

**Repair Boom** Festival at the Geopark's heart – Local police learn about heritage – Promotion indoors – International Working Camp – Geopark goes to the beach and more...

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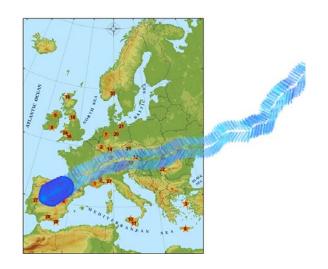






Olá/Hola/Ciao/Bonjour/Γειά σου/Hallo/God Dag/Salut/Zdravo/Hello

A very complex month just passed...huuufff! And 24 monthly reports were made during the first two years of Geopark's existence included in EGN! Yes, this month we are celebrating two years of partnership and friendship with more 32 European Geoparks and 54 Global Geoparks. That's why we have changed a little the layout of Cruziana report with the artwork of Andrea Baucon. Thinking about our successes of last year I would like to emphasize the starting and the experiences of Educational Programs. Manuela Catana is now working from Primary School to University having reached 1000 participants in just six months! Also important to note was the award from the Institute for Tourism of Portugal that represented the new reality of Geopark's territory with a fast increase in the number of visitors curious to discover themselves in Nature. For conservation of Nature sometimes few people need to give hands with Geology to put aside projects of "national" interest that destroys the right to a pristine landscape and a new hope for sustainable local development. This is what happened with the former Alvito Dam in Almourão geosite and is desired by all Nisa communities concerning the project of a Uranium mine in their municipality. The new Law for Nature Conservation finally included geosites and geoparks which improves the awareness of local and national politicians about the importance of geological heritage understanding and protection and stops somehow vandalism of private owners and companies against outstanding geological features. It means geological heritage worth well beyond the geologist feelings and rationality of a scientific interpretation. A geosite can achieve aesthetic value through identification of rarity or representativity and therefore be admired as a piece of our own identity, a legacy of our present citizenship. But not all are flowers in the Naturtejo Geopark. We made so many during these times that last month seems to have happened long time ago. But we still lack proper interpretation of the geosites through the development of exomuseum projects. The Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia is still the only (ongoing) project from the 16 most important geosites included in the action plan. We still don't know the exact amount and importance of the geosites in the territory despite the project recently started and carried out mainly by Joana Rodrigues to inventory all the territory of the Geopark. All local interpretive centers are still a promise and they are fundamental to deeply connect the communities with the Geopark project and create economic and cultural involvement. In the year that we are about to be evaluated by EGN/GGN and that we organize the EGN Conference let see if our aspirations are as strong as our arm, if we are able to keep the control of our aspirations...



## Geopark Naturtejo Meseta Meridional is









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Joana Rodrigues

# The team work

#### Where...

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## 1) Activities

30<sup>th</sup> July- 1<sup>st</sup> August – **The Historical Village Route program.** Eliane Antunes guided 2 people through the steps of the Romans and the Templars in Idanha-a-Velha, Monsanto and Idanha-a-Nova.

1<sup>st</sup> August – **Discovering Naturtejo Geopark...but only a glimpse!** Tiago Oliveira made a short guiding tour to Penha Garcia to a group of 10 business men. Unfortunately they received the bad news that their factory was burning while they were on holyday. The visit finished right in that moment!



1<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> August – **Fundacion Geoparques de Venezuela cooperates in Naturtejo Geopark.** Naturtejo hosted during most of August, Ricardo Sosa and Yessika Lopez, finalists of Geological Engineer graduation in Universidad Central from Venezuela, with the support of Fundación Geoparques da Venezuela. This foundation was created with the aim of supporting research in geosciences and mainly in geological heritage and creation of geoparks in Venezuela, guarantying the direct and complete application of all their projects in benefit and for the development of communities. The foundation works nowadays in a project for development of the first geopark in Venezuela, located in the Nueva Esparta State. Naturtejo Geopark is one of the Fundación partners, with whom there is a protocol for cooperation establishing mutual strategies and good practices for environmental conservation, tourism development and exchange of knowledge and support. The partnership between Portugal and Venezuela geoparks overcome the politic-economical scope, including also Nature conservation and protection of the Geological Heritage.

Ricardo and Yessika learned in the Naturtejo Geopark methodologies for geodiversity description, geological heritage inventorying and tools developed for the management of educational and geotourist programs. The organization and management model of the Geopark also inspired these students developing a project to create a geopark in Chichiriviche, not far from Caracas. During a very extenuating period for the Geopark, the two Venezuelans worked to improve the Spanish version of Naturtejo website and help preparing the House of the Geopark in Boom Music Festival 2008. They also followed geotourist visits to Penha Garcia Ichnological Park and Monsanto inselberg and were trained to guide visits in the House of Fossils and the Tourism Office of Penha

Garcia, in order to learn how to communicate geological information to young people and general public.

1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>st</sup> August – **Naturtejo promoted indoors at Nisartes 2008.** The International Fair of Traditional Art & Craft of Nisa is a place to promote handcraft, to stimulate the development of regional vocations and preservation of local cultures. Trading of these products, the development of an enterprising mentality and the exchange of experiences motivate to develop an increasingly dynamic and broad-scale event favouring the establishment of new business contacts and opportunities. A broad selection of handcraft, national (privileging traditional crafting) and international (coming from many countries), diversified gastronomy and a program of cultural activities enabled thousands of visitors for an event rich in quality and emotions where Naturtejo Geopark obviously must be there with a promotional stand. Alice Marcelo participated in all the event inviting people to discover their region in a different way...



3<sup>rd</sup> August – **Naturtejo team gives a** 

hand in the Watermelon trail. A local association of Ladoeiro with the help of the Tourism Office of Idanha-a-Nova organized the Watermelon trail included in the local Watermelon Fair. 13 km of irrigated flatlands right in the Moraleja-Ródão Cenozoic Basin produce some of the best watermelons in Portugal. Naturtejo gave a hand by Joana Rodrigues and Carlos Neto de Carvalho helping Pedro Martins in the development of the activity where 20 people tasted watermelon right in the middle of the fields!



5<sup>th</sup> August – GNR police officers from Idanha got training in geoheritage. Idanha-a-Nova municipality and local GNR policeman conducted together a very interesting experience. Tourism is becoming a very serious case at Idanha and police officers are many times the firsts to request tourism information. So the new police commander prepared training in local heritage. After two very effective experiences in Idanha-a-Velha (historical heritage module) and Proença-a-Velha (cultural heritage module) prepared by Armindo Jacinto with the help of the local archeologist and the anthropologist Eddy Chambino, there was time to present the natural heritage module in the paradigmatic site of Penha Garcia. Pedro Martins talked about the Tejo Internacional Natural Park while Carlos Neto de Carvalho introduced to more than 20 police officers presented geological heritage and the importance of Naturtejo Geopark for tourism development of the region. This geologist also focused the new national law for Nature Conservation that includes geosites protection measures and inventorying for the first time. After the lecture there was time for a guided visit to the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia and all its nature and culture relevance with the help of Pedro Martins and Armindo Jacinto.



6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> August – **Naturtejo** 

promoted in the Pine Wood Fair of Oleiros. Once more Naturtejo Geopark is in all important economical activities summer fairs from its territory. With a transportable stand Naturtejo promotes the Geopark to dozens of thousands of local people and visitors aiming to create new economical synergies and exposing the potentialities of the territory for tourism development. The Pine Wood Fair of Oleiros is a good example of these summer fairs visited by more than 20000 participants. Cristina Preguiça and Alice Marcelo were the chosen guides to the Naturtejo stand.

6<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> August – Naturtejo Geopark out of the 33<sup>rd</sup> International Geological Congress in Oslo. After the Patron of the 33rd IGC, His Majesty King Harald V of Norway, officially opened the 33rd International Geology Congress on 6 August, the following 8 days saw 5,925 participants, 310 accompanying persons, and 24 youths from 113 countries take part in the Congress. Scientists participated in lively discussions within almost every conceivable aspect of geology at this successful 33rd IGC through 6300 presentations. After four years of intensive work by the Nordic Organising Committee in preparation for the largest academic congress ever to be held in Norway, and in collaboration with the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), many other international and national organisations, and the National IUGS Committees in the five Nordic (Norden) Countries: Norway, Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Sweden, the Congress Secretary General Professor Anders Solheim described the 33rd IGC as a fantastic experience: "In general, almost all participants have been both positive and content, and have given very good feedback to us through the Congress committees. The lectures and scientific programme have been of high quality." In parallel with the Congress symposia program, each day of the Congress also featured special Themes of the Day sessions which highlighted a theme in which major aspects of Earth Sciences are particularly relevant for society today. More than 80 international leading experts contributed to that programme for the seven days of plenary lectures. The seven themes selected for particular emphasis included Global geology; Early life and evolution; Climate change; Geohazards; Water, health, and environment; Mineral resources; Energy resources and the future; and Planetary geoscience. These themes all related to the priorities of the International Years of Planet Earth and details of the presentations can be viewed on the website (see "Themes of the Day" in the Main Menu on the front page). In addition the Congress saw 85 exhibitor booths in the The GeoExpo exhibition of geo-related industry, and governmental and private organisations operating in the geosciences (Information adapted from Bulletin of the International Union of Geological Sciences (No. 34. August 30, 2008).

Due to lack of funding support Carlos Neto de Carvalho missed the most important geological event of the year where he would present two important co-authored talks in topics related with Geoparks & Geotourism and Ichnology. Improvement of scientific knowledge leads usually to new applications. Scientific research must be emphasized in a Geopark and not considered as secondary priority! Andrea Baucon, also present with 2 talks and one poster in the same topics, suffered an accident and broke knee tendons making him impossible to attend to the Congress.



11-13<sup>th</sup> August – It is not easy to explain geology to 7 years old kids! Have you ever tried to explain paleogeography and plate tectonics to kids between 7 and 9 years old? This can be a tremendous experience even for the most skilled geologist! Carlos Neto de Carvalho and Joana Rodrigues, with the help of the two visiting Venezuelan geological engineers, experienced two days of intense curiosity and need for fast and solid answers from three kids that came for the geopark with their mum. Tours in the Monsanto' Boulders Trail and the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia were hard tests for communication of geological information. Did we pass those tests? I'm still not sure...and made me think about how much society really knows about the importance of geosciences and if it is solely in our hands to change this reality. Eliane Antunes guided these bright kids in the boat trip to the Portas do Ródão Natural Monument.



11-18<sup>th</sup> August – **Boom Festival brings 30000 people to the heart of the Geopark!** Boom sees itself as amplifier and a converter of concepts. Within this vast "ocean" of consciousness Boom is a lighthouse of sanity, ethic responsibility and a building block for the future to come. Boom is a new kind of tribal gathering where varied tribes can melt with nature in a sensitive and sustainable way. It is a continued experience, gathering knowledge and trying to somehow represent it outwards. Boom tries to do that through art and love (*in* Boom Book). Boom International Trance Psychedelic Music Festival is a sustainable event where thoughts, wastes and used oil are recycled into rhythmic music that brings new dynamics to local development. This Festival is

organized by an international organization near the Ponsul River, Idanha-a-Nova. For 10 days, more than 30000 people coming from all around the word changed radically the uses of Idanha-a-Nova town and surroundings. In a calm area where birds break the monotony of silence the 11 km cue to enter in the Boom Festival marked intensely the local ways of life.

Boom Festival and Naturtejo Geopark: a unique combination of emotions and ecological care at different scales. Boom's place is part of an amazing piece of land in the world called Naturtejo Geopark. We are all! The presence of the House of the Geopark opened 24 h per day in the heart of Boom Festival evoked facing your Nature at the Naturtejo Geopark. A House made of adobe reminding old building styles from the region circular as other many facilities in Boom. The difference was a 4 m long Orthoceras in a corner of the House and a trilobite 2 m long in the roof, as well as the famous statement of James Hutton and the new promo of Naturtejo Geopark "Our world in your heart". Inside the House of the Geopark filled by sounds of local Nature hundreds of visitors found, surrounding a central Neolithic symbol from Tejo Rock Art Complex encircled by the most common rocks of the Geopark named in several languages, 3 screens with video art of Andrea Baucon. Several provocative movies with original soundtracks presented the Naturtejo Geopark in a psychedelic but conscientious way: the movie "You are in the Geopark!" pierced the mind of the most distracted (or addicted...) visitor with images of the geosites. Other movies about the geology of the Geopark were "Dance of Plagioclases", "Petrographic Psychedelia" and "Hypnotic dreams of miss Trilobite"; the awareness of global disturbances in the environment and mass extinction perpetrated by Man and its intrinsic connection with the System Earth were presented in the movies "You were snow, you were sea, you were trilobite", "You can't eat a trilobite" and "Live like shit or face it...now!". The geniality of the author was lively discussed by many that wanted to know more about him and the Geopark! Meantime new geotourist programs for Naturtejo Geopark were presented. "Geotrails" are daily activities to find the most secret corners of the Geopark, mainly during summer. Besides, a solar bike was also presented. The monitors of the House of the Geopark were Pedro Martins, Fátima Rodrigues, Nuno Capelo and Joana Rodrigues. Tiago Oliveira was responsible for building the House of the Geopark from an idea. All the Naturtejo team was deeply engaged to make the House of the Fossils the success it was. Many "Boomers" visited the geosites after the end of the Festival. It worked!

12<sup>th</sup> August – **Visit to Castelo Branco with a Spanish touch**. 53 people from the Spanish association Associacion Cultural y Recreativa Sam Joaquin were guided by Eliane Antunes through the city of Castelo Branco, visiting the city Museum and the secular garden of the bishops.



16<sup>th</sup> August – **The new smugglers** 

from the 21<sup>st</sup> century. During a very beautiful evening time more than 170 participants in the Smugglers Trail crossed the borderland in the Erges river to reach the Spanish town Zarza-la-Mayor. This event was organized by the Tourism Office of Idanha-a-Nova and a local association of Salvaterra do Extremo with the support of Zarza-la-Mayor town and Naturtejo Geopark. Guided by old smugglers from Salvaterra do Extremo and Pedro Martins, Carlos Neto de Carvalho and Joana Rodrigues gave a hand to the hikers that several times were confronted by the sudden appearance of horse policemen like in the old times of smuggling. The new smugglers from the 21<sup>st</sup> century carried friendship and happiness for trading all the night long with the Spanish hosts.



13-26<sup>th</sup> August – **International Working Camp for the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia**. The first International Working Camp "In the Fossils Trail of Penha Garcia" was organized by the Friends of the Geopark and Naturtejo Geopark with the financial support of the Portuguese Youth Institute, Idanha—a-Nova municipality, with the help of Penha Garcia village and the local Association for the Heritage of Penha Garcia controlled by Américo André. In this Working Camp participated young people coming from Portugal, Venezuela, Croatia, Canada, France, Estonia, Denmark and Russia, and much done for a good experience must be acknowledged to the Friends of the Geopark, Dário Vaz and Duarte Ferreira, that managed the working activities and meals while Carlos Neto de Carvalho and Joana Rodrigues were in charged of leisure activities and training. The aims of this project were the insertion of the group in the local community, learn about the importance of Geological Heritage, work for the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia (guiding visits to the Fossils Trail and the House of Fossils, giving information in the Tourism Office, cleaning chronic

wastes from the park, cleaning the fluvial beach and preparing wood waste baskets) and cultural exchange. Even not knowing how to communicate in English, Mr. Domingos was the strong leader of the hard work where these young people had also to dig, fighting against temperatures up to 35°C, to evaluate the potentialities for the opening of old quartz mine! During two weeks young people not used to hard physical work voluntarily maintained the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia, daily collecting garbage and cleaning sites and making guided tours in English. They learned with Joana Rodrigues the importance and methods of inventorying geological heritage. During the breakfast time young people coming from eight nationalities helped to prepare the meal for the elders of the village in the local Centre and were rewarded by a night where adufe ladies played exclusively for them in the watermill where the Working Camp prepared themselves lunch and dinner meals.

Besides work, the young people had special leisure events prepared to meet deeply nature & culture of the Naturtejo Geopark in places like Monsanto, Idanha-a-Velha, Tejo Internacional Natural Park, Gardunha mountain and Portas do Ródão Natural Monument, discovering local traditions and culture, and practicing outdoor sports like kayaking, climbing or trekking (bird watching with the support of local Quercus NGO) sometimes for the first time. The International Working Camp was also a period for friendship, promoting the exchange of cultures and uses among participants that considered this a good experience and an excellent way to know deeper a new country.

21-24<sup>th</sup> August – **Icebreaking week for Naturtejo in the Ice Palace of Viseu.** Naturtejo Geopark was exhibited in the regional cultural weeks promoted by the Ice Palace mall in the city of Viseu, centre of Portugal. Cristina Preguiça and Eliane Antunes were in charge of gastronomic events presented during this week combining with the presentation of the adufe players of Idanha-a-Nova that brought a genuine taste of the Geopark to downtown.



23<sup>rd</sup> August – **Naturtejo Geopark goes to the coast to divulgate Portuguese geological heritage.** We at Naturtejo Geopark are not used to wait for the visitors to come. We really believe in our outstanding geological landscape but Portugal is great concerning telling amazing stories about geological phenomena. On behalf of the program Geology in Summer 2008 developed by

the Science and Technology Foundation and with the support of Minho University, Naturtejo Geopark went to the W coast to tell the story of the opening of North Atlantic at Berlenga Island. 14 participants suffered a very wavy onehour boat trip to reach the pink granite island off Peniche but the morning was amazing visiting the outcrops and geomorphic structures and the afternoon even better swimming in the crystal-like waters of this marine reserve.

23-25<sup>th</sup> August - Naturtejo Geopark presented in the regional Fair of Sobreira Formosa. Naturtejo Geopark considers promotion everywhere in its territory. There are always people unaware that are living in an ancient and evocative territory. This time Fátima Rodrigues represented Naturtejo with a stand in the small local fair of Sobreira Formosa.

25-27<sup>th</sup> August - The Vultures Route program. Between Segura and Salvaterra do Extremo, in the Eastern border of the Geopark, Eliane Antunes guided a program for birdwatching to a couple with the help of Casa do Forno and the geologist João Geraldes. The boat trip to see gryphon vultures and black storks in the Portas do Ródão Natural Monument was also included.

## 3) Leopark Impact in Media

#### Newspapers/Magazines

23<sup>rd</sup> July (Jornal de Nisa) – "UNESCO stands out Naturtejo Geopark"

23<sup>rd</sup> July (Jornal de Nisa) – "Minho University visits Naturtejo Geopark"

23<sup>rd</sup> July (Jornal de Nisa) – "Hot summer in the Geopark"

29<sup>th</sup> July (Povo da Beira) – "Local products can be allied to Tourism"

29<sup>th</sup> July (Povo da Beira) – "Minho university visits Naturtejo Geopark "

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

August (Ènsino Magazine) – "Minho visits Geopark" August (Ensino Magazine) – "Hot summer in the Geopark"

August (Oleiros Magazine) – "Earth's Festival"

August (Oleiros cultural agenda) – "European Earth Festival"

5<sup>th</sup> August (Povo da Beira) – "Naturtejo Geopark promoted in the Natural Parks and Environment Fair"

5<sup>th</sup> August (Povo da Beira) – "GNR trained in Tourism"

6<sup>th</sup> August (Gazeta do Interior) – "Chinese come for the first time to Boom"

6<sup>th</sup> August (Gazeta do Interior) – "Oleiros shows Nature"

7<sup>th</sup> August (Reconquista) – "Boom Festival waiting for 20000 people" 7<sup>th</sup> August (Reconquista) – "Lands of Schist with cultural week"

7<sup>th</sup> August (Reconquista) – "Naturtejo Geopark in lands from Algarve"

7<sup>th</sup> August (Reconquista) – "GNR officers "graduated" in tourism"

13<sup>th</sup> August (Gazeta do Interior) – "Ródão reveals breathtaking landscape"

14th August (Reconquista's first page) – "All world in a piece of Idanha"

14th August (Reconquista) - "Monsanto is an authentic memories" treasure"

14<sup>th</sup> August (Reconquista) – "Association born from the Schist"

- 15<sup>th</sup> August (What's New at Global Geoparks) "Monthly report of the Geopark Naturtejo Meseta Meridional issue 23"
- 15<sup>th</sup> August (What's New at Global Geoparks) "New educational programs of Naturtejo Geopark for 2008/09 presented"
- 15<sup>th</sup> August (What's New at Global Geoparks) "Naturtejo Geopark in the National Fair of Natural Parks and Environment"
- 20<sup>th</sup> August (Gazeta do Interior) "Eight nationalities together for Penha Garcia"
- 20<sup>th</sup> August (Gazeta do Interior) "GNR officers are going now to learn English"
- 20<sup>th</sup> August (Gazeta do Interior) "Route between Salvaterra do Extremo and Zarza la Mayor by the trails of smuggling"
- 20th August (Gazeta do Interior) "Old cars discovering Idanha-a-Nova"
- 20<sup>th</sup> August (Expresso do Pinhal) "Minho University visits Naturtejo Geopark"
- 20<sup>th August</sup> (Jornal de Nisa) "International Working Camp eight nationalities together for Penha Garcia"
- 21<sup>st</sup> August (Reconquista) "Venezuela trains technicians at the Geopark"
- 21<sup>st</sup> August (Reconquista) "Young people from eight countries in Penha Garcia"
- 23<sup>rd</sup> August (Gazeta do Interior) "Police receives tourism training"
- 25<sup>th</sup> August (Turisver) "Naturtejo Geopark exposed in the regional weeks of the Ice Palace"
- 25<sup>th</sup> August (AmbienteOnline) "Nature thematic parks are multiplying"
- 26<sup>th</sup> August (Povo da Beira) "Young people from eight nationalities work for Penha Garcia"
- 26<sup>th</sup> August (AmbienteOnline) "Lack of investment in the thematic parks from Portugal"
- 27<sup>th</sup> August (Gazeta do Interior) "Prisoners out for a fieldtrip"
- 27<sup>th</sup> August (Gazeta do Interior) "Venezuela trains technicians in the Naturtejo Geopark"

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- 14<sup>th</sup> August (RTP1 national television) Carlos Neto de Carvalho is interviewed for Portugal Directo News about the International Working Camp.
- 16<sup>th</sup> August (RTP1 national television, RTP International, RTP Africa) Armindo Jacinto and Maria Catana were interviewed in a special for the talk show Verão Total about trace fossils from Penha Garcia, the Naturtejo Geopark & Educational Programs.

### \*4) Publications

#### Scientific Contribution for Geosciences

- BAUCON, A. The early roots of ichnology: Aldrovandi's studies in the 16th century. In: *The 33rd International Geological Congress,* Oslo 6-14th August 2008, Abstracts CD-ROM.
- BAUCON, A. & NETO DE CARVALHO, C. What is the impact of ichnology on popular science? In: *The 33rd International Geological Congress,* Oslo 6-14th August 2008, Abstracts CD-ROM.

- BAUCON, A. & NETO DE CARVALHO, C. Pramollo: A fluvio-marine ichnolagerstätte from the Carnic Alps (Carboniferous, Italy-Austria) In: *The 33rd International Geological Congress,* Oslo 6-14th August 2008, Abstracts CD-ROM.
- NETO DE CARVALHO, C., BAUCON, A. & CHAMBINO, E. Anthropology of trace fossils: Behaviours beyond myths. In: *The 33rd International Geological Congress*, Oslo 6-14th August 2008, Abstracts CD-ROM.
- NETO DE CARVALHO, C., JACINTO, A., RAFAEL, A., TOMÁS MARQUES, R., PREGUIÇA, C., MARTINS, P. & CHAMBINO, E. How to build a successful Geopark (almost) from nothing? In: *The 33rd International Geological Congress,* Oslo 6-14th August 2008, Abstracts CD-ROM.

#### Educational and Promotional publications

- SEILACHER, A. Fossil Art. Geologisches Institut, Tuebingen University, 102 pp.
- *Proença-a-Nova tourist guide*. Municipality of Proença-a-Nova, 90 p. (in Portuguese).