



2025 Impact report

*Reflecting on a year of bold progress, meaningful partnerships,
and lasting impact.*

A pivotal moment for the dark sky movement

Since the establishment of DarkSky International 38 years ago, the concept of 'dark sky' has evolved into a substantial global movement with rapid growth in the past few years.

The 'Dark Sky Movement' is now at a pivotal moment and has diversified well beyond astronomy with the progressive realisation of the importance and wider impact of dark skies upon ecosystems, biodiversity, and indigenous knowledge systems, as well as many other spheres.

The scientific community from multiple disciplines has produced irrefutable evidence of this. Geographically, the movement is now global and growing rapidly. The success of DarkSky International's efforts in increasing awareness of the importance of dark skies has resulted in a movement that today is much larger than the membership of DarkSky International, though we remain a recognized leader in the international movement.

While the efforts to protect, preserve, and reverse trends that have adversely impacted dark skies have been global, the external environment has become increasingly threatening and consequently challenging for us.

These challenges include land-based light pollution growing at an increasingly rapid rate; our oceans experiencing increasing levels of light pollution; and, more recently, corporate satellite constellations causing increasingly concerning levels of universally experienced space-based light pollution. With the latter, we face the frightening likelihood of their population increasing exponentially, and thereby the threat to our dark night skies.

With volunteer and financial support, DarkSky International has been able to intensify its efforts to work on addressing all of these threats. Indeed, the facts speak for themselves about DarkSky International's track record as a leader and a focused and very effective organization in this field. This annual report identifies our achievements in 2025 in detail.

The only hope of overcoming the challenges posed by an increasingly hostile environment for dark skies is for all of us who are passionate about the movement to bring greater strength to it through united action. DarkSky International could do more, much more, and move faster too, with increased support from its members, advocates, volunteers, and collaborators.

I therefore call upon you, who are currently members, advocates, or volunteers, to redouble your efforts in support of DarkSky International. I call upon those of you who are not, to join now as a member, advocate, volunteer, or collaborator.

There is important, pressing work to be done. Let us now pull together as a team to get it done!

As we say in my home country of Aotearoa/New Zealand... "Haumi e! Hui e! Tāike e!" – Join together! Gather together! And unite!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nalayini".

Nalayini Brito-Davies
Board President
DarkSky International



Photo titled Hallmark by Shaun Saha

A year of global growth

2025 was a year of meaningful progress for DarkSky International. Across the globe, our staff, volunteers, advocates, chapters, partners, and supporters turned a shared commitment to protecting the night into measurable action.

Throughout the year, we expanded the reach of our programs, welcomed new International Dark Sky Places, strengthened advocacy and policy efforts, advanced responsible lighting, and helped more communities understand both the value of darkness and the consequences of light pollution. We also continued to grow a global network of people working in different places, cultures, and disciplines toward a common goal.

The pages that follow tell the story of that work. They highlight not only what DarkSky accomplished in 2025, but the growing scale and diversity of the movement we are helping to lead.

None of these accomplishments happens in isolation. They are made possible by people who give their time, expertise, resources, and voices to this mission. I am deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to our work in 2025.

There is much more to do. But as we look ahead, the progress captured in this report gives me confidence in what we can accomplish together—and reminds us that protecting the night is both possible and worth pursuing.



Ruskin

Ruskin Hartley
CEO & Executive Director
DarkSky International

Dark sky conservation by numbers



By late 2025, the International Dark Sky Places program surpassed 250 certified locations, protecting over 196,000 sq km across six continents.

DarkSky approved 22 new sites in 2025, expanding into new sectors via unique milestones. These included Jackson Hole Airport (world's first certified terminal), Lapalala Wilderness (South Africa's first Dark Sky Park), Naseby (New Zealand's first Dark Sky Community), ARTIS Park (the world's first certified zoo). In addition, 63 new places started their certification journey from 19 countries.

196,000 sq km

Land & skies conserved

259

Officially Certified Dark Sky Places

25

Countries with Certified Dark Sky Places

International Dark Sky Places certified in 2025

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Gower National Landscape, Wales | 12. Breckenridge, United States |
| 2. Sisters, United States | 13. Lapalala, South Africa |
| 3. Glenorchy/Head of Lake Whakatipu, New Zealand | 14. Naseby, New Zealand |
| 4. Landes de Gascogne Régional Natural Park, France | 15. ARTIS Zoo, Netherlands |
| 5. Teton County, United States | 16. Huanglong National Scenic Area, China |
| 6. Jackson Hole Airport, United States | 17. Caprock Canyons State Park, United States |
| 7. Anholt, Denmark | 18. AlNufud Dark Sky Park, Saudi Arabia |
| 8. Morvan Natural Regional Park, France | 19. Black Mesa State Park, United States |
| 9. Bluff, United States | 20. Snow Canyon State Park, United States |
| 10. Bayerischer Wald / Bavarian Forest, Germany | 21. AlUla Sharaan and Wadi Nakhlah Nature Reserve, Saudi Arabia |
| 11. Liberty Hill, United States | 22. Chimney Rock, United States |

Growing reach and visibility

2025 was a year of growth for DarkSky Communications. Our expanding audience and nearly 1,000 press mentions brought the importance of protecting the night to more people around the world. This growing visibility expands awareness and helps turn it into greater support and action for our mission.

265,882

Supporters and members

135

Countries represented worldwide

889

Media stories and mentions



The 250th International Dark Sky Place milestone celebrated every designation since Flagstaff in 2001, while becoming a focal point to inspire end-of-year giving and helping us finish the year strong.

Strengthened engagement

Across the world, DarkSky Advocates and Chapters are turning a shared commitment to the night into action. In 2025, thousands of volunteers gave their time to educate communities, advance policy, support dark sky conservation, conduct scientific monitoring, and inspire people to experience and protect the night.

4,427

DarkSky Advocates worldwide

89

DarkSky Chapters

58,066

Volunteer hours contributed

1,016

Community leaders activated

7,657

Public outreach events



Stories of global success



Justin Hartney

Oregon, US

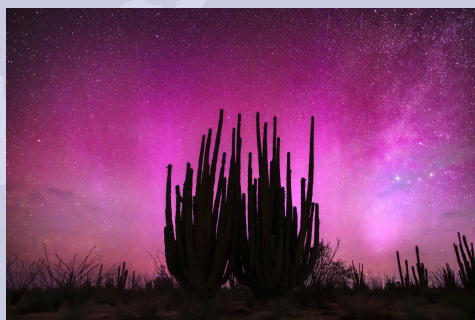
DarkSky Oregon strengthened its organizational foundation through improved governance, fundraising, and public-private partnerships. The work positions the chapter for sustained regional impact and long-term growth.



Louise Skelly

Ireland

DarkSky Ireland advanced dark sky protection into national policy conversation, helping secure preservation language in the country's Draft Programme for Government. This marks an important step toward national-level policy change.



Alejandra Yunuen Alfaro Gomez

Mexico

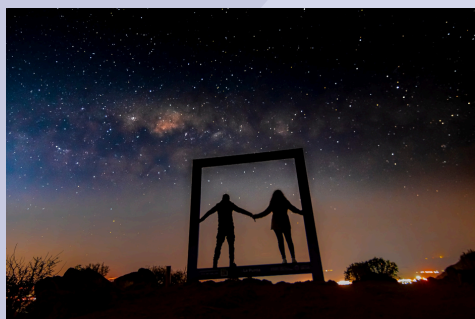
The Querétaro Conservation Delegation engaged hundreds of residents through 12 educational events, building support for dark sky protection. This outreach helped lay the groundwork for new dark sky legislation presented to the local congress.



Stefano Pellegrini

Kenya

DarkSky Kenya built a growing East African network while advancing International Dark Sky Place applications for areas including Rukinga Conservancy and Mgeno Ranch. The effort expands dark sky conservation across the region.



David Roccia

Argentina

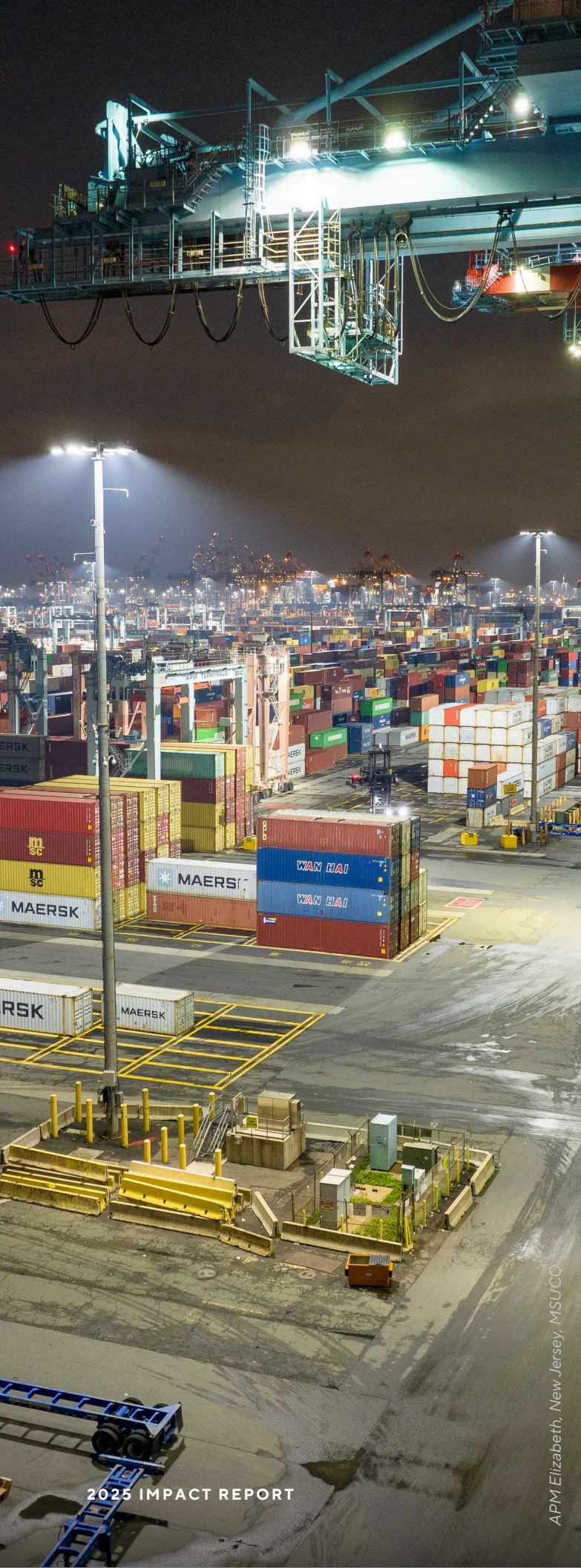
DarkSky Argentina advanced the Capricorn Constellation project, connecting more than 10 locations through a dark sky eco-tourism corridor. The initiative links night sky protection with sustainable tourism and local development.



Paul Harrison

Australia

The Astrotourism Towns Project advanced dark sky protection across 15 local governments in Western Australia. The work shows how automated lighting can reduce unnecessary illumination while maintaining functionality.



Programs in action

DarkSky's lighting programs continued to grow as we expanded tools and templates to help municipalities and regions develop responsible lighting codes and standards. We also launched new programs—including one for ports and marine terminals—to reduce light pollution and protect coastal and marine habitats.

DarkSky Municipal/Regional Codes and Statutes Templates

In 2025, DarkSky put its new Codes and Statutes Templates into action, following their launch in November 2024, providing communities and advocates with practical tools to advance responsible outdoor lighting policies.

DarkSky Approved Luminaires

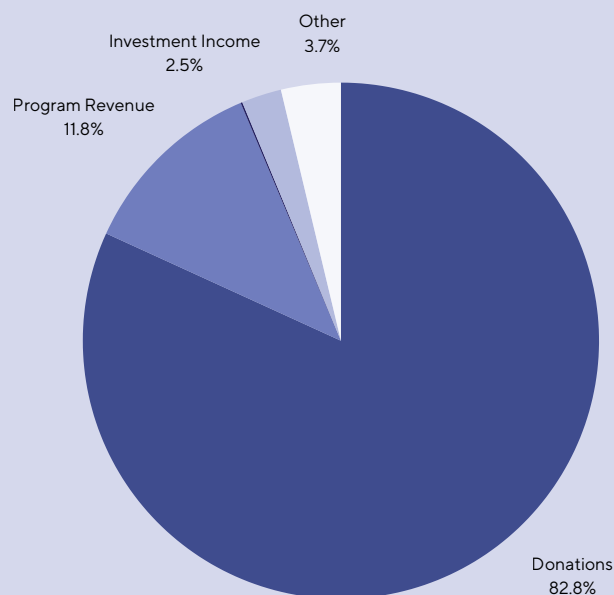
In April 2025, the Approved Luminaires program was relaunched with updated standards to advance responsible outdoor lighting and reduce light pollution. The program helps manufacturers and communities identify lighting designed with dark skies in mind.

DarkSky Approved Port Marine Terminal Lighting

In August 2025, the DarkSky Approved Port Marine Terminal Lighting Program launched to help ports reduce light pollution while maintaining safe operations. The program provides a practical framework for responsible marine terminal lighting.

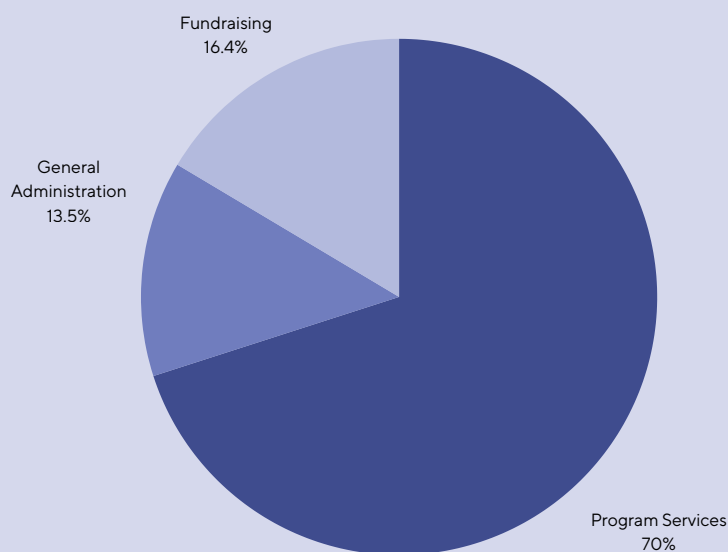
Financial summary

This information is based on Audited Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2025. For more detailed financial information, please visit <https://darksky.org/about/financials/>



REVENUE

Donations	\$	3,042,409
Program Revenue	\$	439,783
In-Kind Services	\$	4,000
Investment Income	\$	93,154
Other	\$	139,000
Total Revenue	\$	3,718,346



EXPENSE

Program Services	\$	2,168,711
General Administration	\$	418,540
Fundraising	\$	509,032
Total Expense	\$	3,096,283

2025 Board of Directors

Nalayini Brito-Davies, President, New Zealand
Connie Walker, Vice-President, U.S.
Brad Schlesselman, Treasurer, U.S.
Samyukta Manikumar, Secretary, Kenya
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Sibylle Schroer, Germany
Mike Simmons, U.S.
Paulina Villalobos, Chile
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Ruskin Hartley, CEO & Executive Director, U.S.

Committee Chairs

Nancy Clanton, U.S., Technical Committee
Terry McGowan, U.S., Technical Committee
Duncan Wise, U.K., Dark Sky Places Committee
Dajana Bjelajac, Serbia, Awards Committee

Special thanks

DarkSky's Corporate Partners are dedicated members of the dark sky protection community from the corporate and business sectors. These companies made philanthropic contributions from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, supporting DarkSky's programs, outreach, education, and nocturnal conservation efforts.

Musco
Lowe's
Home Depot
Rémy Martin
Forms + Surfaces
Landscape Forms
Xanterra
Your True Nature
Night Sky Coffee Roaster
SixDegrees
1% for the Planet

Photo by Ian Bowen





Learn more

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sarah Martin

Chief Development Officer

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