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Department for Devesa-Albufera

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### TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE LIGHTING

Light pollution poses environmental problems caused by an inadequate use of lighting and lighting devices. A LIFE-ENVIRONMENT project co-funded by the European Union and Valencia Council, ECOLIGHT aims to prevent light pollution by reorganising street lighting in the Albufera Natural Park in Valencia.

ECOLIGHT will replace existing devices by more efficient streetlights in the municipal district and housing areas, regulating light levels in areas of high conservation value.



### MORE EFFICIENT AND LESS POLLUTING

Sometimes, lighting devices require too much energy, which does not mean they are necessarily efficient. Besides leading to a costly electricity bill, they also contaminate, as the production of the energy needed releases polluting gases into the atmosphere.

In addition, some bulbs contain heavy metals which can be harmful to both people and the environment.

The new streetlight network will reduce the bill by 25 - 30%. CO2 emissions into the atmosphere will also drop considerably (e.g. if each household in Europe replaced three standard bulbs by three low energy consumption ones, the yearly emission of 7 million tons CO2 would be avoided).



### MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

Some bulb types, like mercury vapour ones, produce a type of light that alters the life cycles of both plants and animals. Part of the energy used by these bulbs is not really useful for lighting: we do not see it but it disturbs night fauna.

Similarly, some streetlamps project their light upwards due to an inadequate design. This is clearly a waste of energy and prevents half of Europe -including Spain- from seeing the Milky Way.

Numerous animal and vegetal species will benefit from the new project, as most living beings in Devesa and Albufera are active at night and need such conditions to eat, reproduce and basically to live.



### MORE IN LINE WITH PEOPLE'S NEEDS

For the development of ECOLIGHT people's involvement is fundamental. Any doubt, suggestion, or query will be addressed so that the project can better meet the needs of citizens.

To that end, the project includes an extensive campaign aimed at disseminating and explaining the project in community meetings, associations, and in any interested collective. For more information, log on to ([www.ecollum.org](http://www.ecollum.org)).



### PROJECT AREA COVERS MORE THAN 5,000 HECTARES

- ★ Schedule of works: December 2003 - December 2006
- ★ Total budget: 2.433.746 €
- ★ Contribution by Valencia Council: 1.858.010 € (76%)
- ★ European Union contribution: 575.736 € (24%)
- ★ Infrastructure investment: 1.846.958 € (68% from total budget)
- ★ Campaign investment: 384.233 € (20% from total budget)
- ★ Project area: Valencia municipal district in Albufera Natural Park (5.738 ha. approx.)

