

Part 6

Outcomes

Optical Workshop Report: Statements Relative to Environmental Protection for Optical Astronomy

1. We reaffirm that all IAU Resolutions relative to the preservation of the skies are still valid.

2. We recommend that the IAU establish a working group with no more than 10 members within Commission 50 to specify the specific needed items for protecting the dark sky for optical astronomy, to include at least:

- a. monitoring and quantifying the level of night sky brightness, from space observations and from the ground (at observatories and at amateur observatories).
- b. educational projects and to select ones of special short term application.
- c. developing fiscal support for the cause.
- d. establishing and maintaining liaison with other organizations involved in the issues.
- e. including the particular sensitivity to the environments in developing countries.

Work to begin via email as soon as established, with a formal meeting to take place at the IAU General Assembly in Manchester in 2000. The first agenda item is to produce a Policy Statement that all people can use in support of the cause. Members to include observatory directors, astronomers, amateur astronomers, educators and lighting engineers.

3. We recommend that an inform/formal working group be formed to discuss media outreach for the cause, members to be from the allied organizations involved, such as the IAU, IDA, BAA, RAS, AAS, ASP, etc. (both internationally and nationally). Most contact among members can be by Internet, with a formal meeting to be held at the IAU General Assembly in Manchester in 2000.

4. Relative to the lighting industry, we recommend that:

- a. All luminaire manufacturers measure and publish, for fixed angle luminaires, their ULOR and DLOR.
- b. All luminaire photometric data make clear which intensity figures have been measured as zero and which have not been measured, but defaulted to zero.

- c. All lamp manufacturers print both on the lamp and its packaging the initial (100hr) lumen output figure.

5. Astronomical support for the cause: We urge that astronomers and observatories work with and support those individuals and organizations involved in the protection of the dark skies. The new Commission 50 working group can be one of the mechanisms. Each observatory should have a light pollution officer as a point of contact.

6. We recommend that Heritage Sites of Dark Sky Preserves be created and maintained to preserve dark skies for all of humankind. The IAU welcomes and supports the initiative taken near Toronto for establishing the first such Dark Sky Preserve.

7. Education: We recommend that the IAU and other scientific and educational organizations work together to promote public awareness, understanding and appreciation of the problem of light pollution and other threats to the astronomical environment through school systems and other appropriate means.

8. We urge all observatories to measure and monitor the sky brightness and other adverse environmental impacts at their observatories and we urge the IAU to set up a mechanism to coordinate such measurements.