



In this issue:

UNESCO Geoparks in FITUR representing Iberian Geoparks 6th ESTEAM Meeting and training for teachers in Magma UNESCO Global Geopark Naturtejo in the Advisory Board for Tejo / Tajo International Biosphere Reserve Naturtejo Geopark attends the Interreg Danube Geotour Meeting in Hungary ...and more!









GEO-stories of our places and people: Águas

Águas in land of granites! Could only lead to springs with reputation for "holy". Crossing the granite of Monsanto-Penamacor these groundwaters enrich themselves, become sulphurous, sodium bicarbonated, and rise to the surface in the perfect place, made of huge natural silence and flatness. It is thus important geological heritage, integrated the geological heritage of the Naturtejo Geopark designated by UNESCO. These waters were already famous in times of the Marquis of Pombal, the name of the village is not mere chance. A thermal unit was built right in the source accompanying the brightness light filling the plain. The tranquillity prevails in the surroundings and combines perfectly with the ultimate aim of the waters of Águas, healthy relaxation. Right there is the village, following the road to Aldeia do Bispo. Here once passed the via romana Roman road still defined by the presence of a small bridge. Águas has 15,19km2, less than 300 inhabitants and keeps some architectural interesting nooks, as manors, parish church and chapels. The Megre House deserves a highlight not so much due to its architecture, but for the collection of vintage cars preserved and paying tribute to José Megre, pilot and adventurous traveller. Portugal's off-road father travelled through 193 countries, as part of the first group of Portuguese who competed in the Paris-Dakar. The musealisation of his car collection and stories, some of them told in books, as well as the history of the off-road in Portugal, could transform Águas into a Mecca not only for off-road fans and its story, but all those touched by the understandable desire to travel by curiosity and discovery. Águas would become a starting point for a healthy destination discovering the territory to the world.

Bilbiography

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GEO-stories of our places and people: Águas

VILAS BOAS, M., NETO DE CARVALHO, C., RODRIGUES, J.C. & VALENTE, A. (2015) – Património Geológico de Penamacor: inventário de Geossítios e propostas para a sua valorização. Açafa Online 10: 23-72.

The editor Carlos Neto de Carvalho Scientific coordinator Geologist

Cover: (Projecto Objectiva: Geopark)



MONTHLY ACTIVITIES



15 to 30 January – Venezuelan Photographer prepares book on Naturtejo Geopark. The Geologist Engineer and photographer born in Venezuela Jesus Salazar Cabrera visited Naturtejo Geopark for the photographic project Objectiva: Geopark. This project aims to publish a travel book for the Spanish language market. This old friend of Naturtejo Geopark, today with a growing activity in photography in southern China where he currently lives, with several exhibitions and awards achieved, Jesus visited the best places of the territory searching for stories and emotions that he crystallized in pictures and in words, and that soon will be shared.



16 January – Second Meeting of the Advisory Board for Tejo / Tajo International Biosphere Reserve.

16 January – Second Meeting of the Advisory Board for Tejo / Tajo International Biosphere Reserve. The 2nd Participatory Session of the Pilot Project for the Collaborative Management on Tejo International Natural Park

took place in the Business Association of Beira Baixa, in Castelo Branco. Institutional representatives and local authorities, researchers and technicians in various fields and the civil community discussed on Heritage, Tourism and Hunting, aiming to find solutions to problems diagnosed in an earlier session in November. Naturtejo Geopark was represented by Joana Rodrigues and Manuela Catana, in the working groups on Heritage and Tourism.

17 January – Field trip with the photographer Jesus Salazar to shoot photographs for the App TeachOUT under the ESTEAM Project. Jesus Salazar, Venezuelan photographer was accompanied by Manuela Catana, the Teacher André Azeiteiro and the Geologist João Geraldes throughout the PR5 – Boulders Trail, to take photos for the Mobile App TeachOUT, which is being developed within the framework of ESTEAM Project.



20 January – 800 Years of Proença-a-Velha Conference. Once again the Mercy Church of Proença-a-Velha was too small for the 6th edition of the Conferences on the 800 years of stories in Proença-a-Velha. In a joint organisation of the Parish Union of Proença-a-Velha and Proençal – Association for the Development of Proença-a-Velha, this edition was attended by researchers from the fields of Art and History, Anthropology, Archeology and Geology, finishing with the traditional singing of Janeiras by the choir of Castelo Branco. Carlos Neto de Carvalho joined the anthropologist Eddy Chambino for storytelling on tungsten times, to which hundreds of people from this village were dedicated to. This study resulted from the project "When we went for ore", which passed by Proença-a-Velha with a travelling exhibition in 2012.



23 to 27 January – UNESCO Geoparks promoted in Fitur by Iberian Geoparks.

23 to 27 January – UNESCO Geoparks promoted in Fitur by Iberian Geoparks. The participation on the International Tourism Fair of Madrid was a joint initiative coordinated by Naturtejo Geopark and the Spanish Forum of UNESCO Geoparks. The UNESCO Global Geoparks Stand hosted Naturtejo, Lanzarote, Las Loras, Villuercas-Ibores-Jara, Costa Basca and Sobrabe. Among the activities performed, like tasting local products and presenting touristic initiatives, also took place a presentation on Las Loras Geopark by the President of the Province of Palencia and welcomed delegates from 11 Spanish Geoparks, as well as the President of GGN, Prof. Nickolas Zouros. Other actions were developed in the regional Spanish stands arranged by the Spanish Forum of Geoparks and each individually, with highlight to the new issue on Spanish Geoparks booklet in the Stand of Costa Basca, the presentation of the 15th European Conference on Geoparks in Andaluzia Stand and the new issue of Villuercas Geopark brochure in Extremadura Stand. UNESCO Global Geoparks stand had the honour to host the State Secretary for Tourism of Portugal and Greece, several politicians from the Iberian Geoparks, specially the President of the Municipality of Proença-a-Nova, Eng. João Lobo, the representative from Mexican Geopark Mixteca Alta, Gozalo Martinez, as well as the President of the UNESCO Sub-Commission on Dominican Republic, invited country in FITUR, who showed great interest on the International Programme on Geosciences and Geoparks by UNESCO.



25 January – Guided Tour to the Exhibition "Encantal: the Natural World of Beira Baixa" in Centro Cultural Raiano. 27 students from the Kindergarten of Idanha-a-Nova accompanied by teachers and two assistants visited the Exhibition "Encantal: the Natural World of Beira Baixa" of Luísa Ferreira Nunes. This visit was guided by Manuela Catana.



26 January to 2 February – 6th ESTEAM Project Meeting + Learning Teaching Training no Magma UNESCO Global Geopark in Norway.

26 January to 2 February – 6th ESTEAM Project Meeting + Learning Teaching Training no Magma UNESCO Global Geopark in Norway. The 6th partners meeting of the ESTEAM Project (ERASMUS+) took place in Magma Geopark – UNESCO Global Geopark, in Egersund, Norway. From Portugal attended André Azeiteiro, representing the School Group José Silvestre Ribeiro, in Idanha-a-Nova, and Mariana Vilas Boas, Carla Jacinto and Manuela Catana representing Naturtejo Geopark – UNESCO Global Geopark. This meeting was divided in two parts. The first part was dedicated to the project management and the second one to LTT (Learning Teaching Training), meaning Training course for Teaching Learning and mobile application platform TeachOUT. The Icelandic IT Company Locatify, partner in this project boosted the training course. This course allowed testing the App in two trails in the Geopark, one of them jointly with local students. Locatify presented a draft version of the step by step (tutorial) so that later teachers may learn how to use it as an educational tool in their field trips. Partner schools presented their experiences and results of the field trips on Natural Sciences, using TeachOUT in their pilot trails. Liubliana University presented a summary with students' answers to the quiz after the pilot test. The last day of the meeting was dedicated to the future of the TeachOUT App, its dissemination and promotion. The App is ready to use and to install in smart phones and tablets, and teacher may start using it, just by register and get their licence (still in conclusion phase). Each Geopark partner (Magma, Idrija and Naturtejo) will host workshops for teachers on the App TeachOUT, in April/ May. Schools in Naturtejo Geopark will receive information so that their teachers can apply the workshop. The last ESTEAM Project meeting will take place in Slovenia, in Idrija Geopark, on 12 and 13 June 2019.





IMPACT OF GEOPARK IN MEDIA

Newspapers & www

2 January (Gazeta do Interior) – Spanish Students discover Penamacor 3 January (Reconquista) – Geosciences are reference in Naturtejo Geopark 17 January (Reconquista) – Region shows in Madrid, in FITUR 17 January (Reconquista) – International Tejp, from Tourism to Heritage



SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE GEOPARK AND THE GEOSCIENCES



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- Pijet-Migoñ, E. & Migoñ, P. - Naturtejo – the first Geopark in Portugal. Prz. Geol., 67: 41–47 (em Polaco).



PROMOTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

- Rodrigues, J. – Communicating hydrogeological heritage in Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark. GGN Newsletter, 3, 36.

- Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark (Portugal) will be the Portuguese capital of sustainable development in November, EGN Newsletter 13.







PROMOTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC



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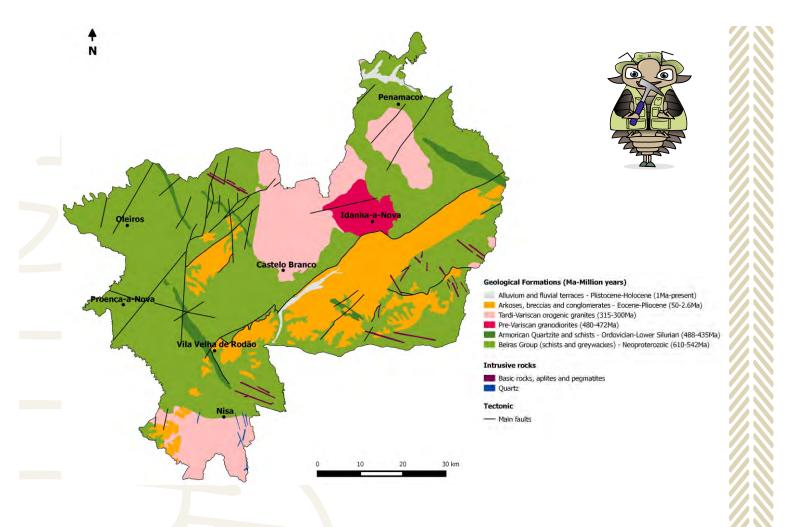
www.youtube.com/geoparknaturtejo



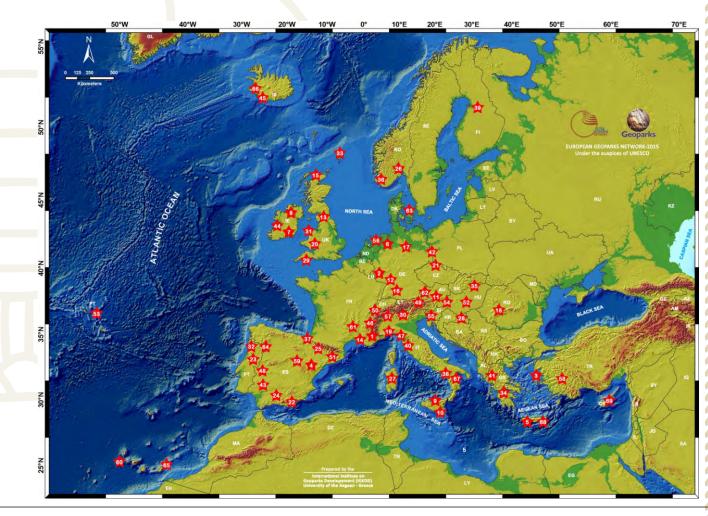
www

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www.slideshare.net/geoparknaturtejomesetameridional



Geoparks: Geology with human face



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