

FM2: An International Dark Sky Place in Uruguay: The First Steps

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We presented the latest advances towards the goal of certifying the first international dark sky place in Uruguay. The chosen region is located in the province of Rocha, characterized by natural areas rich in biodiversity and skies with very low light pollution, where we have measured an averaged sky background brightness of around 21.7 magnitudes per square arc second. Together with a group of tourism entrepreneurs, university colleagues, teachers and other groups interested in the preservation of the night sky and the development of astronomical tourism, we have presented a project to the departmental authorities to regulate public lighting, present or future, in addition to monitor the brightness of the sky as part of a scientific project of the CURE astronomical observatory located in Rocha. We continue to raise awareness of the importance of avoiding or mitigating light pollution and teacher training courses in astronomical tourism. Our actions are not limited to this province, but we are extending them to the entire national territory through agreements with other institutions or collaborations with interested groups.