning of the construction of the catheterization room in Bamako, Mali. This project of the Monaco Humanitarian Collective will enable children suffering from cardiac pathologies to be treated directly in their country.

Earth Hour: Monaco in Blackout

On March 25th at 8:30 p.m., get ready to turn off your lights and unplug your non-essential electrical appliances for 1 hour to participate in Earth Hour! In 2016, some 178 countries participated in this initiative of the WWF to raise awareness and reduce electricity consumption, thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions and fighting against global warming.

Solar Impulse: the Film

Organized on Monday, February 13th by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and the Princely Government, the screening of the film “Solar Impulse, the Impossible World Tour” brought together some 1,000 guests at the Rainier III Auditorium. In the presence of H.S.H. the Sovereign Prince, the two founders and pilots of the solar plane, Bertrand Piccard and André Borschberg, spoke of their exploit at the end of their evening: travelling 43,000km across five continents and two oceans using only the energy of the sun on board of Solar Impulse 2.
Act Green! A sustainable vision for Events

As the Principality of Monaco's congress and cultural centre, the Grimaldi Forum is now committed to running its events in a more environmentally responsible way and since it holds ISO 14001: 2004 certification it has naturally introduced an environmental management system that fulfils the demands of this international standard. Henceforth clients and visitors are actively encouraged to adopt the Grimaldi Forum’s Act Green environmental policy that includes sorting waste, using recycled paper, buying ecocertified products, recycling carpeting and signage banners, using energy-saving lighting, a reforestation operation, an on-site awareness campaign and an ecoresponsibility charter.

To discover our GREEN EVENT offer contact us: actgreen@grimaldiforum.mc

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