

The Office of Tourism of the Consell de Formentera reports that Formentera's support of the "Declaration on the Defence of the Night Sky and the Right to Starlight" has received the backing of the island's plenary assembly. By signing, Formentera pledges to work towards DDNSRS objectives.

According to Alejandra Ferrer, vice president and councillor of tourism, "Low levels of light pollution and unmatched landscapes and nature mean Formentera is the perfect place to discover and enjoy the night sky. Working towards certification as a 'Starlight' destination is a way to draw astronomy experts and amateurs and safeguard our nocturnal environment, land and landscapes – something residents can enjoy, too".

UNESCO and other international organisations are party to the DDNSRS, and backing it is crucial to obtaining "Starlight" certification. Among other commitments, Formentera pledges to support the right to an unpolluted night sky and enjoyment of the firmament, plus protections for a night sky at imminent risk. The DDNSRS urges administrations to join in tackling a challenge that requires not only cultural, technological and scientific innovation, but ongoing rediscovery of the night sky as a living part of our heritage and everyday culture.

According to the DDNSRN, awareness and education are key, and controls on light pollution are crucial to nature conservation policies. Landscape policies must also serve to defend the universal right to enjoy the sky.

Tourism can also be a powerful instrument to shape a new alliance to support quality night skies. Responsible tourism can and must integrate the night skyscape as a resource to be safeguarded and promoted at every destination.

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