

BIOGRAPHIES



H.S.H. Prince Albert II, Sovereign Prince of Monaco

H.S.H. Prince Albert II studied political science, economics, psychology, English literature, the history of art, anthropology, geology, philosophy, sociology, German and music at Amherst College, Massachusetts, in the United States. For His contribution and actions in favor of protection of the environment and the Planet, H.S.H. Prince Albert has been honored by numerous prizes from organizations around the world and awarded the degree of Doctor Honoris Causa from prestigious universities. He received those honors as well when He was Crown Prince, and now Head of State and President of His Foundation.

H.S.H. Prince Albert II visited the North Pole by dog sled from the Russian base of Barneo 140 km away. This journey was the opportunity for him to pay tribute to his great-great grandfather, Prince Albert I of Monaco, a pioneer of modern oceanography, one of the founders of IUGG and the first IUGG Vice President. In 1906, Prince Albert I set out to Spitsbergen, in the archipelago of Svalbard, the most successful of his four Arctic exploration campaigns. The trip also helped to raise the world's awareness of the planetary challenges, which, in the short term, represent risks related to climate change and the dangers of industrial pollution. H.S.H. Prince Albert II took a month-long expedition to Antarctica, where He visited 26 scientific outposts and met with climate-change experts to learn more about the impact of global warming on the continent. During the trip He stopped at the South Pole, making him the only incumbent head of state to have visited North and South Poles.

Created at the beginning of the century on the initiative of Prince Albert I, the Mediterranean Science Commission (CIESM) is an intergovernmental body with 23 member states chaired by H.S.H. Prince Albert II. Its objectives are to promote multilateral international research and facilitate the exchange of information the countries on the north and south sides of the Mediterranean Sea.

H.S.H. Prince Albert II served as the International Patron of the "Year of the Dolphin" declared by the United Nations and the United Nations Environmental Programme in 2007. He said then: "The Year of the Dolphin gives me the opportunity to renew my firm commitment towards protecting marine biodiversity. With this strong initiative we can make a difference to save these fascinating marine mammals from the brink of extinction."

H.S.H. Prince Albert II set up in 2006 the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation dedicated to protecting the environment. It encourages sustainable and fair management of natural resources and places man at the center of its projects. It supports the implementation of innovative and ethical solutions in three broad areas: climate change, water and biodiversity.

(Photo credit: Gaetan Luci / Palais Princier)