



CRUZIANA

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

In this issue: Georural inaugurates hotel in the Naturtejo Geopark- 1st European Wolfram Edition – Coordinator of the Berlin International Fair of Tourism discovers the Geopark – Participation in the European Geoparks Conference at Arouca...and more!



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

Geo-stories from these places and these people: S. Miguel de Acha

S. Miguel de Acha is a small town with 260 years old. However, settlement in this area, located between the smooth hills of the Taveiro River and the planes limited by the Caniça fault, date back to the Neolithic. Ancient human presence in this landscape of 41,24 km² is actually permanent, yet sometimes almost unnoticeable: it is the Roman archaeological station of Barros among Carvalho-das-Beiras native oaks, the springs near the paths, an olive oil press in ruins, a so called “Roman” road way and an apiary wall. In this granitic landscape corroded by the erosion of times, culture is powerful and full of legends, such as the legend of the Golden Bull or the Bell Fountain. The legend of the Bell Fountain connects these sulfur smelling waters with the secular therapeutic traditions with miraculous properties, making this a geosite of geocultural importance within the Naturtejo Geopark. In the same way, the legend of the Golden Bull acknowledges the underground richness in the d'Acha region. In 1758, the priest F. Esteves refers “There is in this territory a place they call Minas, where many workers labored a few years ago by the order of His Highness, from which emerged rocks it's told to contain gold, silver, copper, tin, lead and were taken to Lisbon”. The Hill Where Men Were Killed still preserves the memory of the importance of Mines of Lead in S. Miguel d'Acha, through ruins and tailings. The father of Portuguese geology, Carlos Ribeiro, in 1857 identified here parallel quartz veins of kilometric extension, such as the “Filão Affonso”. The “District” of S. Miguel d'Acha gave origin to four mining concessions developed between 1888 and 1924. In 1942, during the peak of wolfram exploitation in Portugal, it is constituted the Mining Society of S. Miguel d'Acha. It is of particular relevance the number of people from this small town, today with 560 inhabitants, who participated in informal mining activity in Tapada Grande and were involved in the black market and smuggling to Spain. Not less important is the fact that the S. Miguel d'Acha area features some of the highest natural radioactivity levels in the Beira Interior, fact which deserves to be accompanied for the development of a Municipal Map of risk of natural radioactivity, especially in the management of water resources and accumulation of gas in the interior of local habitations, with terrible consequences for public health through direct ingestion or through contaminated food and inhalation. In addition to the geosites, S. Miguel d'Acha features some places of natural interest, such as the margins of the Taveiro River, with wild hills and, mostly, a still harmonious local architecture. Within the small town there are many Landlords' Houses and architectural details from the XVII and XVIII centuries, such as the Main Church of S. Miguel and the old Town Hall or the curious defensive structure, along with examples of traditional houses, with stone or wooden balconies. Through the streets of S. Miguel d'Acha we breed harmony, to which during Easter religious traditions join in their full vitality.



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

Entities such as the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova, the Town Parish, the Association for the Defense of Cultural Heritage and the Seventre Brotherhood help maintaining and reinforcing the tradition. With a rich gastronomy in spite of the lack of a reference in terms of local restaurants, the Seventre and Burlhões are kings, accompanied by traditional bread still fresh and available at local bakeries. This cultural richness can be a propeller to new business opportunities. With more than 40% of elderly people and less than 35% of the population being part of the active population, the economy in S. Miguel d'Acha is based on small commerce and micro agriculture enterprises, with young people running away in search for jobs. In what tourism is concerned, there is an interesting example of the Glicínias Solar house and it is predicted the inauguration of a new lodging unit, the Casa d'Acha. However, there is a lack of local alternatives in terms of offer to complement the offering in terms of accommodation. These alternatives might emerge from ethno botanic, since there are still people who can identify the plants used in therapies for centuries, as well as fungi highly appreciated in gastronomy. On the other hand, the Agricultural Society Viniregra, that produces the Súbito wine brand in Quinta das Alagoas, has the capacity to develop enotourism. To this could be added quality products such as the bread and bakery products, certified traditional products, such as the Seventre, with strong arguments to the creation of a high quality restaurant between Castelo Branco and Penamacor. Lastly, the discovery of an intense cultural, architectonic and natural heritage, through the development of a pedestrian trail, allows the aggregation of all this attributes in a territory with these properties, allowing the visitant to stay in this region, complemented by the well known attractions from the municipality of Idanha-a-Nova and the Naturtejo Geopark.

(Images in: <http://www.naturtejo.com/objectiva.php>)

Recommended Bibliography:

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ACTIVITIES OF THE MONTH



September – Recently created Geocakes inspired by the Geopark . Chef Raquel Ramos started a new project in Idanha-a-Nova. This young Chef specialized in confectionery already presents a long and notable curriculum dedicated to the fine arts of gastronomy. Having initiated her studies in the Superior School of Tourism in Estoril, the Chef also participated in several internships in several companies, such as Cozinha Velha (Queluz National Palace), Meridien Hotel (Lisbon) and Tour D'Argent (Paris, France). Professionally, Raquel Ramos worked in the Pestana Palace Hotel and currently works in the Ô Hotels and Resorts Monfortinho, among others. In what fine pastry and cake design are concerned, the Chef took part on several workshops with several national and internationally renowned cake designers, such as Debbie Brown. "The Geocakes project was born from my passion for the art of pastry, in the region I chose to develop... I'm talking, obviously, about the Naturtejo region. It started almost as a joke, but rapidly turned out to be a serious deal, concerning this region's gastronomic affirmation, inevitably presented on the website". For further delicious information access www.geocakes.com.



7th of September – “Fossils Route by night” destined to counselors of the Polytechnic Institute of Castelo Branco. Armindo Jacinto and Manuela Catana presented the Fossils Trail to about 30 participants of the Meeting of Counselors from the Polytechnic Institute of Castelo Branco, who met on the 7th and 8th, in Termas de Monfortinho.

11th of September - National Strategy for Geological Resources – Mineral Resources. “The exploration of geological resources constitutes an important mean of development, which contributes decisively to our national economy. For such activities, is thus necessary the previous consolidation of sustainable politics, which contemplate and integrate important economic, social and environmental issues, as well as the definition of an efficient legal and institutional framework. In spite of its still modest expression, the mining sector, constituted by the exploitation of metal, ornamental, mineral and industrial rocks, has been revealing a positive impact on national economy, reaching about 975 million Euros in 2010 motivated, mostly, by metals (44%) and industrial rocks (35%). This sector's growth in 3.0% per year resulted essentially from its growth in value, since the production has been decreasing (about -5.0% per year). The contribution of mineral raw materials destined to exportation is equally important. Beside Wolfram from Panasqueira and basic metals (copper and zinc) from the mines of Neves Corvo and Aljustrel, ornamental rocks and some industrial minerals are mostly destined to foreign markets.

This sector's exportations reached about 735 million Euros in 2010, with a growth in value of 17% per year, boosted by metallic minerals, which reached 428 million Euros in 2010, with copper representing about 95% of this number, that is, 408 million Euros of this value.

Being so, keeping in mind the achievement of objectives, the National Strategy for Geological Resources establishes a plan of action, with an horizon on 2020, which integrates a role of specific actions and measures for the concretization of these objectives. One of the main guiding lines is "Sustainability and management of natural resources through the consideration of geological and mining heritage as a fundamental element of territory planning."



14th and 15th of September – The first European Wolfram Journeys in Pampilhosa da Serra. The first European Wolfram Journeys were organized by the municipality of Pampilhosa da Serra and the Company Ozecarus, just a few km from the Naturtejo Geopark. Dedicated to the historical importance of the Panasqueira Mines during the mining "rush" for this mineral, which attracted thousands of workers, some of them from the municipality of Pampilhosa, this was an encounter of some of the best specialists on this subject, from Portugal and the Galicia region. After the brilliant framework established by João Avelãs Nunes, several presentations on the history of Wolfram in several regions of Portugal followed, where three presentations by Carlos Neto de Carvalho, Joana Rodrigues and several collaborators stood out, about various regions within the Naturtejo Geopark and how projects are being developed, in cooperation with the communities and people who lived during WWII and the beginning of the Cold War. After these presentations, there was still time to listen, on the first person, to stories of a life of labour, sometimes hard, sometimes funny, from who worked in the mines and complemented the scarce salary with smuggling, hiding from the mine's guards. During the next day, there was also the opportunity to visit the mines.

14th and 16th of September – Clube PT with the Zonal Games finals in Proença-a-Nova. The Clube PT brought 100 people to the Naturtejo Geopark for its VII Zonal Games final. In Proença-a-Nova, they had the chance to practice Futsal, Volley, Tennis, Shooting Range, Table Tennis, Pool and Fishing. During the afternoon, there was also a cultural event.

15th and 16th of September – "First Stop" challenge by Escape Livre Club. The Escape Livre club promoted a 4x4 challenge with many activities in which participated 65 people. In spite of having begun in Serra da Estrela, this challenge preferred the diversified offer within the Geopark. The group thus visited the head-offices of the Naturtejo Geopark, in Idanha-a-Nova, and headed for the historical village of Idanha-a-Velha during the afternoon, but not without stopping for a visit to Penha Garcia and going through the Herdade de Vale Feitoso farm. In the Astoria Hotel at Termas de Monfortinho, the group was rewarded with a well-suited medieval dinner. During the next day, there were orientation, shooting and canoeing challenges.



15th and 16th of September – Coordinator of the Bodoquena-Pantanal Geopark project visits the Naturtejo Geopark. Afrânio Soares took advantage of the European Geoparks Conference to meet the Portuguese Geoparks. He is a university teacher in Campo Grande and coordinates, in Mato Grosso do Sul, the Bodoquena-Pantanal Geopark project, which aims to incubate several projects dedicated to environmental education and the valorization of geological heritage and the environment in a vast geographic area equivalent to 1/3 of Portugal. Afrânio Soares visited the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia and the Inselberg of Monsanto, the historic village of Idanha-a-Velha and the Raiano Cultural Center, as well as the head office of the Naturtejo, in Castelo Branco, always escorted by Carlos Neto de Carvalho and Joana Rodrigues. In this visit, Afrânio Soares had the chance to observe in loco the phases the development of a geopark goes through, talk with local tourism technicians and other professionals.

16th of September – Thematic visit and tasting of the Súbito Geowine. Over 100 participants took part in another visit organized by the Tourism Office of Idanha-a-Nova, activity integrated in the annual calendar of Nature Tourism activities. This itinerary of about 10 km by the small town of S. Miguel d'Acha included a visit to Quinta da Alagoa, where Súbito Geowine is produced under the seal of quality of the Naturtejo Geopark.

18th to 21st September – Responsible of the Ecotourism Pavilion from the Berlin International Fair of Tourism visits the Naturtejo Geopark. Mariana McGill visited the Naturtejo Geopark. She is the responsible for the pavilion of Ecotourism and Adventure of the biggest International Fair of Tourism in the World, in Berlin, where this year the Naturtejo Geopark was represented in the “Geoparks” stand, being a notable success. The director of the Latin American World agency was also present in the European Geoparks Conference, invited by Armindo Jacinto. According to Mariana McGill, the Naturtejo Geopark features an enormous touristic potential.



18th to 21st September – 11th European Geoparks Conference: over 300 participants from 42 countries.

The 11th European Geoparks Conference was superbly organized by the Arouca Geopark, resulting in an effective involvement of businessmen and the town's community. Over 300 participants from 42 countries around the world wanted to be present on this event in the Geopark of the "giant trilobites". Under the theme "Geoparks – a contribution to intelligent, inclusive and sustainable growth", the official opening ceremony of this conference counted with the representation of local entities, the coordinators of the European Geoparks Network, with the Head of the Earth's Section of the UNESCO, the President of the Regional Entity of Tourism of the Porto and North of Portugal, the President of the UNESCO's National Commission, the representative of the European Commission and the Head of the Office of the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development. After the opening video-speech from the President of the European Commission, José Durão Barroso, several conferences followed, by Nickolas Zouros and the director of the French Agency for development and conservation of heritage. It is worth to emphasize the contribution of Nickolas Zouros who focused once again on the development of European Geoparks and their contribution for an intelligent, sustainable and inclusive development in Europe, referring to the Naturtejo Geopark as an example of good touristic and sustainable practices in representation of Geoparks. The GeoExpo'12 also featured companies, entities and products from the Arouca region, but also including the Portuguese Geoparks and developing projects, besides some European Geoparks, as well as Brazilian Geoparks and projects. These hot days in the new school in the town of Arouca brought some new significant works and an exchange of experiences. The cultural program was dense and diverse, with the opportunity to participate in traditional dances or to try some Oporto wine, after a walk with the interpretation of the local historical heritage. The Naturtejo Geopark was also represented by 9 works which demonstrated several fields of work, such as geoconservation, educational activities, community related activities and activities for schools, as well as partnerships involved. The Naturtejo's committee included Armindo Jacinto, Carlos Neto de Carvalho, Manuela Catana and Cristina Preguiça. The Meeting of the Coordination of the European Geoparks took place in the best possible way, with the revalidation of existing geoparks and the admittance of two new members from Hungary and Spain. Unfortunately, the work sessions by themes had to be postponed due to the lack of time.



19th September- New company Georural inaugurates the Santa Margarida Hotel.

Oleiros receive its first 4 star hotel, by the margins of the Perbeques river. The inauguration of this small hotel of modern architecture, integrated with the traditional schist local rock, counted with the participation of the Portuguese Minister of the Economy, Álvaro Santos Pereira, the President of the Municipality of Oleiros, José Marques and Armindo Jacinto, President of the Naturtejo. The Santa Margarida Hotel is a project of about 2 million Euros, with 22 bedrooms and an apartment, health club and a restaurant which relies on the quality of local products. The restaurant was named "Callum", reflecting its positioning that invests on one of the rarest type of wines in the world, with an ancient millenary story in the Hills of Oleiros. The hotel also has a traditional wood-fed oven and a biological farm. GeoRural, led by Fernando Carvalho, from Oleiros, is a recently created company which is aiming to establish itself on this region according to the strategy of the Naturtejo Geopark, emphasizing local Nature and Culture. For now, their recruiting of new staff within the municipality of Oleiros demonstrates their concern with local development. Thematic workshops, exhibitions and formative actions for the community will follow.



21st to 24th September – Icelanders in a geotouristic approach through the Geopark.

Kolbrun and Ary tried to understand, in the Naturtejo Geopark, the concept and the opportunities which emerge from the Global Geoparks Network and Geotourism. During four days, these two very special visitors from Iceland went on some of the best experiences and geological landscapes in this territory. They started with a geo-dinner in the geo-refuge Casa do Forno. In the next morning, they visited the Ichnological Park of penha Garcia and the Inselberg of Monsanto accompanied by local guides and finished the day in the rural unit Casa de Santa Catarina.

During the next day, they searched for gold with the geologist João Geraldês, specialist in mining prospection. After lunch, with a view over the geomonument of Portas do Almourão, a boat ride through the Portas de Ródão Natural Monument and a visit to Vila Velha de Ródão, with a stop in the Olive Oil Interpretation Center and the recently inaugurated Pre-Historic Art of the Tagus Valley Interpretation Center. At night they were received in the S. Torcato Moradal house by the welcoming Bártole couple. During the next day, they discovered the Living Science Forest Center, with an indoors picnic made of regional flavors, due to weather related issues. After that, a trip to the schist village of Álvaro to learn how to make a cork stool in the Gaspalha workshop, a visit to the religious patrimony of the village escorted by the President of the village Parish and a tasting of the Callum wine, in the biggest producer of this wine exclusive from the Oleiros region, Mr. João from Dão, who pleasantly welcomed this couple from Iceland with goat cheese and charcuterie made by his wife. In the fourth day, the couple visited the head office of the Naturtejo in Castelo Branco, where they received t-shirts of the Tiny Trilobites for all their grandchildren.

21st to 23rd September – Historic Villages route. The touristic operator Solférias brought 4 tourists to discover the Historic Villages of Monsanto and Idanha-a-Velha, as well as the Natural Monument of Portas de Ródão. There was also time to relax in Termas de Monfortinho and to try some of the delicacies of the local gastronomy.



28th September – Seminar: “Tourism as a mean for the diversification of Economical Activities” in Aveiro. On the 36th edition of the Agricultural Fair – AGROVOUGA took place the seminar “Tourism as a mean for the diversification of Economical Activities”, organized by the Tourism of the Center Region, in the Exhibitions Park of Aveiro. Manuela Catana also presented the “Geopark Naturtejo as a strategy of Sustainable Development integrated on the UNESCO’s Global Geoparks Network”.

28 th and 29th September – Baja TT in Idanha-a-Nova – Historic Villages route. Baja TT in Idanha-a-Nova is the main competition of the All Terrain National Championship, with the support of the Naturtejo Geopark. There were hundreds of people and 31 cars filling the small town and the paths of Idanha-a-Nova to witness the consecration of Miguel Barbosa as the 2012 national champion in the 330 km course. In the motorcycles and quads, the Baja TT in Idanha was part of the European Circuit.

29th September – Geotouristic trail from Monforte da Beira tested in a day dedicated to local culture. The Moving Village Association from Monforte da Beira tested the project “Iron ways of Monforte” from the Naturtejo Geopark in a day of plain culture. 31 participants went on this course among the geological and geomining heritage of Monforte da Beira, in an environment of friendship and discovery, which ended with a lunch in the People’s House. The “Our chant” CD was also presented by the local Singing Group. After dinner, the Group of Traditional Fado also entertained the participants.

29th September – German Evangelic Church in Lisbon visits the Geopark. The German Evangelic Church organized a trip to the Naturtejo Geopark for 33 of their members. They started with a boat ride through the Portas de Ródão Natural Monument to discover its origin. In Castelo Branco they visited the Cargaleiro Museum, and Jorge Costa also took the group to a visit to the Historic Village of Monsanto

29 th and 30th September – Historic Villages program. Admedic Tours brought 22 people to visit the Historic Villages of the Naturtejo Geopark. The local guide Jorge Costa also took them on a boat ride to visit the Portas de Ródão Natural Monument. The group also had the opportunity to visit the historic villages of Monsanto and Idanha-a-Velha, where their visit ended in the Senhora do Almortão Sanctuary.



IMPACT OF GEOPARK IN MEDIA

Newspapers & www

- 6th of September (Reconquista) – Hotel in Oleiros opens in October
- 13th of September (Raiano) – Japanese from Fukushima participate in summer camp
- 13th of September (Raiano) – Smuggling in the Raia Line
- 13th of September (Raiano) – Special Exhibition
- 25th of September (Povo da Beira) – Idanha supports the application of the Tagus river to World Heritage site
- 26th of September (Gazeta do Interior) – Minister of Economy wants to bet on agriculture
- 26th of September (Gazeta do Interior) – Transhumance Route recreated in 2013
- 26th of September (Gazeta do Interior) – Application to World Heritage steps forward
- 27th of September (Reconquista) – Geoparks are growing
- 27th of September (Reconquista) – Minister values Oleiros
- 27th of September (Reconquista) – There are no lack of arguments to a great TT in Idanha

TV

- September (RTP 1 – Portugal em Directo) – Several reports and repetitions on the Santa Margarida Hotel, in Oleiros

SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE GEOPARK AND THE GEOSCIENCES



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- Pratas, J., Favas, P. & Conde, L. – Espécies vegetais metalotolerantes e sua potencial utilização na prospeção biogeoquímica e recuperação ambiental (Minas de Fragas do Cavalo, Oleiros, Portugal Central). In: Henriques, M.H., Andrade, A.I., Lopes, F.C., Pena dos Reis, R., Quinta-Ferreira, M. & Barata, M.T. (eds.), I Congresso Internacional Geociências na CPLP: 240 anos de Geociências na CPLP, Coimbra. Centro de Geociências e Centro de Geofísica da Universidade de Coimbra: p. 250.

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- Neto de Carvalho, C., Rodrigues, J.C., Chambino, E. & Martins, I. – "Património Geomineiro de Oleiros": diálogos do volfrâmio numa estratégia de valorização da identidade local. 1as Jornadas sobre o Volfrâmio Europeu, Livro de resumos. Ozecarus e Câmara Municipal da Pampilhosa da Serra: 1pp.

- Neto de Carvalho, C., Chambino, E., & Rodrigues, J.C. – "Quando a gente andava ao Menério": uma abordagem itinerante e integradora para o reconhecimento dos patrimónios geomineiros do concelho de Idanha-a-Nova. 1as Jornadas sobre o Volfrâmio Europeu, Livro de resumos. Ozecarus e Câmara Municipal da Pampilhosa da Serra: 1pp.

- Neto de Carvalho, C. & Chambino, E. – Três concelhos, uma empresa mineira: contributo para a valorização da paisagem mineira da Mata da Rainha. 1as Jornadas sobre o Volfrâmio Europeu, Livro de resumos. Ozecarus e Câmara Municipal da Pampilhosa da Serra: 1pp.

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SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE GEOPARK AND THE GEOSCIENCES



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I CONGRESSO INTERNACIONAL GEOCIÊNCIAS NA CPLP - 240 Anos de Geociências na CPLP
GeoCPLP 2012 - Livro de Resumos

Coordenadores
M. H. Henriques, A. I. Andrade, F. C. Lopes,
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I CONGRESSO INTERNACIONAL GEOCIÊNCIAS NA CPLP
240 Anos de Geociências na CPLP

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ICT



PROMOTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

 **QUANDO
A GENTE
ANDAVA AO
"MENÉRIO".**



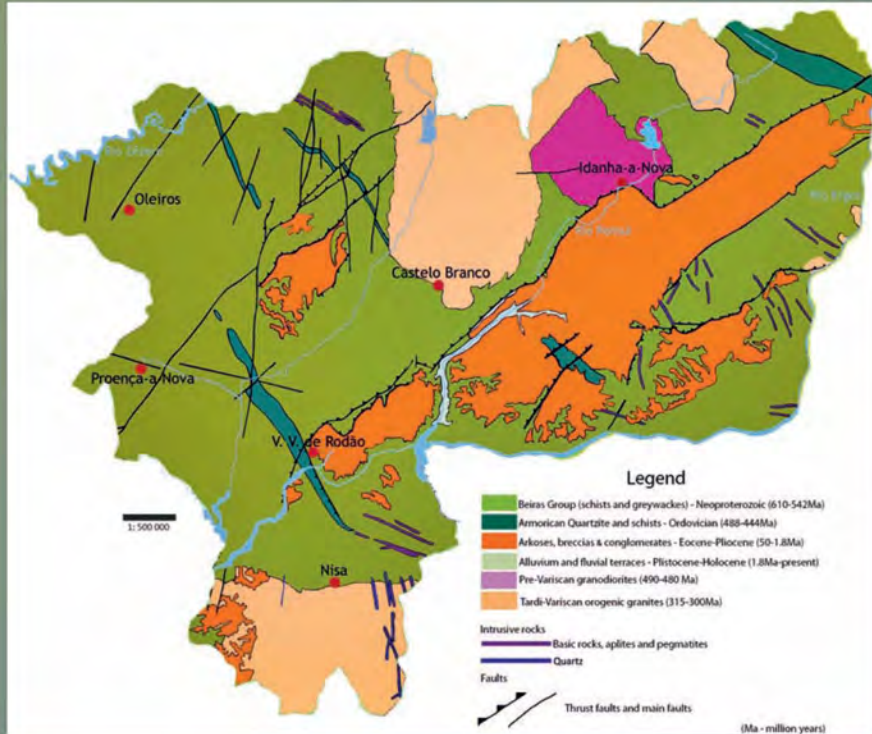
**MEMÓRIAS MINEIRAS
DO CONCELHO DE IDANHA-A-NOVA**

O CASO DAS TERMAS DE MONFORTINHO

HOTEL FONTE SANTA, TERMAS DE MONFORTINHO
25 de Agosto a 31 de Outubro

ANEXO





Geoparks: Geology with a human face



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GEOPARK NATURAL DO ALGARVE REGIONAL EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL GEOPARK INSTITUTE REPORT

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