

Etuziana

monthly report of the Geopark Naturtejo Meseta Meridional

issue # 23!



In this issue: – New Educational Programs 2008/9 – Geotrips for experts and lovers – Master is Geological Heritage get training in the Geopark – National fair for Promotion of Nature areas with Naturtejo *and more...*

www.geoparknaturtejo.com

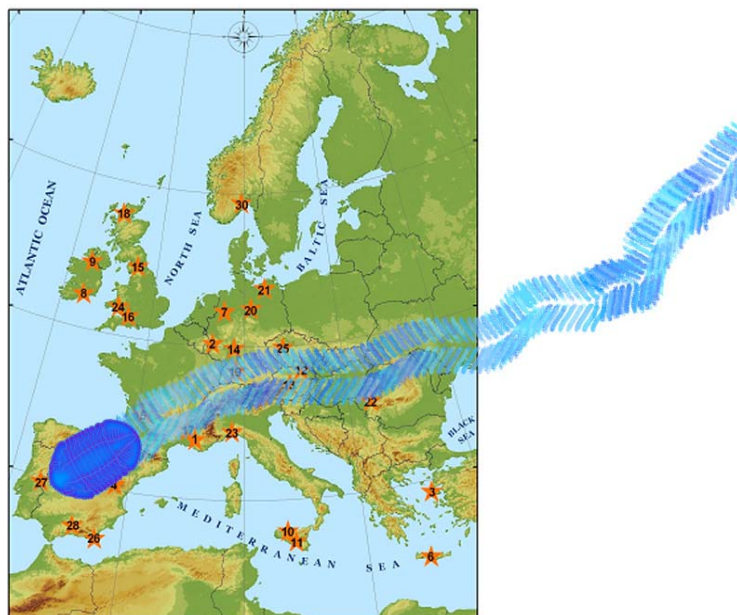


Olá/Hola/Ciao/Bonjour/Γειά σου/Hallo/God Dag/Salut/Zdravo/Hello

This international Year of United Nations is reminding us that Planet Earth is much, much more than us, living beings. For the first time geological heritage is included in the National Law, by its own importance as the record of Earth's dynamical processes and evolution. The newly published Decree-Law 142 of 24th July that defines the political standards for environment establishes the new juridical regime of Nature Conservation in Portugal. Geosites, Geological Heritage and Natural Values (including geosites) are herein defined. The Law also creates the Fundamental Network for Nature Conservation including the National Network of Protected Areas and areas protected under international agreements with Portugal. Geoparks are also included in this Law and have now proper integration and rules under the status of Areas with Conservation Designations of Supranational Importance, i.e., the Decision of the Executive Council of UNESCO (161 Ex/Decisions, 3.3.1), adopted in Paris in 2001, related with geosites and geoparks.

At the information organizational level, this Law creates the Natural Heritage Information System that fosters the inventory of geosites in the country and in waters under Portuguese jurisdiction. Also, the development of a National Inventory of Protected Natural Values archives all the information about geosites. Both operational instruments promote scientific research and knowledge about natural heritage, as well as monitoring of geosites as far as the recognition by Society of the intergenerational, economic and social heritage value of biodiversity and geological heritage. When previously defined in the application and management planes now it is a very serious infraction to destroy or dilapidate inventoried geosites and light infraction to collect, store and transport minerals, rocks and fossils from Protected Areas.

This is a big victory mainly for ProGEO-Portugal and all the academics, students and all of those that keep fighting for recognition of the fundamental role of Geosciences under Society all these years. Hurrah to us!



Geopark Naturtejo Meseta Meridional is...



Armindo Jacinto
Agronomist Engineer
Chairman of Naturtejo
Vice-president of Idanha

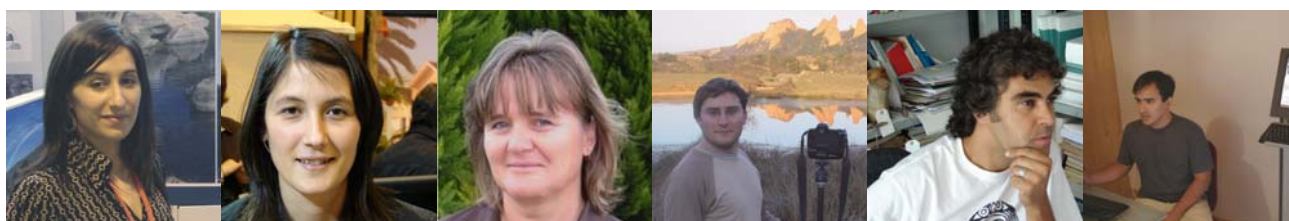
Carlos Neto de Carvalho
Geologist
Scientific Coordinator
Researcher

Rui Marques
Biologist
Marketing

Rafael André
Economist
Financial Planner

Cristina Pregoça
Journalist
Administrative

Jesus Alarcón
Commercial
Agent for Spain



Fátima Rodrigues
Agronomist Engineer
Tourism/Communication

Eliane Antunes
Financial Manager
Tourism/Webpage

Alice Marcelo
Accountant
Administration assistant

Pedro Martins
Ecotourism
Tourism/Photographer

Eddy Chambino
Anthropologist
Researcher

Nuno Capelo
Marketing
Marketing/Designer



Manuela Catana
Teacher of Natural
Sciences
Educational Programs

Andrea Baucon
Geologist
Exhibition tools/Research

Miguel Costa Silva
Doctor of Law
Lawyer

Tiago Oliveira
Management
Events

Pedro Dias
Environment Engineer
Planner/Tourism Fairs

Joana Rodrigues
Geologist
Geoheritage

The team work!

Where...

Centro Cultural Raiano – Geopark Headquarters
Av. Joaquim Morão
6060-101 Idanha-a-Nova

Naturtejo – Tourism Company
Rua Conselheiro Albuquerque, 4 Cave C
6000-161 Castelo Branco

Contact us! tel: +(351)277 202 900
fax: +(351)277 202 944
email: geral@naturtejo.com

www.geoparknaturtejo.com



1) Activities

3rd July – **Geopark cooperates with the School for Arts of Castelo Branco.** Carlos Neto de Carvalho was interviewed by Jorge Costa about the Geopark management for graduation work of Art students on audiovisuals. The responsible for Beira webTV questioned about conservation and promotion of geological heritage, environmental education and the problem of the project for an Uranium mine.



6-7th July – **Directors of Natural Parks from Finland experience the Geopark.** Pertti Itkonen and Raimo Itkonen visited with their families the Naturtejo Geopark. Carlos Neto de Carvalho, Joana Rodrigues and Fátima Rodrigues were the guides of these two brothers that are directors of Natural Parks in the Centre and North of Finland. They got the opportunity to experience 2 geoholidays in the territory visiting Tejo River and Portas do Ródão Natural Monument by boat. Next day they visited the top of Monsanto Inselberg, its Nature, History and Culture and lunched in the cave of the granite geo-restaurant. After the traditional lunch (=a lot of good food) a jump into the freezing Ordovician Ocean from the Penha Garcia Castle and viewpoint gave them the opportunity to learn more about the management plan of Naturtejo. We think EGN will have some good news from Finland soon...



7-10th July – **New Educational Programs 2008/09 presented in Spain.** The brand new Educational Programs of Naturtejo Geopark for 2008/09 where presented in the XV

Symposium on Geology Teaching, promoted by the *Asociación Española para el Ensino de las Ciencias de la Tierra*, and organized by Alcalá University in the city of Guadalajara. More than 200 Geology teachers of all teaching levels were present, coming from Spain, Brazil and Portugal. During the symposium occurred pedagogical tools exhibitions, conferences, debates, workshops, poster presentations, talks and fieldtrips. Manuela Catana, as in charge of the Educational Programs of the Naturtejo Geopark, presented a talk on *Naturtejo Geopark Educational Programs for schools: a significant field apprenticeship*. The new booklet describing the 10 educational programs, both in Portuguese and Spanish, was presented and distributed by many interested teachers. But Naturtejo Geopark was represented in this symposium also by a project on geological site museums and exomuseums (interpreted geosites) presented by Professor Guillermo Meléndez from the Zaragoza University and having Joana Rodrigues from the Naturtejo Geopark as co-author. This project of a European Network shows Penha Garcia future Palaeozoic Museum and Ichnological Park as example with a strong importance on geodidactics and to burst geotourism. Prof. Meléndez also presented this multinational project in the VII Spanish Congress of Geology organized this year in the Canary Islands where unfortunately Naturtejo Geopark did not have the opportunity to be represented there.



12-14th July – **Experts in Tourism and Geology attracted by the chemistry of the Geopark.** 3 intensive days on geology, geoconservation and geotourism satisfied Hugo Stumpf from Skälalgarve, an association for tourism professional from the South of Portugal, and Professor Yilmaz Savascin, that is coordinating the project for the first geopark in Turkey. The visit to the Geopark was very complete, both scientifically and as personal experience. Carlos Neto de Carvalho, Joana Rodrigues and João Gerales guided these friends to Portas de Almourão geomonument and Foz do Cobrão Schist Village; the fossil trees from the House of Arts and Culture of Tejo; the wonderful boat trip downstream Portas do Ródão Natural Monument; Monsanto Inselberg and Historical Village; the Idanha-a-Velha Historical Village; the Olive Press Museological Complex of Proença-a-Velha; the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia. Our guests were the opportunity to taste some of Geopark's best food in local restaurants and the new rural accommodation at Penha Garcia, the Casa de Santa Catarina. Both declared that in a very short time Naturtejo Geopark is going to be a national reference for scientific and nature tourism.



17th-19th July – **Master in Geological Heritage trains in the Geopark.**

Naturtejo Geopark welcomed for the second consecutive year the visit of Master students in Geological Heritage and Geoconservation from the Minho University. This Master course, that is actually in its 3rd edition, prepares technicians specialized in Geological Heritage to work in Nature Conservation and Tourism, as in case of a Geopark.

The training course organized by Joana Rodrigues and Carlos Neto de Carvalho visited some of the Geopark's geomonuments such as the Penha Garcia Ichnological Park, the granite *Inselberg* of Monsanto, Portas do Ródão, Portas de Almourão and Conhal do Arneiro roman mine. Besides scientific geological explanations it was presented several questions related with the managing structure of Geopark, local development, geotourism and geoconservation. Master students, as future experts in Geological heritage, were proposed to have a direct contact with the example of the Geopark in conservation of the geological heritage and sustainable development.

Among the fieldtrips it is worth to mention geokayaking in the Tejo River, which joined science and leisure in a potential geotourist product still underdevelopment in Naturtejo territory. In the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia, during the Fossils Trail, besides a visit to the geological, historical and cultural heritages, students discussed some of the strategies applied in the educational programs of the Geopark. The fossils trees from the House of Culture and Arts of Tejo were the starting point to discuss conservation and protection of mobile heritage. In the Conhal do Arneiro roman mine from Nisa, we visited under 40°C and very dry weather some of the points of interest of the Conhal Trail where Geology and Archeology are deeply related. The application of Portas do Ródão to become a Natural Monument was also discussed by its importance for Nature conservation in the national scope. Students also walked in the streets of Alpalhão and appreciated the Sculptures Route, a project that joins local geology, art and local development.

Despite of the hot temperatures felt, discussions were lively and constructive contributing for the improvement of student's knowledge but also to a critic analysis of the Naturtejo Geopark. The Master course got the opportunity to find the main aims of the Geopark concerning management, education, geotourism and Nature conservation.



24-27th July – **Naturtejo Geopark in the National Fair of Natural Parks and Environment.** Naturtejo Geopark participated in the 3rd National Fair of Natural Parks and Environments, where the theme Geotourism and Geoparks was in discussion during the seminar “Ecotourism for Nature Conservation”. The event occurred in the Algarvian city of Olhão and this edition presented several innovations, as the Tourism Fair, where 3 tourist operators from Germany – Eco Reisen, Moderns Reisen, CulToura Gruppenreisen – an operator from Spain – Hacienda Huella – two representatives of tourism portals about Portugal for the German market – Portugal Mania and Wandern in Portugal – and Lisbon sucursal of an English company for event celebrations – TLC, Events in Portugal were present. In this fair Naturtejo – Intermunicipal Company for Tourism presented its main tourist products and services through Cristina Preguiça. It was a good opportunity for the 40 companies registered in the event to establish motivating contacts for future partnerships with the outside companies. It is worth to mention that Naturtejo Geopark is already a destiny commercialized by one of the operators there, Hacienda Huella.

“Ecotourism for Nature Conservation” was the main subject of the seminar held in the 25th July signaling the celebrations of the World’s Day for Nature Conservation and the International Year of Planet Earth with the support of National Commission for UNESCO, with the presence of Tito Rosa, president of the Institute for Nature and Biodiversity Conservation. In this seminar, Diamantino Pereira, professor of Minho University, participated as invited speaker in the panel “Nature Management and Conservation”, with a talk about “Geotourism and Geoparks: strategies for a sustainable development”. During his talk, professor emphasized his recent visit to Naturtejo Geopark, the only Portuguese Geopark in the European and Global networks of UNESCO. He said also that “a Geopark look for an increasing number of tourists ambitioning the direct contact with nature, local population, life modes and rural products and, at the same time, to know more about how landscape evolved, about landforms, rocks, soils or minerals. During his talk, that was very important for Naturtejo Geopark, as one of the case studies for the success of geotourism development, there were also defined the main features and aims of the Geopark concept.

The program of the Fair of Natural Parks and Environment included also *outdoor* activities for all ages and tastes. More than 30 initiatives of nature discovering and observation, environmental education and nature sport, targeted for adults, teenagers and kids were open for public. Besides the presence of several institutions and companies related with nature conservation and tourism sector, like Naturtejo, the Fair also had a market of

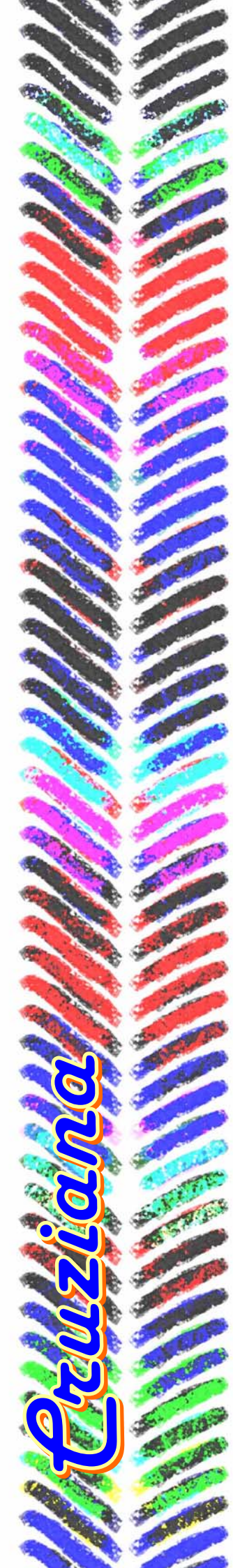
traditional and biological products, a book showcase about environment and photo, design and handcraft exhibitions. The diversity of activities attracted thousands of visitors to Olhão, among them foreigner tourists, enabling promotion among a much diversified public. Naturtejo participates in this event for the second consecutive time.



25th July – **Kids like us!** The Association for the Development of Nisa brought 33 children between 4 and 9 years old to visit the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia. This was a program included in summer activities for kids guided by Manuela Catana. A fresh afternoon for their fresh minds!



26th July – **Fossils & Flowers in the Geology in Summer.** Are you tired of being under the air conditioned without anything to do? Shopping at the mall is not satisfying enough? Don't you fight with the traffic to get to the beach? Naturtejo Geopark have 5 challenges for this summer in its territory and outside. In a partnership with Minho University Naturtejo, Geopark invites all to participate in Geology in Summer 2008, a national initiative that promotes hundreds of field excursions to learn how to look after our beloved Earth. On 26th July we went for fissuricole and copronitrophyllitic plants with Manuel João Pinto, researcher of the Botanical Garden of Lisbon. More than 20 people climbed quartzite scarps and fought with carnivore plants to know more about the very special habitats of the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia. Carlos Neto de Carvalho made the bridge between Geology and Biology talking about early life and evolution in the seas and Joana Rodrigues showed how *Cruziana* trace fossils were preserved in the rocks. At the end all the tetrapod visitors tried to show their phylogenetic inherited skills by swimming in the Pego fluvial pool.



31st July-1st August – **Summer in the Geopark is for couples.** Eliane was the guiding angel for a couple in the Historical Villages Route. More and more young couples are very interested to date with the help of the Geopark...and we are here to support them as best as we can!

3) Geopark Impact in Media

Newspapers/Magazines

25th June (Jornal de Nisa) – “Portuguese geopark is considered a good example for Araripe Geopark, Brazil”

July (Ensino Magazine) – “Historical Villages Route”

July (What’s New at Global Geopark Newsletter, 9) – TERRAGAZE MOBILE: a multimedia guide of your Geopark inside your mobile phone”

July (Super Interessante Magazine) – “Earth memory”

3rd July (Reconquista) – “Naturtejo is an example to Araripe Geopark”

3rd July (Reconquista) – “Geopark show itself in Germany”

8th July (Povo da Beira) – “Naturtejo Geopark in the III Conference of the UNESCO Global Network”

8th July (Povo da Beira) – “Tourism professionals meet Naturtejo Geopark”

8th July (Povo da Beira) – “UNESCO emphasizes events of the Naturtejo Geopark”

9th July (Gazeta do Interior) – “Naturtejo Geopark distinguished by UNESCO”

9th July (Gazeta do Interior) – “Collecting of geological samples”

16th July (Expresso do Pinhal) – “Tourism professionals meet Naturtejo Geopark”

16th July (Expresso do Pinhal) – “UNESCO emphasizes events of the Naturtejo Geopark”

17th July (Reconquista) – “The age of the oldest Tejo River terrace”

18th July (What’s New at Global Geopark Newsletter, 8) – Let pupils know more...geo-activities in Naturtejo Geopark”

22nd July (Povo da Beira) – “150 people open trail between Alameda and Martim Branco”

22nd July (Povo da Beira) – “PT Action does Vultures Trail”

23rd July (Gazeta do Interior) – “Police receives tourist formation”

24th July (Reconquista) – “Minho University visits Naturtejo Geopark”

24th July (Expresso do Pinhal) – “Minho University visits Naturtejo Geopark”

29th July (Povo da Beira) – “Summer challenges in the Naturtejo Geopark”

29th July (Povo da Beira) – “Minho University visits Naturtejo Geopark”

30th July (Gazeta do Interior) – “Naturtejo Geopark promotes itself”

30th July (Gazeta do Interior) – “Nisa thermal spa opens in September”

30th July (Gazeta do Interior) – “Boat started tourist trips in Álvaro”

31st July (Reconquista) – “Social Role of Museum”



4) Publications

Scientific Contribution for Geosciences

- CATANA, M.M. & CAETANO ALVES, M.I. - *Los Programas Educativos del Geopark Naturtejo (Portugal) para Escuelas: Un aprendizaje significativo en el campo*. In: A. Calonge, L. Rebollo, M.D. López-Carrillo, A. Rodrigo & I. Rábano (eds.), *Actas del XV Simposio sobre Enseñanza de la Geología. Cuadernos del Museo Geominero*, 11: 73-81 (in Spanish with English abstract).

- MELÉNDEZ, G., RODRIGUES, J., CALONGE, A., DERMITZAKIS, M., FERMELI, G. & LÓPEZ-CARRILLO, M.D. – *Local museistics: geological and palaeontological museums as an emergent tool in geodidactics. Proposed initiatives for sharing strategies across southern Europe*. In: A. Calonge, L. Rebollo, M.D. López-Carrillo, A. Rodrigo & I. Rábano (eds.), *Actas del XV Simposio sobre Enseñanza de la Geología. Cuadernos del Museo Geominero*, 11: 295-311 (in Spanish with English abstract).

- MELÉNDEZ, G. & RODRIGUES, J. – *Los museos paleontológicos como componente básico del Geoturismo y herramienta Geodidáctica: Ejemplos en Aragón (España) y en Penha Garcia (Portugal)*. *VII Congreso Geológico de España. Geotemas*, 8 (in Spanish).

Educational and Promotional booklets

- CATANA, M. M. (Coord.) – *Programas educativos do Geopark Naturtejo*. Naturtejo, E.I.M. (in Portuguese and Spanish).