



Mediterranean Action Plan Coordinating Unit
Barcelona Convention Secretariat



United Nations
Environment Programme

15 May 2017

Subject: Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award

Dear MAP Focal Point,

The 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols adopted decision IG 22/19: “to establish the Environment Friendly City Award to be conferred to Mediterranean Coastal cities, and name it the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award”.

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.

Our Mediterranean sea is our common cultural and natural heritage, a defining element of our identity. 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. It aims to encourage them to move towards a more environment friendly future and enable them to act as a role-model to inspire other towns and cities. The Award is also a tool to raise the awareness of the general public regarding the quality of environment and the importance of urban issues for sustainable development.

The first edition of the Award will be a pilot one. With the present letter, we are seeking your kind contribution to encourage your cities to apply to the Award and become role models, inspiring others on the same virtuous path. Both small towns and metropolitan cities are eligible to apply and it is highly recommended to develop partnerships with NGOs, scientific community, private sector or other stakeholders for the submission.

We attach to our letter a description of the process for applying to the Award. The Award will be conferred at the next meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in December 2017 (COP20). The call for application will be open from 15 May to 15 June 2017.



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We count on your crucial support to the success of this initiative of the Parties.

Please accept our distinguished regards,

President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties
to the Barcelona Convention

Christina Baritaki

UN Environment/MAP Coordinator

Gaetano Leone