



**EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION**  
**LANDSCAPE AWARD OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

*6<sup>th</sup> Session – 2018-2019*

**APPLICATION FORM**

## **Presentation**

*The European Landscape Convention aims to promote the protection, management and planning of landscapes and to bring together European co-operation in this field. It is the first international treaty exclusively devoted to all dimensions of European landscape. Taking into account the landscape, natural and cultural values of the territory, it contributes to promoting the quality of life and well-being of Europeans.*

*The Resolution on the Rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 February 2008 at the 1018<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Ministers' Deputies, draws attention to the fact that Article 11 of the Convention institutes the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe and that it is in keeping with the work carried out by the Council of Europe concerning human rights, democracy and sustainable development. It effectively promotes the territorial dimension of human rights and democracy by acknowledging the importance of measures taken to improve the landscape for people's living conditions.*

*Opened to the Parties to the Convention, the Award is intended to raise civil society's awareness of the value of landscapes, of their role and of changes to them. Its objective is to reward exemplary practical initiatives aimed at successful landscape quality objectives on the territories of the Parties to the Convention. The Award is conferred every two years and the files presenting applications must reach the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe.*

*At its meeting held in Strasbourg on 28-29 April 2008, the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP) decided that applications should be submitted to the Council of Europe Secretariat through the Permanent Representations of the Parties to the Convention.*

*We would be very grateful if you could send no later than **30 January 2019** the following elements of the candidature file (20 pages maximum) established for your country on the basis of the proposals forwarded to you by the Ministries:*

- by E-mail, the Application form completed to: [maguelonne.dejeant-pons@coe.int](mailto:maguelonne.dejeant-pons@coe.int); [susan.moller@coe.int](mailto:susan.moller@coe.int);*
- by post, a copy of the Application form completed together with a CD-Rom, DVD or USB key, containing the all the additional material to: Maguelonne Déjeant-Pons, Executive Secretary of the European Landscape Convention, Council of Europe, Agora (A4-15V), F- 67075 STRASBOURG Cedex.*

\*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Please note that:*

- participation to the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe is only open to local and regional authorities and their groupings and non-governmental organisations, as stated in the Resolution CM/Res (2008)3, Appendix, Article 2;*
- the application form must be completed in all its parts, in one of the two official languages of the Council of Europe (English or French);*
- the materials submitted must be copyright-free, for use by the Council of Europe in communications aimed at promoting the Award or any other publications or activities relating to the Convention. The Council of Europe undertakes to cite the authors' names;*
- files that are incomplete or fail to comply with the rules will not be taken into consideration.*

*For further information please visit the Landscape Award section of the Council of Europe website: [www.coe.int/EuropeanLandscapeConvention](http://www.coe.int/EuropeanLandscapeConvention)*

\*

## I. STATE CONCERNED AND APPLICANT

<b>1. State</b>	Finland
<b>Represented by</b>	Mr Tapio Heikkilä
<i>Address:</i>	Ministry of the Environment Department of the Nature Environment P.O. Box 35 FI-00023 Government FINLAND
<i>Telephone:</i>	+358 295 250 166
<i>E-mail:</i>	tapio.heikkila@ym.fi
<b>2. Applicant</b>	City of Kotka
<i>Name of the local, regional authority(ies) or NGO(s)</i>	
<b>Represented by</b>	Mr Markku Hannonen
<i>Address:</i>	City of Kotka PO Box 205 48101 Kotka FINLAND
<i>Telephone:</i>	+358 40 076 0284
<i>E-mail:</i>	markku.hannonen@kotka.fi

## II. PRESENTATION OF THE PROJÉT

### 3. Name of the Project

Establishment of the Kotka National Urban Park

### 4. Location of the Project

City of Kotka

### 5. Summary of the Project (10-12 lines)

The Kotka National Urban Park is a combination of parks, built quarters, sea areas of the Gulf of Finland and shores of the Kymijoki river the size of 2675 hectares. It connects the most significant sites in the city of Kotka to make a uniform network, which is easy to walk both in terms of time and landscape. The Kotka National Urban Park also connects the city to the surrounding nature by way of ecological corridors. The National Urban Park (NUP) is a comprehensive entity of natural and cultural landscapes and recreational areas, whose preservation the city will be committed to when the NUP is established. The status of National Urban Parks is specified in the Land Use and Building Act. The city of Kotka applied for the establishment of the park, and the decision was made by the Ministry of the Environment in 2014. First and foremost, National Urban Park is a tool for the sustainable design of land use. The Finnish National Urban Park concept was awarded by the European Garden Heritage Network (EGHN) with the European Garden Award in 2014 in the large concept bracket.

### 6. Photo representing the Project (high definition – JPEG 350 dpi) and name of the author of the photo please



Photo: Patricia Broas

### 7. Website of the Project (if exists)

<https://arcg.is/L1Sva>  
<http://www.iesite.fi/kotkankaupunkipuisto/>

### III. CONTENT OF THE PROJECT

8. **Start of the Project** month  year   
*The project must have been completed at least three years previously*

9. **Partners**
- |  |
|--|
| City of Kotka (city planning, parks and grounds department, environmental services, technical services, communications, Kymenlaakso museum), Ministry of the Environment |
|--|

10. **Financing bodies**
- |  |
|--|
| City of Kotka, Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Southeast Finland, Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland, The Finnish Heritage Agency |
|--|

#### 11. **Central aims of the Project**

The central objectives in establishing the Kotka National Urban Park and the work leading up to it have been to:

- 1) ensure that the urban space, cultural and natural heritage and special ecological values are preserved as a coherent entity, and to protect, manage and enrich the landscape
- 2) implement a city planning tool that supports the design and sustainable development of the urban landscape in the long term
- 3) ensure nature's diversity and create ecological corridors that connect the green areas in the city with surrounding nature
- 4) continue to shape the image of the once polluted, industrial city to become a healthy, beautiful and comfortable seaside city of parks
- 5) create the prerequisites to experience the story of the city's natural and cultural history genuinely in a living, physical landscape
- 6) highlight special values among the city structure
- 7) increase awareness of landscapes and the way they change, as well as spike the residents' interest in their everyday landscape and the effect it has on their identity and well-being
- 8) establish the rich cultural and natural heritage in Kotka as a tangible identity factor in the city, generate an everyday environment with experiences in it, inspiring a love for

the city in the hearts of the residents of Kotka

- 9) develop the National Urban Park into an attraction factor for both local residents and visitors from Finland and abroad

## 12. Outcome

The project has exceeded its goals successfully. The research aimed at establishing the Kotka National Urban Park was started in 2004, and in 2012, the municipal executive decided to apply for the status of NUP. The Ministry of the Environment awarded the status to Kotka National Urban Park in 2014.

Key results:

- 1) The Kotka National Urban Park contains 2 675 hectares of sea areas in the eastern part of the Gulf of Finland, parks in the city centre and built quarters, as well as shores of the Kymijoki river, whose preservation as a coherent entity was secured by establishing the NUP in Kotka. The City of Kotka is committed to preserving the cultural and natural landscape, special historical characteristics and other special values of the area.
- 2) The National Urban Park is utilised as a tool for urban landscape planning. It can be used to develop the city as a comprehensive entity, while observing ecological aspects, culture, landscape, functionality and the vitality of the city. The management and utilisation of the urban environment is controlled through a management and utilisation plan drafted together by the City and the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Southeast Finland, who in turn have cooperated with the parties most affected by the plans.
- 3) The Kotka National Urban Park forms a unified and coherent entity in terms of landscape and function, and it also acts as a blue-green corridor securing natural diversity between various districts, nearby nature environments and two national parks.
- 4) Kotka had already previously changed its image from an industrial town to a sea-side city filled with parks through persevering work, and the establishment of the National Urban Park has only worked to strengthen this image in the eyes of residents and tourists alike.
- 5) The Kotka National Urban Park is a story of a fort and border town born for the utilisation of the fruits of the Baltic Sea and the Kymijoki river, which has later grown to become a versatile sea-side town of green parks, celebrating the diversity of nature in the archipelago and developing sustainably. It is easy to walk around in the

Kotka NUP, both in terms of time and landscape.

- 6) The Kotka National Urban Park is a collection of the highlights of Kotka; combining parks, water bodies, nature and architectural gems. Four information boards have been erected in the National Urban Park. Each of them offers information on the NUP in three languages. The National Urban Park also features 20 rock columns informing the visitor that they are in a NUP. These columns are designed to elevate the status of the landscape in the eyes and mind of the visitor. The NUP in Kotka and the award-winning parks at its core have warranted interest both nationally and internationally.
- 7) The Kotka National Urban Park, and the related preparation process, has been communicated widely and covered in numerous newspaper articles, radio interviews and TV inserts, which has, for its part, increased the residents' awareness of and knowledge about their everyday surroundings and landscape. The mere plans for establishing a National Urban Park garnered plenty of interest among the residents, and they participated actively in the process by sending in letters to the editor, for example, and thus, involved themselves in the implementation of landscape policy.
- 8) The residents have truly adopted the Kotka National Urban Park as their shared living room. It attracts residents of all ages to participate in events, just hang out and enjoy the outdoors throughout the year. The pleasant recreational areas, parks and the connecting light traffic routes of the National Urban Park make spending time outdoors easy and enable hiking in surroundings that inspire experiences, increasing the health and well-being of the residents. Light traffic routes have been developed as part of the NUP, and they offer a coherent and safe access route running all the way from the city centre to the fringes of the city, making it easy for everyone to access nature.
- 9) The Kotka National Urban Park and the versatile park at its core are an attraction factor in Kotka, both as a city to live in and visit. The Kotka National Urban Park attracts people from a far, increasingly even from abroad. Kotka is seen as an attractive, vibrant city with an excellent living environment.
- 10) The Kotka National Urban Park has also been used as an outdoor classroom, and this use will probably increase in the future. In general, the Kotka NUP is a favourite with the children, and the versatile cultural and natural heritage of the National Urban Park, complete with information boards, offers excellent opportunities for environmental education. The Finnish fish aquarium Maretarium is also located in the NUP area. Maretarium offers the opportunity to learn more about the underwater landscape and environment.
- 11) Other locations are also interested in the good practices implemented in Kotka, which Kotka is more than willing to share. Park planning and implementation is a popular theme among visitors from near and far.
- 12) The determined development of parks has also yielded measurable results. A long-term, annual survey on municipal engineering services by the Finnish Consulting Group places Kotka at the top in terms of the quality of parks in the city centre. The most recent figures from 2018 even show Kotka making even clearer headway than

before. 99% of respondents said that the quality of parks in the centre of Kotka is good, whereas the same figure for runner-up cities is 90%.



## IV. RESPECT OF THE CRITERIA OF THE ATTRIBUTION OF THE AWARD

### 13. Sustainable territorial development

*Is the project part of a sustainable development policy?*

*Does it contribute to the enhancement of environmental, social, economic, cultural or aesthetic values of the landscape? How?*

*Has it successfully countered or posed a remedy to any pre-existing environmental damage or urban blight? How?*

The establishment of the Kotka National Urban Park, and the measures that enabled it, are in keeping with sustainable development policies and they have been implemented in harmony with the regional organisation.

The Kotka National Urban Park was established in an urban environment in accordance with the criteria specified in the Land Use and Building Act. Entities formed by green areas and historical environments of national importance in terms of natural and cultural heritage have been preserved in the environment, and the city intends to sustain their preservation through responsible town planning. The Kotka National Urban Park was established to preserve the coherent entity of the cultural and natural landscape, historical special characteristics as well as special values concerned with the townscape and social, recreational and other values. The development of the Kotka NUP is persistent work, in which the area is developed slowly but surely in accordance with plans. Primarily, areas owned by the municipality, the state or other public entities are designated as National Urban Park areas. Other areas may be designated as NUP areas with permission from the land owner.

The Ministry of the Environment has specified four criteria that must be fulfilled in order for the area to be eligible for the status of National Urban Park. In keeping with the criteria:

1) National Urban Parks must contain important nature areas in terms of the preservation of diverse urban nature, significant cultural environments, along with buildings, in terms of national history or the city's own developmental stages, as well as significant parks or green areas in terms of park architecture or aesthetics.

2) National Urban Parks must be sufficiently large and undisturbed as green and park areas, as well as so coherent in their blue-green structure that they can be used as corridors from one district to another.

3) Ecological corridors must form in the area, and the area must connect seamlessly with the natural environment or the rural areas surrounding the city.

4) The National Urban Park must be an essential part of urban structure, i.e. it must start in the city centre or its immediate vicinity.

The criteria support sustainable development and bear a practical significance to landscape management, protection and planning.

The measures aimed at establishing the Kotka National Urban Park have promoted environmental, social, economic, cultural and aesthetic sustainability in an exemplary manner. These measures have been effective in combating and repairing the damage caused to structures in the landscape. The measures already completed and planned for the future work enrich the landscape and develop its new features.

The establishing of the Kotka National Urban Park has promoted environmental, social, economic, cultural and aesthetic sustainability in the following ways:

**Environmental sustainability:**

The National Urban Park includes valuable river, archipelago, forest and rock nature, and the area is ecologically versatile, and it also includes nature reserves and NATURA 2000 areas. The blue-green structure made up of versatile green areas and sea and river areas connects the urban structure to the surrounding nature. The Kotka National Urban Park acts as an ecological blue-green corridor between city districts and other national parks in the area. The Kotka NUP also offers a habitat for the many endangered species living in the park area.

Formerly weak, polluted areas in Kotka have been cleaned and improved through the construction of the Kotka National Urban Park. Sapokka Water Garden, Katariina Seaside Park and Riverside Park are shining examples of this. Biodiversity has been supported in park construction by establishing a wetland in the middle of the lawn in Katariina Seaside Park, for example. A large section of the 20-hectare Katariina Seaside Park is left to nature's devices in terms of plant selection. Indeed, the park is home to versatile plant species, including endangered species.

A new fish passage was built along the ten-metre tall Korkeakoski hydro-electric power plant dam in 2016 for the migratory fish to climb the dam and for the purposes of monitoring the climb.

Thanks to its information boards, the Kotka National Urban Park offers good opportunities for environmental education. The Finnish fish aquarium Maretarium, located in the area, offers visitors the chance to take a peek at the underwater landscape and nature, and it is very popular with families with children and as a field trip destination.

The Kotka NUP is an interesting domestic tourist attraction, which means that it supports ecological local and domestic tourism.

**Cultural sustainability:**

The Kotka National Urban Park defines the cultural, historical, ecological and aesthetic values that we want to preserve for future generations. The NUP weaves the highlights of urban life, culture and nature together and emphasises local cultural history, helping us understand our roots better for an improved present. The network comprising of the Kotka National Urban Park and all of the nine National Urban Parks in Finland helps tell the local story and the story of Finland through changes in livelihoods, cultural challenges and natural and park environments. The role of Kotka in the network of National Urban Parks is to highlight and preserve the versatile historical, cultural and industrial heritage in the area and its effect on the Finnish landscape and environment. The area includes significant industrial and natural landscapes, as well as architectural monuments that tell the story of the design ideals and usage needs of different time periods from sizable fortifications and imperial fishing lodges from the times of the Russian emperor to modernism perfected by master architect Alvar Aalto.

Underwater culture and natural heritage are also a part of the Kotka National Urban Park. As a result of battles between Russia and Sweden in the late 1700s, a unique burial ground of wrecks lies in the Svensksund area just outside Kotka, which is a very popular diving

destination. The Finnish Heritage Agency has included the Svensksund wreck area in the list of significant underwater cultural heritage sites. Cannons and parts of wrecks lifted from Svensksund over the years are also on display on dry land in the Kotka National Urban Park.

**Economic sustainability:**

The urban park strengthens the image of Kotka as a city of parks, the sea and the river, offering things to see and do for visitors, a good living environment for its residents and a quality operating environment for companies, which adds to the attractiveness of the area and increases tourism. As a large and attractive area, the NUP extends the time visitors stay in Kotka, which benefits service providers and the regional economy. Thanks to the NUP, completely novel business operations are created, as the demand for various additional services increases. The Kotka National Urban Park is already connected to many types of business operations, such as tourism, accommodation, catering and services offering experiences. The demand for these services is expected to grow going forward. Event organising companies organise canoeing on rapids and diving and boat trips to the National Urban Park, and the Kotka NUP even has its own Prosecco, imported by a local entrepreneur.

Kotka has focused on developing its central parks for more than 30 years. Most of the funds for the maintenance and modernisation work in the National Urban Park come from the budget of the City. Roughly 70% of the annual investment and maintenance resources of the City's parks and grounds department are allocated within the borders of the NUP. One of the focus areas of the coming years will be the development of the network of paths and bicycle routes.

The Kotka National Urban Park is also a testament to the fact that, by recycling materials and adopting a natural method of building, the cost of construction does not have to be high. Nature has been given the power to decide which plants the park will incorporate in the 20-hectare Katariina Seaside park, for example.

**Social sustainability:**

The Kotka National Urban Park offers plenty of opportunities for exercise and experiences in nature, which are both proven to promote well-being and health. The NUP is easily accessible and can be used by anyone 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. The Kotka NUP starts in the heart of the city and spreads out into residential areas like a net covering a large area, which means that the urban park is easy to access. It invites people of all ages to participate in events and hobbies or just to hang out, meet people and enjoy outdoor life throughout the year. The measures aimed at establishing the National Urban Park have increased the value of the area as a recreational area and the pleasantness of the area as a residential area, which benefits visitors to and residents of the area and promotes social sustainability.

**Aesthetic sustainability:**

The establishment of the Kotka National Urban Park, and the measures that enabled it, have increased the aesthetic value of the area significantly. A network of renovated historical parks and versatile new parks is at the core of the Kotka NUP. The Kotka National Urban Park also includes beautiful forest, river, sea and archipelago areas. The preservation of their unique characteristics has been secured by the status of the NUP. Forest management is employed to care for the forests in the Kotka National Urban Park.

The measures that enabled the establishment of the Kotka NUP have also worked to repair and abate the damage caused to the landscape, as well as enrich the landscape. The centrally located Katariinanniemi cape area, for example, was closed to residents for decades because it was used as an oil harbour. When the operations of the oil harbour were discontinued, the area was cleaned and the 20-hectare Katariina Seaside Park was constructed on the cape. It now forms an aesthetically pleasing everyday environment that offers experiences, much like the rest of the National Urban Park area in Kotka. Some of the tank structures were left intact in the park as a reminder of the history of Katariina Seaside park and to create layers in the landscape.

#### **14. Exemplary value**

*Can the project be considered of exemplary value? Why?  
Which are the good practices that it implemented?*

The operational principles and measures that have lead up to the status of the Kotka National Urban Park may serve as an example to others in terms of abiding by good practices. Receiving the status of National Urban Park was the result of long-term, determined development of the urban environment and was considered to be a sort of milestone or reward. The most important benefit that the establishment of the NUP has for Kotka is the way in which it guides the city into the future and encourages it to continue development in the long term.

Once construction no longer threatens the landscape, it can be developed and managed patiently, purposefully and cost-efficiently in an exemplary manner, while benefitting all parties; the City, the residents and the entrepreneurs. In connection with being awarded the status of National Urban Park, the City committed to preserving nationally valuable landscapes and to develop them as semi-public spaces in its land use decisions. The residents now have a pleasant environment in which to experience things and go about their everyday life, the city has become more attractive and the demand for services offered by entrepreneurs has increased. There are also new opportunities for new businesses and new types of business operations in the area.

Operating principles and measures to serve as an example to others with regard to observing good practices:

- 1) The Kotka National Urban Park was born out of the City's own will and as a result of the City's own processes. The City created the prerequisites for the National Urban Park and proposed the establishment of the NUP to the Ministry of the Environment. The City of Kotka wanted to commit to preserving and maintaining the special value of the area. Preserving and strengthening the unique characteristics of the City helps the City to succeed in the competition for residents, jobs and visitors.
- 2) The project was prepared in cooperation with various administrative branches,

operators, residents and parties that own land or buildings in the urban park area. The realisation of the urban park required a democratic, coherent view on the matter and commitment to the project.

- 3) The Ministry of the Environment consulted, supported and offered information to the City in the preparatory and application phases. The preparation and decision-making process of the project showed that successful cooperation between municipal and state operators strengthens and promotes sustainable urban planning and construction.
- 4) The management and utilisation of the Kotka National Urban Park is controlled through a management and utilisation plan drafted together by the City and the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Southeast Finland, who, in turn, have cooperated with the parties most affected by the plans. The plan describes the long-term measures and operations that ensure the preservation and strengthening of the special values that served as the grounds for establishing the National Urban Park as the area is being purposefully developed. The plan addresses issues such as management efforts in the area and specifies the necessary renovation and repair sites, as well as schedules management and maintenance work. The management and utilisation plan draft for the Kotka National Urban Park was placed on display and opened to comments prior to being approved.
- 5) An uninterrupted series of aesthetically attractive new and historical parks containing multiple species has been created in the area of the Kotka National Urban Park. It forms the green and vibrant core of the urban park. Park development has brought about a versatile and interesting environment for everyday operations, and the City's image has been transformed from a polluted industrial town to a city of beautiful, national award-winning parks and pleasant living environments.
- 6) When the Kotka National Urban Park was established, the City wanted to incorporate many kinds of different landscapes, because underwater landscapes, nature and cultural heritage also have their place in the Kotka NUP. One of the most important areas containing underwater ancient monuments in Finland is located right outside Kotka. It is also a part of the NUP.
- 7) First and foremost, the establishment of the urban park in Kotka has been an implementation of a tool for urban planning. It can be used to develop the city as a comprehensive entity while observing ecological aspects, culture, landscape, functionality and the vitality of the city.
- 8) The establishment of the Kotka National Urban Park and the planning of its management and use have involved close cooperation with various operators. Agreeing on shared goals in advance helps to allocate resources correctly and promote the progress of the project. The preparatory process for the establishment of the NUP has been seen as an improvement in terms of cooperation, including within the City's own organisation.
- 9) Good planning enables improved quality in environmental construction, which in turn enables efficient and productive maintenance. For example, the Katariina Seaside Park, located in the Kotka National Urban Park, is living proof that by recycling materials and adopting a natural method of building, the cost of construction does not have to be high.
- 10) The most significant new parks in the area have been built on polluted land, which has been cleaned carefully first in accordance with the park plans. However, urban areas do not need to be completely maintained by people: in the Katariina Seaside Park, nature has been given the power to select plants for large areas of the park, which makes maintenance of the large park substantially cheaper. The Katariina



Seaside Park is also home to endangered species, which in itself is a sign of how successful the efforts to preserve biodiversity have been.

11) The Kotka National Urban Park is open to all, all of the time and all year. The Kotka NUP is easily accessible, because it starts in the heart of the city. The vast recreational area of the Katariina Seaside Park, for example, has a very central location in the City. The number of visitors to the Katariina Seaside Park amounted to approximately 200 000 in 2018. Anyone visiting the National Urban Park area will benefit from the measures directed at landscape management in National Urban Parks, and the further development of the NUP will improve the green connections through the City for residents.

The new possibilities National Urban Park concept offers for landscape management are important also in terms on awareness-raising. Europe's first national city park Nationalstadspark was established in Stockholm, Sweden in 1995. The idea was adopted to Finland and remodelled to suit better the national needs. Finnish National Urban Park concept was taken as part of the Land Use and Building Act in 1999. Since then nine National Urban Parks have been established in Finland of which Kotka NUP is the most diverse in terms of natural and cultural landscapes. Kotka National Urban Park serves as an international example of good practices about protecting diverse natural and cultural values in urban landscape while also increasing residents' well-being.

## 15. Public participation

*Does the project actively encourage the public's participation in the decision-making process? How?*

*Is the project in line with the wider policies implemented by national, regional or local authorities?*

Residents were encouraged to participate in the decision-making process already in the phase of determining the prerequisites for establishing the Kotka National Urban Park. Residents and land-owners were informed of the process in various public events. Numerous 'Löydä luonto läheltäsi' (Find the nature near you) nature discovery tours were also organised in the area. A separate press conference was organised for the media already in the early stages of the preparatory work, and local newspapers and local radio participated in communicating about the project and its significance to land-owners and other residents of Kotka several times throughout the process. The progress of the project, as well as the initial report on the establishment, have been on display to the general public on the City's website throughout the process. Residents provided feedback through official channels, as well as by writing opinion pieces in the newspapers. The subject was also brought up in the City's internal communication channels to map opinions. The application for the establishment of the Kotka National Urban Park was prepared in cooperation with residents and those who own buildings or land in the park area.

Participation has also been encouraged after the NUP was established. The management and utilisation of the Kotka National Urban Park is controlled through a management and utilisation plan drafted by the City and the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Southeast Finland in cooperation with the parties most affected by the plans. The management and utilisation plan draft was placed on display and opened to comments prior to being approved.

The Kotka National Urban Park has been implemented in keeping with the landscape

policies of the national, regional and local authorities, such as the European Landscape Convention, the Finnish Land Use and Building Act, Finnish environmental legislation, the Finnish Cultural Environment Strategy and the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Finland.

The establishment of the Kotka National Urban Park has actively supported the objectives of legislation and strategies. The Kotka NUP was established in compliance with the Finnish Land Use and Building Act in order to preserve and maintain the beauty, biodiversity and other special values of the cultural and natural landscape in the area. In addition to this, one of the measures described in the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Finland is the completion of the network of National Urban Parks in Finland. The Kotka NUP also supports the objectives of the European Commission Sea Basin Strategy in its efforts to promote tourism and preserve, manage and secure cultural heritage, strengthen the cultural identity of the area and promote public awareness of and interest in the shared cultural heritage in the area.

#### **16. Awareness-raising**

*Is the project effectively increasing public awareness of the importance of landscape in terms of human development, consolidation of European identity, or individual and collective well-being? How?*

The Kotka National Urban Park highlights local cultural history and helps people understand the roots that affect the present better. Through cultural history, the Kotka NUP promotes understanding of the effects that landscape has on local and European identity. Factories, industrial plants and the sea have been an important part of the development of Kotka, and they are a visible part of the landscape in the National Urban Park.

The planning and development work of the Kotka National Urban Park included highlighting the special value of the NUP for the residents. The work aimed at establishing the Kotka National Urban Park and the establishment of the NUP has, indeed, increased the awareness of the value, importance and change of the local landscapes in the eyes of those operating in the area.

The establishment of the National Urban Park and the measures leading up to it have been extensively covered in newspaper articles, radio interviews and TV inserts. The NUP has also been the subject of several negotiations with those responsible for tourism marketing.

Guided tours for residents of Kotka were organised on the official opening day of the Kotka National Urban Park, in addition to other events. Information and discussion events have been organised for interest groups and entrepreneurs. Information on the NUP has been provided in connection with the Kotka-päivä (Kotka day) event on the market square. The NUP has also been incorporated into education at the Karhula comprehensive school in Kotka. The pupils at the school completed assignments on National Urban Park, which are on display in Maritime centre Vellamo.

In 2016, a brochure on the Kotka National Urban Park was produced and distributed to all households in Kotka. An online, interactive version of the brochure has been published on

the website of the City of Kotka, much like the report on determining the prerequisites for establishing the Kotka National Urban Park.

Information boards and rock columns have been erected in the Kotka National Urban Park, stating that the area is part of the NUP. These columns are a popular subject for photographers as they provide the location information in the image itself. Visitors to the NUP, locals and tourists alike, share their experiences and images on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and blogs.

The Kotka National Urban Park area has been utilised for educational purposes as an outdoor classroom, which is only right as it contains very versatile natural and cultural heritage. This type of utilisation is likely to increase in the future. The Finnish fish aquarium Maretarium also operates in the NUP area. There, people of all ages can learn more about underwater landscapes and nature.

The communications of the Kotka National Urban Park are being developed, and a map application on the National Urban Park has been introduced as a new tool, providing the opportunity to learn more about the NUP through text and images describing the sites (in Finnish). <https://arcg.is/L1Sva>

Interaction is also continued going forward. Information on the draft for the management and utilisation plan has been provided on notices and letters, and a public event has also been organised.

## V. ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

**Together with the printed version of the Application form, additional material in digital format should be included in one CD-Rom, DVD or USB key, and returned by post or courier to:**

*Maguelonne Déjeant-Pons*

*Executive Secretary of the European Landscape Convention*

*Head of Division, Agora (A4-15V), Council of Europe*

*F-67075 STRASBOURG, Cedex*

*Tel: +33 (0) 3 88 41 23 98*

*E-mail: [maguelonne.dejeant-pons@coe.int](mailto:maguelonne.dejeant-pons@coe.int)*

- Text (20 pages max.): *PDF format*

- Photos (10 max.): *JPEG 350 dpi high definition*

- Posters (2 max.): *PDF format high definition or JPEG 350 dpi high definition*

- Video (15 min max.): *mpeg 2 format - It is recommended to present a video (even of amateur quality).*

\*