



I International Seminar on Sustainable Tourism and Geoparks in Sevilla Month of the Forest in the Geopark with several activities i-Danha Food Lab in the most "Organic" Municipality of the Geopark "Out of Place": Ancient Music closer to the communities ...and more!





GEO-stories of our places and people: Alcafozes

The village spreads on the vast plateau of Castelo Branco, 400 meters of altitude. It is a vast area of 56.82 square km where only 202 people live in the only village and in some farms. The gently undulating landscape of cork oaks and holm Oaks ends at the erosive valley of Vale Perais, spectacular circular crater shaped by the Ponsul. At the epicentre is Alcafozes, a simple village where granite and shale meet the traditional architecture. In the centre is the Main Church and beyond the Mercy Church, with the Calvary ahead. In a bump the sanctuary of Nossa Senhora do Loreto stands, a simple and recent building keeping an old statue of the universal patroness of aviation. In September, the Air Force flies over the skies of Alcafozes celebrating its patroness as a secular State we are where the Catholicism still prevails. But this bump has a human occupation dating back thousands of years. In fact, this territory is rich in remains of an ancient past. It is the Dolmen Terras de Ereus near Granja de S. Pedro, the dolmen of Ferreirinhos or the Castro do Cabeco dos Mouros, a fortified settlement from the II Iron Age perched on a corneal spur, outlined in gap by Ponsul. The traces of this settlement, which archaeologists could not excavate yet, show numerous ceramic evidences of large storage containers, several grinding elements associated with agricultural practices developed in the lean but easily watering plans of Vale Perais, as well as metallurgical practices. In fact, Vale Perais is rich in lithic quartzite artefacts dating back to Neolithic time, taking advantage of the well rolled pebbles accumulated here. The proximity between Idanha-a-Velha and Cabeco dos Mouros which the Romans strategically occupied is evidenced by the findings of a denarius, an axe and a "cossoiro". In this land that still produces good bread and where the landscape was marked by curious mounds of charcoal workers, paths are now by the Grand Route of Idanha, an 80km pedestrian route crossing the region. Annually, Spring is time to the Asparagus, Truffles and Mushrooms Festival, a competition full of ecological flavours intimately associated to cork oak and oak forests with large expression around here. The truffles are small buried treasures, discovered by solid knowledge, and desired by the most refined palates competing with the wild boars abundant here. With this wealth, in landscape and on palate, Alcafozes offers development conditions to various forms of tourism. Still in its childhood is, however, equipped with a rural accommodation. In Vale Perais the Boomland is being built, a territory of utopias home of the great Boom Festival. This is probably the biggest international mass event, but also the most sustainable one held in Portugal that gathers in the region no less than 40.000 boomers, for a

week of music and alternative arts, with huge positive consequences for the local economy, not only for the municipality of Idanha, but to a vast area of Naturtejo Geopark – UNESCO Global Geopark, where Alcafozes is located. Among the major festivals held in Boomland, there is time to discover a human landscape with natural genius features. A major excavation and archaeological reconstruction project could transform the high and vigilant position, with overwhelming contours, of the Castelo dos Mouros in an historical re-enactment complement to Idanha-a-Velha, fit to discover the indigenous roots of this highly agropastoral territory.



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> The editor Carlos Neto de Carvalho Scientific coordinator Geologist

Cover: (Projecto Objectiva: Geopark)



MONTHLY ACTIVITIES



3 to 5 November – Tour on Naturtejo Geopark. Mr. Fernando Barbosa and his family returned to Naturtejo Geopark. The group with 36 tourists stayed in Hotel S. Tiago at Penamacor and visited the Municipality of Penamacor and walked on Malcata mountain, guided by Rui Nunes.



6, 8, 10, 15 and 17 November – 1st series of Field Trips of the River Project: Ponsul River 2017/2018. The first field trips of "River Project: Ponsul River 2017/2018" were boosted to 116 students and 5 teachers from 5°A, 5°B, 5°C, 8°A and 8°B, from the School Group José Silvestre Ribeiro in Idanha-a-Nova. In these field trips students could monitor the 500 m section of the river adopted by their class. Students performed a set of environmental education activities, such as collecting waste, measuring the water flow, pH and temperature, assess the water turbidity degree and identify different animal and plant species. After identifying macroinvertebrates, the students determined the general health state of the river. These field trips were boosted by Arlindo Cardosa and Manuela Catana, a partnership between the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova and Naturtejo Geopark.



8, 10, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 30 November - Native Forest Month in Idanha-a-Nova. November 23rd is the Native Forest Day in Iberian Peninsula. Between November 8th and December 7th 2017, the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova organized in partnership with Naturtejo Geopark – UNESCO Global Geopark, Arte das Musas (Organizer of the International Ancient Music Festival "Out of Place"), EB2,3/S José Silvestre Ribeiro School, Santa Casa da Misericórdia of Idanha-a-Nova Kindergarten and Kindergarten of Rosmaninhal, several activities to involve citizens and the school community. There was an exhibition "The Forest" in the School Group headquarters; lectures by the Professor and Biologist Jorge Paiva "The History of Portuguese Forest" and "The relevance of Biodiversity in Forests"; identifying native species; walking trails; the film "The man who planted Trees" followed by debate; sow cork and holm oak in milk packages reused (to take care along the school year, in the seed library created in the Natural Sciences Lab or in kindergartens and then planting the germinated ones on Native Forest Day 2018); plant cork- and holm oaks and Mediterranean Hackberry in Tapada do Sobral. These celebrations gathered around 250 students and teachers, as well as 35 citizens who learned and contributed to increase the number of native trees in the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova. The instructor for these activities was Manuela Catana.



9 to 12 November – Tierra de Fuego in Naturtejo Geopark. Jorge Costa and Rui Nunes guided a group of 17 Spanish tourists who visited the Vultures Trail in Salvaterra do Extremo; Monsanto and Idanha-a-Velha historical villages; the Balconies Trail in Medelim and the Fossils Trail in Penha Garcia.



10 to 12 November – i-Danha Food Lab take the "Green Train" to the Geopark. Conferences and networking between sustainable start-ups, partners and international investors. This was the recipe for i-Danha Food Lab event, promoting pioneer adventures in Idanha-a-Nova. The journey began on Friday after the Web Summit with a "green" train journey that brought 70 European start-ups from Lisbon. This was the starting point for this initiative organized by the municipality of Idanha-a-Nova, by the Municipal Centre for Culture and Development, by Building Global Innovators (BGI), the accelerator ISCTE-IUL and MIT Portugal.

The event began in Santa Apolónia Station, at Lisbon for a green travel by train, across the historical Beira Baixa railway beside the inspiring Tagus River, passing through forests and mountains, under the motto ' Dream Green or Go Home '. 63 Clean Tech start-ups came to Portugal, for a trip that included Naturtejo Geopark's partner companies as Geocakes, Geobakery Gaspar e Fernandes and Aromas do Valado, some of the many examples presented and discussed among participants, in particular, the State Education Secretary, Maria Fernanda Rollo representing the Ministry of Education.

The book "GeoAromas: innovation in gastronomy-Recipes" was presented during the journey. A work that integrates the knowledge about autochthonous flora of Naturtejo Geopark, and its use, mainly in gastronomy, in a collaboration between the Polytechnic Institute of Castelo Branco and Aromas do Valado, and sponsored by Naturtejo Geopark.

The environment on the train was described perfectly by the State Secretary for Science, Technology and Higher Education. Maria Fernanda Rollo, passenger on this trip, was delighted: "This is a magic train of innovation. Here are all the ingredients for innovation to happen!"

The responsible applauded i-Danha Food Lab, first Iberian Accelerator for the green economy, "combining affections and creativity". And has no doubt as to its success: "the opportunities happen when people have knowledge and vision, and Idanha is certainly a milestone in the commitment that our country has to make in the countryside and Agriculture".

But the recognition from the Portuguese Government didn't end here. The Minister of Environment, João Pedro Matos Fernandes, presided the closing ceremony of i-Danha Food Lab. In statement to the media, the Minister said "the role of Idanha [promoting sustainable development] exceeds largely the responsibilities of the municipality. Idanha has been conducting an affirmation process of its territory as a living laboratory for decarbonisation of society and to make a circular economy".

The so-called circular economy, more environmentally friendly and profitable for the companies, was one of the issues that the Mayor of Idanha-a-Nova has put on the table. "We want Idanha to be a place for knowledge but also to apply circular economy policies and balance between the urban and rural areas," said Armindo Jacinto. In this regard, the mayor said that Idanha-a-Nova is preparing to join the international network of Bio Regions, a concept that aims to promote bio-communities, from the educational sector to the associative and business.

i-Danha Food Lab is a step in this direction, promoted in close partnership with BGI. The event attended by more than 150 participants was coordinated by the Portuguese Accelerator, responsible for the presence of 70 startups of Climate-KIC, an initiative of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology.

The Executive Director of BGI, Gonçalo Amorim, sums up the recipe for success of i-Danha Food Lab: "We brought to Idanha a set of 70 startups from 20 countries with technological sustainable solutions, we added international investors and also joined the six companies that already are accelerated in the i-Danha Food Lab... all to promote a rich knowledge and networking journey with a view to create a more sustainable future."



11 to 12 November – Wines and Liquors Festival in S. Miguel D'Acha. The Wines and Liquors Festival came back to S. Miguel D'Acha (Idanha-a-Nova), to offer a weekend full of regional wine scents and flavours.

Geoliquors from Acha Doce, Gold, Ore, Earth's Guts among others and also their emblematic hot wine, delighted visitors as usual!

This company was born informally some years ago to come forward promptly for this event and the quality of the products made Acha Doce turning professional and currently recognized.

In S. Martinho day there were also roasted chestnuts and other autumn flavours, musical entertainment and other regional products, in a festival visited by participants of i-Danha Food Lab from more than 20 countries, for a traditional dinner.

15 November – Fieldwork under ESTEAM Project. Natural Sciences Teachers André Azeiteiro and Elsa Cantinhas, from the School Group José Silvestre Ribeiro and Naturtejo Geopark Technicians Mariana Vilas Boas and Manuela Catana did the Boulders Trail to test the app "Turf Hunt".

Beforehand they defined staging points and issues, aiming in the future these will integrate the application that is being created within the European project ESTEAM to be used in Natural Sciences classes of middle school, in the Inselberg of Monsanto geomonument.



19 November – Visit to Monsanto. A Tour Operator from Bragança brought 36 visitors for a guided tour in Monsanto guided by Jorge Costa.



20 to 24 November – Native Forest Week in Penamacor. Within the celebrations of the Native Forest Week, the Municipality of Penamacor in partnership with the School Group Ribeiro Sanches, Senior Academy of Penamacor, the Institute for Nature and Forests Conservation (ICNF) / Nature Reserve of Serra da Malcata and Naturtejo Geopark, held several educational activities, educational activities and native trees plantations, involving 103 students.

These initiatives were boosted by Mariana Vilas Boas and Raquel Moreira, within a partnership between Naturtejo Geopark and Municipality of Penamacor.

21 November – Idanha-a-Velha and Monsanto in the Top 15 of Historical Villages. Idanha-a-Velha and Monsanto were selected to the Top 15 of the Most Attractive Historical Villages in Portugal. This is a Skyscanner list, a world travel search engine. On 2017/2018 biennium, this is the first annual selection of historical villages and takes into account the characteristics of each village, including the history, the authenticity, the beauty of the surrounding landscape and the suggestions of travellers.

With 60 million monthly active users, Skyscanner presents itself as the leading travel search website offering a free service to search and compare flights, hotels and car rental.



22 November – "Alice's Tea" in Centro Cultural Raiano. Centro Cultural Raiano (Idanha-a-Nova) hosted the presentation of "Alice's adventures in Wonderland", illustrated by Luísa Nunes, a scientific illustrator that this time transports the audience into an enchanted world, spiced by some wild fauna and flora of the region (such as the Caterpillar skull, at the scene of Alice and the Caterpillar) and even a willow, reproduced from Idanha-a-Nova.

The scenario reproduced the famous Mad Hatter's tea party out of Lewis Carroll's work, each participant took their mug to drink the tea and the night followed with explanations from the author, the creating process, inspired by the landscapes of the region. The Geopark was represented in this tea by Joana Rodrigues and Manuela Catana.



24 November to 9 December – "Out of Place": Ancient Music close to the communities. The sixth edition of "Out of Place" invades Idanha-a-Nova with music, stories, walks, drawings, trips, talks, exchanging and learning in unexpected places... result of the partnership between Arte das Musas and the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova (supported by the Ministry of Culture, Directorate-General for Arts), this Festival is a proposal from the countryside to the country, to the Iberian Peninsula and Europe. With artistic direction of Philip Faria, Fora do Lugar – International Festival of Ancient Music is today one of the most important cultural projects in the music area in the region. Putting in dialogue various forms and music times, defies an attitude towards ancient songs, addressing, in an innovative way, the dialogues under the concepts of erudite/popular and ancient/contemporary.

The Heritage dimension of Idanha has world recognition today. As UNESCO Creative City of Music, since December 2015, Biosphere reserve in 2016, year of the 10th anniversary of Naturtejo Geopark, the first Portuguese Geopark and the first UNESCO recognition in the region. These three awards give Idanha a special status: is a UNESCO territory, crossing material and immaterial. This heritage value is the recognition of a path, to continue the good practices sustaining this recognition. Also to highlight the result of the work developed among several European institutions. Idanha-a-Nova became a member of Strasbourg Club in 2015, a group of European cities debating and promoting the European Project.

Two years ago, Fora do Lugar was the stage for good news. Today is again the stage to celebrate the second anniversary as Creative City of Music by UNESCO, crossing concepts, practices and territories reflecting an integrating vein, visible at global scale.

In our days, the integrated action of several productive sectors in the territory, with new and innovative approaches, makes even more sense. Is through this path we want to keep moving, producing more effective and lasting results. The border between these concepts, far away from linear, arises here as experiences making us think about historical processes thru a music line made of changes and ruptures, some of them very surprising. Through the music history, past and present have been crossing paths over and over. That is the reason for such a diverse program...

A provocative and innovative concept. The previous editions' results speak for themselves, reinforcing a political option illustrating, locally, the ability to produce culture in a set where many did not dare to imagine: the lost country of the small and almost desert villages. As we cannot stop saying... here is the biggest virtue of this project, going where no one before bothered to go.

In pair with the main programme with Danças Ocultas (Portugal), Musick's Recreation (Germany, Colombia and Australia), Scaramuccia (Portugal and Spain), Erin/Iran (Ireland, Iran, Catalonia and Hungary), Filipe Raposo and Charlie Chaplin (Portugal and England) and Pino De Vittorio (Italy), the festival promotes a wide range of parallel activities in nature, drawing, educational programs, master classes, workshops, gastronomy, etc...

The entrance for all concerts is free, subject to the rooms' capacity. In other activities a previous registration is necessary (but also free).



25 to 26 November – I International Seminar on Sustainable Tourism and Geoparks in Seville . Within the celebrations for the Year for International Sustainable Tourism, the Global Geoparks Network as a golden partner of the World Tourism Organisation, the Tourism and Sport Direction together with the Environment and Regional Planning of Andalusia Government, organized the I International Seminar on Sustainable Tourism and Geoparks, in Seville.

United on a common purpose, Andalusia Geoparks and the public company for Tourism and Sports Management of Andalusia, through their representatives and the correspondent ministers discussed mutual collaboration lines to boost tourist sustainable experiences in natural protected areas.

UNESCO Global Geoparks were represented by UNESCO representatives, Nickolas Zouros, Kristin Rangnes and Marie-Louise Frey, directors of Global Geoparks Network Association. Carlos Neto de Carvalho was invited to the round table "Development and Trading Experiences on Ecotourism" where, along with businessmen, reflected on trends and opportunities on Ecotourism, besides analyzing the current situation of Ecotourism.

In addition to Andalusia Geoparks, other Spanish Geoparks presented good practices examples. The next day the group visited Subbeticas Geopark along with local reporters, and everyone could enjoy the nature tourist offer in this Natural Park associated to local high quality production, such as the awarded olive oils. Catana.



25 and 26 November – Field trip from several senior universities and academies from Lisbon. A group of 48 students coming from different senior universities and academies from Lisbon visited the Geopark and geosites in the municipality of Penamacor. They learned about various geologic, geomorphologic, archaeological and mining phenomena in the region. The group was guided by Mariana Vilas Boas and Manuela.

26 November – Mushroom Walk in Penha Garcia. The fields in Penha Garcia, in the municipality of Idanha-a-Nova, received another Mushroom Walk to collect, identify and taste delicious mushrooms. The walk, guided by the known specialist José Gravito Henriques, was arranged by the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova and the Village of Penha Garcia. This walk aimed to value local mushrooms and promotes good practices for collect and consume mushrooms.





IMPACT OF GEOPARK IN MEDIA

Newspapers & www

November (Raiano) – Naturtejo Geopark participates in a meeting in Norway November (Ensino Magazine) – Idanha-a-Nova: "green" innovation destination 16 November (Reconquista) – Wines and Liquors Festival is back to S. Miguel De Acha 16 November (Reconquista) – train brought innovation to Idanha 21 November (www.skyscanner.pt/novidades/inspiracao/aldeias-historicas-de-portugal) – Idanha-a-Velha and Monsanto in the Top 15 of Historical Villages 22 November (Povo da Beira) – Luís Correia clarifies Barrocal Project 22 November (Povo da Beira) – Idanha is leading with innovation "green" train 22 November (Gazeta do Interior) – i-Danha Food Lab lead innovation 22 November (Gazeta do Interior) – Nature Park of Barrocal values the City 23 November (Jornal do Fundão) – Coutercharge on construction of Barrocal 30 November (Reconquista) – Barrocal – Citizen Movement against "amusement park"

SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE GEOPARK AND THE GEOSCIENCES

NETO DE CARVALHO, C. & RODRIGUES, J. – Avaliação da Geodiversidade e do Património Geológico (Sessão Prática): casos de estudo no Geopark Naturtejo da Meseta Meridional – Geoparque Global da UNESCO. VII Congresso Jovens Investigadores em Geociências. Guia do Workshop: 17-34.

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GONÇALVES, J.C., DELGADO, F. GARCIA, A. R. & FILIPE, S. B. (COORD.) - GeoAromas: A Inovação na gastronomia – Receitas. ESGIN/IPCB, 96 pp.

GONÇALVES, J.C., DELGADO, F. & FILIPE, S. B. (COORD.) – Os óleos essenciais na culinária da Beira Baixa – Terras de Excelência. RVJ Editores, 42 pp.

















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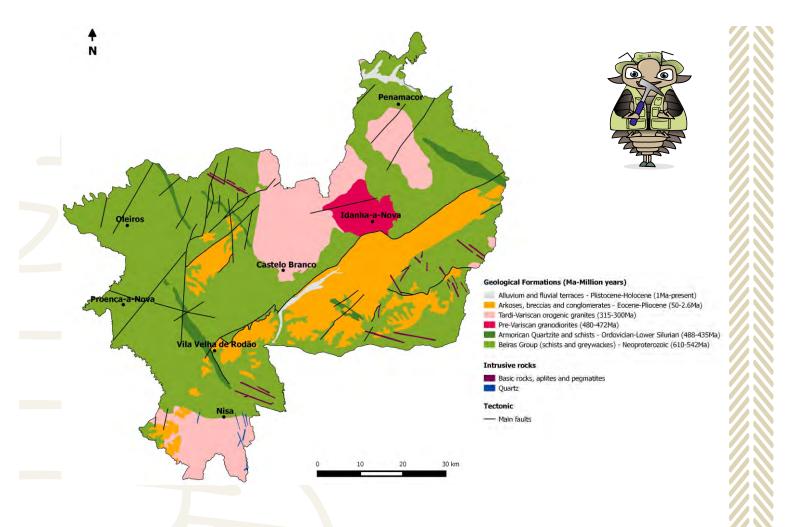




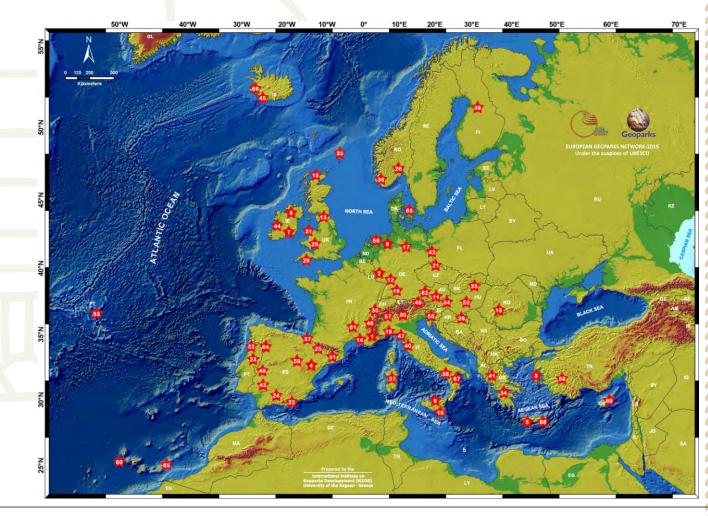
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Geoparks: Geology with human face



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