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naturtejo





#### Geo Stories of our places and people: Lardosa

"Here comes the EMEL, with furnaces, separators, high chimneys and lights that are suspended it in the insomnia at night." Shouldn't go unnoticed, in these plans of the Ocreza, the Tins Mining Company of Lardosa, as described by Fernando Namora in its novel "Mines of San Francisco". At the tungsten peak, in the Second World War, there were lots of those who had abandoned the farmland to stir it in that gigantic mining area, searching for Tin and the "black gold". And this was not so difficult, since the granitic regolith is here particularly thick, reaching several meters deep. EMEL was one of the companies banned by the U.S. Government from doing business with companies in that country, for its connections with Nazi Germany. The long chimneys however waned in the dust of industrial memory that tends to not want to be remembered in these parts, but the houses, of yellow-brown color, are still part of this landscape, now in the recovery phase after having served as a shelter for sheep. Lardosa settles in the most perfect area of the granite platform of Castelo Branco, at the foot of the Gardunha mountain. Neither the Ocreza, in the West furrows these land of the Meseta. The dam of the Marateca is thus an enormous Lake which spans at bloated arms, where the giant Gardunha comes to set its sights, almost leaning in the Auroras without mist. The huge 44,47km<sup>2</sup> plan is grooved by the highway and the railway line, which contributes to the dynamics of Lardosa and its place of Vale da Torre, and its 961 inhabitants. With a flourishing agriculture that takes advantage of the irrigation, Lardosa bets even in the construction of sustainable wood homes. What about tourism? Lardosa lacks accomodation units but still offers a traditional rich cuisine. It is worth highlighting the Coscoréis Feast in January, intangible heritage of great interest that dates back for over 3 centuries. The great Fair of black-eyed peas is another of its events, which combines a traditional agricultural product with that cuisine that makes us feel at grandparents' home. Lardosa has no historical monuments worthy of record, except for the Church. The old way of Millers takes us to the jewel of the place: the Marateca Lake. This is an exceptional place for birdwatching during the whole year, and one of the best places for watching waterbirds in the whole region of Beira Baixa. The agricultural estates supported by extensions of this Lake are prone to agrotourism, where they could make use of the tradition of the old bikes tours of Lardosa, in such a flat and full of paths area. Not to mention the creation of towers for birdwatching along the banks. Marateca, between plans and the Gardunha mountain, where space goes beyond and the meek Lake invites to long canoe trips; warm summer nights or the solstices are themes for events of music, art and nature, born of pure Ocreza waters.

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The Editor Carlos Neto de Carvalho Scientífic Coordenator Geologist

Cover: (Projecto Objectiva: Geopark)



## **MONTHLY ACTIVITIES**



**1 – 2 September – II World Forum on Rural Innovation in Moraleja.** National and international experts gathered at the II World Forum on Rural Innovation in Moraleja, Spain, to discuss innovative strategies for the development of rural areas. The meeting took place in the context of the XX Raiana Fair, on 1st to 3rd September promoted by the Diputación de Cáceres, the Ayuntamiento de Moraleja and Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova. The management of the countryside, social innovation, entrepreneurship and the cross-border cooperation guided the discussion around the future of the rural world, taken from concrete experiences. At the Forum three projects that reflect innovative practices related to Idanha-a-Nova were in evidence: the company Living Seeds production and marketing of organic and biodynamic seeds; UNESCO Naturtejo Geopark, through its scientific coordinator Carlos Neto de Carvalho; and the Idanha Green Valley Food Lab project, promoted by the first edition in Idanha-a-Nova in 2015 - managed to "consolidate the work already done and strengthen cross-border and international organization of the event," said Armindo Jacinto, President of the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova. The organization distinguished the Association La Raya/A Raia with the Rural Innovation award. The next edition of the Forum will take place in Idanha-a-Nova, in 2017, and promises to continue to discuss and reward innovative practices and initiatives linked to the rural world.



7 September - Meeting "Science by those who Do it and who Teach it".

**7 September – Meeting "Science by those who Do it and who Teach it".** The VI Scientist and Science Teachers Meeting took place in the High School of Água Santas, under the theme of "Science by those who Do it and who Teach it", which brought together about 300 teachers of Biology, Geology, Physics, Mathematics and Chemistry with the aim of promoting the appreciation of work and research projects developed by Portuguese scientists and open a space for sharing experiences related to science education through workshops. The workshop "Interior and surface of the Earth in the Geopark Naturtejo" was boosted by Joana Rodrigues, in two session with 25 participants. The teachers explored geological materials and uncomplicated and affordable didactic tools, in the context of the Naturtejo Geopark which may use in their classes to approach programmatic content of the 3rd cycle of basic education and of high school.



**9 September - French Senior University brings students of geology to Penha Garcia.** 11 Senior University French students participated in a field class at the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia. The students attend the «Centre de Geologie de L'Oisans – Université Inter-Ages du Dauphiné». This field trip reinforces the educational potential of the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia, to teach and learn geology, in the international context. The students came accompanied by some family members and by the Geology teacher. The monitor of this class was Manuela Catana.



**9 September - Environmental Education Activity "Let's take care of the Ponsul River".** On this day, 24 children from "Junior Space" from the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova, participated in the Environmental Education Activity "Let's take care of the Ponsul River". This action held in Marechal Carmona dam, was organized by the educational service of the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova in partnership with the Naturtejo Geopark – UNESCO Global Geopark. The activity had a raising awareness component for the importance of water, its management and conservation. As a practical contribution to the improvement of the River, on this day, the children proceeded to collect some abandoned wastes on the banks of the Ponsul. The participants were accompanied by three monitors of the "Junior Space" and the activity was led by Hugo Oliveira.



**9 to 10 September – Baja TT in Idanha-a-Nova.** Once again the best teams in the national and international TT returned to run high emotions, with 140 riders in competition. The competition went through Almortão's Chapel, Rosmaninhal, Zebreira, Loreto's Chapel, Idanha-a-Velha, Monfortinho, Penamacor and on the road between Medelim and Penha Garcia. "We hope it has been a great event for all participants and they had had the opportunity to admire the landscape and the historical heritage," added Armindo Jacinto, inviting teams to return in sports or leisure context.

**15 September - Visit of one of the fathers of Geoconservation in Spain to Naturtejo Geopark.** Antonio Cendrero, from University of Santander in Northern Spain, is one of the fathers of geoconservation from this country, having published several works in the 90s that even today are reference for students of this discipline of applied Geosciences. For a day, Antonio Cendrero Uceda and his wife visited the Naturtejo Geopark in the company of Carlos Neto de Carvalho. The visit was between the Natural Monument of Portas de Ródão and Inselberg of Monsanto, and ending very comfortably in the Geo-Resort Casa do Forno, with the geologist João Geraldes.

**17 September - Launching of the online guide of "Educational Services and School Visits" of all the partners of the "Portuguese Geological and Mines Site" for the school year 2016/2017 –** 3The educational offer for the school year 2016/2017, of Naturtejo Geopark to school audiences, is included in the guide of the "Educational Services and School Visits" from the partner "Guide of the Portuguese Geological and Mines Site". The information about the different activities proposed by the geopark and the other partners can be found in https://issuu.com/roteirodeminas.pt/docs/servi\_os\_educativos\_e\_visitas\_esco\_ffca23a3597e8b. The educational activities and resources of Naturtejo Geopark are also available for viewing and markup in: www.geonaturescola.com (the microsite of the Educational Programs of the Naturtejo Geopark).



19 September - Training entrepreneurs and guides in Oleiros.

**19 September - Training entrepreneurs and guides in Oleiros.** This action took place in the villages of Isna and Estreito and in the geosites Fraga de Água D'alta cascade, viewpoint of Zebro and Viewpoint of Mosqueiro. It was aimed to provide practical and clear information about the Naturtejo Geopark and to get strong local membership. The training was led by Carlos Neto de Carvalho, with technical support from Inês Martins from the Municipality of Oleiros.

**20 September – Geopark Tour with the German operator Marco Polo.** The operator Marco Polo brought 24 people from Germany who carried out activities of canoeing in the Tagus River, in the Natural Monument of Portas de Ródão, and panning for gold in the geomonument of Roman Gold Mines of Conhal do Arneiro. These activities were accompanied by Nuno Coelho from Incentivos Outdoor Company.

**21 September to 21 October - German geologist's Internship in the Geopark.** Lisa Feist, German Erasmus student in Geology at the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon, came to the Naturtejo Geopark to get an internship for a month. Lisa quickly realized that the daily work at a Geopark goes far beyond its geodiversity. Lisa translated brochures and tour programs for German language, prepared new geotouristic tour packs to present at ITB Berlin, accompanied and guided visits of German operators and gave significant contributions to the development of educational tools.

**27 to 29 September – FAM TRIP from Spanish Operator "Devueltaporelmundo".** The Spanish operator "Devueltaporelmundo" held a Fam Trip through the Naturtejo Geopark staying at Hotel Tryp Colina do Castelo. They visited the city of Castelo Branco (Garden of the Episcopal Palace, Francisco Tavares Proença Júnior Museum, the old town and Castle); Vila Velha de Ródão (boat tour); Monsanto, Penha Garcia (Fossils Trail) and Idanha-a-Velha. This FAM TRIP was guided by Sérgio Ribeiro, Nuno Coelho and Jorge Costa.



27 to 30 September - 7th international Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in English Riviera. The 7th UNESCO international Conference on Global Geoparks took place in the town of Torbay, at the heart of the English Riviera UNESCO Geopark, a famous seaside resort which receives 4 million visitors every year. With a very careful and efficient organization, in a city with excellent infrastructure, were hosted more than 600 delegates from more than 50 countries from around the world. The Conference showed a very diverse cultural programme, with particular emphasis to a Geofair where there were many Asians Geoparks and some geoservice companies supplying. The Occombe Farm Barn Dance and the Gala dinner also deserve reference, in addition to the Conference inaugural ceremony, where the echoes of the Earth, involving almost 100 participants demonstrated how the people of the world are united by its rocks, in a relationship between art, geology and well-being, where there was no lack of a reference to the Naturtejo Geopark. Moreover, the Conference was held in the magnificent Abbey Tower spaces, at the Riviera International Conference Center. Four oral presentations were presented by members of the staff of Naturtejo Geopark during the Conference. Carlos Neto de Carvalho spoke about the experience of 5 years to promote the brand "Geoparks" in major world tourism fairs. Mariana Vilas Boas represented Penamacor to explain the expansion strategy of Naturtejo Geopark. Under the theme "Education, Interpretation and Communication", Manuela Catana shared some of the good practices implemented in the Educational Programs of the geopark, through communications titled "The

good practices implemented in the Educational Programs of the geopark, through communications titled "The Educational Programmes at Penamacor (Naturtejo Geopark)" and "The Interpretative Centre of Biodiversity" Idanha Lands and Schools ". Carlos Neto de Carvalho was also one of the moderators of the Panel on Regional and international collaborations among geoparks.

But this Conference, now under the sphere of the UNESCO Geoparks programme brought good news. The Assembly of the Global Network of Geoparks and the Geopark Naturtejo represented by Carlos Neto de Carvalho voted for the governing bodies. The 38th Coordination of the European Geoparks Network Committee brought the EGN strategic involvement in the official celebrations of Sustainable Tourism for Development International Year. The English Riviera Geopark tours, beautifully guided by geologists and professional local guides, were an inspiring experience in interesting local geodiversity.



## **IMPACT OF GEOPARK IN MEDIA**

#### Newspapers & www

September/ October (Jornal de Oleiros) – 10 years of Oleiros as Geopark recognized by UNESCO

September/ October (O Concelho de Vila Velha de Ródão) – Nuno Coelho, entrepreneur installed in the municipality of Vila Velha de Ródão wins personality "Environment" award September/ October (O Concelho de Vila Velha de Ródão) - Conference Portuguese Alto Tejo and International Tejo "the past and the future of the Tagus River"

September (I Like This Magazine) - UNESCO World Geoparks in Portugal

7 September (Beira.pt) - Rural Innovation Forum designs future for border regions 10 September (Diário de Coimbra) – Naturtejo integrates European Education Project 10 September (Diário Digital) – Naturtejo Geopark in a new European education and new technologies project

11 September (Beira Baixa TV) - Naturtejo Geopark in a new European education and new technologies project

13 September (Diário Digital) - Rural Innovation Forum designs future for border regions 14 September (Gazeta do Interior) - Naturtejo integrates European Project

14 September (Povo da Beira) - Rural Innovation Forum designs future for border regions 14 September (Gazeta do Interior) - Rural Innovation Forum designs future for border regions

15 September (Reconquista) – Naturtejo Geopark in European Project

22 September (Reconquista) – Feel the River, Live the Earth – Past and Future of Tagus in Conference

28 September (Reconquista) - On the Malhão beach, in Vila Nova de Milfontes - researchers rescued 120,000 years fossils in the Alentejo Coast

# SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE GEOPARK AND THE GEOSCIENCES



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- Neto de Carvalho, C., Jacinto, A., Frey, M.-L., Rodrigues, J.C., Oliveira, T. & McGill, M. – Participation in the ITB, the world's leading travel trade show: a five-year networking experience to promote our common Geopark brand. Abstract Book of the 7th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks, English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark, pp. 225.

- Vilas Boas M., Neto de Carvalho, C., Rodrigues, J.C. & Valente, A. – Expanding Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark and its integration strategy. Abstract Book of the 7th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks, English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark, pp. 238.

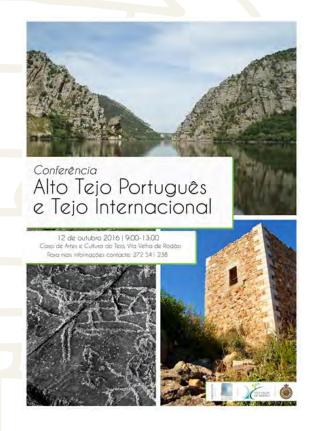


- Neto de Carvalho, C. – Serra do Muradal – Secrets and Enigmas of a mountain. Geopark Naturtejo, Castelo Branco, 9 pp. (Brochure in portuguese)

- Rodrigues, J. – 10 years of Oleiros as Geopark recognized by UNESCO. Jornal de Oleiros, ed. Set/Out p. 7

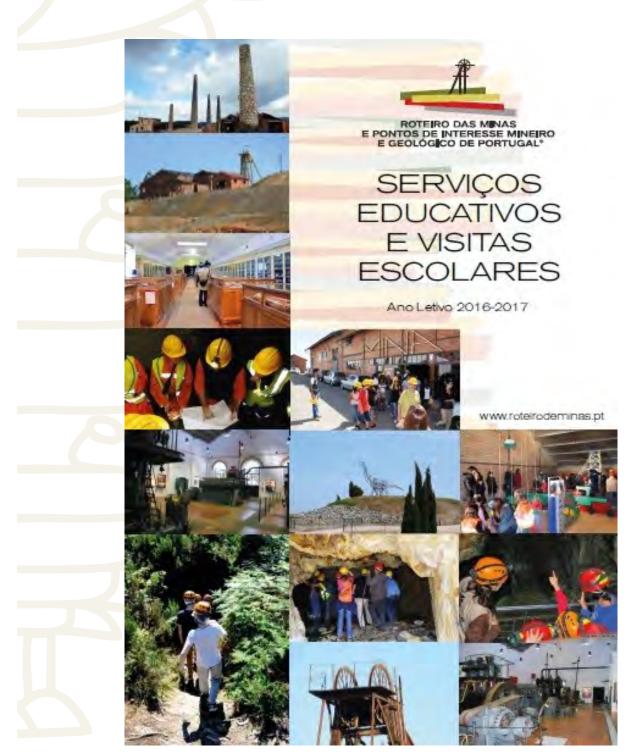
- Guide of "Educational Services and School Visits" of the "Portuguese Geological and Mines Site" for the academic year 2016/2017.

- Map of the Geopark Naturtejo Bikotel Pathways (in Portuguese and English)





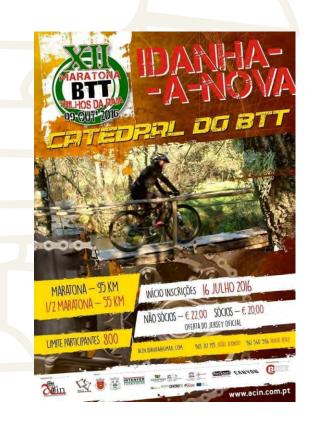


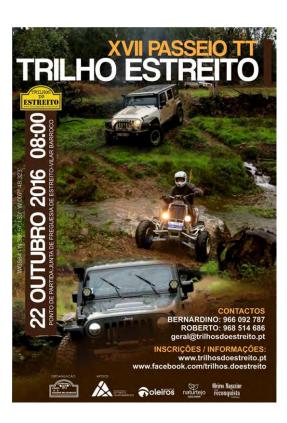


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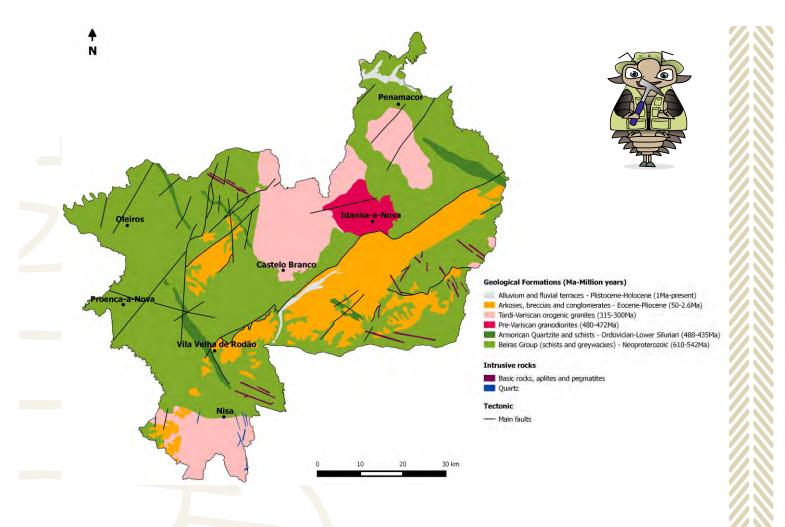




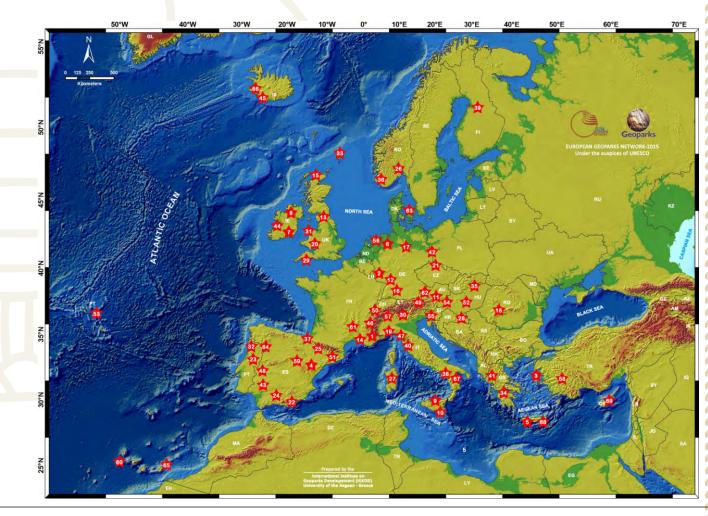
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### Geoparks: Geology with human face



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