

Nightscape



DarkSky

#122 | December 2025

Celebrating the

25th



Dark Sky Place

Resurrecting the
wild in South Africa's
Lapalala Reserve

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creatures of the dark

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Six new Dark Sky
Places & Lodgings

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DarkSky

We restore the nighttime environment and protect communities from the harmful effects of light pollution through outreach, advocacy, and conservation.

HEADQUARTERS

DarkSky International
5049 East Broadway Blvd #105
Tucson, AZ 85711 U.S.A.

WEB

www.DarkSky.org

INSTAGRAM

[darksky_intl](https://www.instagram.com/darksky_intl)

FACEBOOK

[DarkSky.Intl](https://www.facebook.com/DarkSky.Intl)

YOUTUBE

[DarkSkyInternational](https://www.youtube.com/DarkSkyInternational)

BLUESKY

[DarkSky_Intl](https://bsky.app/profile/DarkSky_Intl)

LINKEDIN

[darksky-international](https://www.linkedin.com/company/darksky-international)

On the cover

“Resurrecting Wild”

by Gareth Thomas

Lapalala Wilderness, South Africa

This image signifies the efforts being made by Lapalala Wilderness to restore and return wild spaces to their natural inhabitants. This black rhino skull belonged to an individual who died on the reserve from natural causes. It is being held by a *Myrothamnus flabellifolius*, a flowering plant also known as “resurrection bush.” The black rhino has been brought back from the brink of extinction, and Lapalala Wilderness has had a big hand in this resurrection by creating a safe space for it to be held. The stars and Milky Way signify the place from which we’ve all once come and denote that, in fact, there is no “them” or “us,” — we are the same stardust, which has chosen to take many different forms, and as it is above, so it is below.

Read more about the photographer on p.6.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

4 images focus stacked | Canon R3 | Lens: Canon 16-35mm @ 16mm | Aperture: f/3.2 | Exposure: 25 sec | ISO-2500

Nightscape

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EDITOR

Megan Eaves

DESIGN

Mark Bult

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Drew Reagan

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From the Executive Director



In recent years, I have had the privilege of traveling to meet the people driving the dark sky movement forward. These are individuals who are extending conservation into nighttime hours and demonstrating that quality outdoor lighting can preserve the night while creating safe and welcoming places for everyone.

From the **Atacama Desert** in **Chile**, where the **Gabriela Mistral Dark Sky Sanctuary** reveals a sky so clear it feels infinite, to the **South Island** of **New Zealand**, where communities have embraced darkness as part of their identity. From the ancient landscapes of **AIUla** in **Saudi Arabia** to the wildlife-rich reserves of **South Africa**, and closer to my home in **Tucson**, where **Saguaro National Park** (pictured above) stands as a beacon of what is possible, I have seen how this movement connects cultures and continents.

Each of these places is part of something larger. What began as a spark of an idea in **Arizona** and **Utah** has evolved into a

global network of over 250 **International Dark Sky Places**. Together, they show that protecting natural darkness is not only about astronomy or scenery. It is about restoring balance to ecosystems, honoring cultural heritage, and reconnecting people with the rhythms of the night.

To all our members, thank you for making this possible. Your support enables this worldwide community to grow and thrive. As we look ahead to 2026, we are building on this momentum to expand our impact across the United States and globally.

I would love to hear from you. Share the dark sky places that inspire you, or the ones you dream of visiting. Together, we are ensuring that the stars and the living night beneath remain within reach for everyone.



For the night,
Ruskin Hartley
ruskin@darksky.org
Tucson, Arizona, U.S.

From the Editor



Megan Eaves

As we bring another December issue of *Nightscape* to print, I am reflecting on 2025. It has been a year of dark sky achievements. In this issue, we mark a huge milestone: the certification of our 250th **International Dark Sky Place**. This year, we've also celebrated the launch of our **Principles for Responsible Astrophotography** and the return of the **Capture the Dark photo contest**, the first **DarkSky Approved Lodgings** outside the United States, a raft of new certified Dark Sky Places and sports complexes, the launch of our **Oil and Gas Lighting Program**, and the first-ever **U.S. Open** tennis tournament played under dark sky friendly lighting, among others.

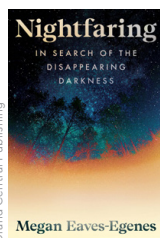
On a personal level, some of us may be going through our own triumphs or tragedies, and on an international scale, we face a world that appears to be increasingly divided.

When I feel myself losing the thread of hope, as we all do from time to time, I cling to the sense of community we have built

here — a global group of people from every continent and walk of life, who love the night, the peaceful stars, and the planet that we, together, call home.

In August, I visited **Lapalala Wilderness** in **South Africa**, our 250th International Dark Sky Place, which you'll read more about in this issue. From there, I went to the **NamibRand Dark Sky Reserve** in **Namibia** — the first Dark Sky Place certified on the African continent in 2012. In both places, I was wowed by the starry skies and the local people's passion for preserving these dark ecosystems and the living things that inhabit them. It gave me a great deal of optimism, and I hope the stories in this issue inspire you, too.

Now, if you'll permit me a moment of self-promotion: I have written a book! Entitled



Grand Central Publishing

Nightfaring: In Search of the Disappearing Darkness, it is part travelogue, part personal memoir, following my search to understand the fragile night and humanity's

relationship with darkness. It comes out on January 22, 2026 in the U.K., and on March 31 in North America, and hopefully in more languages after that. You can pre-order it now through your preferred bookstore.

I want to thank you for being part of this community. *Nightfaring* is, in many ways, a love letter to all of you and your care for the night.



Megan Eaves
nightscape@darksky.org
London, U.K.



Advocate highlights

News from DarkSky Advocates around the world



A Australia

DarkSky Advocate **Carol Redford**, CEO of **Astrotourism Western Australia**, helped launch **Light Pollution**, a new exhibition at **Scitech**, a science museum in Perth, highlighting how artificial light affects sea turtles, wildlife, and the night sky. The immersive display, created with government and science partners, invites visitors to explore ways to protect

Western Australia's natural darkness.



Tristan Simpson/DIG.CA



B U.S.

DarkSky Advocate and **Massachusetts chapter president James Lowenthal** joined the **Maria Mitchell Association** and **Nantucket Lights** to present **"The Magic of the Night...and How We Can Save It."** His illustrated talk explored humanity's deep connection to natural darkness and practical ways communities can curb light pollution locally.

C India

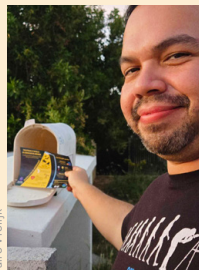


Nayan Telrandhe

Advocate **Nayan Telrandhe** and other advocates from **Ladakh, India**, worked with the **Phyang Power Station** to reduce its outdoor light pollution. They approached the station's authorities, who were unaware of its light impact. Changes included re-angling lights and installing covers and hoods to point the light downward, reducing glare from the complex.

D Aruba

Delegate **Jairo Vrolijk** launched a public awareness campaign in **Aruba**, distributing flyers in Papiamentu – the native language of Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao. Designed to highlight the effects of light pollution, Jairo



Jairo Vrolijk

shared the materials with neighborhoods and government leaders to build support for protecting the island's night sky.

Resurrecting the The 250th Dark Sky Place

Nightscape Editor Megan Eaves journeys into the starlit South African wilderness to mark a new milestone for dark sky conservation.

The Moon setting over a large termite mound at Lapalala's Lions Camp.

Credit: Gareth Thomas

“Ah, here they are,” whispered Wihan Pretorius, switching off the engine of the open-sided 4x4. It was dark, and I was on a night game drive in Lapalala Wilderness, a wildlife reserve in South Africa.

I squinted through the darkness. A large termite mound rose into a dirt cone surrounded by thick bushes.

“A mother. No...*two mothers* and their cubs,” Wihan whispered excitedly. The outlines of two lionesses and four youngsters came into shape, their round, fuzzy ears popping through bare branches.

It was August, and the Southern Hemisphere winter had fully arrived at Lapalala, so that I needed a puffy coat and wool hat. Overhead, the astronomers' curse — thick clouds from a storm forecast for the next day — obscured the stars.

The lions lifted their noses and sniffed the air — they knew we were there, but didn't seem to mind. As the predator monitor at Lapalala Wilderness, it is Wihan's job to understand big cats and monitor their movements. He'd been tracking this pride earlier in the day and made sure we kept quiet, risking a little

wilderness

shine from a red flashlight so we could see them.

The mothers stalked through the bushes, then appeared on the dirt track ahead of the vehicle, the four cubs venturing bravely toward us with curious eyes. I'd learned on previous African safaris that lions are most active at night, and females typically live together in prides, raising young.

We drove around on dark, bumpy tracks for a few more hours, hoping to spot one of the other nocturnal species that live in Lapalala. The leopards, hyenas, and pangolins



Megan Eaves

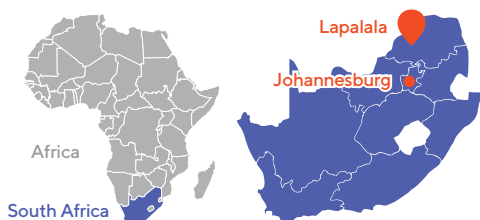
eluded us, but we were graced by a spotted eagle owl resting in a tree and numerous nightjars fluttering up off the trackways.

Lapalala: The 250th Dark Sky Place

In June, Lapalala Wilderness became the 250th site worldwide to be certified under DarkSky's International Dark Sky Places Program.

It is also the first Big Five game reserve in Africa to receive this designation, charting a course for similar wildlife reserves.

Lapalala spans 185 square miles (480 sq km) of South Africa's Limpopo province. To get there, I'd rented a car at Johannesburg's international airport. Past the city's sprawl, I turned onto a small highway that ran for miles across grasslands. After about four hours, bluffs and rocky outcroppings came into view — I'd reached the Waterberg, a mountainous landscape of dry bushveld that, in 2001, was designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Lapalala sits in the center of this unique region.



I was guided around the reserve by Bronwyn Maree, curator of the reserve's Wildlife School Biodiversity Center. She's also taken on responsibility for the DarkSky certification process.

Bronwyn explained that Lapalala was founded in 1981 when conservationists Dale Parker and Clive Walker began acquiring former farm and hunting land to rewild it. In 1990, five highly endangered black rhinoceroses were introduced to the reserve, which expanded with the acquisition of adjoining farms. Today, Lapalala is managed by a non-profit foundation for the landowner, Duncan Parker (son of the late founder), in collaboration with neighboring farm owner Gianni Ravazzotti.

A group of like-minded custodians has invested in segments of the reserve to safeguard its future, and a single tourism partner — Lepogo Lodges — sustainably manages low-impact

Continues on page 12...

International Dark Sky Places Program

DarkSky International certifies places that actively protect the night through responsible lighting, public education, and the long-term conservation of natural darkness.

Key facts

- ◆ Program launched in 2001
- ◆ 254 certified sites across 39 countries & territories
- ◆ Over 196,653 km² of protected land and sky

Why it matters

- ◆ Supports nocturnal wildlife and ecosystems
- ◆ Preserves cultural & scientific access to the night sky
- ◆ Promotes better outdoor lighting and energy use
- ◆ Encourages astrotourism & local engagement

Designation types

- ◆ Dark Sky Parks – Conservation lands with public access
- ◆ Reserves – A protected dark core with a surrounding buffer
- ◆ Sanctuaries – Remote, ecologically fragile areas
- ◆ Urban Night Sky Places – Natural spaces in/near cities
- ◆ Dark Sky Communities – Towns or cities with lighting ordinances & education
- ◆ Dark Sky Lodges – Accommodations that model dark sky friendly practices

Find out more: darksky.org/places

Who comes out at night?

Nocturnal wildlife of Lapalala



Predator: Leopard

Stealthy and solitary, leopards roam Lapalala's bushveld after dark. They rely on the cover of night to hunt impala and smaller prey, often bringing their spoils up into trees to eat later.

Insectivore: Pangolin

Shy and solitary, pangolins forage for ants and termites after dark, using their powerful claws and long, sticky tongue. They rely on natural darkness to stay hidden.

See page 16 for more.



Primate: Mohol Galago

Commonly known as bushbabies, these small, adorable primates leap between trees with remarkable agility, using their keen hearing and large eyes to thrive after dark.

Insect: Termite

Though hidden from view, termites are active after dark, maintaining their tall mounds and foraging for plant matter. Their presence underpins the diets of many nocturnal mammals.



Bird: Nightjar

Often heard before they're seen, nightjars flutter low across roads and clearings at dusk. Their cryptic plumage hides them by day; by night, they hunt insects on the wing.

Insect: Dung Beetle

Dung beetles provide crucial nutrient recycling that improves soil health. They use the Milky Way for navigation at night.



DARKSKY INTERNATIONAL



Celebrating 250 Dark Sky Places

Support Dark Sky Places: Make a year-end gift today!

You made this milestone possible.

Because of your support, 250 places worldwide now actively protect their dark skies. Yet many more places are ready to take action. With your continued support, we can expand our programs and help more communities on their journey to protect the night.

Will you make a special year-end donation and support DarkSky?

DOUBLE your impact!

Make a special gift by December 31st and your donation will be matched dollar for dollar—up to \$125,000—for a total of \$250,000 to protect dark skies worldwide.

\$35

= \$70

\$100

= \$200

\$250

= \$500

Give today!



secure.darksky.org/a/ye25

Need help processing your gift or want to explore additional ways to give? Visit our website at www.darksky.org/ways-to-give

← Shop this design



Explore DarkSky's online store for posters and t-shirts featuring this special design by astronomer and artist Tyler Nordgren.

www.darksky.org/shop



tourism at two luxury safari lodges, Noka Camp and Melote House.

To put this into perspective, a reserve I visited earlier this year in Kenya — Naboisho Conservancy in the Masaai Mara — is less than half the size of Lapalala and operates nine safari lodges. Naboisho is still far from overtouristed, and Lapalala is extremely quiet. The impact of visitors on this delicate landscape is minimal, but they provide crucial income for conservation.

Path to certification

Lapalala’s dark sky journey began in 2020 with a full outdoor lighting audit. Excessive or poorly directed luminaires — mostly at staff housing, lodges, and operational zones — were removed or replaced. Light fittings were swapped for shielded, warmer-hued alternatives. Flood-

lights at remote tracking locations were shut off or placed on motion sensors. Night driving is only allowed with special permission — for example, nocturnal game drives for guests. Lighting around the two lodges is undergoing similar changes to align with DarkSky’s principles.

The result is one of the darkest protected areas in South Africa. Filmmaker, photographer, and conservationist Gareth Thomas, who shot the cover image for this issue and has spent the last few years documenting Lapalala’s wildlife after dark, raved to

Right: A staff member enjoying the covered lighting at Noka Camp. Below: Noka Camp’s star beds, where you can sleep under the night sky on your terrace.



Lapalala Lodges





Sunset during Megan's trip to Lapalala in August 2025.

Megan Eaves

me about this unique environment.

“I’ve never been anywhere else in South Africa where you can take a still photo, and you’re not getting that soft glow of light pollution over the horizon,” he said.

As we drove around the reserve, spotting grazing rhinos and giraffes, Bronwyn recounted the certification process.

“I inherited the dark sky project when I started here,” she said. “I didn’t know anything about the Bortle scale or luminaires. But I really fell in love with the darkness here. It’s become a big part of what I do — especially going out to remote spots to check the sky quality meters.”

She showed me some of the lighting retrofits done around a staff housing area, pointing out where they’d painted black over the tops of existing luminaires.

“We’ve had to shift our habits and thinking. And because this is South Africa, we’ve had to improvise, be-

cause we don’t always have access to regular suppliers.”

The main challenge for Lapalala is the threat of armed poachers, who target the reserve because of its successful rhino and pangolin populations. Rhino horns and pangolin scales are poached for their use in traditional medicine and as status symbols. Lapalala has a high-tech security operation that includes 24-hour monitoring, drone technology, fencing, armed rangers, and security cameras. The story is similar in many protected areas on the African continent, and Lapalala is hopeful that their achievement could provide a working reference for other African conservation areas trying to balance responsible lighting with anti-poaching operations and tourism.

Nocturnal wildlife & conservation

Lapalala is home to some 60 species of mammals, including the Big Five — lions, leopards, ele-

phants, rhinos, and buffalo. Many are nocturnal or rely on darkness for feeding, travel, reproduction, food sources, or safety.

In April, the reserve made headlines as the location for the Netflix documentary *Pangolin: Kulu's Journey*. Alongside a rescued pangolin, Lapalala conservationist Gareth Thomas was the star and cinematographer of the film, which follows his rehabilitation and rewilding of a trafficked pangolin



— a nocturnal insectivore that is endangered due to poaching and habitat loss (see p.16). During its production, Thomas spent hundreds of hours filming after dark in the reserve.

In February, Lapalala also opened

Africa's first purpose-built pangolin rehabilitation facility in partnership with the African Pangolin Working Group, which, from 2014 to 2025, has helped rescue 274 live pangolins. Known as the “pangolarium,” the center provides a secure, low-light environment for rescued trafficked pangolins to gradually recover.

“They are elusive and rely on not being seen. They are happier in darkness,” Thomas told me, explaining that pangolin rehabilitation includes night walks where handlers accompany pangolins as they relearn to forage.

“Kulu would walk four kilometers at night in complete darkness,” Thomas recalled of his Netflix co-star. “And he would come back to the exact same point. His ability to see, smell, and track in the dark was incredible.”

It is hoped that Lapalala's efforts to preserve its darkness will help rescued pangolins be successfully returned to the wild, like Kulu was.

Lepogo Lodges guests can have a bush dinner under Lapalala's dark sky.



The Milky Way over an elephant watering hole in Lapalala Wilderness.



Gareth Thomas

Wildlife school & community impact

Lapalala also operates a wildlife school that brings thousands of local students into the reserve each year for immersive, multi-day camps on ecology, wildlife, stargazing, and conservation. And a new interactive biodiversity centre is also in development with Bronwyn at the helm. During my visit, I got a sneak peek at the exhibits, which will depict the reserve's large mammals, night-blooming plants, water sources, and food webs.

Lapalala's commitment to regeneration extends to its tourism partnership with Lepogo Lodges. For example, solar-powered Noka Camp underwent a full lighting assessment for dark sky certification and features telescopes in each room. Guests can book stargazing and nocturnal wildlife viewing experiences.

"Lapalala has created a model where education, astrotourism, and conservation go hand-in-hand," said Amber Harrison, DarkSky's Places Program Manager. "Their

long-term commitment to dark sky protection, integrating lighting management into every aspect of operations, demonstrates how these designations can serve as catalysts for broader conservation and community benefits."

Future of nocturnal conservation

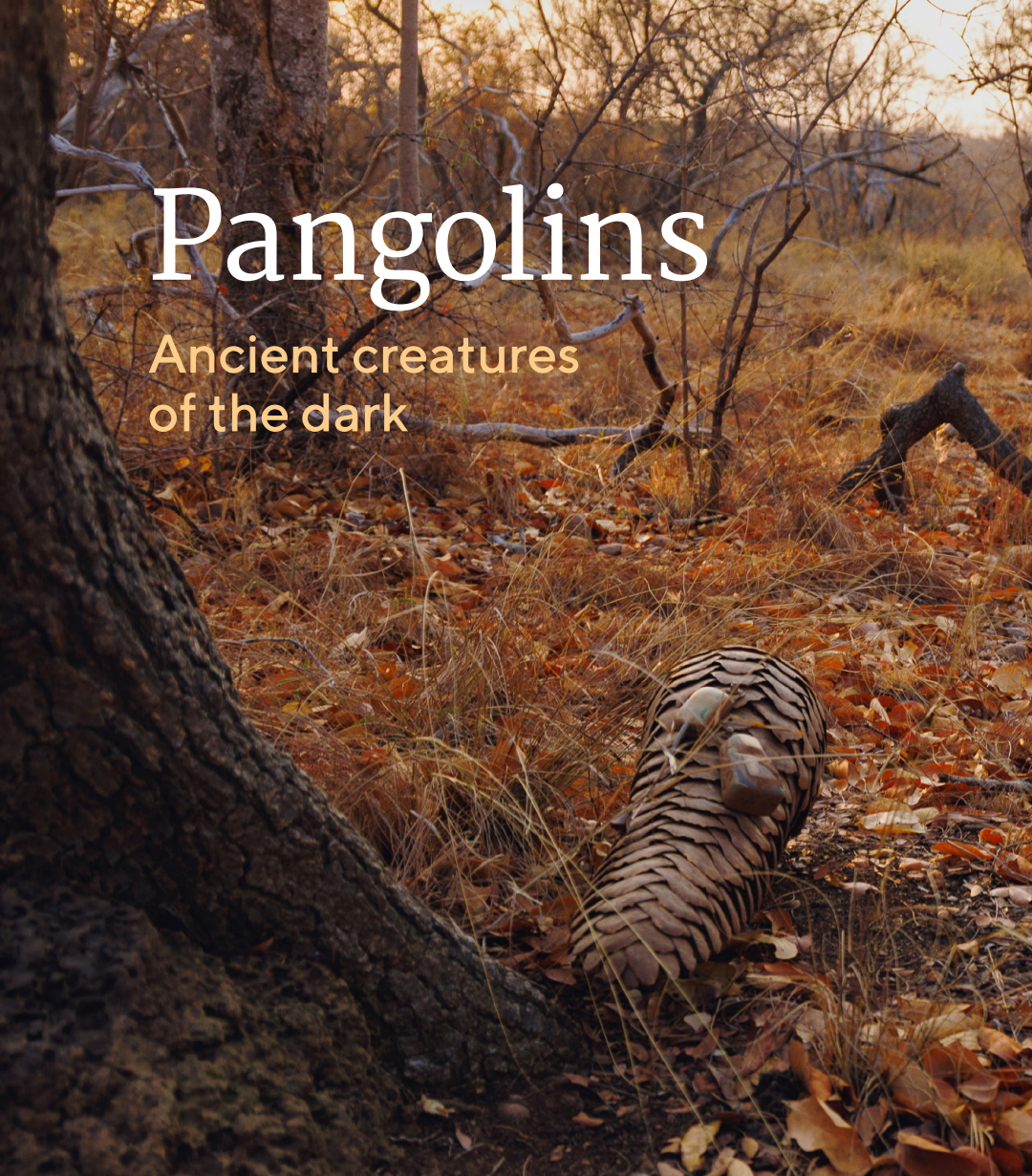
As urban sprawl and artificial light spread across the planet, Lapalala's certification shows what's possible when darkness is treated as an ecosystem.

"Lapalala's achievement reflects the future we envision for the Dark-Sky Places Program," Amber Harrison said, adding that it has created a blueprint for how Big Five wildlife reserves can practice responsible lighting as part of a conservation plan that acknowledges and protects the night as its own ecosystem.

As Gareth Thomas put it: "Lapalala really feels like the closest thing to what an environment should be if we humans weren't having an impact on it." ✦

Pangolins

Ancient creatures
of the dark



Gareth Thomas

Most people have never seen a pangolin, but this shy, scaly mammal — often described as a walking pine cone — is one of the most heavily trafficked animals on Earth. It's also the only mammal entirely covered in protective keratin scales.

These ancient animals, which have been on Earth for 85 million years, are primarily nocturnal. At night, they emerge from burrows or hollow logs to forage for ants and termites, using their keen sense of smell and long, sticky tongues. They move quietly, alone and unseen. When threatened, they curl into a near-impenetrable

ball, their overlapping keratin scales acting as natural armor. When curled up, these scales are so tough that even lions have been known to give up trying to eat them.

Being solitary creatures and hard to spot kept them safe from predators and human threats simply by staying unnoticed. But in a rapidly changing world, light pollution, habitat loss, and illegal trafficking have pushed all eight species of pangolins — four in Asia, and four in Africa, including the Temminck's (ground) pangolin found at Lapalala Wilderness (see p.6) — toward extinction.



Above: Gareth Thomas filming the Netflix documentary, *Pangolin: Kulu's Journey*, in Lapalala Wilderness.

Left: Pangolins use their claws to dig into termite mounds for food.

Credit: Gareth Thomas

Life at night

Pangolins are well adapted for night life. Their eyesight is poor, but their hearing and smell are excellent. They shuffle slowly and deliberately, following scent trails to insect nests. With powerful claws, they tear open termite and ant mounds. Their tongues can stretch up to 15.75 inches (40 cm), which is longer than their heads, and they can consume tens of thousands of insects in a single night.



Gareth Thomas

What is a pangolin?

- ✦ Pangolins are the only mammals completely covered in scales.
- ✦ They eat almost exclusively ants and termites — up to 70 million per year.
- ✦ All eight species of pangolin are listed as vulnerable or endangered on the IUCN Red List.
- ✦ When threatened, pangolins curl into a ball, like a roly-poly, to protect their soft underbellies.
- ✦ Their name comes from *pengguling*, a Malay word meaning “one who rolls up.”



flowcomm, CC BY 2.0

Because they are active at night and rarely vocalize, pangolins were once thought to be silently abundant in some areas, but the full scale of illegal poaching is now known. Pangolins are taken by the tens of thousands each year for use in traditional medicine, bushmeat markets, and the exotic pet trade.

Artificial light adds another layer of threat. Increased lighting in wild areas disrupts pangolins' behavior, exposing them to predators and humans. They forage less, travel shorter distances, and become more vulnerable simply because the darkness no longer shelters them. Artificial light at night can also interfere with the natural rhythms of the pangolin's food sources, mainly ants and termites. A study in the journal *MOJ Ecology & Environmental Sciences* found that nocturnal lighting reduced the activity, foraging, orientation, memory, and social interactions of their food source, ants.

Pangolin protection

Keeping the night dark is vital for nocturnal species like the pangolin. The more we encroach on the night, the more difficult it becomes for animals that rely on it to feed, move, and remain unseen. Efforts to protect pangolins are growing, and darkness plays a role in that mission. Rehabilitation programs care for injured or rescued pangolins and reintroduce them into protected wilderness areas. At Lapalala Wilderness Reserve (see p.6), they are working to preserve the natural night by reducing artificial light and educating visitors about nocturnal ecology.

Awareness is slowly catching up,



Lapalala's new Pangolarium rehabilitates and rewilds trafficked pangolins.

African Pangolin Working Group

but protecting the pangolin requires action. As conservationists continue to fight for their survival, protecting the nighttime ecosystem that supports these rare animals must be part of the solution.

Pangolins are a reminder of how little we still understand about the natural world after dark, and how fragile it has become. Because for many creatures like the pangolin, night is home. ✦



The African Pangolin Working Group rescues, rehabilitates, and rewilds African pangolins.

African Pangolin Working Group

Newly certified International Dark Sky Places, Lodgings, & Sports Lighting

Announced since August 1, 2025



ABOUT THE PROGRAM



The International Dark Sky Places program certifies communities, parks, and protected areas around the world that preserve and protect dark sites through responsible lighting policies and public education.

BY THE NUMBERS

254

International Dark Sky Places around the world

39

Countries and territories represented

6

Continents represented

196,650+

Square kilometers of protected land and night sky

Find a Place near you: DarkSky.org/places



Town of Breckenridge



1

DARK SKY COMMUNITY

Breckenridge

Colorado, U.S.

15.66 km²

Set at over 9,600 feet in elevation, the first mountain ski resort to become a Dark Sky Community, with some 5,000 acres of open space and 65 miles of trails.

Gareth Thomas



2

DARK SKY PARK

Lapalala Wilderness Reserve

Limpopo, South Africa

480 km²

48,000-hectare private reserve in South Africa's Waterberg UNESCO Biosphere, home to the Big Five, and critically endangered rhinos, cheetahs, African wild dogs, pangolins, and migratory birds.

Joe Nidd



3

DARK SKY COMMUNITY

Naseby

Te Waipounamu, New Zealand

8 km²

New Zealand's first Dark Sky Community, a historic, South Island gold-mining and winter resort town of around 150 residents, which has enacted a light pollution protection law.

Ronald van Weeren



4

URBAN NIGHT SKY PLACE

ARTIS Park

Amsterdam, Netherlands

0.1 km²

Historic zoo, botanical garden, and planetarium — the first in the world to earn DarkSky certification, with redesigned lighting supporting nocturnal animals and public evening events.

Chelsea Lane Photography



A

DARKSKY APPROVED LODGING

Cataloochee Ranch and The Swag

North Carolina, U.S.

Two boutique lodges in the Great Smoky Mountains of North Carolina, spanning a combined 1,075 acres with luxury cabins, trail access, and stargazing experiences.

Superstition Shadows Park



B

DARKSKY APPROVED SPORTS LIGHTING

Prospector Park and Superstition Shadows Park

Arizona, U.S.

Two parks in a suburb of Phoenix have upgraded to dark sky lighting across seven fields, which host about 75% of the community's recreational sports.

News & notables

News from the global movement promoting responsible outdoor light at night

U.S. Open tennis tournament played under dark sky lighting

The **U.S. National Tennis Center** became the first professional sports complex to host a tournament under **DarkSky Approved** lighting in September. The **U.S. Tennis Association** swapped its older metal halide bulbs for shielded, “wedge-shaped” LED lights in its 17 tournament courts — including **Arthur Ashe Stadium** — and five practice courts.

Iconic St. Louis Arch goes dark for bird migration

The **U.S. National Park Service** switched off exterior lighting on **St. Louis’s** famed **Gateway Arch** during peak bird migration to reduce avian collisions. The measure, co-ordinated with **Lights Out Heartland** and local researchers, supported conservation efforts while protecting the night sky along the Mississippi Flyway, a key migration route.



International Dark Sky Discovery Center

International Dark Sky Discovery Center gets its telescope

Fountain Hills, an International **Dark Sky Community** in **Arizona**, has installed the region’s largest telescope at the future **International Dark Sky Discovery Center**. Opening in 2026, the non-profit center will support public stargazing, STEM education, and dark sky preservation in a town with some of Arizona’s most protective lighting ordinances.

darkskycenter.org

Will you give a special year-end gift?

DarkSky depends on year-end donations to sustain our programs and initiatives into the new year. Will you make a special gift today and help us begin our most impactful year yet? Let’s protect dark skies together.

secure.darksky.org/a/ye25



Show your support for the night

Give yourself or a loved one the gift of the night by purchasing our selection of customized mugs, apparel, and totes.

darksky.org/shop





ALAN Conference showcases light pollution research

Held in **Westport, Ireland**, the biennial **Artificial Light at Night Conference** drew record participation with 70 talks and 50 posters on light pollution. Attendees, including **DarkSky CEO Ruskin Hartley** and **Editor Megan Eaves**, joined

night field trips to **Mayo International Dark Sky Park** and sessions on marine ecology, neuroscience, legal frameworks, and lighting design, with experts like field ecologist **Elena Maggi** and lighting designer **Kerem Asfuroglu**.



Study links artificial light to disrupted menstrual cycles

A new study in the journal **Science Advances** has found that, before 2010, many people's menstrual cycles were synchronized with full and new moons. The study compared long-term menstrual records of individuals from the past 24 years with records from the past century. It found that the rise of LEDs, smartphones, and widespread artificial lighting has weakened that link.

bit.ly/4h8xnNm

New feature film highlights the human need for darkness



Little, Big, and Far, the latest film by director **Jem Cohen**, follows an **Austrian** astronomer's search for unspoiled night skies amid growing personal and environmental crises. The film is currently available for cinema bookings through **Grasshopper Film** and continues its run on the international festival circuit.

grasshopperfilm.com



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Advocate **Stephanie Vermillion** and **DarkSky's Lighting Program Manager James Brigagliano** contributed articles to the new issue of **Lighting Design and Application**, the magazine of the **Illuminating Engineering Society**, on astrotourism and quality outdoor lighting, respectively. Read it here: bit.ly/4nXKvr9



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