

Application for Designation as  
International Dark Sky Reserve

# Rhön UNESCO Biosphere Reserve



Biosphärenreservat  
Rhön



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## Asteroid (5689) Rhön

is an asteroid in the main belt that was discovered at Tautenburg Observatory on 1991-09-09 by *Freimut Börngen* and *Lutz D. Schmadel*.

“Named for the range of young volcanic mountains that lie across Bavaria, Hesse and Thüringia. Name proposed by the first discoverer, who considers this region to be one of the most beautiful in Germany.” (Minor Planet Circular 22831)

*Dr. Freimut Börngen* worked as an astronomer at the Tautenburg observatory near Jena in Thüringia.

Another asteroid was named after the highest mountain which is famous for gliding: (10242) Wasserkuppe

Fig. 1: *Sabine Frank* demonstrates the uselessness of ground recessed spotlights.

This study has been prepared by *Sabine Frank* and *Andreas Hänel* with the help of *Martin Kremer* and many others. Pictures, if not otherwise credited, by *A. Hänel*

## 2 Summary

The Rhön Biosphere Reserve is situated in the center of Germany and stretches over the border triangle of three German federal states Bayern (Bavaria), Hessen (Hesse) and Thüringen (Thuringia). As there are no large cities in the vicinity, it offers relatively dark skies, despite its comparatively dense population (even more than the nature park Westhavelland) with 88 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup> compared to other already recognized International Dark Sky Places. Nevertheless, the region is close to the more populated regions like the Rhein/Main region around Frankfurt or larger cities like Kassel, Erfurt or Würzburg, which are not further away than 1½ hours by car. Therefore the Rhön is an attractive destination for people of nearby cities. A students group of the University of Applied Science Fulda analyzed the potential of the Biosphere Reserve as a star park and concluded that the aims of both overlap and that it could become a good example for integrating both aspects of protecting and using natural resources.

The ARGE Rhön as the cooperation of the heads of the five county districts and the three biosphere administrations are convinced that becoming an International Dark Sky Place will help:

- to keep and restore the nocturnal environment in the Biosphere Reserve in a sustainable way,
- to conserve and improve dark skies and natural dark landscapes in the region and even in the whole nation,
- to raise awareness for the implications of artificial light at night,
- to raise awareness for and help installing environmental friendly and sustainable lighting in the Biosphere Reserve and to set up examples for other populated regions,
- to propagate dark sky and sustainable tourism in the Biosphere Reserve and elsewhere.

To accomplish this, the following strategy was followed:

1. Since March 2011 sky brightness measurements were taken over the area of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Variations during different times of the night and during the seasons were identified and corrected. From these measurements the regions with the darkest skies could be identified which coincide well with the most protected areas in the Biosphere Reserve. They were fixed as the "starlight core zones E0" (to be distinguished from the Biosphere Reserve's core zones). The inner buffer zone E1 then corresponds to the area of the municipalities surrounding the core zones.
2. Lighting inventories were made for all artificial lighting in the core zones E0 and the municipalities in the buffer zone E1. Altogether more than 6000 luminaires of public lighting were registered and classified in order to identify the main contributors to the artificial sky brightness.
3. Detailed lighting guidelines were drawn up in 2012 for managing the artificial light to keep the core zones dark and reduce light pollution in the buffer zones. As municipalities often contract out public lighting to the local energy providers, it was clear, that it is of utmost importance to work together with them. Therefore, before introducing the lighting guidelines to the parliaments of the municipalities, they were intensively discussed with the local providers of lighting and the persons in charge at the Biosphere Reserve. From the view of the project, this fact is one of the most important ones for a long term and sustainable protection of the night sky in the Rhön. Once the lighting guidelines and their comments were printed, the process of introduction at the municipality parliaments begun. Most municipalities in the buffer zone E1 adopted the guidelines, in the outer buffer zone some municipalities also adopted them but this is still a continuing process. The advantage of this procedure is, that lots of political decision makers are confronted with the implications of artificial light at night, as most municipalities request a public hearing before voting.
4. Right from the beginning, presentations on light pollution and the concept of the dark sky program have been given and have been supported by various information materials in order to reach a big scale of various target groups and to get support from the population.
5. Different people offer astronomical topics to the local community: from the planetarium in Fulda, to naked eye observations and to the use of telescopes at very high technical level. The Rhön is known by many German amateur astronomers as an Eldorado for observing under dark sky conditions. Several educational establishments continuously offer astronomy programs to different groups, an international astronomy summer camp for the youth was already held several times in the Rhön. Exhibitions on light pollution were presented in the Biosphere Reserve's information centers and information material has been produced. A website [www.sternenpark-rhoen.de](http://www.sternenpark-rhoen.de) is maintained. The idea of a star park in the Rhön, which was initiated by *Sabine Frank*, has already received considerable media coverage in regional and national newspapers, magazines, radio and TV stations long before working on this application.

The Rhön in the heart of Germany has for a long time being regarded as the poor house of Germany. The designation of the Rhön UNESCO Biosphere Reserve as an International Dark Sky Reserve would manifest it as a region where modern rural life and the protection of natural nightscapes and the sky above are not a contradiction – due to intelligent lighting and an environmentally friendly use of artificial light at night.

In this sense, designation would support the long process of installing better lighting - at a time when new technologies make lighting readily available and cheap.

Also, designation would motivate municipalities to carry on with their efforts that

- it would be possible to gain public funding for projects,
- it would show the Rhön people that they can be proud of the treasure above them,
- it would lead more people into perceiving and appreciating natural nights and nightscapes and
- it would show that despite all boundaries on the ground, the sky is limitless.

Because of its location in the heart of Germany it can well be expected, that the designation of the Rhön will radiate the meaning far beyond the borders of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.



Fig. 2.1: Startrails over the Wasserkuppe (foto: *Werner Klug*)

### 3 Nomination

## Fachgruppe DARK SKY - Initiative gegen Lichtverschmutzung

www.lichtverschmutzung.de



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2013-11-19

### Nomination of the Rhön Biosphere Reserve as International Dark Sky Reserve

Dear IDA Board of Directors,

I would like to announce the nomination of the Rhön UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in the center of Germany as an International Dark Sky Reserve.

The idea of this project was developed 2010 by a student's study group from the University of Applied Sciences in Fulda. The study was initially about light pollution but also incorporated the idea of creating a Dark Sky Reserve. In March 2011, at the invitation of the Rhön Biosphere Reserve, I made studies of the night sky quality. The region proved to have one of the darkest skies in Germany with an extraordinary nature environment. The project was presented to the ARGE Rhön as the legislative body superior to the biosphere executive in June 2012 and it was approved unanimously to follow the aim of creating an International Dark Sky Reserve ("Sternenpark" = star park in German) within the Rhön UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

The following requirements were given at starting point:

- An astronomical tradition through several astronomy groups around the park:
- Fulda planetarium, public and school observatories in Bad Salzschlirf, Meiningen, several private observatories, night hikes, night observation of bats and owls.
- Sabine Frank from the students study group offered public star and moon observation tours within the Rhön.

The Rhön Biosphere Reserve is spread over three Federal states. These are Bavaria, Hessia and Thuringia. In close cooperation with the three Biosphere Reserve administrations we took the following steps:

- Sky brightness measurements using SQM-Ls were taken over the most important parts of the reserve, showing nearly natural dark skies with a magnitude of up to 21.78 mag/arcsec<sup>2</sup> in spring evening skies. The identified dark core zones largely coincide with the protected core zones of the Biosphere Reserve. A report in German is available.
- Public awareness has been intensified and has been documented through many press resonance up to a national level. The public has also been informed by means of talks and press releases about the star park project and many public star observations were offered and further star guides were educated. An information leaflet was printed, showing the aims of the star park and also how the surrounding

populated areas could be environmentally lit with the aim of saving energy and preserving the night sky. Lists on the press resonance and the public presentations are available.

- In cooperation with the municipalities and the regional energy suppliers, that provide public lighting, inventories of the public lighting with several 6000 luminaires in the municipalities and the core zone were compiled. A summary is available.
- Lighting recommendations were elaborated in cooperation with the regional energy suppliers, who advice the municipalities about public lighting and at the same time provide public lighting, in 2012. They are based on the requirements of the IDSReserves guidelines (ver. 1.2) and actual scientific results. In addition to the guidelines, they contain requirements on the lighting quality by reducing the amount of blue light in specifying an upper limit of the cct of 3000 K. Over a thousand copies of the guidelines were printed and distributed to the municipalities and other decision makers in Biosphere Reserve in 2013. Constructive collaboration with these important players in public lighting has led to their decision, to no longer use lighting with more than 3000 K.
- As municipal councils have to recognize the lighting guidelines, they have to vote on and apply them within their communities. After the printing of the guidelines the process of presenting them to the municipalities for voting started in August 2013. This has proven to be a long but necessary process in order to really gain public and political support for the project. Up to now 7 (most within or at the boundary of the core zones) of the total 20 communities in the inner buffer zone E1 voted to follow the guidelines in the future.\*
- Within the core zones and in the neighboring communities, replacement lighting according to the guidelines or simply switching off unnecessary lighting has already started (e.g. see Bischofsheim, Umweltzentrum Schwarzes Moor).

The present lighting guidelines are based on version 1.2 of the IDSReserve guidelines and unshielded lighting up to 1000 lm is allowed. It will not be possible to change the guidelines to the new recommended limit of 600 lm during the current voting process within the communities. Otherwise trust in the project could be lost.

In order to be able to progress with this project we need protection of confidence and therefore request to apply according to the guidelines ver. 1.2. This is bearing in mind the dimensions and administrative structure of the Rhön UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, which spreads over three Federal states and many communities.

The final or at least a provisional application should be ready in about 3-4 months when more communities will have voted to support the guidelines for an IDSReserve.

Supporting letters for the star park by the ARGE Rhön and the Biosphere Reserve administrations are attached.



Dr. Andreas Hänel

Astronomer and director of the planetarium in the Museum am Schölerberg, Osnabrück  
Section leader of the working group Dark Sky Germany,  
Member of the International Dark Sky Association IDA, Member of the International Planetarium Society IPS,  
Member of the Astronomische Gesellschaft, Member of the International Astronomical Union IAU

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\* added May 2014: meanwhile 16 of the 28 municipalities in the inner buffer zone E1 voted to follow the guidelines.



Landkreis Fulda · Groenhoff-Haus Wasserkuppe · 36129 Gersfeld

IDA  
Board members

per E-Mail

**LANDKREIS FULDA – DER LANDRAT**

Fachdienst: **Biosphärenreservat und  
Naturpark Hessische Rhön**  
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Geschäftszeichen: **B-NZ-TUR/Sternenpark/ rh**

Gersfeld, 18.11.2013

Dear members of the IDA,

The UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Rhön fully supports the initiative to protect the natural nightscapes of the Rhön. We are situated in the middle of Germany and one of our greatest assets is the diversity of animal and plant species. Sustainable Development and the conservation of national systems and biodiversity are the main principles of the UNESCO program "Man and the Biosphere".

By supporting this project we are hoping to protect these species more than was able to be done in the past. We have come to learn in the course of this project, that artificial light does have a negative impact on diurnal and nocturnal animals as well as on people. We are also aware that public lighting needs to be more regulated than is currently. We therefore encourage the communities to accept and implement the lighting recommendations and also for private lighting. Also, we recognize that the starry night sky is of cultural good and we welcome people to come to the Rhön and enjoy a wonderful experience and a really dark sky.

We are very proud of this project and fully aware that it is something very special. We fully supporting this project by means of manpower, public outreach and our conviction for the application of the Biosphere Reserve Rhön as an IDS-Reserve.

Best regards  
Im Auftrag

Torsten Raab  
Head of the Biosphere Reserve Administration Hesse



## Regionale Arbeitsgemeinschaft Rhön

ARGE Rhön – Obertshäuser Platz 1 – 98617 Meiningen

IDA Board Members  
IDA International Headquarters  
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USA

Ihr Zeichen:      Ihre Nachricht:      Unser Zeichen:      Telefon:      Meiningen,  
(Bitte bei Antwort angeben!)      0049 (0)3693/485 383      19.11.2013

### **Dark Sky Reserve in the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Rhön**

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

until now the night sky in the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Rhön was not considered as a value of its own. Due to a strong and emotive campaign led by students, it was brought to our attention what a hidden jewel we have and how valuable the night sky is for humans as well as for animals.

As certain parts of the reserve have the potential of nearly naturally dark skies, we, as the legislative body of the biosphere reserve, initiated an application process to become an International Dark Sky Reserve.

Over the last two years many studies have been conducted within the Biosphere Reserve Rhön to measure the darkness of the night sky and locate the darkest spots of the reserve. This process has been accompanied by lectures to inform and allay fears concerning costs and changes to local communities within the reserve. In these presentations and in conjunction with leaflets and booklets we explained the guidelines that were required for the Biosphere Reserve Rhön to become a Dark Sky Reserve. Furthermore, star guiding tours are offered on a regular basis.

ARGE Rhön Vorsitzender: Landrat Peter Heimrich  
Geschäftsführer: Heiko Kömmel

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Landkreise: Fulda, Bad Kissingen, Rhön-Grabfeld, Schmalkalden-Meiningen, Wartburgkreis  
Vereine: „Rhönforum e.V.“, Geisa, „Natur- und Lebensraum Rhön e.V.“, Gersfeld/Wasserkuppe,  
„Naturpark und Biosphärenreservat Bayerische Rhön e.V.“, Oberelsbach

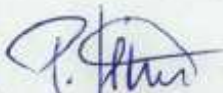


Die   
Regionale Arbeitsgemeinschaft Rhön

The ARGE Rhön with the political representatives of the five counties which are part of the biosphere reserve and the biosphere administration fully supports the application.

We hope that the organizational and financial engagement, as well as the achievements which have been made during the last two years, will not be put at risk, by the upcoming change of guidelines.

Sincerely



Peter Heimrich  
(head of regional district)

## 4 Letters of Support



Natur- und Lebensraum Rhön e.V., D- 36129 Gersfeld

An den Vorsitzenden der Arbeitsgemeinschaft  
„Rhöner Landkreise“

Herr Landrat Heimerich  
Landratsamt  
Schmalkalden-Meiningen  
Obertshäuser Platz 1  
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Natur- und  
Lebensraum Rhön e.V.  
Trägerverein für das  
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Datum: 19.03.2014  
Az: /ELE

### „Sternenpark Rhön“

Sehr geehrter Herr Landrat Heimerich,

der „Verein Natur und Lebensraum Rhön“ als Förder- und Trägerverein  
des Biosphärenreservates Rhön, hessischer Teil, unterstützt die  
Beantragung des „Sternenparks Rhön“ bei der *Dark Sky Association*.

Wir befürworten dieses Projekt und sehen in der Umsetzung für die Rhön  
große Entwicklungschancen, sowohl im Bereich des Natur- und  
Artenschutzes, als auch im Bereich der Regionalentwicklung und im  
Bereich der Tourismusförderung.

Mit Blick auf die in Deutschland geplante Energiewende begrüßen wir  
das Projekt, das in emotionaler Weise für die Einsparung für Energie  
sowie die bessere Nutzung von Energie wirbt.

Folgerichtig hat der „Verein Natur und Lebensraum Rhön“ seit 2011 das  
Projekt positiv begleitet und verpflichtet sich, die weiteren  
Realisierungsschritte im Rahmen seiner Möglichkeiten tatkräftig zu  
unterstützen

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

Martin Kremer  
Geschäftsführer



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EIN BIOSPHÄRENRESERVAT  
DER UNESCO



**Translation:**

Verein Natur- und Lebensraum Rhön

District Chief Executive Heimrich  
of the District of Schmalkalden-Meiningen  
Obertshäuser Platz 1  
98617 Meiningen

“Dark Sky Reserve Rhön”

Dear Mr. District Chief Executive Heimrich,

the non-profit and sponsoring association of the Hessian part of Rhön Biosphere Reserve, the Verein Natur- und Lebensraum Rhön, supports the application to become an IDA Dark Sky Reserve.

We recommend this project and see great development potential in its realization – within the realms of protecting nature and species as well as within the realms of regional development and tourism.

With regard to the planned energy transition in Germany we appreciate this project, as it promotes saving energy and an improved usage of energy in an emotional way.

Consequentially, the Verein Natur- und Lebensraum Rhön has been involved in the project right from its beginning in 2011 and commits itself to give strong support for its further steps of realization.

With kind regards,  
Martin Kremer  
Managing Director



Vorsitzender  
Volker Strauch  
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## Befürwortung und Unterstützung des Projektes „Sternenpark im Biosphärenreservat Rhön“

„Veraltete Stadtbeleuchtung verschwendet nicht nur Energie und Geld, sondern heizt auch das Klima auf und schadet der Natur.“ Mit diesem Satz beginnt eine Informationsschrift des NABU-Bundesverbandes\* aus dem Jahr 2009, die sich mit dem Verlust der Nacht, der Lichtverschmutzung, der Energieeffizienz und dem Klimaschutz, sowie der Insektenverträglichkeit und dem Naturschutz auseinandersetzt. Auf dieser Basis wurden bundesweit in großen Kommunen Veranstaltungen zur Modernisierung der Stadtbeleuchtung durchgeführt.

In der Region Osthessen hat der NABU-Kreisverband Fulda bereits 1996 die Initiative ergriffen und zusammen mit der damaligen ÜWAG eine Informationsschrift zu diesem Thema herausgegeben.\*\* Die Herausgeber kamen damals mit Zuständigen der Stadt Fulda überein, künftig mehr Natriumdampf-Hochdrucklampen anstatt Quecksilberlampen zu verwenden. Dies entsprach dem damaligen Stand der Technik.

Dieser Vorlauf zeigt, dass der NABU die Bedeutung der Lichtverschmutzung und die Wichtigkeit des Schutzes der Nacht für den Umwelt- und Naturschutz bereits lange erkannt hat und daher wird das Projekt „Sternenpark im Biosphärenreservat Rhön“ von Beginn an begrüßt und unterstützt. Dieses Projekt hat in den letzten Jahren außerordentlich viel zur Information der Bürgerinnen und Bürger, zu Entscheidungshilfen für Mandatsträger und auch bereits zu praktischen Konsequenzen beigetragen.

Der NABU-Kreisverband Fulda ist mit rund 2700 Mitgliedern der größte Naturschutzverband in Stadt und Kreis Fulda. Bundesweit ist der NABU mit rund 540.000 Mitgliedern und hessenweit mit rund 50.000 Mitgliedern der größte Umwelt- und Naturschutzverband.

Der NABU-Kreisverband Fulda befürwortet außerordentlich die Einrichtung eines „Sternenpark“ in der Rhön und ist zu weiterer Zusammenarbeit gerne bereit.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen!  
29.04.2014

Volker Strauch  
1. Vorsitzender  
NABU-Kreisverband Fulda

\*  
<http://www.nabu.de/themen/energie/stadtbeleuchtung/>  
NABU-Info (2011): Kommunale Lichtplanung für eine energieeffiziente und ökologisch verträgliche Stadtbeleuchtung. Einführung und Überblick zu den NABU-Arbeitshilfen für Kommunen, Energiedienstleister sowie Planungs- und Ingenieurbüros.

\*\*  
Richtig belichtet! Die Straßenbeleuchtung unter ökologischen und ökonomischen Gesichtspunkten, NABU-Kreisverband Fulda und ÜWAG, 1996, 24 Seiten.

**Translation:**

**Naturschutzbund Deutschland (NABU)**

County of Fulda  
Project coordination Sternenpark  
Sabine Frank  
Gallasiniring 30  
36043 Fulda

Endorsement and Support of the Project “Dark Sky Reserve within the Rhön Biosphere Reserve”

“Outdated technology in city lighting not only wastes energy and money but also heats up climate change”. This is the introductory sentence of a information brochure of the federal association of the NABU Germany from 2009, which deals with the loss of the night, light pollution, energy efficiency and climate protection as well as compatibility for insects and nature protection. On this basis, events on modernizing city lighting were conduct in bigger municipalities nationwide.

In the region of Eastern Hesse we already took the initiative in 1996 and published an information leaflet together with the local electricity supplier ÜWAG (translator’s note: today RhönEnergie Fulda). The authors came to an agreement with the town of Fulda, to use more high pressure sodium lamps instead of mercury vapor lamps. This was conforming to the state of technique at the time.

This shows, that the NABU has already recognized the significance of light pollution and the importance of the protection of the night for environmental and nature protection a long time ago and against this backdrop we have welcomed and have supported the project “Dark Sky Reserve within the Rhön Biosphere Reserve” right from the beginning. In the last couple of years, this project has contributed a great deal in informing citizens, has aided elected representatives to decision making and has already shown consequences.

With about 2700 members, the district association of the NABU is the biggest nature protection association in the county of Fulda. Germany wide, the NABU counts 540.000 members and in Hesse about 50.000, which means, that the NABU is the biggest nature protection association.


The NABU district association strongly supports the establishment of a Dark Sky Reserve in the Rhön and is willing to further cooperate.

Kind regards,  
29.04.2014

Volker Strauch  
Chairman  
NABU District Association of Fulda



# VEREIN FÜR NATURKUNDE IN OSTHESSEN E. V.

 VEREIN FÜR NATURKUNDE IN OSTHESSEN E. V.  
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*Frau Sabine Frank  
Projekt Koordinatorin  
"Sternepark im Biosphärenreservat Rhön"  
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18 250 66065

*16.05.2014*

Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren,

der Verein für Naturkunde in Osthessen e.V. unterstützt die Bemühungen der Einrichtung eines Sterneparks im Biosphärenreservat Rhön.

Der VNO ist ein Zusammenschluss von naturkundlich interessierten Personen, die sich im osthessischen Raum den Themenfeldern Astronomie, Botanik, Ornithologie und Geologie widmen. Auf unserer Homepage ([www.vno-fulda.de](http://www.vno-fulda.de)) können Sie das ganze Spektrum unserer Aktivitäten und unseres Wirkungsbereiches nachlesen.

Mit großem Interesse und auch und mit eigenen Anstrengungen verfolgt der VNO die Bemühungen um die Wahrung der natürlichen Nachtlanschaften der Rhön. Wir sehen den Schutz des nachtaktiven Lebensraumes als wichtigen und zukunftsweisenden Teil der Naturkunde und Naturschutzarbeit an.

Insbesondere die eigens aufgestellten und bereits von vielen Kommunen durch politischen Beschluss angenommenen Beleuchtungsrichtlinien machen Hoffnung, dass dieses Thema kein Strohfeuer, sondern auf Dauerhaftigkeit angelegt ist.

Durch unseren Fachbereich „Astronomie“ sehen wir in einer Anerkennung der Rhön als Sternenpark einen Schlüssel für die Wiederentdeckung der Nacht als Kulturgut.

Die Bewerbung des Biosphärenreservates Rhön auf den Titel „Sternenpark“ hat daher unsere volle Unterstützung.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen



Jörg Burkard

1. Vorsitzender des VNO

#### Translation VNO

Fulda, 16.05.2014

Dear Madam or Sir,

the registered association for natural study and history in Osthessen (VNO) supports the efforts for establishing a Dark Sky Park within the Biosphere Rhön.

The VNO is a consortium of people, who are interested in natural study -particularly in the fields of astronomy, botany, ornithology and geology. You can view the spectrum of our activities on our website [www.vno-fulda.de](http://www.vno-fulda.de).

With great interest and efforts of our own, we pursue all endeavors for the safeguarding of the existing natural nightscapes of the Rhön. From our perspective, the protection of the nocturnal habitats is an important and forward looking part of natural studies and nature protection work.

Especially the guidelines, developed for this project and already accepted by many communities via political decision give us hope, that this topic follows a long-term strategy and is not just a flash in the pan.

Also, via our faculty of astronomy we see in a designation of the Rhön a key for the re-discovery of the sky as a cultural good.

The application of the Biosphere Rhön to become a “Sternenpark” is fully supported by us.

Kind regards,

Jörg Burkhard  
Chairman VNO

Der Minister

Thüringer Ministerium für Landwirtschaft, Forsten, Umwelt und Naturschutz -  
Postfach 90 03 65 - 99106 Erfurt

International Dark Sky Association  
3223 N. First Avenue  
Tucson, Arizona 85719  
USA

Jürgen Reinholz

Durchwahl:  
Telefon 0361 3799-901  
Telefax 0361 3799-950

juergen.reinholz@  
tmf.mf.thueringen.de

Ihr Zeichen:

Ihre Nachricht vom:

Unser Zeichen:  
(bitte bei Antwort angeben)  
54-44125.17

Erfurt  
May ..., 2014

**Support of the project of International Dark Sky Reserve in the  
Rhoen UNESCO Biosphere Reserve**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,  
IDA board members,**

As the Thuringian Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Nature Protection I am, together with my colleagues in Hesse and Bavaria, responsible for the protection and development of the Rhoen UNESCO Biosphere Reserve (BR).

The Rhoen Biosphere Reserve was recognized by UNESCO in 1991. Since this time the three Federal States have been proud of their BR and we are equally proud of all our activities in this area.

We have provided a great deal of money for several projects to protect the landscape, its flora, fauna and human inhabitants alike. We have already given and are willing to continue to provide money in future for the ongoing process of developing the Rhoen BR as a model region for sustainable development.

We had our second evaluation by UNESCO last year and we are still waiting for the feedback from Paris.

I am happy about and proud of the new projects in our Rhoen BR.

On behalf of my colleagues in Hesse and Bavaria, I also support the application for the conferring on parts of the BR Dark Sky Reserve status in the Rhoen Biosphere Reserve.

Yours truly,

  
Jürgen Reinholz

Thuringian Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Nature  
Protection

Thüringer Ministerium für  
Landwirtschaft, Forsten,  
Umwelt und Naturschutz  
Beethovenstraße 3  
99098 Erfurt

[www.thueringen.de](http://www.thueringen.de)

Verkehrsverbindungen:  
Zu erreichen mit den  
Straßenbahnlinien 1 (Landtag),  
3 und 4 (Tschairowskistraße)





BISCHÖFLICHES GENERALVIKARIAT • Postfach 11 53 • 36001 Fulda

BISTUM FULDA

Landkreis Fulda  
Projektkoordination Sternenpark  
Frau Sabine Frank  
Gallasiniring 30  
36043 Fulda

DER  
GENERALVIKAR

Sehr geehrte Frau Frank,

Teile des Biosphärenreservates Rhön gehören zum Gebiet des Bistums Fulda. Gerne unterstützt das Bistum Fulda deshalb die Bemühungen der Einrichtung eines Sternenparks im Biosphärenreservat Rhön. Denn in der biblischen Schöpfungsgeschichte heißt es:

*„Lichter sollen am Himmelsgewölbe sein, um Tag und Nacht zu scheiden. Sie sollen Zeichen sein und zur Bestimmung von Festzeiten, von Tagen und Jahren dienen; sie sollen Lichter am Himmelsgewölbe sein, die über die Erde hin leuchten. So geschah es. Gott machte die beiden großen Lichter, das größere, das über den Tag herrscht, das kleinere, das über die Nacht herrscht, auch die Sterne. Gott setzte die Lichter an das Himmelsgewölbe, damit sie über die Erde hin leuchten, über Tag und Nacht herrschen und das Licht von der Finsternis scheiden. Gott sah, dass es gut war.“ (Gen 1, 14-18)*

Sehr ausführlich geht dieser, wohl rund 3000 Jahre alte, Text auf Sonne, Mond und Sterne ein, auf Licht und Dunkel, auf existentielle Erfahrungen aller Menschen. Der Erhalt dieser Gott gegebenen Ordnung von Tag und Nacht ist uns als Christen ein wichtiges Anliegen. Denn der Mensch und sein innerer Biorhythmus sind daran angepasst. Auch die Lebensrhythmen der Menschen und der Gesellschaft erfahren durch Tag und Nacht ihre Gliederung. Der Wechsel von Aktivität und Ruhe, von Arbeit, Schlaf und Freizeit sind wesentlich für das körperliche und auch für das seelische Wohlbefinden.

In Großstädten mit nächtlichem Kunstlicht lassen sich Licht und Dunkel fast nicht mehr erleben. Unser Schöpfer hat die Menschen mit der Fähigkeit ausgestattet, natürliche Zeiten und Räume radikal umzugestalten. Ist das eine kreative Distanzierung von seiner Schöpfung

Paulusstr 5  
36037 Fulda

Telefon:  
0661 87-0

Datum:  
Juli 2014

Ihre Nachricht / Ihr Zeichen:

BearbeiterIn:  
Frau Dr. B. van Saan-Klein

Aktenzeichen:

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06421 167042

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IBAN:  
DE15 5305 0180 0000 0022 66

BIC:  
HELADEF1FDS

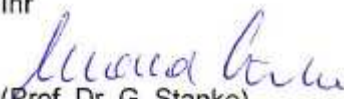
oder ist es in ihr angelegte, natürliche Entwicklung? Dieser Frage müssen wir uns stellen, nicht zuletzt weil wir für Tiere und Pflanzen, für den gewachsenen Naturraum mit unseren Fähigkeiten Verantwortung übernehmen.

Nicht nur der Mensch, sondern auch die gesamte Schöpfung mit ihrer wunderbaren Vielzahl der Arten (Biodiversität) ist an den Tag oder die Nacht sowie an den kontinuierlichen Wechsel von Licht und Dunkel angepasst. Deshalb ist es gut, wenn es für Mensch und Tier Rückzugsräume gibt, wo Tag und Nacht noch Leben und Rekreation in diesem Rhythmus erlauben. Kirchliche Gebäude gewähren Unterschlupf für zahlreiche, z. T. auch nachtaktive Tiere. Oft bieten die Kirchengemeinden aktive Hilfestellungen, wie z.B. Nistkästen im Kirchturm, gerade auch für Eulen. Um diese Maßnahmen zu intensivieren, wirkte die Umweltbeauftragte des Bistums Fulda an diversen aktuellen Publikationen und kirchlichen Schriften sowie Bildungsangeboten maßgeblich mit. Die ökumenisch verfasste Handreichung „Biodiversität und Kirchen – eine Empfehlung der kirchlichen Umweltbeauftragten“ wurde allen Kirchengemeinden im Bistum Fulda überreicht.

Wir unterstützen unsere katholischen Kirchengemeinden bei ihren Bemühungen, mit Energie so sparsam wie möglich umzugehen. Schon aus diesem Grunde empfehlen wir, falls das Anstrahlen von kirchlichen Gebäuden praktiziert werden sollte, dies auf den Zeitraum bis 22 Uhr zu begrenzen. Für solche Strahler gibt es vom Bistum keine finanzielle Unterstützung. Das Bistum Fulda bietet regelmäßig bei den Energiesparwochen der Stadt Fulda Akademieabende zum Energiesparen in Kirchengemeinden und zum nachhaltigen Bauen an. Die Kirchengemeinden werden durch fachliche Beratung und durch ein Energiemanagementsystem zum Energiesparen angeleitet. Zukünftig werden wir auch noch intensiver darauf achten, dass Außenbeleuchtungen, sofern vorhanden, optimal justiert und auf ein Minimum reduziert werden.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

Ihr

  
(Prof. Dr. G. Stanke)  
Generalvikar

July 2014

## Translation of the letter of the Vicar-general of the diocese Fulda

Dear Ms Frank,

Parts of the Biosphere Reserve Rhön belong to the territory of the diocese of Fulda. The diocese Fulda is happy to support the efforts to set up a *Sternenpark* in the Biosphere Reserve Rhön. In the biblical genesis it already says:

*“And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so. God made two great lights-the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good.” (Gen 1, 14-18 - New International Version)*

This text, probably 3000 years old, goes in great detail about the sun, the moon and the stars – on light and shade and on the existential experience of all humans. The preservation of this order of day and night as given by god is an important concern to us Christians. Because the inner biorhythm of humans are adjusted to it. Also, the rhythms of human life and of society experience their structure by day and night. The change of activity and quietness, of work, sleep and leisure time are essential for the bodily and mental well-being.

In large cities with their artificial light at night there is almost no chance to experience light **and** dark. Our maker has equipped humans with the ability to radically redesign natural times and rooms. Is this a creative alienation from his creation or is it an intrinsic and natural development? This is the question we have to ask ourselves, not least because we are responsible for animals and plants and the natural area.

Not only humans, but also the whole creation with its wonderful variety of types (biodiversity) is adapted to either the day or the night as well as to a continuing change of light and dark. Bearing this in mind, it is very important for humans and animals to have areas which allow day and night and recreation in this rhythm. Buildings of the church provide a safe haven for many animals, e.g. nocturnal animals. Quite often members of the parish help actively; e.g. nesting boxes for owls in the church towers. In order to intensify these measurements our environmental officer is involved in diverse current publications and developing training sessions. The ecumenical composed handout “Biodiversity and the Church – a recommendation of the clerical environmental officer” was given out to all parishes in the diocese of Fulda.

We support our catholic parishes in their efforts to use energy as economically as possible. For this reason we recommend – if illuminating the clerical buildings at all – to limit this to 10 p.m. The diocese of Fulda doesn't offer any funding for these spotlights. The diocese of Fulda offers on a regular basis information events on how to save energy and how to build sustainable – together with the city of Fulda. The parishes are also guided by expert advice and a energy management system.

In the future we will more intensively see to it that – if there is outside lighting – it is optimally adjusted and reduced to a minimum.

With kind regards,

Yours,

(Prof. Dr. G. Stanke)  
Vicar-general

## Statements from people living in or visiting the Rhön:

These statements are from people engaged in astronomy or nature protection.

In August 2013 I led a telescope making workshop at the Astronomical Summercamp (ASL) near Bischofsheim / Rhön. (Website: <http://www.vega-astro.de> ) The place is chosen for its exceptionally dark sky though being in good reach for most participants in the center of Germany. We had clear skies and observed many deep sky objects with my 24-inch Dobsonian telescope, see <http://www.vega-astro.de/node/179>. For most of the young potential scientists this was the first time in their life, to see spiral structure in galaxies and fine detail in diffuse and planetary nebulae with their own eyes. Please reserve the dark skies at his place for future generations!

**Stathis Kafalis, Munich**

Practising deepsky photography since 30 years under the dark skies of the rural Rhön district of Germany, I am still stunned by its breath-taking beauty.

I think it is really worthy to be protected as a darksky reserve.

**Jens Mueller, Hofbieber**

In 2012 I was observing the night sky together with the commission (note: commission of experts for school astronomy of the federal state of Thuringia) on the grounds of the Geba Mountain. Hardly ever have I had such an impressive night of observation before. Unfortunately, in Thuringia there are only a few places left without light pollution. Close to the village von Rohr/Meiningen I have also found very good conditions for observation. Its central location in Germany would surely be very favourable for installing a permanent observation location in order to lead hobby astronomers as well as school groups to the secrets of the night sky. Furthermore, the installation of a permanent location at this place would be beneficial for seminars about observation and teacher training. I wish you all the best for all your efforts.

**Gerburg Unger, Apolda**

My name is Andrea Scholze. Astronomy is my hobby which I am very passionate about next to job and family. My home is in the Thuringia part of the Rhön and I live in the village of Kaltenwestheim. With my telescope AC 127/1200 and my binoculars I have already had wonderful strolls in the night sky. When I step at night onto my patio, a fantastic and stunning firmament opens up to me and the stars twinkle in my direction and invite for linger and marvel.

The Rhön is home of many villages. Because of its rurality and sensitive landscape, there is almost no industry. One would be searching for high-rise buildings in vain. Very disturbing light sources, which send star gazers into despair, are hence in the Rhön not existing.

The night sky is dark, the Milky Way is very good visible with the naked eye. Star clusters, i.e. h and chi Persei or M44 or even Andromeda Galaxy M31 (by watching indirectly) are visible without any tools. Using a telescope or binoculars offer the observer an even more intensive sight of sky objects, which for example inspires for drawing. I also like watching planets and emission nebulae with my telescope.

The dark skies of the Rhön are worth to be protected. If the Rhön gets acknowledged as an International Dark Sky Reserve, it would just be right in my eyes. Lots of locals appreciate "their" Rhöner sky and to preserve this is a worthy aim.

**Andrea Scholze, Kaltenwestheim**

The Institution for Enviromental Education Oberelsbach supports the efforts for a Dark Sky Reserve in the Rhön. For our guests we offer star walks, which are always a great experience for all ages. Sometimes in cloudy nights it's only a walk in the dark without torches or flashlights, which is very new to many pupils. And with clear sky everyone is touched by the stars, the Milky Way and occasional falling stars. We are using iPods with the star-walk-app for orientation and spyglasses for special observations like the moon or the Pleiades. We are looking forward to Dark Sky Reserve Rhön to improve our star walks.

**Joachim Schneider, trainer for education for sustainable development Umweltbildungsstätte Oberelsbach**

I worked with my astronomy course from the 30th of January to the 1st of February, 2014, in the facilities of the Rhöniversum, because the Long Rhön is one of the highest and darkest places in the middle of Germany.

Beyond it, the light pollution or light smog is extremely low, so that a nearly natural night sky exists, what has been confirmed meanwhile also by measurements ( $m = 21.7$ ). We observed the winter hexagon with the Great Orion Nebula, the Plejades and Hyades, also well-chosen stars and the planet Jupiter.

Fortunately, the day hours can be used very well with the programs from the "Thüringer Hütte" or the "Umweltbildungszentrum Oberelsbach", also instructive wanderings can be carried out. For these reasons I absolutely recommend to expel the Rhön as a dark sky park. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

**Heinz Reiser, head of physics dept. Gymnasium Miltenberg**

The summer Milky Way above the Rhön Mountains is so impressive, that I took my last vacations in this region only to take some photos of it.

**Manfred Bruer, Bremerhaven**

My name is Mathias Sawo from Erfurt and I discovered astronomy as hobby one year ago. In particular, I find the visual observation of deep sky objects with a telescope particular appealing. Living in a town, I soon realised that I need a dark sky for my hobby. After having done some research und getting hints from other hobby astronomers I came across the Rhön, which was said to be a very dark place. Ever since is the Rhön and the mountain of the Hohe Geba my main location for observation. The dark sky in conjunction with its height result in a wonderfully transparent sky that is so important for the faint objects I like to observe. Furthermore, the Rhön is very popular with other friends of the nature which I sometimes meet at night and who are fascinated when watching through my telescope. As I am still quite young I hope to be able to practice my hobby for a long time. But at the same time I am worried about the raise of light pollution. I would madly appreciate it, if such a place in the future would be protected by becoming a dark sky park. The Rhön and its central location would also be worth a trip for people living in other parts of the country. Not only today's hobby astronomers would be very happy about a decision to become a dark sky park but also the rich wildlife as well. Thank you.

**Mathias Sawo, Erfurt**

In my opinion, the Rhön should be disclosed as a Dark Sky Park, as the Rhön is one of the few places in Germany with an almost natural night sky. One can even watch the Milky Way in winter and the vision of many stars is unique in Germany. I have been observing the night sky for almost 30 years and I am always disappointed how much the sky is polluted in other regions – even outside industrial regions and even nations.

I usually observe the night sky in my hometown of Utrichshausen, right on the border to the Rhön. Whenever time allows I drive into the direction of the Schwarzes Moor, as there is almost no annoying light. I know a lot of hobby astronomers which pay a lot of money for a trip to Namibia in order to observe and experience a natural night sky. This we can have in the Rhön as well by protection our cultural good of a natural night sky by becoming a "Sternenpark Rhön" and also by making it accessible to many people.

**Stefan Brähler, Utrichshausen**

Being a master electrician, I supply the communities with luminaires. Not long ago a rep from a big company came to show me some new models. When he entered to room, he said: "I know, here in the Rhön you only want full cut-off and 3000 K." This shows, how much the topic of avoiding light pollution has arrived here in the Rhön. This is something you can be very proud of.

**Alfons Fuß, ÜWR Bischofsheim**

Dear Sabine,

the project of Sternenpark Rhön deserves number one priority and implementation for the following reasons: This projects fits into implementing the turnaround in energy policy in relation to the problems of wind turbines, new electricity links and saving energy. Moreover, the protection of our grey moth is indispensable as these animals fly around non-insect-friendly luminaires until they are totally exhausted and die. More than 14 billion insects die at nights – countless more come to death by collisions with cars. Other than that, is protection the night also protection humans, as the nights become more and more days and disturb the human biorhythms. Therefore we do need protection zones and good practice examples in towns and villages in order to sensitize politics and society on all levels. The argument of security from criminals has been disproved via a study carried out in London. Please keep dedicated to your commitment. You can always count on my and our (HGON) support. - Good luck!

**Reinhard Kolb, Hessische Gesellschaft für Ornithologie und Naturschutz (Hessian Ass. for ornithology and nature protection)**

I support the project Dark Sky Park. Every night I have to walk to work. Everywhere is lighting. Solutions using motion detectors, which save energy and reduce light pollution, already exist. More over, lighting up whole valleys by using floodlights is questionable. On sport grounds it won't be darker, if you limit the light by using flaps.

**Mario Fladung**

Being a hobby astronomer one must ascertain, that the brightness of the sky regrettably is increasing. It is very important – also in terms of nature protection for nocturnal animals – to analyse our behaviour as a modern society and – similar to other areas of protecting the environment – do reduce these disturbances and create and protect “biotopes”. Your work for the project Dark Sky Park Rhön is exemplary for the whole of middle Germany and to my knowledge unique. I wish you all the needed support....

**Georg Beringer**

As a central landscape in Europe with extremely low traffic, settlement and light-pollution, the Rhön seems to me the ideal region to be preserved as a dark sky reserve. I hope, that it will be possible to use these features to give visitors insight in the impressive aspect of the undisturbed firmament, and to give amateur-astronomers facilities to conduct their hobby in undisturbed areas.

**Dr. med. Reinhard Zerzawy; Schlüchtern**

When all lights are switched off in the planetarium and only the artificial starry sky is visible under the dome, one realizes the amazement of the visitors. This amazement should be felt under the real starry sky – but where are the lights switched off?

**Gerd Habersack, Planetarium im Vonderau Museum Fulda**

The establishment of a star park would be very reasonable because the observation of the night sky – especially the stars, planets and Messier-objects and so on – is hardly possible in lit up towns and villages in the region. The Geba Mountain offers good observation conditions. This is well known and used amongst many hobby astronomers. The establishment of a star park would promote an improvement of the observing situation. The Geba Mountain is easy to reach – it only takes 25 min from the motorway A71, exit Meiningen North.

At the astronomical observatory of Meiningen, a group of interested observers is willing in parenting or even run events up on the mountain Geba. There is a high interest in astronomical observation in this region. This is proven by the number of participants at the monthly astronomical lectures, which after reopening take place at the observatory. The Henfling-Gymnasium (remark translator: high school) offers its own astronomy profile: astronomy / astrophysics lessons from grade 9 up to grade 13. This is unique in Germany.

**Wolfgang Fiedler, Sternwarte/Observatorium Meiningen**

The goal of our society is the education in Astronomy and Astrophysics and spread this knowledge to interested public parties as well as in school education. Our major practical parts are the observation of the night sky and the astrophotography of deep sky objects. Especially for deep sky observation an unpolluted sky is necessary.

The Rhön Biosphere Reserve has the potential to preserve the Natural Night Sky as our cultural good. We are sure that it is the correct measure and a significant step forward when the Rhön Biosphere Reserve gets the status of a "Dark Sky Park".

Our Astronomical Society will strongly support and enjoy the Dark Sky Park at the Rhön Biosphere Reserve.

**Werner Klug, Astronomical Society Freigerecht**

# Letters of Support: IDA-Members

## Support letter by Sabine Frank

### Initiative zum Schutz der Nacht | vor Ort

Informationen zu Auswirkungen und Vermeidung von  
Lichtverschmutzung | Nachtwanderungen



Initiative zum Schutz der Nacht vor Ort - An der Röhre 8 - 36145 Hofbieber

Erst was der Mensch zu schätzen lernt,  
ist er bereit zu schützen.

International Dark Sky Association  
3223 N. First Avenue  
Tucson, Arizona 85179  
USA



Hofbieber, 15.05.2014

Dear Board Members,

When, in 2009, I first read about the concept of dark Sky Parks in the nationwide Magazine DER SPIEGEL I was initially sparked up to this idea, as I already had offered popular star guiding tours to the general public for a couple of years and had noticed, that the sky towards the town of Fulda got brighter every year due to the expansion of an industrial estate outside town. At the same time I could easily see the Andromeda galaxy, the bee hive and M13 and therefore knew about the magnificence of the Rhöner night sky. So, having heard about dark sky parks, knowing the marvel of the Rhöner night sky and also realizing a possible loss through ignorance and as a keen nature conservationist, I got started. My first attempt failed miserably, as I sent the SPIEGEL article and an accompanying letter to the mayor of my resident town. They had never heard of light pollution or it's implications on nature and probably thought it was a joke.



Nevertheless, one year later in the course of my studies at Fulda University I was able to pick up the topic again. Together with some fellow students we started the theoretical project "Dark sky park in the Biosphere Reserve Rhön" by comparing aims and tasks of the UNESCO program Men and Biosphere with those of IDA Dark Sky Program and interviewing Dr. Andreas Hänel over the phone.

After finishing my studies of social and cultural studies I sent the student's work to the Hessian administrative office of the Biosphere Rhön. Being quite persisting, it got finally looked at and the students group was invited to present the project. After that they asked, whether the Rhön would have the potential for becoming a Dark Sky Reserve in reality.

So, the next step was taking SQM measurements. For this, Dr. Hänel visited for the first time the Rhön during new moon in March 2011. Luckily, the Rhöner night sky was gracious and offered perfect conditions for observation and measurements. That night already we measured up to 21.78 mag/ arcsec. Me being new to this measuring business I was very happy. We drove around for many nights more and presented our first report to the persons at charge at the Biosphere administration.

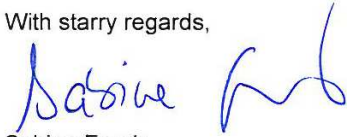


After this presentation, the topic of light pollution and the establishment of a dark sky park within the Rhön took off like a rocket. A flyer got printed, the private "Initiative to Protect the Night Sky" was founded, we had a booth on the festivities 20 years Biosphere Rhön and reached many people. Suddenly, by the ARGE Rhön taking on the project, the topic of protecting the nights of the Rhön was all over the papers and media.

In the course of fighting for the protection of the night sky, the implications of artificial light at night to animals and plants have become my strongest motivation – next to my big love to watch the stars and offering moon guiding tours.

Now the topic of light pollution has arrived and settled in the Rhön. Endless lectures on light pollution, the lighting management plan, star guiding tours, interviews, talks and building up a good relationship with the local suppliers of Energy, who advice the municipalities and sell "light", and a lot of ' against the odds' have led to this fact. Now it is time for the Rhön to get awarded for all the work already being done and also, in order to reach a sustainable and long term protection of the night and all beings in it. This is what I stand and fight for and offer my full support – now and in the future.

With starry regards,



Sabine Frank





## Support letter by Harld Bardenhagen

Harald Bardenhagen  
Astronomie-Werkstatt  
„Sterne ohne Grenzen“  
Sülgürtel 42  
50937 Köln  
GERMANY



Monday 19 May 2014

✉ [haraldba@sterne-ohne-grenzen.de](mailto:haraldba@sterne-ohne-grenzen.de)

Rhön Biosphere Reserve Application for International Dark Sky Reserve Certification

Dear IDA Board of Directors!

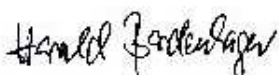
This letter is offered in very strong support of Rhön Biosphere Reserve application for International Dark Sky Reserve status. Being one of the few IDA members in Germany I am pleased to confirm not only the famous night sky quality of the Rhön Biosphere Reserve but also the awesome support for a Dark Sky Park within the region and their people.

I had the opportunity to spend two weekends under an impressive starry night sky and took part in one event for lighting specialists and decision makers of the region. I was very impressed not only by the impressive dark skies I was able to enjoy but also about the successful efforts of persuasion which already were achieved by the regional project coordination of "Sternenpark im Biosphärenreservat Rhön" – Mrs. Sabine Frank – and the scientific chaperonage of the project by Dr. Andreas Hänel.

Just mention one result: RhönENERGIE Fulda, an important regional supplier and service provider for power feeding and lighting consulting and management, strongly supports blue-low and blue-less artificial light at night.

I watched with interest how intense the subject-matter "Starry Night Sky over Rhön Biosphere Reserve" already reached the hearts of the people in the region. Successes in tourism business have become apparent already: the host of the hostelry "Kissinger Hütte" told me about an enormous increase of over-weekend-guests during the last two years. Amateur astronomers from nearby cities like Fulda swamped the parking lot of the lodging house and also its rooms.

I am dead certain that the designation of Rhön Biosphere Reserve as an IDA Dark Sky Reserve will lead to night sky friendly approach to outdoor lighting and will be an inspiring example for other regions in Germany.



Harald Bardenhagen



**International Dark-Sky Association**

International Headquarters  
IDA Board of Directors  
3223 N. First Avenue  
Tucson, Arizona 85719  
USA

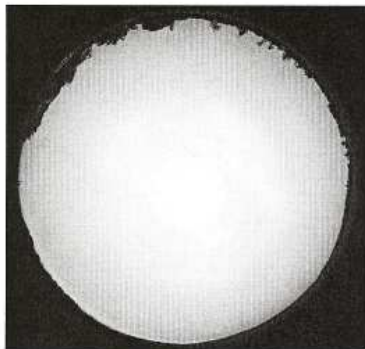
Ljubljana, May 12, 2014

**Biosphere Reserve Rhön as Dark-Sky Reserve – Nomination –  
A Letter of Support**

Dear IDA Board of Directors,

as a member of Dark-Sky Slovenia I declare our support for the nomination of the Biosphere Reserve Rhön for an IDA International Dark Sky Park designation and the efforts of the Reserve to preserve the night sky.

I visited Biosphere Reserve Rhön on October 10, 2011. Unfortunately it was cloudy weather that day. I spend part of the night driving in the reserve and I found it very dark. There were no settlements in a large area. The only lights that were disturbing were more than 50 km away from Reserve and this is incredibly large distance for highly populated Germany. I took fisheye image with the same settings as I use for 22 magnitude sky (see image below).



It is amazing that there is no orange ring on that image. In case of clouds such orange ring caused by HPS luminaires would be even enhanced. This is a confirmation that site is very dark and it should be preserved.

Between 1997 and 2007 I drove many times in the night on highway west of the Biosphere Reserve Rhön on relation from Fulda to Kassel. Even from my car I found out that this part of Germany is comparably darker than other regions. At that time I had no idea that nearby Biosphere Reserve Rhön is one of the darkest places in Germany.

The application for a protected area in the central part of Germany is challenging: large cities, industrial areas, highways traffic and greenhouses are the cause of light pollution even in remote sites. However: the initiative in Rhön region has a vision to protect the starry night sky and the natural nightscape well beyond the borders of the Reserve.

The area has sky brightness darker than 21.50 magnitude in zenith, which is very rare in Europe. So it is necessary to be protected as soon as possible.

The main local power behind activities for protection is Ms. Sabine Frank. She is the best woman I know in the field of fight against light pollution with great results in very convincing communication with local people. Her activities and activities of other environmentalist and astronomers in the region include guided tours and regular observations. This is of enormous importance for protection of Reserve.

I am confident that honoring the Biosphere Reserve Rhön as an IDA Dark-Sky Reserve will have an impact well beyond the borders of the Reserve.

Best regards,

Dark-Sky Slovenia

Andrej Mohar



## 5 Rhön UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

### 5.1 Nature Protected Areas in Germany

In the following the system of protected areas in Germany will be presented in order to clarify the framework **conditions for environmental protection**.

Three different categories of large-scale conservation areas are designated in Germany which could potentially also protect dark night landscapes (or nightscapes) (more information on [www.bfn.de](http://www.bfn.de), English version).

#### 1 National Parks (Nationalparke)

The 14 national parks cover 0.55% of the area of Germany and are areas which show little or no impact by human interaction. Very strict rules apply to protect nature and biodiversity, they are free of human exploitation or intervention.

#### 2 Biosphere Reserves (Biosphärenreservate)

16 UNESCO Biosphere Reserves cover 3.6% of the national area and preserve, develop or restore landscapes shaped by traditional diverse uses. Research and education play a central role and they are model regions for a sustainable development. An important concept to reach these goals is the use of zones of different protection levels: core, buffer and development zones.

#### 3 Nature Parks (Naturparke)

101 nature parks cover 26% of the area of the country. They are large-scale mainly landscape protected and nature conservation areas that are intended for recreational purposes and sustainable tourism. The aim is to protect and conserve cultural landscapes with their diverse species and habitats through sustainable use of land and for purposes of recreation and nature-friendly tourism. Therefore protecting the nightcape using a sustainable artificial lighting could be one topic in the future development of nature parks.

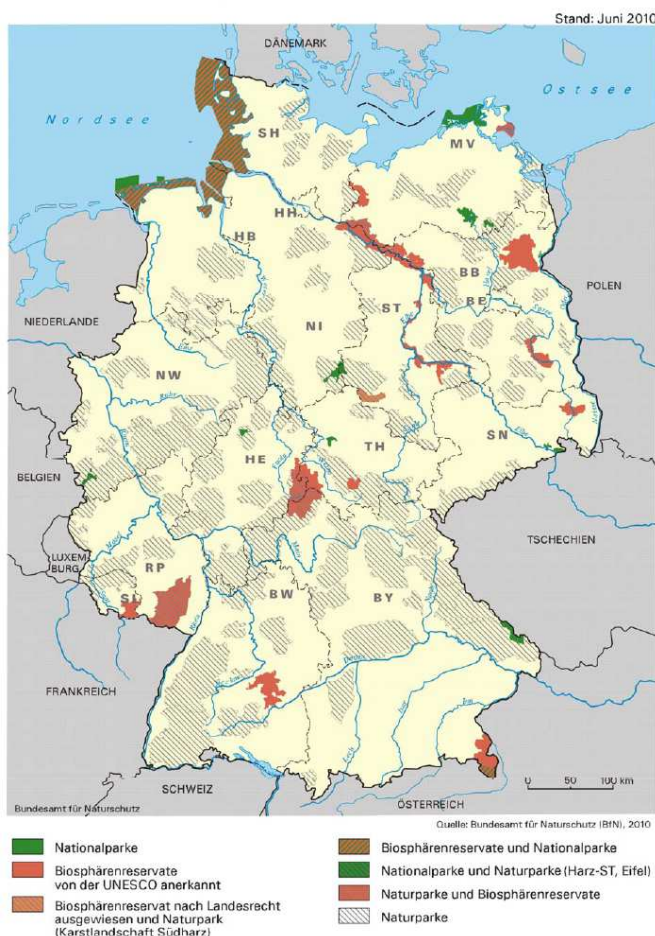


Fig. 5.1: Nature protected areas (green: national parks, red/brown: biosphere reserves, hashed black: nature parks) in Germany (BfN).

The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Bundesamt für Naturschutz – BfN) is the federal government’s scientific authority responsible for national and international questions of nature conservation. The protection of the nightscape was an important aim of the agency as they had already published in 2001 papers of a workshop on the influence of artificial lighting on animals in nature (Böttcher ed., 2001).

In 2013 the agency published the proceedings “Protecting the night – Schutz der Nacht” as a result of an interdisciplinary conference in Tutzing, which shows that the protection of the night is getting more and more recognized in German nature protection schemes. The proceedings cover a large variety of themes on all aspects concerning artificial light at night and became therefore a reference publication in German language (Held et al., 2013). In the preface the president of the BfN, Prof. Dr. *Beate Jessel*, supports the necessity of protecting the night. A follow-up conference is planned for November 2014.



Fig. 5.2: Full moon over the Rhön

## 5.2 Some Key Data of the Biosphere Reserve

Founded:	1991 distributed over 3 federal states (Thuringia, Hesse, Bavaria)
Coordinates:	latitude: N 50.21° - 50.88°, longitude E 9.73° - 10.355°
Area:	1.865 km <sup>2</sup> with: » core zone 64 km <sup>2</sup> (3.4%) » buffer zone (Pflegezone) 494 km <sup>2</sup> (26.5%) » development zone (Entwicklungszone)  forest 40.3% greenland 31.5% agriculture 18.4% settlements 3.8 %
Nature Protected Area:	147 km <sup>2</sup> = 8%
Natura 2000 - FFH	469 km <sup>2</sup> = 25%
Landscape Protected Area:	856 km <sup>2</sup> = 46 %
Star Park	Core zones E0: 145 km <sup>2</sup> Buffer zone E1: 874 km <sup>2</sup>
Communities:	162.000 inhabitants in 40 communities
Population Density:	88 inhabitants/km <sup>2</sup>
Board of Trustees:	Regionale Arbeitsgemeinschaft Rhön (ARGE Rhön), representatives of 5 counties (Landkreise): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Landkreis Fulda</li><li>• Wartburgkreis</li><li>• Landkreis Schmalkalden-Meiningen</li><li>• Landkreis Rhön-Grabfeld</li><li>• Landkreis Bad Kissingen</li></ul>
Administration:	Biosphärenreservatsverwaltungen Bayern, Hessen, Thüringen
Total staff:	30
Biosphere Reserve Visitor Centers:	Haus der Schwarzen Berge, Oberbach Haus der Langen Rhön, Oberelsbach Groenhoff-Haus Wasserkuppe, Gersfeld Probstei Zella, Zella Point Alpha, Rasdorf Umweltzentrum Schwarzes Moor Umweltzentrum Rotes Moor



Fig. 5.3: Some Flowers of the Rhön, Lilium martagon, orchids

### 5.3 The Rhön Biosphere Reserve

As part of the German mountain range, the Rhön Biosphere Reserve encompasses uplands ranging from 250m up to 950m above sea level. High ground, often unforested and used as grassland, is a key characteristic of the Rhön, which is often referred to as the “Land der offenen Fernen” (land of endless horizons). The Biosphere Reserve has 26 different habitat types listed in the European Habitats Directive (FFH, European Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora). Of the 26 habitat types within the Reserve 9 habitats have a priority rating. These are all listed on Germany’s Red List of Threatened Habitat Types. (*Jedicke, 2013, p.2.*)

Since 2012 the Rhön has been ranked amongst the top 30 biodiverse regions in Germany (acknowledged by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)). Of the total area of the Rhön Reserve, 46% is regarded as a priority for nature and many protected species within a dense network of 2000 Natura areas such as natural reserves, landscape protected areas, and core zones. Some of the most important species are e.g. the wild cat, the black stork, the black grouse, the beaver, the eagle owl, the red kite, more than 40 types of orchids, 16 types of bat, the biggest existing area of Borstengras outside the Alps as well as the biggest connected area of barren lime soil in Germany. In terms of mountain grassland the Rhön is of major importance in Germany because of its biotopes of Borstengrasrasen and the Goldhafer meadows. The Hessian part of the Rhön has the biggest troll flower site. According to the latest publication of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), the most important site for the pasque flower (*pulsatilla*) is to be found in the Rhön. On this site alone it is estimated to have 20,000 plants.

In the course of becoming a dark sky park, the responsible authorities have realized that the protection of these habitats, animals and plants is of prime importance within the Rhön. This has also become apparent to those organisations responsible for the conservation of the Rhön Biosphere Reserve. As a consequence, the protection of the natural nightscape and the ambition of improving lighting will be manifested as a leading project in the new regional development concept (Regionales Entwicklungskonzept REK) (see also letter of support of the Verein Natur- und Lebensraum Rhön). This concept, which is currently being updated, is a very important guideline in the course of future development of the Biosphere Reserve. This means, that the ambition for the Rhön to improve the quality of the night will be central to the program period 2014 – 2020. It is planned to introduce a number of individual projects such as upgrading public and private luminaries, training courses for astronomical guides, image campaigns, species protection projects etc.

Especially the Thuringian part of the Biosphere Rhön stands out for its unfragmented landscapes. About 80 % of its landscape is not fragmented, that means these areas are not divided by larger settlements or traffic routes and therefore help to offer dark skies as there are no important sources of artificial light. In the Hessian part there are about 26 % and in the Bavarian part about 55 % of intact landscapes, which is in each case significantly more than average compared to the rest of Germany. This emphasizes the importance of nature conservation of the Rhön.



Fig.5.4: Management documents: integrated environmental report, regional development concept and the “Report for the Periodic Review of Rhön UNESCO Biosphere Reserve 2013”

Population is generally decreasing in the Biosphere Reserve (2001-2011: -6.6 %), especially in the rural areas of the Thuringian, Bavarian and the eastern parts of the Hessian shares of the Reserve. One aim of the Biosphere Reserve is to stop this decrease of population.

An important management document is the first integrated environmental report (2008) which collects environmental data of the Rhön. The “Report for the Periodic Review of Rhön UNESCO Biosphere Reserve 2013”, where the star park is mentioned as an example of the tourism sector, which combines reducing energy waste and protecting the nocturnal environment, is another relevant management document.

Another interesting point is, that after World War II the Rhön was divided into a Western (Bavaria and Hesse) and Eastern part (Fig. 5.5). Not only has this fact had an influence on population changes but also on the habits of public lighting. Whereas in the Eastern part public lighting was renovated to a large extent after the reunification (mainly in the 1990ies), the Western municipalities have still low lighting levels and now a high necessity for renovation (Hänel 2013).

In terms of tourism, the Rhön is famous for having almost no limits when it comes to hiking. There are about 5.000 km of hiking trails, which offer long-distance hikes or circular hikes with different lengths and levels of difficulty. In 2006, a new premium hiking trail, the so-called “Hochrhöner” was introduced to the public, giving the entire Rhön region a whole new quality. The “Hochrhöner” is certified with the German Hiking Seal of Approval.

Another important reason for the popularity of hiking in the Rhön is the so called Green Belt Europe, which runs from Scandinavia to the Balkans and right through the Rhön along the former border between East and West Germany and is (still) Europe's longest biotope corridor. Especially along the Eastern part of the border in Thuringia, valuable natural sources could survive in the prohibited area.

The highest mountain Wasserkuppe (950 m high) is known as the cradle of German aviation and is a top destination for gliding, paragliding and hang-glidering, due to its good topographic and thermal conditions. (Fig. 5.6) In 1970, *Neil Armstrong* visited the Wasserkuppe and spent a night in the famous hotel Peterchens Mondfahrt (Peter and Anneli's Journey to the Moon – a famous German-language fairy tale).



Fig. 5.5: Remaining part of the security installations at border between East and West Germany near Bix



Fig.5.6: Gliders on the Wasserkuppe

In winter sledging and skiing is another reason for people coming up to the Wasserkuppe. However, the last years showed a definite decrease in snow (in the season 2013/2014 there was hardly any snow).

Hochschule Fulda   
University of Applied Sciences



Fachbereich Sozial- und Kulturwissenschaften  
Modul 17 – Professional Relations  
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Bankmann \* Sabine Frank

The project “star park” was initiated in 2010 by a student’s group from the University of Applied Sciences Fulda at the department of social and cultural sciences. Within this project it was recognized that the aims of a star park or starlight reserve coincide very well with the aims of the Biosphere Reserve.

Fig. 5.7: Title page of the project report on the “star park Rhön”

## 5.4 Map of the Rhön

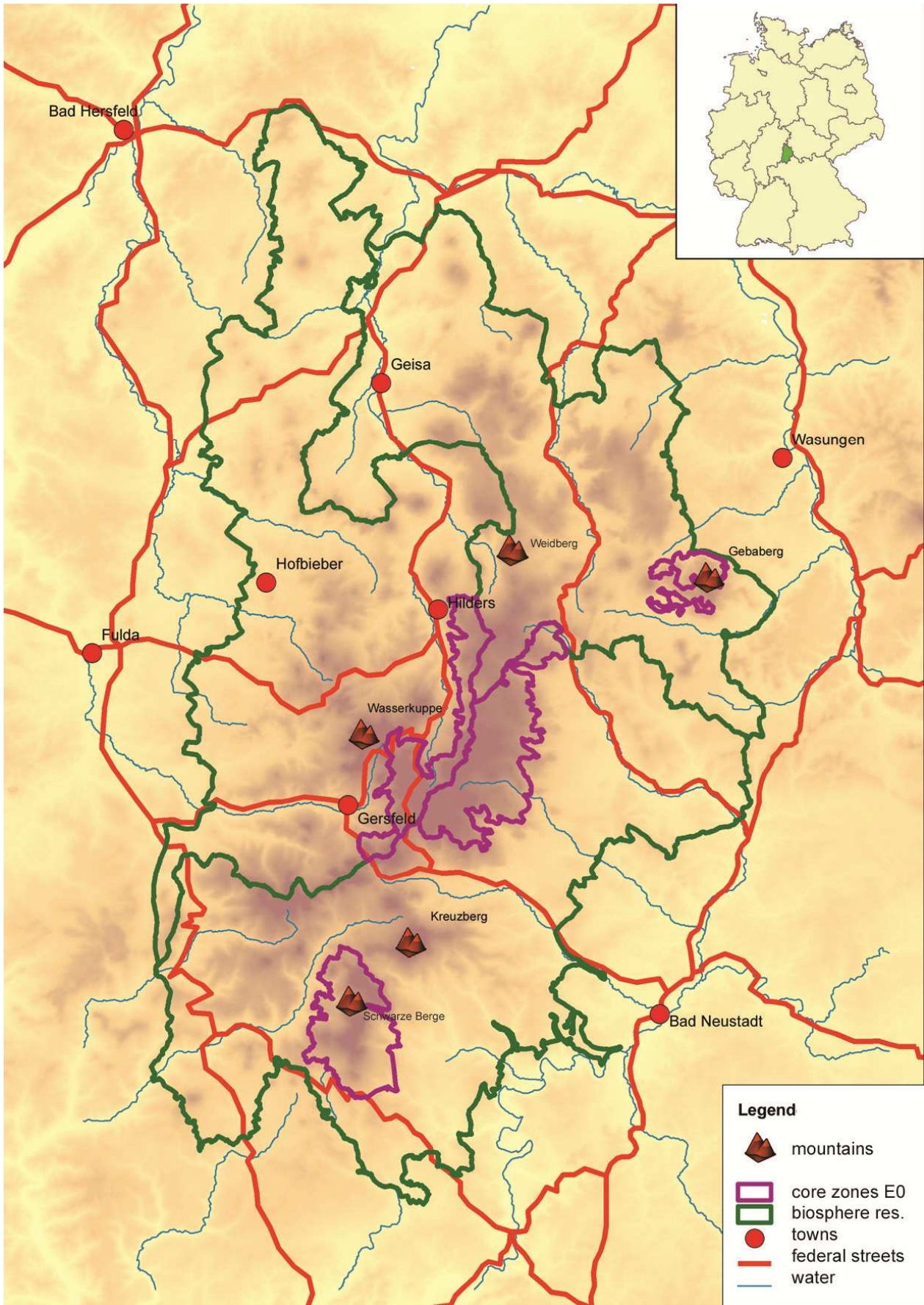


Fig. 5.8.: Map of the Rhön Biosphere Reserve: green: boundary of the Biosphere Reserve, purple: proposed star park core zones E0, red: principal roads (map: M. Müller, Biosphere Reserve Hessen)



## 5.5 Administrative organisation

Politically and structurally the Rhön Biosphere Reserve is part of five counties (Landkreise) with their individual towns and municipalities distributed among the three federal states of Bavaria, Hesse and Thuringia. Before the reunification of West and East Germany in the year 1990 the Thuringia part of the Rhön belonged to the former German Democratic Republic (GDR). Before reunification of West and East Germany in 1990 the Thuringia part of the Rhön belonged to the former German Democratic Republic (GDR). Bearing this dramatic fact in mind, it was a great achievement to get designated as soon as in 1991 as an UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. This shows the strong commitment of all involved institutions and political and private partners who exempted the Rhön from its reputation as one of the poorhouses of Germany by trying to develop the region towards a region where people and nature live along together in a sustainable way – just in the sense of the UNESCO program “Men and Biosphere”.

There are three administrative agencies of the Biosphere Rhön – one in each of the federal states. Each administrative agency of the Biosphere Rhön is being supported by a sub-board of trustees (the Förderverein).

The year 2000 marks the beginning of another important cross-border cooperation between these five counties by forming a close collaboration between the political heads of the five counties and the three sub-boards of trustees of the Biosphere Rhön, the so called regional working group Rhön, ARGE Rhön (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Rhön). Aim is a sustainable development and configuration of the structure of the Rhön as a common economic, cultural and natural area. In doing so the ARGE Rhön seeks to achieve the preservation of nature and landscapes as well as maintaining a robust modern agriculture and forestry and also to improve the cooperation between the partners in cultural affairs. The touristic development of the Rhön is seen as a base for preserving and creating jobs to halt the decrease of population.

The geographic scope of the ARGE encompasses mainly the eligible area of the Biosphere Rhön and the communities/municipalities within it.

The members of the executive boards are:

- the county of Rhön-Grabfeld, Federal State of Bavaria (South-Eastern part)
  - the county of Bad Kissingen, Federal State of Bavaria (South-Western part)
  - the county of Fulda, Federal State of Hesse (Western part of the BR Rhön)
  - the county Schmalkalden-Meiningen, Federal State of Thuringia (Eastern part)
  - the county Wartburgkreis, Federal State of Thuringia (Northern part)
- each represented by the elected head of the counties

registered associations:

- Verein Naturpark und Biosphärenreservat Bayerische Rhön e.V. (sub-board of trustees of the Bavarian part of the Biosphere Reserve)
  - Verein Natur und Lebensraum Rhön e.V. (sub-board of trustees of the Hessian part of the Biosphere Reserve)
  - Verein Rhönforum e.V. (sub-board of trustees of the Thuringia part of the Biosphere Reserve)
- each represented by their chairperson.

The chairman of the ARGE is one of the heads of the involved counties – following a defined interval period of two years. At the time of preparing this application, the head of the county of Schmalkalden-Meiningen, Mr Peter Heimrich, was chairman of the ARGE.

The so-called coordination committee mediates between the interests of the ARGE Rhön, the Biosphere administration offices and their sub-boards of trustees and the nature park administrations.



Fig. 5.9: The three Biosphere Reserve administrations in Zella (Thüringen), Oberelsbach (Bayern) and the Wasserkuppe (Hessen)



Fig. 5.10: The coordinating structure of state and non-state agencies in the Rhön Biosphere Reserve (Jedicke, 2013)

## 5.7 Climate in the Rhön

The Biosphere Reserve has a subatlantic climate with (sub-)continental influences. The weather in the Rhön is mainly influenced by different elevations and the preferential direction of the wind. On the highest mountain, the Wasserkuppe, is installed an official weather station (921m) with continuous measurements over many years. Annual rainfall varies between 500 mm on the lee sides and 1080 mm on the Wasserkuppe. The mean annual sunshine is about 1550 hours/year and is a bit less in the surrounding regions. These data could be an indicator for the chance of clear nights. In winter the mountains may lie above the fog in the valleys, but snow could hamper nightly observations.

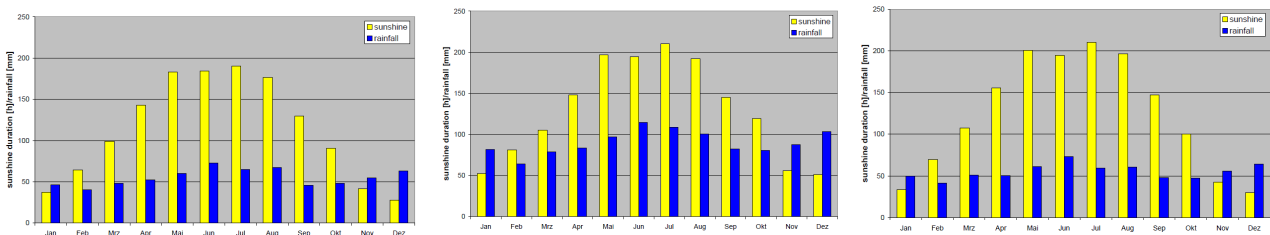


Fig. 5.11: Monthly sunshine duration (yellow) and rainfall (blue) in Fulda, Wasserkuppe and Meiningen (based on data from 1961-1990)

## 5.8 Species conservation projects (examples)

Among the different species, which are protected and safeguarded by the Biosphere Rhön, there are many nocturnal animals, which benefit from all measures to keep and protect the night sky and its natural nightscapes. These are for example the black grouse (Birkhuhn), the beaver, eagle owl, wildcat and the noble crayfish and plants like orchids and elderberry.

- **Bats:** In the mountain landscape of the Rhön, a total of 17 bat species are found. They live here either around the year, or are spending just the summer or the winter here. The Biosphere Reservation Rhön has set itself the task to protect the bat population. In cooperation with the working group for the protection of bats (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Fledermausschutz) Fulda, a multitude of measurements for the protection of bats are put into practice. The Forestry Office of Hofbieber has even taken over the sponsorship for the rare Western Barbastelle. From the perspective of the voluntary bat protection, it is very important to initiate

measurements which are going beyond the usual programs. An initiative in that direction, which is decidedly supported by the bat protection community, is the project "Sternenpark Rhön". Being nocturnal animals, bats are very sensitive to light and are in need of dark hunting grounds and dark areas for retreat. Only a small number of species benefits for example from street lights, which are attracting the insects, which these bats are hunting. Given these facts, all measurements aimed at the protection of the night have to be welcomed. The project "Sternenpark Rhön" is playing here an important role. An effective protection of the night and thus of the habitats of the bats, will only be successful, if in the future illumination is set up in a more contained and intelligent way. The directive for environmental friendly illumination is an important tool for this. It is to be hoped that many communities within the Rhön will adopt this directive and put it into practical use (text *St. Zänker*).



Fig. 5.12: Information leaflet on bats from the Biosphere Reserve

- **Wildcat** (*Felis silvestris*): In 2007, a project by the Rhön nature conservation association RhönNatur e.V. provided firm genetic evidence of the presence of the Wildcat, which until then had been overlooked or was thought to have died out in the area. Together with the Allianz Umweltstiftung – Allianz Foundation for Sustainability, Frankfurt Zoological Society, the Biosphere Reserve's administration units, forestry offices, BUND/Friends of the Earth Germany and other stakeholders, the intensive use of lure sticks resulted in the identification of a total of 26 individuals in the Biosphere Reserve by November 2012. They were found to be genetically distinct from the Wildcat populations in adjacent areas. Obstacles to proliferation were identified and countermeasures taken, including the construction of three "green bridges" (wildlife crossings) and habitat enhancement measures. (*Jedicke, 2013*)

- **Noble Crayfish** (*Astacus astacus*): The German Noble Crayfish project started in 2000. After mapping the occurrence of competing species of aquarium crayfish of American origin and assessing the water bodies' suitability in terms of water quality and structure, the project carried out stocking measures annually along 14 sections of 10 streams from 2004 to 2010. The presence of offspring was first confirmed in 2008. In Thuringia, stocking first took place in 2010 and will continue until 2014. The administration units and crayfish conservation volunteers from local angling clubs are involved in crayfish monitoring within the framework of the Rhön Watercourses Working Group (AK Rhöner Fließgewässer), a voluntary initiative. (*Jedicke, 2013*)

The "Report for the Periodic Review of Rhön UNESCO Biosphere Reserve" (*Jedicke, 2013*) gives a wealth of information on the protected flora and fauna in the Rhön. This material could be an important source for future studies of the potential influence of artificial light at night on these beings.



Fig. 5.13: This picture was taken in November 2013 in Fulda and shows the influence of artificial lighting on the leaves of *Aesculus*: around the luminaires are still leaves while the rest of the trees are empty. (Foto: *Frank*)

## 5.9 Astronomical Tradition

In and around the Rhön there are some signs of early astronomical activities.

Near the cathedral of Fulda on the Michaelis church is a simple sundial that might be one of the oldest in Germany, dating from 800 AD. Another, more modern one, is on the baroque church of Bischofsheim.



Fig. 5.14: Ancient sundials in Fulda (left) and one baroque in Bischofsheim

In modern times public observatories of the Rhön region are installed in Bad Salzschlirf, Fulda and Meiningen. The natural science museum in Fulda has also a very active planetarium with a 6 m dome with 35 seats, modern digital projection technology and about 15.000 visitors annually.



Fig. 5.15: Hans-Nüchter observatory in Fulda and Planetarium Vonderau-Museum Fulda



Fig. 5.16.: Observatory in Salzschlirf (accessible for the disabled, foto: *Passarge*)

Fig. 5.17: Observatory Meiningen (foto: *Fiedler*)

## 6 Night sky quality in the Rhön

From the light pollution atlas of *Cinzano et al.* (2000) one might expect only mediocre sky quality of 21.0-21.5 mag/arcsec<sup>2</sup> in the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve that is situated in the center of Germany.

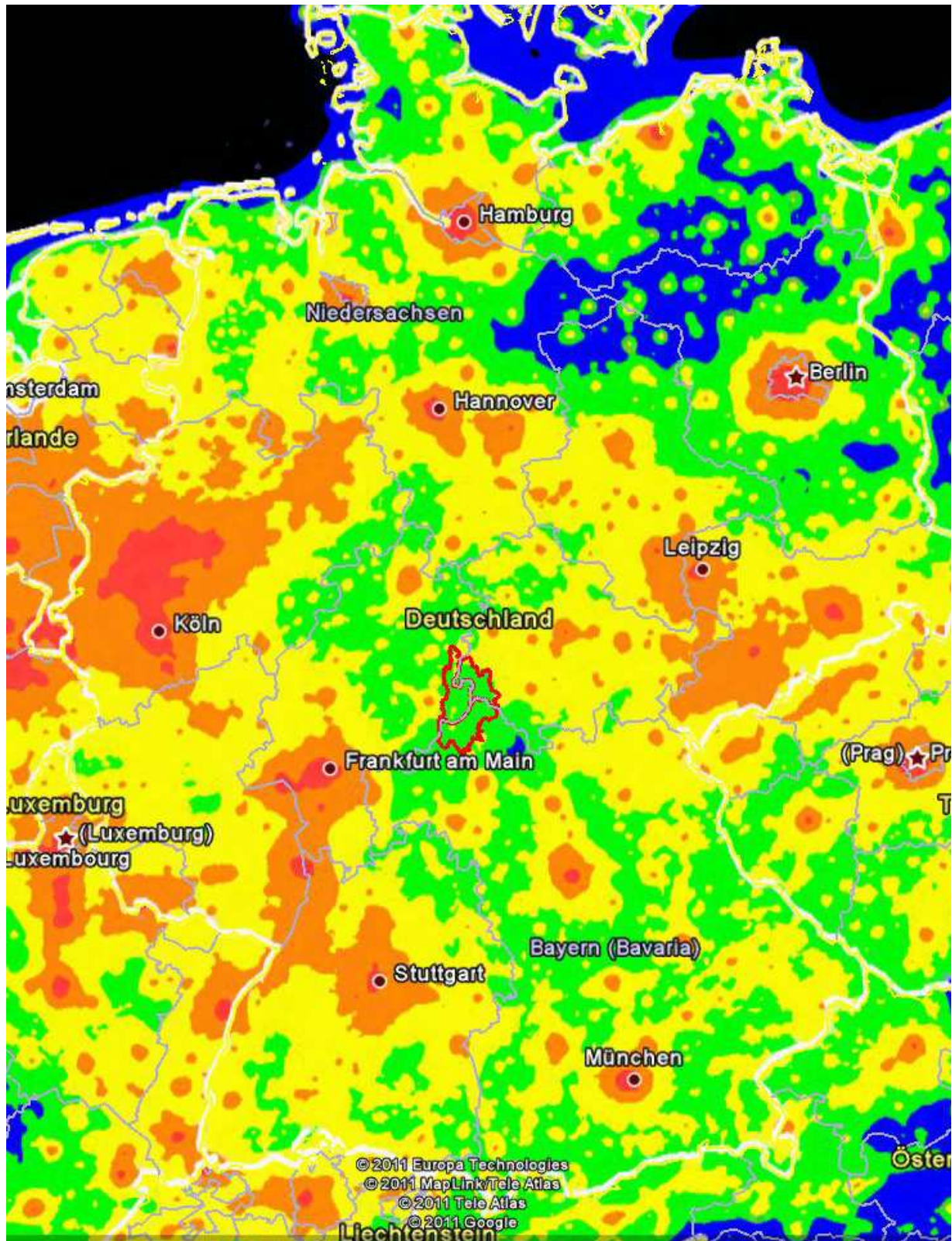


Fig. 6.1: The boundary (red) of the Rhön Biosphere Reserve has been overlaid onto a map of the artificial sky brightness from *Cinzano et al.* (2000).

Dark regions have been identified using the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program data of upward light for 2009. Some of these dark places are forests, where measurements were not possible as they were not accessible or as it was difficult to find places there with unobstructed views towards the sky. More than 130 measurements of the sky brightness have been taken with handheld Unihedron SQM-Ls between 2011 and

2014 by *Sabine Frank* (#2495) and *Andreas Hänel* (#2536). The SQM #2495 measures about 0.07 mag/arcsec<sup>2</sup> darker than the SQM #2536, which is used as the reference instrument by the German dark sky group. The individual values are listed in the appendix A1.

The measurements are influenced by different factors:

- The Milky Way increases the sky brightness by about 0.3-0.4 mag/arcsec<sup>2</sup> for the summer and 0.2 mag/arcsec<sup>2</sup> for the winter Milky Way.
- The sky background decreases during the evening hours as artificial lights are switched off. This effect is smaller in dark places than close to cities, but can amount up to 0.4 mag/arcsec<sup>2</sup> from the end of astronomical twilight until midnight.
- Some thin clouds influence the background brightness, this may have an effect of up to 0.2 mag/arcsec<sup>2</sup>. This is confirmed by the measurements by *Kyba et al. (2011)*, who found an increase of sky brightness by 0.2 mag/arcsec<sup>2</sup> in a rural place with a cloud cover of 1 Okta.

At some places measurements were taken at different times for reference reasons and we tried to correct the data for the various influences during different nights. Therefore we created a map with the direct uncorrected measurements, where only the small instrumental differences have been corrected (fig. 6.3), and another with the values, which have been corrected for the influence of the Milky Way (fig. 6.4). DMSP data for 2010 have been color coded and used as a background map, the method for generating these maps has been described by *Hänel (2006)*. Further on, the 2012 VIIRS data have also been used as background.

In addition all-sky DSLR photos with identical exposure data were taken (Canon 1000D, 800 ASA, RAW data, 3 minutes exposure time, Sigma 4.5 mm f/2.8 fisheye) on different nights and at different locations. These photos show the variations due to the influence of the Milky Way or different atmospheric transmissions. But they confirm that the sky is homogeneously dark over the core zones (fig. 6.5). As simultaneously SQM-L measurements have been taken, the pictures are calibrated and intensity values from the camera can be transformed to brightness values. This has also been done for some photos by *Zoltan Kollath* with the method he developed (fig. 6.2).

Since July 2011 we have also taken sky brightness measurements with the Roadrunner system. A SQM-LU and a GPS receiver are mounted on the roof of a car and software developed by *Daniel Rosa Infantes* stores positions and sky brightness values at fixed time intervals. This is a very effective method to collect many measurements in regions where there are not many obstacles like trees, buildings or street lamps along the route. Trees that are illuminated by the headlights of the car disturb the measurements as they increase the brightness. Therefore only the baseline can be used as a characteristic value (fig. A3). Some routes have been followed in the Lange Rhön, where few trees influence the measurements. They confirm that the region really has dark skies (fig. 6.6).

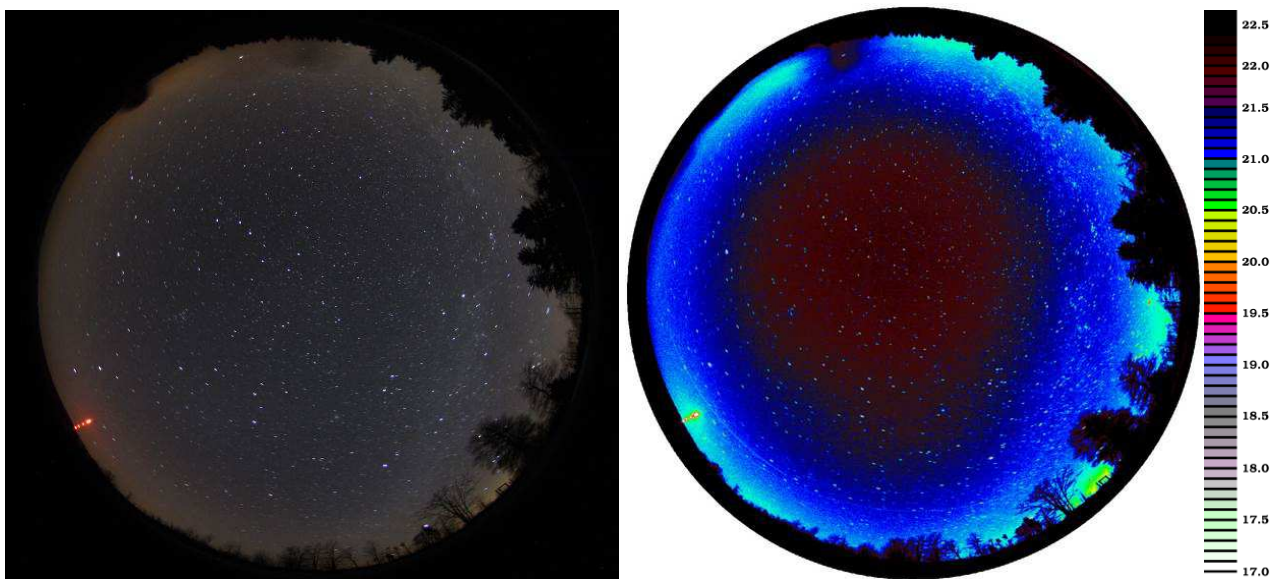


Fig. 6.2: All-Sky pictures taken at the Moorwiese in the Rhön. The calibration to skybrightness values was done by *Z. Kollath*.

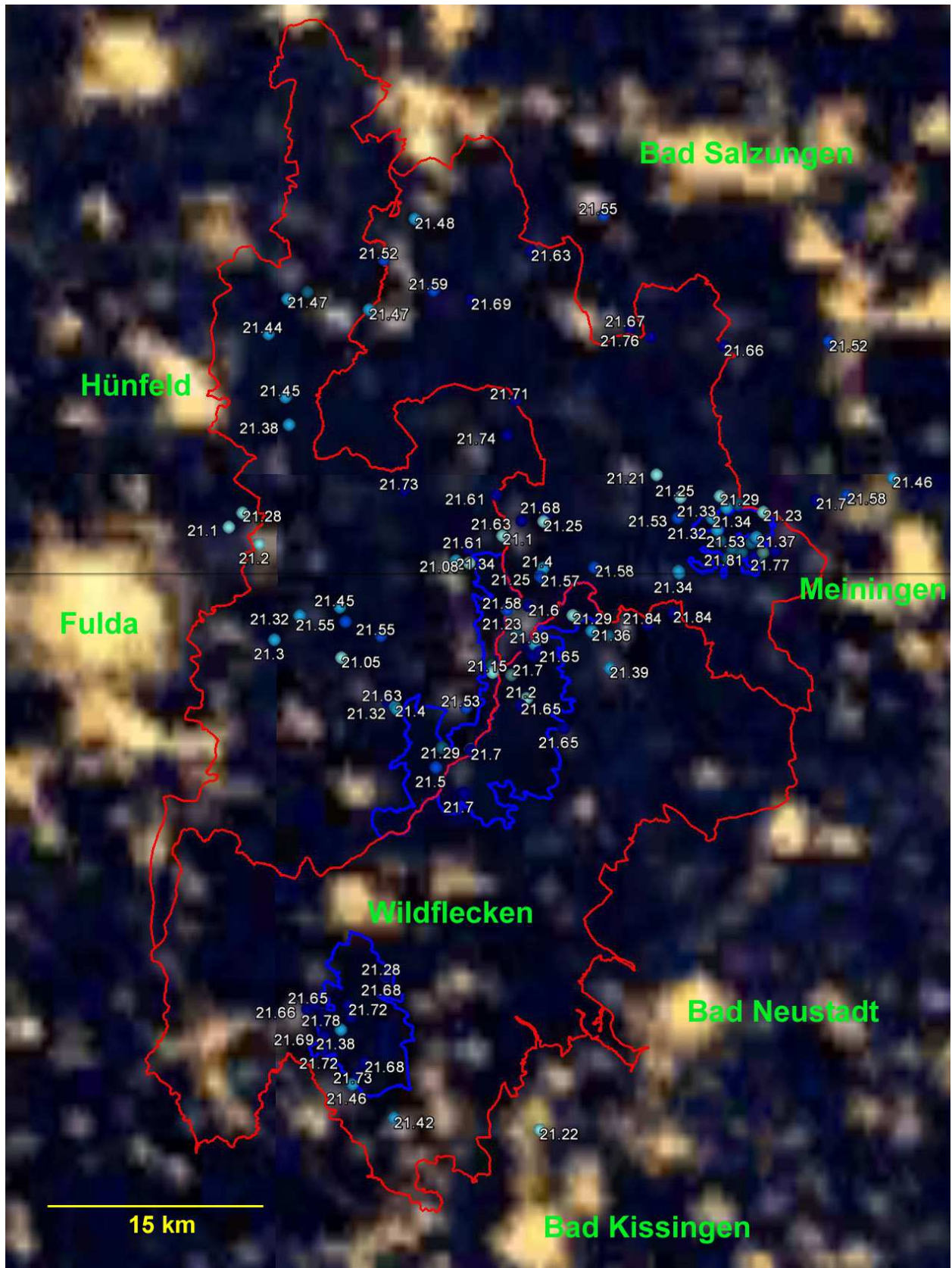


Fig. 6.3: Sky brightness measurements with instrumental differences corrected in the Rhön Biosphere Reserve, overlaid on VIIRS data from 2012. The reserve boundary is outlined in red, the proposed core zones blue, the measurements are color coded with dark blue being darkest and bright blue to yellow being brighter skies.

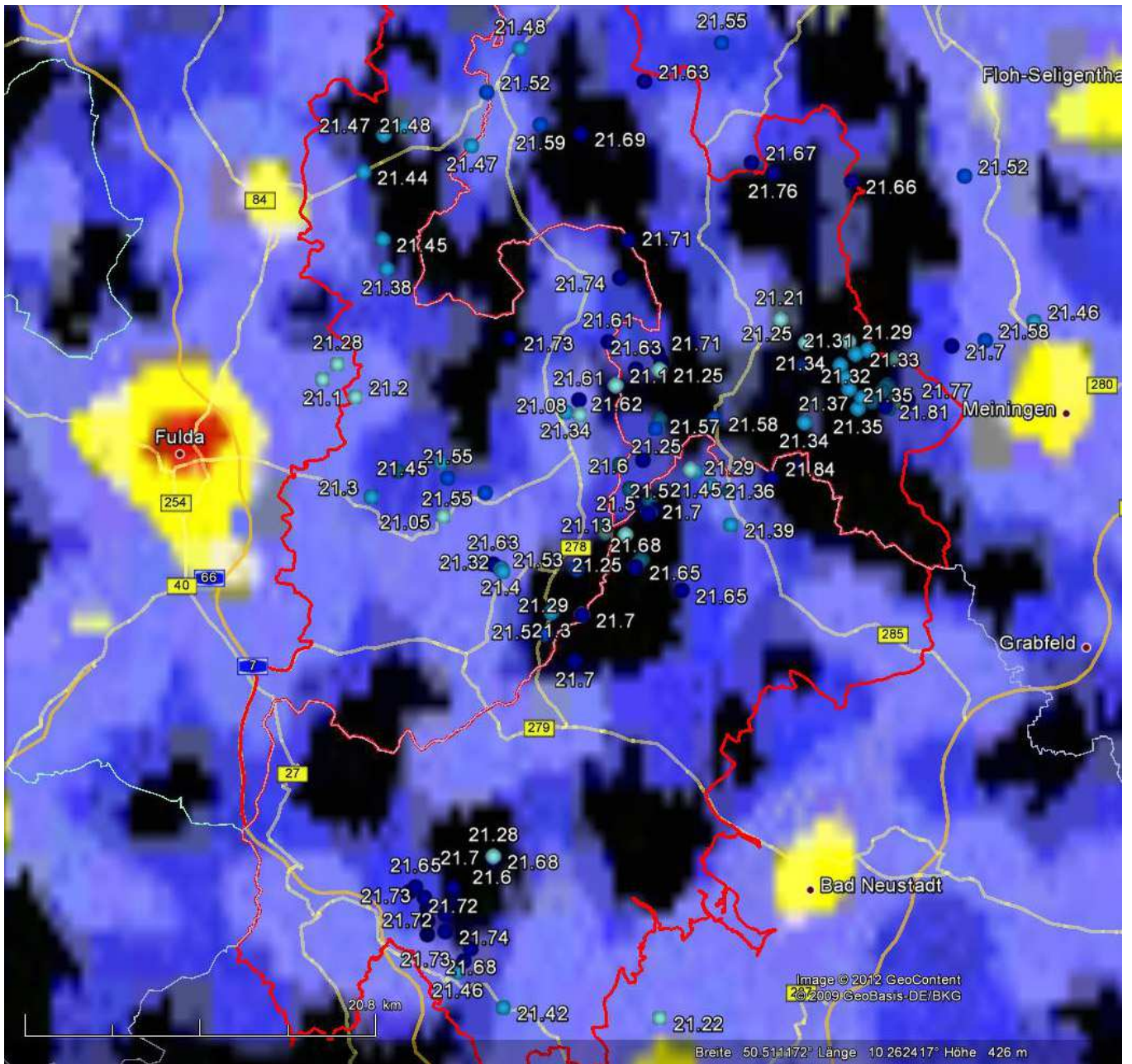


Fig. 6.4: Reduced sky brightness in the Rhön Biosphere Reserve, overlaid on a DMSP map from 2010. The measured brightness values have been corrected for the influence of the Milky Way. The reserve boundary is outlined in red, the measurements are color coded, with dark blue being darkest and bright blue to yellow being brighter skies.



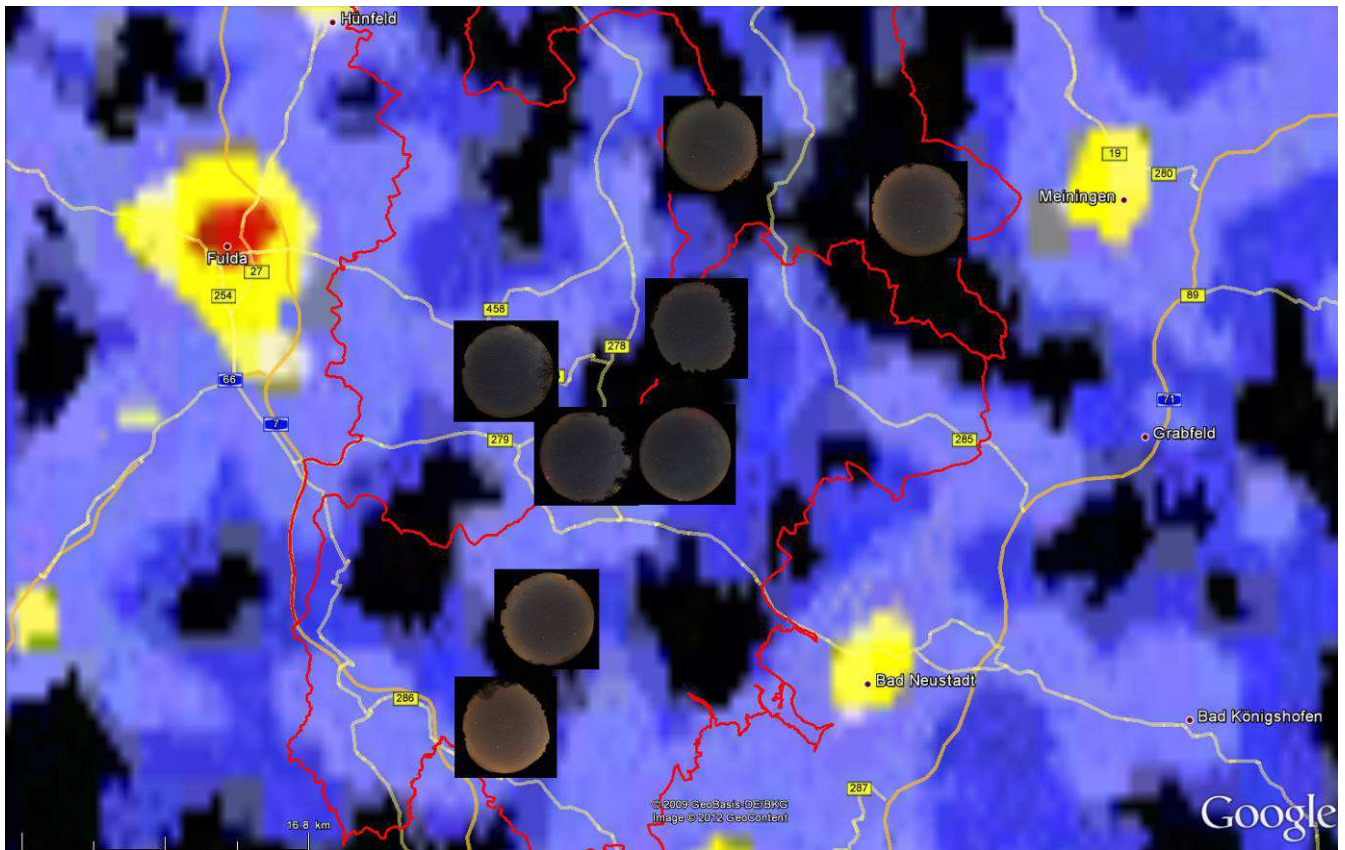


Fig. 6.5: All-sky pictures taken in the Rhön overlaid on the DMSP 2010 map.

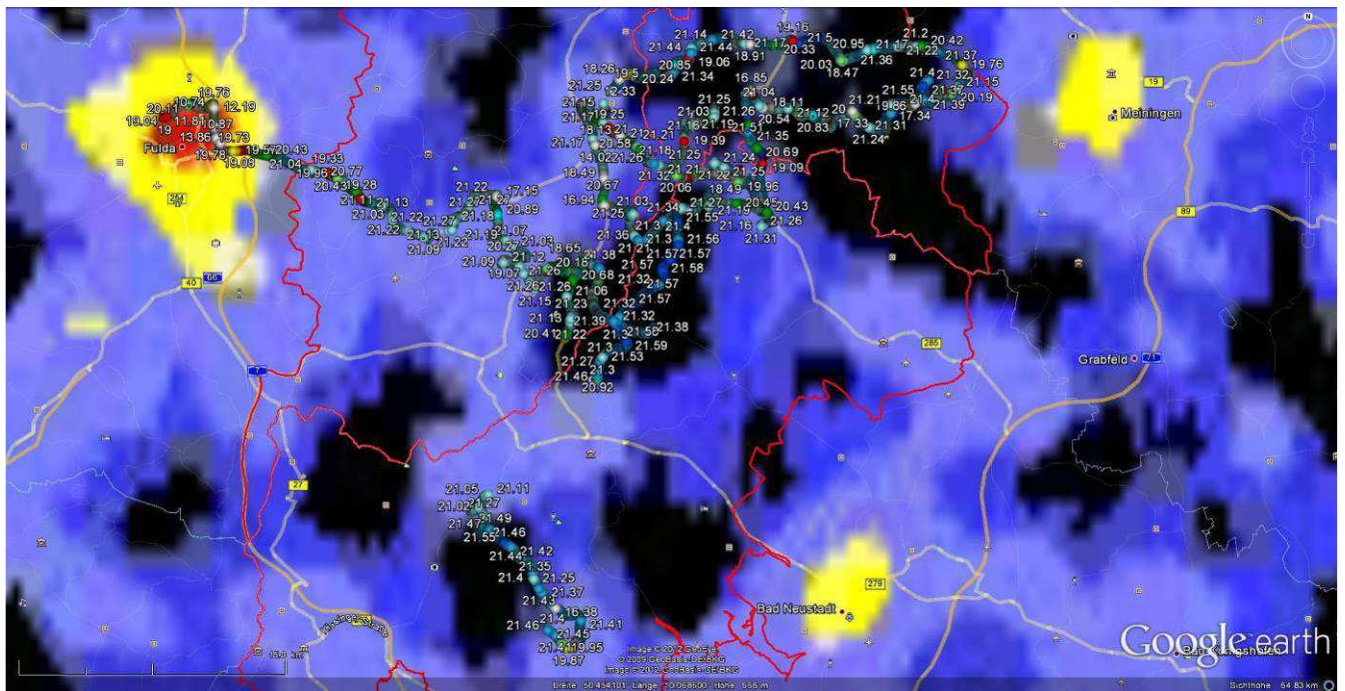


Fig. 6.6.: Roadrunner measurements taken with a SQM-LU and a GPS receiver overlaid on the DMSP2010 map.

## Airglow 2012

In the night 2012 July 22/23 faint colorless clouds could be observed first at the Weidberg and later at Hohe Geba. The all-sky pictures showed the green color of these clouds, which are typical airglow clouds and only visible under dark skies.



Fig. 6.7: Green airglow as observed from Hohe Geba on July 22/23, 2012, exposure time 3 min, 1:2,8, f=4.5 mm, ISO 800, Canon 1000D.

## General conclusions

As can be seen from these data, the DMSP and the VIIRS maps represent the sky brightness on a small-scale structure much better than the sky brightness map by Cinzano et al. (2000), proving their usefulness for identifying areas with natural darkness.

Several main dark areas can be identified on the maps and from the measurements. They mainly coincide with the core zones and the buffer zones of the Biosphere Reserve (fig. 6.9):

- Geisaer Wald in the North (Thüringen), a remote area that is not very accessible and does offer few unobstructed views of the sky.
- Hohe Geba mountain in the east (Thüringen): the sky is very dark but the eastern horizon is influenced by the light dome of the city Meiningen (21.000 inhabitants).
- Lange Rhön (all federal states) is the central area which is most nature protected. As it is furthest away from larger settlements it is also the darkest area.
- The military terrain Wildflecken in the Southwest (Hessen and Bayern), which normally is not accessible.
- The Schwarze Berge (black mountains) in the South (Bayern).
- Burgwallbacher forest and others in the Southeast (Bayern) which are hardly accessible and do not offer unobstructed views of the sky.

Sky brightness increases by about 0.2 - 0.3 mag/arcsec<sup>2</sup> towards the borders of the small villages.

**The variation of the sky brightness over these dark areas of the Rhön Biosphere Reserve is small. Outside the villages, the zenithal sky background is 21.5 - 21.7 mag/arcsec<sup>2</sup> in dark clear nights without the Milky Way. This is close to the natural dark sky brightness of about 21.8 mag/arcsec<sup>2</sup>. This is confirmed by the observation of the zodiacal light in spring (especially February) and even the much fainter Gegenschein (fig. 6.8). The globular cluster M15 and the galaxy M33 were visible**

and the limiting magnitude was observed to be 6.7 mag, indicating at least Class 3 of the Bortle scale. In July 2012 even the faint airglow was visible from the Rhön (fig. 6.7). In dry weather in some parts of the Lange Rhön even no light domes of surrounding villages are visible, which emphasizes the quality of the nocturnal environment.



Fig. 6.8: All-sky picture taken at the parking lot Rotes Moor, same exposure data as in fig. 6.7. In this contrast enhanced picture the zodiacal band can be followed over the Milky Way, the Gegenschein is visible under the Lion (date 4th March 2011). The light dome at lower right is from the city of Gersfeld in the Southwest.

This could be compared to observations at other dark places with the same SQM-L, so instrumental changes should be negligible. If available, measurements for spring (without) and autumn (with Milky Way) are given. Though the measurements were taken in clear moonless nights, meteorological influences make it difficult to define a characteristic value for one place.

Country	Place	Longitude	Latitude	Altitude	SB spring	SB autumn	SB best
Germany	Westhavelland	12.477	52.712	30	21.78	21.45	21.78
	Rhön	9.985	50.460	840	21.78	21.30	21.78
	Harz	10.677	51.738	540	21.73	21.20	21.73
	Herzberg	13.272	51.708	85		21.35	21.78
	Altmark	11.459	52.896	20		21.30	
	Eifel	6.358	50.505	680		21.05	21.60
	Swabian Alb	9.334	48.222	800	21.75	21.17	21.75
UK	Exmoor*	-3.256	51.078	200		21.00	21.80
France	Quercy	1.685	44.708	380		21.65	
CZ/PL	Jizera	15.340	50.824	900		21.20	21.65
Spain	Montsec	0.743	42.048	1500		21.65	22.10
	Tenerife	-16.611	28.258	2300	21.45		21.40
	La Palma	-17.867	28.761	2250		21.60	21.90
Hungary	Zselic	17.686	46.255	170		21.40	21.60
Croatia	Lastovo	16.856	42.743	350		21.60	22.00
USA	Great Sand Dunes	-105.517	37.738	2455	21.80		
	Natural Bridges	-109.354	37.462	1980	21.68		21.95
	Death Valley	-116.977	36.724	700	21.72		21.88

Tab. 6.1: Sky brightness measured with the same SQM-L at different dark places in Europe (\* east of the park) and North America. Besides the coordinates of the observing places, the altitude (in m) and the measured sky brightness (mag/arcsec<sup>2</sup>) in spring (SB spring) and in summer/autumn/winter (SB autumn) are given. The darkest measured sky brightness (SB best) was taken from different publications.

## Proposed International Dark Sky Reserve Rhön

Respecting the accessibility, the darkness of the sky and an adequate distribution in the different federal states, three core zones are finally proposed. Their limits correspond mainly to the nature protected areas and to the buffer zone (Pflegezone A) of the Biosphere Reserve (fig. 6.9). The core zones are also Fauna Flora Habitat (FFH), special areas of conservation (SAC) (Natura 2000 European habitat protection) and special protected areas (SPA) for birds (Natura 2000 bird sanctuaries). Therefore they are highly protected under European, national and regional law, they have not yet been classified according to IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) categories. The strong regulations in the Biosphere core and buffer zones apply to public and privately owned (relative fractions are not known, partly due to data protection) land, 80% of the area of the Biosphere Reserve are protected by law (landscape protection), 46% are in particular protected under national and European nature protection regulations.

But as protected areas are defined differently in the various states, the limits for the starlight core zone of Hohe Geba Mountain in Thüringen are defined by the FFH and SPA areas. This place was chosen for its exceptional sky conditions, the situation in Thüringen and the engagement of the relevant municipality Rhönblick. The small town Geba in the middle is excluded from protected areas like the settlements in the whole reserve. However it is planned that the 5 non compliant luminaires in the town will be exchanged as soon as funding is available.

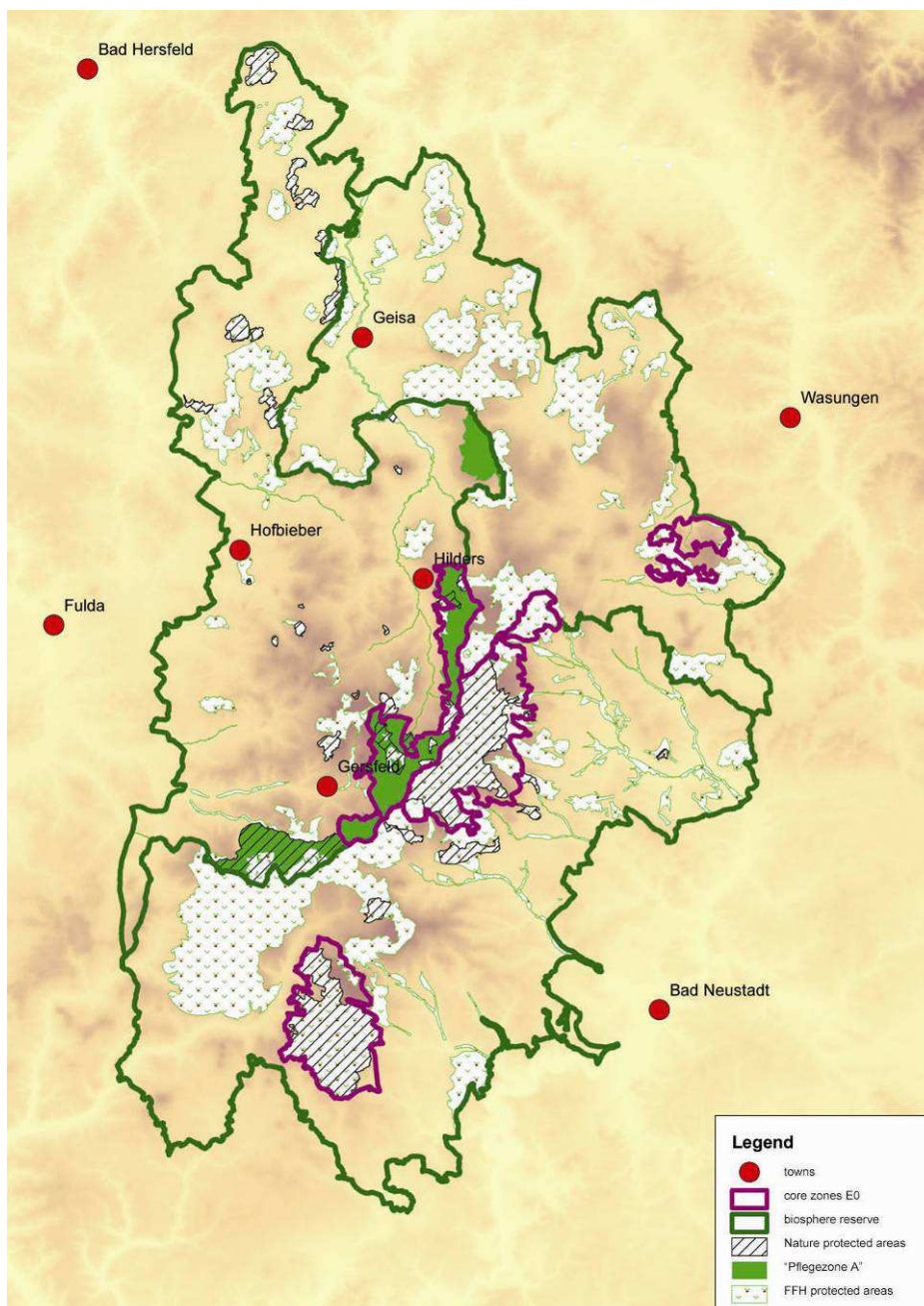


Fig. 6.9: Nature protected areas (black hashed), core zone in Hessen (Pflegezone A) (green) and FFH protected areas (dotted areas) in the Biosphere Reserve (green line), with the star light core zones E0 (purple) (map: M. Müller, Biosphere Reserve Hessen)

**Proposed star light core zones (E0) (to distinguish them from Biosphere Reserve core zones) in the Rhön Biosphere Reserve:**

1. Hohe Geba in the East (state of Thuringia), 9.7 km<sup>2</sup>
2. Lange Rhön in the centre (states of Hesse and Bavaria), 94.1 km<sup>2</sup>
3. Schwarze Berge (state of Bavaria) in the South, 41.2 km<sup>2</sup>

**Proposed star light buffer zone (E1):**

**This zone is defined by the boundaries of all communities that directly border the core zones. The size of this zone is about 874 km<sup>2</sup>.**

**Proposed outer star light buffer zone (E2):**

**This zone is defined by the communities outside of zone E1 but within the boundaries of the Biosphere Reserve without the communities in the far North of the Biosphere Reserve.**

The core zones coincide with the most typical and protected areas of the Biosphere Reserve. The protected areas to the Southwest was excluded because it is military terrain (Wildflecken) and therefore generally not open to the public.

The aim on short-term is to protect the natural sky in the core zones by reducing the main disturbing individual artificial lights in the surrounding buffer zone E1.

On a longer term (typically 10 years) it is intended that the three core zones might merge to one larger core zone. For this reason in some larger villages (especially Fladungen and Bischofsheim) most luminaires need to be retrofitted according to the lighting master plan.

The most protected core zones of the Lange Rhön and the Schwarze Berge can be transited by car on public roads by day and night, but parking is not allowed in order to protect wildlife. Hiking or skiing (in winter) is only possible on specifically identified paths. But in the proximity of the highly protected areas there are some public parking lots where observations at night are possible. Alternatively there are other places with dark skies that can be found in the surrounding area, some are mentioned in Chapter 10.

**As the correct term „Dark Sky Reserve“ is difficult to translate into German and the word “dark” would have a negative connotation, we prefer in German the term star park “Sternenpark im Biosphärenreservat Rhön”.**

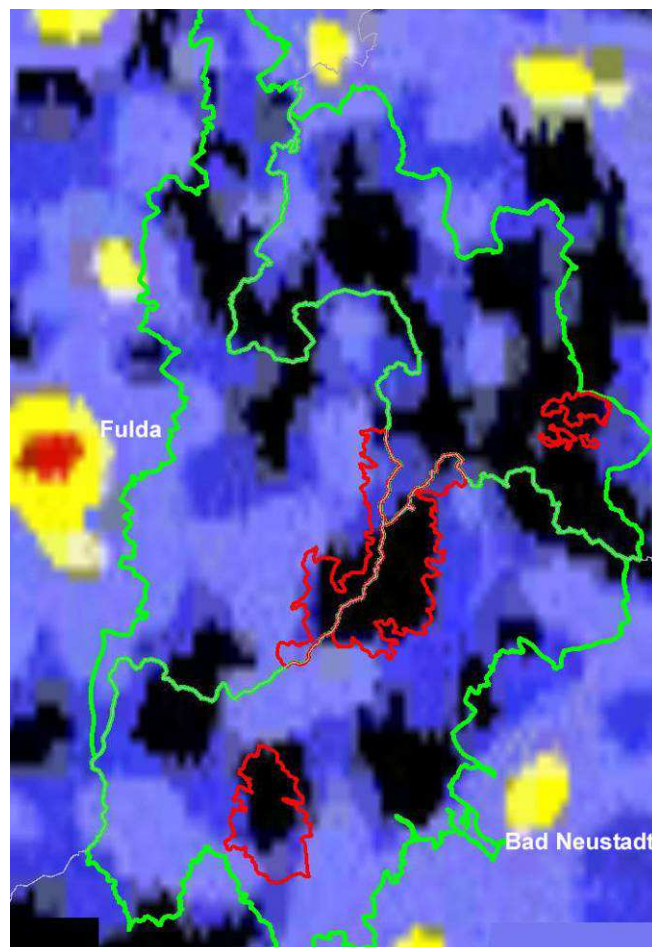


Fig. 6.10: Proposed borders of the (“starlight”) core zones (red) and the whole Biosphere Reserve (green) overlaid on the DMSP 2010 map.

## 7 Lighting inventory

### 7.1 Lighting panoramas

The contributors to the artificial sky brightness can be identified from satellite imagery, especially the VIIRS data from 2012, which have been evaluated together with the sky brightness measurements in chapter 6. Another method to identify the light polluters is taking panoramic pictures of the settlements which were taken for several places as the Rhön is mountainous. The estimated upward light ratio (ULR) and the amount of upward light (in klm = kilo Lumen) were taken from the lighting inventory (appendix A 2.3), but refers only to the public lighting. Illumination (especially of churches seems to be the second contributor) or industrial/commercial are not included in these numbers.



Fig. 7.1: Katzenstein, view towards the East (Empfertshausen)



Fig. 7.2: Ellbogen view towards West: Ober-, Unterweid, Tann, Simmershausen



Fig. 7.3: Frankenheim: Industrial complex with white light to the right (ULR=10.8%, 1109 klm)



Fig. 7.4: Hohe Geba towards the West, illumination of church Brüchs (see chapter 9.7)



Fig. 7.5: Hilders: unshielded street light (ULR=13.5%, 1652 klm)



Fig. 7.6: Seiferts: street lights (ULR=5.1%, 437 klm) and badly illuminated church, light dome of Fulda (background)



Fig. 7.7: Wüstensachsen: street lights (ULR=4.7%, 854 klm) and badly illuminated church



Fig. 7.8: Gersfeld: Mainly badly shielded lights in the center (ULR=11.6%, 1746 klm)



Fig. 7.9: Bischofsheim from the Southwest (ULR=12.3%, 2024 klm)



Fig. 7.10: Wildflecken: left: Oberwildflecken, street lighting (ULR=5.5%, 1249 klm) and a brightly illuminated industrial complex





Fig. 7.11: Kreuzberg: view far towards the South, mainly street lighting

Most of these panoramic pictures were taken from the proposed core zones. The following main sources of artificial lighting can be identified on these panoramic pictures:

- public street lighting is the most important contributor in the villages and often not fully shielded,
- some badly oriented façade illuminations are far reaching disturbing light sources,
- some industrial or commercial complexes can also be important light sources.

## 7.2 Core Zones E0

Artificial lighting in the core zones is mainly private at few houses and a quarry. Most lamps have less than 1000 lumens and are only used when it is necessary (by switching on and off). They were inspected during day and especially during night several times. **Most were normally switched off during night** and switched on only when necessary, sometimes through motion detectors, most by switches.

The lighting inventory for the core zones is presented in appendix A2.1. Most luminaires fulfill the criteria for dark core zones, some can easily put into compliance. Only 8 luminaires (mainly working and security light in the quarry), which corresponds to a fraction of 7% of all luminaires in the core zones, need to be adjusted or exchanged, most are simply switched off.

Unexpectedly, disturbing light sources near some proposed observing places are indoor lights from unshielded windows, which is not theme of lighting guidelines for outdoor lighting and therefore difficult to regulate. However the inhabitants (mainly restaurants/hotels) have been contacted and some have meanwhile reduced the lights and/or shielded them (e.g. through curtains). They have already realized that astro-tourism will become a growing market segment and therefore protecting the dark around their houses will help to attract stargazers.



Fig. 7.12: Lights from windows at Hohe Geba (left) and Kissinger Hütte (right) appear so bright due to long exposure times, some are shielded now.

The lighting on the TV towers (Heidelstein and Kreuzberg) is necessary security lighting, which is regulated. Due to its red color the disturbance to night observation and night life is limited.



Fig. 7.13: TV tower Heidelstein.with security (air traffic) lighting.

### 7.3 Buffer Zone E1

#### 7.3.1 Illuminations

Façade illuminations in the inner buffer zone close to the core zone are mainly church illuminations.



Fig. 7.14: Illuminated churches in Brüchs (left) and Oberelsbach



Fig. 7.15: Illuminated churches in Seiferts (left) and Wüstensachsen



Fig. 7.16: Bischofsheim, church still illuminated after midnight, Fladungen town gate

Due to the lighting guidelines for the star park, some of the churches already switch off the lighting earlier in the evenings, others will change the orientation of the lighting beam that they no longer illuminate the sky.

### 7.3.2 Commercial lighting

Commercial lighting is mainly due to some larger hotels and some smaller industrial complexes. Some hotels reduce their lighting during the night.



Fig. 7.17: Hausen, Rhönpark-Hotel, Rother Kuppe, street lighting and hotel



Fig. 7.18: Brewery Roth is illuminated all night, industrial district Frankenheim with illuminated aluminum facade.

Other hotels have been contacted and they will change their lighting, when they do new installations or renovations. It is helpful to demonstrate some positive examples like the following:



Fig. 7.19: Some positive examples: left: an industrial hall using only full cut-off luminaires that the view towards the stars is not disturbed too much (Frankenheim). Right: a supermarket in the foreground switches off lighting after the end of the business hours, the other one behind uses full cut-off luminaires (Hilders)

### 7.3.3 Skiing runs



Fig. 7.20: Illuminated skiing area on the Wasserkuppe

Due to the height several skiing runs exist in the Rhön Biosphere Reserve, but can only be used during few weeks in winter, in some winters even not at all, which might be already signs of the climate change. Most are not illuminated. The one on the Wasserkuppe is illuminated some few evenings. Beside the light reflected from the snow, the floodlights are not very well adjusted and emit much light towards the sky. Adjustment of these could reduce the amount of upward light, the light reflected from snow can only be reduced by reducing the total amount of light. Measurements however showed that the levels do not yet correspond to values proposed by the norms. The lighting certainly would disturb astronomical observations considerably in the near surroundings, however under these weather conditions observations are also very limited. The owners are willing to discuss ways of improving the lighting.

### 7.3.4 Public street lighting

The light domes over the villages in the buffer zone E1 are the main disturbing light sources and are originating mainly from public lighting. To estimate the amount of disturbing upward light and to identify the main disturbing sources, a lighting inventory of the buffer zone was created. It was difficult to get this information as the villages often had no inventories themselves. Some energy suppliers could provide detailed inventories, but in some villages there were even different suppliers with data of varying quality. Part of the data was collected by *Sabine Frank* and *Andreas Hänel*. Most work on the Bavarian villages was done by *Jörg Rehmann* from the Bavarian Biosphere Reserve administration. Further important data was provided by EON Bayern (Bayernwerk) and the Überlandwerk (RhönEnergie) Fulda. A total data base of about 6000 luminaires mainly of the communities in the buffer zone E1 was collected.

As far as possible the following data was gathered:

- Position of the fixture (data taken with a mobile smartphone with GIS application)
- Type of fixture
- Type of lamp and power rating (wattage)
- Times of switch-off or reduction

The type of **fixture** must be known in order to determine its upward light ratio (ULR). If the manufacturer is known, it is possible to search for the photometric data. With software like Dialux ([www.dial.de](http://www.dial.de)) it is then possible to calculate the ULR. Sometimes this was however difficult as the manufacturer could not be identified, no photometric data existed for the model or the model was too old. Therefore we tried to derive the ULR from similar models for which photometric data was available.



Fig. 7.21: Typical luminaires in the Rhön. The fixtures in the top row and the two at the bottom left have typically ULR = 10-25 %, the others have typically ULR = 5 and 2 %.

Another problem was the identification of the **lamps**. In most villages mercury high pressure (HQL) lamps are still being used, mostly with a power rating of 80 Watt and a luminous flux of 4000 lumens. As their trade will be forbidden from the year 2015 they are often replaced with 70 Watt sodium high pressure lamps (SON) that due to higher efficiency have typically 6000 lm. The long fixtures use fluorescent tubes typically with 2 x 40 W tubes with a total of 7000 lm

Due to these uncertainties we estimate that the following numbers are accurate with an error of about 10% - 20%. The individual data is collected in data files, summary data for the villages is given in appendix A2.2.

**The municipalities in the buffer zone have about 40.000 inhabitants and 6000 luminaires. They have an electrical power of 420 kW and produce 30.5 Mlm (Megalumen). Only 22 % of the fixtures are cut-off (defined as ULR <1%) at the moment. The estimated upward flux is about 2.5 Mlm, so the mean ULR is about 8%. However this is not the flux towards the sky as a certain amount is shielded by buildings and vegetation. Furthermore, many villages reduce lighting during night by partial or total switch-off, so that the amount of light is reduced during the night.**

**Therefore the main aim must be to reduce the upward flux by installing more cut-off fixtures in the future and reducing the amount of light during night by switching off.**

But due to the bad financial situation of the municipalities, the exchange of the fixtures can only be done on a long term perspective.

From the lighting inventory some interesting characteristic values can be derived and compared:

The power rating per inhabitant is typically 10.5 Watt. With a typical illumination time of 4000 hours per year the energy consumption is 40 kWh/person, which corresponds to the average energy consumption for public lighting in Germany.

The mean luminous flux per person in the buffer zone E1 is 765 lm/inhabitant, varying between 400 ... 1400. These values correspond to values derived for Dutch villages in 1986 (Schreuder, p. 735), but is just  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the often used value of 1000 lm/inhabitant and lower than values from other inventories (e.g. Luginbuhl et al., 2009).

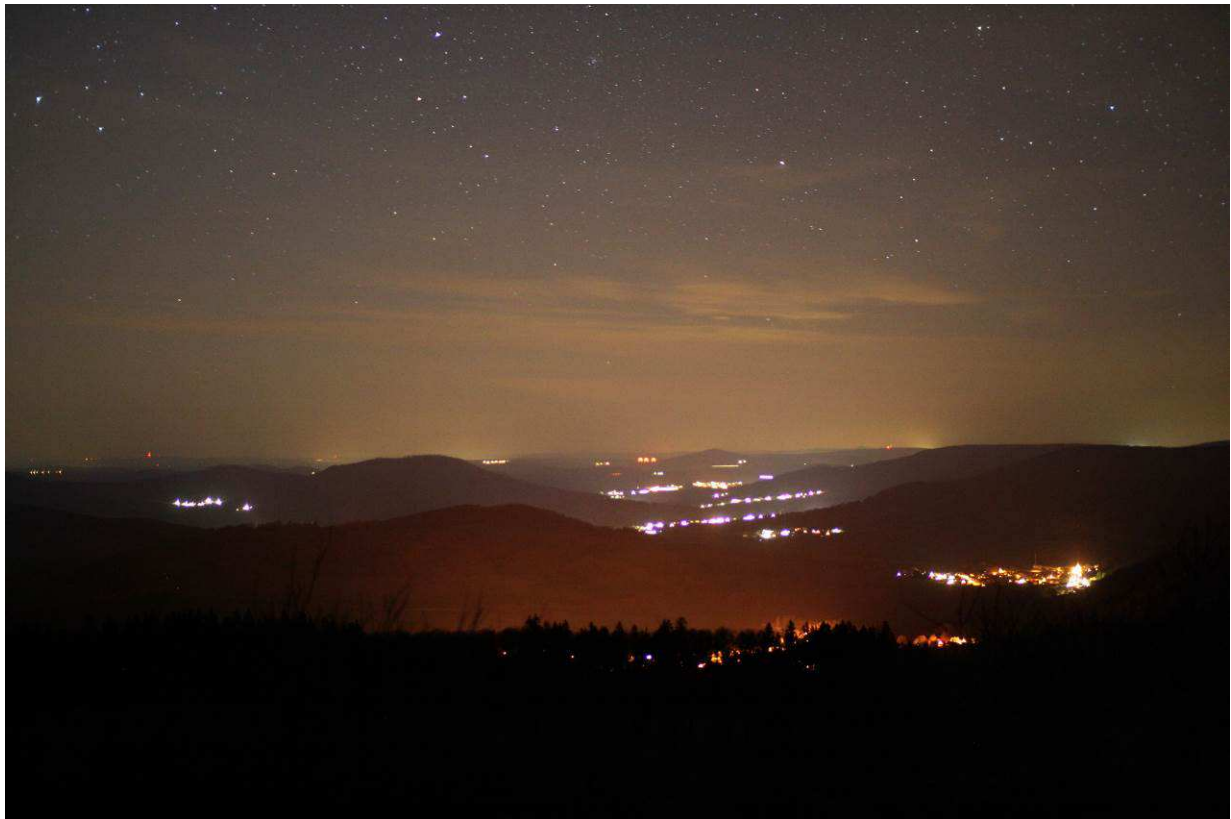


Fig. 7.22: This photo taken from the Ellbogen Mountain shows the different influences of public lighting. In the foreground a village with a high amount of ULR (15%) produces a yellow light dome clearly visible. At the right another village with a lower ULR (9%), but about 20% more light, produces a less diffuse light dome. On the horizon in the background light domes from larger villages can be seen.



Fig. 7.23: This picture from the city of Fulda (64 000 inhabitants, just outside the borders of the Biosphere Reserve) shows that houses shield the street lighting, but the facades reflect the light diffusely.

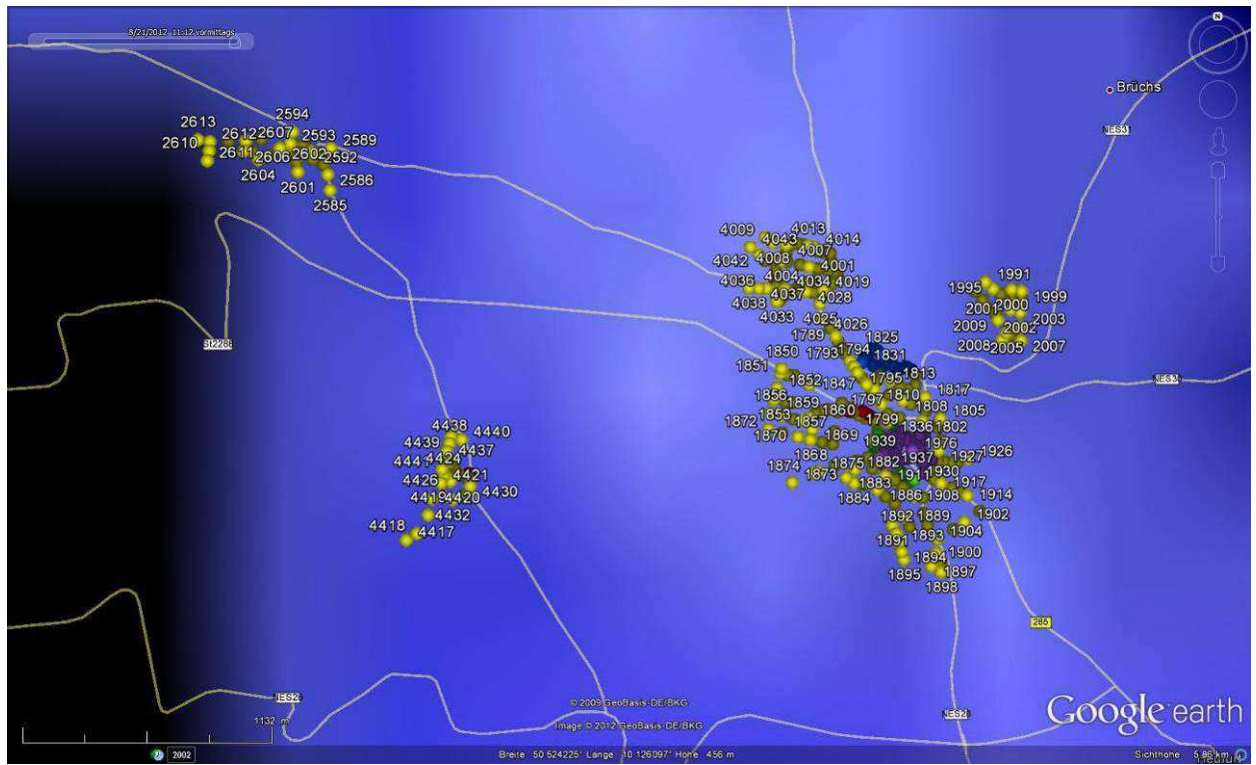


Fig. 7.24: A sample of the lighting inventory of the city of Fladungen overlaid on the DMSF 2010 map.



Fig. 7.25: The Pleiades, photo taken at the Schwarze Moor (Foto: *Werner Klug*)

## 8 Lighting Management Plan

Lighting guidelines have been worked out by the working group Dark Sky of the German amateur astronomers' association (Vereinigung der Sternfreunde) together with the administrations of the Nature Park Westhavelland and the Rhön Biosphere Reserve. They are based on the guidelines for International Dark Sky Reserves of the IDA (vers. 1.2, March 2008), the guidelines for Dark Sky Preserves of the RASC, the Starlight reserve recommendations and recent scientific results and publications.

A draft version has been presented to and discussed with the regional firms providing artificial lighting to the municipalities in the Rhön in June 2012. 12 people participated and discussed the draft. They were also discussed with *Rene van Ratingen*, a well-known lighting engineer working at a large lighting firm.

Many discussions with people who are responsible for lighting (municipalities, energy suppliers, local electricians) showed that guidelines for lighting must be as concise as possible.

They fulfill the new IDA guidelines (vers. May 2013) concerning the blue content of lamps as they require a color temperature of 3000 K or less. They do not fulfill the 600 lm limit for unshielded light, because they had been presented to the public and printed before the release of the revised IDA guidelines. Yet this point is addressed in public hearings.

They have been approved by the Biosphere Reserve administrations in the three states Bayern, Hessen and Thüringen and were printed in early 2013.



The guidelines contain the following documents:

- Foreword by the head of the ARGE Rhön with some general information about the project,
- pre-formulated decisions for the municipal councils,
- the guidelines themselves,
- explanations accompanying these decisions on how to reduce light pollution,
- a separate list of examples of full cut-off luminaires available on the German market, which has already been updated several times according to changes in the market.

Fig. 8.1: The printed lighting guidelines

Within the Rhön Biosphere Reserve, the following lighting guidelines will be applied (details in appendix A3):

### Starlight Core Zones E0

**No artificial (public and private) lighting should be installed in the core of the dark sky reserve.**

If artificial lighting should be necessary (e.g. for security reasons), it must:

- be explained why light is necessary,
- use full cut-off fixtures if lamps are brighter than 1000 lumens, but working towards a limit of 600 lm.,
- use preferably yellow or warm white colour (correlated colour temperature 3000 K or less),
- be switched-on only when necessary.

### Starlight Buffer Zone E1

The darkness in the core zone will be protected through buffer zone E1 surrounding the cores with a total area of 873 km<sup>2</sup>. This zone is defined by the communities that are part of the core zones E0 or that directly border the core zones. Some of these however do not belong to the Biosphere Reserve, especially in the Northeast and in the South. In Bavaria some areas are state forests where by law construction and therefore also lighting installations are prohibited. Generally the area outside of the settlements is controlled by regional, national and/or European nature protection laws, any changes or installations are strongly regulated. Within the settlements the councils of the municipalities are responsible for the **public lighting**. In the villages of the buffer zone luminaires must be installed according to the lighting guidelines, when new luminaires are installed or old fixtures need to be replaced. The local governing bodies of the municipalities of zone E1, which have to take formal decisions to support the star park and to follow the lighting guidelines, are listed in table 8.1.



	Area [km <sup>2</sup> ]	Inhab.
<b>Biosphere Reserve</b>	<b>1865</b>	
<b>Communities in Buffer Zone E1</b>		
<b>Thüringen</b>		
Rhönblick	76.16	2806
Stepfershausen	15.76	641
Oberkatz	9.12	277
Unterkatz	9.83	388
Aschenhausen	3.61	178
Kaltensundheim	11.78	785
Erbenhausen	20.68	556
Kaltenwestheim	19.36	953
Melpers	2.85	91
Unterweid	7.13	459
Oberweid	10.19	529
Frankenheim	9.11	1126
Birx	2.79	181
<b>Bayern</b>		
Bischofsheim	67.72	4794
Oberelsbach	67.66	2757
Ostheim	40.73	3407
Fladungen	46.37	2178
Hausen	24.21	717
Sondheim	18.58	959
Sandberg	28.04	2561
Wildflecken	77.56	3052
Riedenberg	13.22	970
Großer Auersberg	4.68	0
Geroda	16.79	901
Burkardsroth	69.11	7640
<b>Hessen</b>		
Ehrenberg	40.81	2547
Hilders	70.38	4655
Gersfeld	89.37	5531
<b>Sum zones E1+E0</b>	<b>873.6</b>	<b>51639</b>
Percent accepted	85.5	86.4

Table 8.1: Municipalities in starlight buffer zone E1: Municipalities with red numbers have not yet voted on the guidelines, with red background have declined (Birx).

The lighting guidelines (see appendix) give simple but effective rules for dark sky compliant lighting:

- In future only full cut-off (ULR=0% or – even more sharply - lighting class G6) luminaires shall be installed.
- Lamps with high efficiency and color temperatures below 3000 K shall be used as ecological light sources with low content of blue light.
- Illuminances must not be brighter than 2 cd/m<sup>2</sup>, self-illuminating signs not brighter than 50 cd/m<sup>2</sup>.
- Maximum illumination level for streets shall not be higher than 10% over the levels recommended in norm DIN/EN 13201. This upper value was agreed on during European IDA meetings in Genk and Brussels (2005). From a juridical point of view lower values than those defined in the norms cannot be recommended though in practice levels in use are mostly much lower than specified by the norm.
- Reducing the light during the night (total or partial switch-off, illumination on demand, illumination with motion sensors) between 23:00 and 5:30 is recommended.
- Using a bright pavement (concrete) will also allow using lower illuminance values.

Communities in the Biosphere Reserve have already demonstrated their willingness to reduce light pollution by applying the lighting guidelines for new installations or replacements. This will be shown by the examples which have been planned during the application process since 2011-2014.

## Outer Starlight Buffer Zone E2

The rest of the Biosphere Reserve is within the outer buffer zone with less strict regulations than zone E1.

The lighting guidelines are less strict (compared to zone E1) in a few points:

- ULR can be up to 3% in built up areas where the light is blocked by buildings (mainly city centers)
- Illuminances must not be brighter than 5 cd/m<sup>2</sup>, self-illuminating signs not brighter than 100 cd/m<sup>2</sup>
- Switch-off is recommended between 24:00 and 5:00.

	Area [km <sup>2</sup> ]	Inhabit.
<b>Biosphere Reserve</b>	<b>1865</b>	
<b>E2-Kommunen</b>		
<b>Thüringen</b>		
Oepfershausen	12.26	486
Friedelshausen	6.91	314
Hümpfershausen	13.26	418
Schwarzbach (Schwallungen)*		350
Wasungen* ???	29.5	3467
Wahns*	8.01	430
Mehmels*	6.46	349
Rippershausen*	11.49	871
Walldorf*	12.16	2196
Wallbach*	5.07	366
Roßdorf	17.28	678
Empfertshausen WAK	4.87	592
Klings WAK	6.51	464
Fischbach WAK	7.02	555
Kaltenlengsfeld WAK	9.73	416
Kaltenordheim WAK	15.61	1712
Herpf (Meiningen)	18.08	918
Sülzfeld*	17.39	863
Diedorf	4.75	373
Wiesenthal*	13.57	788
Neidhartshausen	7.59	334
Zella	1.71	267
Brunnhartshausen	10.59	378
Gerstengrund	4.58	63
Oechsen	12.49	649
Buttlar	21.27	1323
Geisa	71.75	4675
Schleid	30.39	1025
<b>Hessen</b>		
Hofbieber	87.2	5990
Dipperz	30.05	3302
Nüsttal	45.5	2830
Rasdorf	30.07	1632
Ebersburg	37.05	4480
Poppenhausen	40.77	2536
Tann E1	60.45	4430

	Area [km <sup>2</sup> ]	Inhabit.
<b>Bayern</b>		
Motten	23.8	1756
Stockheim	19.86	1135
Nordheim	16.56	1105
Willmars	12.17	589
Bastheim*	41.75	2126
Schönau	15.58	1260
Schondra*	28.61	1730
Mellrichstadter Forst	4.14	0
Burgwallbacher Forst	16.18	0
Forst Schmalwasser-Nord	1.69	0
Forst Schmalwasser-Süd	14.31	0
Steinacher Forst	19.85	0
Römershager Forst-Ost	3.76	0
Waldfensterer Forst	11.31	0
Geiersnest-Ost	19.63	0
Oberleichtersbach	27.6	2026
Bad Brückenau	23.73	6462
<b>Sum zone E2</b>	<b>1011.92</b>	<b>68709</b>

Tab. 8.2: Municipalities in buffer zone E2. Municipalities with red numbers have not yet voted on the guidelines, with red background have declined (Geisa).

The municipalities lying in the E2 zone are listed in table 8.2.

**Most communities (85.5% of the areas and 86.4% of the population) within the core and buffer zone E1 have adopted the guidelines and therefore will effectively protect dark skies within the core zones in the future (status Mai 2014).**

**Referring to the whole Biosphere Reserve, communities with 67 % of the area of the Biosphere Reserve and 69% of the population have formally adopted the lighting guidelines till May 2014. The process is ongoing, further municipalities will vote on the lighting guidelines in the months after writing the application and it is expected that further communities will adopt the guidelines.**

A special case are some municipalities in Thüringen, as there was a massive opposition against changes in zonation of the Biosphere Reserve (*Jedicke, 2013*) which seems to have been transferred to the zonation scheme of the star park, as some municipalities (Birx and Geisa) decided to not support the project for now. This might be due to the fact that there was not enough information given to these villages. Therefore in the next months more information and talks will be given to the communities and their population on the star park hoping that they also will adopt the guidelines – especially as the state Thüringen has a long tradition in astronomy!

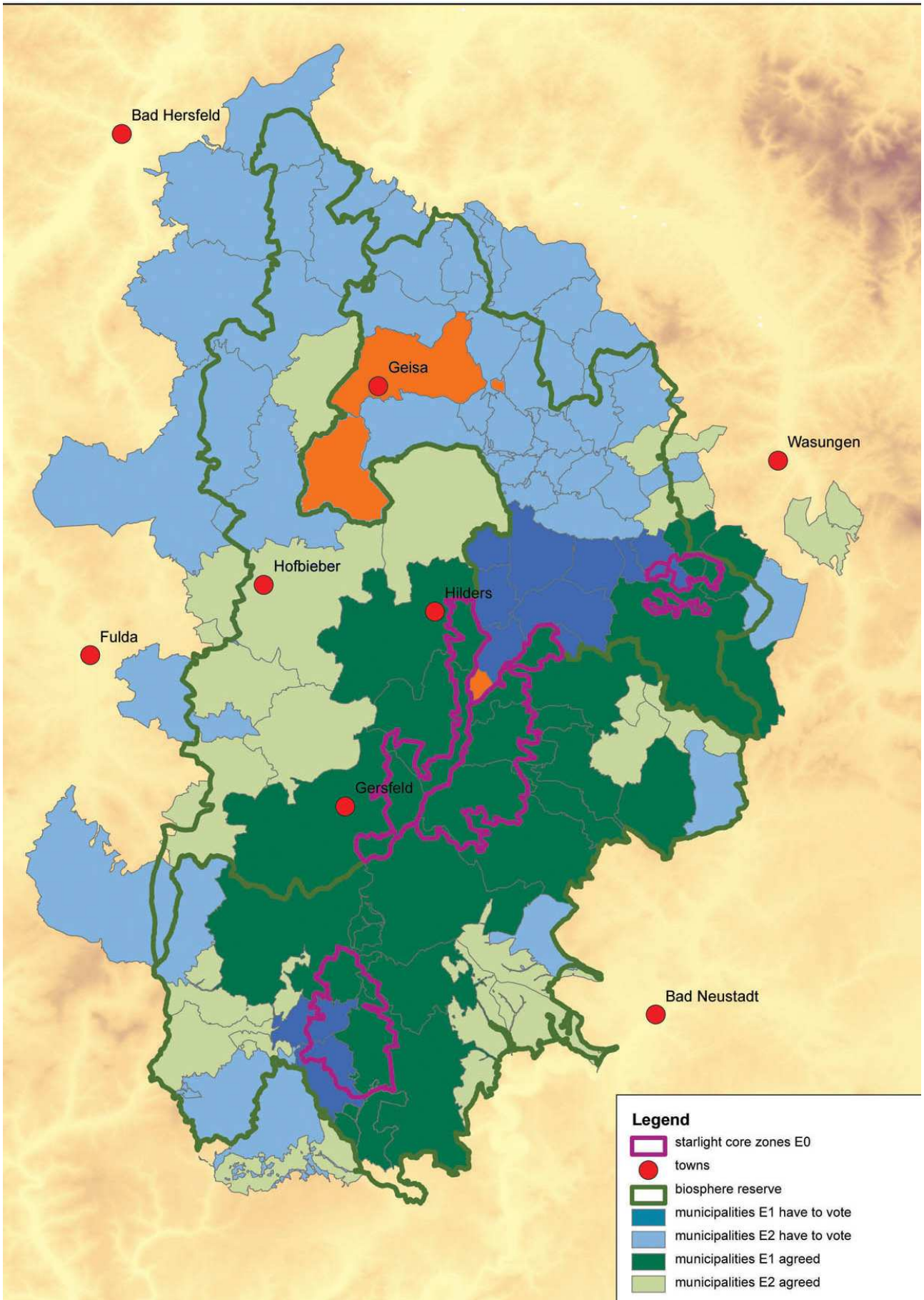


Fig. 8.2: Municipalities in the Rhön Biosphere Reserve: purple line: starlight core zone E0, dark green line: boundary Biosphere Reserve. Dark green areas are the municipalities in E1, bright green areas municipalities in E2 that accepted the guidelines, dark blue are municipalities in E1 that should, bright blue are municipalities in zone E2 that should vote on the guidelines. Red are municipalities that voted against.

## 9 Modifications in the Biosphere Reserve

Already during the preparatory process for installing the star park a lot of bad lighting installations were removed or changed to dark sky friendly illumination.

### Modifications in buffer zone E1

#### 1. Environmental education center Schwarzes Moor

The artificial outdoor lighting at the environmental education center has simply been removed as it was not used anyway, though they were expensive designer luminaires. The fluorescent tubes in the building are shielded through the roof and used only very occasionally.



Fig. 9.1: Outdoor lighting at the environmental education center, which has been removed.

#### 2. Rhöniversum

Mainly brightly illuminated windows shine into the night, the flood lights at the parking lot will be exchanged.



Fig. 9.2: Lighting at the Rhöniversum

#### 3. Quarry Seiferts

The light at the entrance is controlled by a motion sensor, but the bright lights in the quarry were on during night. The director agreed that the lighting will generally be switched off after the end of working hours, which only occasionally last till 21:30 in summer. A check in March 2014 showed that it is true.

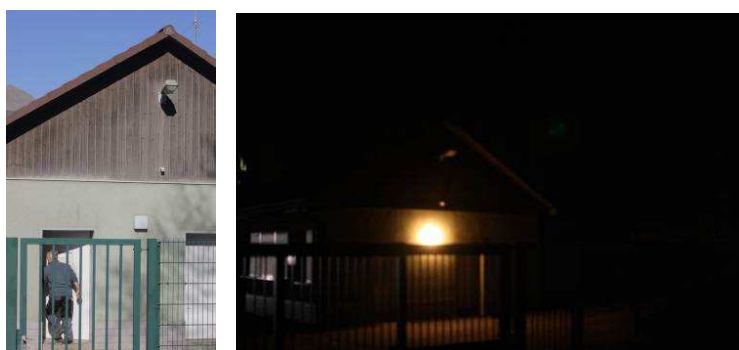


Fig. 9.3: Lighting at the entrance of the quarry



Fig. 9.4: Lighting within the quarry

## Modifications in buffer zone E1

### 4. Wasserkuppe

The Wasserkuppe is the highest mountain in the Biosphere Reserve and was used as military radar and surveillance station to explore eastern Germany till 1989. The area was illuminated with security lighting that was visible at large distances. This has been removed completely in 2010 – ever since then the mountain top is dark and the project star park will help that it remains dark.



Fig. 9.5: Left: Wasserkuppe in 2004 with security lighting (photo: *Norbert Demel*), right: In 2011 only a red security lighting (switched off in the meantime) was on the radar dome and clouds illuminated from villages.



Fig. 9.6: Entrance lighting of the Biosphere Reserve administration building Hessen was switched on the whole night and has been retrofitted with motion detectors.

As in the near future the parking lot on the Wasserkuppe will be renovated, new installations are planned for pedestrian crossings. Originally luminaires with lighting levels of 25 lx, LED with cct 4000 K and whole night use were planned. After invention from the star park protagonists, only full cut-off luminaires will be installed with yellow LED with cct <2000 K and lighting levels of 9 lx. They will be switched on only during winter and be reduced (down to 10%) during the night. They will be installed in summer 2014 and shall become a demonstration project for environmentally friendly lighting.

### 5. Oberelsbach

The original decision was to replace all lamps in Oberelsbach with LEDs with cct 4000 K. But strongly arguing for the requirements of the star park a final decision was agreed for LED replacement kits or new luminaires with 3000 K cct. In total **526 luminaires** have been replaced in Oberelsbach and the districts belonging to the municipality. The total amount of light has been reduced by about a factor of 3.6.

Furthermore, they are dimmed during the night (0:00 – 5:30) to 40 – 35% of the normal light amount. And the upward light is reduced considerably. It is estimated that 80% of energy is saved compared to the old mercury installation!



Fig. 9.7: Old HQL lighting in Oberelsbach (left side) has been replaced by 3000 K LED (right side). In the top left picture, in the right side a luminaire with a test LED kit with 4000 K was installed. The pictures on the right were taken using double exposure time (1/10 s) compared to the pictures on the left (1/20 s)



Fig. 9.8: left: Old whip luminaires with fluorescent tubes, right: new 3000 K LEDs (same exposure values!)

## 6. Hausen

The town of Hausen plans to exchange the sodium high pressure lamps by LED lamps in the lanterns. A first test installation shows that the light is much better directed to the ground.



Fig. 9.9: Left: test retrofit installation with a LED module mounted in the roof of the lantern. Right: a conventional sodium high pressure lamp with high ULR.

## 7. Brüchs

The illumination of the church in Brüchs could be seen at many places in the Rhön, as it is very badly adjusted. It was illuminated with two 400 W floodlights throughout the night and was even visible on satellite images. After an informal conversation with the mayor and the head of the parochial church council, the illumination of the church is switched-off at 22:00. Further adjustments of the illumination are planned.



Fig. 9.10: Badly adjusted illumination of the church in Brüchs illuminates the sky.

## 8. Bischofsheim, switch-off

In 2013 the town of Bischofsheim (1700 inhabitants) decided to switch-off the public lighting in the outskirts of the village at midnight due to the bad financial situation of the community, but also to sustain the star park. The lighting in the town center stayed on.





Fig. 9.11: Bischofsheim: switch-off at midnight in the outskirts, while in the center lights remained on (covered on the right by the trees).

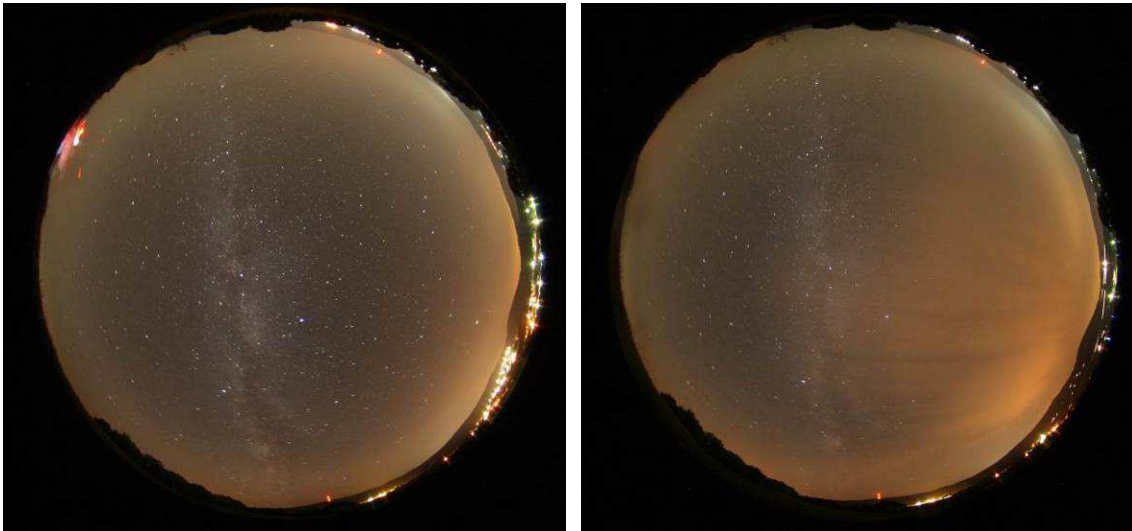


Fig. 9.12: It was tried to document if a reduction in sky brightness might be visible. After midnight clouds came up, so that the all-sky images cannot give a clear picture.

It is not known how many luminaires were switched off, but many luminaires, that are not very well shielded, remained illuminated. Therefore the reduction of the sky brightness was less than  $0.1 \text{ mag/arcsec}^2$ . It seems that either the total amount of light in the village (estimated at 2 Mlm) is relatively low or that the amount of light that was switched off is low. It seems, that a better shielding of the luminaires might achieve a better effect reducing the sky brightness. Finally the switch-off had to be abandoned as citizens and politicians were not happy with it. The city is now considering another concept to reduce the amount of light during the night.

## 9. Fladungen

The town of Fladungen (1200 inhabitants) also switches off part of the public light, though it is not known at exactly what time. At 23:15 it was still on, at 1:00 it was partially switched-off.



Fig. 9.13: Partial switch-off in Fladungen, top at 23:15, bottom at 1:00. Some outside settlements are switched off completely. Dominant is the glow of the bad illumination of the church of Brüchs on the horizon.



Fig. 9.14: The comparison of the pictures taken at 23:15 (left) and 1:00 (right) showed some reduction of the sky brightness. This might be due to changes in the atmospheric conditions or partly to the partial switch-off in Fladungen. Better atmospheric transmission or switch-offs towards the south (bottom) seems also to reduce the sky brightness.

Measurements showed that the sky brightness was reduced by about  $0.1 \text{ mag/arcsec}^2$ .

In Fladungen the former forge “Fuchs” produced luminaires which are installed in many villages of the region Franken. They were used with high pressure mercury bulbs, later with sodium high pressure or compact fluorescent lamps (fig. 9.15). They all have a high upward light flux (estimated 25%) as can be seen on the walls of houses standing behind the luminaires in fig. 9.16.

It was intended to renovate these luminaires by just exchanging the lamps with LED lamps which would not have changed much the upward flux. To reduce the upward light output it was finally decided to install a circuit board (Bergmeister Leuchten) in the roof with 3000 K LEDs that will direct the light downward and only reflections and stray light from the glass produces some upward light (estimated up to 3%, fig. 9.17). This solution is however 3 times more expensive than just changing the lamp. 6 test installations have been put up in Fladungen and later the city and others will decide how they will replace the old luminaires.



Fig. 9.15: The Fladungen luminaire was used with different kinds of lamps (left: 2 CFL with 16 W, then sodium high pressure with 68 W, and these were changed through the door (right))

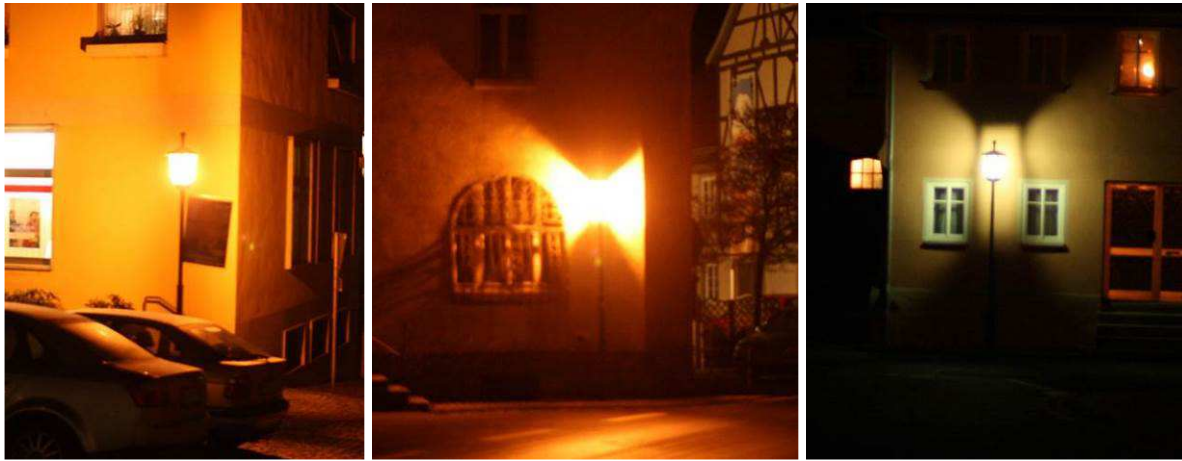


Fig. 9.16: The light distributions on the walls show that much light is emitted above the horizon.



Fig. 9.17: With the renovation a LED board was installed in the roof of the luminaire. There is only little upward light and most of the light is emitted downwards.

## 10. Hilders

This town tried to switch off the light during late night hours, but the citizens complained about this. The light was switched on again, but in many (90) luminaires only one of the two normally installed fluorescent tubes is used, reducing the amount of light by 50%. Only at crossings or at the school 2 tubes are still used as it is thought that there more light gives more security.



Fig. 9.18: Luminaires in Hilders are mostly equipped just with one fluorescent tube instead of two.

## 11. Dipperz

In the town of 22 new luminaires shall be installed in a new residential area. They selected LED luminaires are full cut-off, but the cct was neutral white 4150 K. When the mayor learnt that only warm white would fulfill the requirements for the star park, he changed the order to warm white LED which the manufacturer offers at 3500 K.

## 12. Lighting demonstration street in Fulda

RhönEnergie, an important local energy supplier, has installed in Fulda a test road for lighting. They put up 3000 K LED lamps but also an amber LED street lighting (“batlamp” from Innolumnis).

A good cooperation with the energy supplier, who also consults municipalities in the Rhön, began as they recommend to the communities to use full cut-off luminaires with color temperature 3000 K or lower.



Fig. 9.19: The lighting test road of RhönEnergie in Fulda with PC-amber LED lighting



They also made a test installation with motion detectors: normally the light level is at 20%, when a person is passing it turns to full brightness. In addition the lamps are powered by photovoltaic cells (fig. 9.20).

Fig. 9.20: On the left the luminaire at normal reduced light level that is turned to full intensity when a person approaches

## 10 Public Outreach

### Talks and Star Walks

The first introduction of the project idea outside Fulda University of Applied Sciences, where the idea was originally born, took place in the panel of tourism and ecological development of the Hessian sub-board of trustees of the Biosphere Reserve in February 2011. In the following of this first presentation, the Hessian administration of the Biosphere Reserve asked for a feasibility study, which was carried out by *Dr. Andreas Hänel* and *Sabine Frank* of the student group and presented to the same panel in April 2011. Shortly afterwards, the Initiative for the Protection of the Night Sky (Initiative zum Schutz der Nacht) emerged out of the student project group. A small flyer was created and firstly distributed on a booth at the celebration of the 20th year anniversary of the Rhön Biosphere Reserve.



Fig. 10.1: Booth at the 20th anniversary of the Biosphere Reserve (Gersfeld) in Aug 2011 (foto: *Frank*)

In order to get as much support as possible and to sensitize as many people as possible, it seemed very important to the initiative, to reach many different target groups. Therefore the Initiative started contacting various organizations in the proximity and also nationwide. Doing a lot of star walks and astronomical events, where the point of light pollution was always raised, contributed the spreading of the word about the project.



Fig. 10.2: Star talks to the general public (left) and to educate nature guides from all over Bavaria (right)

In December 2011 two members attended the well-respected interdisciplinary conference in Tutzing - "Protecting the night – Schutz der Nacht". The accompanying media was very interested in the Rhön project and together with the publication of a report about the project in the nationwide German press agency (DPA) the topic of protecting the night by establishing a Dark Sky Reserve in the Rhön took off like a rocket and caused a very strong public perception. This was for the Initiative a turning point in general perception and soon many interviews, TV reports and both print and online articles followed. One highlight was certainly the appearance on a live TV show being the only guest and being interviewed in January 2012 ("Alle Wetter" / "All weathers" on the Hessian TV station HR). More reports followed with the absolute highlight being a nationwide half hour long TV documentary broadcasted in March 2014.

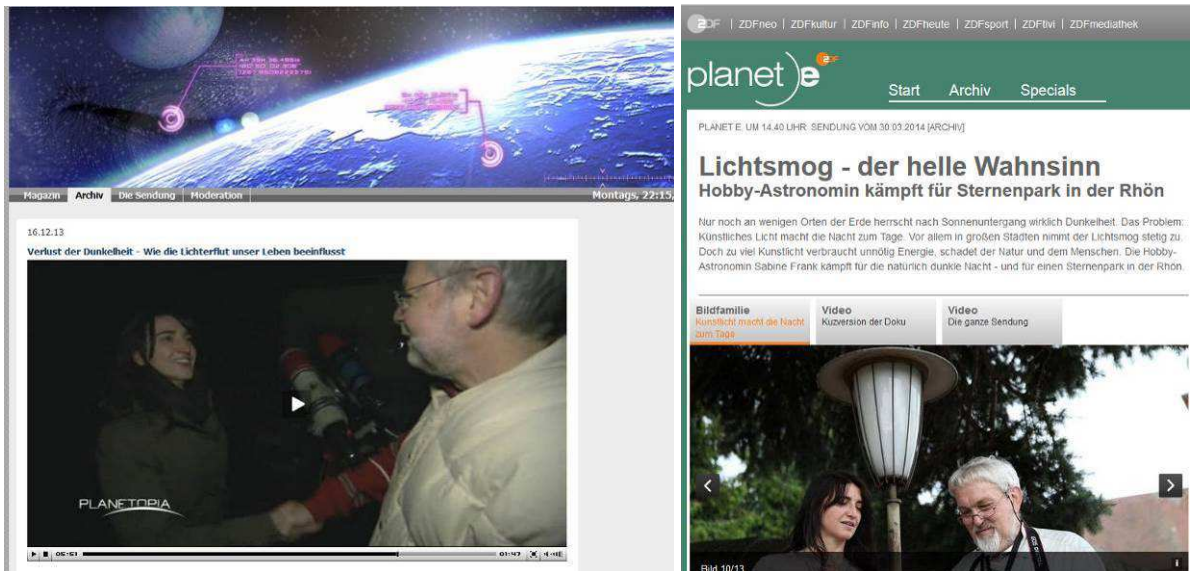


Fig. 10.3: Screenshots of TV emissions about the star park Rhön



Fig.10.4: Many people from the region came to a presentation about the star park in the radom on the Wasserkuppe (left), while another one on the Geba was more in the atmosphere of a mountain hut (right).

Next to lecture talks to the public, the introduction of the lighting guidelines to the elected representatives of the local parliaments is another big part of the work. The implications of artificial light at night are always being conveyed in these hearings. Some parliaments are rather critical about the project as they fear uncontrollable costs or further restrictions in the future. Bearing this in mind, it is important to be very clear about the project and the lighting guidelines. It has turned out, that the acceptance of the lighting guidelines rises when there was a public hearing.

**Wo Sternlicht unter Naturschutz steht**  
Dark-Sky-Parks und ihre Ausweisung

von Andreas Hohl  
mit Christian Reuter

Übermäßige und falsche Beleuchtung behindert nicht nur unsere Sicht auf die Wunder des Sternhimmels, sondern stört auch die natürlichen Lebensrhythmen nachtaktiver Lebewesen und trägt zur Verschönerung öffentlicher Gärten bei. Lichtverschmutzung hat dazu geführt, dass man in Europa nur noch sehr wenige Regionen finden kann, in denen noch gute bis sehr gute Beobachtungsbedingungen vorherrschen. Solche Regionen können sich um die Anerkennung als 'Dark-Sky Park' bemühen - und auch in Deutschland gibt es inzwischen erste Bestrebungen, derartige Schutzgebiete für den Nachthimmel einzurichten.

✦ **Astronomische Nacht-wanderungen in der Rhön** ✦

Sternsternwanderungen  
Mondlichtwanderungen  
Keltenführungen  
Vorträge Projekt „Sternepark Rhön“

Kommt mit...

... auf eine Reise in die Nacht und hört allerlei Geschichten aus Wissenschaft und Mythologie...

Nicht nur bei Tageslicht beeindruckt die Rhön als Kulturlandschaft der offenen Fernen, sondern gerade auch die sternreichen Rhöner Nächte verzaubern den Betrachter. Die Astronomie gilt als die älteste Wissenschaft und kaum eine Kultur konnte sich dem Zauber des Nachthimmels entziehen. Erleben Sie unter freiem Himmel ein fachkundiges astronomisches Programm, indem neben Erklärungen zu himmelsmechanischen Vorgängen auch das Auffinden und die Geschichten rund um Sterne, Sternbilder und Planeten ihren Platz finden.

... denn der Himmel ist voller Geschichten!

**STERNENPARK RHÖN**

Natur- und Artenschutz  
Bildung - Tourismus  
Astronomie

Fig. 10.5: Very early the Biosphere Reserve's administration published information material, e.g. a reprint of an article published in the astronomy journal Interstellarium or information leaflets

Generally it is always tried, to not only convey the problems of light at night but also to offer a solution – the lighting guidelines being the instrument for the protection of the night sky. The Initiative therefore promotes the adoption of the guidelines also outside the Rhön. This leads to many invitations from private and public organizations, which are mainly interested in saving energy. Luckily, the Initiative meanwhile has a pool of people, who are able to present the project and explain the guidelines. As one example the environmental education center Rhöniversum Oberelsbach (*Joachim Schneider*) has integrated astronomy courses, star walks and information about light pollution in its regular program.



Fig. 10.6: Students working at the Rhöniversum on the topic of light pollution, left: discussion about the efficiency of light bulbs, right: the influence of artificial lighting on human beings.

Further astronomical activities were offered at nature experience camps at the Bavarian environmental education center Schwarzes Moor. International astronomy activities are also offered at the international astronomy camp which – as before - takes place in the Rhön in summer 2014.

These activities will continue, they will also be intensified, as within the new Regional Development Concept activities of the star park will receive high priority and be incorporated into the environmental education. Education of biosphere reserve rangers in astronomy and light pollution and information material (e.g. flyers, roll-ups, star charts) are planned.

## Exhibitions

Further on some exhibitions on light pollution were presented in the biosphere information centers: The exhibition from NABU (Naturschutzbund Deutschland - Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union) „**Ökologische Stadtbeleuchtung**“ (Ecological city illumination) was shown in the Bavarian information center Haus der Langen Rhön in May/June 2012.

And the exhibition of the working group Dark Sky was shown in Sept./Oct. 2012 at Groenhoff-Haus of the Hessian administration of the Biosphere Reserve on the Wasserkuppe. The opening talk was given by the biologist Prof. Dr. Gerhard Eisenbeis from university of Mainz about the influence of artificial light at night on flora and fauna.

Another very important issue is to maintain contact with the local suppliers of energy, who provide the municipalities with public lighting and who are crucial for the success of reducing light pollution – now and in the years to come. There have already been meetings on several occasions – together with the heads of the administration offices of the Biosphere Reserves Bavaria and Hesse. It is planned to hold another meeting in summer/autumn 2014. It has turned out, that the people in charge at the energy suppliers have an interest in the project themselves as so many communities have adopted the lighting guidelines.

A website for the star park has been installed [www.sternenpark-rhoen.de](http://www.sternenpark-rhoen.de) and a facebook account is being looked after by *Robin Riesner*, who designed also a first logo for the star park. Meanwhile the ARGE Rhön has created a logo as a modification of the official logo.



Fig.: 10.7: Internet homepage [www.sternenpark-rhoen.de](http://www.sternenpark-rhoen.de) and facebook page Sternenpark Rhön



Fig. 10.8: The logo of the star park for the facebook page and the official logo

As a conclusion it can be said, that the topic of light pollution has come of age in the Rhön region and also outside it. Still, there is more work to be done. The current discussion about the so-called energy transition (Energiewende) might support discussion about public lighting in general. Still, for the Initiative's course of PR work the protection and defence of the night sky as well as the nightscapes with all the beings living in it, is of utmost priority.

### Tourism and selection of public observing places

The touristic development of the star park was identified as an important and original touristic project within the nation wide roadshow "Touristic Perspectives in rural destinations", which was partly funded by the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology. ([www.tourismus-fuers-land.de](http://www.tourismus-fuers-land.de)). As a consequence the touristic organizations of the region plan to develop the star park further.

Fig. 10.9: Star Park Rhön as a touristic chance



The Rhön has long been well known for good observing possibilities under dark skies, especially being situated in the center of Germany. And with the publication of the first press articles, people asked at the tourist information centers for observing possibilities. Observing places were identified considering the fragile nature protected areas that must not be disturbed during at night. An information leaflet with observing

These are some of the proposed observing places:



Fig. 10.10: Weidberg (725 m high) and Hohe Geba (751 m).





Fig. 10.11: Parking Schwarzes Moor and Rotes Moor at the border of the darkest and most protected areas



Fig.10.12: Kissinger Hütte on the Feuerberg (829m) in the Schwarze Berge and the southern side of the Wasserkuppe

Especially the Kissinger Hütte (mountain hut for overnight stays) has already managed to attract many amateur astronomers who stay there at moonless nights for astronomical observations.

**Sommer**

Am 21. Juni um 22 Uhr gehen die Pleiaden und die Zwillinge in den Sommerhimmel. Die Pleiaden sind die hellsten Sterne des Sommerhimmels. Sie sind die hellsten Sterne des Sommerhimmels. Sie sind die hellsten Sterne des Sommerhimmels.

**Winter**

Im Winter erstreckt sich über die Wintersternkarte über den Himmel die Wintersternkarte. Die Wintersternkarte ist die Wintersternkarte. Die Wintersternkarte ist die Wintersternkarte.

**Herbst**

Im Herbst steht der Herbststernhimmel über dem Herbststernhimmel. Die Herbststernkarte ist die Herbststernkarte. Die Herbststernkarte ist die Herbststernkarte.

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Ein Projekt zum Schutz der Nacht

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**Biosphärenreservat Rhön**

Fig. 10.13: Information leaflet about the star park with hints to the observing places.

A new flyer is already in the making and will be released appear in late summer 2014.

## 11 Conclusions

As described before, we are convinced that the criteria for an International Dark Sky Reserve (DSR) in the Rhön Biosphere Reserve are fulfilled:

### Eligibility

- A) The value of the Rhön Biosphere Reserve for nature protection is described in chapter 5.
- B) The DSR core zones have been defined by the darkest regions as determined from the sky brightness measurements and the biosphere core zones (chapter 6)
- C) The core zones E0 cover an area of 145 km<sup>2</sup> and the buffer zone E1 covers an area of 874 km<sup>2</sup> and has been defined in a way that allows a reduction of light pollution within the core zones in the future (chapter 6)
- D) Within the DSR core zones and at the borders places for public observations were assigned (chapter 10)
- E) Core night sky brightness corresponds to at least silver tiers (chapter 6)

### Minimum Requirements

- A) Lighting Guidelines were adopted by communities in the inner buffer zone (more than 80%) and some in the outer buffer zone E2. As these guidelines were set up in 2012 according to the IDSR guidelines vers. 1.2, they ask for a maximum output of 1000 lm for unshielded light. As the process of voting in the municipal parliaments had already started when the new guidelines were released, a change was no longer possible. However the requirement of reduced blue light was already fulfilled with a maximum cct of 3000 K. (chap. 8)
- B and C) Lighting and modifications of lighting to compliant lighting are described in chapters 7 and 9
- D) At least one continuous measuring SQM-LU has been bought and will be installed at the weather station on the Wasserkuppe. Further measurements with handheld SQM-Ls will be made in the whole region during observing campaigns.
- E) The changes to conforming lighting installations are described in chapter 9. Not each participating municipality could complete demonstration projects, as financial resources are very limited and the timescale is too short. Many municipalities voted only during the last half year on the guidelines, the last just some days before the deadline for this application and they even meanwhile switched off their ground recessed spotlights. But more projects are planned and financial support could become available through the new regional development plan. Within the inner buffer zone E1 some 650 luminaires were replaced by dark sky compliant ones, for some 600 more the light amount was reduced by about 40% by switching them off, corresponding to about 20% of lighting inventory. More communities are considering reducing the burning time of the public lighting.
- G) Public educational programs and the nationwide reaching media coverage are described in chapter 10.
- H) The acknowledgement of the protected area by higher level (the ministers) is documented in the support letter from the ministry (chapter 4).

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## Appendix to the Application Rhön UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

- A 1: Individual sky brightness measurements in Rhön
- A 2: Lighting inventory
  - A 2.1.: Lighting inventory in the core zone E0
  - A 2.2.: Lighting inventory in the buffer zone E1
- A 3: Lighting Guidelines and explanations (in German and translation)
- A 4: Decisions of the municipalities
- A 5: Presentations and Talks
- A 6: Press and Media resonance

# Antrag für Sternenpark fast fertig

Initiatoren wollen Unterlagen noch im Mai einreichen

**RHÖN**

Rein in den Umschlag, Briefmarke drauf und ab die Post: Wenn alles nach Plan läuft, könnte die Rhön noch in diesem Jahr Sternenpark werden. Die Unterlagen mit dem Antrag sollen noch im Mai verschickt werden.

Von unserem Redaktionsmitglied **NORMAN ZELLMER**

„Wir stehen kurz davor“, sagt Sabine Frank. Die Koordinatorin „Sternenpark im Biosphärenreservat Rhön“ hatte das Projekt als Hobby-Astronomin vor Jahren auf den Weg gebracht und seitdem begleitet. Es fehle unter anderem noch ein Unterstützungsschreiben des Thüringer Umweltministeriums sowie weitere Unterlagen für einen ersten Antrag. Der Vorentwurf werde rund 70 Seiten umfassen, beinhalte unter anderem Eckdaten der Region, schützenswerte Tier- und Pflanzenarten des Biosphärenreservats, Messwerte des Nachthimmels, ein sogenanntes Leuchtenkataster mit mehreren Tausend öffentlichen Straßenlampen, und soll noch



**Impulse für den Tourismus**

im Mai an die International Dark Sky Association (IDA) in den USA versendet werden. Die Organisation ist für die Vergabe des Titels „Sternenpark“ weltweit zuständig.

Geplant ist laut Frank die Ausweisung von drei Schutzzonen auf der Hohen Geba in Thüringen, in den Schwarzen Bergen in Bayern sowie in der Langen Rhön mit der Wasserkuppe in Hessen. Dort ist nach ihren Erkenntnissen der Nachthimmel so dunkel, dass inzwischen Sternenfreunde aus der ganzen Republik anreisen, um von dort aus Sterne, Mond und Planeten zu beobachten. Rund 35 Kommunen aus allen drei Landesteilen der Rhön, die um die Schutzzonen liegen, hätten inzwischen den mit von regionalen Energieversorgern erarbeiteten sogenannten Beleuchtungsrichtlinien zugestimmt, die als wesentliches Kriterium der Anerkennung als Sternenpark gelten, und mit denen langfristig die öffentliche Straßenbeleuchtung sparsamer, energieeffizienter und umweltfreundlicher werden soll. Als erste Kommune hatte im September 2012 die Thüringer Gemeinde mit dem passenden Namen Rhönblick zugestimmt. Zuletzt hatten die Kommunalparlamente von Ebersburg und Burkardroth den Richtlinien grünes Licht gegeben. Laut Frank könnten demnächst Hofbieber, Nüstal und Hünfeld zustimmen, um das Projekt weiter voranzutreiben. Zwei Gemeinden in Thüringen hätten ihre Zustimmung bislang verweigert.

Rund ein halbes Jahr, so Frank, werde es mindestens dauern, bis die IDA eine Entscheidung treffe. Vorgespräche stimmten die Projektkoordinatorin sehr optimistisch, denn das Projekt sei politisch gewollt – die Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Rhönlandkreise hatte die Koordinierungsstelle geschaffen – und schon weit fortgeschritten. Zudem sei die Region im Vergleich zu anderen Sternenparks stark besiedelt – und könne so zu einem Vorzeigepark werden. Der Naturpark Westhavelland ist der erste Sternenpark Deutschlands.

Die Rhön wäre, würde sie anerkannt, das erste Biosphärenreservat als Sternenpark. Von der Anerkennung verspricht sich Frank einen doppelten Aufschwung: Zum einen könnte das Thema touristisch vermarktet werden, indem Sternenführungen und Astrotreffen, aber auch philosophische und religiöse Symposien zum Ursprung der Welt angeboten werden. Zum anderen gewännen Aspekte des Naturschutzes und der Forschung an Bedeutung: Viele Lebewesen sind nachtaktiv und brauchen eine dunkle Nacht.

Da sind Millionen Lichter in der Welt: Was Christina Stürmer in ihrem Lied besingt, lässt sich jede Nacht über Europa sehen – die Lichtpunkte von Städten wie Hamburg (oberer Bildrand), München, (unten rechts) und des Ruhrgebiets (linker Bildrand) aufgenommen von einem Satelliten. Die Stadt Fulda (roter Pfeil) wirkt relativ klein, die Rhön östlich davon ist dunkel. Foto: DLR

Report of the regional press about the process of the application for the star park (Fuldaer Zeitung 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2014)

## Appendix 1: Individual sky brightness measurements

Date	MEZ	Place	Long.	Lati.	Height	1	2.	3.
2011-03-03	21:05	zw. Birx Frankenheim	10.05667	50.53611	776	21.45	21.45	21.45
2011-03-03	21:40	P Thüringer Rhönhaus	10.07861	50.56806	791	21.57	21.57	21.57
2011-03-03	22:10	B 285, Reichenhausen-Melpers	10.12722	50.57306	554	21.58	21.58	21.58
2011-03-03	22:25	P N Oberfladungen	10.13889	50.53500	438	21.45	21.45	21.45
2011-03-03	23:05	Ö P Schwarzes Moor, Sennhütte	10.07750	50.52528	776	21.65	21.65	21.65
2011-03-03	23:30	Lange Rhön, Ö Stirnberg	10.06111	50.49500	839	21.65	21.65	21.65
2011-03-03	23:50	Ö Wüstensachsen	10.01245	50.49410	613	21.53	21.53	21.53
2011-03-04	00:12	Wasserkuppe, südl. Wetterstation	9.94306	50.49694	919	21.63	21.63	21.63
2011-03-04	00:30	Wasserkuppe, P Fuldaquelle	9.94917	50.49472	878	21.69	21.69	21.69
2011-03-04	19:50	Seiferts, oberhalb	10.03556	50.51778	697	21.30	21.30	21.30
2011-03-04	20:05	P Schwarzes Moor	10.07222	50.52361	791	21.50	21.50	21.50
2011-03-04	20:45	Lange Rhön, Abzw. Hilkenberg	10.06611	50.49889	815	21.45	21.45	21.45
2011-03-04	21:10	P Schwarzes Moor	10.07250	50.52361	791	21.50	21.50	21.50
2011-03-04	21:30	N Dietges	9.93667	50.53472	554	21.55	21.55	21.55
2011-03-04	22:00	Hofbieber, Golfplatz	9.82833	50.58577	468	21.20	21.20	21.20
2011-03-04	23:30	Wüstensachsen, Moorwiese	9.99056	50.47167	835	21.75	21.75	21.75
2011-03-04	23:50	Wüstensachsen, P Rotes Moor	9.98583	50.46028	837	21.78	21.78	21.78
2011-03-05	0:15	Wüstensachsen, P W Schornhecke	10.01694	50.47000	802	21.70	21.70	21.70
2011-03-05	0:35	Bischofsheim, Ausweichstelle N P Holzberghof	10.01083	50.44583	822	21.70	21.70	21.70
2011-03-05	0:55	Hausen, P Rother Kuppe	10.09917	50.48250	677	21.65	21.65	21.65
2011-03-05	1:10	Lange Rhön, Ö Stirnberg	10.06111	50.49500	839	21.68	21.68	21.68
2011-03-05	1:20	P Schwarzes Moor	10.07194	50.52306	790	21.70	21.70	21.70
2011-03-05	1:45	Frankenheim, Weidenhof	10.06778	50.55139	783	21.60	21.60	21.60
2011-03-07	20:20	Zwischen Finkenhain und Wolferts (Kesselhof)	9.84165	50.53281	463	21.30	21.23	21.23
2011-03-07	20:28	L 3330 Wolferts und Kleinsassen (Vorstellberg)	9.86427	50.54629	536	21.32	21.25	21.25
2011-03-07	20:38	Ostseite Milseburg (hinter Danzwiesen)	9.90536	50.54258	701	21.55	21.48	21.48
2011-03-07	20:50	Oberer Parkplatz Milseburg	9.90021	50.55087	682	21.45	21.38	21.38
2011-03-07	21:25	L 3176 Parkplatz "Rhönwald" (Hilders-Frankenheim)	10.04906	50.54918	779	21.58	21.51	21.51
2011-03-07	21:36	Parkplatz Köpchen Hilders und Simmershausen	10.01507	50.58338	591	21.61	21.54	21.54
2011-03-07	21:52	Grenze Simmershausen-Oberweid	10.04663	50.59073	553	21.62	21.55	21.55
2011-03-07	22:01	Zwischen Ober- und Underweid (Thü)	10.06247	50.59936	476	21.63	21.56	21.56
2011-03-07	22:11	L 1124 Grenze zwischen Unterweid und Dippach	10.03970	50.61398	417	21.61	21.54	21.54
2011-03-07	22:18	L 1124 Oberhalb Unterweid Richt. Kaltenwestheim	10.08062	50.60798	610	21.71	21.64	21.64
2011-03-07	22:45	L 1122 Grenze Andenhausen-Knottenhof	10.05657	50.66740	608	21.71	21.64	21.64
2011-03-07	23:23	Oberhalb Tann, ca. 300 m N vom Friedrichshof	10.04973	50.64767	653	21.74	21.67	21.67
2011-03-07	23:56	L 3174 Nüsterrasen	9.95791	50.61632	509	21.73	21.66	21.66
2011-03-29	20:21	Zwischen Allmus und Traisbach	9.80086	50.59519	307	21.10	21.03	21.03
2011-03-29	20:28	Allmus – Rimmels	9.81316	50.60329	337	21.28	21.21	21.21
2011-03-29	20:42	L3258 Höhe Oberaschenbach	9.85477	50.65338	371	21.38	21.31	21.31
2011-03-29	20:47	L3258 Kurz vor Haselstein	9.85172	50.66896	424	21.45	21.38	21.38
2011-03-29	21:01	B 84 Neuwirtshaus	9.83590	50.70474	340	21.44	21.37	21.37
2011-03-29	21:09	Großentaft	9.85288	50.72450	356	21.47	21.40	21.40
2011-03-29	21:17	Großentaft – Rasdorf	9.87047	50.72853	362	21.48	21.41	21.41
2011-03-29	21:26	Point Alpha (große freie Fläche, Parkplätze)	9.92580	50.71862	398	21.47	21.40	21.40
2011-03-29	21:40	Buttlar-Rasdorf (Landesgrenze HE - THÜ)	9.93877	50.74698	314	21.52	21.45	21.45
2011-03-29	21:45	B 84 Buttlar-Sünna, Höhe Wenigentaft	9.96664	50.77009	351	21.48	21.41	21.41
2011-03-29	22:15	Feldweg kurz vor Bremen	9.98356	50.72953	324	21.59	21.52	21.52
2011-03-29	22:28	L 1026 Bremen – Geblar	10.01734	50.72419	393	21.69	21.62	21.62
2011-03-29	22:39	L 2601 Oechsen – Gehaus	10.07076	50.75180	422	21.63	21.56	21.56
2011-03-29	22:49	L 1022 Stadtlengsfeld – Weiler	10.13541	50.77211	280	21.55	21.48	21.48
2011-03-29	23:10	L 1026 Dermbach – Wiesenthal	10.15954	50.70842	396	21.67	21.60	21.60
2011-03-29	23:18	L 1026 Wiesenthal – Roßdorf	10.17772	50.70288	395	21.76	21.69	21.69
2011-03-29	23:32	L 2618 Eckarts	10.24306	50.69795	375	21.66	21.59	21.59
2011-03-29	23:44	L 2692 Zillbach – Schwallungen	10.33715	50.70041	291	21.52	21.45	21.45
2011-03-30	00:12	Walldorf – Wallbach	10.39365	50.62294	286	21.46	21.39	21.39

2011-03-30	00:36	Rippershausen – Solz	10.35282	50.61323	343	21.58	21.51	21.51
2011-03-30	00:43	Solz – Stepfershhausen	10.32486	50.61043	373	21.70	21.63	21.63
2011-03-30	00:56	kurz vor Träbes	10.28801	50.58214	553	21.77	21.70	21.70
2011-03-30	01:03	kurz vor Geba	10.26909	50.57879	705	21.81	21.74	21.74
2011-03-30	01:21	Weimarschmieden (Bayern)	10.19648	50.54821	450	21.84	21.77	21.77
2011-03-30	01:27	Weimarschmieden - Brüchs!!	10.17402	50.54115	467	21.84	21.77	21.77
2011-03-30	02:04	Wendeplatz Schwarzes Moor	10.06577	50.52785	777	21.84	21.77	21.77
2011-05-07	23:55	Richtung Erlenbrunn, Schwarze Berge	9.87699	50.32648	439	21.65	21.58	21.58
2011-05-08	0:12	Schwarze Berge, Rtg. Würzburger Haus	9.87178	50.32391	440	21.66	21.59	21.59
2011-05-08	0:18	Schwarze Berge	9.88458	50.32108	467	21.73	21.66	21.66
2011-05-08	0:24	Schwarze Berge, Berghaus Rhön	9.88657	50.31517	674	21.74	21.67	21.67
2011-05-08	0:30	Schwarze Berge	9.88695	50.30854	677	21.69	21.62	21.62
2011-05-08	0:37	Schwarze Berge	9.88652	50.30124	600	21.72	21.65	21.65
2011-05-08	0:42	Schwarze Berge	9.90135	50.30283	656	21.74	21.67	21.67
2011-05-08	0:57	Schwarze Berge	9.91169	50.28134	551	21.46	21.39	21.39
2011-05-08	1:02	Schwarze Berge	9.91665	50.28721	603	21.73	21.66	21.66
2011-05-08	1:10	Schwarze Berge	9.92246	50.29374	662	21.68	21.61	21.61
2011-05-08	1:19	Schwarze Berge	9.90203	50.31208	706	21.72	21.65	21.65
2011-05-08	1:31	Schwarze Berge, Würzburger Haus	9.91046	50.31939	688	21.78	21.71	21.71
2011-05-08	1:41	Schwarze Berge	9.90830	50.32616	627	21.72	21.65	21.65
2011-05-08	1:56	Schwarze Berge	9.94152	50.34106	796	21.70	21.63	21.63
2011-05-08	2:11	Schwarze Berge, Parkplatz Kissinger Hütte	9.94195	50.34280	827	21.68	21.61	21.61
2011-05-08	2:46	B 286 zwischen Waldfenster und Platz	9.94863	50.26222	428	21.42	21.35	21.35
2011-09-24	19:40	Grabenhöfchen (off B458)	9.90177	50.52240	691	21.05	20.98	21.38
2011-09-24	20:08	L3176 oberhalb von Hilders	10.01591	50.57554	542	21.08	21.01	21.41
2011-09-24	20:17	Zwischen Simmerhsn und Oberweid	10.04557	50.59096	522	21.10	21.03	21.43
2011-09-24	20:28	Zwischen Oberweid und Kaltenwestheim	10.08198	50.59903	561	21.25	21.18	21.58
2011-09-24	21:06	Östlich von Kaltennordheim	10.18256	50.62522	467	21.21	21.14	21.54
2011-09-24	21:11	nördlich von Oberkatz	10.20349	50.61258	514	21.25	21.18	21.58
2011-09-24	21:19	L2619 zwischen Oberkatz und Unterkatz	10.23902	50.61312	441	21.29	21.22	21.62
2011-09-24	21:45	Zwischen Unterkatz und Dörrrensolz	10.25477	50.60867	415	21.31	21.24	21.64
2011-09-24	21:54	L1224 zwischen Dörrrensolz und Oberkatz	10.24485	50.60646	460	21.33	21.26	21.66
2011-09-24	22:04	südl. von Oberkatz Rtg. Hohe Geba (Feldwege)	10.23199	50.60069	523	21.34	21.27	21.67
2011-09-24	22:10	Westhang Hohe Geba	10.23639	50.59397	604	21.32	21.25	21.65
2011-09-24	22:17	Südwesthang Hohe Geba	10.23909	50.58792	622	21.35	21.28	21.68
2011-09-24	22:37	L1124 zwischen Dörrrensolz und Stepfershsn.	10.27760	50.60393	466	21.23	21.16	21.56
2011-09-24	22:50	L2672 zwischen Träbes und Geba	10.27719	50.58129	645	21.28	21.21	21.61
2011-09-24	22:55	L2672 Parkplatz "Am Neidhardskopf"	10.27192	50.57760	672	21.36	21.29	21.69
2011-09-24	23:03	Meininger Hütte auf Hoher Geba	10.27113	50.58996	735	21.37	21.30	21.70
2011-09-24	23:25	Unterhalb Meininger Hütte Rtg. Dorf Geba	10.26664	50.58672	734	21.34	21.27	21.67
2011-09-24	23:32	Feldweg in nordwestlicher Rtg. Von Geba	10.25820	50.58135	680	21.36	21.29	21.69
2011-09-24	23:39	Feldweg weiter in nordwestlicher Rtg. von Geba	10.24977	50.58334	678	21.37	21.30	21.70
2011-09-24	23:50	L2672 zwischen Geba und Helmershausen	10.24622	50.57776	624	21.35	21.28	21.68
2011-09-25	0:03	L2621 zwischen Wohlmuthausen und Gerthsn	10.20193	50.57061	436	21.34	21.27	21.67
2011-10-02	20:26	L2287 Seiferts - Schwarzes Moor, Parkplatz	10.03616	50.51356	706	21.15	21.08	21.48
2011-10-02	20:50	St 2887 Nordrand Schwarzes Moor	10.05291	50.51218	783	21.13	21.06	21.46
2011-10-02	21:00	Parkplatz Schwarzes Moor	10.07235	50.52372	780	21.20	21.13	21.53
2011-10-02	21:17	Wendeplatz Nähe Schwarzes Moor	10.06584	50.52798	782	21.20	21.13	21.53
2011-10-02	21:24	W Sennhütte	10.07754	50.25569	778	21.22	21.15	21.55
2011-10-02	21:33	Lange Rhön, Abzweigung Hillenberg	10.06612	50.49892	787	21.20	21.13	21.53
2011-10-02	21:28	Lange Rhön, Ö Stirnberg	10.06108	50.49519	816	21.25	21.18	21.58
2011-10-02	22:02	L3395 Parkplatz Unterhalb Heidelberg, Wüstens.	10.01680	50.47021	836	21.29	21.22	21.62
2011-10-02	22:17	Parkplatz Fuldaquelle	9.95126	50.49305	843	21.32	21.25	21.65
2011-10-02	22:28	Wasserkuppe südl. Wetterstation	9.94244	50.49701	917	21.20	21.13	21.53
2011-11-19	23:15	Moorwiese	9.99140	50.47150	835	21.30	21.30	21.60
2011-11-19	23:40	Wasserkuppe	9.94980	50.49440	880	21.40	21.40	21.70
2012-03-21	21:00	P Hilders-Frankenheim (Grenze)	10.04885	50.54928	806	21.40	21.40	21.40
2012-03-21	21:45	Heimatsblick Salkenberg	10.11128	50.54511	711	21.45	21.45	21.45

2012-03-21	23:45	Hohe Geba	10.27057	50.58932	747	21.53	21.53	21.53
2012-03-22	00:45	Schwarzes Moor	10.07260	50.52405	800	21.56	21.56	21.56
2012-03-22	02:00	Kissinger Hütte	9.94116	50.34143	820	21.60	21.60	21.60
2012-03-22	02:45	Rotes Moor	9.98595	50.46034	820	21.70	21.70	21.70
2012-03-22	22:00	Kissinger Hütte	9.94178	50.34276	831	21.28	21.28	21.28
2012-03-22	22:45	P Würzburger Haus	9.90149	50.31230	760	21.38	21.38	21.38
2012-03-22	23:30	Rotes Moor	9.98598	50.46019	829	21.50	21.50	21.50
2012-03-22	23:45	zw. Bix-Frankenheim	10.05684	50.53636	780	21.65	21.65	21.65
2012-03-23	00:40	Camping Unterweid	10.08380	50.60307	652	21.68	21.68	21.68
2012-04-18	21:50	Ellbogen	10.08176	50.57287	803	21.40	21.40	21.40
2012-04-18	22:40	Sennhütte	10.07319	50.52976	773	21.39	21.39	21.39
2012-04-18	23:45	Moorwiese	9.99140	50.47150	835	21.45	21.45	21.45
2012-07-23	0:01	Camping Unterweid	10.08366	50.60310	656	21.45	21.45	21.75
2012-07-23	0:28	Rhön Aschenhausen	10.20142	50.60093	542	21.53	21.53	21.83
2012-07-23	1:10	Hohe Geba	10.26986	50.58931	732	21.43	21.43	21.73
2012-07-23	1:48	P Thüringer Rhönhaus	10.07878	50.56827	803	21.25	21.25	21.55
2012-07-23	1:58	P Hilders-Frankenheim (Grenze)	10.04961	50.54853	787	21.23	21.23	21.53
2012-07-23	23:08	oberhalb Hilders	10.00414	50.57693	497	21.34	21.34	21.64
2012-07-23	23:20	P Hilders-Frankenheim (Grenze)	10.04905	50.54920	798	21.23	21.23	21.53
2012-07-23	23:40	Heimatsblick Salkenberg	10.10715	50.54627	734	21.29	21.29	21.59
2012-07-24	0:03	westl. Oberfaldungen	10.12398	50.53778	535	21.36	21.36	21.66
2012-07-24	0:20	Fladungen, Kapellenberg	10.13996	50.51688	478	21.39	21.39	21.69
2012-07-24	0:40	P Schwarzes Moor	10.07242	50.52376	792	21.35	21.35	21.65
2013-08-09	22:15	Fladungen, Kapellenberg	10.14001	50.51702	478	21.25		
2013-08-09	22:50	Bischofsheim, Finkelberg	10.00896	50.39678		21.25		
2013-08-09	23:10	Bischofsheim, Finkelberg	10.00896	50.39678		21.35		
2013-08-10	0:10	Fladungen, Kapellenberg	10.14001	50.51702	478	21.30		
2014-02-23	20:45	Weidberg	10.08389	50.60278	669	21.25		
2014-02-23	22:00	Hohe Geba	10.27000	50.58889	750	21.35		
2014-02-24	0:45	Lange Rhön	10.06333	50.48917	835	21.40		
2014-02-24	1:35	Gersfeld, P Schwedenschanze	9.96861	50.43639	751	21.45		

Table A1: Individual measurements of the sky brightness in the biosphere Rhön. Time is given in Central European Time (CET = UT + 1h), (1) are the original measurements, (2) measurements corrected for instrumental offsets, (3) measurements corrected for the influence of the Milky Way. These measurements were taken in the core zones and all over the Biosphere Reserve, they are shown in fig. 6.3 (raw) and 6.4 (reduced).

### Sample measurements with the Roadrunner

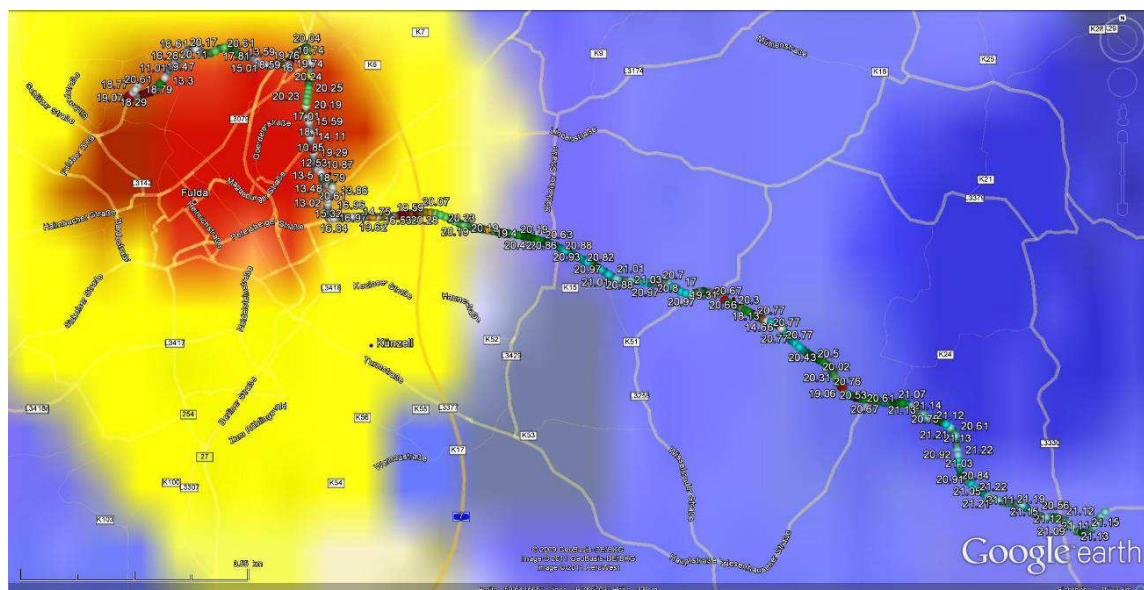


Fig. A2: A transect from the dark central Rhön towards the city of Fulda

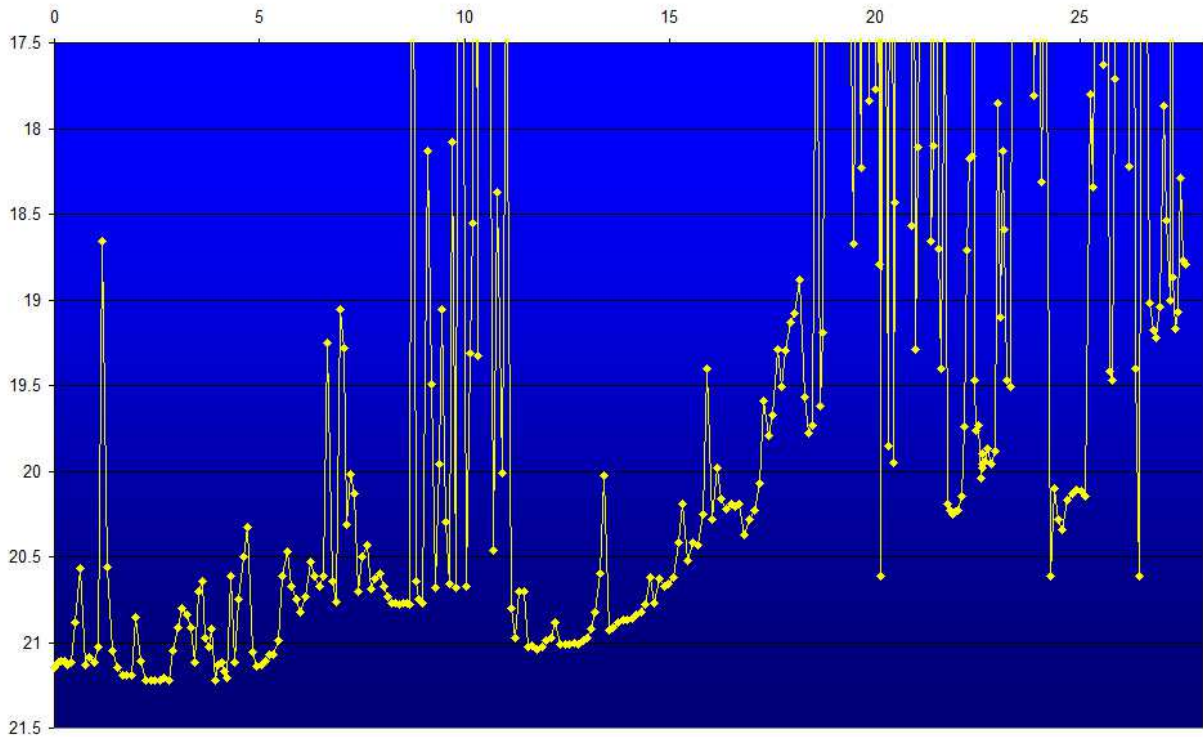


Fig. A3: The transect shows how the sky brightness increases from 21.3 to 19 mag/arcsec<sup>2</sup> towards the city of Fulda, but dark areas can also be found near the city. Bright peaks are due to trees illuminated by the car's headlights.



Fig. A4: Other roadrunner measurements 2014 Febr. 23/24 in the Rhön



## A 2.1 Making a Lighting Inventory

Some municipalities were able to provide us with an inventory of their public lighting. Some of them had included the data already into their local GIS.

As some municipalities couldn't provide us with any data, we acquired data with the following methods:

- **Using a Map**

Using a high resolution map (best 1:5000 cadastral map or high resolution Google satellite image) the position of every fixture was marked as well as a description of its type.

- **Using GPS**

Another way was using a GPS receiver and saving a waypoint at every fixture. Best is using a mapping software with high resolution maps (or Google satellite data), because then the accuracy of the position of each fixture could be directly checked. The properties of the waypoints information about the luminaire can be saved. It is important that the information is saved in a standard data format that it can be used later (e.g. export to Excel). Modern smartphones or even tablets with integrated GPS (with good sensitivity!) are helpful tools, we used the navigation program Maverick on Android smartphone and tablet.

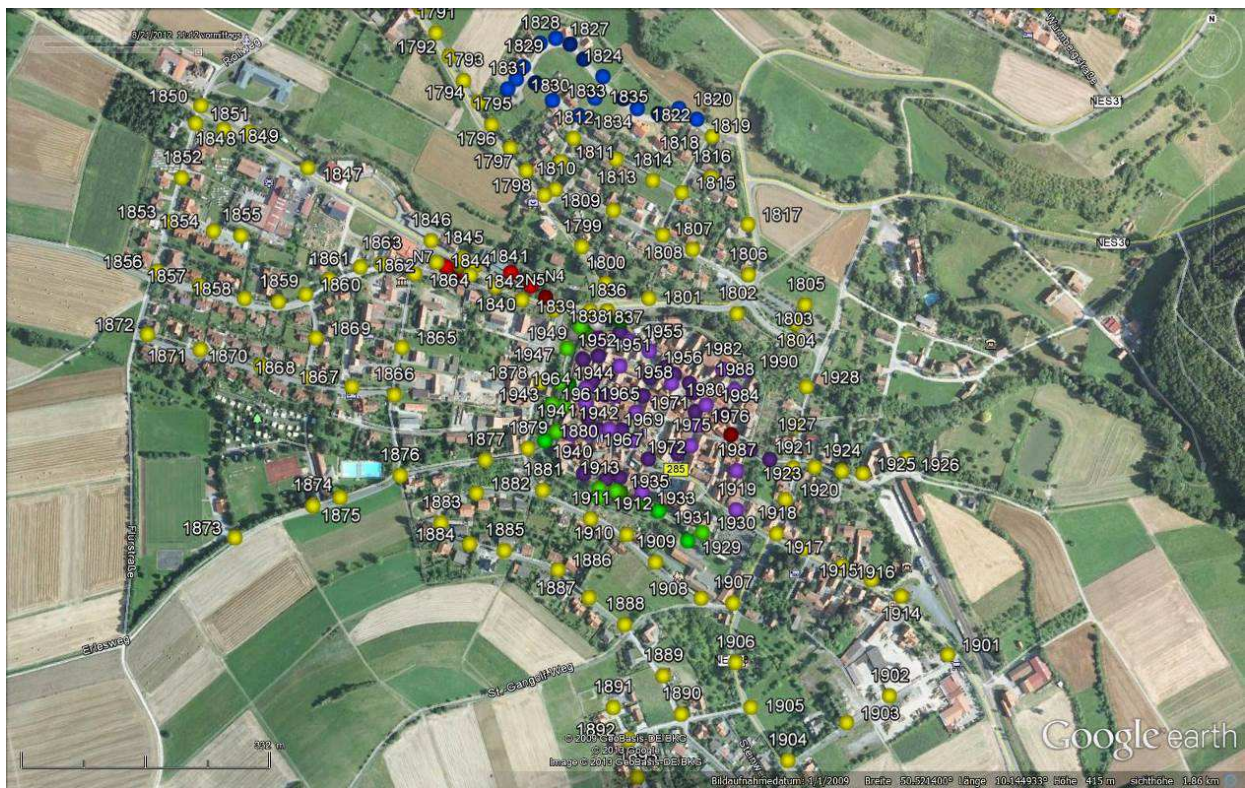


Fig.: A5 Lighting inventory of the center of Fladungen/Bavaria



Fig.A6: Local press reported about the method making an inventory of public lighting

## A 2.2 Lighting inventory of the core zone

### Lange Rhön

Type	Lamp	B	Time	Remarks
<b>BAYERN</b>				
<b>Sennhütte</b>				
4 sign illumination from above	tungsram	A	off after 23:00	
3 lanterns	CFL	A	off after 23:00	
<b>Schwarzes Moor Infozentr.</b>				
1 lamp	CFL	A	never on	
<b>Umweltbildungszentrum Schwarzes Moor</b>				
3 poles	fluoresc	A	on need	unmounted
4 poles	CFL	A	on need	unmounted
10 fluorescent tubes	fluoresc	A	on need	cut-off (roof)
<b>Rhönhof</b>				
1 flood	tungsram	B	motion detect.	unhabitat
<b>Hillenberg</b>				
3 street lamps	CFL	A	on need?	off
9 building	CFL	A	on need?	
<b>Thüringer Hütte/Rhöniversum</b>				
				<b>Border</b>
4 Hut exterior lighting	CFL	A	on need	replace
2 Rhöniversum flood parking	tungsram	B		<b>adjust, reduce</b> exchange summer 2014
Rhöniversum interior lighting				curtains?
3 Flood Ski	tungsram	B	never on	
<b>Schweinfurter Haus, Rhönclub</b>				
				<b>Border</b>
1 parking street lighting	SON	B	on need	off
2 flood	tungsram	B	motion det.	<b>adjust</b>
2	tungsram	A	on need	off
1 advertising	CFL	B	on need	off
2 flood hut	CFL	B	on need	off
2 lantern hut	CFL	A	on need	off
5 exterior hut	CFL	A	on need	off
<b>Holzberg</b>				
				<b>Border</b>
2 flood	LED	A	off	adjust
1 lantern	tungsram	A		downlight
<b>Heidelstein</b>				
16 security lighting	100 W		red	
6 security lighting	1000 W		red	
2 security lighting	85 W		red	
<b>HESSEN</b>				
<b>Thomas-Morus-Haus</b>				
				<b>Border</b>
3 flood	tungsram	B	motion det.	
2 flood	tungsram	B	on need	<b>adjust</b>
3 wall	cfl	A	motion /on need	
2 globe lamp	cfl	A	motion det /roof	
2 globe lamp	cfl	A	motion det	<b>Replace!</b>
<b>Seiferts quarry</b>				
2 entrance	cfl	A	Motion det	replace
ca. 6 flood	metal hal.	C	??? security	<b>switch off later readjust</b>
<b>Heckenhof, Wüstensachsen</b>				
				<b>Border</b>
3 lanterns	CFL	A	On need	<b>exchange</b>
<b>Rodenbach, Dammelhof</b>				
				<b>Border</b>
1 street lighting	HST	B	?	<b>exchange</b>
2 floodlights	tungsram	A	motion det.	<b>adjust</b>
<b>Rodenbach, Frankfurter Hütte</b>				
				<b>Border</b>
1 flood	tungsram	A	motion det.	<b>adjust</b>
<b>Schwedenschanze, Jugendheim</b>				
				<b>Border</b>

2 Lanterns	tungsrām	A	Motion det.	<b>adjust</b>
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### Total Lange Rhön

#### 114 Luminaires

71 luminaires 63 %	35 luminaires 31 %	8 luminaires 7 %
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Green: fulfils the criteria, yellow: only minor changes necessary, on need Red: changes are necessary

CFL: compact fluorescent

A faint sources (< 1000 lm), B brighter sources (>1000 lm), C very bright sources

#### Hohe Geba

2 flood	tungsrām	B	motion detector	adjust
2 lamps	CFL	A	motion detector	exchange
Interior				curtains!

### Schwarze Berge

#### Quarry access

1 Flood	tungsrām?	C	Motion det./need	adjust
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#### Kissinger Hütte

1 street luminaire	???	C	on need	
Interior lighting		A	Curtains backside	

#### Berghaus Rhön

5 advertising	tungsrām	A	? on need	exchange
2 path illumination	CFL	A	? on need	exchange
1 luminaire	CFL	A	? on need	exchange

#### Würzburger Haus

2 lamps	???	A	Motion detector?	<b>exchange</b>
1 lamp	???	A	Roof/ on need?	

#### Oberbach-Ziegelhütte

2 globe light	tungsrām	A	Motion/switch	
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#### Geroda-Zwickenmühle

2 street lights	SON	B		<b>Border</b> partially cut-off
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Tab. A2: Lighting inventory of the core zones E0

## A 2.3 Lighting inventory buffer zone E1

	#Inh..	# lumin.	1<ULR<3	ULR<1	ULR<1 %	Watt	Lumen	Lumen upw.	Watt /inh.	lm/inh.	lm upw/inh.	ULR	
<b>Lange Rhön</b>													
<b>Hessen</b>													
Tann	2833	301	4	101	34	22439	1603600	92650	7.9	566.0	32.7	5.8	
Tann	1681	185	0	66	36	12929	902600	54055	7.7	536.9	32.2	6.0	
Wendershausen	472	57	0	18	32	4670	343500	21610	9.9	727.8	45.8	6.3	
Lahrbach	467	45	0	17	38	3720	271500	12655	8.0	581.4	27.1	4.7	
Dippach	213	14	4	0	0	1120	86000	4330	5.3	403.8	20.3	5.0	
Hilders	2906	358	73	98	27	27460	1625500	192038	9.4	559.4	66.1	11.8	
Simmershausen	579	73	21	0	0	6050	318000	39585	10.4	549.2	68.4	12.4	???
Hilders	2003	233	34	98	42	18050	1057500	142948	9.0	528.0	71.4	13.5	
Batten	324	52	18	0	0	3360	250000	9505	10.4	771.6	29.3	3.8	
Ehrenberg	2232	297	7	50	17	23810	1859200	89573	10.7	833.0	40.1	4.8	
Theiden	298	58	7	0	0	5560	411500	20680	18.7	1380.9	69.4	5.0	
Seiferts	564	68	0	6	9	5200	437000	22185	9.2	774.8	39.3	5.1	
Melperts	148	21	0	2	10	1930	156500	6983	13.0	1057.4	47.2	4.5	
Wüstensachsen	1222	150	0	42	28	11120	854200	39725	9.1	699.0	32.5	4.7	
Gersfeld	5944	906	0	241	27	36047	3056850	280216.5	6.1	514.3	47.1	9.2	
Wasserkuppe		24	0	4	17								Data out of date
Obernhausen	189	22	0	0	0	890	58200	3903	4.7	307.9	20.7	6.7	
Altenfeld	156	19	0	10	53	931	84200	1005	6.0	539.7	6.4	1.2	
Dalherda	395	40	0	0	0	1302	121450	14473	3.3	307.5	36.6	11.9	
Gersfeld	2581	476	0	116	24	21111	1746400	201852	8.2	676.6	78.2	11.6	
Gichenbach	185	28	0	12	43	1131	92900	2130	6.1	502.2	11.5	2.3	
Hettenhausen	1039	175	0	44	25	5555	499450	43022	5.3	480.7	41.4	8.6	
Maiersbach	302	27	0	18	67	756	74350	568	2.5	246.2	1.9	0.8	
Mosbach	173	27	0	6	22	828	72950	2648	4.8	421.7	15.3	3.6	
Rengersfeld	164	12	0	10	83	700	52700	1236	4.3	321.3	7.5	2.3	
Rodenbach	206	10	0	8	80	696	60100	790	3.4	291.7	3.8	1.3	
Rommers	86	9	0	0	0	360	33500	1675	4.2	389.5	19.5	5.0	
Sandberg	153	23	0	4	17	800	70950	2908	5.2	463.7	19.0	4.1	
Schachen	315	28	0	2	7	987	89700	4010	3.1	284.8	12.7	4.5	
Sparbrod		10	0	10	100	500	36000	0					
<b>Bayern</b>													
Fladungen	2133	398	23	13	20	28548	2126200	241525.5	13.2	982.1	111.6	11.4	
Leubach	260	29	0	0	0	1830	166000	12250	7.0	638.5	47.1	7.4	
Oberfladungen	400	65	0	13	20	4450	340000	51200	11.1	850.0	128.0	15.1	part. switch-off
Fladungen	1160	229	19	0	0	16506	1174200	141652	14.2	1012.2	122.1	12.1	part. switch-off 23-5
Rüdenschwinden	140	26	1	0	0	2024	137600	19367	14.5	982.9	138.3	14.1	
Brüchs *	53	9	1	0	0	646	56600	3018	12.2	1067.9	56.9	5.3	
Weihmarschmieden *	80	11	2	0	0	788	67000	3495	9.9	837.5	43.7	5.2	Switch-off
Sands *	40	8	0	0	0	628	40100	2205	15.7	1002.5	55.1	5.5	
Unter-/Oberfilke *		21	0	0	0	1676	144700	8339				5.8	
Hausen	713	184	19	18	10	13888	790800	130028	19.5	1109.1	182.4	16.4	
Hillenberg													
Hausen		114	19	0	0	8572	515900	80755				15.7	
Roth		70	0	18	26	5316	274900	49274				17.9	
Sondheim	975	199	0	0	0	14988	987900	148937	15.4	1013.2	152.8	15.1	
Sondheim		133	0	0	0	9852	626700	98765				15.8	
Stetten		66	0	0	0	5136	361200	50173				13.9	
Ostheim													
Urspringen	450	83	4	0	0	5816	471365	32323	12.9	1047.5	71.8	6.9	switch-off. 0:30-5:30
Oberelsbach	2746	404	76	11	6	30853	1865513	226526				12.1	
Gangolfsberg						0							
Ginolfs		58			0	4580	244000	56200				23.0	
Oberelsbach		190	76	11	6	14663	929213	75880				8.2	
Weisbach		91				7162	388700	58969				15.2	
Sondernau		65				4448	303600	35478				11.7	
<b>Thüringen</b>													
Frankenheim	1202	198	15	89	45	13160	1109200	120301	10.9	922.8	100.1	10.8	Reduction?
Birx	170	44	43	0	0	2940	241900	8850	17.3	1422.9	52.1	3.7	
Oberweid	531	94	2	0	0	6580	564000	83160	12.4	1062.1	156.6	14.7	part. switch-off
Unterweid	460	109	11	54	50	7630	654000	56520	16.6	1421.7	122.9	8.6	
Melpers *													Switch-off
Schafhausen *													
<b>Hohe Geba</b>													
Rhönblick													
Gerthausen *	201	31	31	0	0	2240	192000	5328	11.1	955.2	26.5	2.8	
Wohlmuthausen	247	29	28	0	0	2320	110200	3762	9.4	446.2	15.2	3.4	part. switch-off
Helmertshausen	622	102	20	73	72	8160	387600	11894	13.1	623.2	19.1	3.1	
Bettenhausen	820	124	36	78	63	8680	744000	23160	10.6	907.3	28.2	3.1	
Seeba	127	23	0	23	100	1610	138000	1380	12.7	1086.6	10.9	1.0	
Geba	90	20	5	15	75	1600	76000	380	17.8	844.4	4.2	0.5	

Träbes	80	14	14	0	0	980	84000	1260	12.3	1050.0	15.8	1.5	
Stepfershausen*	640	87	20	57	66	6090	522000	16320	9.5	815.6	25.5	3.1	
Dörensolls													
VG Hohe Rhön													
Oberkatz	277	54	4	48	89	4320	205200	3249	15.6	740.8	11.7	1.6	part. switch-off
Aschenhausen	173	28	5	23	82	2240	106400	1444	12.9	615.0	8.3	1.4	part. switch-off
<b>Schwarze Berge</b>													
Bischofsheim total	4722	719	154	0	0	48079	3338300	381107	10.2	707.0	80.7	11.4	
Bischofsheim	1673	399	58	0	0	31113	2024700	249269	18.6	1210.2	149.0	12.3	
Bischofsheim (ohne)	1750	320	96	0	0	16966	1313600	131838	9.7	750.6	75.3	10.0	
Frankenheim	501	68	30	0	0	3436	284100	27867	6.9	567.1	55.6	9.8	
Haselbach	666	159	40	64	40	7936	577700	44305	11.9	867.4	66.5	7.7	
Klosterkreuzberg		15	0	0	0	890	67200	7644				11.4	
Oberweissenbrunn	583	78	24	0	0	4704	384600	52022	8.1	659.7	89.2	13.5	
Wildflecken	3073	451	151	80	18	41052	3419610	167397	13.4	1112.8	54.5	4.9	
Eckartsroth		3				216	2010					0.0	
Oberbach		98	17	19	19	8078	701700	26150				3.7	part. reduced
Oberwildflecken		154	67	24	16	15450	1249100	68979				5.5	part. switch-off
Wildflecken		210	67	37	18	17308	1466800	72268				4.9	
Geroda	927	128	52	13	10	10558	887000	52648	11.4	956.9	56.8	5.9	
Geroda		88	33	13	15	6558	556900	32467				5.8	part. reduced
Platz		41	19	0	0	4000	330100	20181				6.1	part. reduced
Sandberg	2948	308	107	60	19	28651	1761300	110194	10.4	640.0	40.0	6.3	
Kilianshof	72	19	0	0	0	1520	72200	17100	21.1	1002.8	237.5	23.7	
Langenleiten	755	76	32	9	12	6834	404100	13261	9.1	535.2	17.6	3.3	
Sandberg	943	95	34	28	29	10902	692000	40102	11.6	733.8	42.5	5.8	
Schmalwasser	504	55	4	2	4	2947	218100	26387	5.8	432.7	52.4	12.1	
Waldberg	674	63	37	21	33	6448	374900	13344	9.6	556.2	19.8	3.6	
Riedenberg	1016	115	37	0	0	8726	725200	103962	8.6	713.8	102.3	14.3	
Burkardroth	1611	265	40	140	53	19354	1569000	74997				4.8	
Gefäll	582	105	0	51	49	7406	591500	50596	12.7	1016.3	86.9	8.6	
Stangenroth	1029	160	40	89	56	11948	977500	24401	11.6	950.0	23.7	2.5	
Sum	39853	5958	944	1285	22	420093	30496638	2557168.5	10.5	765.2	64.2	8.4	

Table A3: The summary data for the lighting inventory in the buffer zone E1

## A 3 Proposals for the decisions in the municipal councils for lighting guidelines

### Beleuchtungsrichtlinien für den Sternepark im Biosphärenreservat Rhön

Zum Schutz der natürlichen Nachtlandschaft in Gebieten mit einem natürlich dunklen Himmel ist die Anwendung von Beleuchtungsrichtlinien notwendig, wozu folgende Regelungen dienen:

#### Zonierung

Wegen der Reichweite künstlicher Beleuchtung ist es erforderlich, Zonen mit zunehmender Schutzwirkung zu definieren, um Gebiete mit natürlicher Dunkelheit zu erhalten. Entsprechend den Empfehlungen der CIE TP 150-2003 und bereits erfolgten Umsetzungen in Großbritannien wird folgende Zonierung im Sternepark angestrebt:

E0	-	Kernzone	-	mit nahezu natürlicher Dunkelheit,
E1	-	Pufferzone	-	schließt direkt an die Kernzone an (5 km – 10 km)
E2	-	Außenzone	-	grenzt an Pufferzone E1, sollte den gesamten Sternepark (Schutzgebiet) umfassen

#### Beleuchtungsregeln für die Zonen im Sternepark

Die folgenden Regelungen gelten nach Annahme der Beleuchtungsempfehlungen durch die Kommunen:

- in der Zone E0 (Kernzone) für alle Beleuchtungsanlagen. Anlagen, die diesen Anforderungen nicht entsprechen, sind binnen 1 Jahres nach Annahme dieser Beleuchtungsempfehlungen entsprechend umzurüsten.
- in den Zonen E1 und E2 für alle Neuinstallationen und Umrüstungen.

#### Kernzone E0

##### Grundsatz

In der Kernzone darf grundsätzlich **kein stationäres künstliches Licht** außerhalb von Gebäuden eingesetzt werden. Künstliches Licht, das aus Gebäuden stark herausstrahlt, ist durch Abschirmungen zu vermeiden.

**Gebäudeanstrahlungen** sind in der Kernzone **nicht erlaubt**.

##### Ausnahmen

Ausnahmen sind nur z.B. aus Sicherheitsgründen oder zur Arbeitsstättenbeleuchtung möglich. Für sie ist eine Begründung und Lichtplanung erforderlich:

- Warum ist die Lichtinstallation notwendig?
- Wie lange muss Licht eingesetzt werden?
- Wo wird das Licht benötigt (genaue Lenkung des Lichts)?
- Welche Lichtqualität (Gleichmäßigkeit, Blendung, Farbwiedergabe) ist notwendig?

In diesen Fällen sind folgende Kriterien in der Kernzone einzuhalten:

1. Es dürfen nur **voll abgeschirmte Leuchten** eingesetzt werden.  
Voll abgeschirmte Leuchten haben einen Upward Light Ratio (ULR)<sup>1</sup> von Null Prozent (ULR=0%). D.h. sie strahlen im montierten Zustand nur die zu beleuchtende Fläche an und geben kein Licht oberhalb der Horizontalen ab.  
Vorzugsweise sollten Leuchten der Lichtstärkeklasse G6 verwendet werden, mit einer Beschränkung der Lichtmenge in Winkeln von 10° und 20° unterhalb der Horizontalen.
2. Es darf nur **Licht mit geringen Blauanteilen** genutzt werden.

---

<sup>1</sup> Der Upward Light Ratio gibt den Anteil des Lichtes an, der oberhalb der Horizontalen der Leuchte direkt und ohne Umwege in den Himmel abgestrahlt wird.

Der Anteil der Strahlung, deren Wellenlänge < 500 nm ist, darf 10% der Gesamtstrahlung im sichtbaren Bereich nicht übersteigen. Dazu sind Leuchten einzusetzen, deren Farbtemperatur nicht höher als 2000 K sein darf. Optimal sind Lichtquellen, die vorwiegend gelbes Licht abstrahlen, wie Natriumniederdruckdampf lampen oder LED mit bernsteingelber Farbe („PC amber“).

3. Die **Lichtmenge muss bedarfsorientiert gesteuert** werden.

Licht soll nur an sein, wenn es benötigt wird (Schalter, Bewegungsmelder). Bei kontinuierlicher Beleuchtung muss die Lichtmenge zwischen **22:00 und 5:30 Uhr um 50%** reduziert werden.

### Pufferzone E1

Die Pufferzone E1 erfasst die unmittelbar an die Kernzone E0 angrenzenden Gebiete.

#### **Grundsatz**

Grundsätzlich ist der Einsatz von künstlichem Licht erlaubt, soll aber verantwortungsvoll eingesetzt werden.

Um zu vermeiden, dass von der Pufferzone E1 zu viel Licht in die Kernzone E0 strahlt, soll die vertikale Beleuchtungsstärke<sup>2</sup> an der Grenze zur Kernzone E0 geringer als 0.1 Lux sein.

#### **Kriterien für den Einsatz künstlicher Beleuchtung in der Pufferzone E1:**

Bei Neuerrichtung oder Umrüstung künstlicher Beleuchtung müssen folgende Fragen mit einer Lichtplanung berücksichtigt werden:

- Warum ist die Beleuchtung notwendig?
- Wie lange wird beleuchtet, ist eine Reduzierung möglich?
- Wo genau wird das Licht benötigt?
- Welche Lichtqualität (Gleichmäßigkeit, Blendung, Farbwiedergabe) ist notwendig?
- Wahl der niedrigsten möglichen Beleuchtungsklasse.
- Überschreitung der durch Normen vorgegebenen Mindestwerte für Beleuchtungsstärke, Leuchtdichte, Gleichförmigkeit um maximal 10%.

#### **Folgende Regelungen sind in der Pufferzone E1 zu befolgen:**

1. Es dürfen nur **voll abgeschirmte Leuchten** eingesetzt werden.

Voll abgeschirmte Leuchten haben einen Upward Light Ratio (ULR) von Null Prozent (ULR=0%). D.h. sie strahlen im montierten Zustand nur die zu beleuchtende Fläche an und geben kein Licht oberhalb der Horizontalen ab. Vorzugsweise sollten Leuchten der Lichtstärkeklasse G6 verwendet werden mit einer Beschränkung der Lichtmenge in Winkeln von 10° und 20° unterhalb der Horizontalen.

#### **Ausnahmen:**

Bei Lampen mit einer Lichtmenge kleiner als 1000 Lumen<sup>3</sup> ist ein ULR < 20% (etwa Pilzleuchten) erlaubt.

2. Es darf nur **Licht mit geringen Blauanteilen** genutzt werden.

Der Anteil der Strahlung, deren Wellenlänge < 500 nm ist, darf 20% der Gesamtstrahlung im sichtbaren Bereich nicht übersteigen. Dazu sind Leuchten einzusetzen, deren Farbtemperatur nicht höher als 3000 K sein darf. Dies

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<sup>2</sup> Die vertikale Beleuchtungsstärke (E) gibt in der Maßeinheit Lux (lx) den Lichtstrom (gemessen in Lumen: lm) an, der von einer Lichtquelle auf eine vertikale Fläche trifft. Diese hängt von der Helligkeit der Lichtquelle ab, von der Abstrahlcharakteristik und dem Abstand der Lichtquelle vom beleuchteten Gegenstand ab. Zur Orientierung: 0,1 lx ist die Beleuchtungsstärke durch den Himmel, wenn die Sonne bei klarem oder gering bewölktem Himmel 9° unter dem Horizont steht, Mitte der nautischen Dämmerung. Oder 0,1 lx ist die Beleuchtungsstärke einer 100 W Glühlampe oder 20 W Kompaktleuchtstofflampe in 50 m Entfernung.

<sup>3</sup> 1000 Lumen entspricht Glühlampe 75 W, Halogenlampe 55 W, Kompaktleuchtstofflampe 15 W oder LED 10 W

wird neben den in der Kernzone E0 erlaubten Lampen beispielsweise von Natriumhochdruckdampflampen oder warmweißen LEDs erfüllt.

3. Die **Lichtmenge muss bedarfsorientiert gesteuert** werden.  
Licht soll nur an sein, wenn es benötigt wird (Schalter, Bewegungsmelder). Bei kontinuierlicher Beleuchtung muss die Lichtmenge zwischen 23:00 und 5:30 Uhr deutlich reduziert werden (ca. 50%).
4. **Anstrahlungen** sind nur in begründeten Ausnahmefällen erlaubt und dürfen eine maximale Leuchtdichte<sup>4</sup> von **2 cd/m<sup>2</sup>** nicht überschreiten.  
Anstrahlungen sind so zu planen, dass kein Licht am zu beleuchtenden Gegenstand vorbei strahlt (Projektions-, Masken- oder Gobotechnik). Ansonsten darf eine Anstrahlung nur von oben nach unten erfolgen, es dürfen keine Bodenstrahler verwendet werden. Leuchttafeln dürfen eine maximale Leuchtdichte von 50 cd/m<sup>2</sup> nicht überschreiten.
5. Die Beleuchtung von **Verkehrsflächen außerhalb geschlossener Ortschaften** ist zu vermeiden sofern die Sicherheitsanforderungen dies zulassen.
6. Die Kommunen wirken aufklärend und ggf. unterstützend darauf hin, dass in privaten Bereichen, insbesondere bei der **Gewerbebeleuchtung** die o. g. Regelungen Anwendung finden. In diesem Rahmen soll die Gewerbebeleuchtung spätestens 30 Minuten nach Geschäftsschluss und vor -beginn ausgeschaltet sein. Für Flächenbeleuchtung sind asymmetrische Planstrahler einzusetzen, die exakt horizontal montiert sind. Sofern möglich, sollte bedarfsorientierte Schaltung (Schalter, Bewegungsmelder) eingesetzt werden.

## Außenzone E2

Die Außenzone E2 schließt an die Pufferzone E1 an, sie darf nicht unmittelbar an die Kernzone E0 angrenzen, sie sollte den gesamten Naturpark umfassen.

### **Grundsatz**

Um zu vermeiden, dass von der Außenzone E2 zu viel Licht in die Pufferzone E1 strahlt, müssen bei Neuerrichtung oder Umrüstung künstlicher Beleuchtung folgende Fragen mit einer Lichtplanung berücksichtigt werden:

- Warum ist die Beleuchtung notwendig?
- Wie lange wird beleuchtet, ist eine Reduzierung möglich?
- Wo genau wird das Licht benötigt?
- Welche Lichtqualität (Gleichmäßigkeit, Blendung, Farbwiedergabe) ist notwendig?
- Wahl der niedrigsten möglichen Beleuchtungsklasse.
- Überschreitung der durch Normen vorgegebenen Mindestwerte für Beleuchtungsstärke, Leuchtdichte, Gleichförmigkeit um maximal 10%.

### **Kriterien in der Außenzone E2**

1. In bebauten Gebieten, wo eine Abschattung durch Gebäude erfolgt, kann ein kleiner Teil der Lichtmenge in und oberhalb der Horizontalen abgestrahlt werden. Die verwendeten Leuchten müssen einen ULR < 3% haben. Zur Vermeidung von Blendung und Fassadenaufhellung sollte aber ULR = 0% angestrebt werden.

In allen anderen Bereichen dürfen nur **voll abgeschirmte Leuchten** eingesetzt werden. Voll abgeschirmte Leuchten haben einen Upward Light Ratio (ULR)<sup>5</sup> von Null Prozent (ULR=0%). D.h. sie strahlen im montierten Zustand nur die zu beleuchtende Fläche an und geben kein Licht oberhalb der Horizontalen ab.

### **Ausnahmen:**

Bei Lichtmenge kleiner als 1000 Lumen ist ein ULR < 30% erlaubt.

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<sup>4</sup> Die Leuchtdichte ist die lichttechnische Größe, die das Auge wahrnimmt („Helligkeit“). Gemessen wird sie in Candela/ m<sup>2</sup>, cd/ m<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> Der Upward Light Ratio gibt den Anteil des Lichtes an, der oberhalb der Horizontalen der Leuchte direkt und ohne Umwege in den Himmel abgestrahlt wird.



3. Es darf nur **Licht mit geringen Blauanteilen** genutzt werden.  
Der Anteil der Strahlung, deren Wellenlänge < 500 nm ist, darf 27% der Gesamtstrahlung im sichtbaren Bereich nicht übersteigen. Dazu sind Leuchten einzusetzen, deren Farbtemperatur nicht höher als 3000 K sein darf. Dies wird beispielsweise neben den in den Zonen E0 und E1 erlaubten Lampen noch von warmweißen Halogenmetaldampflampen erfüllt.
4. Die **Lichtmenge muss bedarfsorientiert gesteuert** werden.  
Licht soll nur an sein, wenn es benötigt wird (Schalter, Bewegungsmelder). Bei kontinuierlicher Beleuchtung muss die Lichtmenge zwischen **24:00 und 5:00** Uhr deutlich reduziert werden (**ca. 50%**).
5. **Anstrahlungen** sind nur in begründeten Ausnahmefällen erlaubt und dürfen eine maximale Leuchtdichte<sup>6</sup> von **5 cd/m<sup>2</sup>** nicht überschreiten.  
Anstrahlungen sind so zu planen, dass kein Licht am zu beleuchtenden Gegenstand vorbei strahlt (Projektions-, Masken- oder Gobotechnik). Ansonsten darf eine Anstrahlung nur von oben nach unten erfolgen, es dürfen keine Bodenstrahler verwendet werden. Leuchttafeln dürfen eine maximale Leuchtdichte von 100 cd/m<sup>2</sup> nicht überschreiten.
6. Die Beleuchtung von **Verkehrsflächen außerhalb geschlossener Ortschaften** ist zu vermeiden sofern die Sicherheitsanforderungen dies zulassen.
7. Die Kommunen wirken aufklärend und ggf. unterstützend darauf hin, dass in privaten Bereichen, insbesondere bei der **Gewerbebeleuchtung** die o. g. Regelungen Anwendung finden. In diesem Rahmen soll die Gewerbebeleuchtung spätestens 60 Minuten nach Geschäftsschluss und vor -beginn ausgeschaltet sein. Für Flächenbeleuchtung sollen asymmetrische Planstrahler eingesetzt werden, die exakt horizontal montiert sind. Sofern möglich, sollte bedarfsorientierte Schaltung (Schalter, Bewegungsmelder) eingesetzt werden.

Diese Beleuchtungsempfehlungen werden durch ein erläuterndes Dokument ergänzt:

Ökologische Beleuchtung zur Reduzierung von Lichtsmog

#### Quellen:

CIE 150-2003: Guide on the limitation of the effects of obstrusive light from outdoor lighting installations, 2003  
 IDA: International Dark Sky Reserves Ver. 1.2, IDA 2008  
 IDA: International Dark Sky Park Program Ver. 1.31, IDA 2006  
 IDA – IES: Model lighting ordinance, 2010  
 RASC: Guidelines for Outdoor Lighting in Dark-Sky Preserves, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Summer 2011  
 Outdoor lighting draft regulations, Mont-Mégantic, 2006  
 Exmoor National Park: Lighting Management Plan, 2011  
 Andalusia: Guia tecnica de aplicacion del regalmento para la proteccion del cielo norcturno, Barcelona, 2011  
 UNESCO/IAU/IAC: Starlight Reserves and World Heritage, Fuerteventura 2009  
 LiTG: Empfehlungen für die Messung, Beurteilung und Minderung von Lichtimmissionen künstlicher Lichtquellen, 12.3, Berlin 2011  
 AFE: Les nuisances due a la lumiere, Paris 2006  
 Autonome Provinz Bozen-Südtirol: Kriterien für Maßnahmen zur Einschränkung der Lichtverschmutzung und zur Energieeinsparung, 2012

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<sup>6</sup> Die Leuchtdichte ist die lichttechnische Größe, die das Auge wahrnimmt („Helligkeit“). Gemessen wird sie in Candela/ m<sup>2</sup>, cd/ m<sup>2</sup>.

## Translation: Lighting Guidelines for the Rhön Biosphere Reserve

For the protection of the natural nocturnal landscape in areas with a naturally dark sky, it is necessary to apply certain illumination guideline - the following regulations serve this purpose.

### Zoning

Due to the range of artificial lighting, it is essential to define zones of increasing protection effect in order to preserve areas of natural darkness. According to the recommendations of the CIE TP 150-2003 and already existing implementations in Great Britain, the following zoning of the Rhön Biosphere Reserve will be aimed at:

E0 – Core zone with almost natural darkness

E1 – Buffer zone which is adjacent to the core zone

E2 – Outer zone which adjoins the buffer zone E1 but does not share a border with the core zone and which includes the star park (whole protected area).

### Lighting rules for the zones of the star park

The following regulations apply to the municipalities after the adoption of the lighting guidelines:

- in the zone E0 (core zone) for all lighting systems. Systems that do not comply with the requirements are to be exchanged according to the lighting guidelines within 1 year.  
in zones E1 and E2 for all new installations and replacements.

### Core zone E0

#### Basic Principle

Strictly **no stationary artificial light** may be used outside buildings. Artificial light that excessively radiates from buildings is to be avoided by shielding it.

**Spotlighting of buildings is not allowed** in the core zone.

#### Exceptions

Exceptions are only possible if e.g. they are necessary for safety reasons or to illuminate work places. In this case a precise justification is required:

- Why is the lighting installation necessary?
- For how long must the lighting be installed?
- Where is light needed (careful directing light)?
- Which lighting quality (uniformity, glare, color rendering) is necessary?

In these cases, the following criteria are to be kept in the core zone:

1. Only **fully shielded luminaries** may be installed. Fully shielded luminaries have an Upward Light Ratio (ULR)<sup>7</sup> of zero percent (ULR=0%). I.e. they light when mounted only the area which is to be illuminated and do not emit light beyond the horizontal.  
Preferably, luminaries of lighting class G6 should be used with a limitation on the amount of light between 10° and 20° below the horizontal.
2. Light with a low content of blue color<sup>8</sup> may be used.  
The share of emission with a wavelength < 500 nm must not exceed 10% of the total amount of emission in the visible spectrum. For this purpose luminaries of a color temperature not higher than 2000 K are to be employed.

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<sup>7</sup> The Upward Light Ratio indicates the share of light which directly and without diversion radiates above the luminary's horizontal into the sky.

<sup>8</sup> Blue light has wavelengths of 400 to 470 nm.

Light sources which emit predominately yellow light like low-pressure sodium lamps or amber colored LEDs (“PC amber”) are ideal.

3. The amount of light must be **regulated according to different needs**.

Light should only be switched on if needed (switches, illumination on demand). The amount of light of continuous illumination must be **reduced by 50% between 22:00 and 5:30**.

### **Buffer zone E1**

The Buffer zone E1 includes the areas directly adjacent to the Core zone E0.

#### **Basic Principle**

To avoid too much light radiating from the Buffer zone E1 to the Core zone E0, the vertical illuminance<sup>9</sup> on the border to the Core zone E0 should be less than 0.1 lux.

#### **Criteria for the use of artificial lighting in Buffer zone E1:**

In case of new installations or retrofitting of artificial lighting, the following questions must be considered with the help of light planning:

- Why is the illumination necessary?
- How long is the illumination necessary, is a reduction possible?
- Where exactly is the light needed?
- Which lighting quality (uniformity, glare, color rendering) is necessary?
- Choice of the lowest lighting class possible
- The minimal values for illuminance, luminance, uniformity defined by norms should not exceed them by more than 10%.

#### **The following regulations are to be followed in the Buffer zone E1:**

1. Only **fully shielded luminaries** may be installed which do not radiate light when mounted above the horizontal (ULR=0%). Preferring luminaires of lighting class G6 should be used.

##### **Exceptions:**

For luminaires of a light quantity of less than 1000 lumen<sup>10</sup> a ULR < 20% is allowed.

2. Only **light with a low content of blue** may be used.  
The share of emission with a wavelength < 500 nm must not exceed 20% of the total amount of emission in the visible spectrum. For this purpose luminaries of a color temperature not higher than 3000 K are to be employed. In addition to the luminaries allowed in the core zone E0, e.g. high-pressure sodium lamps or warm white LED comply with this.
3. The amount of light must be **regulated according to different needs**.  
Light should only be switched on if needed (switches, illumination on demand). The amount of light of continuous illumination must be considerably reduced between 23:00 and 5:30 (ca. 50%).
4. **Illuminances** are only allowed in justified exceptions and must not exceed a maximal luminance<sup>11</sup> of **2 cd/m<sup>2</sup>**.

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<sup>9</sup> The vertical illuminance (E) measures with the unit Lux (lx) the light flux (measured in Lumen: lm), which a light source emits towards a vertical surface. This depends from the brightness of the light source, the direction of the emitted light, and the distance between light source and illuminated object. For orientation: 0,1 lx is the illuminance by the sky, when the sun is 9° below the horizon with clear sky, middle of the nautical twilight. Or 0,1 lx is the illuminance of a 100 W incandescent lamps or 20 W compact fluorescent lamp at a distance of 50 m.

<sup>10</sup> 1000 Lumen is emitted by a 75 W incandescent, a 55 W tungstram, a 15 W compact fluorescent lamp or 10 W LED

Illuminances must be planned in a way that no light radiates beyond the object which is to be illuminated (projection, masking or Gobo technique). Otherwise illuminances may only be placed from top to bottom, in-ground luminaires must not be used. Self-illuminated signs must not exceed a maximal luminance of 50 cd/m<sup>2</sup>.

5. The illumination of **circulation areas outside of built-up areas** is to be avoided as long as safety requirements allow this.
6. Municipalities offer information and if needed support to ensure that the above mentioned regulations are applied in the private and the commercial sector, in particular in **industrial illumination**. In accordance with this, industrial illumination should be switched off not later than 30 minutes after closing times and switched on not earlier than 30 minutes before opening hours. Asymmetrical flood lights which are mounted exactly horizontally, should be used for surface illumination. If possible, demand-oriented lighting (switches, motion detectors) should be used.

## Outer buffer zone E2

The outer buffer zone E2 follows the Buffer zone E1, it must not adjoin to the Core zone E0 and it should include the whole nature park.

### **Basic Principle**

To avoid too much light radiating from the Outer zone E2 into the Buffer zone E1, in case of new installations and retrofitting of artificial lighting the following questions must be taken into consideration in the light planning:

- Why is the lighting installation necessary?
- For how long must the lighting be switched on, is a reduction possible?
- Where exactly is the light needed?
- Which lighting quality (uniformity, glare, color rendering) is necessary?
- Choice of the lowest lighting class possible
- The minimum values for illuminance, luminance, uniformity defined by norms should not exceed them by more than 10%.

### **Criteria for the outer zone E2**

In built-up areas, in which shading of buildings takes place, a small share of the amount of light may be radiated in and above the horizontal. The luminaires used must have an ULR < 3%.

To avoid glare and illumination of facades an ULR = 0% should be aimed at.

In all other areas **fully shielded luminaires** must be used only.

Fully shielded luminaires have an Upward Light Ratio (ULR)<sup>12</sup> of zero percent (ULR=0%). I.e. they light when mounted only the area which is to be illuminated and do not emit light beyond the horizontal.

### **Exceptions:**

1. If the amount of light is less than 1000 lumen, an ULR < 30% is permitted.
2. Only **light with a low content of blue** may be used.  
The share of emission with a wavelength < 500 nm must not exceed 27% of the total amount of emission in the visible spectrum. For this purpose luminaires of a color temperature not higher than 3000 K are to be employed. In addition to the luminaires allowed in the zones E0 and E1, warm white metal halide lamps comply with this.

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<sup>11</sup> Luminance is the light technical measure, that the eye sees („brightness“), it is measured in Candela/ m<sup>2</sup>, cd/ m<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>12</sup> The Upward Light Ratio is the fraction of light which is directly emitted from the luminaire above the horizontal line towards the sky.

3. The amount of light must be **regulated according to different needs**.  
Light should only be switched on if needed (switches, illumination on demand). The amount of light of continuous illumination must be considerably reduced between 24:00 and 5:00 (ca. 50%).
4. **Illuminances** are only allowed in justified exceptions and must not exceed a maximal luminance<sup>13</sup> of **5 cd/m<sup>2</sup>**.  
Illuminances must be planned in a way that no light radiates beyond the object which is to be illuminated (projection, masking or Gobo technique). Otherwise illuminances may only be placed from top to bottom, in-ground luminaires must not be used. Self-illuminated signs must not exceed a maximal luminance of 100 cd/m<sup>2</sup>.
5. The illumination of **circulation areas outside of built-up areas** is to be avoided as long as safety requirements allow this.
6. Municipalities offer information and if needed support to ensure that the above mentioned regulations are applied in the private and the commercial sector, in particular in **industrial illumination**. In accordance with this, industrial illumination should be switched off not later than 60 minutes after closing times and switched on not earlier than 60 minutes before opening hours. Asymmetric flood lights which are mounted exactly horizontally, should be used for surface illumination. If possible, demand-oriented lighting (switches, motion detectors) should be used.

These illumination guidelines are supplemented by an explanatory document:

- Ecological illumination to reduce light smog (in German)

#### References:

- CIE 150-2003: Guide on the limitation of the effects of obstrusive light from outdoor lighting installations, 2003 .  
 IDA: International Dark Sky Reserves Ver. 1.2, IDA 2008.  
 IDA: International Dark Sky Park Program Ver. 1.31, IDA 2006.  
 IDA – IES: Model lighting ordinance, 2010.  
 RASC: Guidelines for Outdoor Lighting in Dark-Sky Preserves, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Summer 2011.  
 Outdoor lighting draft regulations, Mont-Mégantic, 2006.  
 Exmoor National Park: Lighting Management Plan, 2011.  
 Andalucia: Guia tecnica de aplicacion del regalmento para la proteccion del cielo nocturno, Barcelona, 2011.  
 UNESCO/IAU/IAC: Starlight Reserves and World Heritage, Fuerteventura 2009.  
 LiTG: Empfehlungen für die Messung, Beurteilung und Minderung von Lichtimmissionen künstlicher Lichtquellen, 12.3, Berlin 2011.  
 AFE: Les nuisances due a la lumiere, Paris 2006.  
 Autonome Provinz Bozen-Südtirol: Kriterien für Maßnahmen zur Einschränkung der Lichtverschmutzung und zur Energieeinsparung, 2012.

Dr. Andreas Hänel, Fachgruppe Dark Sky, Museum am Schölerberg  
 Klaus-Strick-Weg 10, 49082 Osnabrück, ahaenel@uos.de, 3/2013

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<sup>13</sup> Luminance is the light technical measure, that the eye sees („brightness“), it is measured in Candela/ m<sup>2</sup>, cd/ m<sup>2</sup>.

# A4 Decisions of the communities Communities in starlight buffer zone E1

## Thüringen Rhönblick

Kopie

### Beschluss des Gemeinderates Rhönblick

Sitzung am	TOP	Öffentlich	Nicht öffentlich
17.09.2012	TOP 15 (vorher TOP 14)	X	

### Beschluss Nr. 55/05/2012

Der Gemeinderat der Gemeinde Rhönblick begrüßt die Bewerbung des Biosphärenreservats Rhön um die Anerkennung als Sternpark und beschließt, dass bei zukünftigen Neuanstellungen oder der Umgestaltung der Straßenbeleuchtungssysteme die Beleuchtungsempfehlungen für Sternparks zur Reduzierung der Lichtverschmutzung zur Entscheidung herangezogen werden. Das Biosphärenreservat Rhön unterstützt hier. Nichtöffentliche Nutzer in der Gemeinde sollen dahingehend informiert werden, dass auch hier die Beleuchtung im Sinne des Sternparks erfolgt.

Abstimmungsergebnis:					
Gesetzl. Anzahl der Mitglieder	davon anwesend	Stimm-berechtigte	Ja-Stimmen	Nein-Stimmen	Stimm-enthaltenen
15	13	13	13	-	-
Wegen persönlicher Beteiligung nach § 38 ThürKO waren ausgeschlossen:					

Rhönblick, 18.09.2012

  
Steppa  
Bürgermeister



## Unter Katz

Gemeindeverwaltung Unter Katz

Beschlussnummer: 210/44/2013 des Gemeinderates der Gemeinde Unter Katz vom 28.08.2013 über die Ausweisung von Teilen des Biosphärenreservats Rhön als internationaler Sternpark

Der Gemeinderat der Gemeinde Unter Katz begrüßt die Bewerbung des Biosphärenreservats Rhön um die Anerkennung von Teilen der Rhön als

### „Sternpark im Biosphärenreservat Rhön“.

Der Gemeinderat beschließt, dass die zukünftigen Neuinstallierungen, Renovierungen oder Umgestaltung der Straßenbeleuchtungssysteme - die Beleuchtungsempfehlungen für Sternparks zur Reduzierung der Lichtverschmutzung und Optimierung der öffentlichen Beleuchtung, zur Entscheidung herangezogen werden.

**Abstimmungsergebnis:**  
Gesetzliche Anzahl der Mitglieder d. Gemeinderates: 6

davon anwesend: 6

Ja-Stimmen: 6

Nein-Stimmen: -

Enthaltungen: -

Aufgrund des § 38 ThürKO war kein Mitglied des Gemeinderates von der Beratung und Beschlussfassung ausgeschlossen.

Unter Katz, 28.08.2013

  
Krippinger  
Bürgermeisterin



## Stepfershausen

Gemeinde Stepfershausen

Beschluss der 47. Sitzung des Gemeinderates der Gemeinde Stepfershausen vom 01.10.2013

- öffentlich -

Beschluss-Nr.: 115/47/2013  
Aktenzeichen: 027 421  
ID: 032321

### Sternpark im Biosphärenreservat Rhön

Der Gemeinderat Stepfershausen begrüßt die Bewerbung des Biosphärenreservats Rhön um die Anerkennung von Teilen der Rhön als „Sternpark im Biosphärenreservat Rhön“.

#### Abstimmungsergebnis:

Anzahl der Mitglieder: 9  
davon anwesend: 9  
Ja: 7  
Nein: 2  
Enthaltung: 0

Von der Beratung / Abstimmung gem. § 38 Abs. 1 ThürKO waren 0 Mitglieder ausgeschlossen.

Stepfershausen, den 15.10.2013

  
Bürgermeister  


**TOP 9 Beleuchtungsempfehlungen für den Sternepark im Biosphärenreservat Rhön**

**Sachverhalt:**

Zur Erlangung der Auszeichnung „Sternepark“ der International Dark Sky Association (IDA) ist es erforderlich, dass die Kommunen als Verantwortliche für die öffentliche Beleuchtung die Beleuchtungsempfehlungen per Beschluss als Handlungsgrundlage für die zukünftige Lichtplanung festsetzen, da schlecht gerichtetes Licht u.a. über weite Strecken in der Atmosphäre streut und somit die noch vorhandenen natürlichen Nachtlandschaften der Rhön bedroht. Als erste Kommune im Biosphärenreservat hat die Gemeinde Rhönblick die Beleuchtungsempfehlungen per Beschluss anerkannt. Die Stadt Bischofsheim möchte diesem Beispiel folgen. Die Beleuchtungsrichtlinien sehen eine Einteilung in der Zonen (E 0, E 1 und E2) vor. Die Stadt Bischofsheim sowie die Stadtteile Frankenheim, Haselbach, Oberweißenbrunn und das Kloster Kreuzberg sind der Pufferzone E 1 zugeordnet, das übrige Stadtgebiet gehört zur Außenzone E 2. Die Beleuchtungsempfehlungen werden in zeitlichen Abständen überprüft und ggf. dem aktuellen Stand der Forschung angepasst. Die derzeitige Fassung vom März 2013 wurde an die Stadtratsmitglieder verteilt. Es entwickelt sich eine längere Diskussion, da befürchtet wird, dass die Anerkennung der Beleuchtungsrichtlinien Einfluss auf die Entscheidungsfreiheit hinsichtlich der Brenndauer der Straßenbeleuchtung haben könnte. Bürgermeister Baumann betont mehrfach, dass hier kein Zusammenhang besteht. Die Anerkennung hat nur Bedeutung für die Umrüstung und bei der Neuerrichtung von künstlicher Beleuchtung.

**Beschlussvorschlag:**

Der Stadtrat beschließt, dass bei **zukünftigen** Neustallierungen, Renovierungen oder der Umgestaltung der Straßenbeleuchtungssysteme die Beleuchtungsempfehlungen für Sterneparks zur Reduzierung der Lichtverschmutzung und Optimierung der öffentlichen Beleuchtung zur Entscheidung herangezogen werden.

**Abstimmungsergebnis: Ja 13 Nein 6 Anwesend 19**

**Markt Oberelsbach**

Städtisch anerkannter Erholungsort



**EINGEGANGEN**  
25. Nov. 2013  
Bayerische Verwaltungsstelle  
des Biosphärenreservats Rhön  
z. Hd. Herrn Geler  
Oberelsbacher Str. 4  
97656 Oberelsbach

*Erstausgabe B.A.M.  
Sternepark  
S. Sabine Frank*

**Die Bürgermeisterin**  
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Fax: 03774 91 31-10  
Internet: www.oberelsbach.de  
E-Mail: rat@markt.oberelsbach.de  
E-Mail: ra@markt.oberelsbach.de  
E-Mail: ra@markt.oberelsbach.de  
E-Mail: ra@markt.oberelsbach.de

Ihr Zeichen / Maßzahl:

Unser Zeichen / Protokoll:

21.11.2013

**Sternepark im Biosphärenreservat Rhön**

Sehr geehrter Herr Geler,

In seiner Sitzung am 21.10.2013 hat der Marktgemeinderat des Marktes Oberelsbach beschlossen, die Bewerbung des Biosphärenreservats Rhön und die Anerkennung von Teilen der Rhön als „Sternepark im Biosphärenreservat Rhön“ zu unterstützen.

Der Marktgemeinderat hat beschlossen, dass bei zukünftigen Neustallierungen, Renovierungen oder der Umgestaltung der Straßenbeleuchtungssysteme die Beleuchtungsempfehlungen für Sterneparks zur Reduzierung der Lichtverschmutzung und Optimierung der öffentlichen Beleuchtung zur Entscheidung herangezogen werden.

Noch weitergehend hat der Marktgemeinderat die sofortige Umstellung der kompletten Straßenbeleuchtung auf LED-Technik beschlossen. Hierbei werden 524 Lichtpunkte ausgetauscht und die Beleuchtungsempfehlungen für die öffentliche Beleuchtung im Gebiet des „Sterneparks im Biosphärenreservat Rhön“ ausnahmslos eingehalten.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

*[Signature]*  
Erste Bürgermeisterin

© Rheinpark  
Mo-Fr 08:00-12:00 Uhr  
Sa 09:00-12:00 Uhr  
So 11:00-18:00 Uhr  
Spitzenhof Bad Nauheim/Nahe  
Mo-Fr 07:00-12:00 Uhr  
Sa 09:00-12:00 Uhr  
So 11:00-18:00 Uhr  
V&V Spas Rhön-Graben/Nahe  
Mo-Fr 08:00-12:00 Uhr  
Sa 09:00-12:00 Uhr  
So 11:00-18:00 Uhr  
Rhein  
Städtisches Reservat

**Stadt Ostheim v.d.Rhön**



**AUSZUG AUS DEM SITZUNGSPROTOKOLL  
Stadtrat  
VOM 15.10.2013**

Die Sitzung war öffentlich.

**TOP 04 Vorstellung und evtl. Teilnahme am Projekt "Sternepark" des Biosphärenreservats**

**Sachvortrag:**

Im Intranet haben alle Stadtratsmitglieder die Broschüre „Sternepark im Biosphärenreservat Rhön“ zur Kenntnisnahme erhalten.

Bürgermeister Waldsachs stellt das Projekt in groben Zügen vor. So sollen die Kommunen für die zukünftige Beleuchtung in ihrem Gebiet gewisse Regeln einhalten, um so der „Lichtverschmutzung“ entgegenzuwirken. Weiterhin könnte durch den bewussten Umgang mit dem Licht Kosten eingespart werden. Die Arbeitsgemeinschaft für den Sternepark würde dann auch den Kommunen beratend zur Verfügung stehen.

Mit der Ausweisung des Sterneparks kann der Tourismus weiter gefördert werden.

**Beschluss:**

Die Gemeindevertreter begrüßen die Bewerbung des Biosphärenreservats Rhön um die Anerkennung von Teilen der Rhön als „Sternepark im Biosphärenreservat Rhön“.

Der Stadtrat beschließt, dass bei zukünftigen Neustallierungen, Renovierungen oder der Umgestaltung der Straßenbeleuchtungssysteme, die Beleuchtungsempfehlungen für Sterneparks zur Reduzierung der Lichtverschmutzung und Optimierung der öffentlichen Beleuchtung zur Entscheidung herangezogen werden. Das Biosphärenreservat Rhön unterstützt und berät in Zusammenarbeit mit den Anbietern von öffentlicher Beleuchtung die Kommunen vor Ort. Die Beleuchtungsempfehlungen wurden mit den regionalen Energieversorgern abgestimmt.

Nichtöffentliche Nutzer in der Gemeinde werden dahin gehend informiert werden, dass auch hier die Beleuchtung im Sinne des Sterneparks erfolgen soll. Beleuchtungsempfehlungen für nichtöffentliche Nutzer sind in den Erläuterungen zu den Beleuchtungsempfehlungen zu finden. Handzettel werden zur Verfügung gestellt.

Die Stadt bemüht sich zusammen mit den regionalen Energieversorgern um die Einrichtung von Musterbeispielen für eine nachhaltige Lichtnutzung.

**Abstimmungsergebnis:**

Ja-Stimmen:	13
Nein-Stimmen:	2
Persönlich beteiligt:	0



**Stadt Fladungen**

**Auszug aus der Niederschrift  
über die Sitzung des Stadtrates Fladungen am 20.01.2014  
im Sitzungssaal des Rathauses Fladungen**

Nach der Sachverhaltsdarstellung und einer eingehenden Beratung fasst der Stadtrat folgenden

**Beschluss:**

1. Die Stadt Fladungen begrüßt die Bewerbung des Biosphärenreservats Rhön um die Anerkennung von Teilen der Rhön als „Sternepark im Biosphärenreservat Rhön“.
2. Die Stadt Fladungen wird bei zukünftigen Neustallierungen, Renovierungen oder der Umgestaltung der Straßenbeleuchtungssysteme die Beleuchtungsempfehlungen für Sterneparks zur Reduzierung der Lichtverschmutzung und Optimierung der öffentlichen Beleuchtung berücksichtigen.
3. Nicht öffentliche Nutzer werden dahin gehend informiert, dass auch hier die Beleuchtung im Sinne des Sterneparks erfolgen soll.

**Abstimmungsergebnis:**

einstimmig beschlossen Ja 13 Nein 0 Anwesend 13

Fladungen, 03.02.2014

*[Signature]*

Schmuck  
Geschäftsstellenleiter



Gemeinde Hausen

**Auszug aus der Niederschrift  
über die Sitzung des Gemeinderates Hausen am 21.01.2014  
im Sitzungssaal des Rathauses Hausen**

**Beschluss:**

1. Die Gemeinde Hausen begrüßt die Bewerbung des Biosphärenreservats Rhön um die Anerkennung von Teilen der Rhön als „Sternenpark am Biosphärenreservat Rhön“.
2. Die Gemeinde Hausen wird bei zukünftigen Neueinstellungen, Renovierungen oder der Umgestaltung der Straßenbeleuchtungssysteme die Beleuchtungsempfehlungen für Sternenparks zur Reduzierung der Lichtverschmutzung und Optimierung der öffentlichen Beleuchtung berücksichtigen.
3. Nicht öffentliche Nutzer werden dahin gehend informiert, dass auch hier die Beleuchtung im Sinne des Sternenparks erfolgen soll.

**Abstimmungsergebnis:**

einstimmig beschlossen Ja 7 Nein 0. Anwesend 7

Fladungen, 03.02.2014

Schmuck  
Geschäftsstellenleiter

**Gemeinde Sondheim v.d.Rhön**



**AUSZUG AUS DEM SITZUNGSPROTOKOLL  
Gemeinderat  
VOM 09.01.2014**

Die Sitzung war öffentlich.

TOP ist: Vorstellung und evtl. Teilnahme am Projekt "Sternenpark" vom Biosphärenreservat Rhön

**Sachverhalt:**

**Beschluss:**

Der Gemeinderat beschließt, dass bei zukünftigen Neueinstellungen, Renovierungen oder der Umgestaltung der Straßenbeleuchtungssysteme die Beleuchtungsempfehlungen für Sternenparks zur Reduzierung der Lichtverschmutzung und Optimierung der öffentlichen Beleuchtung zur Berücksichtigung herangezogen werden. Das Biosphärenreservat unterstützt hier. Die Beleuchtungsempfehlungen werden mit den Anwohnern der öffentlichen Beleuchtung vor Ort abgestimmt. Nichtöffentliche Nutzer in der Gemeinde werden dahingehend informiert werden, dass auch die Beleuchtung im Sinne des Sternenparks erfolgt.

**Abstimmungsergebnis:**

Ja-Stimmen	12
Nein-Stimmen	2
Famessich beteiligt	1

Die Übereinstimmung des vorstehenden Auszuges mit dem Original der Sitzungsniederschrift wird bestätigt.

Sondheim v.d.Rhön, den 15.01.2014

Gemeinde  
Sondheim v.d.Rhön  
G B 12  
1. Bürgermeisterin





**Beglaubigter Auszug  
aus der Niederschrift über die öffentliche Sitzung  
des Gemeinderats Sandberg vom 13.01.2014**

**7. Antrag zum Biosphärenreservat Rhön**

Sitzungsanfrage des Biosphärenreservats Rhön:  
Am 22.11.2011 hat die ARGE Rhön die Ausweisung von Teilen des Biosphärenreservates Rhön als  
internationalen Sternepark beschlossen.

**Abklaus:**

Die Gemeinderäte begrüßen die Bewerbung des Biosphärenreservates Rhön um die Anerkennung von  
Teilen der Rhön als „Sternepark im Biosphärenreservat Rhön“ zur Reduzierung der Lichtverschmutzung und  
die Energieeinsparung zum Schutz und der Aufwertung der Umwelt sowie zur Wahrung und Aufwertung der  
Umwelt und zum Schutz der Gesundheit der Bürger.

Der Gemeinderat beschließt, allen bei zukünftigen Neuanstellungen, Renovierungen oder der Umgestaltung  
der Straßenbeleuchtungssysteme die Beleuchtungsempfehlungen für Sterneparks zur Reduzierung der  
Lichtverschmutzung und Optimierung der öffentlichen Beleuchtung zur Entscheidung herangezogen werden.

Das Biosphärenreservat Rhön unterstützt für alle Beleuchtungsempfehlungen wurden mit allen Anbietern der  
öffentlichen Beleuchtung vor dem Angebotsaufruf.

– Nichtöffentliche Nutzer in der Gemeinde werden dahingehend informiert werden, dass auch hier die  
Beleuchtung im Sinne des Sterneparks erfolgen soll.

anwesend: 14  
dafür: 14  
dagegen: 0

Die Oberverordnungsung mit der Niederschrift vom 13.01.2014, Seite 67 wird hiermit amtlich beglaubigt.

Gemeinde Sandberg  
Sandberg, 14.01.2014

Sieckewitz  
Verwaltungsrat



Beglaubigte Abschrift aus dem Sitzungsbuch der Gemeinde Wildflecken, Seite 120

**Beschluss**

Öffentliche Sitzung vom 25.03.2014

Es wurde ordnungsgemäß geladen, Zahl der geladenen Mitglieder: **17** Zahl der anwesenden Mitglieder: **13**

Lfd. Nr.	Antrag – Beratung - Beschluss	Stimmen des Beschlusses
1.	<b>Sternepark im Biosphärenreservat Rhön; Vorstellung des Projektes durch Frau Sabine Frank</b>  Der MGR beschließt, dass bei zukünftigen Neuanstellungen, Renovierungen oder der Umgestaltung der Straßenbeleuchtungssysteme die Beleuchtungsempfehlungen für Sterneparks zur Reduzierung der Lichtverschmutzung und Optimierung der öffentlichen Beleuchtung mit zur Entscheidung herangezogen werden.  -o-o-o-o-o-	13:0

Die Niederschrift mit den Einträgen im Niederschriftsbuch wird beglaubigt.



Wildflecken, den 12.05.2014

Kleinhenz  
1. Bürgermeister

**Auszug aus der Niederschrift  
über die öffentliche Sitzung des Marktgemeinderates Burkardsroth  
13. Mai 2014**

**2. Sternepark im Biosphärenreservat**

Mitte November 2011 beschlossen die fünf Landkreise des Biosphärenreservates Rhön das  
länderübergreifende Projekt „Sternepark im Biosphärenreservat Rhön“ auf den Weg zu bringen. Ziele  
sind die Erhaltung und die Wiederherstellung der natürlichen Landschaft und damit der Schutz des  
nächtlichen Lebensraumes durch umweltverträgliche Beleuchtung. Das Projekt, das auch die Schwarzen  
Berge umfassen soll, läuft über die ARGE Rhön. Sie möchte einen entsprechenden Antrag bei der  
„International Dark-Sky-Association“ (IDA) stellen. Um diesen offiziell einreichen zu können, müssen  
nämlich erst die betroffenen Kommunen Stellung beziehen und entsprechende  
Beleuchtungsempfehlungen annehmen. Von Bad Brückenau, Wildflecken, Bischofsheim und Sandberg ist  
dies bereits erfolgt. Geroda, Riedenberg und der Markt Burkardsroth stehen noch aus. Bisher gibt es nur  
zwei ähnliche Einrichtungen in Deutschland (im Westhavelland und in der Eifel).

Sabine Frank, die Projektkoordinatorin „Sternepark im Biosphärenreservat Rhön“ vom Landratsamt Fulda  
stellt das Projekt mit einer Power-Point-Präsentation eingehend vor. Nach ihren Ausführungen liegt der  
Markt Burkardsroth im sogenannten Puffergebiet (E1). Der Sternepark sei eine internationale  
Auszeichnung der IDA für Gebiete mit einer besonders schützenswerten und nahezu natürlichen  
Nachtlandschaft. Sie wirbt für den Motivationsbeschluss, der nur eine moralische Bindung habe und keine  
Kosten verursache, da Umrüstungen bzw. Neuanstellungen nur dann zu tätigen seien, wenn sie  
tatsächlich nötig sind. Selbst dann würden die den Kriterien entsprechenden Leuchten nicht mehr kosten  
als nicht abgeschirmte Leuchten. Mit den Energieversorgern befinde man sich in engem Dialog. Ziel sei  
es, durch eine umweltverträglichere und optimierte Beleuchtung die natürliche Nachtlandschaft  
zu bewahren oder wieder herzustellen und die Lichtverschmutzung (Abstrahlung des Lichtes nach oben)  
zu reduzieren. Die natürliche Nacht sei wertvoll für die menschliche Gesundheit (Tag-Nacht-Wechsel,  
Hormon Melatonin) und für die Astronomie (eines der ältesten Kulturgüter, Quelle von Inspiration,  
einzigartiges Naturerlebnis für jeden). „So ein Sternenhimmel, mitten in Deutschland, ist ein Geschenk“.  
Sie begrüßte ferner die Biodiversität (nachtaktive Tiere, Brutverhalten, Vogelzug).  
Diesen Zusammenhang unterstreicht Frau Frank mit folgendem Zitat: „Was, wenn wir eines Morgens  
aufwachen und realisieren, dass all die Naturschutzbemühungen der letzten dreißig Jahre nur die Hälfte  
der Geschichte erzählen: die Tegeggeschichte?“

Mit dem Projekt gehe außerdem ein wichtiges Energieeinsparungspotenzial einher. Der Titel „Sternepark“  
eröffne touristische Anziehungskraft, er verleihe der Region ein besonderes Alleinstellungsmerkmal.

Der Marktgemeinderat begrüßt die Bewerbung des Biosphärenreservates Rhön um die Anerkennung von  
Teilen der Rhön als „Sternepark im Biosphärenreservat Rhön“. Er beschließt, dass bei zukünftigen  
Neuanstellungen, Renovierungen oder der Umgestaltung der Straßenbeleuchtungssysteme die  
Beleuchtungsempfehlungen für Sterneparks zur Reduzierung der Lichtverschmutzung und Optimierung  
der öffentlichen Beleuchtung zur Entscheidung herangezogen werden. Das Biosphärenreservat Rhön  
unterstützt und berät in Zusammenarbeit mit den Anbietern von öffentlicher Beleuchtung die Kommunen  
vor Ort. Die Beleuchtungsempfehlungen wurden mit den regionalen Energieversorgern abgestimmt.  
Nicht öffentliche Nutzer in der Gemeinde werden dahingehend informiert, dass auch hier die Beleuchtung  
im Sinne des Sterneparks erfolgen soll. Beleuchtungsempfehlungen für nicht öffentliche Nutzer sind in  
den Erläuterungen zu den Beleuchtungsempfehlungen zu finden. Flyer werden zur Verfügung gestellt.  
Der Markt Burkardsroth bemüht sich zusammen mit den regionalen Energieversorgern um die Einrichtung  
von Musterbeispielen für eine nachhaltige Lichtnutzung.

Abstimmung: 18 : 1

Für die Richtigkeit des Auszuges:  
Burkardsroth, den 15. Mai 2014

Gerhard Zeller  
Geschäftsleitender Beamter



# Hessen

## Ehrenberg



Gemeinde Ehrenberg (Rhön)

Auszug  
aus der  
Niederschrift

Gremium:	Gemeindevertretung
Sitzungsnummer:	15/2011-2016
Sitzungsdatum:	25.09.2013
Sitzungsort:	DGH Seiferts

**Tagesordnungspunkt 6**  
**Beratung und Beschlussfassung**  
**Anerkennung von Beleuchtungsrichtlinien im Zuge des**  
**Ausweisungsverfahrens „Sternenpark im Biosphärenreservat Rhön“**


**Beschluss:**

Die Gemeinde begrüßt die Bewerbung des Biosphärenreservats Rhön um die Anerkennung von Teilen der Rhön als „Sternenpark im Biosphärenreservat Rhön“.  
Bei zukünftigen Neuanstellungen, Renovierungen oder der Umgestaltung der Straßenbeleuchtungssysteme sollen die Beleuchtungsempfehlungen für Sterneparks zur Reduzierung der Lichtverschmutzung und Optimierung der öffentlichen Beleuchtung zur Entscheidung herangezogen werden.

**Abstimmung:**

Dafür: 13      Gegenstimmen: 0      Stimmenthaltungen: 0

Für die Richtigkeit des Auszuges:

  
Bürgermeister

## Gersfeld

### Beglaubigter Auszug

aus der Niederschrift der 21. Sitzung der Stadtverordnetenversammlung der Stadt Gersfeld (Rhön) vom 12.12.2013

Tagesordnungspunkt 1 betr. Beratung und Beschluss über die Teilnahme und Unterstützung der Stadt Gersfeld (Rhön) zum „Sternenpark im Biosphärenreservat“

**Beschluss 65a/13**

- Die Stadtverordnetenversammlung der Stadt Gersfeld (Rhön) beschließt, dass bei zukünftigen Neuanstellungen, Renovierungen oder der Umgestaltung der Straßenbeleuchtungssysteme die Beleuchtungsempfehlungen für Sterneparks zur Reduzierung der Lichtverschmutzung und Optimierung der öffentlichen Beleuchtung zur Entscheidung herangezogen werden. Das Biosphärenreservat Rhön unterstützt und berät in Zusammenarbeit mit den Anbietern von öffentlicher Beleuchtung die Kommunen vor Ort. Die Beleuchtungsempfehlungen wurden mit den regionalen Energieversorgern abgestimmt.

- Nicht-öffentliche Nutzer in der Gemeinde werden dahingehend informiert werden, dass auch hier die Beleuchtung im Sinne des Sterneparks erfolgen soll. Beleuchtungsempfehlungen für nicht öffentliche Nutzer sind in den Erläuterungen zu den Beleuchtungsempfehlungen zu finden. Flyer werden zur Verfügung gestellt.

- Die Stadt Gersfeld bemüht sich, zusammen mit den regionalen Energieversorgern um die Einrichtung von Musterbeispielen für eine nachhaltige Lichtnutzung (Anlage 1).

Beschlussfähigkeit:  
Gesetzliche Mitgliederzahl 31  
davon anwesend 27

Abstimmung:  
Ja-Stimmen 27      Nein-Stimmen 0      Enthaltungen 0

Die Richtigkeit des Auszuges und der Angaben über Beschlussfähigkeit und Abstimmung werden beglaubigt. Gleichzeitig wird bescheinigt, dass zur Sitzung unter Mitteilung der Tagesordnung rechtzeitig und ordnungsgemäß eingeladen worden ist.

Die Stadtverordnetenversammlung war beschlussfähig.

Gersfeld (Rhön), 08.05.2014

Im Auftrag:

  
Ingrid Boli-Mehler  
Hauptabteilung

## Hilders

**8. Beratung und Beschlussfassung über die Annahme der Beleuchtungsempfehlungen für Sterneparks zur Reduzierung der Lichtverschmutzung und Optimierung der öffentlichen Beleuchtung in Batten, Hilders und Simmershausen**

**Beschluss:**

Die Gemeindevertretung beschließt:

Die Gemeindevertretung begrüßt die Bewerbung des Biosphärenreservates Rhön um die Anerkennung von Teilen der Rhön als Sternepark im Biosphärenreservat Rhön.  
Die Gemeindevertretung beschließt, dass bei zukünftigen Neuanstellungen, Renovierungen oder der Umgestaltung der Straßenbeleuchtungssysteme die Beleuchtungsempfehlungen für Sterneparks zur Reduzierung der Lichtverschmutzung und Optimierung der öffentlichen Beleuchtung zur Entscheidung herangezogen werden. Das Biosphärenreservat Rhön unterstützt und berät in Zusammenarbeit mit den Anbietern von öffentlicher Beleuchtung die Kommunen vor Ort. Die Beleuchtungsempfehlungen wurden mit den regionalen Energieversorgern abgestimmt.

Nicht-öffentliche Nutzer in der Gemeinde werden dahingehend informiert, dass auch hier die Beleuchtung im Sinne des Sterneparks erfolgen soll.  
Die Kommune bemüht sich zusammen mit den regionalen Energieversorgern um die Einrichtung von Musterbeispielen für eine nachhaltige Lichtnutzung.

Abstimmung: 10:5:4

# Communities in starlight buffer zone E2

## Thüringen Oepfershausen

Gemeindeverwaltung Oepfershausen

**Beschlussnummer:** 105/25/2013 des Gemeinderates der Gemeinde Oepfershausen vom 17.10.2013 über die Ausweisung von Teilen des Biosphärenreservates Rhön als internationaler Sternepark

Der Gemeinderat der Gemeinde Oepfershausen begrüßt die Bewerbung des Biosphärenreservates Rhön um die Anerkennung von Teilen der Rhön als

„Sternepark im Biosphärenreservat Rhön“.

Der Gemeinderat beschließt, dass die zukünftigen Neuanstellungen, Renovierungen oder Umgestaltung der Straßenbeleuchtungssysteme - die Beleuchtungsempfehlungen für Sterneparks zur Reduzierung der Lichtverschmutzung und Optimierung der öffentlichen Beleuchtung, zur Entscheidung herangezogen werden.

**Abstimmungsergebnis:**  
Gesetzliche Anzahl der Mitglieder d. Gemeinderates: 7  
davon anwesend: 6  
Ja-Stimmen: 6  
Nein-Stimmen: -  
Enthaltungen: -

Aufgrund des § 38 ThürKO war kein Mitglied des Gemeinderates von der Beratung und Beschlussfassung ausgeschlossen.

Oepfershausen, 17.10.2013

  
S. Hild  
Bürgermeister



## Hümpfershausen

Gemeindeverwaltung Hümpfershausen

**Beschlussnummer:** 108/17/2013 des Gemeinderates der Gemeinde Hümpfershausen vom 26.09.2013 über die Ausweisung von Teilen des Biosphärenreservates Rhön als internationaler Sternepark

Der Gemeinderat der Gemeinde Hümpfershausen begrüßt die Bewerbung des Biosphärenreservates Rhön um die Anerkennung von Teilen der Rhön als

„Sternepark im Biosphärenreservat Rhön“.

Der Gemeinderat beschließt, dass die zukünftigen Neuanstellungen, Renovierungen oder Umgestaltung der Straßenbeleuchtungssysteme - die Beleuchtungsempfehlungen für Sterneparks zur Reduzierung der Lichtverschmutzung und Optimierung der öffentlichen Beleuchtung, zur Entscheidung herangezogen werden.

**Abstimmungsergebnis:**  
Gesetzliche Anzahl der Mitglieder d. Gemeinderates: 7  
davon anwesend: 5  
Ja-Stimmen: 5  
Nein-Stimmen: -  
Enthaltungen: -

Aufgrund des § 38 ThürKO war kein Mitglied des Gemeinderates von der Beratung und Beschlussfassung ausgeschlossen.

Hümpfershausen, 26.09.2013



## Schwarzbach

## Wasungen

Stadt Wasungen

**Beschluss - Nr. 271/47/2013 des Stadtrates Wasungen vom 05.09.2013 über die Einhaltung von Beleuchtungsempfehlungen im Rahmen der Ausweisung von Teilen des Biosphärenreservates Rhön als internationaler Sternepark**

Auf der Grundlage des § 2, Abs. 2 in Verbindung mit § 22 der Thüringer Kommunalordnung (ThürKO) in der Fassung der Neubekanntmachung vom 28. Januar 2003 (GVBl. Nr. 2 S. 41), zuletzt geändert durch Gesetz vom 23. Juli 2013 (GVBl. S. 194) beschließt der Stadtrat der Stadt Wasungen, dass bei zukünftigen Neuanstellungen, Renovierungen oder der Umgestaltung der Straßenbeleuchtungssysteme - die Beleuchtungsempfehlungen für Sterneparks zur Reduzierung der Lichtverschmutzung und Optimierung der öffentlichen Beleuchtung zur Entscheidung herangezogen werden.

**Abstimmungsergebnis:**  
Gesetzliche Anzahl der Mitglieder des Stadtrates: 17  
davon anwesend: 13  
Ja-Stimmen: 9  
Nein-Stimmen: -  
Enthaltungen: 4

Aufgrund des § 38 ThürKO war kein Mitglied des Stadtrates von der Beratung und Beschlussfassung ausgeschlossen.

Wasungen, den 05.09.2013

  
K. Kohn  
Bürgermeister



## Waldorf

Gemeindeverwaltung Waldorf

**Beschlussnummer:** 145/25/2013 des Gemeinderates der Gemeinde Waldorf vom 17.09.2013 über die Ausweisung von Teilen des Biosphärenreservates Rhön als internationaler Sternepark

Der Gemeinderat der Gemeinde Waldorf begrüßt die Bewerbung des Biosphärenreservates Rhön um die Anerkennung von Teilen der Rhön als

„Sternepark im Biosphärenreservat Rhön“.

Der Gemeinderat beschließt, dass die zukünftigen Neuanstellungen, Renovierungen oder Umgestaltung der Straßenbeleuchtungssysteme - die Beleuchtungsempfehlungen für Sterneparks zur Reduzierung der Lichtverschmutzung und Optimierung der öffentlichen Beleuchtung, zur Entscheidung herangezogen werden.

**Abstimmungsergebnis:**  
Gesetzliche Anzahl der Mitglieder d. Gemeinderates: 15  
davon anwesend: 11  
Ja-Stimmen: 11  
Nein-Stimmen: -  
Enthaltungen: -

Aufgrund des § 38 ThürKO war kein Mitglied des Gemeinderates von der Beratung und Beschlussfassung ausgeschlossen.

Waldorf, 17.09.2013

  
H. Hildebrand  
Bürgermeister



## Wallbach

Gemeindeverwaltung Wallbach

**Beschlussnummer:** 126/26/2013 des Gemeinderates der Gemeinde Wallbach vom 10.10.2013 über die Ausweisung von Teilen des Biosphärenreservates Rhön als internationaler Sternepark

Der Gemeinderat der Gemeinde Wallbach begrüßt die Bewerbung des Biosphärenreservates Rhön um die Anerkennung von Teilen der Rhön als

„Sternepark im Biosphärenreservat Rhön“.

Der Gemeinderat beschließt, dass die zukünftigen Neuanstellungen, Renovierungen oder Umgestaltung der Straßenbeleuchtungssysteme - die Beleuchtungsempfehlungen für Sterneparks zur Reduzierung der Lichtverschmutzung und Optimierung der öffentlichen Beleuchtung, zur Entscheidung herangezogen werden.

**Abstimmungsergebnis:**  
Gesetzliche Anzahl der Mitglieder d. Gemeinderates: 7  
davon anwesend: 6  
Ja-Stimmen: 6  
Nein-Stimmen: -  
Enthaltungen: -

Aufgrund des § 38 ThürKO war kein Mitglied des Gemeinderates von der Beratung und Beschlussfassung ausgeschlossen.

Wallbach, 10.10.2013

  
H. Hildebrand  
Bürgermeister



## Friedelshausen

Gemeindeverwaltung Friedelshausen

**Beschlussnummer:** 137/19/2013 des Gemeinderates der Gemeinde Friedelshausen vom 16.09.2013 über die Ausweisung von Teilen des Biosphärenreservates Rhön als internationaler Sternepark

Der Gemeinderat der Gemeinde Friedelshausen begrüßt die Bewerbung des Biosphärenreservates Rhön um die Anerkennung von Teilen der Rhön als

„Sternepark im Biosphärenreservat Rhön“.

Der Gemeinderat beschließt, dass die zukünftigen Neuanstellungen, Renovierungen oder Umgestaltung der Straßenbeleuchtungssysteme - die Beleuchtungsempfehlungen für Sterneparks zur Reduzierung der Lichtverschmutzung und Optimierung der öffentlichen Beleuchtung, zur Entscheidung herangezogen werden.

**Abstimmungsergebnis:**  
Gesetzliche Anzahl der Mitglieder d. Gemeinderates: 7  
davon anwesend: 5  
Ja-Stimmen: 5  
Nein-Stimmen: -  
Enthaltungen: -

Aufgrund des § 38 ThürKO war kein Mitglied des Gemeinderates von der Beratung und Beschlussfassung ausgeschlossen.

Friedelshausen, 16.09.2013

  
K. Knecher  
Bürgermeister



Hessen

Hofbieber

Beglaubigter Auszug
aus der Sitzung der Gemeinde Hofbieber
am 22.08.2014
6. Beratung und Beschlussfassung zur Bewertung des Biosphärenreservats Rhön...

Ebersburg

DER GEMEINDEVORSTAND DER GEMEINDE EBERSBURG
VERWALTUNGSGEBIET
Verwaltungsstelle
Historisches Biosphärenreservat Rhön
Groschedelstr.
Wasserkuppe 5
36129 Gerfeld

Bayern

Nordheim

Gemeinde Nordheim, d. Rhön
Antrag an die Gemeinde Nordheim
über die Sitzung des Biosphärenreservats Rhön
am 22.08.2014

Dipperz

Beglaubigter Auszug
aus der Niederschrift der Sitzung der Gemeindevertretung
Poppenhausen (Wasserkuppe)
am 20.03.2014
TOP 5: Projekt Sternpark - Biosphärenreservat Rhön
Herr Bürgermeister Manfred Hältich gibt folgende Erläuterungen zu diesem Projekt...

Poppenhausen

Poppenhausen (Wasserkuppe)
Luftkurort im Biosphärenreservat Rhön
Beglaubigter Auszug
aus der Niederschrift der Sitzung der Gemeindevertretung
Poppenhausen (Wasserkuppe)
am 20.03.2014

Willmars

Willmars

Gemeinde Willmars
Auszug aus dem Sitzungsprotokoll
Gemeinderat
vom 19.03.2014
Die Sitzung war öffentlich.
TOP 05 Beratung und Beschlussfassung zum Programm "Sternpark Rhön"

Rasdorf

Der Gemeindevorstand der Gemeinde Rasdorf
Rasdorf
1.9. DEZ. 2013
Mitteilung der Beteiligung der Gemeinde Rasdorf an der Beleuchtungsrichtlinie für Sternpark im Biosphärenreservat Rhön

Tann

Beglaubigte auszugsweise Abschrift aus dem Beschlussprotokoll
der Sitzung der Stadtverordnetenversammlung der Stadt Tann (Rhön) am 08.11.2013
2. Anerkennung von Beleuchtungsforderungen im Zuge des Auswählungsverfahrens "Vorlage-Sternpark im Biosphärenreservat Rhön"

Bad Brückenau

Bad Brückenau

STADT BAD BRÜCKENAU
18.09.2014 11:08 +49-3743-6637 STADT BAD BRÜCKENAU S. 1/181
Die Behandlung des Tagesordnungspunktes war: Öffentlich
TOP 6 Biosphärenreservat Rhön: Anerkennung von Teilen der Rhön als "Sternpark im Biosphärenreservat Rhön"; Anbahnung der Beleuchtungsempfehlungen für Sternpark

## A5 Presentations and Talks

Date	Target Group	Place
20.11.2011	Naturkundeverein Osthessen (natural science ass.)	Vonderau-Museum Fulda
Dezember 2011	NABU-Kreisverband	Umweltbildungszentrum Fulda
23.02.2012	mayor Kaltensundheim	Kaltensundheim
25.02.2012	Physikalischer Verein Frankfurt am Main	Kalbach
01.03.2012	General public	Th. Verwaltungsstelle BR in Zella
17.03.2012	hiking Rhön-Club	Elters
24.03.2012	Amateur astronomers	Bebra
02.04.2012	General public	Kurhaus Bad Salzschlirf
25.04.2012	Hiking group	Hofbieber
16.05.2012	General public	Umweltbildungszentrum Schwarzes Moor
01.06.2012	General public	Kurhaus Bad Salzschlirf
26.06.2012	General public	Hess. Verwaltungsstelle BR
June 2012	Rhön-Club	Eisenacher Haus
10.08.2012	mayors Geba and surroundings	Wirtshaus Hohe Geba
13.08.2012	Town council Bischofsheim	Bischofsheim
05.09.2012	General public	Hess. Verwaltungsstelle BR
15.09.2012	Europ. Dark Sky symp.	Bielsko-Biela, Polen
21.09.2012	General public	Hess. Verwaltungsstelle BR
04.10.2012	NABU Kreisverband Kiel	Rhöniversum Oberelsbach
16.10.2012	Krüger2Canyon-Delegation	Umweltzentrum Schwarzes Moor
31.10.2013	UN-WTO-Treffen	Rhöniversum Oberelsbach
28.11.2012	Members of the Diocese of Fulda	Diocese Fulda, Bonifatiushaus
29.11.2012	Panel Discussion with the General Public, Political Party of the GRÜNE	Fulda
04.12.2012	Members of the Network for Education of Sustainable Development	Environmental Centre Fulda
14.02.2013	Alb-Talk, General Public, policy makers. Naturschutz Akademie Baden-Württemberg	Schwäbische Alb
26.02.2013	Architects, Tourism Experts	Univ. of Applied Science, Schmalkalden
07.03.2013	General public	Wasserkuppe
08.03.2013	General public	Hohe Geba
11.03.2013	general public, political decision makers	Community of Bettenhausen
18.03.2013	Professionals of the Construction Supervision	District office of Fulda
23.04.2014	Chief Magistrates of the Municipalities of the District of Fulda	Fulda
29.04.2014	local energy supplier ÜWAG (RhönEnergie Fulda)	Fulda
10.05.2013	general public	Environmental Education Centre, Schwarzes Moor
13.05.2013	members of the Green Party, die GRÜNEN	party headquarter, Fulda
23.05.2013	architects, tourism people	Univ. of Applied Science, Schmalkalden
07.06.2013	general public	spa rooms, Bad Salzschlirf
04.07.2013	head of the municipal planning and building control office	Town of Fulda
12.07.2013	Memb. of the Network for Education of Sust. Dev.	Centre of Environmental Education, Fulda
07.08.2013	General public	Wasserkuppe

30.09.2013	representatives of the municipality of Hilders	Hilders
01.10.2013	representatives of the municipality of Stepfershausen	Stepfershausen
08.10.2013	municipalities Rhön-Grabfeld and Bad Kissingen	Oerlenbach
23.10.2013	general public	Energy network, Schotten
07.11.2013	general public	Wasserkuppe
08.11.2013	representatives of the municipality of Tann	Tann
08.11.2013	VDE (Ass. for Electrical, Electronic & Information Technologies)	Fulda
10.11.2013	Delegation of the Biosphere Reserve Lunga, Austria	Wasserkuppe
12.11.2013	Insp. sample street, new installation of the bat lamp	RhönEnergie, Fulda
?	representatives of the municipality of Gersfeld	Gersfeld
05.12.2013	representatives of the municipality of Sondheim	Sondheim
09.12.2013	General public, members	Hessian Org. of Bird Protection
10.12.2013	Meeting of the ARGE Rhön	Meiningen
12.10.2013	Tourism Experts	ITZ Roadshow, Fulda
14.01.2014	representatives of the municipalities of Fladungen etc.	Nordheim
16.01.2014	hiking guides, general public	Oberweißbrunn
23.01.2014	general public, Helmershausen (Geba project)	Head of county district, Schmalkalden
13.02.2014	general public, nature conservationists	NABU Poppenhausen
14.02.2014	pupils, citizens, political decision makers	Sternwarte (Obs.) Freigericht
16.02.2014	hiking guides	Rhönclub Section Frankfurt am Main
18.02.2014	representatives of the municipality of Dipperz	Dipperz
25.03.2014	representatives of the municipality of Wildflecken	Wildflecken
27.03.2014	Adv. Council Meeting of the Rhön Biosphere Reserve	Zella
29.-31.03.2014	general public, nature conservationists	Bad Segeberg, Neumünster, Büchen
24.04.2014	general public	Speicherz
13.05.2014	representatives of the municipality of Burgardroth	Burgardroth

## Star walks

Datum	Ort	Zielgruppe
18.02.2012	Hofbieber, Golfplatz	Öffentlichkeit
24.02.2012	Hofbieber, Golfplatz	Öffentlichkeit
24.03.2012	Hofbieber, Golfplatz	Öffentlichkeit, Tag der Astronomie
07.04.2012	Milseburg	Öffentlichkeit
21.04.2012	Hofbieber, Golfplatz	Öffentlichkeit
04.05.2012	Mahlerts	Jugendamt Fulda
19.05.2012	Schwarzes Moor	Öffentlichkeit
26.05.2012	Hofbieber, Golfplatz	Öffentlichkeit. radio HR2
30.06.2012	Milseburg	Öffentlichkeit
19.07.2012	Rhöniversum Oberelsbach	Nature guides der Bayr. Akademie für Umweltbildung
21.07.2012	Hofbieber, Golfplatz	Öffentlichkeit
18.08.2012	Hofbieber, Golfplatz	Öffentlichkeit
23.08.2012	Kleinsassen	Grundschule Bimbach
24.08.2012	Milseburg	Internationale Studenten
01.09.2012	Milseburg	Öffentlichkeit
29.09.2012	Milseburg	Öffentlichkeit
09.10.2012	Oberbernards	Gymnasiasten Flörsheim
16.10.2012	Rhöniversum Oberelsbach	7. Klasse Realschule Grobostheim
17.10.2012	Hünfeld	Rhön-Club
17.10.2012	Rhöniversum Oberelsbach	7. Klasse Realschule Grobostheim
06.11.2012	Rhöniversum Oberelsbach	7. Klasse Realschule Grobostheim
07.03.2013	information lecture on comets	Wasserkuppe
08.03.2013	information lecture on comets	Hohe Geba
08.05.2013	star guiding tour	Schwarzes Moor
11.05.2013	astronomical tour inside	Feuerwehr Tann
24.05.2013	night walk	Milseburg
06.08.2013	star guiding tour	Schwarzes Moor
01.10.2013	star guiding tour	Rhönclub Hünfeld
07.11.2013	lecture on comets	Wasserkuppe
09.12.2013	star guiding tour	FH Fulda, FB Informatik
15.02.2014	star guiding tour	Hünfeld
16.04.2014	astronomical night walk	Milseburg

## A 6 Media resonance

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## Online-Blog:

### **Sternenpark - oder Sternenreiche Rhön - Kabale und Psychiatrie**

Ein wunderbarer Artikel im Wochenspiegel Bad Salzungen und durchaus auch anderweitig anwendbar. Denn künstliches Licht verlängert nicht nur den.  
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