

# An overview of the light pollution of the night sky in Uruguay and the progress in its mitigation

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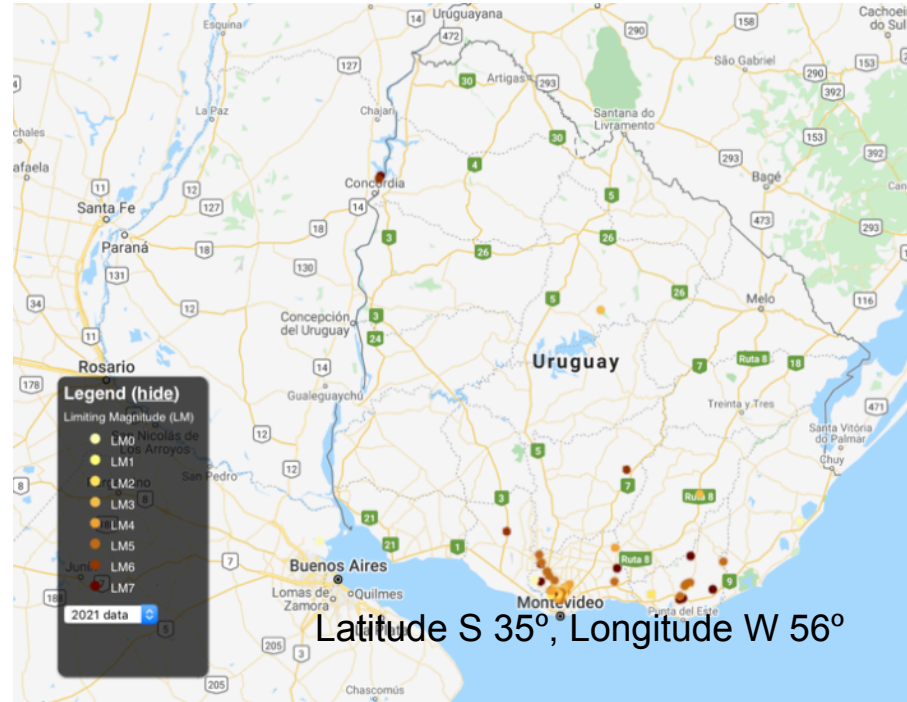
UNIVERSIDAD  
DE LA REPÚBLICA  
URUGUAY

## Evaluation of light pollution of the night sky

At present we have:

- Estimates reported to the Globe at Night project, mainly from Secondary Education students and teachers, achieves a limiting visual magnitude around 6 far from cities.
- Approximately 94.5 % of the Uruguayan population lives in urban centers.

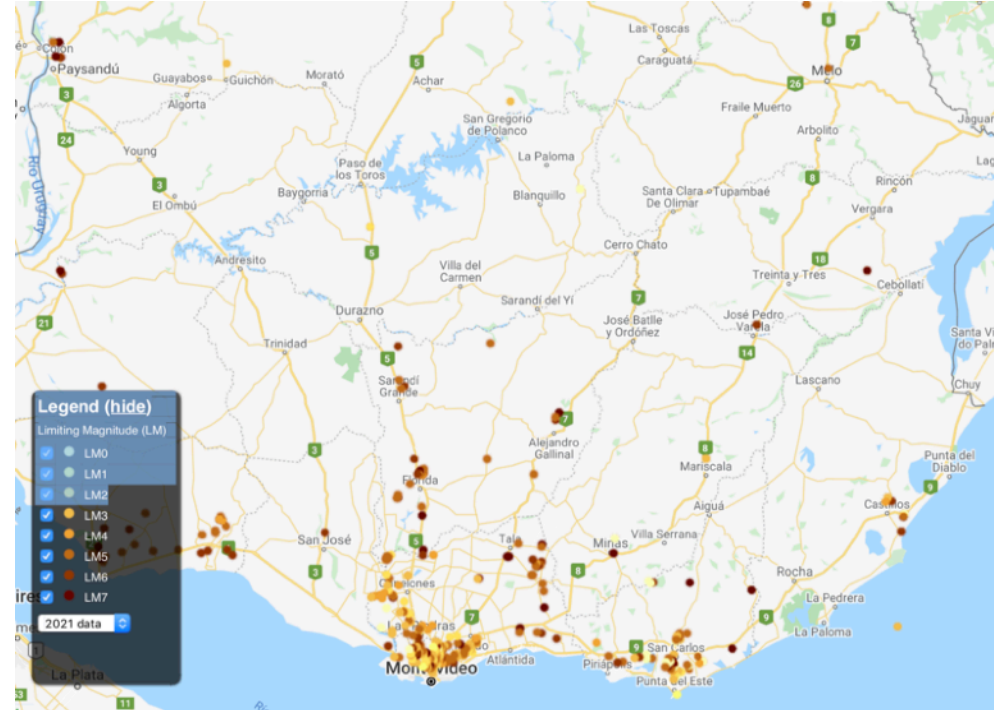
Interactive Map - Globe at Night



## Evaluation of light pollution of the night sky

- Measures of the brightness sky background with the Unihedron SQM in areas of natural and touristic interest, with an averaged value of 21.7 magnitudes per square arc second. The university astronomical observatory depends on the CURE and is located in Rocha, relatively close to several of these areas.
- Inhabitants, tourists and entrepreneurs are concerned about the recent growing outdoor lighting. Large areas characterized by their biodiversity and natural landscape are in danger.
- National or municipal laws that prevent lighting to contaminate the environment, including the night sky, are needed.

Interactive Map - Globe at Night





## What are we doing?

- The CURE is working to implement a university research project to monitor the night sky brightness with systematic and good quality measurements in strategic places of the Uruguayan territory, starting in the Eastern region.
- For the first time an interdisciplinary commission of university researchers has been formed this year to advice the municipality of Montevideo on the replacement of lights.
- For the first time, training courses in astronomical tourism, organized by the CURE since 2017, have been placed on the national agenda this year by the Minister of Tourism.
- Astronomical tourism complements very well with other natural tourism modalities in Uruguay such as bird watching, fauna and flora recognition, etc.

## Results and Conclusion

- We will continue outreach activities to promote awareness of the importance of preserving dark skies, including recommendations to minimize the impact of artificial light at night, due to growing public interest.
- We will continue promoting the development of astronomical tourism as an important tool to protect the night sky, after the success of the training courses and the importance of tourism for the national economy.
- We continue working to achieve recognition from the International Dark-Sky Association for a place with a dark sky in Uruguay.
- The next important step is to achieve legislation at the municipal and national level for the regulation of outdoor lighting, to preserve the night sky not only in natural and tourist areas but also in cities.



APOD 2019 November 19 - Milky Way over Uruguayan Lighthouse, by Mauricio Salazar.





**DARK  
& QUIET  
SKIES**

Thank you for  
your  
attention!