

*Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation's Award Ceremony - Monaco, 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013*  
*Address of H.S.H. the Prince*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends,

"The tree is time" says Francis Hallé in the film we are about to see. In this short phrase, I see more than a symbol, a superb synopsis of all our commitment to the environment.

Because the environment is also time.

It is the short time representing the urgency that we face day by day. The few minutes of time that suffice to either fell a tree or, on the contrary, to save it. The time representing an unfolding disaster and its victims who suffer.

But it is also a long time, a very long time. It is the time a tree takes to grow and the painstaking efforts required to protect it, month after month, year after year... It is the time of a world whose workings need to be redefined based on more responsible, more sustainable and fairer principles.

Commitment to the environment lies between these two timeframes.

We need to respond to the urgency, but we also need to look further ahead. We need to try not only to bridge the gaps, but to understand the slow mechanisms of nature and respect its rhythm and thus avoid repeating the mistakes of the present.

This is precisely what the three award winners do, whom we will be honouring in a few moments. All, I believe, are driven by the same goal - to act both for our era and for those that follow it.

Before presenting them with my Foundation's annual awards, I would like to thank all of you for agreeing to take your time, which I know is precious, to join us today and, more broadly speaking, for your commitment alongside us for the past seven years.

I also wish to thank all our Foundation's sponsors, who make its action possible despite the challenges of our time.

I would like to thank all our partners, scientific institutions and local players, thanks to whom we accomplish our field work of which I am so proud and which I truly believe is of benefit to our planet, to those of us who live here and to those who will live here tomorrow.

And finally I would like to thank all the Foundation's teams, here in Monaco and in its foreign branches, who help us to realise our ambitions on an everyday basis, and who together with me, strive to respond to emergencies and anticipate the long term...

To save the Polar Bear threatened by global warming, while working on energy efficiency solutions that will help us mitigate it; to work for the protection of the basking shark, while supporting research on the plankton ecosystems or by advocating the creation of marine protected areas; to promote local water resource management of the Niger, while taking part in international conferences on the topic... it is by associating the issues and action mechanisms, the scale and time, that we have chosen to progress.

This is the very purpose of this Foundation: to be present in a flexible and pro-active manner wherever necessary, to mobilise good will, to unite talent, to adapt to the constraints of the world and to the needs of our time.

Such a wide scope of action may sometimes seem at odds with the habits of specialisation and efficiency that characterise the modern-day. However I believe that it is necessary, undoubtedly in this sector more than in any other.

Unless we try to intervene at both ends of the chain, we will lose sight of the main characteristic of the battle in which we are engaged: to be guided by a global vision and to feed on local initiatives, to combine great collective ambition with profound individual modesty.

I am delighted to see this individual modesty coupled with true collective ambition in all three of this year's winners.

In Doctor Jane Lubchenco of course, to whom we are presenting today our 2013 Award for the fight against climate change.

Doctor Lubchenco appears to have lived several lives and pursued several careers, so many are her achievements. She has had a distinguished scientific career, which, from zoology and marine biology led her to taking an interest in climate change.

She has also worked on numerous environmental projects, having instigated several initiatives aimed at promoting interaction between scientists, politicians, the media, industry and the general public.

And finally, she herself was a key player in environmental stewardship throughout her administrative and political career which led her to being placed at the head of the *National*

*Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration* of the United States of America, appointed by President Obama.

The same wealth is found in the activities conducted by the *Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research*, to whom I am delighted to present today our 2013 Award for the protection of biodiversity.

This remarkable institution, which plays a key role in the advancement of knowledge and the conservation of the Antarctic, is resolutely situated at the intersection of two ambitions.

Firstly, a scientific ambition, as it brings together researchers from various disciplines working on the Antarctic, whose initiatives it encourages and coordinates.

However SCAR also pursues political goals, by raising public awareness and by providing independent scientific assessments which are crucial to policy-makers. This key role is moreover found in the large number of operational instruments emanating from the Antarctic Treaty that have been implemented thanks to SCAR.

Last but not least, I wish to pay tribute to Professor John Anthony Allan, who, throughout his career, has pursued goals that are both theoretical and practical.

Working on water-related issues in the Middle East, Professor Allan developed what is currently one of the key tools to the understanding of the complex logics that determine its use: virtual water.

Through this concept, which enables us to determine the amount of water necessary to produce all consumer goods, John Anthony Allan opened up new perspectives in the management of water stocks and their trade, in particular in regions suffering from a shortage, such as the Middle East.

This research work has therefore had a profound concrete impact, leading the author to earning the prestigious Stockholm Water Prize. I am extremely proud to present him today with my Foundation's 2013 Award for the preservation and management of water resources.

Each in their own field, these three award-winners exemplify perfectly the two-fold requirement of thought and action that spurs us, as I mentioned just a moment ago, and as summarised by the philosopher Henri Bergson when he uttered his famous words: "Think like a man of action, act like a man of thought"!

Like our three awardees, I believe that our objective should always be to act locally while thinking globally and to act globally while thinking locally.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends,

Let me conclude by thanking Luc Jacquet and the teams of the Wild Touch Association who have offered us the opportunity this evening of attending the exceptional screening of the film "Il était une forêt".

I wish to express my gratitude to them, but also my admiration for the excellent work they have carried out in producing this film and, beyond this, in championing the cause of the endangered forests.

I know that their efforts will not stop here and that this will lead to a myriad of innovative forms using various media which, I hope, will result in this film gaining all the attention it deserves.

I would also like to thank Luc Jacquet in particular for all his work, a fantastic lobbying effort for environmental protection. I hope - and I know - that he will continue in this vein with other films which I am already looking forward to seeing!

And of course I wish to thank Francis Hallé, whose work and philosophy are, for me, a rich source of inspiration. Francis Hallé is among those who, thanks to their action, of course, but also their gestures, expressions and words, give a spirit to the environment.

By drawing attention to certain trees and certain plants, by teaching us to look at them, to understand them - I would almost say: to hear them, I think that he offers us above all true spiritual enrichment.

Thank you.