



ESTEAM Meeting gathers education specialists in Norway Naturtejo Geopark in SciCom 2017 Bread Festival in the Historical Village of Idanha-a-Velha Presentation of Rivers Project in Schools of Idanha ...and more!!





#### **GEO-stories of our places and people:**

#### Naturtejo Geopark wounded by wildfires

We will never forget this summer. Between June and October the wildfires stuck on the poor and abandoned country's interior, leaving death marks and abandoned paths on this already forgotten land. In August more than 600 ignitions occurred in a day: the dry and hot summer were not enough to hide the criminal hand that extends from North to South and that cannot be a coincidence, but opportunism that killed more than 100 people in Portugal and wasted hundreds of million Euros of productive wealth and public money. In a forest territory as Naturtejo Geopark, this calamity was also felt. Almost 400km2 of landscape was reduced to black that will leave mark for years, more than 9 million Euros in damages, many homes destroyed, one good life lost. Several touristic resources were threatened to death. Five of the seven municipalities were severely affected by wildfires. The municipalities of Vila Velha de Ródão and Proenca-a-Nova were touched severely by the flames from North to South. Muradal Mountain in Oleiros was painted in black in almost all extension, with the almost complete destruction of the project of International Appalachian Trail. The strong investment for preservation and recovery of the relic forest of Fraga da Água d'Alta reduced to almost nothing in just a few minutes. The schist village of Álvaro, precious near Zêzere, had the flames covering the sky for one night and part of its ancient core, composed by dozens of homes, were destroyed. The protected landscape of Gardunha Mountain was swept by several fires in the green foothills from the cherries to the scarp ridges. In Talhadas Mountain fortunately the Geomonument of Portas de Almourão was saved. Everything else was swallowed by flames, including 70% of the area of Natural Monument of Portas de Ródão, where the community of junipers was severely affected and can only recover after some decades. The flames managed to cross Tejo River, projecting across more than 100 meters, to leave deep scars in the northern part of the municipality of Nisa. After this giant calamity we must reflect on the tourist future of Naturtejo Geopark. Taking

After this giant calamity we must reflect on the tourist future of Naturtejo Geopark. Taking nature as priority resource for tourist development, what to expect from a forest planning policy that favours these situations decade after decade? In other countries, those so-called "developing countries", owners can apply and are rewarded for maintaining or plant native forest in their properties pristine as possible. Here the eucalyptus' power and abandon of softwoods still rule in a territory losing its competitiveness at high speed, and cannot recover in a short or middle term its natural resources. The forest is extinguished in Portugal, what is left from the forest native forest is due to cork industry. Is it an interior geographically transformed in a rock desert and demographically desertified what we want for our country? Can Naturtejo Geopark – UNESCO Global Geopark contribute in any way to change the poisoned present we live in this land of few and for few only?

Carlos Neto de Carvalho Scientific coordinator Geologist

Cover: (Projecto Objectiva: Geopark)



# **MONTHLY ACTIVITIES**



**3 to 5 October – Naturtejo Geopark travels to Norway for a meeting on the European Project ESTEAM.** The third partners meeting of the European project of Education for Natural Sciences and New Technologies – ESTEAM (co financed by ERASMUS + Programme of EU) took place in Norway, at Magma UNESCO Global Geopark. This third meeting organized by Magma Geopark was attended by 14 representatives from partner entities (Iceland, Norway, Slovenia and Portugal). The Portuguese participants, Naturtejo Geopark – UNESCO Global Geopark was represented by Manuela Catana and Mariana Vilas Boas, and the School Group José Silvestre Ribeiro from Idanha-a-Nova, by the teachers of Natural Sciences André Azeiteiro and Elsa Cantinhas.

The meeting was dedicated to evaluate the first stage of the project, which last one year, and the result was an eBook "Research of national curricula on Natural Sciences in Portugal, Norway and Slovenia". This eBook shows the results of the online research on students and teachers and will be the base to develop the App which is the second phase of the project. During the meeting partners discussed on the features/tools, themes and sub themes and held workshops to decide possible exercises for the App.

Despite the strong rain, partners walked the trail of the Eigerøy lighthouse, chosen by MAGMA Geopark as pilot trail on this project for the App. Partners also had the chance to visit a local Secondary School (Dalane Secondary School), and together along with a visitor class from Iceland tested Turf Hunt app in the Ytstebrød trail. This was a very successful meeting where ideas were shared and advances were made. The ESTEAM project team will continue collecting information for the exercises, so that the test phase begin in a near future. Next meeting will be in Naturtejo Geopark – UNESCO Global Geopark in March 2018.

**11 October – Visit to Monsanto.** Jorge Costa accompanied 35 tourists from Cambre, Coruña (Spain), to visit the Historical Village of Monsanto.

**12 and 13 October – Naturtejo Geopark in SciCom 2017.** The Science Museum of University of Coimbra held the SciCom 2017 Congress, under the theme "Earth: Science Objects". Invited by the Living Science Centre of Lagos, Naturtejo Geopark participated in the panel "Science outdoors: communication, tourism and sustainability", along with Dark Sky Alqueva, Living Science and Living Science Centre of Lagos. Joana Rodrigues shared Naturtejo Geopark's experience, in a Congress dedicated to Science Communication.



**12 and 13 October – Two days Educational Programme in Naturtejo Geopark.** 36 students from Educational Institute of Juncal, Porto de Mós, accompanied by two teachers visited Naturtejo Geopark. The first day was dedicated to the Geomonument Portas de Almourão. Students walked through the trail "Secrets of Vale Mourão" where they learned about the landscape and watched the magnificent folds and several ichnofossils in the quartzite rocks. Later in Sobral Fernando, on the right bank of Ocreza, they learned and practice gold mining techniques. It was a happy afternoon! They found 3 flakes of this precious ore! The second day was dedicated to the study of ichnofossils in the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia and the granite forms of the Inselberg of Monsanto. This visit was carried out within the framework of the subjects of Biology and Geology of 10th and 11th grade. The monitors were Mariana Vilas Boas, Manuela Catana and Catarina Caria.

**14 and 15 October – King Wamba and Bread promote traditions of Idanha-a-Velha.** The historical village of Idanha-a-Velha hosted a weekend of history, legends and traditions, with entertainment and uniqueness of "In King Wamba's Lands... There is Bread!".

Among visitors, Portuguese and foreigns, King Wamba came back for two days to the ancient Egitânea, where according to the legend he was born on the 7th century. This legendary Visigoth King joined, for the first time, the annual celebration of "Casqueiro Bread", one of the most iconic products in the region. "This event is a trip through the history of Idanha-a-Velha, whose heritage dates back to the Roman, Suevian, Visigoth, Arab and Templar period into our days", said Armindo Jacinto, president of the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova in the opening ceremony. The mayor also highlighted the importance of these cultural events, "they are essential to enhance our lands and traditions, and also to boost local economy, creating wealth and jobs".

This initiative was included in the cycle "12 in Network – Festive Villages", promoted by the Historical Villages of Portugal and was organized in partnership with the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova, Union of Villages of Monsanto and Idanha-a-Velha and LAFIV – Friends of the Village of Idanha-a-Velha. With street animation, concerts, workshops, handicraft and traditional products market, this event attracted many visitors.



**18 and 26 October – Rivers Project – Ponsul River 2017/2018 Presentation classes in the School Group José Silvestre Ribeiro, Idanha-a-Nova.** Presentation classes for the "Rivers Project – Ponsul River 2017/2018" took place for 5th A, 5th B, 5th C, 8th A and 8th B classes. 109 students and 3 teachers get to know the aim of this project, with special focus on the public involvement on preservation and improvement of river spaces and water quality, as way to promote sustainable development. Students learned that Rivers Project, although local, is also supported by international guidelines established by UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030); Earth Charter (UN); and the Community Water Framework Directive (EU). The monitors for these classes were Arlindo Cardosa and Manuela Catana.





## **IMPACT OF GEOPARK IN MEDIA**

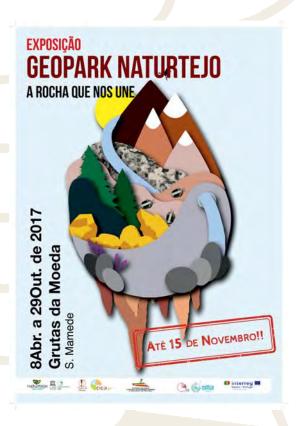
#### Newspapers & www

3 October (Visit Portugal) – Naturtejo Geopark 19 October (Reconquista) – in Portas de Almourão – Climbing already celebrates a decade

# SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE GEOPARK AND THE GEOSCIENCES

- FIGUEIREDO, S., CUNHA, P.P., NETO DE CARVALHO, C. & SOUSA, F. – Presença de Paleoloxodon antiquus no Plistocénico de Portugal: estado actual dos conhecimentos. In Gomes, A., Gonçalves, C., André, L., Bicho, N. & Boski, T. (eds.), Mudanças em Sistemas Ambientais e sua Expressão Temporal. Livro de Resumos da IX Reunião do Quaternário Ibérico. Universidade do Algarve, Faro, 19-20.











DANHA ANOVA UNESCO CITY OF MUSIC CATATA MUSIC CATATA ANOVA UNESCO CATATA ANOVA CATATA ANOTA ANOTA ANOTA CATATA ANOTA A







#### I INTERNATIONAL SEMINARY ON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND GEOPARKS









CHÁ DA "ALICE" Apresentação da Obra "Alice, As Aventuras no País das Maravilhas" com Ilustrações de Luísa Ferreira Nunes



22 de Novembro de 2017, 21h00 Centro Cultural Raiano, Idanha-a-Nova Entrada Gratuita

6	Centro Cultural Raiano					o culituri nii -35127 M-CMN-P ACEBOOK	
IDANHA-A-NOVA TERRITORIO UNESCO		52	<u>=</u> *-	naturteso	1 C	0	<u></u>











EXPOSIÇÃO Geopark Naturtejo ieoparque Mundial da UNESCO	Proença-a-Nova Centro Ciência Viva da Floresta 21 de julho a 31 de dezembro 2017

#### Visit Naturtejo Geopark in:



www.geoparknaturtejo.com

www.facebook.com/geoparknaturtejo.mesetameridional



www.instagram.com/geopark\_naturtejo/

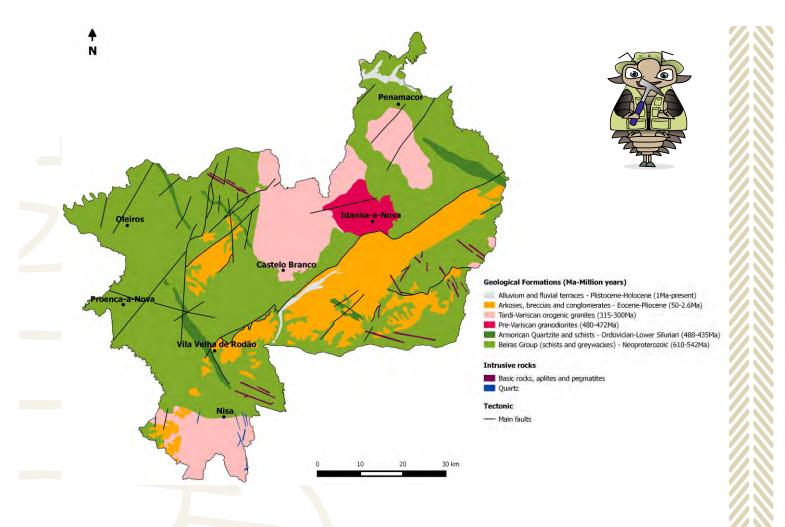


www.youtube.com/geoparknaturtejo

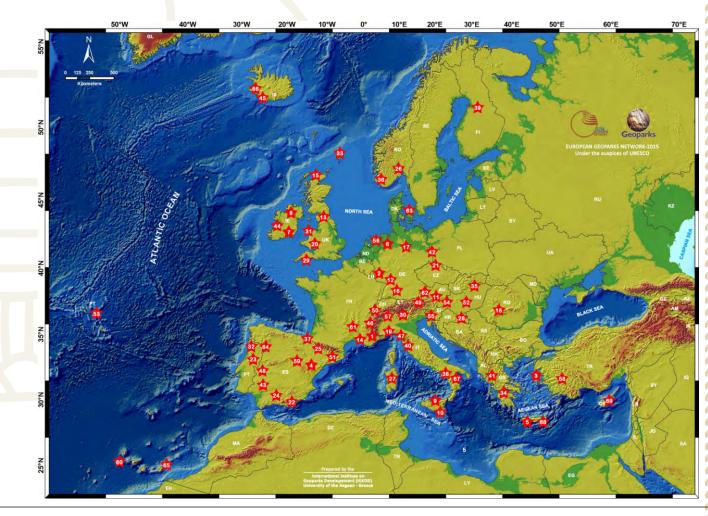


issuu.com/geoparknaturtejo

www.slideshare.net/geoparknaturtejomesetameridional



#### Geoparks: Geology with human face



Edition - Geopark Naturtejo, 2017 Coordination - Carlos Neto de Carvalho Texts - Carlos Neto de Carvalho, Joana Rodrigues, Manuela Catana, Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova Photos - Carlos Neto de Carvalho, Manuela Catana, Clipping - Alice Marcelo e Carla Jacinto Design - Layer [Design and Print Studio] Translation - Carla Jacinto Editing - Joana Rodrigues

