

A balance of the centenary of the eclipse 1919 observations in Príncipe

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Abstract

During the eclipse of the 29th of May 1919, the Island of Príncipe, an island on the west coast of Africa, and Sobral, in Brazil, were the stage of historical astronomical observations undertaken by a group of astronomers led by Arthur Eddington in a joint expedition by the Royal Astronomical Society and the Royal Society. Those observations are a relevant milestone for the understanding of the Universe we have now, given that they allowed, for the first time, to experimentally confirm Einstein's Theory of General Relativity.

Eddington at Sundy: 100 years later (E@S) is undertaking the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the 1919 eclipse, promoting initiatives on a global scale, but also having the goal of being a cornerstone to create an historic and scientific legacy in São Tomé and Príncipe, especially at Roça Sundy. Based on an integrated programme oriented for Science, History of Science, Science Education and Science Outreach, we aim that the Santomean population gradually takes ownership and that the international community gets involved in the ephemerids per se and its sustainability as a landmark for science education and outreach in the island and adjacent countries. In this communication we intend to present a balance of the activities that took place in the framework of E@S project in Príncipe focused specially in May 2019, as well as to

make some considerations about the impact of this to the Príncipe Island inhabitants.