

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

In this issue: - Landscape Festival in the Naturtejo Geopark – Naturtejo: Global Geopark for another four years – Geosciences and CPLP in the Naturtejo –"Geoschools" conference in Madrid...and more!







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

The Landscape Festival takes place in the Naturtejo Geopark from the 19th of May to the 24th of June. This year we dedicate special attention to one of the least known landscapes of this territory: the mining sites, from the Iron Age to the 1960's. Many events highlight the importance of geodiversity and of the region's mining resources to societies' construction for many centuries. Without forgetting the remaining importance of the quarrying of granite in the regions of Alpalhão and Alcains, this festival also highlights the metallic ore mines explored during World War II. For that reason, in the 2nd of June will be inaugurated an original exhibition in the Oleiros Tourism Office about the municipality's Geomining Heritage, in which will be presented research results about the Fragas do Cavalo mines, including the "Ouro Negro: a outra face" ("Black Gold: the other face") film documentary. Besides this and the "Quando a gente andava ao menério" ("When we went for ore") exhibitions, which can be seen at the Raiano Cultural Center, there will be a series of workshops, related to the mines and mining subjects, directed to students who live in these municipalities.

But the Landscape Festival has already begun with the Cherry Festival in the village of Montes da Senhora, a fair of different sounds and flavors. On the 26th of May there was one of the biggest reunions of pedestrianism in this region, in the amazing Orvalho's Georoute, with many surprises organized by Orvalho's Civil Parish. On that same weekend, there was also the III Flowers Festival in the Aldeia de Santa Margarida, without a doubt one of the most colorful fairs in this region. It was in this context that the pedestrian route "May's Flower" also took place. In the same day, the "Ciência Viva" Center in Proença-a-Nova, organized the Biodiversity cycling route. Furthermore, all paths through Naturtejo's natural landscapes are some of the more charismatic events of the Naturtejo's European Geoparks Week. The VI "Estreito trails" organized by the same association, the thematic visit to the Fragas do Cavalo mines in Oleiros, and the pedestrian route "Saint John's rosemary", in the village of Rosmaninhal, rosemary's capital center and its emblematic festivities, complete the program dedicated to locals and visitors. Regarding educational programs for schools, there will be a visit to the "Forest Living Science" Center and the Portas do Almourão geomonument on the 6th of June and, between the 7th and the 9th of June, the "3 days learning in the Geopark" program. The municipality's festival of Proença-a-Nova brings this year the forest to the town, filling it with the scent and the flavors of honey. This is undoubtedly one of the sweetest fests there is. The Landscape Festival ends in the weekend of the 24th of June with the "Medieval Amieira", in a journey to the past in Amieira do Tejo, in a fair of crafts, recreations and lots of amusing activities. The European Geoparks Week 2012 will take place simultaneously in all the 50 geoparks spread across Europe. In the past edition there were more than 100 thousand participants in hundreds of activities promoted in these territories where geological heritage meets local culture.

The Editor

Carlos Neto de Carvalho Scientific Coordinator Geologist

ACTIVITIES OF THE MONTH



31st of May to 10th of June –Naturtejo Geopark promotion activities in the Volvo Ocean Race Lisbon **2012.** The Naturtejo Geopark was involved in a promotional action in that which is considered the world's biggest regatta. Founded in 1973 under the designation Whitbread Round the World Race, the Volvo Ocean Race is today one of the most challenging sporting events worldwide, combining competition with on board adventure, emerging with a mix of glamour of onshore regattas and the drama and resistance of offshore sailing. With 36 years of existence and in its 11th edition, this event attracts every year, the best sailors in the world. The Volvo Ocean Race is simultaneously a famous event and geographically global, being thus associated with a legacy of straight connection with travelling, the sea and the people. With departure on the 31st of May and arrival on the 10th of June of 2012, Lisbon stood out globally as the main city and only European capital of the event, assuming with ambition, the organization of the best ever stopover, benefiting in an informal way of the completion in this city of the World tour. The space of the Stopover Volvo Ocean Race Lisbon 2011-2012 event was constituted by two distinct areas, which corresponded to about 20.000m2. The exhibition area was the space where all entities were brought together. It was in here where the sponsors had the opportunity to exhibit their stands, hospitality zones, contact with the general public and welcoming their quests. In the teams' area there where located the supporting land bases for the competing teams. In this space there where dockyards and mooring zones where teams could repair their boats, sails and tune up all the details. It was in this space where the Naturtejo Geopark was promoting its certified products, as well as tourism products. A massive attendance was already expected from the visitors, who sought contact with the parallel spectacle which is the preparation of a regatta and the respective boats.



2nd of May – Forest Clubs annual reunion in the farm of Monte Barata. In the 5th year in a row, the Naturtejo Geopark organized the Forest Clubs annual reunion – Prosepe, Castelo Branco district, this time in association with Quercus – Castelo Branco and dedicated to the theme Biodiversity and Nature Conservation in Monte Barata. The Quercus technicians accompanied Manuela Catana and two schools who this year joined their clubs, including 18 students and 4 teachers from the Afonso de Paiva schools group from Castelo Branco and Vila Velha de Ródão.



3rd and 4th of May – "When we went for ore" brings students from local schools to the Raiano Cultural Center. To the exhibition "When we went for ore" was prepared a special educational program dedicated to the public of different schools from the municipality of Idanha-a-Nova. More than 600 students were involved in this exhibition's pedagogic activities, including thematic workshops. In the beginning of May the exhibition was visited by 37 students and 2 teachers from the EB1 of Idanha-a-Nova and 21 students from the EB1 of Zebreira. But older kids were also present, with visits from 36 students and 2 teachers from the EB2,3 S. José Silvestre Ribeiro of Idanha-a-Nova. The Educational Department of the Cultural Center and Manuela Catana accompanied all the activities these days.



4th of May - A new educational approach: the Geopark goes to Pé n'A Terra. Students and teachers from Abel Salazar High School in S. Mamede Infesta organized the "Pé n'A Terra" (Foot on Earth) fair, a day dedicated to biological agriculture, reusing and recycling of materials with a fair of Recycled Materials and Farm Products. Through the day there were school plays, dance moments and a great involvement of all the school's community. In the many stands of the fair, students and teachers sold farm products from the school's production and handicrafts, made with recycled material, parents had their own stand where they sold tea, and the Naturtejo region was represented by the homemade products of Joana Rodrigues and Ana Dias, under the brand "Feitos da Mata" ("Made from Mata"). The main goal was to show how a small biological backyard and some imagination can give birth to a big quantity of products for domestic use, from fruit jam, tea, olives with different seasoning, olive oil, flavored salt and others.



5th of May - "Anim'a Rocha: Journey through the Earth's bones" oriented by students.

In the context of the Anim'a Rocha project with the Pedro da Fonseca High School, from Proença-a-Nova, 20 students from the 11th grade went on a field trip in the PR6 pedestrian route "Journey through the Earth's bones". After an intense research and the visit's preparation, with an exploratory guide, each group was held responsible for the explanation of some of the sites, accompanied by their teacher Bruno Henriques and by Joana Rodrigues. In spite of the rain, everyone was very excited about discovering and rediscovering this trail, in an unusual approach where the first contact happened when all the students already had previous knowledge about each of the sites, explaining them to their colleagues. This approach resulted in a more dynamic environment, where different and significant questions were raised, given the fact that all students were already informed about these formations.



5th of May – Knowledge and Flavors Exchange in the Centro Region. In the Castelo Branco/Naturtejo Tourist Brand head office in Castelo Branco took place a curious event of exchange of flavors between two regions of the Centre Region. This harmonization of convent confectionery with cheese and wine from the region of Castelo Branco included a display of the confection of the famous Tentúgal pastry and a gastronomic experience with this cake, the Queijadas of Tentúgal, cheese and wine from the region of Castelo Branco. The "Mondego Friends" traditional singing group was in charge of the event's animation.

5th of May – Classic cars in Idanha. The Good News company organized an event for 30 people riding Classic Mazda. This trip entered the Geopark through Proença-a-Velha and made a delayed stop in Penha Garcia and its Fossils Route. The cars went through Monfortinho and Toulões and ended up in Idanha-a-Velha. In Penha Garcia and in the Historic Village of Idanha-a-Velha, the technicians from the municipality of Idanha accompanied the participants through the urban circuits.



5th and 6th of May – TTransgeopark 2012: I'm gone! The TTransgeopark, tourist 4 by 4 with environmental and landscape reading approach, is already a consolidated success in the Geopark. Cover of the Auto-Hoje TT, the most sold specialized magazine on offroad in Portugal which participated actively on this event's last two editions, it was organized by the Casa do Forno company and the Naturtejo Geopark and it aims, in its small scale, to change the more pollutant and environmentally harmful characteristics of offroad routes to a different safari approach, organized and accompanied by a guide, who is concerned about his ecological footprint. Always looking for the best sites, the TTransgeopark went through the rough trails of the Meseta Meridional, across muddy, wet terrains and creeks, flooding its banks. This journey started in Idanha-a-Velha with a lasting visit to this historic village and a street breakfast displayed by Casa do Forno. Always with the imponent inselberg of Monsant as background, the caravan went through the woods reaching Aguas, birthplace of Portugal's offroad pioneer, José Merge. Entering the plains of Castelo Branco they reached Ninho do Açor, where the Quinta da Arrancada wines prepared the meal. The afternoon was reserved for the Gardunha hills, where the landscapes of the Meseta were met from the summits. The roadway brought the participants to the syncline of Penha Garcia, in one of the Portugal's most beautiful geological landscapes. From the top of the quartzite formations of the Ichnological Park there was time for another brief introduction to local geology and paleontology given by Carlos Neto de Carvalho. By the end of the day, the participants rolled until dusk to Salvaterra do Extremo, going through a secular cork forest. With the introductory briefing began the second day of this trip. From the Oven's House (Casa do Forno) the group headed to Rosmaninhal, across the Tejo Internacional Natural Park. In Monte Barata, Quercus de Castelo Branco – Environmental Association's property, participants planted autochthonous trees by the river banks in an activity that ended with a gastronomic experience and the tasting of the "Cegonha-Preta" biological olive oil. After a harsh crossing of the magnificent Ponsul valley, the entire group managed to reach Belgais safely, an amazing farm and accommodation unit, where lunch and regional flavors were waiting, in a more exquisite environment. With this kind of programming one just got to ask: "Have you gone yet?"

5th and 6th of May – Medieval clothing workshop in Amieira do Tejo. Amieira do Tejo is getting everything ready for their June's Festivities and their Medieval Fair with a workshop on medieval clothing. Alexandra Duarte and Joana Sousa, from the Guildas Áureas historical recreation group, were the activity's main promoters, supported by the Naturtejo Geopark.

5th and 6th of May – Divina Santa Cruz Festivities in Monsanto. The historic village of Monsanto recreated the Templar period during the Divine Holy Cross Festivities. These are ancient and traditional celebrations transformed into a crusade where the Order of the Temple coexists with a medieval banquet, with a pilgrimage to the castle and traditional snacks. Lots of animation and folklore filled the streets with thousands of visitors. The book "Monsanto nas Fragas do Tempo ("Monsanto in the cliffs of time") was also presented by its author, Elias Vaz. The Different Portugal agency, in articulation with Naturtejo, also participated in a thematic program and gastronomic experience of local products with 4 Brazilian visitors. In this program they had the opportunity to visit Idanha's Cooperative of Cheese, where they got to taste its prizewinning cheeses, and visit Ladoeiro's "Coopagrol" association of farmers, to experience some of the region's best olive oils. Moreover, they were also accompanied in visits through the villages of Proença-a-Velha, Idanha-a-Velha, Idanha-a-Nova and Penha Garcia, until they got to Monsanto where they were also submitted to gastronomy tests in the Helana and Papa Figos restaurants and in the Geo-restaurant Petiscos & Granitos.

5th and 6th of May – Oporto's friends visit Beira Baixa. 50 friends from the Amigos do Porto Cultural Association came discover some of the paths in the Naturtejo territory. With the help of the Incentivos Outdoor company they tasted some of the region's flavors in the Helana restaurant, visited the historic village of Idanha-a-Velha and went to the Divine Holy Cross Festivities in Monsanto. Jorge Costa was their designated guide in Castelo Branco and introduced them to this wonderful city. In the Pedagogic Farm of Ródão they had a great reception and also visited the King Wamba's Castle and the Portas de Ródão natural monument. In the schist village of Foz do Cobrão they went on a guided tour, but not before a pleasant lunch in the Vale Mourão restaurant. The program also contemplated a visit to the Herdade da Tojeira biological olive oil press and ended with the visit to the Tagus Museum of Pre-Historic Art.



7th of May – Tortosendo students in the Fossils Trail. "In Penha Garcia's Fossils route looking for traces of trilobites" was the educational program organized for students and teachers from the Tortosendo School Group. 70 students and 5 teachers from the 7th grade of this Group visited the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia, in the scope of the classes of Natural Sciences, History, Physics and Chemistry. Their quides were Joana Rodrigues, Rita Ferreira and Manuela Catana.



8th and 9th of May – "When we went for ore" educational activities. The Raiano Cultural Center exhibition is still attracting local community's attention. This time, Manuela Catana and the Educational Service received 10 students and 1 teacher from the EB2,3 S. José Silvestre Ribeiro school, from Idanha-a-Nova, 38 students and 2 teachers from Idanha-a-Nova's EB1 school and 16 students from Zebreira's EB1 school, for experimental activities.



11th to 15th of May – V International Geoparks Conference: Naturtejo in the GGN for another 4 years. The Naturtejo Geopark, represented by its scientific coordinator Carlos Neto de Carvalho, received from the hands of the UNESCO's representative the diploma revalidating its inclusion on the list of 88 geoparks spread across 27 different countries. The delivery of this diploma certifying the Naturtejo Geopark for the period between 2012 and 2015 occurred during the V International Geoparks Conference, in the city of Shimabara, right in the middle of the Unzen Volcanic Area Geopark, in South Japan.

As a reminder, the Geopark Naturtejo da Meseta Meridional was included on the list acknowledged by UNESCO in the year of 2006, due to its highly exceptional geological heritage, in which the fossils of Penha Garcia, the Portas de Ródão natural monument, the Portas do Almourão geomonument, the Fraga da Agua D'Alta valley in Orvalho, the Roman gold mine in Conhal do Arneiro or the Zêzere's meanders stand out among other geosites which are part of the Geological Heritage Inventory of the Naturtejo Geopark. Since then, the Naturtejo EIM, Naturtejo's responsible entity in association with all municipalities, was already submitted to two evaluation processes by UNESCO's experts and representatives of the European Geoparks Network, culminating with the revalidation of the title conceded by this organization which belongs to the United Nations. With an exquisite organization, impossibly perfect in any regards, the Shimabara stadium welcome more than 600 delegates from 31 different countries to discuss the main theme "Earth heritage and Sustainable development". The Naturtejo Geopark, through the geologist Carlos Neto de Carvalho in representation of Armindo Jacinto, and in association with Hiroko Kageyama, chairman of an international charity association based in France, also introduced as oral communication the project "Terra.Cittá", which aims to support the victims of Fukushima's nuclear disaster occurred in March of 2011. This project of international cooperation, involving also the municipality of Idanha-a-Nova and Castelo Branco's Institute of Technology, will promote the settlement of Japanese farmers in the region of Várzea-Idanha-a-Nova, instigating the production and commercialization of products which can't now be produced in the Tohoku region due to radioactive contamination of the soils. The results of this solidarity program will revert to the reconstruction of destroyed areas and to relieve some of the suffering that struck down on this part of Japan, focusing particularly on children and young people, who will participate in a summer camp this year in Idanha-a-Nova. In Portugal there currently are two Geoparks registered in the Global Geoparks Network, besides two other applications from the Azores Autonomous Region and the Macedo de Cavaleiros Municipality. The more recent project of a Geopark in Portugal was represented in Japan by the Mayor of Macedo de Cavaleiro's municipality, Beraldino Pinto, and by the Deputy of the National Assembly Adão Silva. As a result of the work developed on UNESCO's V International Geoparks Conference, the "Declaration of Unzen" was formalized pointing out as new guidelines the need for UNESCO and its members to increment a greater cooperation between UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network and the analysis, in the next year, of a new UNESCO program or initiative for geoparks, similar to those developed for World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves.



10th and 11th of May – Sátão students in educational program through the Geopark.44 students and 5 teachers from the Frei Rosa Viterbo High School (Sátão-Viseu), in the scope of the subject of Biology and Geology, came reinforce their knowledge in the Naturtejo's territory. The students visited the syncline of Penha Carcia and the granite inselberg of Monsanto in the first day. In the second day students visited the Natural Monument of Portas de Ródão, another of the geopark's synclines, where biodiversity is also exuberant, and they closely observed a nest of Griffon vultures and their cubs, black storks and a large quantity of tortoises which were lying out on the sun. In the end of the visit, they visited the Fossil Trunks of Vila Velha de Ródão. This activity was led by Joana Rodrigues, Rita Ferreira and Manuela Catana.

11th and 12th of May – ESEC in a field trip through the Geopark. The Master's Degree class in Inland Tourism – Education for Sustainability from Coimbra's Education School came study the Naturtejo Geopark. 13 students and teachers coordinated by their Professor Susana Lima focused on the Geopark as a case study in the subject of Environmental Management in Tourism. They started with a visit to the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia and to the Geo-resort Casa do Forno, where they had the opportunity of tasting the tectonic delicacies of João Geraldes and Rita Ferreira. Joana Rodrigues presented Naturtejo Geopark and its role in the local tourist development. In the following morning the birds from the Erges Fluvial Gorge received a special visit. The group then visited Idanha-a-Velha and had lunch in the Georestaurant Petiscos & Granitos. Lastly, there was still time for a magnificent boat tour through the Portas de Ródão natural monument.

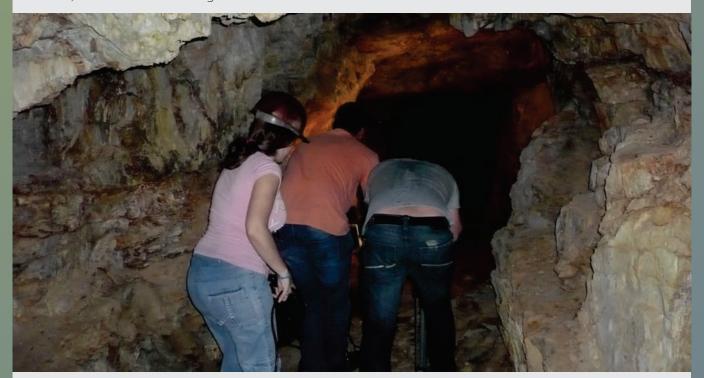
12th and 13th of May – 10 years and 100 soups in Proença-a-Velha's Festival. The Soups Festival in Proença-a-Velha keeps attracting more and more visitors. This year, the event took place in the Oil Presses ("Lagares") museological complex of the village. The soup contest is one of the main attractions nobody wants to miss, - either locals, visitors or restaurant owners. This time, more than 100 soups were submitted to this contest and even Armindo Jacinto was there with his own receipt. This weekend, Naturtejo also prepared a special program during the Festivities in honor of S. Roque which took place in Rosmaninhal, for 24 participants belonging to the Brotherhood of S. Roque, from Lisbon. Tiago Oliveira led them through a visit to the historic villages of Monsanto and Idanha-a-Velha. The group also went to the House of the Arts and the Cultural Forum in Idanha-a-Nova and to Penha Garcia, to accomplish the Fossils Route. Lastly, they participated in the festivities in honor of S. Roque in Rosmaninhal.

12th to 15th of May – Tierra Fuego wandering through the Geopark. The Spanish operator Tierra Fuego returned to the Geopark with 7 lovers of pedestrian paths. The company of active tourism Vila Fraga also accompanied these visitors through some of the most popular pedestrian trails in the Naturtejo region: Vultures Route, Gardunha's Route; Sra da Azenha-Monsanto and Monsanto-Idanha-a-Velha in the Great Route of Idanha-a-Nova; Fossils Route.



14th to 16th, 18th of May – Pedagogic workshops in the exhibition "When we went for ore". This was a lively week in the Raiano Cultural Center. Many children from the municipality's schools came to Idanha to discover the minerals' world and listen to the stories of Carla Nabais. There were 42 students and 3 teachers from Idanha-a-Nova's and Ladoeiro's EB1, 117 students and 5 teachers from the kindergartens of Idanha-a-Nova, Santa Casa da Misericórdia, Termas de Monfortinho, S. Miguel D'Acha, and Zebreira. The guides Manuela Catana, Joana Rodrigues and the Center's Educative Department also welcome 20 students and 1 teacher from the 12th grade of S. José Silvestre Ribeiro's EB2,3 in Idanha-a-Nova.

15th and 16th of May – Different Portugal tasting experiences in the Geopark. The tour operator Different Portugal brought another two tourists to taste what's best in the Geopark. There were gastronomical experiences with cheese, cultural visits to Idanha-a-Nova, Proença-a-Velha, Idanha-a-Velha, Penha Garcia and Monsanto, lunches and dinners in the best restaurants and the Geo-wine Súbito 2012, besides olive oil tastings.



16th of May – Multimedia in the Mines of Segura. The students of Information and Multimedia Technologies Cátia Serrinha and Catarina Gaspar keep doing their field work integrated on the scope of the development of multimedia tools to the interpretation of Mining sites in Segura. In this stage, these students are now capturing images in order to create a virtual visit to the mine's interior and to recreate some of the buildings and machines in the Washery Plant. This work is being oriented by their teacher Pedro Silva.



17th of May - CPLP's Conference on Geosciences visit the Geopark

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18th of May – International Museum Day in the exhibition "When we went for ore". The International Museum Day was celebrated in the Naturtejo Geopark at the Raiano Cultural Center, with children of 3, 4 and 5 years old from the Santa Casa da Misericórdia's kindergarten in Idanha-a-Nova. The children were excited by the story "The Rainbow's secret" by the author Carla Nabais, then visited the exhibition "When we went for ore" and participated in pedagogic activities led by Joana Rodrigues.

18th and 19th of May – II Reflection Journeys "How to protect children nowadays". The Commission to the Protection of Children and Young People of Idanha-a-Nova promoted the II Reflection Journeys under the theme "How to protect children nowadays – Being a kid is being happy", on the 18th of May, in the Raiano Cultural Center in Idanha-a-Nova, in association with the Naturtejo Geopark. In this event participated 170 people, among whom some took part in the cultural program which included a visit throughout the municipality of Idanha-a-Nova.

19th and 20th of May – Cherry Festival attracted hundreds of visitors. OThe Landscape Festival – European Geoparks Week started with the beautiful Cherry Festival in Montes da Senhora. Organizing the production of this fruit, with a greater communication between farmers and rationalizing the means of commercialization are the main challenges to this sector. During the conference on production and commercialization of the cherry, integrated on this festival, Lurdes Carvalho advocated the creation of an entity responsible for the regulation of prices, not to unify the sales value but to correct the problems of distribution of profits that exist today. The Folklore Meeting, organized by the Singing and Dancing Group of Montes da Senhora, was the Sunday's main attraction, a program that also included trekking in which participated 50 people. Besides the hosting group, there were also traditional groups from Oleiros, Vila Facaia and Palmeiras. Eight producers also joined this event with their own production stands and the Montes da Senhora League of Friends also had its own exhibitor selling cherries from local producers, who didn't have the size to be represented on their own.

The Living Science Forest Center held some activities for the young, and in the fair there were also present some other companies with regional products, music, traditional games and workshops about the production of cherry jam.

21st of May – Naturtejo Geopark as an example in the Natural and Cultural Heritage Seminar at Sintra. Forms of patrimonial management, the relationship between gastronomic heritage and tourist destinations were some of the subjects debated on this seminar in Sintra, which took place on the Quinta da Regaleira Palace where Armindo Jacinto, chairman of the Naturtejo, participated giving a lecture about the Geopark. The central theme was management on Nature Tourism, where the Naturtejo Geopark has been considered to be an example of good practices national wide

22nd of May – The Geopark goes to school... Conde de S. Bento Farming School. As a preparation for the visit some of this school's students will be participating on to the territory of the Geopark, Joana Rodrigues went to their school to introduce them to the Geopark. 29 students of the course in Environmental Management and Rural Tourism, in the scope of their classes of Nature Conservation and Territorial Planning established contact with the concept of Geopark, Geological Heritage and all the challenges sustainable development faces nowadays. There was also time for the presentation of the area they are going to visit, raising awareness for the issues of patrimonial value and discussing strategies of conservation.



23rd of May – Anim'a Rocha project ends with "There is gold in Foz!" program. The annual project Anim'a Rocha with the Pedra da Fonseca High School in Proença-a-Nova reaches its last stage and, after exploring the geological context of this region with the pedestrian route "Journey through the Earth's bones" led by the students themselves, the students got to work and concluded this program using secular Roman techniques prospecting for gold. The 20 students from the 11th grade, divided in groups experienced the various stages of this process, starting with the place selection for the collection of sediments, sluicing and selecting thinner sediments. During these activities the students also prepared a documentary entitled "Gold in Proença-a-Nova", dedicated to gold, its characteristics, genetic contexts, global significance, where it is used previously investigated and organized information. During this activity, as well as during the entire project, students were also backed by their Biology and Geology teacher Bruno Henriques and by Naturtejo's geologists Joana Rodrigues and Carlos Neto de Carvalho.

24th of May – Some more little students visit the Raiano Cultural Center. The exhibition "When we went for ore" welcomed some more young visitors. This time they came to participate in the experimental workshop led by Manuela Catana and the Educative Department of the Center, in a visit of 51 students and 3 teachers from the EB1 of Idanha-a-Nova, Ladoeiro and Penha Garcia, besides 10 students and 1 teacher from the kindergarten of Penha Garcia.

24th of May – Ponte de Lima High School in Vila Velha de Ródão. 22 students and 5 teachers from the class of Environmental Management from Ponte de Lima High School started their educational program, led by Joana Rodrigues, with a boat tour through the Natural Monument of Portas de Ródão. The trip was followed by a visit to Ródão's Museum of Archaeology, where the students watched a movie about Prehistoric Art in the Tagus river and went on a guided tour through the exhibition. Lastly, they visited the Fossil Trunks of Ródão, important vestiges of the history of the climate in this region.

25th of May – Presentation of the annual school prizewinners. Organized by the Naturtejo Geopark in partnership with UNESCO's National Commission, in the scope of the theme "Decade of Education for Sustainable Development" (2005-2014) and "Decade on Biodiversity" (2011-2020), the School Contest "How to improve my community's environmental quality" was a success. The prizewinners were: 23 students from the 2nd grade and their Teacher André Rodrigues from the EB1 do Cansado, for their movie "We have to change"; 8 students from the 5th grade and their Teacher Célia Cruz from the EBI João Roiz for their scale model "My green world"; 3 12th grade students and their teacher Fátima Pires from Nuno Álvares High School for their movie "(Re)Utilizing resources". The 3rd prize was delivered to 2 children and their teacher Célia Sequeira from the Alfredo da Mota kindergarten for their movie "Astro-King's kitchen". The students who won the 1st place will be invited to visit the second Portuguese Geopark, in Arouca. The students and teachers who won this trip were: 17 students from the 3rd and 4th grades and their teacher André Rodrigues from Cansado's EB1 for their movie "Let's sabotage the destruction of our Planet", 5 students from the 12th grade and their teacher Ana Filipa Ferreira from Sobreira Formosa's S. Tiago institute for their movie "Keep it green, keep what is ours clean". The 2nd prize winners will participate in educative programs in the Naturtejo Geopark – "Nature's conservation in the Tagus International Natural Reserve: the Monte Barata example".



26th of May – Orvalho's Georoute: pedestrianism party in the Geopark. In its 5th edition the village of Orvalho was filled with people from all around the country in another authentic pedestrianism party organized in the Geopark. This Geotrail attracted 340 people who were delighted by the trails through the hills of Moradal and were amazed by the green landscapes of Fraga da Agua d'Alta. Carlos Neto de Carvalho was invited to talk about the rare biotope present on this geomonument. At dusk, from the top of the Cabeço Mosqueiro, with a highly appreciated geomorphologic viewpoint, a medieval banquet was awaiting everybody.

26th and 27th of May – The III Flower Festival and the colorful village of Santa Margarida. This was a highly attended edition of this Festival in the village of Santa Margarida. There where sales of local products, traditional music and lots of mastery in floral arrangements which competed on the streets. Integrated in the Landscape Festival, this festival fitted perfectly in the intentions of the European Geoparks Week: to promote local traditions, specifically those related with nature the surrounding environment.

26th of May – The Syndicate of the Taxes Employees visit the Geopark. OThe Syndicate of the Taxes Employees – Regional Department of Castelo Branco, came to meet two of the most beautiful sites in the Geopark in a group of 95 people. Tiago Oliveira and a local guide accompanied them in the Fossils Route in Penha Garcia and in the Boulders Route, in the historic village of Monsanto.

27th of May – Cycling through fauna and flora in Proença-a-Nova. In the scope of the Landscape Festival, a small group of people prepared their bicycles and binoculars and went on a journey through the trails of the Living Science Forest Center surroundings, through biodiversity routes. A relaxing trip which allowed the observation of numerous species of birds and plants.



28th and 29th of May – ...and still more young students discovering the exhibition "When we went for ore". Another set of thematic workshops led by Manuela Catana and the Educative Department of the Raiano Cultural Center, this time for 37 students and 2 teachers from Idanha-a-Nova's and Relva's EB1 schools, besides 30 students and 3 teachers from the MASCAL's Ladoeiro and Monsanto kindergartens. In the next day 23 students and 1 teacher from Idanha-a-Nova's School Group also visited the exhibition.



30th of May – Joana Rodrigues and Naturtejo receive Distinction Award. The Casa das Ciências Awards were delivered on the past 30th of May at Gulbenkian in Lisbon, by the Casa das Ciências Coordinator Professor José Ferreira Gomes and the vice-coordinator Eng. Silva Pinto, in the presence of the Chairman of this Foundation, Professor Marçal Grilo. Among the 12 awards attributed to the "best teachers in Portugal", stands out Joana Rodrigues, who has been a collaborator for the Naturtejo for almost five years, and was distinguished by her project "Sand – Geology in separate pieces" which grabbed one of the three first awards. This scientific and didactic project was developed under the supervision of the Professor Mário Cachão, from the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon, and was supported by the Naturtejo Geopark and Professor Pedro Silva and his students, from the Superior School of Technology of Castelo Branco. Joana Rodrigues did the laboratory characterization of sand from different regions of Portugal and its islands. The results of this study gave origin to a multimedia application developed by the Superior School of Technology of Castelo Branco by senior students of the bachelors' course in Information and Multimedia Technologies, which can be used by teachers in curricular programs of Geology students on Secondary Schools. The Casa das Ciências is a project initiated by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation which aims to develop and provide different educative resources in the subject of Sciences, for teachers and students, especially for Elementary, Secondary and High Schools. These materials are developed by teachers and researchers. The validation and certification of these materials deposited on the website <u>www.casadasciencias.org</u> are made according to a model of peer reviewing. Teachers' adhesion has been a success, a demonstration of their will to improve their teaching methods. With the nomination of 19 of these projects, winners had the chance to publicly present their work in the Foundation. All digital resources developed are of great quality and are available in the project's website, registered for Creative Commons, with more than 1600 educative materials developed and more than one million visitors.

30th of May – "Idanha-a-Nova: territory of opportunities" workshop. The workshop "Idanha-a-Nova: territory of opportunities" had the great objective of making public some of the developing projects in this municipality supporting entrepreneurship. It also took place the signing of a protocol inside the scope of the same project, between the Manchester Metropolitan University, the Superior School of Management, the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova and Naturtejo. The theme "Natural agriculture in Idanha-a-Nova: a development opportunity" was also presented, as well as a new on-line shop "Central Mais – An opportunity for the companies of Idanha-a-Nova". In the same event were also publicized the new guidelines of support to new students who choose to study in the Management School of Idanha. In this workshop there were many cases of successful practical cases which contribute to the region's development through the use of local products and the valorization of productive companies, a valuable contribution for local economies.



30th of May to the 2nd of June – III Geoschools Project meeting in Madrid. It took place in Spain the III meeting of the European partners involved in the project Comenius – Geoschools, in the University of Alcalá Henares, at the emblematic Residencia San Ildefonso. In this meeting were present Georgia Fermeli and Michael Dermitzakis from the University of Athens, Anastasia Koutsouveli, from the Didactic Committee for Geosciences from Greece's Geological Services, Carolina di Patti and Carolina D'Arpa, from the Department of Geology and Geodesy of the University of Palermo and the Geological Museum Gaetano Giorgio Gemmellaro, Friendrich Steininger, from the Krahuletz Museum of Austria, Joana Rodrigues from the Naturtejo Geopark and the hosts Amélia Calonge and Dolores López Carrillo, from the University of Alcalá and Guillermo Meléndez, from the University of Zaragoza. During this meeting, it was made a balance of the work that has been developed and were planned the next steps to take, with productive discussions about its guidelines. It was also held a visit to the project Alto Tajo, led by Luis Carcavilla and António Martínez. This territory, which has its application ready for presentation to the European Geoparks Network, features an important geological heritage of reference with diverse strategies of geoconservation and promotion.

For more information on the GeoSchools project access http://geoschools.geol.uoa.gr/.





Newspapers & www

May (Ensino Magazine) - Geo Rubrica: Landscape Festival

May (Ensino Magazine) - Ensino and Geopark raffling weekends

2nd of May (Gazeta do Interior) – National and International Markets – Economical agents in search of new strategies

3rd of May (Turisver) – Nature and Rural tourism in analysis on the Expo.tur.

8th of May (www.escape.sapo.pt) – Naturtejo Geopark: Millenary history for everybody

9th of May (Reconquista) – Naturtejo: Landscape Festival through the Geopark

9th of May (<u>www.diariodigitalcastelobranco.pt</u>) –Naturtejo Geopark: Mining sites are the theme for the Landscape Festival

9th of May (<u>www.destinoslusos.com</u>) – Landscape Festival in the Naturtejo: 19th of May to 24th of June

9th of May (Gazeta do Interior) – Proença-a-Velha promises to cheer up and satiate its visitors

9th of May (Gazeta do Interior) – Landscape festival starts on the 26th

10th of May (Reconquista) – There it is another Soups Festival

10th of May (Reconquista) - Combining unlikely flavors

10th of May (Reconquista) - Cherry Festival

15th of May (Diário as Beiras) – "GeoRoute" with medieval banquet in Oleiros

15th of May (Povo da Beira – Cover page) – Proença-a-Velha: visitors delighted by the 100 soups in contest

15th of May (Povo da Beira) – The Landscape Festival 2012 is scheduled

15th of May (Povo da Beira) – Thematic visit to the Fragas do Cavalo Mines

15th of May (Povo da Beira) – 7th Orvalho Georoute on the 26th of May

15th of May (Povo da Beira) – Biodiversity route cycling path

16th of May (Gazeta do Interior) – Streets filled with flowers and animation

17th of May (Raiano) – III Flower festival

17th of May (Raiano) – Our tourism paths

17th of May (Raiano) – In the biggest tourism fair in Berlin - Naturtejo Geopark among the ten best exhibitors

17th of May (Reconquista) – Soups for all tastes

17th of May (Reconquista) – Landscape Festival visiting the mines

17th of May (Reconquista) - Orvalho's Georoute

24th of May (Reconquista) – Village dressed in flowers

22nd of May (Povo da Beira) – Landscape Festival in the Naturtejo Geopark

22nd of May (Povo da Beira) – Nature Tourism develops investment in the Interior Centre region



IMPACT OF GEOPARK IN MEDIA

Jornais & www

23rd of May (Gazeta do Interior – cover page) – 17 private projects searching for support to invest 36 millions

23rd of May (Gazeta do Interior) – Cherry faces new challenges

23rd of May (Gazeta do Interior) – Popular arts translated into flowers

29th of May (Jornal de Nisa) – Naturtejo Geopark has UNESCO's seal of approval for another four years

29th of May (Povo da Beira) – Conference debated challenges to production and commercialization of cherry

29th of May (Povo da Beira) – Thematic visit to the Fragas do Cavalo Mines on the 17th of June

29th of May (Povo da Beira) –Naturtejo Geopark produces documentary "Black gold: the other face"

30th of May (<u>www.publico.pt</u>) – Teachers make projects and are given awards by the Casa das Ciências

30th of May (<u>www.casadasciencias.org</u>) – Casa das Ciências awards the best teachers in Portugal

30th of May (Gazeta do Interior) – The Landscape festival shows Geomonuments 31st of May (www.a23online.com) – Tagus: Geopark re-evaluated in UNESCO's Global Network

31st of May (Reconquista) – Documentary premieres on the 2nd of June – Black Gold in Oleiros

Radio

31st of May (Rádio Condestável) – Releasing of the documentary "Black gold: the other face".

SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE GEOPARK AND THE GEOSCIENCES



Antunes, I.M.H.R. & Solá, A. R. – As Rochas Graníticas desde Castelo Branco a Portalegre. In: Andrade, P.S., Quinta Ferreira, M. & Lopes, F.C. (eds), I Congresso Internacional Geociências na CPLP: 240 anos de Geociências na CPLP, Coimbra, Excursões Científicas, vol. 2, 11-24.

Neto de Carvalho, C. & Rodrigues, J. – Geopark Naturtejo: a evolução da paisagem. In: Andrade, P.S., Quinta Ferreira, M. & Lopes, F.C. (eds), I Congresso Internacional Geociências na CPLP: 240 anos de Geociências na CPLP, Coimbra, Excursões Científicas, vol. 2, 109-129.





European Geoparks Week



Oficina Pedagógica da exposição "Quando a Gente andava ao Menério" andaya ao Frence do Organização > Centro Cultural Raiano > Serviço de Acção Educativa da Câmara Municipal de Idanha-a-Nova > Geopark Naturtejo

19 a 20 de Maio Montes da Senhora Festival da Cereia

Contacto Tel: 277 202 900

Organização

> Grupo de Danças e Cantares de montes da Liga dos Amigos de Montes da Senhora

Contacto Tel: 274 670 000

26 de Maio

VII GeoRota do Orvalho

Organização
Junta de Freguesia do Orvalho
Contacto
Tel: 272 476 399
Email: freguesiaorvalho@gmail.com

Organização
> Junta de Freguesia de Aldeia de Santa
Margarida
> Câmara Municipal de Idanha-a-Nova
Contacto
Tel:277 202 900
Email: cmidanha@gmail.com

27 de Maio Aldeia de Santa Margarida (Idanha-a-Nova)

Il Percurso Pedestre
"A Flor do Mês de Maio"

Organização > Gabinete de Turismo da Câmara Municipal de Idanha-a-Nova > Junta de Freguesia de Aldeia de Santa

A Rota da Biodiversidade

em BTT em BTT
Organização
Centro Ciência Viva da Floresta
Contacto
Tel: 274 670 220
Email: info@floresta.cienciaviva.pt

2 a 30 de Junho

Exposição "Património Geomineiro de Oleiros"

Organização

> Câmara Municipal de Oleiros

> Geopark Naturtejo

Contacto

Tel: 272 681 008

2 de Junho Oleiros, Casa da Cultura Apresentação do Documentário "Ouro Negro: a outra face"

organização

> Câmara Municipal de Oleiros

> Geopark Naturtejo

Contacto

Tel:272 681 008

Email: geral@cm-oleiros.pt

3 de Junho Estreito (Oleiros)

VI Percurso Pedestre "Trilhos do Estreito" Organização Associação Trilhos do Estreito

Oficina Pedagógica "Os mais novos voltam aos tempos do Volfrâmio"

Organização > Câmara Municipal de Oleiros > Geopark Naturtejo Tel: 272 681 008

6 de Junho -a-Nova, Centro de

Mourão e a Floresta no Centro de Ciência Viva de Proença-a-

3 dias a Aprender no Geopark

Organização

> Serviço de Acção Educativa da Câmara
Municipal de Idanha-a-Nova

> Geopark Naturtejo

7 a 10 de lunho

Organização Câmara Municipal de Proença-a-Nova

Visita Temática

"Minas das Fragas do Cavalo"

organização

> Câmara Municipal de Oleiros

> Geopark Naturrejo

Contacto

Tel: 272 681 008

Email: geral@cm-oleiros.pt

22 a 24 de Junho

Amieira do Tejo (Nisa) Feira Medieval "Pelos Trilhos da História – Amieira Medieval"

Medieval"
Organização
>Grupo Desportivo e Cultural
de Amieira do Tejo
> Junta de Freguesia de Amieira do Tejo
> Câmara Municipal de Nisa
Contacto
Tel: 956 433 980
Email: amieiradotejomedieval@gmail.com

"O Rosmaninho do S. João"

Organização

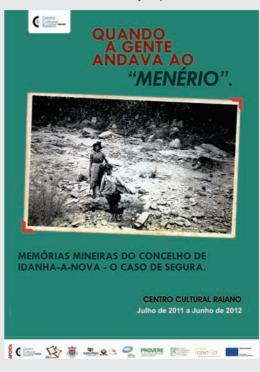
> Gabinete de Turismo da Câmara Municipal
de Idanha-a-Nova
> Junta de Freguesia de Toulões
> Junta de Freguesia de Salvaterra do
Extremo Contacto Tel: 277 202 900







Until 18th July 2012









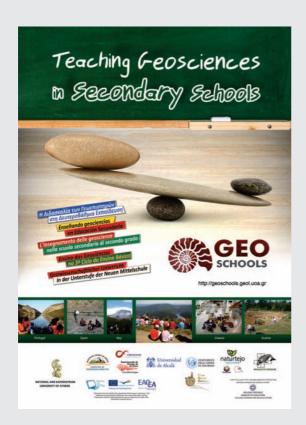




More information: jornadasvolframio@gmail.com

DIVULGAÇÃO E PROMOÇÃO PARA O PÚBLICO





II GEOschools ConferenceMore Informations: http://geoschools.geol.uoa.gr/

LOCATION AND DATES

The second Geoschools open conference will be held on June 2nd to 3nd, 2012, at the University School Cardenal Cisneros, close to the University of Alcalá, Cloated at Avenida de los Jesuitas 34, 28806 Alcalá de Henares (Madrid) (http://www.cardenalcisneros.es/

Audience: Secondary School teachers of Biology, Geology and Earth Sciences and Environmental from Biology and Geology departments. Previewed number of participants will be between 100 and 150, Selection criteria: Secondary School teachers from Biology and Geology departments.

Location: Assembly Hall University School Cardenal Cisneres

Cisneros

Institutional support: GEO-Schools Project in collaboration with the Spanish Association for the Teaching of Earth Sciences (AEPECT).

Registration: FREE. It includes participation in field
trip, coffee-breaks, funch both days, conference volume and informative material. Dinner and accommodation are not included. The inscription request must
be sent by email to: mariadolores lopez@ush.es. It
must be sent between March 1st and April 13th.



Secretary of the Conference: Department of Geology University of Alcalá: Maria Dolores Lopez Carrillo. Department of Geology

Edificio de Ciencias, Universidad de Alcalá 28871 Alcalá de Henares (Madrid)

Tfno: 918854952/918854004 FAX: 918855090

e-mail: mariadolores.lopez@uah.es Other questions: Amelia Calonge; a.calonge@uah.es

Accommodation

The city of Alcala de Henares and the surrounding area have a wide range of hotel accommodation facilities including, hotels, apartments and rooms in the University Residence. The Accommodation in the University Residence Cardenal Cisneros can be booked in the web page. http://ceges.cardenalcisneros.com/
Price for accommodation and breakfast: 386/day



"Geosciences literacy and teaching needs " Alcalá de Henares (Madrid), June the 2nd-3rd 2012





