



CRUZIANA

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

In this issue: - Thematic working groups discuss rural development – Exhibit about the Naturtejo Geopark in Madrid – Great Science, Culture and Tradition Fair in Castelo Branco – Seminar about Ichnology at the 50th Anniversary of the UNESCO International Centre for Theoretical Physics, in Italy...and more!



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

Geo-histories of our places and people: Madeirã

Madeirã is, as the name tells, a land of wood. From the top of Cava, at 866m high, to Cambas in the Mid Zêzere, goes a large slope of 20,27km² covered with pinewood. These river great meanders, a geomonument of Naturtejo Geopark, can be appreciated from Pé da Lomba, found at the Vilares. Madeirã is placed in the watershed. Wedged in one of these waves overlooking the river, the village is pleasant for its light, for the views and for the traditional architecture in schist of its old village center. In Cava, upwards and as the name tell us, is the village that can be found in a deep valley in the borders of the Madeirã Stream. Overall, the parish gathers 171 inhabitants. With background dated from 1732, its Mother Church of Nossa Senhora do Carmo, built in hall from where stands the bell tower, had its initial construction finished five years later. In these slopes the strawberry tree abound, giving fame to the land and its “aguardente” (spirits drink). The company Silvapa produce the “aguardente”, liquor and jam from the strawberry tree fruit, respecting the handmade production method and using a fruit which is a symbol of the generosity of these mountains.

Through Madeirã crosses the Great Zêzere Trail, hiking trail that follows down the great river valley towards Constância, in its river mouth. For the Nature hiking pilgrims the overnight claims to be in the Country Houses of Vilar dos Condes, a fully restored place to offer tranquillity in a rural environment. In the upcoming cold winter nights, we cannot spare the nectar of the strawberry tree fruit treasured by the fireplace in one of these beautiful traditional houses. But, for now, it is worth to go out and catch some fine chestnuts that later are going to pop in the roaster, contemplate the river landscapes and, eventually, follow the aroma of the freshly baked honey cake that comes from one of these houses. This is as certain as Madeirã is the land of the wood.

References

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Frontpage: (Projecto Objectiva: Geopark)

ACTIVITIES OF THE MONTH



1 to 2 October – Working groups discuss the rural development in the Geopark. Naturtejo and the Portuguese Federation for Tourism in Rural Areas are developing a study under the theme “The rural world and the economic and social development in Portugal”, in cooperation with the company Augusto Mateus & Associates. The aim is to get a reading of this territory in a national context, which allows to set the rural world as an answer rather than a problem, avoiding a generic approach, devoid of value for consequent and useful acts, searching, in alternative, to properly map its strong diversity allowing orchestrated and pragmatic actions endowed with the necessary critical mass in an increasingly globalized world. Awarding economic value and sustainability to the rural world is the goal. Two ambitions guide this Study: an analytical motivation and a strategic one. Based in the analytical motivation, the intention is that the rural world will not be seen as something that was left behind, like something without economic, civilizational and social value, own and positive. For the contrary, the rural world must be recognized as a “battlefront” for the first stage economic and social progress in a world increasingly globalized but, also more complex and diversified where comes as main role the production of new assets and public services, more or less global, with general interest linked to the sustainability of the planet, to the preservation of specific identity resources, also, by creating value from the heritage creative appreciation, through innovation and mobilization of knowledge in many activities myopic and unfairly labelled as pejoratively “Traditional”. Based in the strategic motivation, the intention is that the rural world could not be aim of generic public policies overpowered by its “delay” or by its “stagnation”. For the contrary, the rural world must be able to have public policies that stimulate the entrepreneurial initiative and promote the economic and social equity giving a new meaning to the cohesion objectives in the development processes associating them, more and more, to the territory values as a crucial factor for creation of wealth and sustaining activities and jobs as key element to attract residents, new talents, investments and visitors. The invitation for the participation in this focus-groups is an integral aspect of the underlined methodology for the elaboration of this study. Nowadays, the problems and the respective solution proposals are too complex and important to only read the present and project the future being only focused in the legitimacy of the political and specialized technical decision makers. In this scope, Naturtejo and the Portuguese Federation for Tourism in Rural Space are, therefore, committed to energize a process of extended participation where several actors have something to say and contribute in a participatory way to outline a comprehensive framework concerning what is and what should be the rural world in Portugal. Hosting thematic working groups is the process that will be used to encourage the participation and the debate. The aim is to assure the production of knowledge and sustained analysis, both by identifying major themes that must be approached in the scope of the rural world, and by guiding the paths that we have to trail in the upcoming future. The collected info in these focus-groups will contribute, in a significant way, to the fulfilment of these specific objectives. “The rural world and the economic and social development in Portugal” took place in day 1 of October, in the Municipality Council of Idanha-a-Nova, under the theme “Attractiveness, settlement and social cohesion”.

The meeting was conducted by the team of the company Augusto Mateus & Associates with the participation of representatives from local, regional and national entities. Carlos Neto de Carvalho was the representative of Naturtejo, E.I.M. participating actively in the three hosted meetings.

"The rural world and the economic and social development in Portugal" took place in 2 October at the Forest Living Science Centre in Proença-a-Nova, at the time of 9h30m under the theme "Agro-forestry, agro-food and livestock sectors". The goal of this work meeting was to gather the contributions of several actors who intervene in the thematic, conceding it a nationwide coverage.

"The rural world and the economic and social development in Portugal" took place also in 2 October, at the Tagus Art and Culture House in Vila Velha de Ródão, under the theme "Environmental sustainability, renewable energies and extractive industries". The global result of the several focus-groups meanwhile hosted will allow a wide overview of the respective covered themes. In this focus-group in particular, the questions discussed assume the concern to treat the approach of "Environmental sustainability, renewable energies and extractive industries", as an aspect in the rural world. An aspect where should be addressed the issues connected to the productive capacity of these sectors, these sectors tendencies in an international scale and the impacts that this has, or should have, in Portugal. For this, will be put together the contributes of representative, associative and institutional entities, as well as support entities linked to the protection and conservation system for protected areas, and to the aspect of exploitation of its related touristic potential.



1 to 3 October – Introduction sessions of the “Project Rivers” at the School EB2,3/S José Silvestre Ribeiro and at the Professional School of Raia, in Idanha-a-Nova.

The “Project Rivers” is an environmental educational program that aims to the adoption and monitoring a 500m section of river. It is focused on the social participation on the conservation of fluvial spaces, seeking to follow the presented objectives in the Decade for the Education of the United Nations for the Sustainable Development and contributing for the implementation of the Earth Charter and the Water Board Directive. It arrived to Portugal in 2006 promoted by the following entities: Portuguese Association for the Environmental Education (ASPEA), Association of Geography Professors (APG), League for the Protection of Nature (LPN) and Engineering College from de University of Oporto (FEUP). In the municipality of Idanha-a-Nova it began to be implemented in the School year of 2012/2013 by the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova, with the support of Naturtejo Geopark. The chosen river was the Ponsul. This School year were adopted 8 sections, thus becoming adopted a total of 4km of the Ponsul River, by students and teachers from the municipality. The introduction sessions were intended for 126 students and 6 professors from 6 classes (5^oA; 5^oB; 5^oC; 7^oA; 7^oB; 7^oC) from the School EB 2,3/S José Silvestre Ribeiro and for 40 students and 2 professors of 2 classes (11^oGrade – Rural and Environmental Tourism Technical; 10^oGrade Agricultural Production Technical) from the Professional School of Raia (EPRIN). The Monitors were Arlindo Cardoso, Hugo Oliveira and Manuela Catana. Until the end of the School year, will take place two field trips to each adopted 500 metres section of the Ponsul River. All the classes will have to present a work which consists in a sculpture made with reused materials, on a tree existing in their section, and there will be also a contest to award the best sculpture. At the School EB2,3/S José Silvestre Ribeiro this Project is included within the scope of the activities of the “Program Eco-Schools” promoted by the European Blue Flag Association.



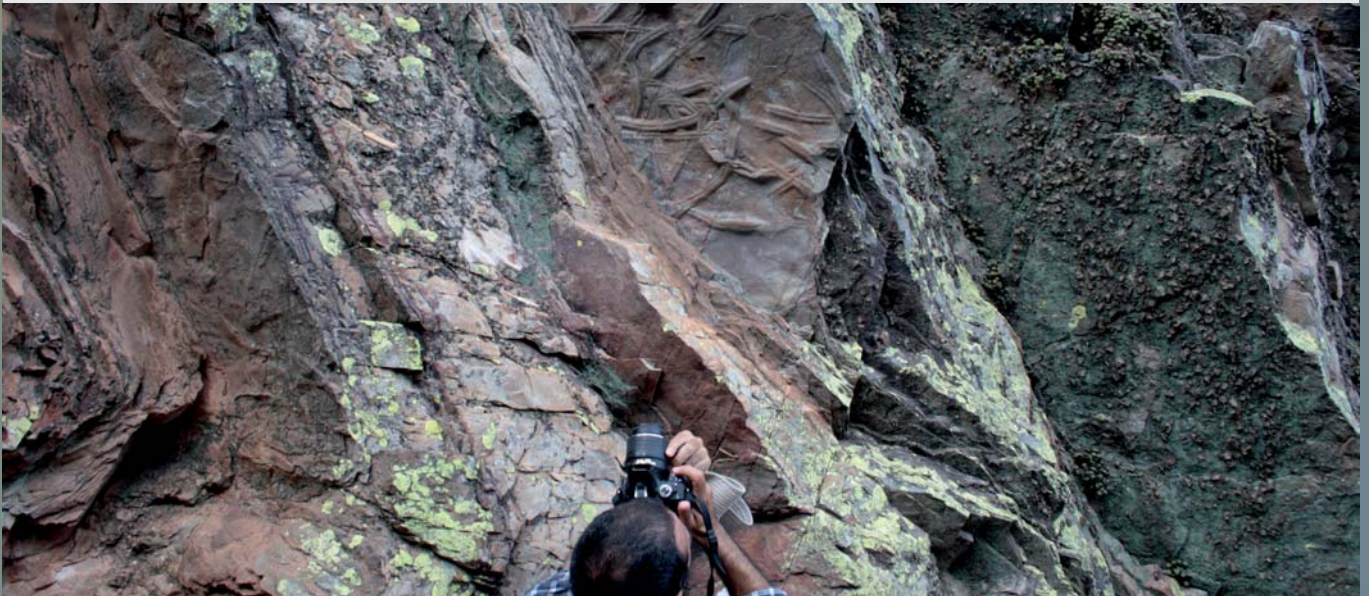
3 to 31 October – Promotional exhibit about the geopark at the heart of Madrid. Between the days 3 to 31 October will take place an exhibit about Naturtejo Geopark in the exhibit hall of the Travel Agency “ [TierradeFuego™- Hiking -Travels](#), next to the Gran Vía, in Madrid. This is an operator specialized in hiking trails across the world, with whom Naturtejo have already developed dozens of programs since 2008, in Castelo Branco, Idanha-a-Nova, Nisa, Oleiros, Proença-a-Nova and Vila Velha de Ródão. This exhibit has as objective to promote the Geopark territory, showing the natural, scenic and historical-cultural values as well as some of the main touristic resources of the region: the gold exploitation that recovers millenary techniques used until our current times, the signalled tracks for hiking trails, the handmade production experiences more significant and the local gastronomic products. This exhibit coordinated by Naturtejo was organized with the support of the municipalities, as well as the support from the company Aromas do Valado which lend to the exhibit space the sensory dimension of the indigenous scrubs and woods. The gold exploitation is patent in several ancient gold mines through all the Geopark, during all the courses of the Tagus, Erges and Ponsul rivers, having been exploited since the Roman period until the present day. Nowadays form a differentiating touristic product in which the visitors are invited to search for gold in the sands of these rivers; they may also learn the art of the goldsmiths through experiences with a local artist. The Hiking Trails are another major bet in all of the municipalities in the Naturtejo Geopark, where there has been investment in the valuation and maintenance of tracks and interpretation, existing in the Geopark around 550 km of signalled tracks that have been causing great interest among the Spanish market specialized in this market niche.



4 to 5 October – Casqueiro 2014 – Bread, Cakes and Traditions Festival in Idanha-a-Velha. The Casqueiro, Bread, Cakes and Traditions Festival filled Idanha-a-Velha with animation, transforming the weekend in this historical village in a major display of the best flavours and knowledge of the entire region. Two dozens of bread exhibitors and around 150 handcraft and regional products exhibitors were the “stars” of this fair where there was no shortage of live music, street entertainment, theatre shows and traditional games.

Yet, stand out the tastings of bread made in wood-fired ovens, the bread workshops for children and the baking of the biggest casqueiro bread of Portugal: 1,80 metres length, 40 cm wide and 25 kg of dough! During the weekend was promoted the bread production, “a treasure that we inherit from our fathers and grandfathers and more than that a hope for the future”, stressed at the opening of Casqueiro Armindo Jacinto, Mayor of the Idanha-a-Nova Municipality and President of Naturtejo Geopark.

According with Armindo Jacinto, the festival calendar of the municipality aims to the “appreciation and disclosure of our products of excellence and thus we can provide opportunities to the local producers and businessmen and generate economy, wealth and jobs”. The support to the licensing for this small producers activity and the qualification of their products has been proven profitable. Armindo Jacinto advanced that nowadays is already produced bread in many parishes of Idanha-a-Nova, not only to sell in the region but also in Lisbon and even in foreign countries. The sixth edition of the Casqueiro brought once again thousands of visitors who took the opportunity discover the heritage from Idanha-a-Velha and from the municipality, motivated by the delicious smell of bread and cakes baked in the traditional wood-fired ovens that filled the little historical village of Idanha-a-Velha. 150 craftsman and producers from the region had one more opportunity to close some deals, in an energizing strategy for the local entrepreneurial tissue that has already been developed with remarkable success through the municipalities of Naturtejo Geopark.



5 to 7 October – Program through the Geopark with the Professor José Juan Cano Delgado. Professor José Juan Cano Delgado, from the Long Range Education National University of Tenerife, Spain, made a 3 day technical visit to Naturtejo Geopark. During his stay he met the natural and historical-cultural heritage of the region by visiting the Portas de Ródão Natural Monument, the Olive Oil Pole Press of Vila Velha de Ródão, the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia, the Historical Village of Monsanto, the Fraga da Água d'Alta waterfall and the Fragosas Valley, but also to some examples of geotourism in the territory such as the geo-restaurant Petiscos & Granitos or the geotouristic hiking trails, being accompanied by Carlos Neto de Carvalho and Joana Rodrigues. Professor José Delgado had also the opportunity to testify the community involvement on the implementation of the Hiking Trail Muradal-Pangeia on the scope of the project International Appalachian Trail, which has been coordinated by Naturtejo Geopark in Portugal.



7 October – Lecture concerning Geoparks and Geotourism at the Superior Management School of Idanha-a-Nova. The visit to Naturtejo Geopark ended with the lecture of José Juan Cano Delgado under the issue “Geoparks and geotourism in America and Canary Islands, ¿assure of the development?” at the Superior Management School of Idanha-a-Nova, intended for the students and profesors from tourism graduations. Introduced by Carlos Neto de Carvalho, at the end there was the opportunity to discuss with the students the problems and opportunities that came up with the geopark.

8 October – Meeting at the Portuguese Geoparks Forum. The Portuguese Geoparks Forum, which since September counts with one more member of the European and Global Geoparks Network, the Geopark Terras de Cavaleiros, gathered its members in the UNESCO National Commission. From the several discussed issues are highlighted the elaboration of a business plan with several joint activities with the Portuguese geoparks for 2015. Naturtejo Geopark was represented by Joana Rodrigues and Manuela Catana.

10 to 12 October – Touristic program to watch the deer mating. A group of three visitors came to the geopark to watch the spectacular deer mating season. The companies Casa do Forno and Incentivos Outdoor provided exceptional moments in the best landscapes from the International Tagus.



13, 15, 17, 20, 22 to 24 and 29 October – 1st Field Trip of the “Project Rivers” to 8 classes from the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova. This first Field Trip to the adopted section of the Ponsul river was intended to the characterization and general analysis of the selected area. The students collected data related to the section that was write down in a Field File and took some photos. In each of these days, each class, respectively, went towards their section to make the Field Trip: 7°C – Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia; 7°B – Marechal Carmona Dam; 5°C - Herdade da Várzea; 5° A – Idanha-a-Velha (Roman Bridge Upstream); 5°B – Idanha-a-Velha (Roman Bridge Downstream); 7°A – Rosa Cometa; EPRIN (Agricultural Production) – Fountain of Tourinhos; EPRIN (Tourism) – Senhora da Graça. The students participating in these field trips belong to 6 classes from the School EB2,3 José Silvestre Ribeiro and 2 classes from EPRIN, in a total of 166 students and 8 teachers. The Monitors were Arlindo Cardosa, Hugo Oliveira and Manuela Catana.



16 to 17 October – Science, Culture and Tradition Fair: great success in Castelo Branco! Naturtejo Geopark in partnership with the Superior School of Technology from the Polytechnic Institute of Castelo Branco was present in the Science, Culture and Tradition Fair in the Entrepreneurial Association of Beira Baixa promoted by the Superior School of Education from the IPCB and supported by the Gulbenkian Foundation. From this partnership that has been developed in the last 3 years, result several multimedia applications of appreciation/interpretation of the geopark geological and mining heritage with digital tools that reconstruct environments and simulate experiences. With this participation, the intention was to present the result of these works, which was visited by the basic schools of Castelo Branco with great attendance. Several stands were energized by local craftsman from several “arts and crafts”, science centres derived from several parts of the country and schools. Naturtejo Geopark was represented by the monitors Manuel Almeida and João Tavares, supported by Professor Dr. Pedro Silva.



21 to 24 October – Fam trip for nature and culture tourism operators in the Geopark. A Fam Trip for German touristic operators in Naturtejo Geopark was organized, as consequence of the promotion efforts in the German market that have been developed at the International Tourism Fair of Berlin ITB. The operators made a visit to the most emblematic locals of the natural and historical heritage of the Naturtejo Geopark, such as the Episcopal Palace Garden or the Fraga da Água d'Alta Waterfall. They experienced the most differentiating touristic experiences in a Pottery Workshop in Nisa, MTB tour in Monsanto, Boat trip through the Portas de Ródão Natural Monument, Gold panning in the Erges river, birdwatching in the Castle of king Wamba, hiking trails, archaeological digging in Proença-a-Nova, “ciência à la carte” in the Forest Living Science Centre. During the visit was yet the opportunity to taste this region genuine gastronomy including a traditional “magusto” (roasted chestnuts by the fire) to the sound of “Adufe” players. Within the group were specialized operators in Nature Tourism, Megalithic Routes and an operator head of the ecotourism sector in the International Tourism Fair of Berlin ITB.



23 October – 1 Open Forum for Spanish Geoparks: a success case! The 1st Open Day of the Spanish Committee for Geoparks took place in Guadalupe, in our neighbour Villuercas Geopark (Cáceres, Spain). This Committee coordinates some issues related with the Global Geoparks Network and with the proper information disclosure concerning the most recent projects of the geoparks in Spain, which were present in this meeting. In this event were presented the already existent geoparks as discussed the main issues: “Geological heritage, science and geoconservation”; “Geotourism and local development”, “Education and disclosure” and “The geoparks as they are seen by the scientific and professional community”. There were present local entrepreneurs, school community, projects for future geoparks, local authorities and local community, in a total of more than 230 participants. The meeting included a visit to some of the Geopark geosites, having the Naturtejo Geopark been represented by Carlos Neto de Carvalho and Joana Rodrigues.

22 October – Seminar about quantitative modelling in Life Sciences on the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the UNESCO Theoretical Physics International Centre, in Italy. Andrea Baucon was invited as specialist for the 50th anniversary of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics, in the Leonardo da Vinci building, in Trieste – Italy. Representing Naturtejo Geopark, presented for an audience full of interested physicists a refreshing and daring lecture untitled “From the worm galleries to the dinosaur footprints: an Ichnological journey to the biological behaviour”. Since the Palaeolithic that Men seeks to read the biological behaviour through traces left by animals and plants. Over the centuries, this survival art evolved to a discipline that relates the Earth Sciences to the Life Sciences: Ichnology. Andrea discussed in this seminar the fundamentals of the study of life evidences, presenting solid methodologies to decode the Ichnological alphabet – from the worm galleries to the dinosaur footprints. Special attention was given by this investigator to the quantitative methods application such as fractal geometry, network theories, and artificial life. Fossil and actual environment were explored by Andrea Baucon, highlighting the meaning (paleo)biological of 600 million years of de bioturbation in ecosystems oceanic and continentals. In fact, galleries, footprints, drillings and coprolites represent fossil behaviour and, as such, are valuable tools in sedimentary geology, evolutionary biology and palaeontology. The lecture was followed by a visit to historical buildings in search of ichnofossils grafogliptids. Part of Andrea Baucon's Doctorate Thesis results was presented in this conference, a forefront investigation work, counting since its beginning with the support of Naturtejo Geopark.



25 October - "Landgeossítios" Through Muradal Mountain. The Association "Trilhos do Estreito" together with Oleiros Municipality, The parish of Estreito and Naturtejo geopark hosted a touristic tour for Land Rovers in the Muradal Mountain. This initiative, unique in Portugal, has as goal to show de geosites of Oleiros and its cultural and social dimensions. 28 vehicles and more than 50 participants covered some of the interesting landscape spaces of the Muradal Mountain, in the Municipality of Oleiros. Enthusiastically received by the communities of Sarnadas de S. Simão, Orvalho and Amieira, where tasted regional flavours served by the locals, the participants native from all the country ended their adventure already in total darkness at the elegant Santa Margarida Hotel, with a great farewell dinner. The landscape historical and natural interpretation of these Naturtejo geopark spaces was in charge of Carlos Neto de Carvalho.



27 October - Class in the Secondary School of Vale de Cambra. On the scope of the Tourism discipline - Management Technics in the course of Rural Tourism Technician, Joana Rodrigues went to the Secondary School of Vale de Cambra to make the presentation "Naturtejo Geopark: Innovating strategies of sustainable development". This students, who live a few kilometres from the Arouca Geopark, could get to know another development project, having been widely discussed several tools at service for the geoparks and geotourism.



IMPACT OF GEOPARK IN MEDIA

TV & radio

16 October (RTP1 Information Program - Portugal em Directo) – Interview to Armindo Jacinto concerning the participation of Naturtejo at the Science, Culture and Tradition Fair. <http://www.rtp.pt/play/p1398/e169147/portugal-em-direto/387055>

Newspapers & www

October (Raiano) – Bread and traditions “shine” at Casqueiro Festival

1 October (Gazeta do Interior) - Casqueiro is king at the village of Idanha-a-Velha

8 October (Gazeta do Interior) - Casqueiro brings thousands of visitors during the weekend

9 October (Reconquista) – Community oven baked 500 brads during the weekend – The bread is a celebration

15 October (Gazeta do Interior) – The exhibit is open to public in the GRAN VIA, in Madrid – Naturtejo Geopark shows itself in Spain

16 October (Reconquista) – Promotional exhibit open to public in Madrid

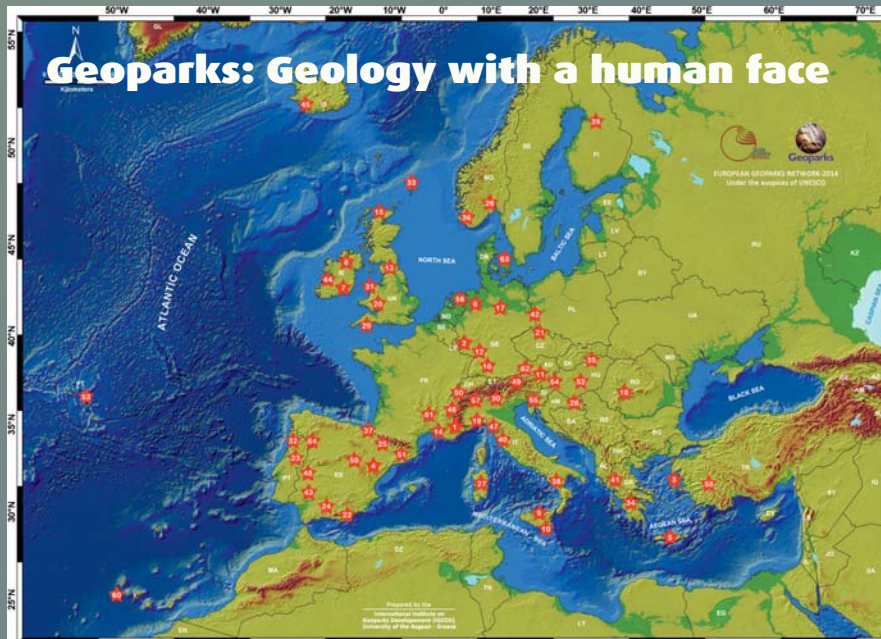
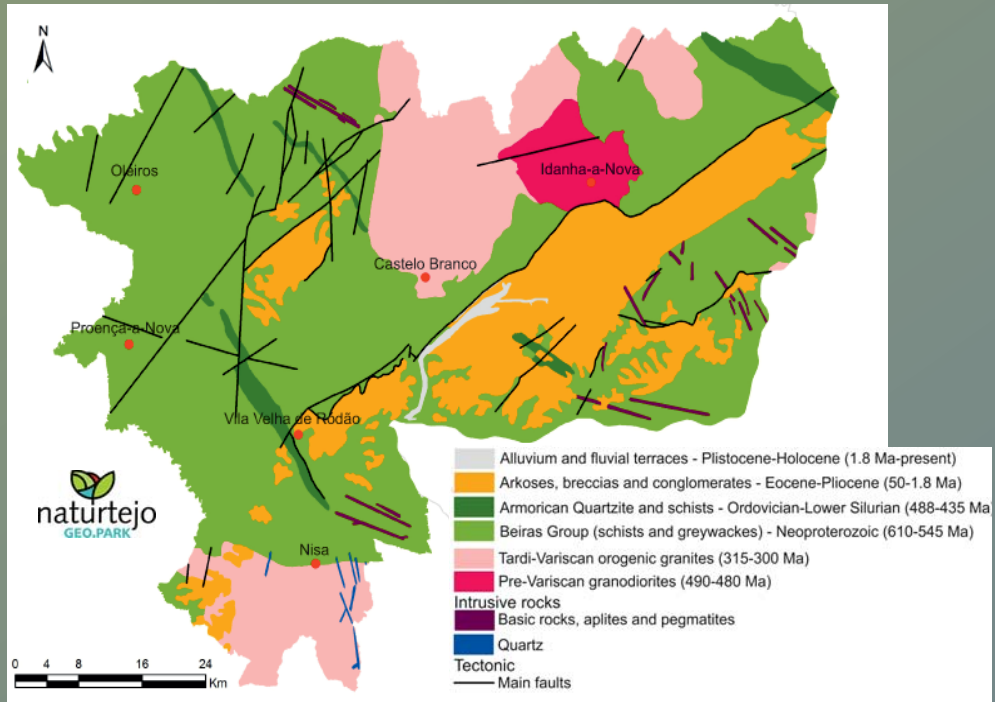
29 de Outubro - (<http://www.ictp.it/about-ictp/media-centre/news/2014/10/worm-burrows-and-dinosaur-footprints.aspx>) - Galerias de vermes e pegadas de dinossáurios: Seminário sobre métodos quantitativos em Ciências da Vida ilustra história primordial



PROMOTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

- Neto de Carvalho, C. – A relic in our forests...Orvalho, Europe's biggest concentration of Portuguese laurel: the Fraga da Água d'Alta preserves more than 200! Oleiros Cultural Agenda, Out., Nov., Dez. 2014, p. 6.





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