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... and more!

CRUZIANA

GEOPARK NATURTEJO DA MESETA MERIDIONAL - UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK - E-MAGAZINE









GEO-stories of our places and people: Cebolais de Cima

The Ponsul fault scarp rises from Ponsul Valley, where the ancient and large sediment-filled river and the newest deeply excavated streams in those black metasedimentary deposits of the Beiras Group create the regional substrate.

The erosive retreat of the fault opens its guts with wide deep ravines filled with woods. On top, guarding, at 370m above sea level is Cebolais de Cima. Small territory with 12,86km2, covered with pines and rockroses, the history of this community is not widely known, and in 2011 had 1026 inhabitants. What is known is that the regional wool industry grew here, at some point with more than 30 factories working. Today those industries stand ghostly within the village, from the road access, recalling an almost non existing past, giving this community a soul. From the 30 factories that used to employ thousands of workers, only one is left. For this reason, last year the Municipality of Castelo Branco invested 1 million Euro on Rehabilitation and Musealisation of the old Corga Factory from 1952. Therefore the MuTex is born, the first and ambitious efford to create an industrial touristic hub in a region that has always been clod but also, and still shepherdy. In MuTex, the ancient and stunning carding and spinning machines are fully-functional. The former factory workers engage these machines and tell us old time stories. Outside we find a garden with dye-yielding plants, used in the workshops of organic dyeing held in the museum. The MuTex became the main stage for fashion events in Castelo Branco. This is the ideal space for creativity to set new approaches to traditional arts and where the hand weaving reborn. An industrial touristic hub in a region with agricultural tradition comes to diversify the offer in a city as Castelo Branco, offering an extensive museums network established in a Route allowing unravel past dimensions underpinning the present town. We continue to follow the evolution of this project, which stands out for its scale and theme, in a territory with appetite for active tourism and where it used to happen a festival dedicated to traditional sweets, but not recognized by diversity or uniqueness. Its replacement for FesTêxtil, based on the wool heritage, as a current event is covered in pure wool.

> The editor Carlos Neto de Carvalho Scientific coordinator Geologist

Cover: (Projecto Objectiva: Geopark)

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES





1 June – International Children's Day Celebrations – "Paleozoic Selfie with Judite, the Trilobite". Within "Spring Days 2018", the School Group from Idanha-a-Nova organized in their school the celebration of the International Children's Day to all children attending kindergartens and schools in the Municipality. Several groups presented their work made throughout the school year, the school opened the labs to the school community and invited numerous partners of the projects developed in the school group to join this show. Naturtejo Geopark's Educational Department was invited to attend along with the Educational Service from the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova and the Biology-Geology Group. So, in one of the Biology-Geology Labs the students presented several exhibitions and educational resources related to the ESTEAM Project, the Rivers Project 2017/2018, the Autochthonous Forest Week 2017, samples and replicas of fossils from Naturtejo Geopark, and from other UNESCO Global Geoparks. The open lab received 140 students and 14 teachers from kindergarten and elementary schools who also watched a small film with the activities of 2017/2018 school year. But the most awaited and successful moment was a Paleozoic Selfie with Judite, the Trilobite, Naturtejo Geopark's friendly Mascot! Arlindo Cardosa, Manuela Catana, Catarina Caria, the teachers André Azeiteiro and Elsa Cantinhas boosted this activity.



3 June - Walk through Nature "Baságueda Mills"

3 June - Walk through Nature "Baságueda Mills". This event, included in "European Geoparks Week", received 21 participants and was organized by the Municipality of Penamacor, Naturtejo Geopark and the Company Rotas & Raízes. Along the walk, guided by Carlos Neto de Carvalho, participants could watch the old mills. This was also an opportunity to make the recognition for the future Walking Trails Network in Penamacor: "Baságueda Mills – PR6".



4 June – Press Trip with American journalists. The Regional Agency for Promotion of the Centre of Portugal, in cooperation with Tourism of Portugal organized a Press Trip addressed to American awarded journalists and photojournalists. The group visited the Boulders Trail and the Historical Village of Monsanto, walked through the Ponsul Valley, along the Fossils Trail. This Press Trip also visited Geopark's Associates, the GeoRestaurant "Petiscos & Granitos" and Fonte Santa Hotel, at Termas de Monfortinho. This press trip was accompanied by Joana Rodriques.



4 June – I Cross-border Journeys of the Educational Service of the International Tejo/Tajo Biosphere Reservel. The Journeys were organized by the Municipality of Cáceres and took place in the Event Hall of this Municipality, in Spain. Naturtejo Geopark was invited to issue a presentation, sharing our experience on Educational Programmes for schools. "Educational Programmes in Naturtejo Geopark – UNESCO Global Geopark" was presented by Manuela Catana integrated in the panel "Successful Educational Experiences matured in reference territories". Manuela Catana highlighted some activities in the territory classified as Biosphere Reserve, and included in Naturtejo Geopark. These Journeys were attended by 40 Spanish participants including teachers and politicians of regional and local administration. Villuercas Ibores Jara Geopark – UNESCO Global Geopark, located in Extremadura was also invited to issue presentations, as a way to share their management model and activities organized for the schools.



7 and 8 June – National Meeting of the Guide of the Portuguese Geological and Mines Sites at Termas de Monfortinho. Termas de Monfortinho hosted the 9th Annual Partners Meeting of the Guide of the Portuguese Geological and Mines Sites, to sign the Guide's 10th anniversary. This meeting was organized by Naturtejo Geopark, UNESCO Global Geopark and the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova in close collaboration with the General Directorate for Energy and Geology and EDM –Mining Development Company and supported by the Parish of Monfortinho and Salvaterra do Extremo, Monfortinho Thermal Spa and Fonte Santa Hotel.

In the first session, Carlos Neto de Carvalho, Scientific Coordinator of Naturtejo Geopark, and Joana Rodrigues, Geologist, presented the pioneer work developed by Naturtejo Geopark and Monfortinho Thermal Spa, to disseminate and promote the Hydrogeological Heritage, with a visit to the bathhouse guided by the Professor Martins de Carvalho, Technical Director of this Springs.

The General Directorate for Energy and Geology wants the Guide to start including the Hydrogeological Heritage and its treasures in the network. This year the Meeting besides disseminate partner's actions also included an analysis of the "Future" of the Guide and its organisational framework, with a round table to present and discuss possible models to develop different projects within the Guide.

The analysis panel, moderated by the General Director of Energy and Geology, Mário Guedes, received institutional representatives of each Partner, and was closed by the State Secretary of Energy, Jorge Seguro Sanches. Naturtejo Geopark was represented by its President, Armindo Jacinto, as well as the whole team.

Geocakes company partner provided a Welcome GeoCoffee Break, with regional Geoproducts, 100% authentic, including Trilobites, Daedalus, Soil, Dinos, Chia Rocks, natural juices and other delicacies baked by entrepreneur and Cake Designer, Raquel Ramos.

The meeting logistics was assured by Carla Jacinto, Joana Rodrigues, Mariana Vilas Boas, Manuela Catana, Tiago Oliveira and the trainees Inês Cerejo and Maria Inês Lopes, from the Superior School of Technology of IPCB, responsible for the photo coverage.

8 June – Seminar on Artistic Perspectives of Christ Order between Zêzere and Tejo. Within the Project Ordo Christi, the Polytechnic Institute of Tomar received the II Seminar – "Artistic Perspectives of Christ Order between Zêzere and Tejo", aiming to study, promote and communicate the Heritage associated to the Order of Christ between the two rivers.

8 to 10 June – Tourism Programme by the Geopark. A group of 30 friends from Lisbon visited Naturtejo Geopark, during a weekend and visited the Convent of Santo António and the town Museum, in Penamacor. The group, guided by Susana Santos from the partner company Geolife, realised the Fossils Trail and the Boulders Trail and also visited the historical village of Idanha-a-Velha. They were entertained with a concert of the almost disappeared and now revitalised Viola Beiroa and the Adufeiras from Idanha-a-Nova.



9 and 10 June – Iberian Climbing F(i)esta in Penha Garcia 2018. 7Cumes Association organized an Iberian climbing event in the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia, in collaboration with the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova, and the village of Penha Garcia. This meeting received climbing specialists and was opened to all community allowing discover this sport with 2 initiation workshops. Naturtejo Geopark was represented by Jorge Costa. The Iberian Climbing F(i)esta in Penha Garcia 2018 closed another edition of the Landscape Festival, as a celebration of the European Geoparks Week, deeply in touch with Geodiversity and local communities in a playful and dynamic way.



15 June – Visit to the Interpretation Centre of Biodiversity "Lands of Idanha" and birdwatching in Erges Canyon, at Segura. Six students, a teacher and an assistant from the Kindergarten of Rosmaninhal visited Segura for a different lesson about animals and plants in the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova. The group visited the exhibition at the Interpretation Centre of Biodiversity where the children grouped living things according to their habitats. Then they went outside to observe an example of rock habitat and on the way to the Erges River they played a game on Gryphon feeding. Next along the river, armed with binoculars and telescope they watched the Gryphons flying and resting in the granite slopes of Erges Canyon (Geomonument of Naturtejo Geopark). The instructor for this activity was Manuela Catana.



16 June - Penha Garcia received "Extreme Trails" with canoeing, climbing and slide. The Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia was the perfect stage for another edition of "Extreme Trails" with canoeing, climbing, slide and rappel, at Ponsul Valley. This event gathered dozens of enthusiasts on nature and adventure sports, in places like the Dam and Rocks in Penha Garcia.

"Trilhos Radicais" ("Extreme Trails") were organized by the Sporting Group of Penha Garcia, Vila Fraga provided technical support and this event was institutionally supported by the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova, the village of Penha Garcia and Naturtejo Geopark, UNESCO Global Geopark.

16 June – Visit to the ancient elephant tracks at Malhão Beach, SW of Portugal. The Municipality of Odemira, in Southwest Alentejo, invited Carlos Neto de Carvalho to a guided tour to the ancient elephant tracks found by this researcher for the first time in Europe. An enthusiastic group of 45 participants, among which a large number of children, walked along Malhão Beach into the cliffs of the fossil dune and during 3 hours the group found the beach and dune present environments and how to use this knowledge to read the paleoenvironments in the rocks of the past. Through games on the beach they learned to analyse tracks and how they can be preserved in the stratigraphic record, as well as the animals that left fossilized footprints on the Pleistocene dune. Finally, the group visited the cliff top to observe the three parallel elephant tracks exposed by the sea and described in 2009. Interest in these discoveries is growing in the region and has already been promised a new visit for all those who could not register for the first activity due to the limited number of registrations quickly reached.

17 June - Visit to Monsanto. A group of 23 Russian Tourists coming from Israel to visit the Historical Village of Monsanto and walked through the Boulders Trail, a walking geomorphologic and geo-cultural trail. The group was quided by Rui Nunes of the Geolife partner company.



22 to 24 June – River Flavours Fair in Vila Velha de Ródão. Naturtejo Geopark attended another edition of Tejo Flavours Fair, facing the Tejo river and the Natural Monument of Portas de Ródão, at Vila Velha de Ródão.

The event presented a varied programme with regional cuisine, street animation, the seminar "Rodão Table", Regional Flavours Contest, Cooking Workshop for children, musical performances, regional products, Geoproducts and great animation. Geopark's space was dedicated to the promotion of the territory and was attended by Jorge Costa and Rui Nunes. The Councillor Paulo Urbano, from the Municipality of Oleiros, received the State Secretary for Tourism Ana Mendes Godinho, who recalled the consistent work made by the Naturtejo Geopark over the last 12 years.

The Geologist Joana Rodrigues met the Geoproducers represented at the Fair, Rodoliv and Vale de Aromas who presented new products and were praised by the State Secretary for Tourism. Contacts with potential new geoproducers were also established.



26 June to 1 July – XVI European Association of Vertebrate Paleontologists Annual Meeting. The XVI European Association of Vertebrate Paleontologists Annual Meeting was carried out at the New University of Lisbon, in Monte da Caparica and was attended by Carlos Neto de Carvalho in the Scientific Commission. 190 participants came from 23 different countries.



27 June – Naturtejo Geopark in collaborative workshop to value International Tagus Natural Park. Naturtejo Geopark participated in the collaborative Workshop "Value Nature Benefits" in the context of the study on Valuing Ecosystem Services in Rural Areas, focused in the area of the International Tejo, sharing experiences, and was represented by Armindo Jacinto, Manuela Catana, Joana Rodrigues and Rafael André.

The purpose of this study is the construction of economic instruments for the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services compensation, based on recommendations given by stakeholders set to allow reaching policy guidelines. The day started by building a shared vision, explore the services of existing ecosystems in PNTI area and identify opportunities, threats and intervention measures.

In this meeting the group discussed measures to promote local knowledge and education for sustainability, to promote and value cultural services of ecosystems to benefit local communities, to encourage agro-forestshepherd practices valuing natural capital and ecosystems and to promote the occupation of the territory to enhance ecosystems' regulatory services. At the end, the most promising measures were voted by all participants and will continue to be processed in an upcoming workshop.



IMPACT OF GEOPARK IN MEDIA

Newspapers & www

June (Raiano) – Toulões – Still "our" Rosa Albardeira

June (Raiano) - Mines Sites Meeting

June (Raiano) - Certified Training Course "Naturtejo Geopark – UNESCO Global Geopark as educational resource"-Second Edition

6 June (Gazeta do Interior) – Idanha and LIFE Imperial Project allies in the conservation of the Iberian Imperial Eagle

6 June (Povo da Beira) – Cambas hosts Zêzere Workshop

12 June (Diário Digital de Castelo Branco) – Termas de Monfortinho welcomes Mines Sites Meeting

21 June (Reconquista) – Theatrical visits show a different Penamacor

21 June (Reconquista) - Mines Sites Meeting reinforces Tourist potential

21 June (Reconquista) – Zêzere workshop in Cambas – Lusitanians' Shelter

27 June (Gazeta do Interior) – Walking "Baságueda Mills" gathers 20 participants

27 June (Gazeta do Interior) – Students from Penamacor win fourth place in entrepreneurship fair

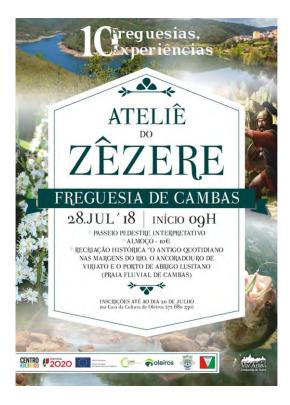
27 June (Gazeta do Interior) – Termas de Monfortinho welcomes Mines Site Meeting

PROMOTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC



Património Natural Elefante Antigo. Era uma vez Odemira, 12, 2-3









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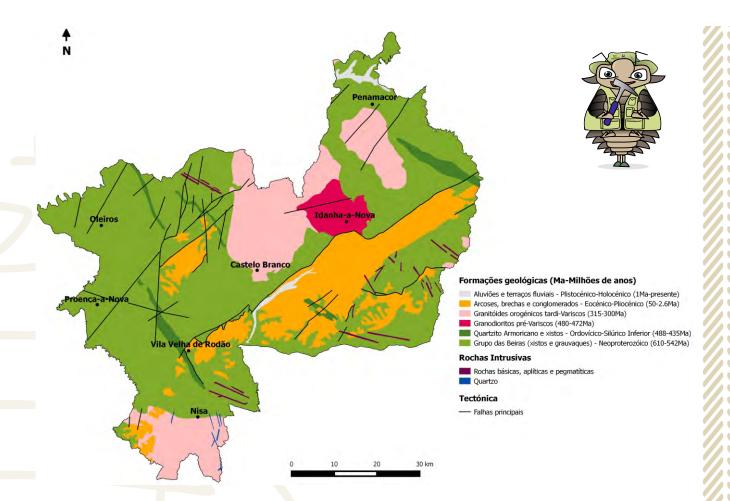
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