



CRUZIANA

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

In this issue: – New Strategic Plan for the geopark region – GEOPARKS at the International Tourism Fair of Madrid – Dances of Lousa are Immaterial Cultural Heritage of Portugal – Seminar “Geoparks: New Territories of Education, Science and Culture in the XXI century – ...and more!



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Geo-histories of our places and people: : Fratel

Fratel extends itself in a smooth plane, in a triangle of greywacke and the shales prevailing well bounded by the natural wall of the Perdigão Mountain, at east, and by the deep valleys of Tagus and Ocreza, at south and north respectively. The Tagus valley is almost linear in contrast with the twists and turns of the Ocreza. In 1973 and 1951, respectively, these valleys saw themselves tamed by the dams of Pracana and Fratel, both for the electricity production. Stretched itself in 97,86km² are located here 15 villages for only 608 inhabitants. The Padrão-Silveira Unit is formed by metagreywackes and black shales, sometimes with abundant pyrite, strongly dissected by the erosion that bursts the plateau in deep canyons and streams that run, voracious in the wintry, on opposite directions towards the two rivers. For the following two reasons, the type of rock that forms the substrate and erosion of that same rock, no one can expect to find here good soils. However, there are good soils, yet scarce in extension, at Fratel. This plateau shows, some 3 million years ago, the transition of a pre-Tagus with extended alluvial plateau to a Tagus fitted in the shape of a single valley. In the geosite of Vilar de Boi-Peroleto, a former sandpit, we assist to a crucial moment of the Tagus natural history, when this wasn't yet the great valley that we see nowadays, but when it was a wide mixture of small channels that entwined themselves after the scarce and unpredictable, pouring rains. Thus, at the level of 300 m, we'll find sediment evidences of this pre-Tagus frankly reduced by erosion, from which only left small areas of sands and gravel pits that form the small mesa landforms at Mesa de Alteza, Cabeça, Cabeça da Velha and Fratel. These ones stand out in the landscape because they constitute the higher spots with its yellow-orange colours, trademarks of these formations. The exception of these cases is the summit of Gardete, which rises itself in almost 200 m above the waters of the Tagus, another Site of Geological Interest in Naturtejo Geopark. With 250 m wide and genetically related with the Eruptive Complex of Amieira do Tejo, matched with an intrusion of thin grain muscovitic granite, which "boiled" the surrounding metamorphic rocks in a width of 150 m around the aplite, transforming them by contact metamorphism, in mottle schists and quartz-pelitic hornfels.

In all these rounded hills or tables of sand-clayey soils, capable of a good rainfall retention and centripetal distribution in the springs, it's not unusual to find traces of ancient human occupation. There are known the Chalcolithic settlements of Charneca do Fratel and Charneca de Vilar de Boi, connected to tumulus that are being studied nowadays by the Upper Tagus Studies Association. Right next to them are the Rock Art site of (submerged) Fratel and Gardete, dated from the period Upper Palaeolithic-Iron Age, nowadays close of being protected as National Heritage. They are part of the Tagus Valley Rock Art Complex which, together with the Côa Complex, represents the most important references of the Rock Art in Portugal and some of the most important of the Iberian Peninsula.

The chapel, tomb and Dolmen of Santo Amaro represent the central area of the Fratel settlement.



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The headquarters of the parish was relocated to this village in the XVI century, with the construction of the S. Peter Church, totally redesigned in the 1700s, where stands out the high altar and the Saint Barbara figurine. Fratel is divided by three neighbourhoods and appears surrounded by olive groves, the good soil densely shredded in walled vegetable gardens. Well placed in the most beautiful stretch of the Beira Baixa railway and served by the highway, from which receives daily connections of the Bus Express to Lisbon, shows unique features for its touristic development which, however, is still delayed. Its rural features are still well deepened, having been developed recently the Museological Centre "History of a Rural Community". With privileged access to the reservoirs, shows good conditions for nautical tourism activities in addition to the rural experience, whereas there's no lack of gastronomical references such as the "Sarapatel" or the river fish soups, as well as the sweet desserts known as "tigeladas", "nógados", "pantufas", honey corn bread or the "esquecidos". What lacks is where to find such distinct flavours. The Moor provides the contact with the archaeology through a pleasant hiking trail or in MTB by the "Pre-Historical Paths". The river or the train take us to the enjoyment of other activities in the banks of the Tagus river and it's a privileged area for birdwatching. The olive groves shed through the steep slopes, each olive tree protected of centuries of unmeasured erosion in what nowadays should be considered heritage. In the places of Fratel traditional schist architecture still awaits for Village Tourism projects.

As a reference for the rural communities of the Tagus valley, Fratel is basically distinguished nowadays for its good connection to the rest of the world.

The Editor
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Geologist

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Frontpage: (Projecto Objectiva: Geopark)

ACTIVITIES OF THE MONTH



January – Strategic and Action Plan for the Naturtejo Geopark region. The Intermunicipal Community of Beira Baixa, which integrates the municipalities that form Naturtejo Geopark of the Meridional Meseta, and the Portuguese Society for Innovation, together with dozens of local entities and companies developed together the first action plan for the region. This integrated approach for development follows the priorities of the Strategy Europe 2020 and fits the Common Strategic Board 2014-2020, following the directives for the regional and national instruments established for the referred programming period. In the evaluation of the Beira Baixa development potential were analysed many of the projects and initiatives developed in the region in last few years. This strategy defines transversal priorities to the territory and establishes areas of primary specialization, which are the agribusiness, the forest and tourism. The six municipalities were visited, were made several interviews to public and private entities understood as strategic, and the Group for Regional Action of the Beira Baixa 2020 was created and energized, subdivided under the themes of intelligent expansion, sustainable expansion and inclusive expansion. Naturtejo, through Armindo Jacinto and Carlos Neto de Carvalho, integrated the focus groups Intelligent Expansion and Sustainable Expansion. Although not standing out in the analysis of territorial economic specialization, tourism was considered as an area with potential of revitalization for the territory. Naturtejo Geopark is seen as one of the main focuses of touristic attraction for the region and one of the main leverages for the sustainable development. The main touristic products are headed by Nature Tourism and include Cultural Touring. Health and Welfare, as well as Gastronomy.

January - Dances of Lousa are Immaterial Cultural Heritage of Portugal. The Traditional Dances of Lousa were registered in the National Inventory of the Immaterial Heritage, under a proposal of the Parish Union of Escalos de Cima and Lousa. The classification, the first of its kind in the entire Castelo Branco district, is due to “the importance that this expression of the immaterial cultural heritage has as a reflex of the Lousa community”. It is a set of ceremonial dances held in the annual celebrations in honour of Our Lady Senhora dos Altos Céus and whose origin is linked to the Legend of the Grasshoppers Plague that ravaged the region in the XVII century. The Dances of the Virgins, the Dance of Men and the Dance of the Scissors take place every year in Lousa in the third weekend of May.



6 January – Release of the Educational Programs in the Naturtejo Geopark for the School Year of 2014/2015.

The Educational Programs of Naturtejo Geopark for the School Year of 2014/2015 can already be found in the microsite of the Educational Programs – Geonaturescola and in the Facebook page of Naturtejo Geopark. This School Year 2014/2015 novelty for any school institution is the Field Trip M – “Geodiversity in the Lands of the Lynx (Penamacor) created under the scope of the preparation for the enlargement of Naturtejo Geopark to the Municipality of Penamacor. For the schools of the Naturtejo Geopark territory and of the Municipality of Penamacor take place, as well, a new edition of the School Contest “Water That Unite Us” under the theme “It’s the soil that sustains life in Naturtejo Geopark”. To promote the educational programs was created a new flyer in Portuguese language with digital and printed versions that is being sent to the schools and distributed in events that the geopark attend and promote its own programs.

12 January – Release of the School Contest “Water That Unite Us – II Edition” under the subtheme “It’s the soil that sustains life in Naturtejo Geopark”.

Naturtejo Geopark, the Portuguese Forum of Geoparks, the UNESCO National Commission (CNU), the Superior School of Agriculture of the Polytechnic Institute of Castelo Branco and the Portuguese Committee for the UNESCO International Geosciences Program (IGCP) host, together, in the School Year of 2014/2015, The School Contest “Water That Unite Us – II Edition”, under the subtheme: “It’s the soil that sustains life in Naturtejo Geopark”. The contest takes place in the scope of the Program GEA – Mother Earth, Decade of United Nations for Education to the Sustainable Development (2005-2014), Decade of the United Nations for Biodiversity (2011-2020), International Decade for Action “Water, Source of Life” (2005-2015) and Decade for the Deserts and Combat to Desertification (2010-2020) and to celebrate the International Year of Soils - 2015. The contest is an activity that Naturtejo Geopark energizes under the scope of its Educational Programs (www.geonaturescola.com) and is intended to all the students and teachers of the public and private teaching establishments placed in the Naturtejo Geopark territory (municipalities of Castelo Branco, Idanha-a-Nova, Nisa, Oleiros, Proença-a-Nova and Vila Velha de Ródão) and the Municipality of Penamacor, the kindergarten Teaching, the 1st, 2nd e 3rd Cycles of Basic School, Secondary School and Professional School. This activity aims to contribute for sensitize the students and through them, the inhabitants of the geopark territory for the theme “Water That Unite US”, under the subtheme “It’s the soil that sustains life in Naturtejo Geopark” fostering the creativity in the children and youngsters, encouraging them to create posters, displays, mock-ups, movies and advertising spots. All the documents related to the contest are available in the microsite www.geonaturescola.com The poster, the regulation and the application form for all the teaching institutions covered by the contest were already sent. The registration deadline ends in 6 March of 2015.

17 and 18 January – 3rd Fair of Hunting and Gastronomy of Termas de Monfortinho.

This village famous by its thermal waters, an “ex-libris” of the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova, was the privileged destination of thousands of people, attracted by a program that offered ongoing animation and fun. The festivity also came through the houses of thousands of Portuguese people, in a six hour broadcast of the popular live show “Somos Portugal”, Sundays at TVI, which allowed the disclosure of what is done best in the municipality. “Hunting is an activity that concerns us to develop and promote, since this is the village with more hunting areas, close to one hundred, and it’s the biggest organized hunting area of the country, around 120 thousand hectares”, stressed Armindo Jacinto, Mayor of the Idanha-a-Nova Municipality and chairman of Naturtejo, in the opening of the event.

Hosted by this municipality and by the Parish Union of Monfortinho and Salvaterra do Extremo, the fair “is an investment to promote our economy, generate wealth and, hence, create jobs”, explained Armindo Jacinto. During two days, the festival ground received around 150 exhibitors of hunting items and regional products, inns with game meat dishes and lots of musical, cultural and gastronomical animation. The many visitors, Portuguese and Spanish, had the opportunity to watch pointer dog’s demonstrations; rabbit hunt training, displays of rabbits and partridges, racing pigeons, gastronomical contests, archery and blowpipe, among other opportunities.

21 January – Tour to the Geopark for the Superior School of Agriculture.

In the scope of an international research project led by Dr. Isabel Margarida Antunes, from the Superior School of Agriculture of Castelo Branco, was held a geotouristic day to a teacher arriving from Slovenia. The professor could visit the Portas de Ródão Natural Monument through a boat trip, the Ichological Park of Penha Garcia and the Granitic Inselberg of Monsanto.



27 January – Routes by the Geopark introduced in Madrid. The Tours by the Naturtejo Geopark this year had introduction honours in the noble space of the partner Tierra de Fuego Senderismo Viajes, next to the Gran Vía, in the center of Madrid. Armindo Jacinto presented the routes together with some local products, which delight the many dozens of interested people who attended the event. The PDO flavours, where the Geo-Wine Súbuto stood out, looking to the enthusiasm that the bottles were emptied, were followed by the sounds of Fado sung by Laureana Geraldés.



28 January to 1 February - GEOPARKS at the International Tourism Fair of Madrid. Naturtejo Geopark of the Meridional Meseta was once again present in the International Tourism Fair of Madrid – FITUR. Naturtejo attended in representation of the Global Geoparks Network, formed by 111 territories spread worldwide, in partnership with Geovilluercas, the entrepreneurial association of the neighbour Geopark Villuercas-Ibores-Jara (Cáceres, Extremadura) and the touristic tours company Tuk-Tuk. The booth counted with spaces for negotiations with companies and operators, as well as for the promotion of the territory and partners next to the general public. There was no shortage of regional products tastings with the best flavours of the Beira Baixa region and even a moment of Fado with Laureana Geraldés, native from Idanha-a-Nova and currently working in Madrid. The booth was visited by the Minister of Economy, António Pires Lima and by the ex-Secretary of Estate for Tourism, Bernardo Trindade, apart from countless entrepreneurs of the touristic sector and general public, interested in knowing better the geoparks, as territories that explore in a sustainable way its geological, natural and cultural history, in all the material and immaterial aspects. The Chairman of Naturtejo, E.I.M., Armindo Jacinto, showed himself thrilled with the results achieved for the region in this year edition of FITUR, which follow the growing tendency of the tourism sector in Portugal and in Europe. The President of the Deputation of Cáceres came on purpose to the booth of the Geoparks, accompanied by the chairman of the entrepreneurial association Geovilluercas, José António Montero, to acknowledge the novelties of these territories that bet in a tourism of experiences and innovation.

The coordinators of the Spanish geoparks represented in FITUR also came to the booth of the geoparks. Were presented the new Programs by the Geopark for 2015, distributed by the segments of History and Heritage, Nature, Sport and Adventure, Welfare and Culture. Was also released the new promotional movie of Naturtejo Geopark, from the producer Film'Arte, in the booth area. Carlos Neto de Carvalho was invited to a meeting coordinated by the Professor Jose Juan Delgado, from Tenerife, with the representative of INGUAT, Brenda Zaldaña, with the goal of trigger support in Guatemala for the development of a UNESCO geoparks project and destinations of Astro-tourism/Astro-archaeology, through the Starlight Foundation recognized by UNESCO and by the World Tourism Organization, which was represented by its manager, Do Sanchez. Naturtejo Geopark will be present in BTL, in Lisbon, between the 25 of February and the 1st of March and in ITB, in Berlin, from 4 to 8 March, together with five counterparts and a World Heritage Site, promoting the destination GEOPARK.

29 January to 1 February – Seminar “Geoparks: New Territories for Education, Science and Culture of the XXI Century”. Took place in the Geopark Terras de Cavaleiros the Fair of Hunting and Tourism, an important regional event that gathers around 200 exhibitors. Naturtejo Geopark and the Portuguese geoparks Arouca, Azores and Terras de Cavaleiros were together in this fair, visited by approximately 30 thousand people, to promote the “geopark” concept and its territories, with Manuela Catana and Joana Rodrigues energizing the booth dedicated to Naturtejo Geopark. In this scope took place the Seminar “Geoparks: New Territories for Education, Science and Culture in the XXI Century – Strategies of Development and Capital Gains”, which counted with more than a hundred participants. Joana Rodrigues introduced “Naturtejo Geopark: contributes for the sustainable development”.



30 January – Meeting of the Portuguese Forum of Geoparks. Naturtejo Geopark attended the Meeting of the Portuguese Forum of Geoparks that took place in the Geopark Terras de Cavaleiros, represented by Joana Rodrigues and Manuela Catana. Was discussed the proposed issue - “Global Geoparks of UNESCO” and the new role of the National Forums in the scope of the Global Geoparks Network and in UNESCO. Attended representatives from the 4 national geoparks, the UNESCO National Commission and the National Laboratory of Energy and Geology.



31 January to 1 February – First meeting of the National Geoparks Forums. Took place in the Geopark Terras de Cavaleiros the “First meeting of the National Geoparks Forum under the scope of the proposed issue - “Global Geoparks of UNESCO”, which gathered the UNESCO National Commission, the Portuguese Geoparks Forum and representatives from Ireland, England, Canada, Norway, Germany, Slovenia and Brazil. It were discussed joint activities and the creation of the new UNESCO program for the geoparks, which should be put to vote in the General Assembly of UNESCO, in November 2015. This Meeting ended with a visit to the recently integrated territory of Geopark Terras de Cavaleiros.



IMPACT OF GEOPARK IN MEDIA

Newspapers & www

January-June (Boletim Informativo de Penamacor) – integration on the Naturtejo Geopark

January (Ensino Magazine) – Naturtejo Geopark promotes school contest

January (Raiano) – School Contest “Water that Unites Us” – it's the soil that sustain life in Naturtejo Geopark”

6 January (Povo da Beira) – Trans Pangean Challenge in the town in April

6 January (Povo da Beira) – Portuguese Appalachian Trail will be opened in late March

8 January (Reconquista – front page) – 480 million years ago there was life in S. Martinho

13 January (Povo da Beira) – Trans Pangean Challenge in Oleiros in April

13 January (Povo da Beira) – Monfortinho hosts Fair of Hunting and Gastronomy

14 January (Gazeta do Interior) – Termas de Monfortinho hosts Fair of Hunting and Gastronomy

15 January (Reconquista) – Fair of Hunting & Gastronomy already in the weekend

15 January (Reconquista) – Coordinator of the Geopark clarifies – Monte de S. Martinho, a special place

20 January (Povo da Beira) – School Contest “Water that Unite Us – II Edition” for students of Penamacor and the Naturtejo Geopark territory

27 January (Povo da Beira) – Portugal will have an International Appalachian Trail

28 January (Gazeta do Interior) – Fair of Hunting & Gastronomy in Termas de Monfortinho was seen as a success

31 January (Publico) – Geoparks should serve as leverage for the regions



PROMOTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

- Portuguese Society of Innovation – Integrated Strategy for Territorial Development of Beira Baixa. Strategic and Action Plan for the region of Beira Baixa Intermunicipal Community during the period 2014-2020. Beira Baixa Intermunicipal Community, 115pp.
- CATANA M. M. – School Contest “Water That Unite Us – It's the soil that sustains life in Naturtejo Geopark”. Jornal Raiano. Ano XLII – N.º 456. Janeiro de 2015. p. 5.
- Tours by Naturtejo Geopark of the Meridional Meseta (booklet in Spanish)
- Educational Programs in Naturtejo Geopark for the School Year 2014/2015 (flyer in Portuguese)
- Opening of the Trail Muradal-Pangea (Bookmark in Portuguese, English, Spanish and German)
- Touristic tour by Border Lands in Nature (booklet in Portuguese, Spanish and English)



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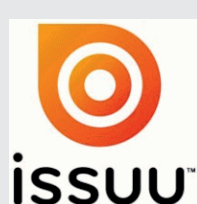
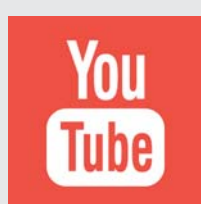
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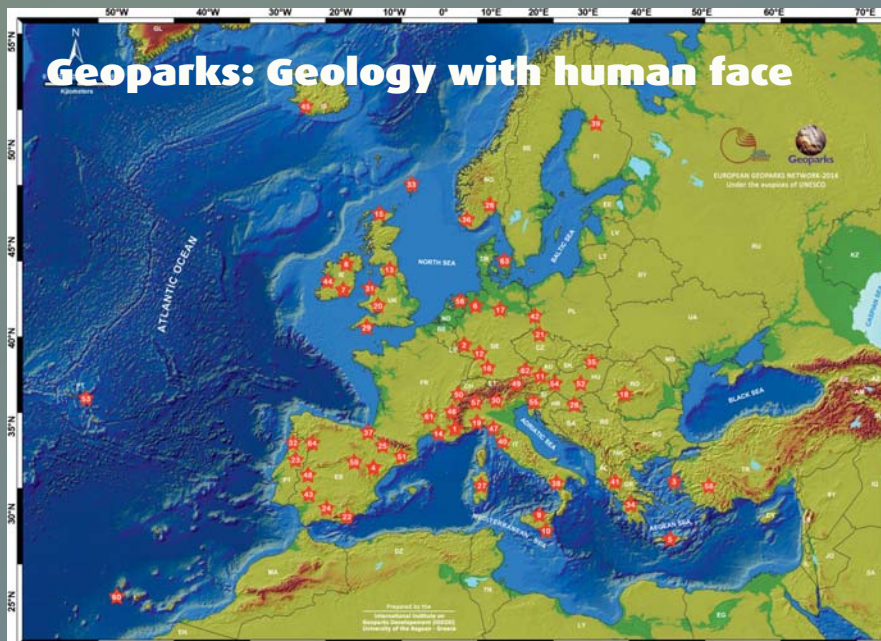
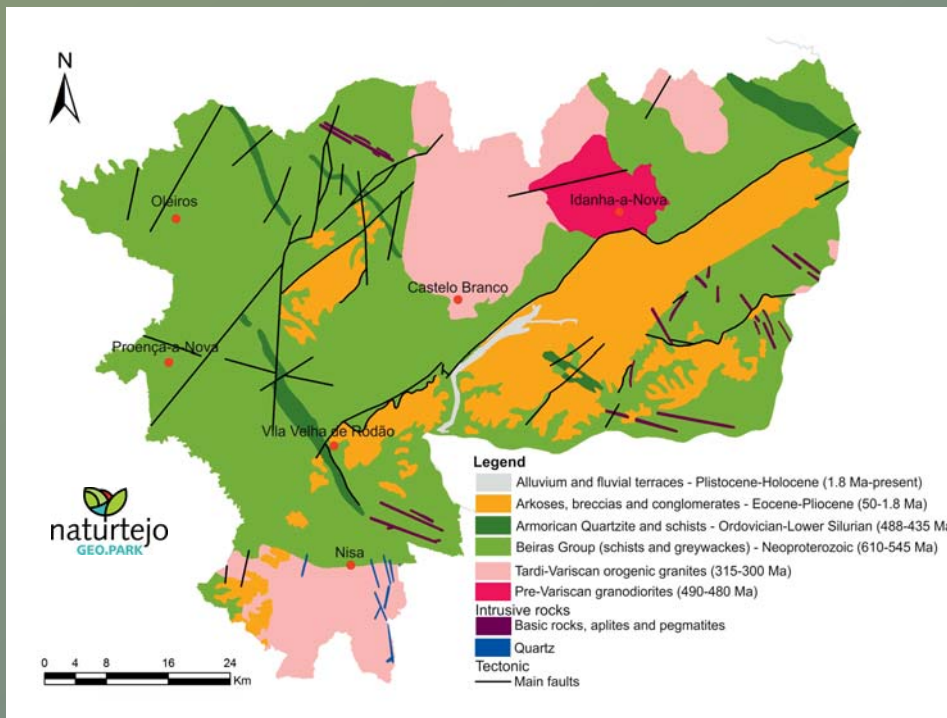
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