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Light pollution: a unified global solution is needed for a global environmental problem

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Light pollution from artificial light poses a global environmental crisis, comparable in severity to global warming by greenhouse gases, to plastics in the oceans and to industrial air pollution in many of the world's megacities. However, the dangers of light pollution are far less widely recognised, even though it is adversely impacting human health and the environment right now, as well as astronomical science.

A unified global solution is needed to address an urgent global environmental problem. There are many international agencies and organisations that can help tackle light pollution, and some are doing so already. But several more need to be lobbied. These include UNOOSA, COPUOS, IDA and IUCN (all of which are already engaged) and also WHO, ISC (the International Science Council), UNESCO and the OECD Environment Directorate. In addition, national academies of science in leading countries should be lobbied to approach their national governments.

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