

*Camp Monaco Prize Ceremony -  
Cody, Wyoming, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2013  
Address of H.S.H. the Prince*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you how much I am touched by your welcome during this trip, which for me, is focused not only of course on environmental protection, but also on emotion.

As you know, I have come here one hundred years after my great-great-grandfather, Prince Albert I, who was a pioneer in many fields, in particular in what was not yet known at the time as ecology, but quite simply knowledge and preservation of nature.

Prince Albert I was among the first to understand the need, for human beings, to live in harmony with their environment.

He was also among the first to realise the significance of using scientific research to understand and preserve nature.

Finally, he was among the first to recognise the importance of sharing such knowledge with as many people as possible, so that everyone would be able to understand his/her role in this grand collective plan - saving the Planet.

However, another legacy particularly touches me today, one hundred years after my great-great-grandfather's voyage: the interest he showed at a very early stage in your vast and beautiful country, the wonderful welcome he received and the ties he created between the Principality of Monaco and the United States of America.

As you are aware, the contacts formed at the time between our two countries were strengthened even further by deeper affections: those created by blood ties and descendants.

As the son of an American who became a Princess of Monaco, I cannot help but see a sign of destiny in these repeated, confident and productive exchanges that unite our two countries, for which Prince Albert I paved the way a hundred years ago, and for which my visit today is a new incarnation.

All this explains why I am particularly pleased to be among you this evening to present the Camp Monaco Prize.

This prize, which my Foundation co-funded with the *Buffalo Bill Historical Center's Draper Museum of Natural History* and the *University of Wyoming's Biodiversity Institute*, in my view, is consistent with a major requirement: environmental protection.

This great cause is one of the key challenges of this century, since it affects all the conditions of our life on Earth. That is why we need to get as many people, as much talent and as many resources as possible, involved in this cause.

This is the purpose of this prize, which is aimed at promoting exchange between politicians, scientists and the general public on projects combining ecology, economy and culture.

As such it is entirely in line with the efforts made by my great-great-grandfather...

That is why this evening I am proud to honour a project which lies at the convergence of all these dimensions and deals with issues that are essential for the preservation of biodiversity.

The project that Dr Arthur Middleton and Mr Joe Riis are conducting on "Rediscovering the Elk Migrations of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem: A project of transboundary science and outreach" is based on the observation and understanding of this emblematic species, the elk, in order to draw concrete recommendations in terms of the behaviour of these migratory animals. Above all, by offering an observation mechanism on the internet, a documentary and an iconographic collection, this project is geared towards the widest audience.

We know that this is one of the keys for effective environmental action. At a time when nature preservation requires ever-increasing courageous, binding and costly solutions, we all need to understand the logic and accept the pertinence.

Without this, without the commitment of each one of us, for the sake the planet we share, we will not be able to accomplish the huge task that is so necessary today.

Therefore I am delighted to pay tribute to you this evening, Dear Arthur Middleton, Dear Joe Riis, for your work which I believe to be so important.

I hope that the Camp Monaco Prize will enable you to excel very widely and above all I hope that it will enable you to continue your exciting research.

Thank you.