



CRUZIANA

GEOPARK NATURTEJO DA MESETA MERIDIONAL-EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL GEOPARK - MONTHLY REPORT

In this issue: - “Uranium from Nisa, No!” launched in the International Uranium Film Festival – From Earth to Table, to the countryside tables – Grand Route of with more geological interpretation – school contest “How to improve the environmental quality of my community?” ...and more!



Olá/Hola/Ciao/Bonjour/Γειά σου/Hallo/God Dag/Salut/Zdravo/Hello/Ahoj/Helo/Helló/ Hei

The application of Azores Geopark to the European Geoparks Network is now in discussion by the Coordination Committee. The third Portuguese Geopark to be developed since 2005 is probably the most consensual one. Including a worldwide known active volcanic landscape which conditioned life modes of its inhabitants for centuries, Azores is an Autonomous Region from Portugal, 9 islands with many potentialities and valences, but also, as it can happen in such diverse territories, with many asymmetries. Let's travel to the core of present situation, to Flores Island, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve since 2009. What is intended to be representative is the present reality, as hard as it may get, of these lava "rocks", made of passions, solitudes and perseverance, in the middle of North Atlantic, widely distributed among tectonic plates that depart from each other at the same speed as some of most isolated communities adapt to change and novelty.

In this cloudy winter we meet Rui and Fernando, somewhere on the road between Fajã Grande and Santa Cruz das Flores, soaked wet to the bones by rain and sea spray. They are seafood "catchers"; They make from this dangerous activity a job when nothing else comes for living. Limpets, barnacles or lobsters, whatever is found. Rui is tall and slim, with tanned skin by the work in the sea. Sharp nose and deep, self-contained eyes. He wears black, leather jacket and tight jeans. Fernando is not so tall, wears sport clothing and is slovenly bearded, made grey by the age. His eyes are rounded and happy, his billowy hair the result of a life of adventures. The good mood and loud talk that we intend now to keep here into words, made of ideas repeated to exhaustion, were fueled by brandy taken in glasses of water intercalated with small beers.

- "Fernando, this Island has no one like you. Only I can follow you, I already talked with others and asked them why they don't follow you. They are such cowards!"

- "Remember Ponta Delgada, that time I threw away my backpack?..."

- "Yes, we risked life for you to earn 10 euro and myself 7. Nobody does here what you can do. I thought we couldn't escape from there. But I followed you for non saying that "Rui, you are a coward!"."

- "I could never say that, we are more than friends, we are brothers!"

- "Fernando, nobody does what you can do. Where you go I will. You go first; I'm slower, but always keep after you. I'm 41, you are 50, but no one can follow you..."

Fernando smiles: - "We had our adventures, hadn't we? We risk our lives to fill the backpack with limpets and lobsters caught in theses rocks, to earn 10 or 20 euro..."

- "Where you go I will, Fernando, we are friends for 21 years. Nobody in this island can hit your record. I'm your friend..."



Olá/Hola/Ciao/Bonjour/Γειά σου/Hallo/God Dag/Salut/Zdravo/Hello/Ahoj/Helo/Helló/ Hei

- "I hate to see you go around as a bastard..."
- "That woman made me suffer. She took me everything..."
- "You let her do whatever she wanted. It's your fault!"

Rui's voice is now moved: - "That's true...But you know I'm not from here. I have nobody at Flores. I've been in America for 10 years; I've been already in Spain, France, Italy, Germany since then..."

Fernando insists: - "That scrawny girl cleaned your bank account..."

- "Yes, she was weedy..., it's my fault!" Rui breaks down in long felt tears.

Fernando shows sympathy: - "The fault is also mine. I tried to warn you. The same has happened to me and the woman took me 5000 bucks...Do you remember she called me fat? If I had given to her two slaps at the time, maybe now you wouldn't talk to me?!"

- "Or maybe none of this had happened...now she is eating everyday in restaurants with my money. And you know why I do have to come with you. I don't have money, not even for cigars!" Rui regrets.

- "And she was weedy, with a wrinkled face she looks like a 80 years old woman!"

- "Dália and this Dr. Rodrigo...They will have to listen all that I have to say. What he said about me is a lye and, Fernando, you know I'm honest..."

- "What they have done already screwed you, I eared half of the phone call!"

- "This Dr. Rodrigo claims I don't want to stay "clean" but this is not true. I would go, but I can't spend 100 or 150 euros a day..."

- "Rui, Dália disgraced yourself but these things should be discussed! You may do anything that you might regret and turn to prison..."

Rui interrupts Fernando with authority: - "No, you are going with me to the Health Center to talk with this doctor, I want him to tell me he was lying!"

- "Be cool Rui, I'm your friend! It is better for you to not talk with him in such condition..."

- "I don't have to be cool! You come with me to the clinic. I ain't gonna do anything, but they must listen me. I'm sick of this! Fernando, you know I want to be "cleaned"!"

Fernando whispers: "- Rui! We are friends for 21 years! Can you do me a favor?"

- "No, Fernando!" Rui lost his temperance: - "You go where I go and don't ask me anything. We're going to the Health Center right now!"

- "Rui, can you take care of my things?"



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Rui starts to cry again, but this time with some despair: - “Don't say that Fernando, we are almost in Santa Cruz! Hang in there just five minutes. Hey, driver, can't go faster? He suffers from liver and ulcers...”

- “Rui, I need to stay here on the way...”

- “You cannot stay here, we're almost there...”

- “Be smooth, Rui, can't you see tourists are watching the landscape?...”

- “Keep fighting Fernando, keep fighting! We're almost there...”

A complex social reality marked by insularity, by the lack of opportunities in the most remote islands, by chronic emigration, by tourist seasonality, by the continuous arrival and departure. They are secular life rhythms of connection and rebellion with the ocean which, in every direction, pursues and provides, brings so much and takes away.

The Editor

Carlos Neto de Carvalho
Scientific Coordinator
Geologist

ACTIVITIES OF THE MONTH



February - GR12/E7 "Route of Idanha" with more geological interpretation. The Grand Route of Idanha was improved with more interpretative panels. Being part of E7, Transeuropean trekking itinerary beginning in the Parque das Nações, at Lisboa and finishing in the Romanian city of Constanza, at the coast of the Black Sea, the Route of Idanha is the only sector duly signaled in Portugal. With a length of 80 km between Idanha-a-Nova and the borderland at Termas de Monfortinho, this trekking passes in some of the most interesting geological landscapes from Naturtejo Geopark. However, as many trekking routes defined in Portugal, the path was short of information. But reality is now different: interpretative panels were placed in the historical centre of Idanha-a-Nova, Sanctuary of the Senhora do Almortão, Alcafozes, Idanha-a-Velha, Carroqueiro, Monsanto, Penha Garcia and Termas de Monfortinho. These panels introduce trekkers to Naturtejo Geopark and the European and Global Geoparks Network, to the geological landscape and geosites along the itinerary, local heritage and relevant cultural features, in a light way.



February – Master Thesis about entrepreneurship in Naturtejo Geopark. The Management School of Idanha-a-Nova produced the first Master thesis on Naturtejo Geopark. António Jóia presented recently his work for Enterprise Management, under supervision of Professor Pedro Rodrigues de Carvalho, from the Enterprisal Sciences Technical-Scientific Unit from the Polytechnics Institute of Castelo Branco. "Project of Regional Products Entrepreneurship in Naturtejo Geopark", is the study of António Jóia for promotion, raising awareness and trading of traditional products of high quality and genuine. According to António Jóia "in a period where traditional products are progressively gaining position in the market and conquering the interest of consumers, coming as alternative to intensive mass production made with highly-developed technological processes, despite apparently endangered can be seen as an opportunity for business with the development of the project "I love - Local Product"." More information about this very interesting project under development can be found soon at www.amo-produtolocal.com.



2nd February – Fossils at Penha Garcia and Crag Lands at Monsanto. The field class between Penha Garcia and Monsanto was addressed to 42 students and 5 teachers from Domingos Sequeira High School from the city of Leiria, in the scope of 12th grade Geology. The trainers were Manuela Catana and Sara Canilho.



3rd February – Seminar at Mértola "Geological and mining heritage as factor for local sustainable development: approaches and results".

Naturtejo Geopark was invited to participate in the old São Domingos Mine (Mértola, SE Portugal), to a seminar under the subject "Mining and Geological Heritage as a factor for local sustainable development: approaches and results". The seminar was part of the ongoing research project REHMINE "Contribution of Company Social Responsibility for Sustainable Development", from SOCIUS (Economics Sociology and Organizations Research Center), ISEG (Economy and Management Institute of the Technical University of Lisbon). The Project takes the case study of São Domingos Mine and the environment and socioeconomical rehabilitation under execution by EDM, Mining Development Company, S.A.. The REHMINE project was introduced and the preliminary results were presented by Idalina Dias Sardinha, keeping clear the mine heritage. Several projects for valuing mining and geological heritage in the Iberian Pyrite Belt were then presented, some in their initial stage others under development since some years ago. Alexandre Lima introduced the Project on the gold mines of Castromil, with the new Interpretative Center to open in the current year; Jorge Relvas, president of Centro Ciência Viva do Lousal Association, and Álvaro Pinto, together presented the projects developed by this Science Center related with Lousal mines; José Mantecón, general director of Fundación Rio Tinto, introduced the Project Parque Mineiro RioTinto for tourist and leisure activities framed in a cultural tour, which recently applied for the European Geoparks Network; Artur Martins, director of the Municipal Museum of Aljustrel, talked about the Project Parque Mineiro de Aljustrel, this park serving the main purposes of raising awareness about local mining heritage. From outsider this Metalogenetic Province, Elga Garra, member of the municipal company Fundão Turismo, presented the Project Rio including recovering of Panasqueira mining district, mining village of Rio, Cabeço do Pião (Fundão); Sara Canilho from Naturtejo Geopark made a presentation about "Geopark Naturtejo da Meseta Meridional, Geomining Heritage and Geotourism", a general introduction to management of Naturtejo Geopark, activities and projects developed always with geology as basement, but also to geomining heritage as a geotourist tool, which will be included in the Inventory of the Geological Heritage of Naturtejo Geopark; last but not least, J. Xavier Matos talked about the Geological Trail of the City Garden of Beja, a geological exhibition of Alentejo showing the 1000 million years geological history of the region. During the sessions there was time for discussion. It is noteworthy that former miners or relatives from São Domingos are angry about the way the company La Sabina closed the mine in 1966, leaving workers behind without any support. Still nowadays, after 45 years, there are problems to solve related with environmental issues, health diseases related with mining, such as silicosis, and also houses and land owning problems, still property of La Sabina.



4 to 5th February – “From Earth to Table, to the Countryside Tables” – One hundred years of Tourism in Portugal.

For the celebration of Raiano Cultural Center's 15 years, also the headquarters of Naturtejo Geopark, the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova together with Naturtejo, the Tourism of Centre and the National Commission for the Centenary of Tourism in Portugal organized a seminar about gastronomy and tourism. Portugal is officially celebrating 100 years of tourism industry. Gastronomy and tourism are, above all, social matters, cultural phenomena pointing to dimensions of identity and representation. Presently, and not at all negligible, the approaches made to wide visibility and presence give to the subject gastronomy and tourism a more economical evidence, in the frame of industry. Therefore, it was important that talks made during this seminar by Portuguese and Spanish specialists could overpass the mainstream, enabling other possible ways: from the immediate critics and contradictions evidenced by economics approaches, to thoughts that might contribute for a more diversified analysis of less know, but not less significant features about the origins and development of gastronomy together with tourism.

In the scope of the seminar an exhibition was launched at Idanha-a-Nova (from the artist Miguel Branco), special meals in restaurants at Monsanto and Idanha-a-Nova and a live concert of the musician Rita Guerra, at Raiano Cultural Center. In the cathedral of Idanha-a-Velha an art exhibition called “This Paradise we have made ever” was opened by John Hyatt, Professor from the Metropolitan University of Manchester and Director of MIRIAD (Institute for Research and Innovation in Art and Design of Manchester). Next day a tour to the Fossils Trail from Penha Garcia and to the Termas de Monfortinho Spa was performed by Armindo Jacinto and Manuela Catana for 16 invited speakers and participants in the seminar.

5th February– Walking by the Route of the Emperor Carlos V. The agenda of Nature Tourism from the municipality of Idanha-a-Nova began this year by lands of Extremadura, on the other side of the borderland, taking trekking local enthusiasts to Jarandilla de la Vera and to the famous route made by the Emperor Carlos V when exiled.

10 to 12th February – Rutas y Senderismo analyses Naturtejo Geopark. One more Fam Trip organized by Naturtejo Geopark. The Spanish tour operator “Rutas Y Senderismo”, represented by two collaborators, came to meet the quality of the landscapes, of the trekking routes and the tourist offer of Naturtejo Geopark. Tiago Oliveira and Jesus Alarcón were the honoured hosts.



12 to 13th February – International Uranium Film Festival launch the doc “Uranium of Nisa, No!”

The 2nd International Doc Festival on Nuclear “International Uranium Film Festival” was held this year in Lisbon, extending to other cities such as Peniche or Porto, and also to Naturtejo Geopark, at the Theater of Nisa. During this event the film from Márcia Gomes and Norbert Suchanek was launched, “Uranium of Nisa, no!”, showing the efforts of local population under the citizen Movement “Uranium of Nisa No” (MUNN) against the opening of an uranium mine in the vicinities of the town of Nisa. From the people, organization and other related institutions' point of view, the opening of such mine won't bring benefits to the municipality, where tourism, gastronomy, handcrafting, hot springs and the building of a new hotel are strategic for present and future development and which, evidently, are kept in risk with the virtual opening of the mine. The working force for the mine will be recruited outside Nisa because specialized technicians cannot be found here. With the organization and coordination of the activist António Eloy, two other films were also presented at Nisa. “Yellowcake” records a social view about nuclear energy in USA, showing pros and cons of this energy, interviewing people that worked directly with uranium, some of them actually with serious health problems. The doc “Uranium thirst” shows the problems afflicted to the desert tribes from Namibia, specially with water distribution because almost all this precious resource in desert is pumped to the uranium mine, the largest uranium opencast in the world, exporting for foreigner nuclear plants. The region is widely contaminated by high doses of radiation emitted by the rejected pile rocks from the mine.

After presenting the films both organization and invited film directors explained to the audience the consequences of a mine in Nisa, and praised MUNN as example of preventive action, with local population well aware of the consequences before the opening of the mine. At the end it was announced the proposal to apply the Municipality of Nisa and MUNN to an international award, by their action against a negative industry.

14th February – CP analyses the product “Historical Villages”. A FAM TRIP by the historical villages of Naturtejo Geopark brought 5 collaborators from CP national train company CP and the outdoor company Incentivos Outdoor to Monsanto and Idanha-a-Velha, which were guided by Tiago Oliveira. This is now a new tourism product provided by CP, the second organized for Naturtejo Geopark after the “Train on the way to Adventure”.



18 to 19th February – Olive Oil and Smoked Meat Fair of Proença-a-Velha. In the Olive Press of Proença-a-Velha – Olive Oil Interpretative Center the municipality of Idanha-a-Nova held the Olive Oil Festival. Armindo Jacinto presented the final research projects “Crossings” resulting from the International and Interdisciplinary Workshop “Natural and Cultural Assets for Sustainable Development of Naturtejo Geopark”, held in May 2011, at Idanha-a-Nova. This short course was organized for 29 students from the University of California - Berkeley, the Management School of Idanha-a-Nova, the University of Minho and the Fernando Pessoa University, together with 4 professors from these institutions. Manuela Catana also presented to the public of the Olive Oil Festival the report of one of these student groups entitled “Proença-a-Velha: developing and articulating the regional capital of the Olive Oil”.

For the tenth successive year the fest for intense flavors attracted thousands of participants to this village to meet and buy local olive oil, pudding and cheese. The Polytechnics Institute of Castelo Branco promoted a seminar in Proença-a-Velha about “regional products: production, commerce and certification”. In the next day proposals were digested during the thematic visit “Borderland Flavors and Traditions” organized by the Tourism Office from Idanha-a-Nova.

24th February – Launching and promotion of the school contest “How to improve the environmental quality of my community?”. National Commission of UNESCO and Naturtejo Geopark organize together for the school year 2011/2012, a school contest under the frame “Decade of Education for Sustainable Development” (2005-2014), called “How to improve the environmental quality of my community?”. This subject is also framed by the “Decade of Biodiversity” (2011-2020). Municipalities of Naturtejo Geopark support the contest: Castelo Branco, Idanha-a-Nova, Nisa, Oleiros, Proença-a-Nova and Vila Velha de Ródão, besides Arouca Geopark, Quercus – Castelo Branco and International Tejo Nature Park. The contest is addressed to all students and teachers from public and private schools within Naturtejo Geopark, from Pre-school, Primary, Middle, Secondary and High Schools, and also Professional School. The contest aims to sensitize students and through them all people from the Geopark, by stimulating curiosity of children and teenagers for the big issues of the “Decades”, encouraging them to design posters, models, films and commercials. The deadline to send the projects ends on 23rd March 2012. The curiosity grows as the expected results for this year.



24 to 26th February – Orizonia tests Naturtejo Geopark. Fam Trip organized by Naturtejo with the operator “Orizonia” that brought 26 collaborators to find with Tiago Oliveira some of the main interests of Naturtejo Geopark. During two days they visited the Embroidery Office of Castelo Branco, the Raiano Cultural Centre, the historical villages of Idanha-a-Velha and Monsanto, the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia and Termas de Monfortinho hot baths, testing local cuisine in the restaurant partners from Naturtejo, like Helana or Astória Hotel.



25 to 26th February – Discovering the Geopark. The Sporting Club of the Public Transport workers from Barreiro came to discover Naturtejo Geopark. They have enjoyed a lot these two days of adventure, particularly the Fossils Trail at Penha Garcia.



29th February – The fossils from Penha Garcia and the Boulder lands from Monsanto. In this educational activity 57 students together with 7 teachers were involved, from the Amato Lusitano High School (Castelo Branco), under the classes of Natural Sciences from the 7th grade and Biology and Geology from the 11th grade and Geology from the 12th grade. The trainers this time were Manuela Catana, Joana Rodrigues and Rita Cortez.



29th February to 4th March – Naturtejo Geopark and partners in Lisbon Trade Tourism. Once more the Centre of Portugal Tourism was presented at Lisbon Tourism Trade with a stand, including in it Naturtejo Geopark and associated municipalities. Several live shows and cooking moments were offered by Geopark municipalities during the whole event to thousands of tourism professionals and public.

Foto In the booth of Tourism of Portugal the Guide of Mines and Sites of Geological Interest from Portugal was presented to professionals. This e-platform <http://www.roteirodeminas.pt/> reunites initiatives related with geology and mining heritage and includes as main objectives the development through network promotion, providing information for the visitor, both interpretative and logistical. This project is promoted by the General Board of Energy and Geology and by the Mining Development Company, summing an increasing number of partners such as museums, municipalities with geosites and mining sites available for tourism, geosites, geoparks such as Naturtejo, Arouca and Azores.



IMPACT OF GEOPARK IN MEDIA

Newspapers & www

December 2011 (Oleiros Magazine) – Oleiros with gold to exploit

December 2011 (Olhar – Escola Secundária da Sé) – Training and the “good opportunities...”

30th January (Opção Turismo) – From Earth to Table, to the countryside tables”

February/March (Jornal de Oleiros) – Mining at Oleiros: past, present and future...

February (Ensino Magazine) – Manchester wants research center at Idanha

February (Ensino Magazine) – At Futurália and Qualific@: Naturtejo and Magazine cast lots weekends

1st February (Gazeta do Interior) – Naturtejo President warns for State abandonment – Why not to bring ICNB to Castelo Branco?

1st February (Jornal de Nisa) – Naturtejo: days of thought

7th February (Povo da Beira) – Alliance between Gastronomy and Tourism is crucial to “sell” the territory

9th February (reconquista) – PhD. Students from Nova University visit Beira Interior Sul

9th February (reconquista) – Manchester may launch research center in the Management School

9th February (Diário as Beiras) – Manchester University projects research center at Idanha-a-Nova

15th February (Gazeta do Interior) – Universidade projects research center

23rd February (www.oje.pt) – Monsanto: a perfect marriage between Nature and Man

27th February (Jornal de Nisa) – “Uranium of Nisa, no!” visibly

27th February (Jornal de Nisa) – Naturtejo Geopark and National Commission of UNESCO launch school contest “How to improve environmental quality of my community?”

28th February (Diário Digital de Castelo Branco) – Naturtejo Geopark and National Commission of UNESCO launch school contest

29th February (Gazeta do Interior) – The single hotel of the municipality reopens in April

29th February (Gazeta do Interior) – Naturtejo and UNESCO develop school contest

SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE GEOPARK AND THE GEOSCIENCES



Jóia, A. (2011) – Projecto de Empreendedorismo de Produtos Regionais no Geopark Naturtejo. Tese de Mestrado em Gestão de Empresas, Instituto Politécnico de Castelo Branco – Escola Superior de Gestão, 201pp.

Neto de Carvalho, C., Rodrigues, J.C., Canilho, S. & Amado, S. (2011) – Geopark Naturtejo, bajo los auspicios de la UNESCO: la construcción participativa de un destino geoturístico em Portugal. *Tierra y Tecnología*, 40: 52-56.

Brilha, J. & Pereira, P. (Eds.) (2011) – Património geológico: geossítios a visitar em Portugal / Geological heritage: geosites to visit in Portugal. Universidade do Minho, Braga, ISBN: 978-972-95255-7-5, 137p.

Pereira, D.I. (2011) – Inselberg de Monsanto. In BRILHA J. & PEREIRA P. (Eds.) Património geológico: geossítios a visitar em Portugal / Geological heritage: geosites to visit in Portugal. Universidade do Minho, Braga, 50-51.

Neto de Carvalho, C. (2011) – Icnofósseis de Penha Garcia. In BRILHA J. & PEREIRA P. (Eds.) Património geológico: geossítios a visitar em Portugal / Geological heritage: geosites to visit in Portugal. Universidade do Minho, Braga, 52-53.

Pereira, D. (2011) – Portas de Ródão. In BRILHA J. & PEREIRA P. (Eds.) Património geológico: geossítios a visitar em Portugal / Geological heritage: geosites to visit in Portugal. Universidade do Minho, Braga, 54-55.



PROMOTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Rodrigues, J.C. & Neto de Carvalho, C., – Exploração mineira em Oleiros: passado, presente e futuro... Jornal de Oleiros (Fevereiro/Março).

Until July 2012

School Contest:
www.geonaturescola.com

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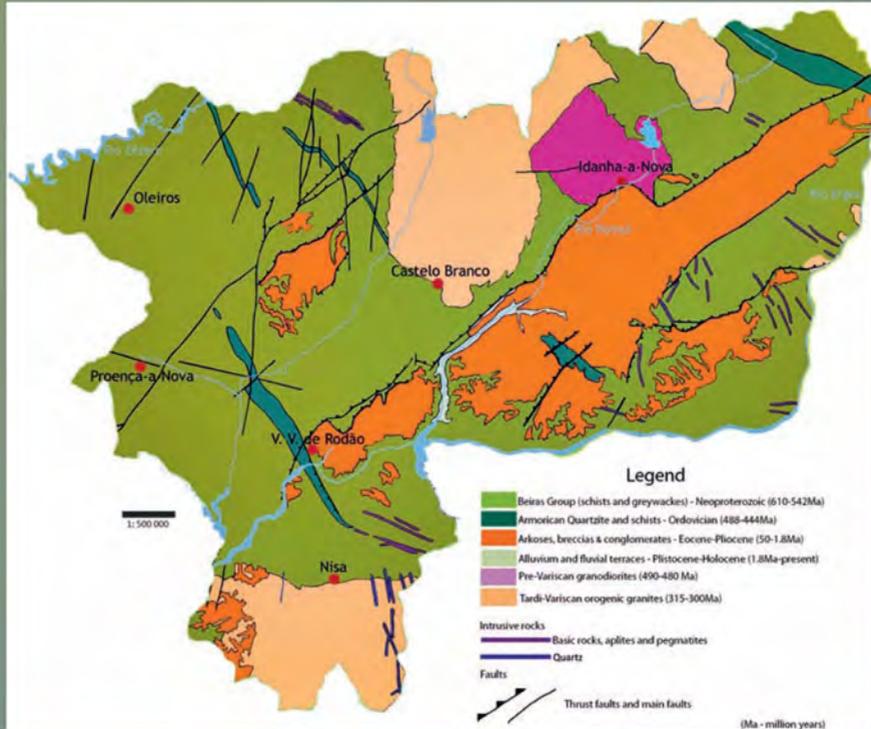
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Geoparks: Geology with a human face



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