## Mindfactory

Biodiversity of the night: challenges for dark habitats

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**EUROPARC Conference** 

Communicating in the 21st Century: Question your Mindset!

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# 1. Definition of light pollution





https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8dc58ZrOuck

"Was, wenn wir eines Tages aufwachen und realisieren, dass all die Naturschutzbemühungen der letzten dreißig Jahre nur die Hälfte der Geschichte erzählen – die Tagesgeschichte?"

Catherine Rich & Travis Longcore (2005): Ecological Consequences of Artificial Night Lighting



### What is light pollution?



The term "light pollution" refers to the superimposition of artificial light on natural lighting conditions. The negative effects are mainly felt at dusk and at night and affect people and environment.

Although the term "light pollution" is very common, experts rather speak of artificial light flooding, since there is no real pollution of a room.

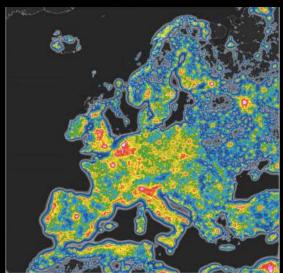




#### The dark side of light

- Definition of light pollution (Jan Hollan, 2007)
  - Outdoor) Light pollution is the alteration of light levels in the outdoor environment (from those present naturally) due to man-made sources of light.
  - Indoor light pollution is such alteration of light levels in the indoor environment due to sources of light, which compromises human health.
- The new world atlas of artificial night sky brightness (Falchi et al. 2016)
  - 80 % of the earth's inhabitants live under a "lightpolluted" sky
  - For 60% of Europeans, the Milky Way is not visible

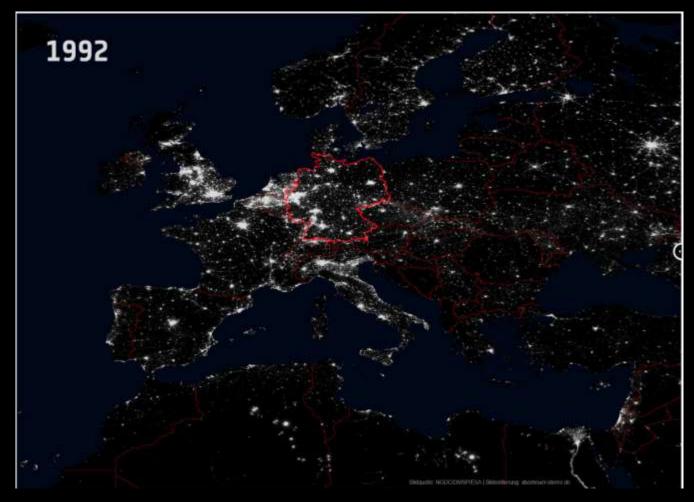




Grafik: Falchi et al. 2016



#### Europe by night



https://www.paten-der-nacht.de/lichtverschmutzungs-karte-europa-entwicklung/





### Brightly illuminated – how we shape the night for ourselves

- Infrastructure & urban centers
- Advertising & consumption
  - Radiance of the economy: How bright is the competition?
  - Private gardens as open-air museums
- Crime & security
  - Glare
- Energie consumption
- Light above Vienna
  - Light pollution from 2011 to 20??
- Night landscape without stars?



#### Light pollution – bright



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V\_A78zDBwYE



# 2. Who is affected by artificial light?



#### Life in the dark – the other half of biodiversity

- Light pollution is a major contributor to insect mortality (Owens et al. 2019)
  - Light pollution is on par with habitat loss, pesticide use, invasive species and climate change
- Potential effects of artificial light at night (ALAN) on insects can be categorized as (Owens & Lewis 2019)
  - Temporal disorientation
  - Spatial disorientation
  - Attraction
  - Desensitization
  - Recognition
- Artificial light affects plant-pollinator interactions (Giavi et al. 2021)





#### Life in the dark – the other half of biodiversity

- Impact of artificial light on bats (Straka et al. 2019)
  - Wild bats of cave-roosting species respond to LED lights of different colours
  - Neutral white, red or amber LED
  - Red light had the least negative effect at a cave entrance
- Potential solutions (Stone et al. 2015)
  - Avoid illuminating the areas being used by bats
  - Light exclusion zones (dark areas) should be created
  - Changing the duration and timing of lighting regimes
  - Movement sensors that switch lights on and off
  - Reducing the intensity of light



#### Life in the dark – the other half of biodiversity

- Artifcial light at night (ALAN) influences aspects of the biology and ecology of birds (Cabrera-Cruz et al. 2018)
  - Disruption of circadian rhythms
  - Disorientation during flight
- Migratory birds (Antoine Sierro 2019)
  - The cranes of Olsztyn (Poland)
  - North America: 6.8 million birds





# 3. Challenges of light pollution?



### Light protection in Austria – legal situation

- In Austria no law for light management (against light pollution) exists
- Most regulations are governed by various standards = ÖNORM
- Example ÖNORM 13201
  - Part 2-5 of the standard regulate quality characteristics of street lighting throughout the EU and are used to plan lighting in cities. They contain defined quality characteristics, their calculation and methods for their measurement.
  - Part 1 of the standard "selection of lighting classes" is covered by ÖNORM O 1055, since no agreement could be reached among the member states on uniform criteria for this subject area.

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Foto: © Christian Raffetseder



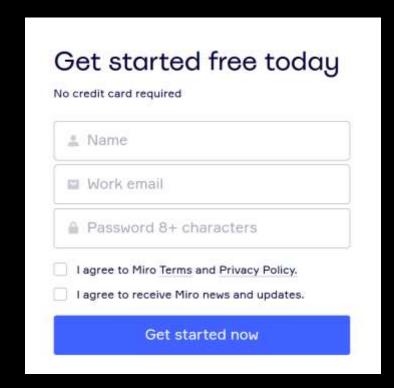
Source: Report "Schutzraum Naturnacht" of the Umweltdachverband

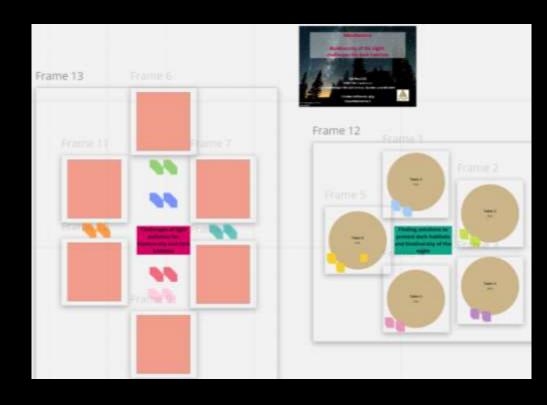
### Light pollution and the European Green Deal

- No direct references to light pollution in Green Deal or EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030
  - All key drivers for biodiversity loss should be tackled
- "Light" is listed as pollutant within the Zero Pollution Action Plan
- Targets for energy efficiency of light instatllations
  - Supports shift to light-emitting diodes (LEDs) in street and other outdoor lighting



### Using Miro





https://miro.com/welcomeonboard/YVFVaHo3UGE5dkFCUzlkeXNtdmx1a IFkeEk2U08yRlp2RVNDckxVVVVVp4MnRvUUFGam9kSzl0Zm9yYmNSMF ZIRHwzNDU4NzY0NTlzOTQ2NTE4ODl0?share link id=98800567148



## Fireflies







#### Noisy Night

- Noisy Night: sound signals from animals and noises have a particularly intense effect at night
- Quiz
  - A Roebuck
  - B Brown owl
  - C Tree frogs and fire-bellied toads
  - D Red fox
  - E Corncrake
  - F Red deer
- Other sources of sound: Grasshoppers and cicadas, crackling and rustling, water, breathing, wind, but also many sounds caused by humans (cars, airplanes, ships, agricultural machinery, conversations, etc.).

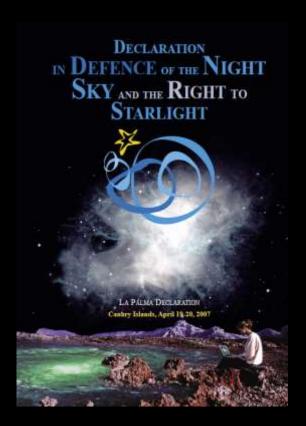


## 4. Communication of darkness



#### La Palma Declaration

- Declaration in Defence of the Night Sky and the Right to Starlight, 2007
  - Unpolluted night sky that allows the enjoyment
  - Conservation, protection, and revaluation of the natural and cultural heritage
  - Negative effects of emissions...should be implemented in the management plans of the different types of protected areas
  - night sky forms an integral part of the landscape perceived by the inhabitants of every territory
  - Tourism can become a major instrument for a new alliance in defence of the quality of the night sky
  - Framework of the UNESCO Initiative "Astronomy and World Heritage" and Initiative "Starlight"





### Why is the night worth protecting?

- Half of all life happens at night
- Unique natural phenomena
- Escape from civilization & everyday life
- Recreational space
- Feeling of wilderness
- Make new discoveries



© Christian Raffetseder



#### LE-Projekt Lebensraum Naturnacht

- Monitoring for the brightening of the night sky
- Regulations on light protection in Austria
- Outdoor offers for a nature night experience
  - Concept for night-based nature education 2021
- Training of community advisors
- Public relations with press releases and social media



















Mit Unterstützung von Bund und Europäischer Union

Bundesministerium Landwirtschaft, Regionen und Tourismus





In Kooperation mit

Bundesministerium
Klimaschutz, Umwelt,
Energie, Mobilität,
Innovation und Technologie

#### **Astronomie**

#### Der Sternenhimmel als Werkzeug "Früher Kulturen"

Vor mehreren tausend Jahren lebten die Menschen entweder in Holzhütten und betrieben Ackerbau und Viehzucht oder sie nomadisch als Jäger und Sammler umher. Den Abend ließen Lagerfeuer ausklingen, dabei offenbarte der Blick zum Sternen ein Meer von vielen tausend Sternen. Mit der Zeit prägten Menschen markante Sternformationen ein, ordneten ihnen Fig und benannten sie - die Sternbilder. Sie lernten die Bewegun Sternenhimmel zu deuten und begannen dieses Wissen für ihre zu nutzen. Die folgenden fünf Werkzeuge stellt der Sternenhimme Menschen zur Verfügung.

#### Werkzeug 1: Kompass



Abbildung 1: Werkzeug Ko Großen Wagens © by NH erstellt mit Stellarium.org

#### Lichtverschmutzung & Gesundheit

#### Adaption des menschlichen Auges

Das Menschliche Auge ist ein sogenanntes Linsenauge, bei dem die namensgebende Linse das einfallende L werfen kann. Dort triff das Licht auf Licht (Hell-Dunkel-Sehen) und Zäpfchen (Far auf diese Zellen, so wird ein chemisches weitergeleitet und dort verarbeitet wird. dafür ist der Sehfarbstoff Rhodopsin. Ur in Opsin und Retinal und erzeugt ein S Spaltprodukte wieder zu Rhodopsin fördert zudem die Neusynthese bei der einer Leuchtdichte unter o.o3 cd/m² wir gesteuertes fotopisches Sehen) auf Nacht skotopisches Sehen) umgeschaltet. Dies sondern benötigt einige Zeit, beim Me Der Adaptionsverlauf setzt sich dabei a der ersten Phase (5-10 min) dominieren Sie beginnt mit einer raschen Sensib Rhodopsin), die sich jedoch bald darauf die zweite Phase, in der die Signale der S daran, dass eigentlich farbige Lichter (je farblos erscheinen. Die Lichtsensibilität flacht aber weniger stark ab (Stäbchen I und erreicht ihren Höhepunkt bei 10°5cd/ mit ca. 10-2cd/m2). Die Adaption läuft je mehrere Faktoren darauf Einfluss nehme

#### Methoden

#### Schätzen ist gut - Zählen ist besser

Die Dunkelheit der Nacht kann für eine/n Naturvermittler\*in durchaus eine Herausforderung darstellen. Besonders bei größeren Gruppen ist es im Dunkel der Nacht schwierig, den Überblick über die Teilnehmer\*innen zu behalten. Daher ist es ratsam, zu Beginn der Exkursion die Gruppe von 1, 2, 3 bis X Personen durchzählen zu lassen. Das ermöglicht auch in der Dunkelheit die Kontrolle, ob alle Personen noch da und keiner unterwegs verloren gegangen ist.

#### Astronomie: Sternbilder und ihre Geschichten kennen lernen

#### Sage über die Entstehung der Milchstraße

Der Ursprung des Namens Milchstraße liegt im antiken Griechenland. Die alten Griechen erklärten sich die Entstehung der Milchstraße damit, dass Herkules, Sohn der sterblichen Frau Alkmene und des Göttervaters Zeus. von seinem Vater an die Brust der schlafenden Göttin Hera gelegt wurde. Ihre Milch sollte ihn zu einem vollständigen Gott machen. Herkules saugte jedoch so stark an der Brust, dass Hera durch den Schmerz erwachte und ihn fortstieß. Dabei ergoss sich ein Milchstrahl über den Himmel, der bis heute zu sehen ist.1

wahrgenommenes starkes Licht den Übergang von Phase 1 zu Phase 2

Sonnenlichts kaum vor, dafür aber die Gruppe der Pilze, die ihre Energie aus dem Abbau organischen Materials beziehen kann.3

diese Lebensräume angepasst sinc

sind wenig pigmentiert und besitzer

z. B. Fühler. Antennen oder Vibration

unter den Amphibien (z. B. Grott

(z. B. Höhlenlaufkäfer²) und Spinne Höhlenflohkrebse, Asseln). Pflanzei



### Astronomy



- Tools of the starry sky
  - Compass
  - Clock
  - Calendar
  - Biggest picture book in the world
  - Instrument of fortune telling
- Celestial bodies
- Milky Way
- Constellations and legends



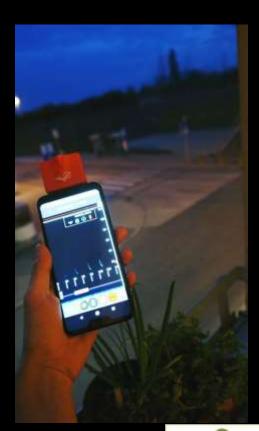
Foto: © Günther Wuchterl

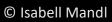


## Biology

Bat-Detector









### Light pollution & humans

- Adaption of the human eye
- Day-night rhythm
- Glare
- Lighting systems
- Fear at night

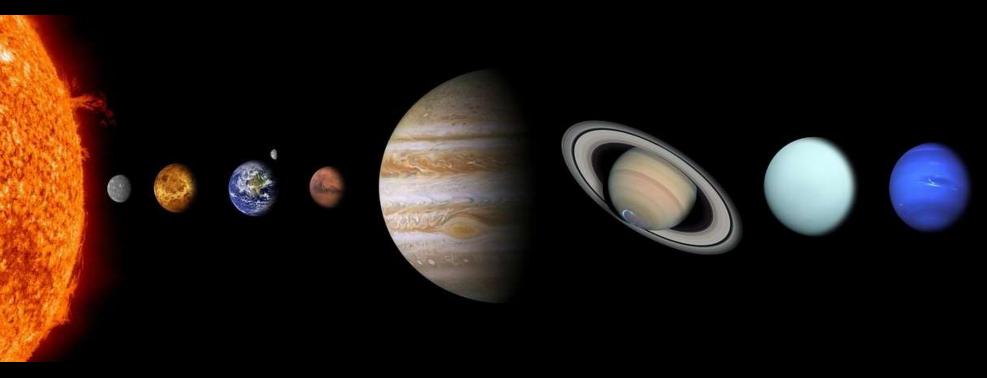


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#### Methodology

Understanding the solar system and the night sky





## Spring constellations



# 5. Exemples for good practice



### Nature Night initiatives worldwide

- Starlight Foundation
  - Certification system for starlight reserves, starlight stellar parks, starlight camps, ...
  - https://www.fundacionstarlight.org/en/index.php
- International Astronomical Union (IAU) and UNESCO
  - Standards for the designation of world natural and cultural heritage sites
  - https://www3.astronomicalheritage.net/index.php
- International Dark Sky Association (IDA)
  - Standards for the designation of international Dark Sky Places https://www.darksky.org/



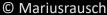
www.darksky.org/light-pollution/



### Dark Sky Park Rhön

- Recognition by IDA of the UNESCO-Biosphere Reserve Rhön 2014 as International Star Park
- Areas with a particularly worthy of protection and almost natural night landscape
- Goals
  - More environmentally friendly and optimized lighting
  - Reducing light pollution
  - Preserve the natural night landscape



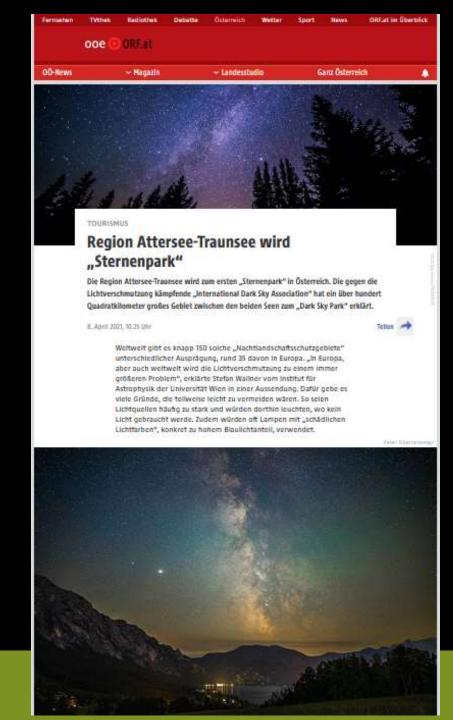






### Dark Sky Park Attersee-Traunsee

- In April 2021, the Attersee-Traunsee Nature Park was recognized by the International Dark Sky Association as Austria's first Dark Sky Park
- Size: 106 km²
- Nocturnal nature experience tours create more awareness for habitats of the night



#### Light protection in Austria

- Optimization of street lighting and lighting in public spaces
- Lower Austrian model: energy consultants from neu
- Model communities Kirchschlag bei Linz and Steinbach am Attersee

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30kyLMOsFEQ





### Dark Sky Community Fulda

- Member of the Dark Sky Community since January 2019
- First member in Germany, second largest member in the world
- Adopted guidelines for sustainable use of functional and design light
  - Light Color
  - Light Shielding
  - Adaptive Controls
  - Night protection commissioner



© Steffen Schmitz



# Dark Sky Reserve Aoraki Mackenzie (Lake Tekapo)

- In the Northern Hemisphere light pollution prevents good stargazing
- One of the best spots in the world for stargazing is Lake Tekapo (New Zealand) → surrounded by mountains which keep clouds away
- Experience of the night sky on a floating hammock in hot pools
- Guided tours with teleskop or Astrophotography, summit experience





#### Nature Park Gantrisch

- Night sky of Nature Park Gantrisch only 0,3-2,5 brighter than natural conditions (Bern > 40 times brighter)
- Story telling: Fairy tale of the night: "Helva und der Mantel der Nacht" (Helva and the cloak of night)
- Night landscape
  - Excursions, Photography, Camping to experience the night
  - Research: dormice, fireflies and citizen science



Map of Nature Park: https://www.sternenpark-gantrisch.ch/karte/





#### Nature Park Gantrisch

- Guidelines for Communities
  - Necessity
  - Timing control
  - Intensity/ Brightness
  - Light color / light spectrum
  - Alignment / Shielding
- Community Fläsch provides dark corridors for their bat colony
  - Bat nurseries: Adaption of lights to needs of bats



https://www.sternenpark-gantrisch.ch/flaesch-eine-gemeinde-entscheidetzugunsten-ihrer-mausohren-kolonie/



#### Smart City Eichenzell



- Conversion of public luminaires to energy-efficient LED technology
- Adaptive lighting control according to demand
- Additional sensors can detect temperature, humidity, concentration of pollutants or availability of parking spaces
- Conventional street lighting -> "Smart Poles"

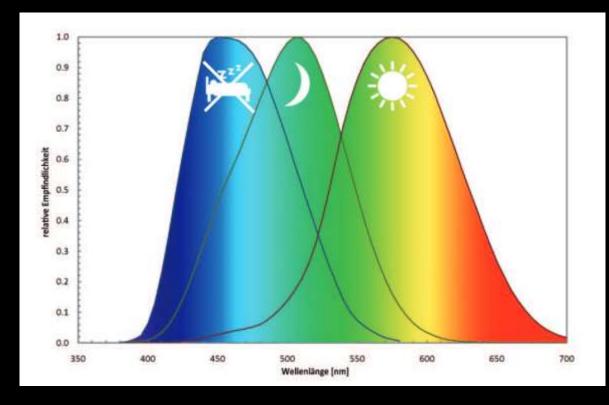


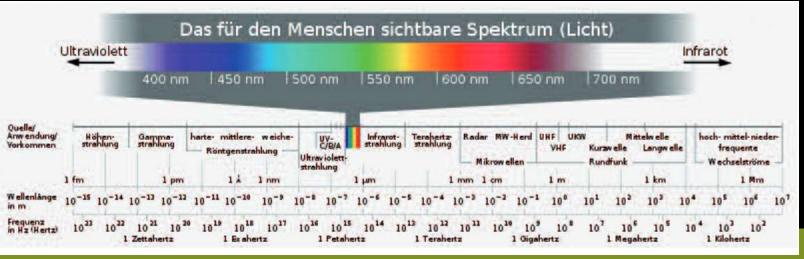
# 6. Visions



Foto: © Benjamin Schaefer // shutterstock

#### The human eye

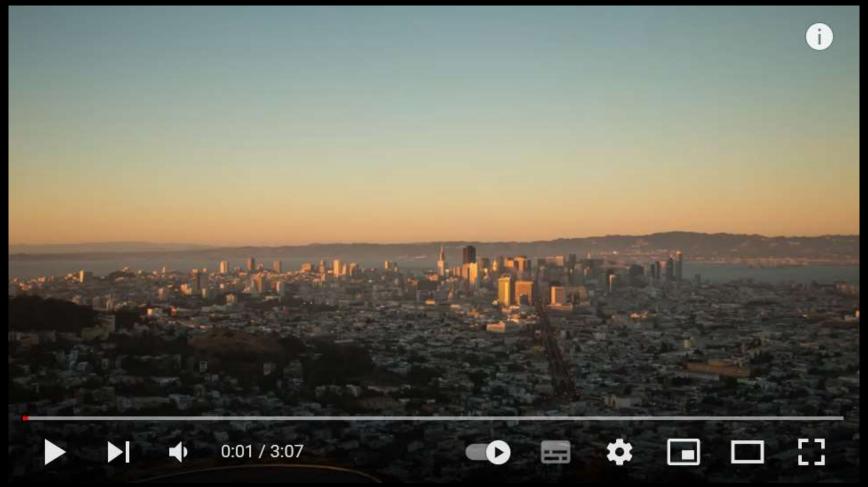








### There's more to see



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FXJUP6\_O1w





## Thank you for your attantion!

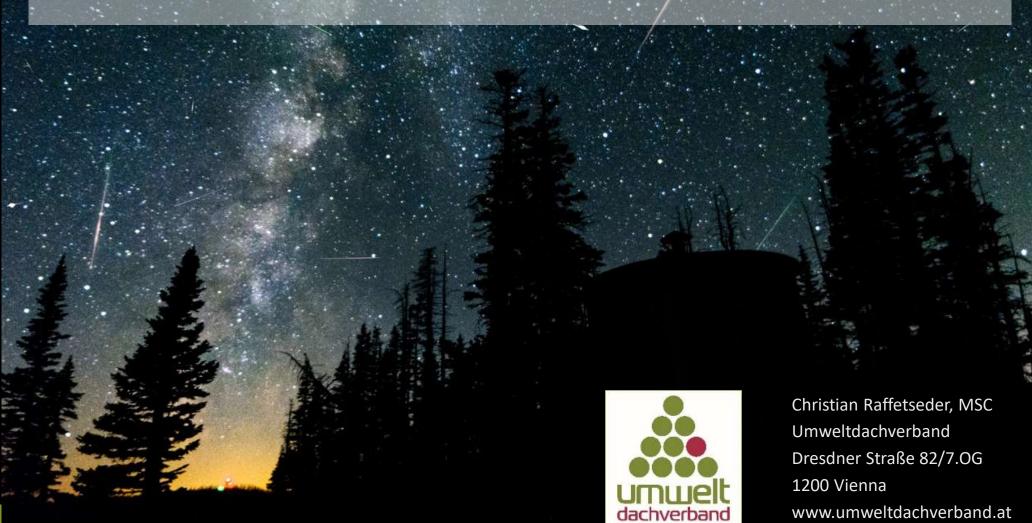


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