

**Message of support from H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco  
at the Rhino Conservation Awards**

As I was unable to attend the Rhino Conservation Awards ceremony this year, when you celebrate its tenth anniversary I was keen to express my support, loyalty and admiration to you. And above all I was keen to extend my deepest gratitude once again to all the rangers.

It is customary to speak of environmental and biodiversity preservation as a fight. But rare are those who truly fight, with all the courage, determination, danger and sometimes pain this involves. The rangers who have decided to protect the rhino, some of them making the ultimate sacrifice, are fighters to whom we owe so much.

That is why their action should be encouraged and celebrated beyond any borders.

This is a fight for biodiversity, of course, and for the conservation of a species unlike any other. However, it is also a fight against fatalism which so often gets a hold on us, when we see the immense damage, sometimes irreversible, inflicted by humanity upon nature.

Thanks to the fight fought by the rangers, and thanks to the victories to which it leads, we know that it is possible to do something, to reverse the tragic spiral of destruction of our Planet, of its species and of its ecosystems. There is reason for hope.

Far beyond these South African lands to which I am so closely connected, rhino conservation resonates as a source of hope which inspires us all and encourages us all to take action, each in our own way, each with our own weapons, each in our own field.

Therefore I would like to extend my warmest thanks to all of those who, thanks to their courage and their determination, allow us to keep our faith and optimism – for the rhino as well as for all the species ill-treated by humanity and which we have a duty today to save.

