



CRUZIANA

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

In this issue: -Geopark in the Sagres school-vessel for a marketing operation- X European Geoparks Conference: rigor in the success - International Symposium on the Management of Geosites: Geopark's work awarded - VIII Iberian Congress of Geochemistry...and more!



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

The Geopark Naturtejo Meseta Meridional obtained a green card in the last meeting of the Coordination Committee of the European Geoparks Network in Larvik, Norway. The representatives of 42 geoparks existing then in Europe voted unanimously the permanence of the first Portuguese geopark in this initiative affiliated UNESCO, for the next four years, the revalidation period for Geoparks. This result so positive came from the rigorous evaluation developed during the last months of July till September, where experts from the European Geoparks Network have visited the Naturtejo Geopark territory to analyze the international importance of the geological heritage, the conservation measures of this heritage that has been implemented and the strategies for sustainable development that are being applied in the area of the six municipalities of Castelo Branco, Idanha-a-Nova, Nisa, Oleiros, Proença-a-Nova and Vila Velha de Ródão. Naturtejo Geopark could not be more satisfied with the final result which demonstrates all work that has been developed, since the Geopark was included in the Global Geoparks Network in 2006, follows according with the main guidelines defined for the regional sustainable development, based on quality and requirement criteria of UNESCO.

It is worth to mention that the Global Geoparks Network, born in 2000, includes nowadays 87 geoparks distributed by 27 countries in Europe, Asia, Oceania and America. This year 9 new geoparks from Iceland, Ireland, Italy, France, Spain, China and Japan were included in the Global Network.

ACTIVITIES OF THE MONTH



2nd September – Territorial marketing based on an Iberian traditional recipe. The “Pickled Partridge”, one of the 21 finalists of the 7 Wonders of Gastronomy of Portugal, representing the region of Inner Beira, but very famous in many parts of Spain, and sponsored by the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova, was presented in the School-Vessel Sagres, from the Portuguese Navy, which is considered the great embassy of Portugal in the world. Besides this delicious, but almost forgotten traditional recipe, were joined other delicacies prepared with products from Naturtejo Geopark and tasted by 40 invited guests, among officials and enterprisers, representatives of the tourism sector and Portuguese Navy. Several media covered the promotional event, with great impact for marketing of Geopark local products. With the support of the Portuguese Navy, and taking the opportunity of the 7 Wonders of Gastronomy contest, it was intended to promote the use of Portuguese products of quality by the sector of hotels and restaurants, which is responsible in Portugal for the market of more than 50% of food. Motivating the Portuguese to meet the best Portugal and inducing national agriculture and fishing, their daily use and export. To combine tradition and modernity with innovation was the challenge for the Chéfs Mários Ramos from Ô Hotels & Resort, Sequeira from the School of Hotel and Tourism of Estoril, João Soares from the Geo-Restaurant Petiscos & Granitos of Monsanto and Mrs. Josefina Pissarra, which together prepared for this lunch gastronomical specialties with quality products from Naturtejo Geopark.

This initiative had the support of the Portuguese Navy, the Naturtejo Geopark municipalities, producers and companies from Naturtejo Geopark, the Tourism of Centre Region, the Municipality of Ílhavo, the School of Hotel and Tourism of Estoril and the School of Management of Idanha-a-Nova.

The great School-Vessel Sagres, sailing for 74 years, 49 with the Portuguese flag, 90 m long, built in the shipyards Blohm & Voss, in Germany, was in Alfeite, the Navy Base in Lisbon, as a major stage to support the contest 7 Wonders of Gastronomy and the live show “What does Portugal taste to”. It is worth to remind that the 7 Wonders of Portugal contest presented in the last two years, with an enormous promotional success for the whole Naturtejo Geopark, the Natural Monument of Portas de Ródão and the Pickled Partridge as finalists, respectively, in the Natural Wonders and the Gastronomical Wonders.

2-3, 23-25th September – Baja TT Proença-Oleiros and Idanha-a-Nova. The Castelo Branco car association organized two races in the territory of Naturtejo Geopark, with its sponsorship. Counting for the national championships of motorcycle, quads and buggies/UTV, the Baja Proença-Oleiros hosted more than 100 participants and the Baja Idanha-a-Nova welcomed the European caravan of motorcycle and quads. The 318 km racing got a participation record in the buggies national championship, with 26 teams.



5-10th September – International Symposium on Geosite Management prizes work in Naturtejo Geopark .

The International Symposium on Geosites Management was held in Savoie – Mont-Blanc (France). Naturtejo Geopark was represented by the geologist Joana Rodrigues, whose work “Management of geosites in Naturtejo Geopark: geomorphological viewpoints” deserved a prize by the International Association of Geomorphology, being awarded with a scholarship to participate in the Intensive Course from 5 to 7th. The course occurred at Evian-Chablais, aspiring territory to European Geopark, and was dedicated to new technologies applied to geosite management, with lectures, field and practical classes, with highest quality of organization and teachers. In this course Joana presented the talk “Naturtejo Geopark - Geoconservation versus Geotourism: how can new Technologies support the management of a wide, 4617 km² territory”

The International Symposium “Management of Geosites in Protected Areas”, was held between 7 and 9th at the University of Savoie and the Natural Park of Bauges Massif (territory which one week later was included in the European Geoparks Network). Experts from 18 countries discussed ways and models for sustainable management of sites of Geological Interest. The work “Management of geosites at Naturtejo Geopark: geomorphological viewpoints” was included in the session Geosites in Protected Areas and presented a preliminar systemic approach to inventoried viewpoints, from the scientific and potential for use points of view.

The post-symposium field trip visited Chamonix-Mont-Blanc, in a region where geomorphological processes and structures are clear and many tourists use them and have interpretation in several sites.

11th September – Bike Tour PT Club. The Sarzedas and Martim Branco schist villages were united by 90 mountain bikers. The Portugal Telecom Club organized two circuits, each with 30 and 55 km, in a Bike Tour with the support of the Municipality of Castelo Branco, the Schist Village Network, the multinational sport store Decathlon and Naturtejo Geopark. Many of the participants came from the territory.



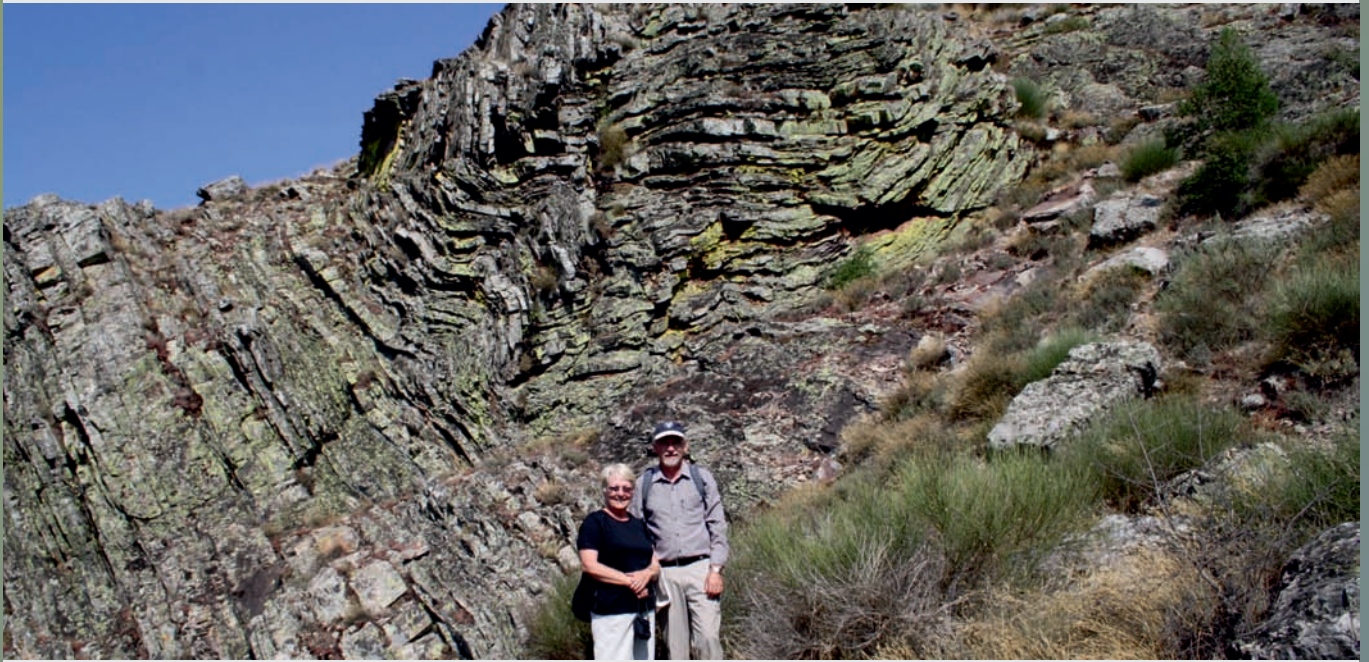
12-19th September – 28th Meeting and 10th European Geoparks Conference at Gea Norvegica: a perfect organization.

This was a full week for the European Geoparks Network and, in particular, for Gea Norvegica Geopark, located at south of Norway. Kristin Rangnes and her team demonstrated a perfect organization of the two major events of the European Geoparks Network, and an enviable kindness. The Meeting of the Advisory and Coordination Committees of EGN occurred at Larvik, where it was also possible to visit some geosites, especially Rognstranda, from this geopark well known for the occurrence and exploitation of Larvikite. For the thematic groups of EGN, Armindo Jacinto created a working group for the tourism development of geoparks, which had strong support. The European Geoparks Conference was held in Langesund, with more than 250 participants coming from all continents, which is turning this Conference an event for discussion at a global scale. Carlos Neto de Carvalho in his 3 talks presented 3 ongoing projects in Naturtejo Geopark, with the support of municipalities, their technicians, teachers and students. This include the project for signing and interpretation, physical and virtual, of the 16 geomonuments that tell the history of this territory, the annual work developed with the schools of the region, and the Mountain Tour of Oleiros, which organizes and fosters nature, culture and products of the mountain so characteristic of this municipality and that may bring differentiation based on quality and creativity for the whole territory of Naturtejo Geopark. Carlos Neto de Carvalho took also the chair in the session on Education and Research, together with the Brazilian representative of Araripe Geopark. Finally, it is worth to emphasize the opening ceremony of Steinvika new geosite, with a strong participation of the community that dazzled the participants from all over the world.

21-22nd September – “Geotrails”- Vultures Trail. Tiago Oliveira accompanied a couple in the program “Geotrails-Vultures Trail”. Fascinated by birds, this friendly couple walked on the Vultures Trail at Salvaterra do Extremo and experimented the always outstanding boat trip in Portas de Ródão Natural Monument.

22-23rd September – International Conference on Tourism and Sustainability LETS-ISLA - Challenges and Opportunities.

The Laboratory of Ecology, Tourism and Sustainability of ISLA-Lisbon (LETS ISLA) organized the International Conference on Tourism and Sustainability – Challenges and Opportunities. This conference aimed to gather and promote the exchange of information and the multidisciplinary discussion among researchers, entrepreneurs, public administration (local, regional and national) and other participants interested in tourism and sustainable development. As invited key-note speaker was Cipriano Marin, Vice-president of the UNESCO Office for Canary Islands and member co-founder of the Institute of Responsible Tourism. Fátima Rodrigues and Pedro Martins represented Naturtejo Geopark, with an invited talk to present the territory.



22nd September – Australian geologist in Geopark holidays. Tarry Ballinger and his wife came to Naturtejo Geopark during their summer holidays. The Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia and the Inselberg of Monsanto were the geomonuments visited with Carlos Neto de Carvalho, where they found some of the most important instars in the Geological History of this territory.

23rd September – II Seminar on Tuberculosis in wild Ungulates. The Euromediterranean Society for Wildlife Surveillance, with the support of the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova and Naturtejo Geopark, hosted at the Borderland Cultural Centre the II Seminar on Tuberculosis in wild Ungulates. This Seminar paid special attention to the problem of tuberculosis control in game animals.



22-28th September – VIII Iberian Congress of Geochemistry/XVII Geochemistry Week at Naturtejo Geopark. About 150 participants coming from Portugal, Spain, Brazil and United States were in Castelo Branco, at the Agriculture School, for the Iberian Congress of Geochemistry. With the support of the municipality of Castelo Branco and the Naturtejo Geopark, this congress was composed by 110 scientific contributions distributed by current topics, such as Environmental Geochemistry and Medical Geology, with five key-note talks and homage to the Professor Ana Neiva, from the University of Coimbra. Naturtejo Geopark, through Joana Rodrigues, Sara Canilho and Carlos Neto de Carvalho was the single one to focus on the subject Geochemistry and Education.

Before the Congress there was a two-day field trip to Naturtejo Geopark, where participants, students and professors, Portuguese, Spanish and Brazilian could discover the geology and experiences of a fascinating territory. They started from Castelo Branco with Carlos Neto de Carvalho, and analyzing the processes responsible for shaping the landscape, the field trip enabled an experience of “panning for gold” at the river Ocreza and a healthy familiarity among participants but, for the first time, there was not found a single nugget to toast them. Later, there was an open-air mining lunch, practical and tasteful, at the restaurant Vale Mourão. During the afternoon, they drove to Vila Velha de Ródão to catch the nice boat trip through the Natural Monument of Portas de Ródão with Joana Rodrigues. Then, they moved to Idanha-a-Velha where, right in the limit of the Penamacor-Monsanto plutonite, they found the long history of Idanha-a-Velha printed in the impressive ruins of the Civitas. The dinner was stuffed of Earth Slices at Casa do Forno from Salvaterra do Extremo, not before participating in a difficult challenge of Water Tasting witnessing the geodiversity of the Geopark, which was especially prepared by Sara Canilho. Later on, the smuggler José Joaquim took the participants into the darkness of the Epigenic Gorge of Erges, where he took a long time telling countless personal and local stories.

Next day, at Dawn, the group discovered the granite morphology of Salvaterra do Extremo at Salto da Cabra viewpoint, right in the boundary with Spain. After a delicious breakfast, they went to the neighbor village of Segura, to see the installation of Segura granite and associated vein minerals which resulted in a rich mining past, full of stories to tell inside the shafts of the old Segura Mining Company. The lunch was, like the field trip, properly appreciated at Geo-restaurant Petiscos & Granitos. Later, a dive in the Rheic by the Fossils Trail of Penha Garcia and finally, a visit to Termas de Monfortinho thermal spa, where the group witnessed the therapeutical effect of the special physical-chemical properties of the Sacred Fountain. Next day, already in the congress, photos and fascinations were circulating among participants, and reached Fátima Rodrigues and Eduarda Rodrigues, representatives of Naturtejo promotional boot in the congress, as result of the success of the field trip to the Geopark.



25th September – Walking tour “Erges waters”. The tourism office of Idanha-a-Nova organized with Naturtejo Geopark a 9 km trekking by the Erges Route. Taking as central the thematic of water, a guided visit to Termas de Monfortinho thermal spa could not miss, with the tasting of these waters whose therapeutical virtues are recognized for more than 2000 years.

29th September – Project to support Fukushima bonds Naturtejo Geopark with Japan. Idanha may receive Japanese farmers coming from the region of Fukushima, which was sadly affected in recent times by a devastating earthquake and tsunami that caused a nuclear disaster. The aim of the project is the production of biological food and promotion of nature tourism. Under study is the possibility of orphan Japanese students hosting to study in the Polytechnic Institute of Castelo Branco. The Project Fukushima-Go au Portugal, developed by the Charity association, wishes to settle 6 Japanese farmers (or 3 families) in the plain of Idanha, through the Rural Enterprise Incubator which is being installed at Idanha-a-Nova. A group organized by the architect Hiroko Kageyama and an expert in the agriculture sector, Katsuyoshi Hashimoto, visited the lands, together with Ronaldo Oya, owner of a farm for biological agriculture and a famous Chéf of Japanese cuisine, Hisayuki Takeuchi. Armindo Jacinto aims with this Project to develop a brand for the cuisine products “Fukushima-go/Naturtejo”. Under this scope, he is going to visit Japan next month, where he will see from close the catastrophic impact of the nuclear disaster in the region of Fukushima and establish contact with geoparks belonging to the Global Network.

30th September – French operator brings group to Geopark. The package “Discovering Geopark” of the French Group “Saint-Maximin Escapades” brought 52 tourists for the boat trip to Portas de Ródão Natural Monument. Fátima Rodrigues accompanied the group in the visit to Castelo Branco city museum and to the historical Palace Garden.



GEOPARK'S IMPACT IN MEDIA

Newspapers & www

September (O Concelho de Vila Velha de Ródão) – Naturtejo Geopark awarded by UNESCO for the next 4 years

September (Ensino Magazine – cover) – Geopark presents Geo-jewel

1st September (Reconquista – cover) – Baja TT runs in the Pinewood

7th September (Gazeta do Interior) – Geopark promoted in Sagres school-vessel

7th September (www.netmadeira.com) – Geopark Naturtejo Meseta Meridional launches new website

7th September (diário digital) – Geopark Naturtejo Meseta Meridional launches new website

8th September (Reconquista) – Portuguese vessel welcomes promotional lunch – Pickled Partridge with a taste of Sagres

13th September (www.netmadeira.com) – Geopark Naturtejo Meseta Meridional launches new website

14th September (www.naturlink.pt) – Geoschools Conference gather European geoscientists

15th September (www.boasnoticias.pt) – Portugal hosts European geoscientists

22nd September (Reconquista) – For promotion of nature tourism in the European Geoparks Network – Jacinto leads European group

22nd September (Reconquista) – European caravan discusses the title of motos at Idanha

25th September (www.diariodigitalcastelobranco.pt) – European working group expects from Naturtejo Geopark nature tourism packages

26th September (www.jornaldeoleiros.com) – Oleiros Mountain Tour featured in the X European Geoparks Conference

26th September (www.cnoticias.net) – Iberian Congress of Geochemistry hosts 150 experts

27th September (Povo da Beira) – Mountain environment increasingly sought

27th September (www.ccdrc.pt) – European working group expects from Naturtejo Geopark nature tourism packages

29th September (Reconquista – cover) – Project brings Japanese to the municipality

29th September (Reconquista – cover) – “European” escapes to albicastrense pilot

29th September (Reconquista) – Iberian Congress of Geochemistry – World experts in the Agriculture School

Radio & TV

2nd September – RTP1 national TV – Pickled Partridge in the Sagres school-vessel

5th September – RTP1 national TV (Verão Total live show) – 7 Wonders of Gastronomy

28th September – Rádio Condestável (regional radio) – Oleiros – Mountain Tour



SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR GEOSCIENCES

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Neto de Carvalho, C., Canilho, S. & Rodrigues, J. - Expedição ao Geopark Naturtejo – Materiais de Apoio. VIII Congresso Ibérico de Geoquímica, 24-25 de Setembro: 148 pp.

Carvalho, J. & Gaspar, M. - Gersdorfite, um sulfo-arseneto de Ni-(Co-Fe) no minério de cobre de Vila Velha de Ródão, Portugal: textura, mineralogia e variação composicional do minério cuprífero. In: Antunes, I.M.H.R., Almeida, J.P.F. & Albuquerque, M.T.D. (eds), VIII Congresso Ibérico de Geoquímica, Livro de Resumos, Instituto Politécnico de Castelo Branco: pp. 47. In: Antunes, I.M.H.R., Almeida, J.P.F. & Albuquerque, M.T.D. (eds), VIII Congresso Ibérico de Geoquímica, Livro de Actas, Instituto Politécnico de Castelo Branco: pp. 323-327.

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SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR GEOSCIENCES

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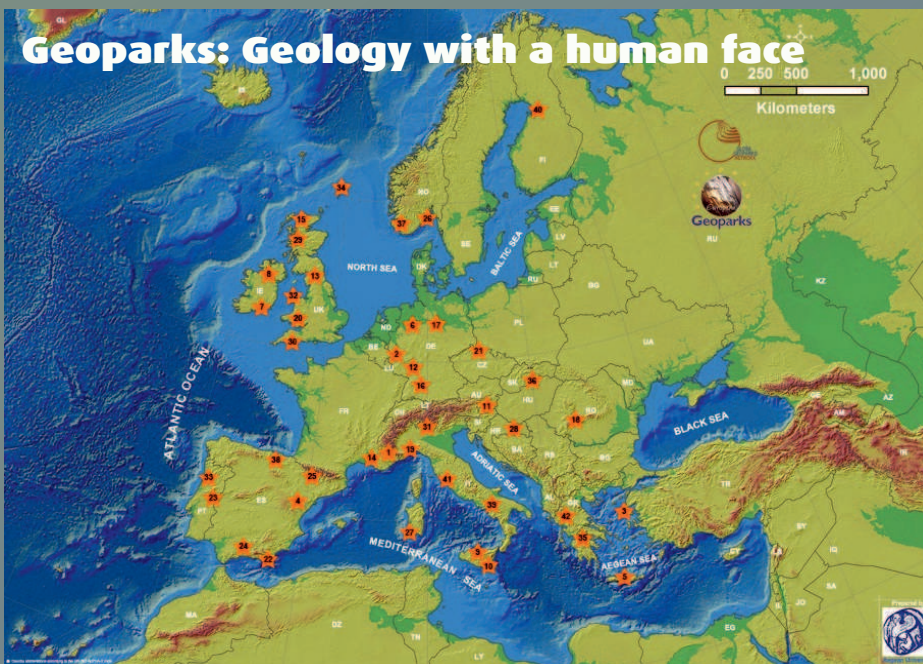
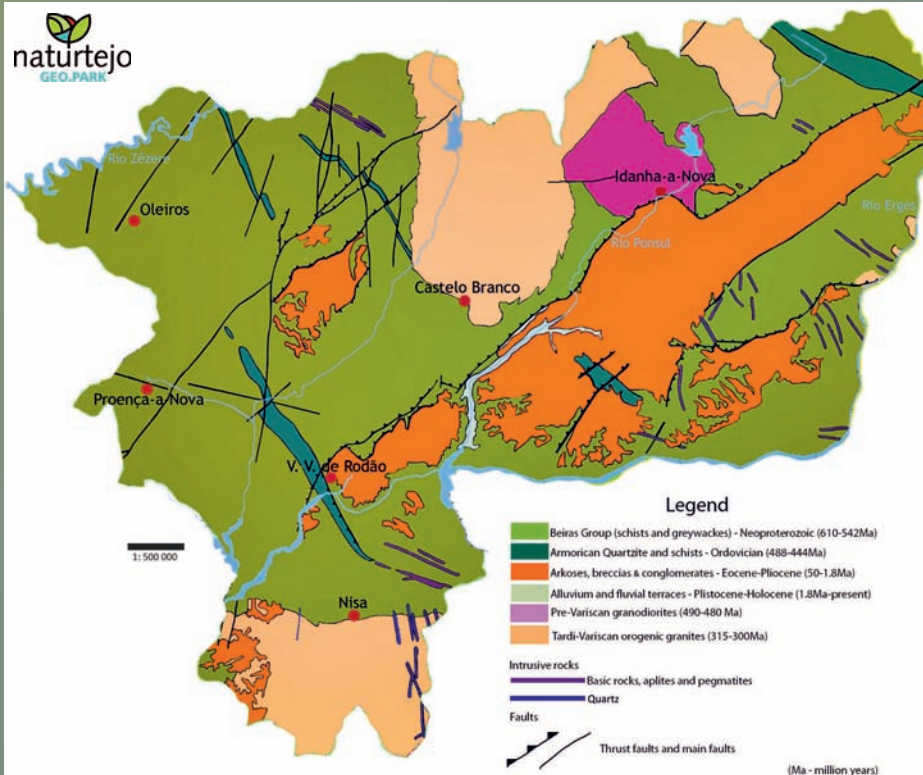
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