

Cruzziana

बयन ववर्तवे in पुबयन नरवर्त
monthly report of the Geopark Naturtejo Meseta Meridional

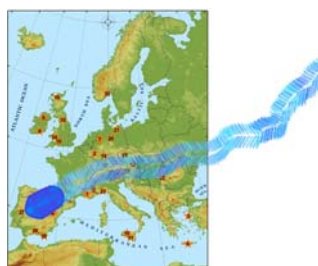


In this Issue: – In ProGEO International Symposium – Educational Programs awarded in Taipei – Armindo is the new Vice-President Tourism of Centre – Visit to Maestrazgo and Sobrarbe geoparks *and more...*

www.geoparknaturtejo.com

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

Last 4th World Conservation Conference held in Barcelona, Spain, came to an end with a highly important resolution for us. This resolution on the conservation of geodiversity and geological heritage has been elaborated and was proposed to the General Assembly of IUCN by the Geological Society of Spain. The main objective of this resolution is “to incorporate the conservation of geodiversity and geological heritage into the agenda of IUCN, the main reason being that both are part of the Earth’s natural heritage and hence need to be considered by IUCN. In order to achieve this, the preamble draws attention to (1) the conceptual framework set by the World Heritage Convention in 1982, which considers geological heritage as part of the natural heritage, (2) the objectives of the current International Year of Planet Earth adopted by the UN General Assembly, and (3) the pioneering steps set by the recommendations of the European Council in 2004”. “United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2008 to be the International Year of Planet Earth, initiated jointly by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and the UNESCO in order to increase awareness of the importance of Earth sciences in achieving sustainable development and promoting local, national, regional and international action”. This resolution points out the pioneering experience led by UNESCO and other international institutions in promoting the conservation and sustainable use of geological heritage through the development of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN). The resolution ends referring that “the conservation of geodiversity and geological heritage at international, national and local levels contributes to the objectives of the *United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014)*”. “The general objective of this motion strictly follows the general objective of IUCN: to promote the conservation and sustainable use of natural heritage for future generations. But, in order to be complete, natural heritage needs to include geological heritage, the natural archive for the memory of the Earth.” The recognition of IUCN of geoparks is highly important since some geoconservationists in the last ProGEO International Symposium, held in Croatia, argued that EGN and GGN are geological parks developed for tourism not covering protection of geoheritage. In Naturtejo Geopark Institute for Nature Conservation and Biodiversity opened public discussion concerning the proposal for protection of Portas do Ródão as national Natural Monument. This is the last step to protect one of the most important geomonuments for which Naturtejo Geopark worked hard. But geoheritage is only important when people value it. Concerning raising awareness EGN is also to be congratulated. Skala International Tourism Association, one of the most important of the sector, prized Petrified Forest of Lesvos and Naturtejo geoparks with Ecotourism awards for their work in sustainable projects regarding geoheritage. Some geoconservationists must leave their backyards and realize what we as geoparks are doing and the worldwide impact of our actions concerning the definition of geosites as heritage, to know and to protect...



Cruziana

Geopark Naturtejo Meseta Meridional is...



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

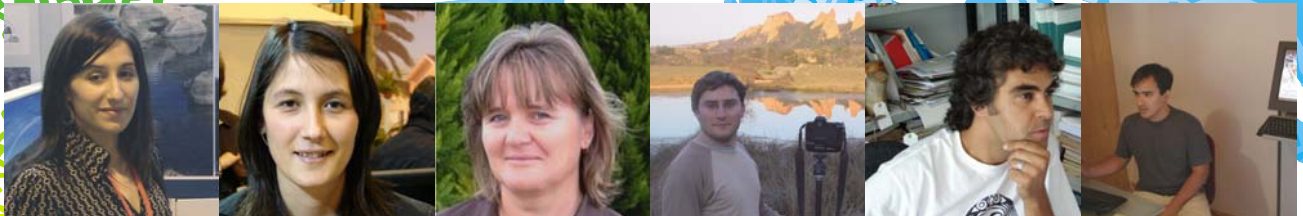
Carlos Neto de Carvalho
Geologist
Scientific Coordinator
Researcher

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 Baucori
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...

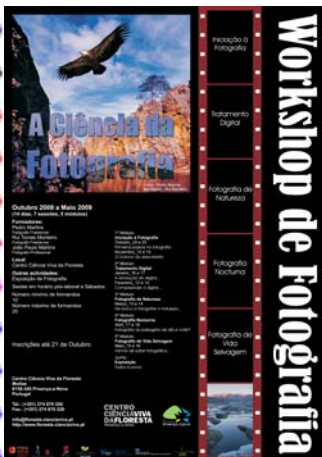
Centro Cultural Raiano – Geopark Headquarters
Av. Joaquim Morão
6060-101 Idanha-a-Nova

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



October – **A new workshop about photography inspired in the naturtejo Geopark.** Pedro Martins and other two photographers develop a workshop on “the science of photography”. This is an event promoted by the the Living Science Centre of Forest from Proença-a-Nova and runs between October and May 2009. Sections about nature and wildlife will be held in some of the most important geosites from Proença-a-Nova.



28th September-6th October – **Penha Garcia and Portas do Ródão geomonuments presented in the 5th International ProGEO Symposium in Croatia.** Joana Rodrigues is the geoconservacionist of Naturtejo Geopark and was its representative in the major ProGEO event. She presented 3 talks; two of them about Natural Monuments in Portugal and the project for Portas do Ródão Natural Monument and a proposal for a European network of site museums of geology and exomuseums. Paleozoic Museum and the Ichnological Park both at Penha Garcia are the only Portuguese examples for now. The Symposium held in the Geopark of Rab, which is preparing an application to EGN, had 70 participants with 25% of presentations coming from Portuguese speaking countries. Joana got the opportunity to participate in the pre- and post-conference fieldtrips and to visit some examples of nature (and geological) conservation in Croatia.

2

10th October – **The first geoconservacionist of Naturtejo Geopark with a Master.** Joana Rodrigues finally defended her Master thesis entitled “Geological heritage in the Douro Internacional Natural Park: inventoring, quantification of

4

relevance and strategies for valuing geosites” and obtained the maximum score! She belongs to the first generation of geoconservacionists from the Master Course “Geoheritage and Geonservation” developed by the Minho University as a pioneering example in the world. Joana Rodrigues and Manuela Catana, which is also finishing her thesis, are important members of Naturtejo staff and show the importance of having experts on geoheritage to protect and sustainably promote geosites at Naturtejo Geopark.



13-14th October – Naturtejo

Geopark with a stand in the International Conference “Geosciences in the development of the Portuguese language communities”. Geopark Naturtejo Meseta Meridional associated to the theme “Geosciences and the development of Portuguese speaking communities” participating with a stand during the International Conference held by the University of Coimbra. This conference had the presence of several politics and institutions, as the Minister of the Environment, the President of the Parliamentary Group in connection with UNESCO, the President of National Commission for UNESCO, the presidents of Mário Soares and Portugal-África foundations, among others, as well as representatives of the main Portuguese and Brazillian oil companies, respectively Petrobras and Galp Energy, and professors from several universities from both countries. During two days, several speakers and public coming from Portuguese speaking countries saw many projects of scientific cooperation being presented and discussed subjects related with regional geology and geological resources, education and history of geosciences, environmental geology and geological heritage. Naturtejo Geopark was there defending the values of geological heritage conservation, nature tourism and the promotion of educational initiatives built on geoscientific and environmental grounds, being represented by Cristina Preguiça and promoting the European Geoparks Conference of 2009. This conference was part of the International Year of Planet Earth celebrations that aim to promote in Portugal the importance of Earth Sciences in all Society, emphasizing their role in the resolution of many problems that are affecting Humankind.



13-14th October – **Big victory for**

European Geoparks Network in the Skål International awards. Skål is a worldwide professional organization of tourism. This international group joins all the tourism industry sectors and is constituted by 20.000 members spread by the 5 continents through 50 clubs acting in 90 countries all around the globe. Skål aggregates flying companies, tour operators, hotels, events companies, tourism official institutions, specialized media and others composing the world tourism trade. Skål International has as the main purpose to act in the quality and sustainable development of tourism as the keys for the success of the sector, considering ecotourism as the main component to achieve this development. To stimulate environmental conservation and help to promote sustainable and responsible tourism, Skål International promoted awards in 2002, during "The Year of Ecotourism and Mountains" declared by United Nations. The aims of these awards are to find the best practices in ecotourism worldwide and get to know this new concept of tourism that emphasizes the importance of the interaction between environment, culture and societies and the need for active participation of communities in tourism.

Geopark Naturtejo da Meseta Meridional and the Petrified Forest of Lesvos were prized by the "Ecotourism Award" of Skål in different categories. Naturtejo Geopark was awarded in the category "Educational Programs-Media" and Lesvos Geopark won in the category "General Countryside". For the first time a Portuguese entity won the "Ecotourism award". This award gives relevance to the best tourism programs concerning sustainability renewing the work done by Naturtejo Geopark in Nature tourism/sustainable tourism fitting the strategy of the Centre Tourism Region and orientations of National Strategic Plan for Tourism. Naturtejo Geopark was congratulated for the Ecotourism Award by the Prime-Minister of Portugal, the State Secretary of the Environment, the President of Tourism of Portugal, the Director of Coordination Commission for the Centre Region, the Director of TAP national airways, the President of ProGEO Portugal, directors of local associations and people.

Armindo Jacinto and Nikolaos Zouros share a common wish: that the work being done in their and other geoparks from EGN come in the future to be rewarded by national and international institutions, as well as more and more recognized by local communities and visitors for the benefit of our entire Network, European and globally speaking. In the official ceremony of the 69th World Congress of Skål, held in Taiwan, Naturtejo Geopark was represented by Armindo Jacinto and Rui Marques.

15-17th October – **Visit to some of the best geosites in the Geopark.** Tiago Oliveira guided two foreigner couples, doing visits and trekkings, in Almourão

geosite, Portas do Ródão Natural Monument, Monsanto inselberg and the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia.



16-17th

October – **Monsanto geoh heritage and geotourism approaches shown in the IV National Congress of Geomorphology.** Joana Rodrigues and Carlos Neto de Carvalho were in Braga for the very well organized National Congress of Geomorphology. This Congress had many talks and posters on geoh heritage related projects. Joana Rodrigues gave a talk on the use of geomorphosites in Monsanto inselberg. There were other talks centred in the geomorphology of Naturtejo Geopark meaning the challenge of its geodiversity still attracting researchers. Carlos Neto de Carvalho also participated as junior author in a poster about the Nazaré geoh heritage project for local development in this coastal town of the Centre of Portugal.



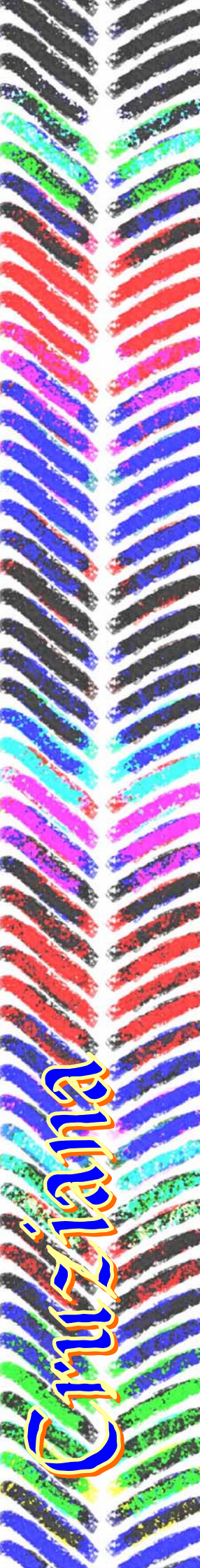
21-28th October – **Geologists from Naturtejo visit Maestrazgo and Sobrarbe European geoparks.** Carlos Neto de Carvalho and Joana Rodrigues made a technical visit to the Aragonese geoparks. Invited by Prof. Guillermo Meléndez from University of Zaragoza, an expert on local museistics, they got the opportunity to visit the superb tracksites in the Galve valley at the Maestrazgo Geopark, with a local and very well prepared guide. They also visited the Paleontological Museum of the Herrero family, one of two paleontological museums existing in the small village of Galve and find local precious collections of dinosaurs, reptiles and mammals. Both geologists tested also the quality of existing restaurants and guesthouse. The group also visit the new geological

interpretation centre at Aliaga and got acquainted with some community problems that must be urgently solve through the idea of organizing an international seminar with the help of the University of Zaragoza. This seminar may be the bridge with the locals to show the importance of their geological heritage for bursting economy through presentation of very interesting projects Maestrazgo Geopark has combined with regional government compromise and the good practices of several European Geoparks. Geologists of Naturtejo Geopark also visited Sobrarbe Geopark that shows a high rate of development as a Geopark. The new tourism office combined with the House of the Geopark, both in the medieval towers of Ainsa Castle surrounded by amazing Pyrenean landscapes of rock and ice, were wonderfully well prepared and communicate with all visitors including disabled tourists. They also made the geological car route by the Geopark. Both participated in the II Seminar of Sobrarbe Geopark on “geological research and didactic resources”, held in the Boltaña headquarters. In this very successful event of three days attended by 100 people from Spain and France, where many of them were local teachers, Naturtejo Geopark had the opportunity to talk about its trails network and their use for our awarded educational programs. The visit ended with the ever sensational trekking to the Suazo glacier cirque by the Ordesa National Park, surrounded by fascinating autumn colours: simply gorgeous!

22nd October – **Discovering the past.** Another tourist program developed by Naturtejo to fit the needs of our visitors. This time, 130 seniors were guided by Eliane Antunes and Tiago Oliveira to find culture in nature. This group of happy people visited Idanha-a-Nova town plus Almortão sanctuary, the historical village of Monsanto and the olive press Museum at Proença-a-Velha.



25th October – **Armindo Jacinto: Vice-President of Idanha-a-Nova municipality, President of Naturtejo and now...Vice-President of the Tourism of Centre!** Another great victory for our president: Armindo Jacinto was elected Vice-President of the new Centre of Portugal Tourism Region. The map of tourism regions was changed recently with the definition of fewer but stronger regions. These



institutions are now managing internal and external promotion of the country. Centre of Portugal is now larger joining the important cities and districts of Aveiro, Coimbra, Viseu and Castelo Branco. Also with the election of Joaquim Morão mayor of Castelo Branco city as a president of the Assembly, Armindo Jacinto brought a delegation of Tourism of Centre to Castelo Branco-Naturtejo. This means a stronger contact with national tourism policies and an affirmation of Naturtejo Geopark in a national level. We must congratulate Armindo Jacinto for one more victory and hope to feel the benefits soon.

28-30th October – **Fossils Route**. Geopark's cooperation with the important El Corte Ingles tour operator is starting to be fruitful. The example is a couple coming to do a special prepared tourist route. Again with Tiago Oliveira, they did the Fossils Route at the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia and some cultural activities like visits to the olive press museum at Proença-a-Velha, by the Idanha-a-Nova town and to the Quinta dos Trevos handcrafters.

3) Geopark Impact in Media

Newspapers/Magazines

October (Alternative Tourism in Greece) – “Geoparks: spectacular geological heritage sites, unspoiled natural beauty and cultural landscapes”

October (Ensino Magazine) – “New field trips”

October (Il Piccolo, Italian newspaper) – “Gorizian in the track of the Da Vinci Code”

14th October (Povo da Beira) – “Museologists discuss geotourism and local development”

14th October (Povo da Beira) – “Medieval fair recreated in Monsanto”

14th October (Povo da Beira) – “Il Week of chestnut in Oleiros”

15th October (Gazeta do Interior) – “Naturtejo Geopark wins international award for tourism”

15th October (Raiano) – “S. Pedro de Vir-a-Corça medieval fair”

16th October (Reconquista) – “Geopark awarded”

16th October (Reconquista) – “Museum responsables met in Idanha”

16th October (Reconquista) – “Nisa marches against uranium”

16th October (Reconquista) – “Quercus collects wastes in Tejo”

16th October (Reconquista) – “Gastronomy animates Oleiros: chestnut in thematic week”

16th October (Povo da Beira) – “Geopark wins international award in Tourism”

18th October (Expresso) – “Project of excellence in Nature Tourism”

21st October (Povo da Beira) – “Geopark wins Tourism International Award”

23rd October (Reconquista) – “Morão and Jacinto in Tourism of Centre”

23rd October (Reconquista) – “Yellow and Nisa cheeses seduce americans”

23rd October (Reconquista) – “Knowing and flavors”

28th October (Povo da Beira) – “Naturtejo Geopark joins to the Development of Geosciences”

30th October (Reconquista) – “...From Nature to table”

30th October (Reconquista) – “Louriçal walks by Gardunha”

30th October (Reconquista) – “Morão and Jacinto win Tourism”

Radio

26th October (RDP Antena 1 national radio) – Carlos Neto de Carvalho was interviewed with other local scientists for Visão Global news in a special about biodiversity, archeology and geological heritage of Naturtejo Geopark.

4) Publications

Scientific Contribution for Geosciences

- CUNHA, P.P., MARTINS, A.A., HUOT, S., MURRAY, A. & RAPOSO, L. – Dating the Tejo river lower terraces in the Ródão area (Portugal) to assess the role of tectonics and uplift. *Geomorphology*, 102: 43-54.

- CUNHA, P.P., MARTINS, A.A., MATOS, J. & GUIOMAR, N. – Caracterização dos terraços do Rio Tejo, do Tejo Internacional ao Arneiro, por cartografia geomorfológica, sedimentologia e datações. *Geomorfologia2008*, IV Congresso Nacional, 16-18 Outubro, Braga (livro de resumos): 25.

- FERREIRA GOMES, L.M., MENDES, E. & MIRANDA BEATO, C.S. – Elementos sobre singularidades geomorfológicas em maciços graníticos como potenciais geomonumentos. *Geomorfologia2008*, IV Congresso Nacional, 16-18 Outubro, Braga (livro de resumos): 56.

- RODRIGUES, J., NETO DE CARVALHO, C. & OLIVEIRA, T. – Património geomorfológico de Monsanto. *Geomorfologia2008*, IV Congresso Nacional, 16-18 Outubro, Braga (livro de resumos): 60.

- RODRIGUES, J., DIAS, G. & ALVES, I.C. – Caracterização do património geomorfológico do Parque Natural do Douro Internacional (NE de Portugal) com vista à sua valorização. *Geomorfologia2008*, IV Congresso Nacional, 16-18 Outubro, Braga (livro de resumos): 61.

- LAURA ANASTÁCIO, M., CALLAPEZ, P., DINIS, J. & NETO DE CARVALHO, C. – Nazaré, uma terra moldada pelo mar. *Geomorfologia2008*, IV Congresso Nacional, 16-18 Outubro, Braga (livro de resumos): 65.

- MELÉNDEZ, G., PAGE, K.N., RODRIGUES, J., CALONGE, A., DERMITZAKIS, M., FERMEI, G. & LÓPEZ-CARRILLO, M.D. – Exomuseums (site-based interpretation) and local museums: key educational facilities for teaching Earth Sciences. Proposed initiatives for sharing strategies across Europe. 5th International ProGEO Symposium on Conservation of the Geological Heritage. Rab Island, Croatia, 1st-5th October, 2008: 52.

- RODRIGUES, J. & NETO DE CARVALHO, C. – One country, two different approaches in the application of geoconservation and geotourism procedures in Natural Monuments (Portugal). 5th International ProGEO Symposium on Conservation of the Geological Heritage. Rab Island, Croatia, 1st-5th October, 2008: 70.

- RODRIGUES, J. & DIAS, G. – Geological Heritage of the International Douro Natural Park (NE Portugal): a Geosite Evaluation. 5th International ProGEO Symposium on Conservation of the Geological Heritage. Rab Island, Croatia, 1st-5th October, 2008: 71.

Educational and Promotional publications

- Leaflet of the trail “Travel to the Earth bones”. Proença-a-Nova municipality (in Portuguese).
- Leaflet “The geological heritage of Oleiros in the Naturtejo Geopark” (in Portuguese)

8th European Geoparks Conference
Naturtejo Geopark(Portugal)

“New challenges with Geotourism”
Idanha-a-Nova, 14-18th September 2009

Geoparks & Tourism
Geotourism & Local development
Geoparks & Science
Geoconservation best practices & wrong ways
Marketing strategies for a stronger EGN brand
Man & Nature: Cultural landscapes
Strong vs weak points in a Geopark
New geoparks & their tutors

Feira Raiada
The 2nd International Geoparks Fair
Cultural nights with local people
inspired in Nature Tourism

Dare to come?

www.geoparknaturtejo.com

Cruziana