

# *The Rewards and Challenges of Protecting International Dark Sky Places*

John C. Barentine  
IDSP Program Manager  
31 May 2015

North Fork Park IDSP, USA (Photo: Casey Grimley)





# *What the Astronomer Learned About Resource Management and Land Use Policy*

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# International Dark Sky Places



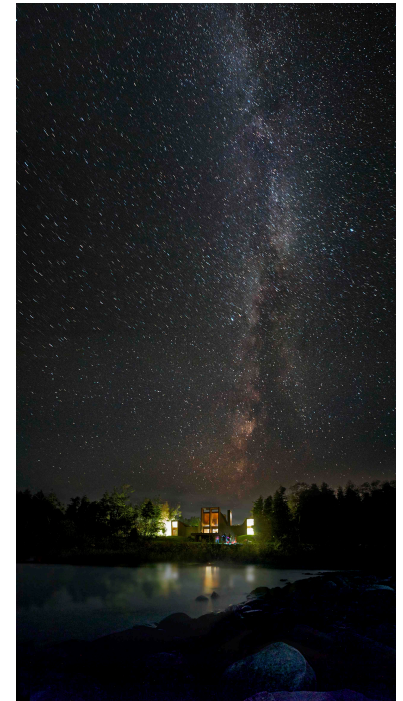
Nationalpark  
Eifel



Naturpark  
Westhavelland



- 23 Parks, 9 Reserves and 10 Communities in 9 countries
- Coming soon: Urban Star Parks and “Dark Sky Sanctuaries”





# What Defines A Dark Sky Place?



## Commitment to:

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- Sustainable good lighting practices
- Neighborly engagement
- Education and public outreach



# What Do Dark Sky Places Do?

- Leverage broad community support for dark skies
- Lead by example
- Show what's possible



Cawfields, Northumberland IDSP, England

# How Is Dark Sky Place Status Awarded?

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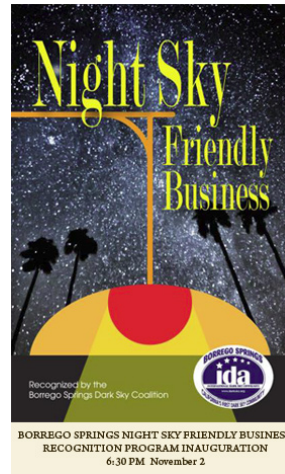
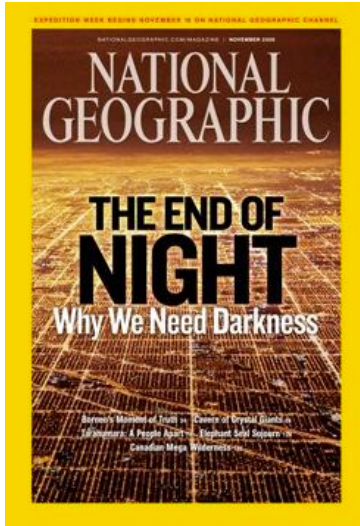
- Address outstanding local lighting issues
- Develop an outreach program
- Make a formal written application
- Peer review





# How Do Participating Sites Benefit?

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- Positive public image
- Enhanced visibility
- Tourism/investment
- Quality of life

# Dark Sky Park a star turn as tourism stays in the black

Tourism businesses have seen an increase in visitors during the off-season since the the UK's first and only Dark Sky Park was awarded its exclusive status.

Galloway Forest Park became Galloway Forest Dark Sky Park in November 2009, the International Year of Astronomy.

It involved every light bulb in the area being changed to downward-facing "dark-sky" bulbs, to stop light pollution.

Forty-seven residents living within the confines of the park also agreed to change their own bulbs in support of the bid.

The pitch-black sky makes it an ideal spot for stargazers to view the Milky Way and Andromeda

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## Case Study: Galloway Forest Park

*"The Dark Sky Park  
Economic Impact  
Assessment, carried out by  
ekos for FCS, said £40,584  
has been returned in  
'additional expenditure' as  
a result of an increase in  
visitors, meaning for  
every £1 spent, there has  
been a return on  
investment of £1.93."*

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# Challenge 1:

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What is a  
“dark sky”?

Death Valley IDSP, USA (Photo: John Locher)

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# Challenge 2:

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## How to keep Dark Sky Places dark?

Hovenweep IDSP, USA (Photo: Jacob W. Frank)

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# Challenge 3:

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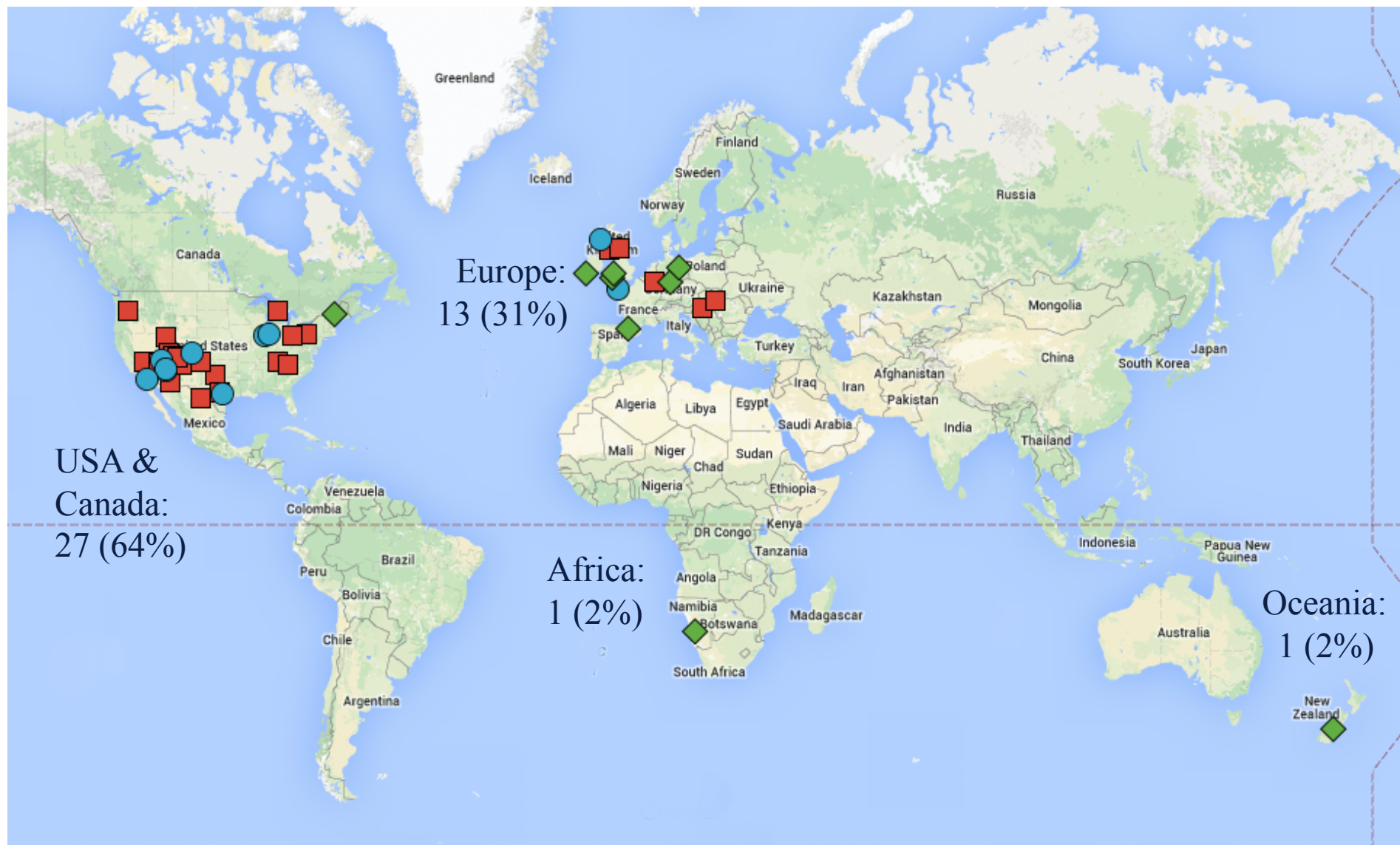
How to show that Dark Sky  
Places are for everyone?



Kielder Water, Northumberland IDSP, England

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# Challenge 4:

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Can Dark Sky Places  
become *too* popular?

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# The Future of International Dark Sky Places



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