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Agenda Item 3: Work plan of the MCSD Steering Committee and report on work carried out

Agenda Item 4: Progress and next steps for MSSD implementation

Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award: Nomination and selection process

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2016

Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award

Nomination and selection process

Introduction

Through the Istanbul Declaration adopted at COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, recognizing the importance of coastal cities and communities as key actors for the implementation of the MAP/Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and relevant Strategies and Action Plans and resolved to engage with them, established the Environment Friendly City Award to be conferred to coastal cities by setting out nomination and selection principles and criteria for such award.

Through Decision IG.22/19 adopted at COP 19 (Athens, Greece, February 2016), the Contracting Parties decided to establish the Environment Friendly City Award to be conferred to Mediterranean coastal cities, and name it the “Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award”. The Annex of Decision IG.22/19 contains the main elements of the Award, based on the outcome of a dedicated workshop held in Ankara, Turkey, on 25-26 May 2015.

The following text further elaborates on the process of nomination and selection of the award, while the Application Form (Appendix of the present document) is based on the annotations to the proposed categories listed in the Annex of Decision IG.22/19.

For the purpose of finalizing the nomination and selection process and criteria, a Task Force was created, composed of representatives from the RACs and MED POL, led by the Coordinating Unit. As the launching of the Award is a complex undertaking and the timeline for preparing and granting the first edition of the Award is very tight, the first edition of the Award will be a pilot one, i.e. based on the experience and the lessons learnt from this first edition the relevant process and criteria may be revised as appropriate for future editions.

Relevance, definition and main elements

While anthropogenic pressures on the coastal zones of the Mediterranean Sea are continuously increasing, coastal cities and communities are key actors for the implementation of the MAP/Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and relevant Strategies and Action Plans. There is a close link between the environmental condition of coastal urban areas and specific Protocols, especially the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean and the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities.

Furthermore, the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD 2016-2025) - adopted at COP 19 (Athens, Greece, February 2016), as a strategic guiding document for all stakeholders and partners to translate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the regional, sub-regional and national levels (Decision IG.22/2) - includes “Planning and managing sustainable Mediterranean cities” as one of its six objectives, while the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award is specifically mentioned as a flagship initiative under Objective 3/Strategic direction 3.1 of the Strategy. Relevant priorities are also contained within the Sustainable Consumption and Production Action Plan (Decision IG.22/5) adopted at COP 19 (Athens, Greece, February 2016), and especially under its priority area “Housing and construction”, as well as within the Action Plan for the Implementation of the ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean (Decision IG.20/2) adopted at COP 17 (Paris, France, February 2012).

A sustainable coastal city is: *“A coastal city in harmony with the sea, utilizing its resources efficiently, equitably and sustainably, reducing its impact on marine and coastal environment and climate*

change, and managing the environment for the benefit of current and future generations". Therefore, an environment friendly city is a coastal city in which people enjoy a high quality of life and where sustainable development takes place within the carrying capacity of healthy ecosystems.

The Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award aims to recognize and reward the efforts of local authorities to improve the environment and the quality of life and promote sustainable development in Mediterranean coastal towns and cities. Such an award will encourage local authorities to move towards a more environment friendly future and enable them to act as a role-model to inspire other towns and cities.

Applications should be submitted by the local authority of a Mediterranean coastal town or city of a Contracting Party of the Barcelona Convention. There is no size or population reference, i.e. both small towns or metropolitan cities are eligible to apply. It is encouraged to develop partnerships with NGOs, scientific community, private sector or other stakeholders for the submission.

The application should be signed by the mayor or his representative (an alternative option could be not to provide a signature on the form, but to accompany the filled form with a mayoral declaration).

The evaluation will be undertaken through the criteria/annotations proposed in the Annex of Decision IG.22/19, defined under four main categories:

- i. Nature and Biodiversity Protection
- ii. Built Environment
- iii. Social, Economic and Cultural Sustainability
- iv. Governance

For this purpose an application form has been developed, as in Appendix of the present document. The application has two main parts. The first part is comprised by open questions, in order for the local authorities to introduce their case. The second part consists of specific questions/criteria based on the four main categories noted above and the annotations listed under each of these categories in the Annex of Decision IG.22/19.

In addition to the proposed criteria, the historical perspective of the candidate city will also be considered. The improvements observed in the city are very important regarding the city's efforts towards sustainability, the progress achieved as compared with its past, as well as the city's efforts and perspectives for further future improvement. Improvement achieved will be a benchmark criterion.

Regarding the evaluation methodology, a number of alternatives can be considered: Either equal weight could be granted to each of the four main categories or the weight can vary for each category based on the number of criteria listed under it (see Appendix). Furthermore, the evaluation of the historical perspective and progress of each candidate city could be either incorporated under each of the four main categories or granted a separate weight in the evaluation. Based on the Bureau's guidance on this issue during its 83rd Meeting, the Task Force and/or the Technical Committee described at the following section of this document, will derive the exact weight of the evaluation criteria before the call for the Award is launched.

Nomination and selection process

After the second meeting of the Bureau of each biennium the submission of applications will be opened and Mediterranean coastal cities will be invited to apply. The Bureau will decide on the exact timeline of applications for each biennium. The submission of applications will be done through the UNEP/MAP website.

The call for submissions will be launched by a news brief and will be distributed to all Contracting Parties through a letter signed by the President of the Bureau and the Coordinator of UNEP/MAP. It will also be advertised via online communication tools, such as social media, MAP and Components'

websites and email networks, including through the MAP and RACs Focal Points, MCSD members and MAP Partners. The Task Force will develop a communications / dissemination plan for the award, indicating main target groups, messages to be delivered, communications tools to be used; the logo and the slogan accompanying the award will be part of this plan.

Past winners may not apply for a period of 5 biennia (ten years) after they held the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award.

Local authorities will be invited to submit their applications in English. The application form, prepared on the basis of the criteria presented in the Annex of Decision IG.22/19 as further elaborated by the Task Force, is attached as Appendix to this document. Questions are allowed before submission. A helpdesk will be established by the Secretariat when the call of submissions is launched and questions by possible candidate cities will be answered by that helpdesk.

The selection is proposed to be carried out in three steps, with the involvement of the following three bodies:

- i. Secretariat: UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit
- ii. Technical Committee: The Task Force composed of representatives from the RACs and MED POL, led by the Coordinating Unit, supported by 3 independent eminent experts.
The experts will be selected by the MCSD Steering Committee (based on alternative proposals by the Secretariat) and should have different backgrounds and experience, relevant to the scope of the award and the four main categories of evaluation criteria noted above.
- iii. Jury: The Bureau members and the President of the MCSD Steering Committee

First step: With the end of the submission deadline, an initial screening will be conducted by the Secretariat to ensure that the candidate cities fulfill the eligibility criteria and that the submission forms are correctly filled. The Secretariat will then forward the files of the candidate cities to the Technical Committee.

Second step: The Technical Committee will prepare an evaluation report and nominate up to three (3) candidate cities for the Award. The Committee will bring these nominations to the last Bureau meeting of each biennium for approval.

Third step: The short-listed cities will be subject to an electronic public voting that will provide a final ranking. Based on this ranking, the jury will select the winning city through electronic means. Every effort should be made to take a decision by consensus. If no consensus can be reached, 5/7 majority should be applied. In the case of more than one winner, geographical balance should be ensured.

The Award will be conferred during the next COP meeting by the President of the Bureau and the Coordinator of UNEP/MAP.

The Award will consist of an honorary board (plaquette / commemorative object) and the permission to use the logo of the Award by the winning city/town. Media coverage and visibility will also bring added value.

Proposed indicative budget (for the biennium)

Graphic identity/slogan & promotion/dissemination actions of award scheme	10,000 EUR
Award (plaquette / commemorative object / ceremony costs)	6,000 EUR
<i>Travel & Accommodation costs:</i>	
Costs for Technical Committee meeting (incl. three experts)	11,000 EUR

Presence of MCSD President in jury meeting	1,000 EUR
Possible site visits to applicant cities	6,000 EUR
Cost of participation of the Mayor or representative in the Award ceremony	1,000 EUR
Helpdesk/Electronic voting	9,000 EUR
TOTAL	44,000 EUR

Appendix

Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award
Application Form

Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award

Application Form (2nd draft)

City Introduction and Context

City:

Country:

Date of submission:

Competent authority:

Contact person (Name, Last name, position,
email, telephone, postal address):

Overview of the application: motivation and vision for the future (maximum 1 page).

Describe the main environmental problems faced by the city due to geographical, social and economic factors and what actions have been taken to face them (maximum 1 page).

Progress achieved in the city during the last 5-10 years in relation to environmental protection and sustainable development (please describe briefly the key achievements, in maximum ½ page).

Has an environmental award or other related distinction been received in the past (maximum ½ page)?

Please, complete:

Indicator	Value	Year of data
Population (Inhabitants)		
Total area (Km ²)		
Distance from the coast (Km)		
Population density (Inh./km ²)		
Coastline length (m)		
GDP (€/Capita)		

You are kindly requested to answer the following questions, which are separated in four main categories. If your answer is “Yes” or “In process”, please fill the relevant tables to justify your answer according to the given indicators. Please try to respond to most questions. Provide a short description of measures, projects, initiatives and achievements, focusing on the last 5 years. Where appropriate, please provide available evidence of the measures taken (e.g. Environmental certificates).

i. Nature and Biodiversity Protection

- Has your city taken climate change related measures?
 - Yes
 - No
 - In process

Indicator	Evidence of the measures/progress achieved in the last 5years
Mitigation: Showing GHG reduction efforts (e.g. GHG emissions in tons per capita in 2005 & in 2015)	
Adaptation: Demonstrating enhanced or maintained resilience of natural systems (key habitats and species / carbon sinks) against climate change impacts	
Adaptation: Improved urban resilience to natural and human induced risks based on prevention, preparedness and response (in particular against sea level rise)	

- Has your city taken measures for marine and coastal ecosystem protection?
 - Yes
 - No
 - In process

Indicator	Evidence of the measures/progress achieved in the last 5 years
Protecting coastal and marine ecosystems	
Contributing to the establishment and the management of protected areas (of international / regional labels)	
Preserving natural coastline	
Progress to reach the Good Environmental Status related to biodiversity (6-year cycle)	

- Is your city making wise/efficient/sustainable use of natural resources?
 - Yes
 - No
 - In process

Indicator	Evidence of the measures/progress achieved in the last 5 years
Efficiency in water use (e.g. leakage as % of water supply, annual water exploitation, rate of reused water)	
Sustainable use of land-based resources (sand, gravel, etc.)	
Sustainable use of marine and coastal resources	
The city's footprint remaining within a given range that is meaningful in the context of the Mediterranean region	

ii. Built environment

- Does your city have resilient coastal infrastructure?
 - Yes
 - No
 - In process

Indicator	Evidence of the measures/progress achieved in the last 5 years
Existence of flood management and coastal protection measures (soft and/or hard infrastructure)	
Defined set-back line for protecting against future sea level rise and preserving free access to the coast	

- Does your city proceed to a sustainable land use?
 - Yes
 - No
 - In process

Indicator	Evidence of the measures/progress achieved in the last 5 years
Promoting green urban areas (e.g. m ² per number of inhabitants)	
Limiting coastal urban sprawl	
Free access of public to the shore/beaches	
Mixed use neighborhoods	
Demonstration of easy access to basic services	
Barrier-free urban design for disabled groups	

- Is the city's local transport plan friendly to the environment?
 - Yes
 - No
 - In process

Indicator	Evidence of the measures/progress achieved in the last 5 years
Promoting walking, cycling and public transport	
Promoting car-free settlements	
Limitations and management of access of private cars to the city	

- Is your city taking measures related to the pollution and waste?
 - Yes
 - No
 - In process

Indicator	Evidence of the measures/progress achieved in the last 5 years
Air quality within allowed standards (including progress made)	
Bathing water quality within allowed standards	
Waste water management and treatment infrastructure available and functioning (e.g. % of the city population served by waste water collection, % of primary, secondary and tertiary treatment)	
Light intensity within allowed standards (including the marine and coastal areas) & measures to reduce the ecological impacts of artificial light	
Measures to reduce noise level in city, including the marine areas	
Describe the solid waste management infrastructure available and functioning	

Types of waste treatment techniques used with relevant % (as well as % of city population with regular solid waste collection)

Existence of open dump sites

Waste segregation put into place

3Rs (Reduce-Reuse-Recycle) (including % of the city's solid waste that is recycled & % of organic waste composted)

Marine litter removal/clean up

- Is your city's water system sustainable?

Yes

No

In process

Indicator

Evidence of the measures/progress achieved in the last 5 years

Availability and affordability of water for human use (e.g. % of population with potable water supply service)

Efficient and sustainable water demand management (e.g. % of city population benefiting from rain water collectors)

- Does your city promote energy efficiency?

Yes

No

In process

Indicator

Evidence of the measures/progress achieved in the last 5 years

Promoting/demonstration of energy conservation in buildings

Production and use of renewable energy (e.g. % of total energy derived from renewable sources, as a share of the city's total energy consumption)

- Does your city promote green settlements, building materials and technological systems?
 - Yes
 - No
 - In process

Indicator	Evidence of the measures/progress achieved in the last 5 years
Promotion of local and recycled materials	
Focusing on reuse of brownfields for urban transformation	
Amount (m ²) of green areas per population (e.g. urban public open space per capita)	
Construction of green buildings or retrofitting of existing buildings	
Budget allocation for retrofitting of historical building	

iii. Social, Economic and Cultural Sustainability

- Does your city promote integration and solidarity for its citizens?
 - Yes
 - No
 - In process

Indicator	Evidence of the measures/progress achieved in the last 5 years
Upgrading slums/informal/illegal settlements	
Promoting mixed income neighborhoods	
Building child-friendly settlements (e.g. Child-friendly city recognitions)	

- Does your city promote and ensure the sustainability of local cultural values and traditions?
 - Yes
 - No
 - In process

Indicator	Evidence of the measures/progress achieved in the last 5 years
Efforts/budget allocation for renovation/retrofitting/rehabilitation of historical buildings and settlements (e.g. projects of rehabilitation of historic centers)	
Promotion of Ecotourism and Hospitality	

- Does your city promote green economy?
 - Yes
 - No
 - In process

Indicator	Evidence of the measures/progress achieved in the last 5 years
Sustainable consumption and production	
Eco-innovation, sustainable employment and green jobs	
Promoting local market, short channels, and the circular economy principles	
Promoting women entrepreneurship	
Promoting territorial synergies (connections with neighboring settlements and hinterland)	

iv. Policy and Governance

- Has your city developed policies for environment and sustainable development?
 - Yes
 - No
 - In process

Indicator	Evidence of the measures/progress achieved in the last 5 years
Existence (with allocated budget) of environmental policy, strategies and action plans for sustainability	
Existence (with allocated budget) of resilience policy (natural disasters)	
Existence (with allocated budget) of climate change mitigation and adaptation strategy	

- Do the city's authorities promote environmental planning and management?
 - Yes
 - No
 - In process

Indicator	Evidence of the measures/progress achieved in the last 5 years
Urban planning	
ICZM (national or local) existence and implementation (with budget allocation)	
Promoting strategies for sustainable mobility (with budget allocation) (e.g. integrated public transport systems; promotion of public transport, bicycles)	
Pollution prevention action plans for water, waste, air, noise (with budget allocation)	

- Are there appropriate institutional measures in place?

Yes

No

In process

Indicator	Evidence of the measures/progress achieved in the last 5 years
Accountable and transparent local government	
Partnerships with NGOs and other stakeholders	
Participation in decision-making (empowered society)	
Capacity enhancing	

- Does your city promote and support implementation and monitoring?

Yes

No

In process

Indicator	Evidence of the measures/progress achieved in the last 5 years
Existence of standards, rules and regulations for developers/investors	
ICZM implementation practices	
Demonstration/achievements of green public buildings, green transport systems, etc.	
Definition and adoption of a monitoring system (e.g. dashboard of sustainability, urban observatory of the environment and sustainable development)	
Sustainable finance (fees, taxes, etc.)	
Green procurement	

Sustainable municipal finance (percentage devoted to environmental management)

- Is communication and outreach promoted?
 - Yes
 - No
 - In process

Indicator	Evidence of the measures/progress achieved in the last 5 years
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Public awareness on sustainability/environment (with budget allocation)

Education and training programs/activities (on environment and sustainability) targeting adults and children (with budget allocation/person assigned)

International cooperation and networks