



# CRUZIANA

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

**In this issue:** - I Asparagus, Mushrooms and Truffles Festival; Portuguese Forum of Geoparks launched; Holy Week is in the Geopark!; III TTransGeopark – environment and sustainability...and more!



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

The Landscape Festival 2011 is ready! Celebrations of the European Geoparks Week spread for two months in Naturtejo Geopark. During this large period celebrating our geocultural landscape, several organizations, from municipalities and villages, schools, social and environmental associations, to companies give hands to offer the best and the most traditional of a wide territory where diversity and innovation play every day. 27 events were selected for this year Landscape Festival, which was considered one of the 5 most important dates from the tourism calendar of the Centre of Portugal. In the year that Portugal celebrates 100 years of tourism and the International Year of the Forest, Naturtejo Geopark join to the organization partners to strength its national importance for tourism development and nature protection in Portugal. Local revivals of a rich historical past get an important role during the Landscape Festival, with the Medieval Fair of Monsanto and the exhibition about the mining history of Segura village, both in Idanha-a-Nova, to the Renaissance Fair of Oleiros. But traditions cannot be fossilized, as it is presented by the Soup Festival of Proença-a-Velha, the Lamb Festival of Rosmanihal or the Goat Fair of Proença-a-Nova. In a region where Nature rules, sport has privileged sites such as the GeoTrail of Orvalho, the Nature Sports Festival of Zebreira, the Trails of Estreito, or the homage to the most important star by "Wake up the Sun" at the Talhadas mountains. The schools contribute decisively for their regions, moving beyond and taking the youngest generations to make their own interpretations and choices for the lands they live: this is the case of the Pedro da Fonseca School with the "Travel across the Earth bones" and the school contest "Natural Resources for Sustainability" aimed for the Geoparks' schools. But nature conservation follows the daily needs of the local people. It is worthwhile to look for Salvaterra do Extremo to vibrate with the Music Eco-festival Save the Earth and to discover living fossils during the Forest Clubs District Meeting, at Orvalho. The search for sustainability need common practices and behaviors, through festivities that mark the annual cycle of communities: the Fair of Vila Velha de Ródão is dedicated this year to Renewable Energies and attracts, once more, dozens of thousands of visitors. For the great final, a special dinner in the Earth Flavors, expected to be rich in geological experiences and in geologists, with a world tour through photography and the personal experiences of the participants. And who knows, a new dimension for the interpretation of the wonderful landscape of the Naturtejo Geopark will be uncovered. A new dimension for this Landscape Festival. Why not to include the whole Geopark in just one shot? Why not?...

# ACTIVITIES OF THE MONTH



**1st and 2nd of April – School from Vila Viçosa at the Geopark.** 22 pupils and 7 teachers from Vila Viçosa High School traveled by the Naturtejo Geopark for two days. They visited the fossils of Penha Garcia and the granite landforms of Monsanto with João Gerales, and slept at the Youth Hostel of Idanha-a-Nova. Next day, they went to Portas de Ródão Natural Monument by boat and finally they visited the Environmental Interpretation Centre of Castelo Branco.

**2nd April – Culture and Science.** In the frame of the programme “Culture and Science in the Geopark”, the tour operator Ninfatur brought 41 people to visit the historical village of Monsanto, where they got lunch with local products, and the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia, through the Fossils Trail.

**2nd April – Clube Aventura in the Geopark.** The team of Naturtejo Geopark prepared a special lunch, with local asparagus and wild mushrooms, for 245 participants of the 29th Raid Portugal, at the sanctuary of the Lady of Loreto (Alcafozes).



**2nd to 3rd April – Festival of Asparagus, Mushrooms and Truffles .** During this weekend, the village of Alcafozes was crowded with people for the 1st Festival dedicated to local forest products, with the support of Naturtejo Geopark. These truffles *Terfezia arenaria* and the mushroom *Boletus*, are found in the region and very abundant at the springtime, being used in the local cuisine. This event included taverns for tasting these wild products, gastronomic mushrooms, the thematic visit “Earth delicacies” for identification of mushroom species, live cooking and lots of fun. It is worth to mention the asparagus with eggs, very traditional from this area, which is now candidate to the 7 Gastronomical Wonders of Portugal.





**2nd and 3rd April – Former university colleagues meet in the Geopark.** During two days, a group of former students from the graduation of 1974 in civil engineer, made in Angola, met together for their annual party. The visit programme included the Boulders Trail, with lunch over the Meseta Meridional at the Petiscos & Granitos GeoRestaurant, the Historical Village of Idanha-a-Velha and the Festival of Asparagus, Mushrooms and Truffles. The group was guided by Joana Rodrigues, João Geraldês and Stephanie Amado.



**12th April – Field training for rangers of the Geopark.** In this period full of visits to Naturtejo territory, the new acquisitions for the Geopark team were trained by Joana Rodrigues in two of the most famous trails: the Fossils Trail and the Boulders Trail. These rangers will guide visits and/or prepare tour packages or provide information and need to be well prepared about the trails and also to know the equipments available. This field training day was a first approach for learning and sharing ideas about the territory.





**13th April – Students from Tourism Management in the Fossils Trail.** 3 teachers and 15 students from Tourism Management Course of the Management School of Idanha-a-Nova were in the Fossils Trail for the class of Itineraries and Tours. The aim of this visit was the analysis of a thematic trail, with the discussion of existing infrastructures and equipments available, highlights of the trail, the landscape setting, the structure of the trail, for finding the strengths and weaknesses. In this visit conducted by Joana Rodrigues, two new rangers have started: Stephanie Amado: finalist from the Master in Tourism of the Université de Angers (France) and Sara Canilho, geologist, both doing probation in Naturtejo. The visit finished with a lunch prepared by the students where the importance of Naturtejo Geopark, the trails and tourism packages were discussed.

**15 et 16 avril – Apprendre l'Art.** 26 Spanish professors of Classic Art came to discover some of the most important references on history and architecture of the Geopark. They appreciated the Roman and Visigoth ruins of Idanha-a-Velha, protected as National Monument, the Francisco Tavares Proença Júnior Museum and the Baroque Bishop Palace's Garden, at Castelo Branco.

**18th to 23rd April – Walking by the Geopark.** 3 Dutch friends have crossed the Geopark in our programme “Walking by the Geopark” with Oliva tour operator, using the signaled trails and the excellent accommodation available.

**18th April – Signed the agreement for the Portuguese Forum of Geoparks .** The UNESCO National Commission, the Geopark Naturtejo Meseta Meridional and the Arouca Geopark celebrated among them the agreement for the Portuguese Forum of Geoparks – PFG, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the presence of mayors of both territories, the president of Naturtejo, Armindo Jacinto, the president of the National Commission for UNESCO and the State Secretary of Foreign Affairs, João Cravinho.

The implementation of the PFG, an initiative similar to other already developed national fora under the auspices of UNESCO, constitutes a platform to strength partnership, to increase the exchange of experiences and to define common conditions, methods and scopes of work for the future and will be open to new Portuguese geoparks that may be included in the European and Global Geoparks networks. As the main aims, the Portuguese Geoparks Forum has the purpose of coordinate common initiatives of the Portuguese members of the European and Global Geoparks networks; to promote the development of new Geoparks in Portugal and to provide technical and scientific know-how to new national applications to the international networks of Geoparks; to promote new projects for raising awareness of the Geological Heritage, at a national level; to promote the international networks of Geoparks (EGN/GGN), using different communication tools; to develop a cooperation with other national fora, in particular with the Spanish Forum, aiming a closer articulation with the “Iberian Forum of Geoparks”; to promote initiatives of cooperation, by the principles of the EGN/GG Charta and aims of the PFG, with the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries.

**19th to 23rd April – Fossils Trail and the Portas de Ródão Boat Trip .** During the days just before Easter, Naturtejo Geopark received a family of 3, one of them an 8 years old child. Very interested on fossils, they made the Fossils Trail of Penha Garcia almost all the time under rain showers. In the next day they made the boat trip in the Tejo river, crossing the ever imposing Portas de Ródão. Sailing to Ribeiro do Vale, they watched the biodiversity of the place and, coming back to Porto do Tejo, they found a Griffon Vultures nest in the quartzite scarps. The family ended that morning in the Schist Village of Foz do Cobreão, with a lunch at the restaurant Vale Mourão. The guides of this programme were Joana Rodrigues and João Geraldês.

**21st to 24th April – Holy Week with plenty of Spanish tourists I.** The tour operator Tierra Fuego brought 14 people to walk by the Geopark with João Geraldês.

**21st to 24th April –Holy Week with plenty of Spanish tourists II.** The tour operator Mundo Amigo brought 21 people to visit some of the outstanding places of the Geopark, with Fátima Rodrigues and Stephanie Amado.

**21st to 24th April –Holy Week with plenty Spanish tourists III.** The tour operator Arawak brought 56 people to walk by the best trails of Geopark, with Tiago Oliveira and José Capinha.



**27th to 29th April – 5th Spring Festival da Primavera in the schools of Idanha-a-Nova.** Naturtejo Geopark together with the Educational Service of Idanha-a-Nova organized a workshop on arts dedicated to the International Year of the Forest. This workshop was integrated in the Annual Project “The trees and the rocks of our School”. 85 pupils from the kindergarten, 110 pupils from the primary school and 70 pupils from the middle school belonging to the Schools Group of Idanha-a-Nova, to the kindergartens of the Mercy of Idanha-a-Nova and Mascal of Ladoeiro. The pupils painted the trees that were previously made and developed a fruit tree using paper and candies. The workshop was developed by technicians from Idanha-a-Nova.





**27th April – Discovering the fossils from Penha Garcia and the granites of Monsanto.** The Miramar College of Mafra visited Naturtejo Geopark. 62 students and 4 teachers from the class of Biology and Geology, 10th to 12th grades. They learned in the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia and in the Monsanto Inselberg, with Manuela Catana and Sara Canilho.



**28th to 29th April – By the Portas de Ródão Natural Monument and the lands of Idanha.** The D. Manuel I High School from Beja went for Naturtejo Geopark during two days, in the scope of the class of Biology and Geology from the 10th grade. In the first day, 48 students and 4 teachers visited Portas de Ródão Natural Monument by boat. They stopped to know more about Conhal do Arneiro Roman Gold Mine and turned back by kayak, having João Geraldês as the ranger of this Great adventure. In the second day, the students visited the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia with Manuela Catana and, by the afternoon, the Monsanto inselberg.





### **30th Abril to 1st May - III TTransGeopark - Nature and sustainability in a friendly environment .**

The III TTransGeopark will be remembered by more than 25 participants of this tourist offroad that is different for its educational and environmental attitude and for the excellent, friendly partnership. This adventure started early in the morning in the castle of the village of Amieira do Tejo where participants were warmly welcomed by the locals which provided a fantastic breakfast with local products, such as fresh cheese and the fresh-made cake called "boleima". It is worth to mention that this meal was generously prepared by volunteers for the participants that traveled more than 300 km, from Lisbon and Oporto, to be on time. The "Alentejo" stage took the cars by tracks to Vila Velha de Rodão, passing by the nice villages of Falagueira and Montes Claros, where the guide of this trip, Carlos Neto de Carvalho, remembered the environmental damages and long-term costs that could result from Uranium ore exploitation in those landscapes so close to Nisa. The small group of cars reached Vila Velha de Rodão by the left border of Tejo river. Just getting Beiras a diverse pic-nic was served by Casa do Forno. During the afternoon participants had the alternative of changing vehicle for a boat and go up Tejo, taking more time for relaxing and watching birds. The group followed the tracks in the middle of the "montado" cork oak forest until Monforte da Beira where not even the strong rain showers kept the enthusiasm of the participants in visiting the iron mines from the Iron Age, a very exciting geomonument. In Monforte da Beira, well known by the quality of the olive oil, Mr. António Abílio kindly opened the doors of his olive oil press and led the people taste and buy the golden liquid. After a road connection to Salvaterra do Extremo, the village where Casa do Forno is, the crew of each car became the godparents of, and planted, a cork tree under the moon with the acknowledged help of José Joaquim, in land generously offered by "Ti Valente". In this way they can follow, year after year, the compensation for 980kg of CO<sub>2</sub> released by the car since they left home for this trip, and returned. The well deserved dinner was served with the main course of Risotto of Bones enthusiastically appreciated with an excellent Quinta da Arrancada local red wine. During the evening, the smuggler José Joaquim caught the attention of everyone with his stories ...

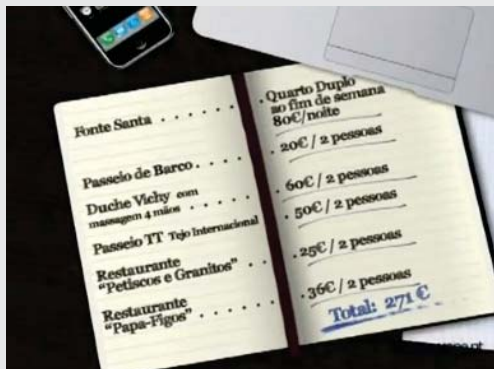
The morning of the second day was less rainy and the caravan went to Segura following the Erges river. In this village Mr. Matias was waiting, the last miner from the old mines of tin, barite and lead of Segura Mining Company. Guided by this master, the visit went to the main shaft, where everyone could listen the exciting stories of a time when life was earned underground. The cars moved to Monsanto, passing by lands of rosemary at Toulões and climbing the steep tracks of Murracha, where the difficulties became more intense. Finally, the travelers arrived to the Holy Mountain. In the Geo-Restaurant Petiscos & Granitos, a fabulous lunch was served in the balcony-viewpoint until 17h, enlarged by the friendship.



Casa do Forno and Naturtejo counted once more with the local resources, personalities and companies, giving the example of cooperation for the benefit of the region, minimizing the ecological footprint of an event with a growing number of people enthusiastic with this sustainable concept of offroad. The presence of specialized media during the whole event has shown an excellent support of this social and environmentally responsible way of crossing territories. New surprises and better places are expected for the next year edition.

### SIC Notícias "Escape the best destinations in Portugal"

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ij5ZOPCQnOE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ij5ZOPCQnOE)





# GEOPARK'S IMPACT IN MEDIA

## Newspapers & www

January-June – ADUFE – Cultural Magazine of Idanha-a-Nova n. 18

April (AutohojeTT&Aventura) – Lovers of Geology!

April (Raiano)– Water, Culture and Heritage – The International Day of Monuments and Sites

April (Raiano – cover page)– 1st Asparagus, Mushrooms and Truffles Festival

April (Ensino Magazine) – Ensino Magazine and Naturtejo raffle “By the Routes of the Geopark”

April (Oleiros Magazine) – Álvaro bid for tourism

April (Oleiros Magazine) – Geopark promotes the municipality of Oleiros

5th April (Povo da Beira) – “Water, Culture and Heritage” – Naturtejo Geopark celebrates Day of Monuments and Sites

6th April (Gazeta do Interior) – National Contest 7 Wonders of Gastronomy – Beira Baixa delicacies try to get the vote stage

6th April (Gazeta do Interior) – Gastronomic Festival of roast goatling and “maranho” – So tasty that needs to know how to eat

6th April (Gazeta do Interior) – Idanha sells health in traditional recipes with land products

7th April (Reconquista – cover page) – City hosts the 10th June

7th April (Reconquista) –Tourism grows more than 100 per cent

7th April (Reconquista) – Naturtejo Geopark celebrates the Day of Monuments and Sites – Water, Culture and Heritage

7th April (Reconquista) – Watching Zêzere from Álvaro

11th April (www.presstur.com) – Naturtejo Geopark promotes Easter

13th April (Gazeta do Interior) –Creepy traditions in the nights of lent

13th April (Gazeta do Interior) – International Course in July, at Idanha

13th April (Gazeta do Interior) – International Day of Monuments and Sites – Naturtejo Geopark in the water route

13th April (Gazeta do Interior) – 10th June brings global visibility and more movement to the city

14th April (Reconquista) – Roast goatling and “maranhos” in Oleiros – Festival starts Saturday

14th April (Reconquista) – Álvaro wants camping and quay for boats

18th April (www.ubi.pt) – Open class “Strategies for promotion of the tourist product Naturtejo Geopark”

21st April (Reconquista) – “Save the Earth” helps volunteership

21st April (Reconquista) – In Oleiros – Easter with a special flavor

27th April (Gazeta do Interior) –Festival of Flowers in the Aldeia de Santa Margarida

28th April (Reconquista) – Solidarity defends wildlife

28th April (Reconquista) – Flowers return to Santa Margarida

30th April (O Ribatejo) – Meet Tejo on foot from Lisbon to the borderland with Spain





# GEOPARK'S IMPACT IN MEDIA

## TV

3rd, 4th and 7th de Abril - SIC Notícias "Escape the best destinations in Portugal"  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=lJ5ZOPCQnOE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lJ5ZOPCQnOE)

23rd April – RTP1 talkshow Portugal no Coração – Interview to Armindo Jacinto on Easter in the Naturtejo Geopark

23rd April – RTP1 Portugal em Directo news – Festival of the roasted goatling and Oleiros in the Naturtejo Geopark

24th April – RTP1 morning news - Festival of the roasted goatling and Oleiros in the Naturtejo Geopark

## Radio

April – TSF – "Terra-a-Terra" talk show on the "Energy of Water" with an interview to Carlos Neto de Carvalho



## **SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR GEOSCIENCES**

Fermeli, G., Steininger, F., Meléndez, G., Dermitzakis, M., Calonge, A., D'Arpa, C., Patti, C.; Koutsouveli, A., Neto de Carvalho, C. & Rodrigues, J. (2011). Geoschools - Teaching geosciences in secondary schools. Geophysical Research Abstracts, Vol. 13, EGU2011-13249-3

Schobbenhaus, C. (2010). Relatório da Viagem a Portugal – Geoparques Arouca e Naturtejo. Serviço Geológico do Brasil – CPRM, 47 pp.

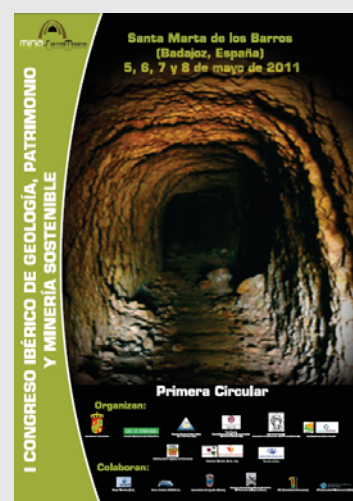
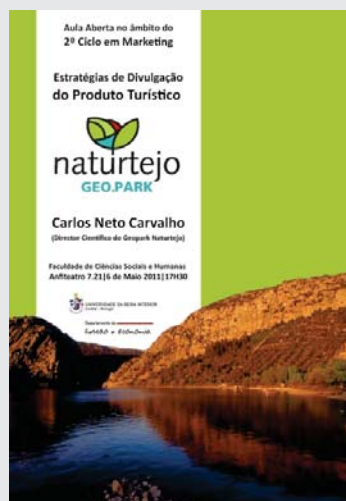




# PROMOTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC



[www.fundaciongeoparquesdevenezuela.blogspot.com](http://www.fundaciongeoparquesdevenezuela.blogspot.com)



[www.minasdesantamarta.com](http://www.minasdesantamarta.com)



[www.naturtejo.com](http://www.naturtejo.com)



[www.europeangeoparks.org/issue/page/231,1,0.asp?](http://www.europeangeoparks.org/issue/page/231,1,0.asp?)



# PROMOTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC



## Encontro Distrital PROSEPE de Castelo Branco 2011 Orvalho (Oleiros), 4 de Maio

### Programa

- 10h00 Boas vindas no Auditório da Junta de Freguesia do Orvalho
- 10h10 Apresentação das actividades realizadas ao longo do ano por cada um dos clubes (10 minutos para cada)
- 11h00 Desafio *Floresta Autóctone*, na GeoRota do Orvalho
- 13h00 Almoço pic-nic na Cascata da Fraga da Água d'Alta
- 14h00 Entrega de prémios comemorativos e eleição do Clube de Floresta do Ano, Auditório da Junta de Freguesia do Orvalho
- 14h50 Fim do programa



28 MAIO'11  
INSERIDO NA SEMANA EUROPEIA DOS GEOPARQUES

# GEOROTA DO ORVALHO

## 6º PASSEIO PEDESTRE

**ORGANIZAÇÃO:**  
Junta de Freguesia do Orvalho  
www.jf-orvalho.pt

**CONTACTOS:**  
272 746 299  
FREGUESIAORVALHO@GMAIL.COM  
INSCRIÇÕES LIMITADAS ATE 300 PESSOAS  
10€/PESSOA

**PROGRAMA:**  
15:00 INÍCIO DO PERCURSO NA JUNTA DE FREGUESIA DE ORVALHO  
17:00 LANCHE E... SURPRESAS!  
19:00 JANTAR MEDIEVAL

**APÓIOS:**  
oleiros, naturtejo, planeterra

**ANIMAÇÃO:**  
MÚSICA ( COM CAIXAS E INSTRUMENTOS DE SOPRO )  
BAIARINA ( COM NÚMERO DE FOGO-CORRENTES E GARRAS )  
GRUPO DE ESPADAS  
APRESENTAÇÃO DE ARMARIAS DA ÉPOCA  
EXERCÍCIO DE ENGRANA SIMPLÉS DE GRUPO  
COMBATE APEADO  
COMBATE DE ESPADAS COM FOGO.

IV PASSEIO PEDESTRE

# PINHAL TOTAL

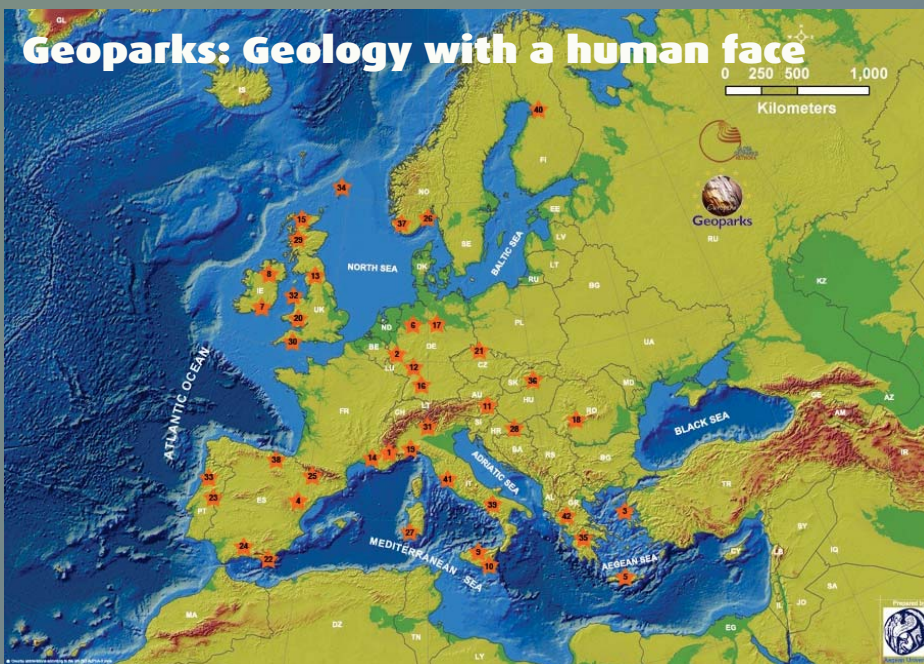
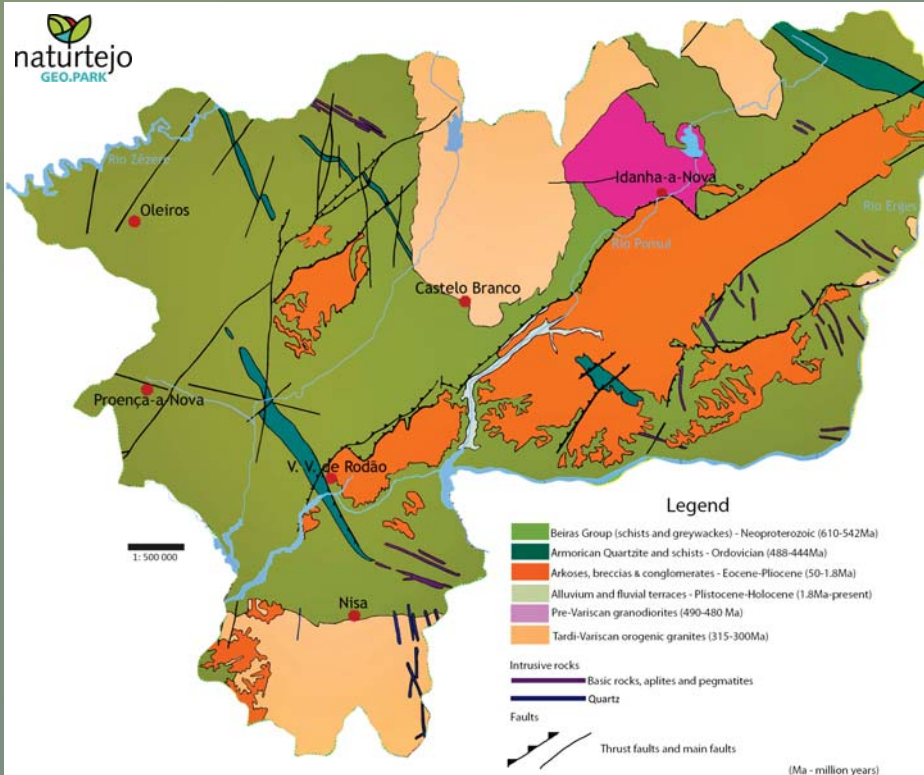
TODOS COM A FLORESTA  
OLEIROS 15.05.11

9:00H  
Recepção Junto à Câmara Municipal de Oleiros.

**APÓIO LOGÍSTICO**  
Centro de Saúde  
Bombeiros Voluntários de Oleiros  
Agrupamento 1088 do CNE

**INSCRIÇÕES**  
pinhaltotal.com  
info@pinhaltotal.com  
Posto de Turismo de Oleiros  
Centro de Saúde de Oleiros





**CRUZIANA**

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