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# CRUZIANA

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

**In this issue:** - II Geotourism National Congress of Venezuela: strengthening Geopark projects – Landscape Festival already moves thousands – In the Centenary of the Tourism in Portugal: Geotourism takes place – International Workshop brings Berkeley to the Geopark ...and a lot more!



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

It is consensual to say that the II National Congress of Geotourism from Venezuela, held in Yaracuy, was a historical moment for the development of the Geotourism in this country. With a professional organization comparable with any international event of the kind and taking from the scientific experience of Fundación Geoparques de Venezuela, almost 250 participants, coming from several countries and Venezuelan states, and from the most diverse fields of knowledge and society, shared ideas and best practices in a truly democratic environment, in the high-quality Jacobo Ramírez theatre, with a professional organization by the team of CORYATUR, chaired by Egilda Figueredo with evident proud.

The Congress was absolutely clear. Geotourism is more than a very specialized tourism niche, it is a new relationship established between Man and Nature, for the benefit of a more equal, responsible society, with more opportunities. Geoparks are instruments for territorial planning and management, based on valuing natural heritage and cultural identity, according to local community needs, the one clearly presented for this State of Yaracuy by the Governor Julio León. When talking about geoparks, we do not speak just about rocks or geological heritage, but about people and how they interact with environment in an organized and sustainable way, for their own benefit.

The strategic vision of the Governor Julio León, with the results that we could analyze during our visit, anticipates a very promising future for Yaracuy, and the development of the tourism sector by president Egilda, that shows clear results in so short period, define a powerful strategy in strengthening a diversified set of tourist products with the potential this State possesses, from the Coffee culture to the monumental heritage. A Geopark may bring to the State of Yaracuy, with the experience Fundación Geoparques de Venezuela has been accumulating in the last years, by working and meeting "in loco" geoparks from all over the world, is the increasing knowledge of the territory, a more conscience of communities for valuing what belongs to them, a personal following up and a more efficient response to the potencial geological hazards that shaped the history of the region and the city San Felipe. A Geopark in Yaracuy may definitely contribute for diversification of high-standards tourist offer, by the development of the projects Aroa and Nirgua mines, and also promoting new geosites and a whole history with millions of years, the one of Yaracuy, relying upon difference and communication, taking this State to all Venezuelans and to internationalization, welcoming everybody to meet its beauty. In an anthropocentric world, many times forgetting humanity, a Geopark integrated in the Global Geoparks Network assisted by UNESCO, it is the way of cooperation among equals for the resolution of problems affecting all of us and for the celebration of the dialogue among geographic region and cultures.



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

For developing a Geopark in the State of Yaracuy it is important to define investment for valuing heritage resources and for consolidation of the tourist offer. But, for this, the work together with Fundación Geoparques de Venezuela can define strategic projects for the challenge of the sustainable destination “Yaracuy Geopark”, in a way to optimize in this first stage without exaggerated costs. The invitation is made to CORYATUR for visiting Naturtejo Geopark, in Portugal, and to find in practice the results we have been reached so far.

Finally, how can I define the potential of the State of Yaracuy for the development of a geopark under UNESCO? Everything may be resumed in few, but clear adjectives: beautiful as the Yurubí National Park, captivating as the fantastic performance of cultural diversity by the Ateneo de Aroa, inspiring as the mining history of Aroa or Nirgua, magic as the culture of María Lionza and sweet as every people I've met in this region.

# ACTIVITIES OF THE MONTH



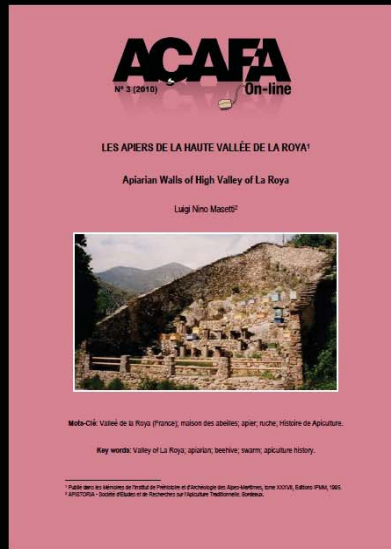
**30th April to 1st May – 2nd Flower Festival at Aldeia de Santa Margarida.** The 2nd Flower Festival celebrated at Aldeia de Santa Margarida is “homage to life and springtime”. During the year, people from the village create paper flowers that are used in the Festival to ornament the streets. This year rain came to spoil all the effort of hundreds of people. However, the party should continue, with the support of the municipality of Idanha-a-Nova and Naturtejo Geopark, attracting an increasing number of visitors and showing local products. Traditional music was present and dozens of people walked around the village looking for “Flower of the May”.

**1st May – Architects in the Fossils Trail.** In the worker's day a group of Master students from Landscape Architecture of the University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro (14 students and 2 professors), visited Penha Garcia for the Fossils Trail. This is the annual field trip, the current year with an itinerary by the Inner Centre. The aim of this visit, besides the interpretation was a way to promote the initiatives of Naturtejo Geopark, focusing in the aims, activities and organization as member of EGN and GGN.

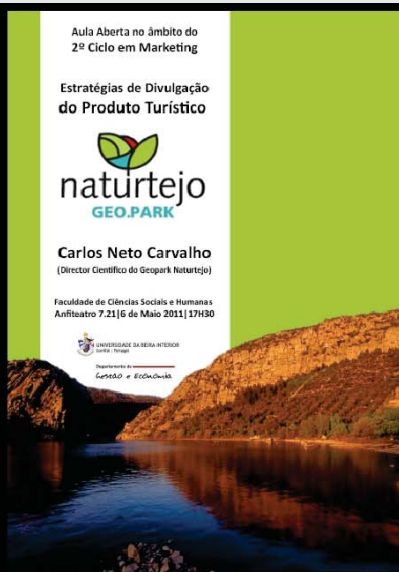


**4th May – Forest Clubs District Meeting at Orvalho.** The launching of the Landscape Festival 2011 occurred at Orvalho, with the Forest Clubs District Meeting – PROSEPE, for the 4th consecutive year organized with Naturtejo Geopark. The forest clubs “Os Grifos”, from Vila Velha de Ródão, “Os Mochos”, from Afonso de Paiva of Castelo Branco and “Os Pinhas”, from the Instituto de S. Tiago da Sobreira Formosa schools were present, in an event conducted by Carlos Neto de Carvalho, Joana Rodrigues and Sara Canilho. This year meeting celebrated the International Year of the Forests, which took place at Fraga da Água d'Alta waterfalls where participants were invited for the Autochthonous Forest Challenge guided by Sílvia Ribeiro, researcher expert in botany and bioclimate that emphasized the importance of this relict forest. Thus, students were helped to find rare plant species, some of them coming from the Tertiary. At the auditorium of the village, each club shared the organized activities along the year and the prize Forest Club of the Year 2011 was attributed to “Os Mochos” club, winners of the pedagogic challenge. The attributed award supported by the village of Orvalho was a sculpture made of roots by a local artist.

**5th to 8th May – Agriculture Fair “Agro-Agrarian 2011”.** “Agriculture against the crisis” was the subject of the first edition of the agriculture fair from the Agriculture School of, organized by a group of students. The farms of Castelo Branco came to the university: more than 60 exhibitors presented their local products to 5000 visitors passing in the fair. One more time Naturtejo Geopark finds ways to promote endogenous resources and an economic activity fundamental for the country, through the Landscape Festival.



**5th May – Launching of the issue 3 Açafa Online at Lisboa.** The issue 3 of the Açafa Online, edited by Associação de Estudos do Alto Tejo was publically presented in the Archeology National Museum, at Lisbon, with the monographic theme: Apiarian-walls, a common heritage from the Southwest Europe. The session was realized in the noble Jerónimos Monastery, with 50 participants among archeologists and other interested people in heritage research. The subject of the apiarian-walls is a research axis recognized as innovative in the context of Portuguese archeology, with new contributions for the studies of rural economy and Portuguese popular architecture, and is developed in this issue of Açafa according to different methodological approaches: Building periods; building types and materials; space organization; geographic areas of building, in an Iberian and European frame; economic impact in local communities; the bear and other beehive predators; the botanic setting. The first thematic issue of AÇAFA included as contributors Portuguese researchers, mainly working in Naturtejo Geopark territory, besides Spanish and French researchers. AÇAFA online is already available in the webpage of Associação de Estudos do Alto Tejo at [www.altotejo.org](http://www.altotejo.org). The direct access can be made through the following link: [http://www.altotejo.org/acafa/acafa\\_n3.aspx](http://www.altotejo.org/acafa/acafa_n3.aspx)



**6th May – Open Marketing Class at the Univeristy of Beira Interior**

**6th May – Open Marketing Class at the University of Beira Interior.** Carlos Neto de Carvalho was invited for an open class dedicated to Strategies of Divulcation of the Tourism Product Naturtejo Geopark. This open class was organized in the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences of the University of Beira Interior, Department of Management and Economy, at the city of Covilhã. The students of the 2nd cycle of Marketing graduation discussed, for more than 2 hours, real examples brought by Carlos Neto de Carvalho, thus broadening their academic knowledge to the regional context. The promise was made to visit the Geopark for a field analysis of the results of the geomarketing strategies that are here being applied.



**6th to 8th May – Medieval Fair of Monsanto.** Monsanto was beautifully dressed for a travel to the time of the Templars, during the Divine Holy Cross Festival. During all the weekend the streets were garnished with traditional market, handcrafters, acrobats, tournaments, processions, food and drinks. About 10000 people participated in the festival and the traditional Release of the Pot from the top of the Templar castle, followed by a picnic in the parade ground. More than 100 people participated in the Medieval Dinner organized by Naturtejo. Two tourism packages developed for this special weekend by Naturtejo brought 139 people to visit Naturtejo Geopark, including the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia, the historical villages, The Palace Garden and the Tavares Proença Júnior Museum at Castelo Branco. These visits were guided by tourism technicians and Manuela Catana.

**6th to 8th May – Fum Trip for Tour Operators.** The Spanish Tour Operator Años Luz was in Naturtejo Geopark to experience the available tourism products. Guided by Tiago Oliveira, Capinha and local tourism technicians, the director of this company made a boat trip by the Portas de Ródão Natural Monument, visited hotels and also the city of Castelo Branco, the historical village of Idanha-a-Velha, the old town of Idanha-a-Nova, the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia, and closing the visit in the Monsanto Festival, including the Medieval Dinner.



**6th to 8th May – Iberian Congress of Geology, Heritage and Sustainable Mining, Santa Marta de los Barros (Spain).** This was a meeting between technicians, researchers and interested people on the subjects of West Iberian geoparks, sustainable mining and geological and mining heritage, reuniting participants from Spain and Portugal. Naturtejo Geopark was invited by the organization and Joana Rodrigues gave a lecture on “Geomining heritage of Naturtejo Geopark: initiatives for its geotourist dynamic” presenting the richness and specificity of the geomining heritage, since remains from the Bronze Age to the mines of the 20th century, and about the valuing and promotion strategies already in course. The event included a visit to the Geomining Museum of Santa Marta de los Barros, dedicated to the mines of Santa Marta, actually being requalified.

**7th to 8th May – Fertagus Club discovers the Geopark.** In the programme “Discovering Naturtejo Geopark” the Fertagus Club visited the historical villages of Monsanto, during the hottest moment of the year, as well as Idanha-a-Velha. The 21 Nature sportsmen made also part of the long-distance trail of Idanha GR12 E7, passed by Raiano Cultural Centre and closed the weekend with horse riding at Penha Garcia. The rangers of Naturtejo Geopark were insufficient for so many people.

**9th to 30th May – Consulting visit to Venezuela: actions for development of geoparks in Yaracuy, Canaima and El Pao.** The knowledge exchange remains very dynamic between Naturtejo Geopark and Fundación Geoparques de Venezuela. This time, Carlos Neto de Carvalho was invited as consultant, and crossed Venezuela with Roigar López, Jesus Salazar and Francisco Hurtado. The aim of this long last visit was to support some of the projects where FGDV is actually involved. Besides the Project of the Geopark Macanao-Cubagua and the geotourist activities in the Isla de Cubagua, FGDV focus the work in the Bolívar-Sur Geotourism Way and the geopark projects Yaracuy, El Pao and Canaima National Park, as well as several academic projects that are being developed or supported. Carlos Neto de Carvalho was also one of the invited key-note speakers for the II Geotourism National Congress, held in San Felipe, State of Yaracuy (see below). In this region he participated with FGDV in a technical inspection to a landslide that partially dammed Tupe river and worried the Community Counsel of Aroa Mines. Carlos Neto de Carvalho visited also the historical Aroa Mines and the cultural-religious phenomenon of María Leonza, every year attracting hundreds of thousands of pilgrims to the Natural Monument. The meeting with the Governor of the State of Yaracuy, Julio León, and the solid agreement of the responsible for the tourism in the state, Egilda Figueredo, through a financed Project for the establishment of a geopark in the next 2 years enable to Yaracuy find good conditions to become the first geopark in Venezuela. During one week, the direction board of FGDV and Carlos Neto de Carvalho visited the National Park of Canaima, one of the largest protected natural areas in the world which is also one of the most important tourism destinations of Venezuela. This region of the Gran Sabana is worldwide recognized by the tepuy residual reliefs and by the gigantic waterfalls, being Kerekupay Vená (Angel Fall) the longest in the world. The native culture is still very well preserved and there are excellent examples of nature protection (including geoconservation) that start from local communities and the national park management structure. Nature Tourism is well structured, despite most of the benefits from tourism flow abroad.

The aim of this technical and scientific expedition was to identify geosites and to analyse the geotourism potentialities of the area of Roroimü Tepuy (Roraima in Kamarakotö language). For this reason the expedition ascended to Roroimü in a 6 days journey, surely one of the most spectacular hiking trails in the world. From this field work came some important scientific discoveries that soon will be published. Finally, the visit and preparatory meeting to the El Pao Geopark Project present a new dimension and new challenges, with decisions being made at a community level. A Geopark being developed from community remind us the principles that were in the beginning of the geoparks movement, proposing the valuing of the geological heritage as umbrella for local social-economic development. A Geopark for the people with the participation of everyone.



**11th May - Naturtejo with new administration facilities: opening of the Blue Hou .** The Secretary of the State of Tourism, Dr. Bernardo Trindade, opened the new Tourism Office of Castelo Branco, a building also welcoming the delegation of the Central Portugal managed by Naturtejo. The new tourism office is the so called Blue House, in the Nuno Álvares Boulevard, right in the city centre. With excellent conditions, the tourism Office provides more and better information on the landscape, historical, architectonic and cultural heritages of the city, of Naturtejo Geopark and all the Central Region, with the aim of promoting Castelo Branco and the Central Portugal as high-quality tourism destinations. The investment made is from the municipality, for which tourism sector is now a priority.



**11th to 14th May - II Geotourism National Congress of Venezuela at Yaracuy: a case of success! T**



**11th to 14th May – II Geotourism National Congress of Venezuela at Yaracuy: a case of success!!!** The II Geotourism National Congress was one more excellent organization from Fundación Geoparques de Venezuela, this time with the precious collaboration of the Bolivarian Government from the State of Yaracuy, the Corporación Yaracuyana de Turismo and Fondo Mixto de Turismo Yaracuy. The congress occurred in the city of San Felipe, which has a rich historical and cultural heritage, worth reminding the ruins of the city of San Felipe El Fuerte destroyed by an earthquake. 236 people participated in this congress with the main subject “Socialization of the Geological and Mining Heritage and diversification of local economy”, coming from all knowledge areas and representing most sectors of society, from decision makers and NGO's, students and professors, entrepreneurs and tourism businessmen. There is a growing interest on Geotourism in Venezuela and this national congress is a good example of that, with representatives of almost all Venezuelan states. Experts from Costa Rica, Brazil, Ecuador, Chile and Portugal gave some Latin accent to the congress, bringing their experiences to the new Venezuelan panorama. From the Global Geoparks Network under UNESCO Araripe and Naturtejo geoparks were represented and gave their institutional support for the organization of this congress. The international key-note speakers were Manuel Schilling, from Araucanía Geopark project of Chile and Carlos Neto de Carvalho, from Naturtejo Geopark. Carlos Neto de Carvalho was invited to present “Geoparks: cooperation, environmental marketing and rural competitiveness through Geotourism”. It is worth to mention the interest of this congress for the Naturtejo Geopark, which led to the active participation of the GeoResort company Casa do Forno from Salvaterra do Extremo, presenting the geoproducts developed, and the Municipality of Oleiros, presenting the Mountain Tour. The Geotourism National Congress got a strong impact in media, with the presence of local and national journalists, local and national radio and TV stations, with a total of 34 media.

The Geotourism National Congress was more than conferences and oral or poster presentations, it was a discussion forum open to everyone's ideas. 5 strongly participated working groups discussed and presented conclusions on subjects like concept and applicability of Geotourism, establishment of a Geotourism national forum, Geoparks and the Yaracuy Geopark Project action plan, geological and mining heritage, and also Geoconservation and Social Inclusion. In the last Congress day the field trip went to the Aroa Mining Park, copper mines which belonged to Simón Bolívar. To visit this extraordinary mining heritage that is still in a consolidation stage more than 150 participants were accompanied by 12 guides from the Fundación Geoparques de Venezuela, CORYATUR and students of tourism from the community of Aroa that participated in a training course of FGDV whose subjects were Cultural Identity, Sites of Geological Interest, Geological-Mining Heritage, Geoparks and Geotourism. At the end of this very well coordinated field trip the major surprise just happened: 3 generations of dancers from the Cultural Centre of Aroa elevated the public to an euphoric stage with their incredible performances across the traditional dance styles from Venezuela. Unexpectedly hallucinating, simply incredible.

The abstracts book of the Congress may be found at [www.fundaciongeoparquesdevenezuela.blogspot.com](http://www.fundaciongeoparquesdevenezuela.blogspot.com). Like all the moments and results from this amazing discussion forum that was the II Geotourism National Congress of Venezuela.

**12th May – Naturtejo Geopark in the III Salón de Turismo y Gastronomía from Plasencia (Spain).**

Armindo Jacinto was the hotspot of one more promotional campaign of Naturtejo Geopark in the cities closer to the territory. This time he was in the III Show of Tourism and Gastronomy from Plasencia invited by the organization of this event.



**12th to 16th May – Congress of the Centenary of Tourism in Portugal – Geotourism represented for the first time.** In 2011 it is celebrated one century of the institutionalization of Tourism in Portugal, by the creation of the Tourism Division announced by the Republican government in the IV International Congress of Tourism, organized between 12 and 19 May 1911, in the Society of Geography of Lisbon. Naturtejo Geopark joined the celebrations of the centenary, integrating some events of the Landscape Festival – European Geoparks Week, among them the Medieval Fair of Monsanto, the Traditional Soups Festival of Proença-a-Velha, the Lamb Festival in Rosmaninhal and the Goat Fair of Proença-a-Nova. Naturtejo Geopark is among the 130 entities that integrate the Organizing Commission of the Centenary of Tourism in Portugal, a very important event taking into account the growth of the tourism sector in national economy. The Congress of the Centenary of Tourism was a very important event of the celebrations, in which Naturtejo Geopark was honored to participate in the discussions about the past and the future of the tourism sector in Portugal. Joana Rodrigues and Stéphanie Amado presented the talk “Geotourism and Geoparks in Portugal: innovative approaches with a long tradition”, which was included in the panel “Tourism, Organization, Innovation and Knowledge Production”. The aim of the talk was to deep this new concept of tourism for an expert audience and to show to the more consolidated tourism products and their representatives the importance of this tourism activity in the geoparks as strategy for cultural and economic development of local communities.



**13th May – Redemptorist Fathers Social Centre again in Penha Garcia**

**13th May – Redemptorist Fathers Social Centre again in Penha Garcia.** 25 tiny pupils from the kindergarten (3 years old) and 2 teachers of the Redemptorist Fathers Social Centre, from Castelo Branco, came to participate in a workshop on fossils and visit the exhibition “The world of trilobites of Sam Gon III”, in the Paleozoic Interpretive Centre, at Penha Garcia. Manuela Catana organized the activity with the support of the Association of the Cultural and Natural Heritage of Penha Garcia.

**14 mai – Conférences Scientifiques au Bairro 25 de Abril.** The Sport and Culture Section of 25 de Abril neighborhood, at Seixal, nearby Lisbon, organized for May Saturdays the Science Talks, in the scope of the Project Living Knowledge. The aim of this initiative was to bring knowledge to a social deprived neighborhood, contributing for explaining myths and overcoming misconceptions in the areas of Geology, Biology, Physics and Chemistry. In the second day of talks, entirely dedicated to Geology, Joana Rodrigues presented the subject “If the stones could talk”, for a small but very curious and highly motivated group.

**14th and 15th May – Viajes Dário Group across the Geopark.** The Viajes Dário Group from Spain brought 48 tourists to discover Naturtejo Geopark with Fátima Rodrigues.

**15th May – Wake up the Sun at Talhadas Mountain .** 4 a.m., Talhadas Mountain. 72 trekkers climbed the mountain to “Wake up the sun”, an event included in the Landscape Festival. Reaching the summit, everybody got the opportunity to make astronomical observations with the astronomer José Matos. At 6.20 a.m. the amazing show of seeing the sunrise on the Meseta Meridional peneplain. The breakfast was waiting the group in the small village of Carregais. This thematic trekking was also included in the European Days of the Sun, for which the Municipality of Proença-a-Nova developed several events aiming to raise awareness and promote the use of solar energy.

**15th May – “Everybody with the Forest”.** For the celebrations of the International Year of the Forests, the Oleiros municipality included in the Landscape Festival a trekking nearby the town aiming to raising awareness of local people for the ecological importance of the forest. 74 people participated in this event organized by the local association “Pinhal Total”.

**15th May – Soup Festival of Proença-a-Velha.** The small village of Proença-a-Velha organized its major annual event within the Landscape Festival. One hundred of soups in competition, prepared by the people from the village, by restaurants from the region and by hotelier courses, attracted 5000 people. The tourist group “Os Amigos” from Coimbra, composed by 37 people, were in the tourism package of Naturtejo to participate in the Soups Festival, and visiting the historical villages of Monsanto and Idanha-a-Velha, as well as the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia. Tiago Oliveira was the selected guide for this gastronomic adventure.



**17th May – Geopark comes to Nuno Álvares high school at Castelo Branco.** Manuela Catana went to Nuno Álvares high school, from Castelo Branco, for the talk “Discovering Naturtejo Geopark”. The talk was presented to 19 students and 3 teachers from the Professional and Technical Course of Environmental Management.



**19th May – Geodiversity surrounding the school of Vila Velha de Ródão.** Manuela Catana took the pupils of the middle school EB 2,3 from Vila Velha de Ródão to study “Geodiversity surrounding our school”. This activity was prepared for 21 pupils and one teacher from the Natural Sciences of the 7th grade. It included a visit to the fossils trees from the House of Arts and Culture of Tejo, the Fluvial Terrace of Foz do Enxarrique and Ponte do Ródão roadcut, where everyone's could analyze the origin and deformation of the quartzite rocks. The book “Ródão – the history of a sand grain”, written by Carlos Neto de Carvalho was the inspiration for this field trip.



**20th May – Travel by the Geological History of Oleiros.** This was a special educational programme for the students of Oleiros, aiming to celebrate the landscape with a travel by the main periods of the geological history of the region. The visit started in the quarry of Penha Alta, one of the best geosites of the Moradal Mountain to show the ocean that once covered the region. Then they visited Zebro Viewpoint, testifying the bedding uplift by continent collision, showing large folded structures. Next stop was Fraga da Água d'Alta geomonument, where the students analysed the erosive effect of water upon rocks. The 24 students of the 11th and 12th grades from Padre António de Andrade High School concluded the 480 million years field trip in the geosite Mosqueiro viewpoint. Here the natural and humanized landscape was interpreted and a discussion on the geoconservation strategies in Oleiros was developed. The visit was organized by Joana Rodrigues and Sara Canilho with support of the municipality of Oleiros.

**20th May – Lawyers National Meeting at the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia.** There is nothing like giving some rest to the actual legislation and walking in the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia by the Fossils Trail. 38 lawyers from all the country made it with João Geraldés.

**20th to 22nd May –Beira Baixa Congress at Ladoeiro.** The Idanhanatura Hotel at Ladoeiro, partner of Naturtejo, organized the first regional congress dedicated to the subjects of hunting, wine and gastronomy. Naturtejo Geopark was present in the small exhibition outside the hotel and participated in the discussion about Birdwatching.



**22nd May – Presenting the Project “Searching for what is ours” at Portas de Almourão.** The thematic trekking “Travelling by the Earth bones” was organized in an existing geotourist trail at the geomonument Portas de Almourão. The novelty of this event included in the Landscape Festival was that the visit was guided by a group of students from the 12th grade of Pedro da Fonseca High School from Proença-a-Nova: André, Bruno, Jéssica and Pedro. This visit was the concluding part developed along the year in the scope of Project class, under the theme “Searching...for what is ours!”, developed by the group of students with Naturtejo's educational programme Anim'a Rocha for the schools of the Geopark. The Project was based on the study of Geodiversity and Biodiversity of the geotrail for preparing interpretation tools accessible for a wide audience. The geotrail is developed along the quartzite Talhadas Mountain, a privileged region with several geosites, rich in ancient mining remains, legends of enchanted moorish girls and with a rare plant species, the Portuguese Sundew (*Drosophyllum lusitanicum*). The students developed this project with Naturtejo Geopark, the municipality of Proença-a-Nova, and an expert in botanics, Sílvia Ribeiro, under the advisory of their teacher Bruno Henriques.

This was a full day trip, by 18 km with several stops, where the group explained to their friends, family and locals, important natural sites so close to their homes. During the day Joana Rodrigues and Bruno Henriques supported the group in the field complementing scientific information. After the scientific inventory of the region, with the identification of heritage, information on geodiversity and biodiversity was prepared to develop an audioguide that, soon, is going to be online available to everyone wishing to explore the geotrail. It is just to download the audio files for a mp3 or mobile from the new Naturtejo Geopark webpage.



**Du 22nd to 30th May – CROSSINGS: International and Interdisciplinary Workshop on natural and cultural resources for the sustainable development of Naturtejo Geopark.**

The International and interdisciplinary Workshop on “Natural and Cultural Resources for the Sustainable Development of Naturtejo Geopark” was organized in Idanha-a-Nova, with the participation of 29 students from the University of Califórnia - Berkeley, the Management School of Idanha-a-Nova, the University of Minho and the Fernando Pessoa University of Porto. The students came from several academic areas, namely planning, landscape architecture, ecology, geology, social sciences and humanities, making this a truly interdisciplinary workshop. The organizers of the workshop were the professors Matt Kondolf and Gustavo Gonzalez (University of Califórnia – Berkeley), José Brilha (University of Minho) and Ana Paula Mota (Fernando Pessoa University) with the support of Naturtejo Geopark and the municipality of Idanha-a-Nova. In the first day the workshop visited the Olive Oil Museum from Proença-a-Velha, the Historical Village of Idanha-a-Velha, the Monsanto Inselberg, the Pomar traditional village and the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia. In the next day, Armindo Jacinto and Joana Rodrigues presented Naturtejo Geopark; the students from Berkeley presented the theoretical works on Naturtejo Geopark they prepared during last month with the advisory of Prof. José Brilha. Several businessmen that are partners of Naturtejo presented also their companies and services to the participants dos the workshop. Casa do Forno from Salvaterra do Extremo, S. Torcato Moradal from Estreito, Casa de Santa Catarina from Penha Garcia, Estrela de Idanha Hotel from Idanha-a-Nova and Ô Hotels & Resorts from Termas de Monfortinho presented their projects and discussed their motivations, difficulties, benefits to be partner of the Geopark, funding supports, ....On the next days field activities were organized for data collection coming back to the Management School to develop the final presentation of the work groups, under the subjects: “Olives, cheeses and culture – strategies to make Naturtejo Geopark gastronomy and handcrafting more visible and appreciated”; “Relating heritage: a plan to make Naturtejo Geopark resources more accessible by car, bike and foot”; “Proença-a-Velha: Developing and relating the capital of olive oil”; “The Smugglers Trail: developing and interpreting smuggling trail for new visitors”; “Birds, Bats and Hikers: revitalize the Vultures (Salvaterra do Extremo) and Mines (Segura) trails”. The results were presented by the students at the Raiano Cultural Center to the staff of the Geopark, the municipality and local producers. They also presented in the Luso-American Foundation for Development (FLAD), at Lisboa, by open conferences. Armindo Jacinto coordinated the workshop and Manuela Catana permanently followed the developed activities, with the field and classroom support of Joana Rodrigues, Sara Canilho, Cristina Preguiça, Eddy Chambino and Rafael André from Naturtejo Geopark and several technicians from the municipality of Idanha-a-Nova. Exploiting together interdisciplinary problems and working with local communities, the Portuguese and American students participating in this workshop established several communication bonds between the two countries, between disciplines, between academic thought and practical application, and between urban and rural life.

**22nd May – Senhora da Graça Runway: winning Ponsul Fault.** 180 athletes from the region were involved in the prestigious running of Idanha-a-Nova. The run started in the Senhora do Almortão Sanctuary and, for two times, took the athletes to win the Ponsul fault scarp, along the 9km competition. Some healthy competition in this Landscape Festival.

**22nd May – Estreito Trails.** Des dizaines de locaux et de touristes ont participé au parcours pédestre organisé par l'association locale 'Trilhos do Estreito'. Cette marche a lieu une fois par an à Estreito. Il s'agit d'un parcours pédestre qui passe aux alentours du village. Encore une activité de sport de nature intégrée par la Municipalité de Oleiros au Festival des Paysages du Geopark Naturtejo.

**24th May –Vultures trail solo.** Carlos Pacheco, biologist and consultant of Naturtejo Geopark, guided a German tourist in the Vultures Trail of Salvaterra do Extremo, for a birdwatching visit.



**25th May – Technical mission from the Plan of Guadiana Internacional Tourist Competitivity.** In the scope of the Tourist Competitivity Plan in the International Guadiana (Spain), a technical delegation composed by 10 people visited Naturtejo Geopark. The mission included technicians and project coordinators, the Deputy for Equality and Local Development of Extremadura and accommodation and active tourism businessmen.

This Project aims to develop specialized and innovative tourism products based on the existing resources in the regions of Los Baldíos-Alburquerque and Olivenza. It is implementing birdwatching and aquatic-based tourism products. The team reunited with Armindo Jacinto to understand the management model of Naturtejo, while tourism destination based on nature and sustainability. Afterwards, they visited the Environmental Interpretation Center of Castelo Branco, the river dock from Vila Velha de Ródão and the viewpoint of Portas de Almourão Geomonument, looking for examples of best practices and territory resources. The visit was finished at the Vale Mourão restaurant. The group was guided by Joana Rodrigues and Stéphanie Amado.

**25th May – Apiarist Day.** The Apiarist Day was celebrated with many dedicated activities in the Living Science Center of Forest, at Proença-a-Nova. In this event included in the Landscape Festival participated 120 people.

**27th May – Science Coffee brings the controversial subject “nuclear energy”.** In this Science Coffee organized in the Bar of the Living Science Center of Forest, Vitaly Chepel, researcher from the Laboratory of Particles Instrumentation and Experimental Physics of Coimbra, talked about the potentialities of nuclear energy. 40 people discussed the strong dependency of Portugal on fossil fuels and the uranium reserves existing in Portugal. It is worth to remind that in Naturtejo Geopark territory there is the most important uranium ore known in Portugal, which presents exploitable reserves allowing energetic production for just one nuclear plant and only for a period of 10 years. On the other hand, Portugal has been exporting uranium oxides until the end of the 20th century, when the Uranium National Enterprise went bankrupt and left an immense environmental problem for the regions and people where the mines were located. The bankruptcy of UNE was just after Chernobyl disaster and the fall of the uranium oxides price. With Fukushima disaster, in Japan, with even more tragic proportions, there are several countries looking for an alternative future for their nuclear program. Uranium is a finite energetic resource, with heavy environmental liabilities that are easily proved by the history of the nuclear.

**27th to 29th May – Soccer players also come to the Geopark!** 31 soccer players from the Spanish Coria club participating in the Idanha Football Tournament got the opportunity to know better the border lands. Tiago Oliveira took the players to visit Monsanto and Penha Garcia.



**27th to 30th May – III Days of Reflection of Tourist Activities of Azores, dedicated to Geotourism.** This year the III Days of Reflection of Tourist Activities of Azores were dedicated to “Geotourism”. The Days elapsed in the island of São Jorge and were integrated in the European Geoparks Week of the Azores Geopark Project, in a combined organization of the Tourism Regional Association from Azores and Geoparque Açores Association (GEOAÇORES). The aim of this edition was to discuss subjects such as valuing and conservation of heritage, the responsible access to the environment, the responsible tourism, territory management, tourism development models, tourism events and entrepreneurship and qualification of human resources, with special emphasis for local natural heritage, more specifically for geosites and tourism products that have as basis the natural and cultural environment. The Days were held in the town of Velas (island of S. Jorge), with talks by invited speakers specialized in Tourism, representing Portuguese geoparks and geopark projects and businessmen specialized in geotourism. They were followed by discussions involving experts, local people, local stakeholders and media, as well as by a workshop on geological heritage of the island of S. Jorge, where potentialities and difficulties for the development of geotourism in the island were identified, with real proposals, in a rounded table developed in a bar at Urzelina. The event finished with a field trip interpreting the geological heritage of the island, passing by vulcanos, “fajãs”, chimneys, remains of recent eruptions, always accompanied by local flavors such as S. Jorge cheese, the fennel licquor and even the taste of a special coffee produced 20 m above the sea level at Fajã dos Vimes.



Naturtejo Geopark was represented by Joana Rodrigues and the invited Geopark geotourist company by the organization for the session "Geotourism products innovation" was Casa do Forno, represented by João Geraldes and Rita Ferreira.

It is worth to evidence the excellent organization of the Regional Tourism Association of Azores Geoparque Açores Association, with a friendly and tireless staff, with the logistics structured for coordinating the invited people that were distributed by several outstanding accommodation existing in the island and with an agenda full of amazing experiences...and flavors.



**28th May - VI Orvalho GeoTrail.** The VI Orvalho GeoTrail was integrated in the Landscape Festival and attracted 317 participants. The walking trail passed in the village of Orvalho towards Fraga da Água d'Alta waterfall. A snack was provided to recharge batteries, preparing the group for climbing Sardas Rock. After the geological explanation provided by Sara Canilho, about the origin of the waterfalls, the group ascended to the Cabeço Mosqueiro viewpoint. It was almost night when they were welcomed in the viewpoint by a medieval party that also offered a thematic dinner. Despite the storm everyone stayed for the party!



**28th May - Meeting for the development of El Pao Geopark project, at Venezuela.**

**28th May – Meeting for the development of El Pao Geopark project, at Venezuela.** The enthusiasm of communities for geoparks development is growing with the clarification actions developed by Fundación Geoparques de Venezuela. The enthusiasm reached the Bolívar State, where Ezequiel Zamora Pao Geopark will be a reality soon. During his visit to Venezuela invited by FGDV, Carlos Neto de Carvalho knew more about the region of pôle Andrés Eloy Blanco, with representatives of the community Ezequiel Zamora Pao, as well as Jesus Salazar and Roigar Lopez, directors of FGDV. It is worth to mention that El Pao was considered one of the 12 communities-model existing in Venezuela by the communitarian dynamics that has been benefiting local life conditions and the quality of education of the young people. A territory with 340 km<sup>2</sup>, and a landscape decisively marked by a gigantic iron mine abandoned in 1996. With an American origin, later exploited Ferrominera Orinoco, 60 years of intense mining exploitation generated a huge shaft more 150 m deep, encompassing 3 hills, close to which born El Pao. In a place where once have worked more than 5000 miners, social problems are many in regard to lack of working opportunities. The mining heritage is highly significant, with mining equipments still in good conditions, including the huge washing plant that nowadays host new companies. This geological and mining heritage is desired by the community of El Pao to be explored in a responsible way, by projects for cultural and experiences tourism. In a very nice lunch at Mrs. Rosário home, that joined representatives of the community of El Pao and the community board of El Arrozal, FGDV presented the geopark concept and the benefits from the internationalization of the region through the Global Geoparks Network. Jesus and Roigar also defended the development of a multidisciplinary project for conservation and musealization of El Pao, with the necessary technical support from Mining Parks experts. The discussion enabled the preparation of a working plan for Ezequiel Zamora Pao Geopark, increasing the visibility of the Project to improve local participation and regional and national support. The communitarian councils will be the promoters in their communities. For 2nd July the first workshop was arranged to define the promoter team of Ezequiel Zamora Pao Geopark. The local information campaigns will be chaired by José Miguel Torres, Abiecer Viamonte and Pedro Verastegui. From these campaigns an inventory of local heritage, including geological and mining sites, will come out, as well as an Action Plan for the Geopark Project. For October it was already defined the first Meeting on Geoparks and Geotourism community-based projects, to be organized in El Pao, with the support of the Government of Bolívar State, as well as with the ministries of communities, tourism, agriculture and environment. The main aims of this meeting will be to discuss geotourism strategies against rural depopulation, geoconservation, geoeducation and promotion of local culture, and also the promotion of the work of the 12 communities-model and the establishment of partnerships, by the organization of a National Communities Fair. The residual tourism sector of El Pao will have, for the next months, to be organized and to grow in order to receive, in this beautiful town and with the characteristic hospitality, the expected 100 participants. For sure there will be a delicious artisanal mango ice-cream waiting for everyone visiting El Pao!



**29th May – Open University from England visits the Geopark**

**29th May – Open University from England visits the Geopark.** With May almost ending, Naturtejo Geopark received a group of British coming from the Open University Geological Society. This group of 16 people organized by Prof. Lesley Dunlop was composed by Geology professionals and lovers. During the morning they visited the Fossils Trail with Sara Canilho, and were fascinated by the fossilization quality and by the abundance of trace fossils, where *Cruziana* clearly rules.

After a picnic lunch in Penha Garcia, the group moved for M566 road cut, connecting Monsanto-Salvador, in the Geopark limits, where is possible to see a geological limit between Monsanto granite and the metasediments from Beiras Group. Here the group had the support and the explanations of the Prof. Margarida Antunes, from the Polytechnic Institute of Castelo Branco, an expert on this subject in the region. The visit ended late in Monsanto, where it was explained the development of the inselberg and was possible to enjoy from this magical village.

**30th May – Celebration of the National Day of Energy.** The Municipality of Oleiros celebrated the National Day of Energy during the Landscape Festival. 52 pupils from local schools visited the wind power plants and learnt about the importance of renewable energies.



**30th May to 7th June – Results from the school contest “Natural resources for sustainability”.** Once more, Naturtejo Geopark together with the National Commission for UNESCO developed the contest “Natural Resources for Sustainability” during the school year, with the schools of the geopark. The participating schools presented group projects related with the subject. The winners were the pupils of Oleiros kindergarten. 24 pupils and 4 teachers won a travel to Arouca Geopark with Sara Canilho. The pupils from the 8th grade from the S. Tiago Institute of Sobreira Formosa won the second prize for the 3rd Cycle and the award was full-day activities at Penha Garcia. 14 pupils and the teacher enjoyed adventure sports and the Fossils Trail guided by Sara Canilho. They went to Penha Garcia reservoir to do canoeing with the company Vila Fraga. During afternoon they climbed in the quartzite vertical beds with the help of the company Trilobite.Aventura. Finally they visited the House of the Fossils. The second prize of the kindergarten-1st Cycle category was attributed to the kindergarten of Estreito. For these 9 small winners there was a fossils workshop and a visit to the exhibition “The Trilobites World of Sam Gon III”, guided by technicians from the municipality of Idanha.



# GEOPARK'S IMPACT IN MEDIA

## Newspapers & www

May (O Concelho de Vila Velha de Ródão) – Presentation of Açafa Online Magazine issue 3

May (O Concelho de Vila Velha de Ródão) – Forest Clubs of Castelo Branco District Meeting

May (O Concelho de Vila Velha de Ródão) – Geoparque Naturtejo

May (Ensino Magazine) – Agriculture against the crisis

May ([www.perureporta.pe](http://www.perureporta.pe), Peru) – II Geotourism Congress by the Fundación Geoparques de Venezuela

May/June (Jornal de Oleiros) – From rocks has born the history of forests

4th May (Gazeta do Interior) – Naturtejo Geopark promotes festival

4th May (Gazeta do Interior) – Lively weekend at Monsanto

4th May (Gazeta do Interior) – Association launches new Açafa in the Internet

4th May (Gazeta do Interior) – Second edition of the Flower Festival fought against rain

4th May (Gazeta do Interior) – Álvaro waiting for a tourist boat

5th May (Reconquista) – Templar Monsanto

5th May (Reconquista) – Meeting the people by the success of the festival

5th May (Reconquista) – Rain did not take color to the festival

5th May (Reconquista) – Landscape Festival at Naturtejo Geopark

5th May (Reconquista) – Protecting the forest

5th May (Reconquista) – Transgeopark off-road defends educational and environmental approach

5th May (Reconquista) – Açafa on-line presented in Lisbon

5th May ([www.primicias24.com](http://www.primicias24.com)) – Under the auspices of the Bolivarian Government Chile and Portugal will take presence in the II National Congress of Geotourism

Yaracuy 2011

9th May ([www.abrebrecha.com](http://www.abrebrecha.com)) – Chile and Portugal will be present at the II National Congress of Geotourism, Yaracuy

10th May (Povo da Beira) – Landscape Festival launched at Orvalho

10th May ([www.cm-oleiros.pt](http://www.cm-oleiros.pt)) – Discovered relict forest surrounding Fraga da Água d'Alta waterfall

11th May ([www.unesco.org.uy](http://www.unesco.org.uy)) – II National Congress of Geotourism, Venezuela

11th May ([www.yaracuy.gob.ve](http://www.yaracuy.gob.ve)) – With the presence of international experts begun the II National Congress of Geotourism

11th May ([www.cm-oleiros.pt](http://www.cm-oleiros.pt)) – Mountains Tour from Oleiros in the II National Congress of Geotourism, in Venezuela

11th May ([www.cm-oleiros.pt](http://www.cm-oleiros.pt)) – Oleiros Geomonuments promoted in 43 European Geoparks



# GEOPARK'S IMPACT IN MEDIA

## Newspapers & www

- 11th May (Gazeta do Interior – cover) – Proença invites to celebrate the European Days of Sun
- 11th May (Gazeta do Interior – cover) – Annual Fair dedicated to the renewable energies
- 11th May (Gazeta do Interior) – III Transgeopark – adventure and sustainability on wheels
- 11th May (Gazeta do Interior) – Soups make the party in Idanha
- 12th May (El Diario, Venezuela) – Yaracuy promotes the social role of Geological and Mining Heritage
- 12th May (Reconquista) – Tourism with new breath
- 12th May (Reconquista) – Forest clubs together in the field
- 12th May (Reconquista) – Mountains of Oleiros in the congress
- 13th May ([www.cm-oleiros.pt](http://www.cm-oleiros.pt)) – Oleiros represented in the Congress of the Centenary of Tourism in Portugal
- 13th May (Turisver) – SET launched new office of the Centre of Portugal Tourism
- 17th May (Povo da Beira) – Castelo Branco has unique tourist potentialities
- 17th May (Povo da Beira) – Thousands of tourists visited the most Portuguese village
- 17th May (Povo da Beira) – Soups brought thousands to Proença
- 17th May (Povo da Beira) – Landscape Festival 2011 brings life to Geopark territory
- 18th May (Gazeta do Interior) – A truly medieval rave
- 18th May (Gazeta do Interior) – Students “discover” rare species in Oleiros
- 18th May (Gazeta do Interior) – Oleiros promotes trekking season
- 18th May (Gazeta do Interior) – Schools, municipality and theatre organize Renaissance Fair
- 18th May (Gazeta do Interior) – Travel across the geological history
- 19th May (Reconquista) – Castle Festival attracts tourists
- 19th May (Reconquista) – A festival to fill the bowl
- 19th May (Reconquista) – Music Ecofestival – free shows during evenings
- 19th May ([www.lifecooler.com](http://www.lifecooler.com)) – Fossils Trail from Naturtejo Geopark
- 20th May ([www.estilosdevida.rtp.pt](http://www.estilosdevida.rtp.pt)) – Geopark Naturtejo
- 25th May (Gazeta do Interior) – Quercus organizes festival to find funds
- 25th May (Gazeta do Interior) – Nuclear energy discussed
- 25th May (Gazeta do Interior) – 72 waking up the Sun in the Talhadas Mountain
- 26th May (Reconquista) – Wake up the sun at the Talhadas Mountain
- 26th May (Reconquista) – Orvalho GeoTrail
- 26 de Maio (Reconquista) – Tertiary forest
- 26th May (Reconquista) – Renaissance Fair
- 27th May (Naturlink) – Landscape Festival



# GEOPARK'S IMPACT IN MEDIA

## Radio & TV

6th May – Local Visão – IV District Meeting PROSEPE. Interview to Carlos Neto de Carvalho

<http://videos.sapo.pt/42tmUdohtlbmsHWGWVIU>

7th May – Antena 1 - Live show “Os Dias do Futuro”. Interview to Joana Rodrigues and Armindo Jacinto about Naturtejo Geopark and the Landscape Festival.

<http://tv1.rtp.pt/multimediahtml/audio/os-dias-do-futuro/2011-05-07/88698>

<http://tv1.rtp.pt/multimediahtml/audio/os-dias-do-futuro/2011-05-07/88696>

11th May – Radio Urbana (Yaracuy, Venezuela) – - Interview to Carlos Neto de Carvalho in the scope of the II Geotourism National Congress

12th May – Radio Alegria (Yaracuy, Venezuela) - - Interview to Carlos Neto de Carvalho in the scope of the II Geotourism National Congress

12th May – VTV (Venezuela) - Interview to Carlos Neto de Carvalho in the scope of the II Geotourism National Congress

31st May - Local Visão – GeoRota do Orvalho

<http://videos.sapo.pt/AeFh0LHSq4PTP7ZM09BV>

May - Castilla y León Televisión - “Tiempo de viajar: Castelo Branco, Portugal”

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l\\_j774rcxBM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_j774rcxBM)



## SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR GEOSCIENCIES

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

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

Rodrigues, J., Neto de Carvalho, C., Martins, I. & Fernandes, F. 2011. La Ruta de las Montañas de Oleiros (Geopark Naturtejo), una herramienta geoturística al servicio del desarrollo local. II Congreso Nacional Geoturismo, Yaracuy, Venezuela, 1 p.

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



# PROMOTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Neto de Carvalho, C. Das rochas nasceu a história das florestas. Jornal de Oleiros, May/June

Geopark Naturtejo. Roteiro de Minas e Pontos de Interesse Mineiro e Geológico de Portugal, Newsletter, 3



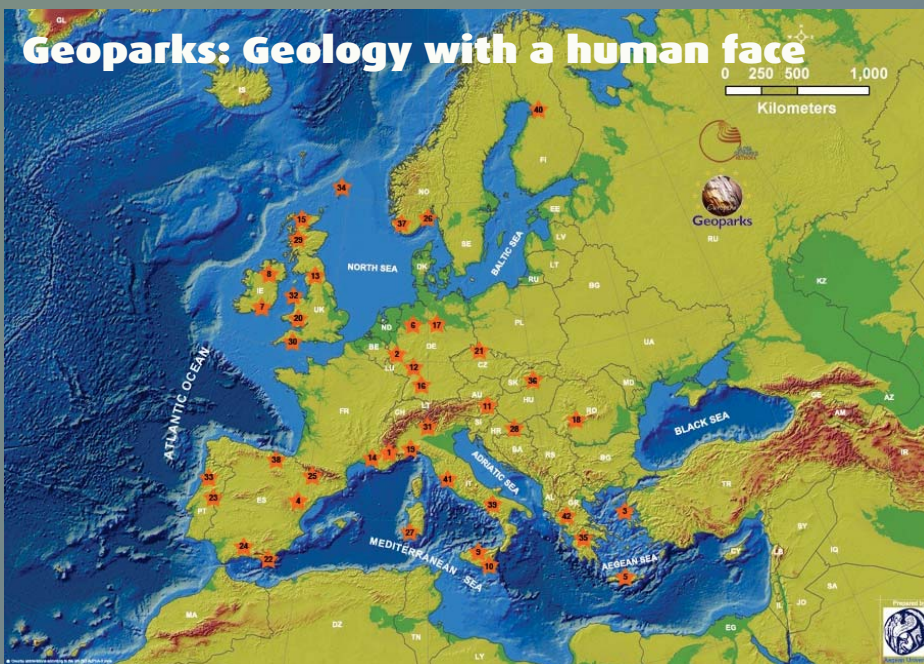
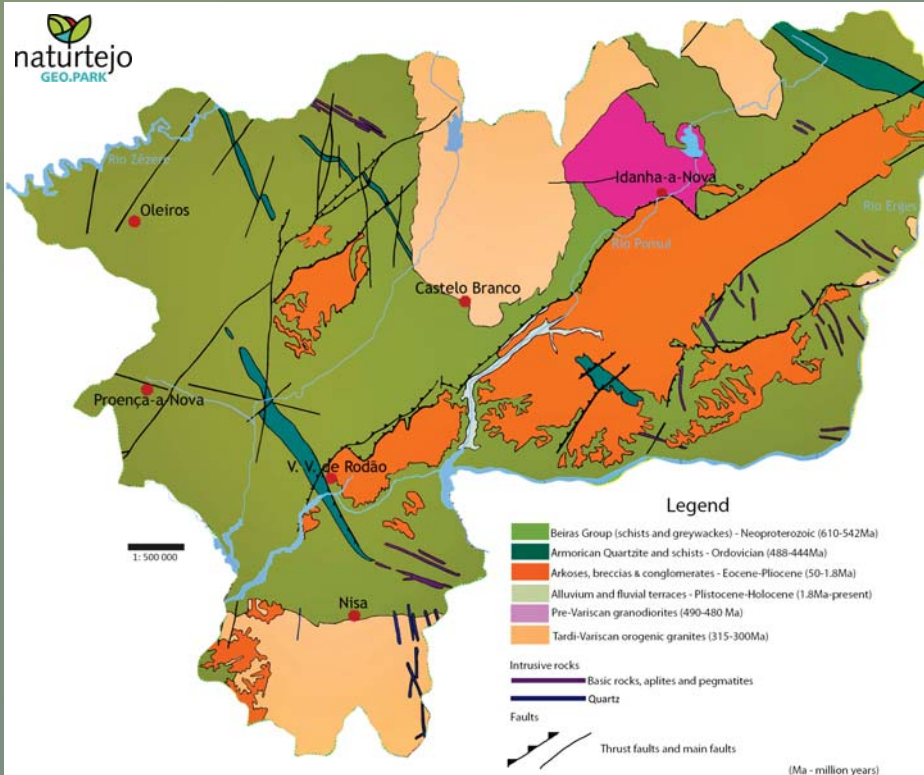
[www.naturtejo.com](http://www.naturtejo.com)



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







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