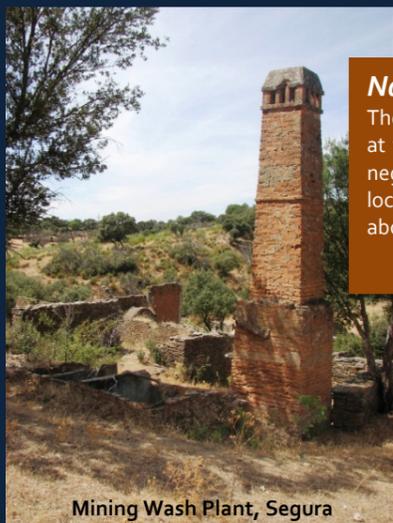


Geomining Heritage in Naturtejo Geopark (Portugal) – The role of temporary exhibitions for connecting local communities with geodiversity

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Naturtejo Geopark and Geomining Heritage

The aim of Naturtejo Geopark is to disclose the wonders of mineralogy and mining geology of the territory providing at the same time information about the social and environmental impacts of mining activity, both positives and negatives, in order to prepare communities for important decisions regarding land management and sustainable local development. One of the recent approaches of Naturtejo Geopark is to revitalize old stories and techniques about mining, including the know-how of old miners told by themselves in temporary and travelling exhibitions.

Exhibition 1: "When we went for ore"

This exhibition, dedicated to Segura Mines is a part of a long term project that has been developed in Idanha-a-Nova municipality. For one year this exhibition was in Centro Cultural Raiano, the headquarters of Naturtejo Geopark at Idanha-a-Nova, and it is structured in two sections: formal and non-formal domains vs. history and memory.

2nd Stage

The next stage for the exhibition "When we went for ore" is to become nomad. It is now travelling through the main mining contexts of Idanha-a-Nova. The core of the exhibition is the same only the contents are adapted to the geological and mining context and local specificities, involving local people. The end of the journey will be Segura where all the contexts will be joined and it will be presented a complete exhibition of Geomining Heritage in Idanha-a-Nova, including an oral archive of the memory recorded in film and a collection made of offers and loans.



Educational Program

During this period there was an Educational Program, for the different schools levels, specially designed for interacting with the exhibition and mineral resources exploited in these mines.



"Mine's faces"

"Rostos da mina"



The documentary "Black gold – the other side" was prepared with a geological, historical and anthropological approach and the testimony of former miners and workers of the mines. In parallel the catalogue "Wolfram times in Oleiros" was released to present this unknown heritage to most of the people by showing the importance of the mine in this period when the region was tightly connected with the major world moments of contemporary history.

Exhibition 2: "Geomining Heritage from Oleiros"

This exhibition was dedicated to Fragas do Cavalo wolfram mines that worked in the first half of the 20th century, with a small note about other mines in Oleiros since Roman times.

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Additional activities were provided such as guided visits and workshops for local schools, guided visits with former miners and workers for the general public and a thematic visit to Fragas do Cavalo Mines, with the participation of former workers from the washing factory.



Conclusion

These two projects are linked by the theme of the rush for wolfram during the "black gold" periods, with the climax during the Second World War, that moved thousands of farmers-miners searching for cassiterite (tin) and wolframite (wolfram) in mining districts and illegally, creating "black" markets and contraband at the borderland. But they are also connected through the impact they are causing in local communities that remember or raise awareness about the importance that those mines had in the past, increasing their interest and the sense of belonging.