

Protecting nature by darkening the skies

Birds and other animals can be disturbed by excessive light, but in Luxembourg's Natura 2000 nature parks action is being taken. Thanks to input from Hungary, Luxembourg's park management plans are now addressing light pollution.



Images © Night Light

The project **'Improving regional policies to reduce light pollution and protect and valorise dark night skies' (Night Light)** brings together nine partners from eight countries. Their goal is to limit the loss of natural darkness as this has a negative impact on biodiversity and the environment. The partners also see the protection of dark skies in their regions as an opportunity for sustainable economic development and eco-tourism.

The Our Nature Park joined the project to improve the climate, nature and landscape policy guidance followed by Luxembourg's municipalities. Their main goal was to reduce the negative effects of artificial light in the park and other protected nature areas in the country.

The Park invited the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructures and the Nature and Forestry Administration to project meetings to participate in identifying solutions to light pollution. Ideas from a peer review of the local situation by the project partners, as well as a good practice from Hungary, led the Ministry to integrate light pollution as a parameter in the national Natura 2000 management plan. From 2018, the authorisation procedure for future construction projects in the Natura 2000 areas in Luxembourg has to include an impact study on light pollution.

The Ministry also developed a national guide on the management of light pollution and adapted the Climate Pact, a national programme for climate and nature protection.

