

Russian Astronomers Complain Climate Change Is Clouding Night Skies

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Climate change is causing problems for Russia's astronomers, [one of Russia's top scientists has warned](#).

Yuri Balega, the director of the Russian Academy of Sciences' Special Astrophysical Observatory, said that increasingly volatile weather was making it more difficult for scientists at Russia's BTA-6 telescope to study the night skies.

"Over the past 30 to 40 years, weather conditions close to the BTA-6 telescope have worsened considerably," he said during a conference on Wednesday. "It seems like climate change could see off astronomers."

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Scientists are now struggling to work for more than two nights in a row due to increasingly frequent weather changes which clouded the sky, Balega said.

Seventy years ago, astronomers were often able to study unclouded skies for up to 15 days in a row, he said by comparison.

Russia's BTA-6 telescope was unveiled in 1975, taking the title of the world's largest telescope until 1993.

Located in southern Russia's Caucasus Mountains, it uses a mirror some six meters in diameter inside a 53-meter high dome.

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