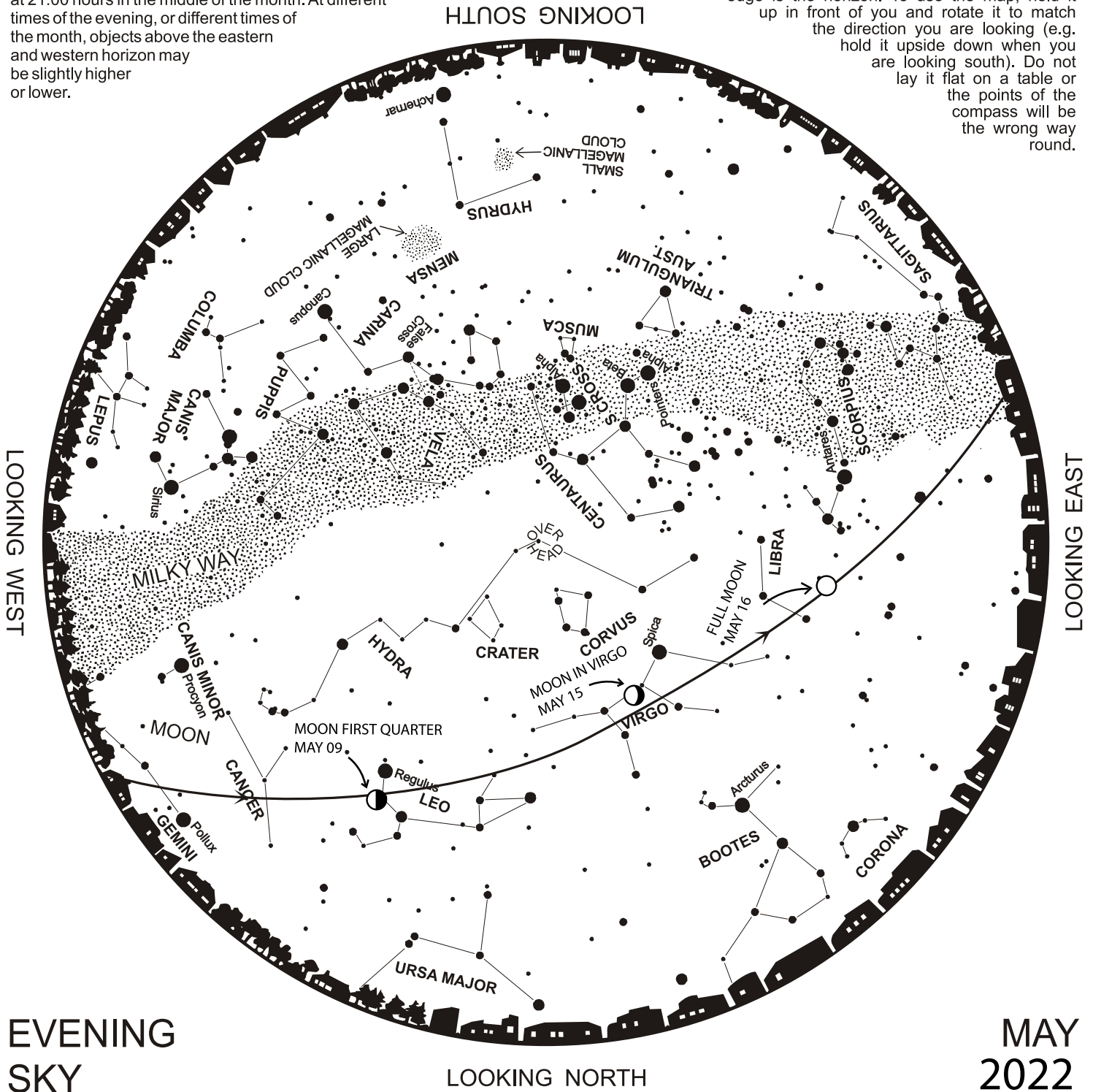


# IZIKO PLANETARIUM AND DIGITAL DOME

The map shows the night sky visible above the Cape at 21:00 hours in the middle of the month. At different times of the evening, or different times of the month, objects above the eastern and western horizon may be slightly higher or lower.

The centre of the map is the overhead point, the edge is the horizon. To use the map, hold it up in front of you and rotate it to match the direction you are looking (e.g. hold it upside down when you are looking south). Do not lay it flat on a table or the points of the compass will be the wrong way round.



## EVENING SKY

## MAY 2022

This month we say farewell to Orion (hunter) as it sets in the early evening and welcomes back the prominent winter constellations Scorpius (scorpion) and Sagittarius (archer) situated low on the eastern horizon. Try to observe where the path of the Milky Way appears to widen around these two constellations (requires dark conditions) – this region encompasses the Galactic centre. Hydra (water snake) passes overhead, surrounded by Corvus (crow), Centaurus (centaur) and Vela (sail).

Just south-west of Vela lies Carina (keel), and the bright star Canopus, also known as 'Nanga' or 'Naka' (the Horn Star) across Southern Africa.

According to Tswana tradition, the reappearance of Naka just before sunrise (at month end), heralds the coming of Winter and the need to start breeding sheep. In Sotho and Venda traditions, the person who first sighted Naka/Nanga in the morning was awarded a cow by their chief. This month South Africans will get the exciting opportunity to witness a total lunar eclipse, occurring on the morning of 16 May (05:29 – 06:54 SAST). The moon will appear in the evening sky from 3 to 21 May, with Full Moon on 16 May ('Frost Moon', see <https://cfah.org.za/fullmoon/> to find out more). Saturn, Mars, Jupiter and Venus are bright morning objects, appearing aligned in the eastern sky just before sunrise.