Notes on the International Dark Sky Park application process

Application process in general

At the beginning of the application process, contact DSI, explain in general terms what you are looking for and get a contact person.

The message itself is already a preliminary application.

Online meeting with the contact person.

During the SVGN and DSI meeting, Daisy Silvennoinen from GLOW 2.0 acted as a facilitator and took notes of the issues raised in the discussion. This made it much easier to focus on the discussion.

Apply according to the DSI instructions received after the online meeting.

The instructions themselves are not very systematic, but must be broken down into parts, each of which is answered separately.

The big problem is implicit and procedural expressions.

They are not directly translatable, and they often do not have a direct equivalent.

The practices behind them and perspectives may be unknown.

The application is completed and refined with the contact person.

When the contact person thinks the application is ready, it is submitted to the high jury for evaluation and hopefully approval.

General key issues

Cooperation with others, projects with municipalities -regional development projects

Dissemination of information, presentations for visitors -training for larger groups - presentations at various events

General media visibility.

Problematic issues

Free access to the area

Anglo-Saxon land ownership vs. Scandinavian land ownership.

Everyman's rights, -automatic free access to an area, is not an Anglo-Saxon practice.

Here Wikipedia is a good aid. It explains in detail what everyman's rights are.

In the Nordic countries, "protection" can mean an area closed to the public, "protected from human influence".

For DSI, it seems to mean opening the area to the public, "protected for everyone's use".

Darkness

For DSI, darkness means astronomical darkness. A moonless, cloudless, clear night without light pollution.

LPM's maps are based on satellite images

They have been corrected for the effects of the aurora borealis and other disturbances.

The are measured from space.

Measuring from the surface of the earth is a completely different matter.

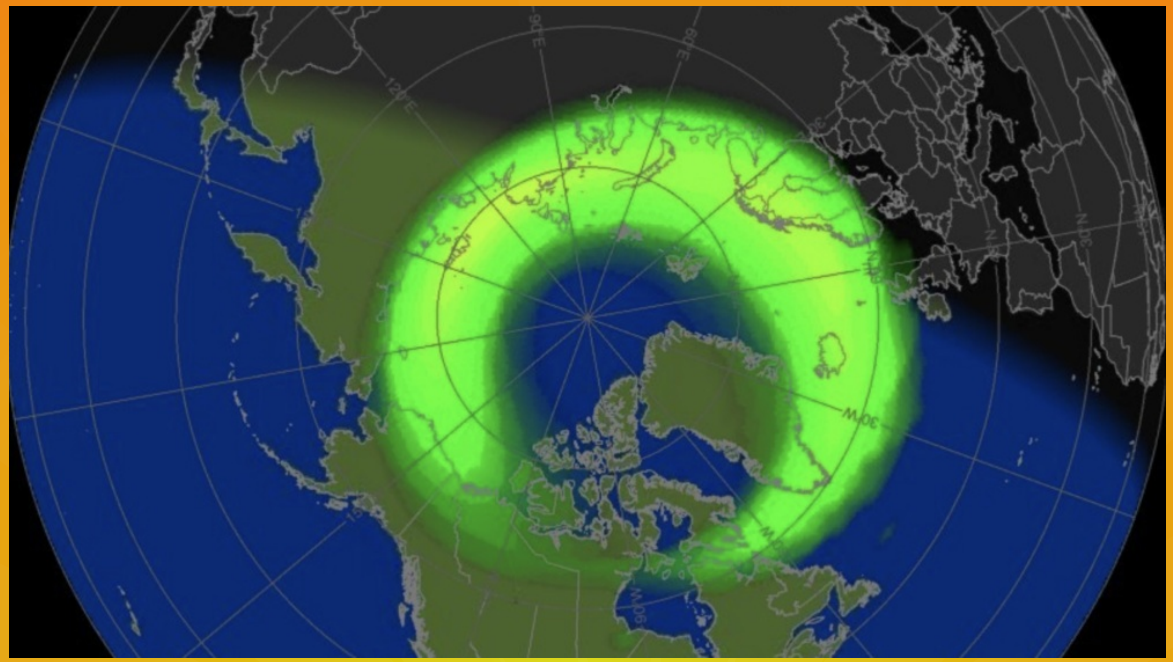
It is questionable whether astronomical darkness ever occurs in the vicinity of the aurora borealis oval (500 km +, -).

The northern lights illuminate the sky even when they are invisible to the naked eye.

Sky Quality Meter does react to them.

Aurora oval
nature's nighttime fluorescent tube

https://tiedetuubi.fi/taxonomy/term/3815



Additional phenomena that affect the measurement of darkness

Airglow (0.1-0.2 mag.)

Arctic ice crystal clouds (0,1-0,8 mag.)

The atmosphere glows and is hazy.

Snow?

Manual measurements, recording cloudiness and weather conditions according to DSI's instructions are not enough at all. The Arctic night is too diverse.

Measurements must be automatic and for the duration of the dark period, every few minutes, approximately 200 nights.

The effect of the aurora borealis (and the arctic atmosphere) must be identified from the measurements.

Reducing light pollution

Changes in municipal lighting are easy to demonstrate.

The impact of private lighting is difficult to know and demonstrate.

In a sparsely populated country outside cities, private lighting can be significant.

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