



CRUZIANA

GEOPARK NATURTEJO DA MESETA MERIDIONAL-EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL GEOPARK - MONTHLY REPORT

In this issue: – European Geoparks Conference in Finland – I International Birds Congress with a visit to the Geopark –Taejo Internacional Tourism Products – Grand Zêzere Trail opened – ...and more!!



Olá/Hola/Ciao/Bonjour/Γειά σου/Hallo/God Dag/Salut/Zdravo/Hello/Ahoj/Helo/Helló/ Hei

Geo-histories of our places and people: Espírito Santo

The notorious town of Nisa is located in a smooth hump between the streams of Nisa, by North, and of Figueiró, by South. Seen from far, stands out the white of the housings and the clock towers, which rise from a plain universe of holm and cork oak groves. Here the rocks are the border between the Granite of Nisa and the Schists of Beiras. The granite opened ways and crystalized itself within the Schists, 300 million years ago. From that hot and strong penetration, exhale nowadays radioactive products that made from the stain that spreads itself through Tarabau and Ladeira de Roma, towards and beyond the border with Spain, an important geological resource for Uranium and a natural hazard that it is important to monitor and know. The water that infiltrates in the soils and evaporates from them through the plants transforms the uranium minerals and favours its chemical status alteration, of the solid black or yellow and green, fluorescent crystals, to the radon gas with invisible prejudice that emanates from the rock fractures. The water flows in the Stream of Nisa, between granite boulders of high proportion, and is stopped occasionally by the Granite Dams of Poio and Racheiro, dated from 1932 which are part of the hydroelectric system of the Stream of Nisa with the Central of Bruceira built in 1924, one of the oldest ant still functioning in Portugal. Here exists an industrial heritage in prefect conservation state totally unknown.

From the medieval structure idealized in the reign of D. Dinis for the new Nisa, in 1290, grew towards South and outbound the new part of the town named as Espírito Santo. The ancient parish church was built in 1567, stating the growing period of those years. But the monumental heritage does not end here. Pretty close, across the street is located the intriguing Calvary Chapel, built a few years later. Already outsider from the urban space is located the Santo António Chapel, from the fourteenth Century, with its Calvary. The Fountain of Pipa is a national monument of Public Interest, dated of 1706. All these monuments diversify a visit through this beautiful small town of Alentejo. But there's more to discover and, also more ancient. The great Megalithic monuments abound in this landscape of granite boulders that rise from the sandy ground. In the road to Alpalhão, in Sarangonheiros, comes up one of the Naturtejo Geopark geomonuments: the Pedunculate Rocks. Here we'll find one of the cores that abound in the Granite of Nisa, between this point, Arez and Alpalhão. These are shapes that result from the chemical weathering of the granite rock over its fractures, whose evolution comes from the surface in which the top of the block is laid, and in depth, leads to the formation of these original stone mushrooms, sometimes enormous. The erosive exhumation sometimes isolates these blocks in the landscape, as well as others, but these ones stand out by the unusual balance above the soil, at times over a thin peduncle that connects them to the invisible subsoil. Among these natural granite forms there are others equally amazing which are not natural. Or at least they're not natural by their placement and actual location. This is the case of the menhir and the dolmens of Sarangonheiros, one of them with a truly remarkable size. Boulders that inspired the primitive people who took, transported and raised them in locations with patterns regulated by meanings that even nowadays are not completely understood.



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This is the case of Menhir of Patalou, which for more than six thousand years was part of a cult dedicated to this landscape, once again erected in its (almost) original position, as a symbolic mark of a lost culture communicating with the present days. From these Megalithic monuments stands out the Dolmen of S. Gens, national Monument and major reference from this region and from the core of four dolmens that exist in this area. The tumulus that covered the dolmen as long disappeared and S. Gens was Christianised with the construction of a Chapel dedicated to that saint, in the vicinities, and reused with the same ancestral funeral function in the medieval period.

Fulfilled the conditions for the development of a megalithic route in the Alentejo region in which Espírito Santo is located, either by the ongoing scientific study and its appreciation through the interpretation and public exhibition level, or through its touristic promotion through its appliance in regional and international routes, such is the case of the European Route of the Megalithic Culture, an initiative of the European Council from which Naturtejo Geopark is now an effective member, it's mandatory to know how to create a differentiating touristic product, how to integrate it with the available touristic offer at the town and in the Region, as well as in the UNESCO territory where it stands and shares with it the Geodiversity, Culture and Society subjects. In the spacy Republic Square, which breathes granite of Alpalhão and welcomes the visitor with a big embrace of affections, we'll find an excellent tourism office where is available all the info to organize a trip to the region, and where there will be no lack of info material concerning the Megalithic Route. Around the square, or in the vicinities, we'll find three simple accommodation units and several shops that highlight the handicraft so traditional of Nisa, the famous Cheese and the Stoned Pottery, among great diversity of artistic popular manifestations that Nisa was able to preserve. In the mid of the Flavours Route, it will be easy to find a restaurant or a snack bar that offers flavours admittedly local. Or even a workshop where can be experienced, under the wise look of a craftsman or woman, practices reinvented during centuries or millennia like the megalithic pottery. These are the best ways to discover landscapes with all this ancestry.

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The Editor
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Scientific Coordinator
Geologist

Frontpage: (Projecto Objectiva: Geopark)

ACTIVITIES OF THE MONTH



2 to 5 September – European Geoparks Conference in Finland During the last Meeting of the European Geoparks Network Coordination Committee, taken place in the Geopark Rokua, in Finland, Naturtejo Geopark saw renewed as Global Geopark, recognized by UNESCO, until September of 2019. This decision was debated and voted by unanimity by the representatives of the 65 European and UNESCO geoparks, based in the report of the rigorous evaluation mission that took place in July. The evaluation considered the developed work in the years 2011 to 2015 and also the ongoing projects. The conclusion was that the development plan of Naturtejo Geopark is being applied accordingly, in line with the principles and commitments signed when integrating the European and Global Geoparks, contributing for the sustained development of the territory.

In this meeting was also voted, by unanimity, the extension of Naturtejo Geopark, with the integration of Penamacor, having been recognized the work developed by the municipality in partnership with the Geopark, during more than a year and half to prepare a joint sustained development strategy that aims to appreciate and develop the territory.

According to Armindo Jacinto and Carlos Neto de Carvalho, representatives of Naturtejo Geopark in the European Geoparks Network Coordination Committee, these results only confirm the developed work in the territory since its integration in 2006, with the contribution of the technical staff, associates, partners, local agents and communities.

We remind that this is a crucial year for the geoparks, with the long waited approval of the Program «UNESCO Global Geoparks» during the UNESCO General Conference, in November, after already been validated by its Executive Board, in the past April. During the annual Conference were Naturtejo Geopark contributed with 4 talk that aimed to disclose the work that is being developed in, and by Naturtejo Geopark. Thus, Dr. Kejian Xu introduced the communication and interpretation project developed for the Global Geopark of Tianzhushan, and to which Naturtejo Geopark gave its contribution in the scope of the signed partnership between the two geoparks. In his turn, Paul Wylezol, coordinator of the International Appalachian Trail, introduced the example of Oleiros, in Naturtejo Geopark, for the confirmation of a community-based dynamics of a project that unites countries all over the margins of the North Atlantic. Carlos Neto de Carvalho introduced the digital marketing work that has been developed in Naturtejo Geopark, coordinated by Joana Rodrigues. At the end, Manuela Catana introduced the project “Discovering Almourão”. This communication in partnership with a local teacher, from the Institute of Sobreira Formosa (Proença-a-Nova), exposed an annual educational project that was being developed in partnership with that institution and Naturtejo Geopark, in the scope of the educational project “Anim'a Rocha”. This project has as result the creation of an educational tool made by the class students of the 11th grade, a board game named “Discovering Almourão”.



4 to 30 September – Travelling Exhibition “Portuguese Geoparks Forum” in Penamacor . The travelling exhibition about the Portuguese Geoparks, which has been throughout all the Naturtejo Geopark territory, was open to the general public during the month of September in Penamacor. Initially, it could be visited in the Council Hall building and later travelled to the Primary and Secondary School Ribeiro Sanches, welcoming everyone to the new School Year of 2015/2016.

This exhibition developed by the Portuguese geoparks with the support of the UNESCO National Commission, has been in circulation through the several geoparks in Portugal: Arouca, Azores and Lands of Knights. The exhibit aims to introduce the excellency of these heritages internationally recognized by UNESCO and the differentiating dynamics that are created around these resources, through new conservation strategies, development of new niches and implementation of new companies.

11 and 12 September – Baja TT Terras de Idanha . One more exciting edition of the Baja TT race took place in Idanha-a-Nova, a thrilling stage counting for the Off-road National Championship. According to the mayor, Armindo Jacinto, this is an event that brings plenty of visibility and lots of people to Idanha-a-Nova, who has the opportunity to meet this municipality with a significant geographic area and a remarkable natural and historical-cultural heritage”.



12 September – Penamacor discloses its geological heritage and Naturtejo Geopark. Penamacor saw recognized its natural, historical, cultural heritage and its sustained development strategy by the European and Global Geoparks Networks, under UNESCO auspices, recently taking part of Naturtejo Geopark.

Due to the importance of this occasion Penamacor is currently disclosing some information next to the local community and already has transmitted this information to the foreign community residing in the municipality. The presentation named "Integration of Penamacor Municipality in the Naturtejo Geopark" coordinated by Mariana Vilas Boas had as main goals to disclose the geological heritage of the municipality and the importance of being part of Naturtejo Geopark of the Meridional Meseta. This disclosure action ended with a guided tour in the Exhibition Ab Initio – Geologically, a fascinating journey through the Geological History of the Penamacor Municipality, displayed in the Municipal Museum of Penamacor from Abril of 2015 to Abril of 2016.



23 to 27 September – I International Birds Congress. The I International Congress «The Birds in Natural History, in Pre-History and in History (Origin, Evolution and Domestication) » was hosted by the Portuguese Geo-History and Pre-History Centre, in Lisbon. This congress aimed to reunite, with the goal of sharing knowledge, investigators that have been working about the origin, evolution and usage of birds by Men. It was intended mostly for palaeontologists, archaeologists and historians.

Birds, with more than 10 000 living species, are the most successful group of vertebrates, overcoming any others, by their abundance and diversity, either in the present or in the past. Birds are extraordinary animals, either by their physiognomy, by the colour of their feathers, their ability to fly, but also because their evolutionary history. In fact, birds are truly dinosaurs, since in the modern taxonomic organization, birds and dinosaurs share the same evolution branch: the branch of the Dinosauria.

The birds appear represented in the arts of several cultures, from Pre-History to nowadays: in the rock art, in pottery, in sculpture, in the mosaics and in paintings. On the other hand, bird feathers were also used since Pre-History as adornments: recent studies show that already the Neanderthals used feathers of corvids to adorn their body. Such as many other animals, the birds also appear linked to several mythologies, even appearing with divine features within some civilizations, such is the case of Ancient Egypt, in which the white ibis was considered the incarnation of the God Thoth.

Naturtejo Geopark was one of the supporter entities of this congress, which had its congress trip visiting the Natural Monument of Portas de Ródão and Foz do Enxarrique, two protected places of national relevance. Carlos Neto de Carvalho attended in the communication coordinated by Silvério Figueiredo concerning the first fossilized trails of bird footprints found in Portugal.



23 September – Meeting for the European Chart of Sustainable Tourism . Penamacor is developing an application for the European Chart of Sustainable Tourism, together with the municipalities of Sabugal and Almeida, covering four Protected and Classified Areas, the Natural Reserve of the Malcata Mountain, the Place of Community Interest Malcata and the Special Protection Area of the Malcata Mountain in Natura 2000 and part of Naturtejo Geopark.

The institutional partners in the territory and the economic and social agents linked to the tourism sector of the Malcata territory are working together in the development of a strategy. Took place in Penamacor a Municipal Meeting with public and private agents of this territory, where were identified the Performing Guidelines that can reduce or enhance the positive aspects that condition the tourism offer in the region. Mariana Vilas Boas and Joana Rodrigues represented Naturtejo Geopark thus giving their contribution for the Action Plan.



23 September – School of Nisa in the Fossils Trail of Penha Garcia. Attended in this field class, 27 students of the Courses of Environmental and Rural Tourism and Gardening, from the Institute of Employment and Vocational Training of Nisa, followed by 2 teachers. The activity took place in the scope of the units: Systematic of Living Beings, Dynamic of the Ecosystems and Environmental Education. The monitor was Manuela Catana.



25 September – App “Conocer con Taejo”. The Library of Castelo Branco welcome the public introduction of the Application “Conocer con Taejo”, in the scope of the Trans-border Cooperation Program between Spain and Portugal, funded by FEDER, in which Naturtejo Geopark is a partner. This project contemplates the social-economic promotion and development of the International Tejo-Tajo Park, the first European international natural park, whose Portuguese section is totally integrated in Naturtejo Geopark. “Conocer con Taejo” is a Mobile Application developed with the aim of capacitate and improve the professional skills of the agents connected to the sectors of tourism, trade and handcraft, in this natural trans-border space. The Application is formed by 10 Training Units of different knowledge areas, and can be found in the website www.conocercontaejo.es. It is easy to use, even for those who are not familiar with e-learning environments.

This is an interactive tool, with a very appealing and accessible layout, which was designed in an adventures way, where goals are being overcome and the trainee is the hero, winning his insignia, as he acquires some skills. The info is introduced in a clear and assertive way, with activities, covering the areas of Communication, Management, Languages and Trade Area. As the businessman is progressing in its training will become available some bonuses such as, for example, strategies of conflict resolution.



26 September – Grand Trail of the Zêzere River opened.

26 September – Grand Trail of the Zêzere River opened. It was opened the Grand Trail of Zêzere (GR33), a hiking trail with 370Km that follows the Zêzere river since its Spring in the Estrela Mountain to the River Mouth in Constância, covering 13 municipalities. In Naturtejo Geopark this Trail crosses the municipality of Oleiros for 55km, passing through magnificent scenarios in the Zêzere valley such as the Zêzere Gorge or the impressive Meanders, the Schist Village of Álvaro, or the river beaches.

This is a multimodal trail that can be ranged on foot, on bicycle and on kayak, existing intermodal stations in Álvaro and Cambas, which allow to the users to change the means of transportation, such as the Intermodal Station of Cambas, placed in the River Beach and is one multifunctional structure that allows to the trial users to rotate their travelling ways during the course without leaving the trail to switch the used equipment. In this special day several professional athletes, internationally recognized, ran and pedal during the Oleiros section, in a relay stage from the Spring to the river mouth, passing hand in hand the water of the river.



29 September – Tourism Products of Tæjo Internacional. In the Diputación de Cáceres, Spain, were introduced tourism products that result from the trans-border project Tæjo Internacional, in which Naturtejo Geopark is partner, aiming to improve the offer and quality of tourism in this international protected area. The Journeys opened with Rosario Cordero, President of the Diputación de Cáceres and Armindo Jacinto, Mayor of the Idanha-a-Nova Municipality and Naturtejo Geopark.

After the introduction in Portugal, was introduced in Spain the Application “Conocer con Tæjo”, a set of training actions to mobile applications intended for businessman. The aim of this project is to bestow the skills of the human resources in the tourism companies, through the acquisition of knowledges and the development of methodologies applied in the service provision.

It was also introduced the Tourism Interpretation Plan of the Tæjo Internacional, contemplating an exhaustive analysis of equipment for public usage, of interpretative materials and promotion of the territory, as well as a systematic inventory of the touristic offer, considering the new demands and market offers.

In these Journeys attended José María Barrera, responsible for the Tourism Section of the Diputación de Cáceres and Chair of the Geopark Villuercas, in Extremadura, Armindo Jacinto and Joana Rodrigues represented Naturtejo Geopark.



IMPACT OF GEOPARK IN MEDIA

TV & Radio

4 September (Porto Canal) - Naturtejo Geopark revalidates the UNESCO seal and integrates the municipality of Penamacor

4 September (Beira Baixa TV) – Penamacor takes part from now on: UNESCO recognizes Naturtejo Geopark

14 September (Rádio Cova da Beira) – Penamacor integrates Naturtejo

24 September (Local Visão) – Penamacor already integrates Naturtejo Geopark

Newspapers & www

September (Jornal de Oleiros) – Geology in Summer in Portas de Almourão

September (Jornal de Oleiros) – Revalidated the UNESCO seal for Naturtejo Geopark for four more years

2 September (Gazeta do Interior) – Archaeological Field in Proença-a-Nova

3 September (Reconquista) – Penamacor enters in the Geopark

3 September (Reconquista) – In search for gold in Ocreza

4 September (Visão) – Naturtejo Geopark revalidates the UNESCO seal and integrates the municipality of Penamacor

4 September (Correio da Manhã) - Naturtejo Geopark revalidates the UNESCO seal and integrates the municipality of Penamacor

4 September (Diário Digital de Castelo Branco) – Penamacor already integrates Naturtejo Geopark and UNESCO revalidated its seal

4 September (www.noticiasominuto.com) – Naturtejo Geopark revalidates the UNESCO seal and integrates the new municipality

4 September (BeiraNews) – Naturtejo Geopark revalidates the UNESCO seal and integrates the municipality of Penamacor

4 September (capeiarraiana.pt) – Penamacor in Naturtejo Geopark

5 September (Observador) – Naturtejo Geopark revalidates the UNESCO seal

8 September (www.netcentro.pt) – Penamacor integrates Naturtejo Geopark

9 September (Povo da Beira) – Exhibition AB INITIO in Penamacor

9 September (Povo da Beira) – Revalidated the UNESCO seal for Naturtejo Geopark for four more years

10 September (Gazeta do Interior) – International Assembly approves: Penamacor confirmed in the Geopark

11 September (Reconquista) – Archaeological Field of Proença-a-Nova: “Unique” findings in the expedition

11 September (Reconquista) – Since the beginning of this month: Penamacor already integrates Naturtejo Geopark

25 September (Povo da Beira) – Penamacor Exhibition “Portuguese Geoparks Forum” until the end of the month

SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE GEOPARK AND THE GEOSCIENCES



- BAYET-GOLL, A., NETO DE CARVALHO, C., MAHMUDY-GHARAEI, M. & NADAF, R. – Ichnology and sedimentology of a shallow marine Upper Cretaceous depositional system (Neyzar Formation, Kopet-Dagh, Iran): palaeoceanographic influence on ichnodiversity. *Cretaceous Research*, 56, 628-646.
- FIGUEIREDO, S., NETO DE CARVALHO, C. & BELO, J. – Novos dados acerca das pegadas de aves dos eolianitos do Plistocénico Superior da Ilha do Pessegueiro (SW de Portugal): interpretações tafonómicas e taxonómicas resultantes do levantamento 3D. I Congresso Internacional As Aves na História Natural, Pré-História e História, Livro de Resumos, Biblioteca Nacional, Lisboa, 23 a 27 e Setembro, 13.
- FERREIRA, A. F. & CATANA, M. - Educational Programme Anim'A Rocha at Naturtejo Geopark: Discovering Almourão. *European Geoparks Conference Abstracts Book*, Rokua Geopark, Finland, 3-6 September, 48.
- WYLEZOL, P. & NETO DE CARVALHO, C. – Trans-Atlantic Geo-partnership: International Appalachian Trail partner with European Geoparks to promote Geotourism. *European Geoparks Conference Abstracts Book*, Rokua Geopark, Finland, 3-6 September, 80.
- RODRIGUES, J. & NETO DE CARVALHO, C. – Digital Marketing in Naturtejo Global Geopark. *European Geoparks Conference Abstracts Book*, Rokua Geopark, Finland, 3-6 September, 100.
- XU, K., NETO DE CARVALHO, C., LI, Z., CUI, Z. & YU, G. – Tianzhushan Global Geopark: new ideas for interpreting geoheritage. *European Geoparks Conference Abstracts Book*, Rokua Geopark, Finland, 3-6 September, 107.

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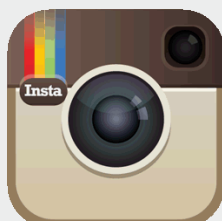
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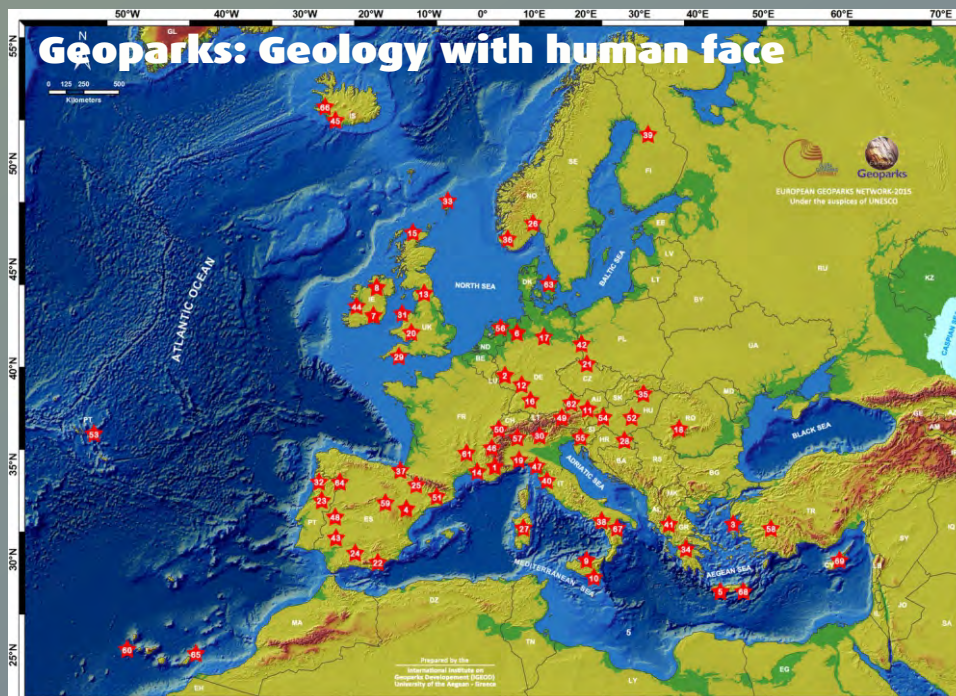
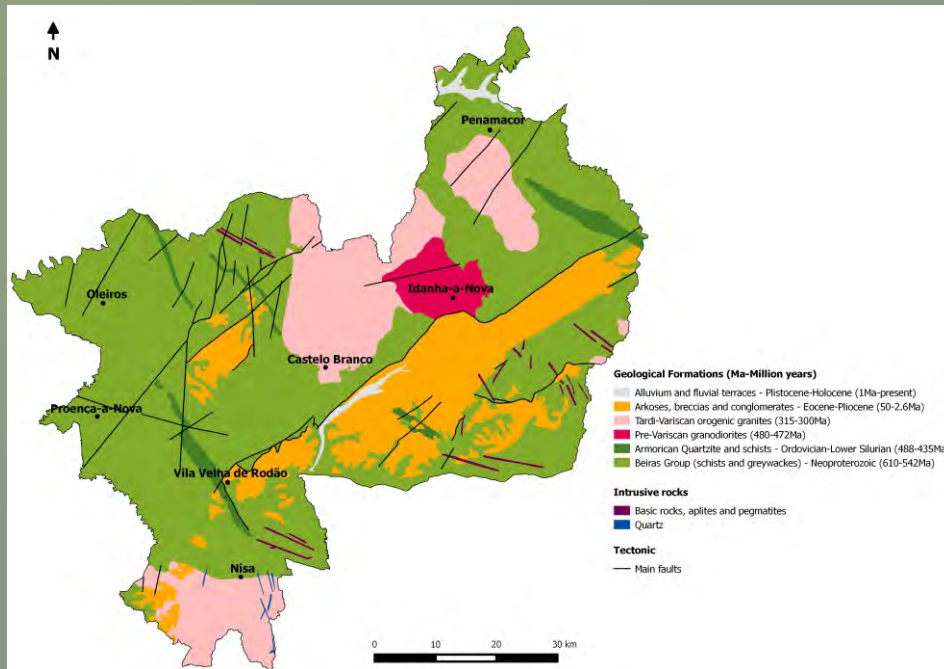
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