

# EU Light Pollution Workshop

Georgia MacMillan

*IRC Employment-Based PhD Scholar / Mayo Dark Sky Park Development Officer  
in partnership with National Parks & Wildlife Service / University of Galway*



Páirceanna Náisiúnta  
National Parks



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE  
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL  
An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn



**DARK SKY**  
IRELAND



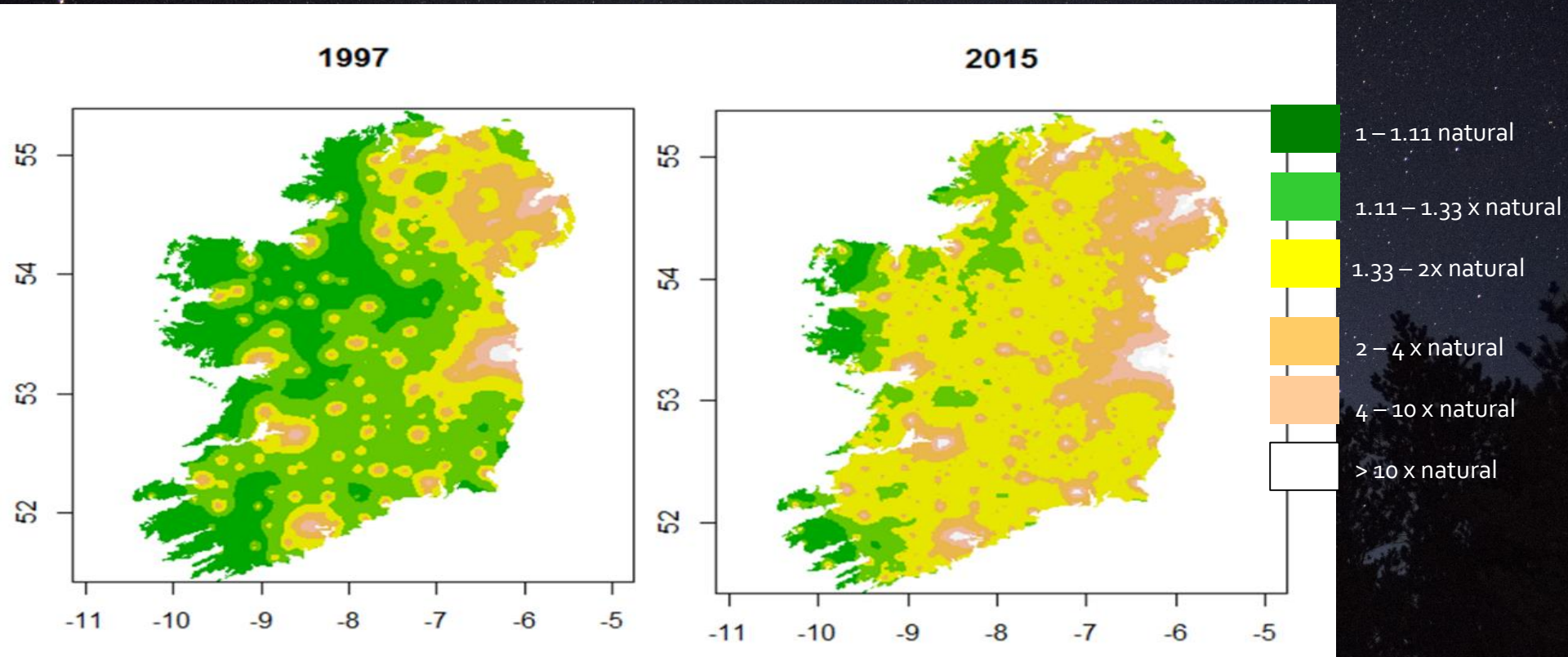
**EU2022.CZ**

Czech Presidency of the Council  
of the European Union



Brno  
Observatory  
and Planetarium

# Growth of Light Pollution in Ireland



Source; Brian Espey - Trinity College Dublin

Note – these values are for the zenith, and conditions near the horizon will be worse

*Currently no legislation or public policy in place in Ireland to deal with light pollution*

*National Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project in progress to retrofit to LEDs*



**DARK SKY**  
IRELAND

# Formation timeline towards NGO

2000's: Irish Light Pollution Awareness Campaign (ILPAC) was founded

2001: International Dark Sky Programme established

2003: ILPAC became a chapter of the International Dark-sky Association (IDA)

2009: Armagh hosts the 9<sup>th</sup> European Symposium for the Protection of the Night Sky

2014: Kerry International Dark Sky Reserve, Gold Tier

2016: Mayo International Dark Sky Park, Gold Tier

2018: Dark Sky Ireland was formed by stakeholder groups across the island of Ireland.

2019: Mayo Dark Skies host the 14<sup>th</sup> European Symposium for the Protection of the Night Sky

2019: Failte Ireland study on "Maximising the tourism potential of Dark Sky Assets".

2020: OM Dark Sky Park International Dark Sky Park accreditation

2021: Rural Development Policy inclusion of action to develop Dark Sky strategy

2022, Heritage Council Funds development of strategy, governance and website





IN THESE REMOTE LANDS  
HALF THE PARK  
IS AFTER DARK™



**MAYO DARK SKY PARK**

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# Mayo Dark Sky Park / Wild Nephin National Park

On Wild Atlantic Way / West Coast of Ireland

Project initially established for conservation, not astronomy

## Stakeholders:

- Managed by National Parks and Wildlife Service
- Local Communities surrounding region
- Heritage Council supporting lighting projects
- Local Authority (multiple departments)
- Lighting Design Specialists
- University of Galway

Mindsets shifting through positive engagement and partnerships

# Newport community-led lighting project



- Embraced by communities
- Includes energy targets (savings of 70%) in tandem with pilot scheme lighting
- Warm LEDs and enhanced dimming profiles
- 3 phased project due to complete Q1 2023
- Goal to be Dark Sky town exemplar
- Timing is right for change
- Possibilities beyond tourism, climate action, biodiversity, wellbeing.

*Thank you for listening.  
Any questions?*

Photo Brian Wilson

*"No one will protect what they don't  
care about;  
and no one will care about what they  
have never experienced."*

*(Sir David Attenborough)*

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An Roinn Tithíochta,  
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