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Celebrations of 10 years of Naturtejo Geopark with the presence of the Government
Portugal O'Meeting returns to the Geopark
German football team stages in the region
Olive Oil and Smoked Meat Festival in Proença-a-Velha
... and more!

CRUZIANA

GEOPARK NATURTEJO DA MESETA MERIDIONAL - UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK - E-MAGAZINE



GEO-stories of our places and people: S. Matias

S. Matias is a flat region, not guessing that, right there on the edge, the deep valley of Ribeira de Nisa meanders until facing the Tagus River. But the deep valleys made of shale edges, where the first inhabitants have expressed their art, are made of recent erosions for the ages that these rocks have contemplated. It is necessary to climb to the top of Falagueira to contemplate the Tagus river in its languid past, lost in the arid Iberian plateau plans, with no way to the Atlantic. Here it spread the water in times of flood, about 3,000,000 years ago. This sandy hill kept the geological record of this very distinct landscape, but also the reason why for thousands of years man was installed here. The ancient Tagus alluvial sediments turned into fertile soil rich in water.

But the erosion that built the serpentine valleys also made disappear a big part of these sandy soils covering the plain. What is left is Chão da Velha besides Falagueira. Other small villages have grown here. In 55,48km² of flat lands Monte Claro, Monte dos Matos, Cacheiro, S. Pedro, Falagueira, Chão da Velha and Velada were grown up. From this constellation of farming localities, S. Pedro is today a ghost town and the others, 289 people have turned to the forest and to the daily shuttle which is Nisa, when subsistence farming is now only one way of being. This foundational agro-pastoral past, where still it is possible to stumble in Roman remains, raises the Church of St Peter dated from the 16th century. The power station of Velada is the preserved testimony of domestication of the so unpredictable Ribeira de Nisa in the 30's. Their beautiful aspects still sprinkled with thousands of olive trees in individual terraces, show the Herculean effort to create food from the shale to a population that has grown far beyond the size of the arable land. These valleys of Ribeira de Nisa are a remarkable heritage which deserved a recovery program, in a region that still needs to create a quality image for their olive oils. If the Tagus is made of liquid gold, this will be olive oil's terroir by definition.

In this perspective of endogenous resources enhancement it is up to S. Matias to build or strengthen the touristic potential. It's not that hasn't already been tried, with the village tourism project of Chão da Velha that failed. Not just traditional Alentejo architecture still preserved in most villages, or the two walking trails, which discover the Tagus and look left the mouth of Ribeira de Nisa. It has to look at the landscape and plan innovative designs from the forms, but also from the eucalyptus trees that stain today the plan of S. Matias. The Valley of Ribeira de Nisa, curve and reverse curve that deepens in the plan, on the slopes where each of numerous olive trees roost begging the late summer afternoons, can contain in their guts, where liquid gold flows, the answer that many cannot see. And this just needs a little inspiration to be revealed, places that feed the imagination are not lacking by these parts...

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Front Page: (Projecto Objectiva: Geopark)

The Editor
Carlos Neto de Carvalho
Scientific Coordinator
Geologist



MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

4 to 14th February - German football team stage and play against local teams. The German team TSV Steinbach held a 10-day training course in the Center Stage of Termas de Monfortinho, Idanha-a-Nova. Integrated into the stage, the TSV Steinbach held three training games with teams from the region: Águias do Moradal, Benfica e Castelo Branco and Vila Velha de Ródão.



5th February - Commemorative Ceremony of the new World Geoparks Programme UNESCO and the 10 years of the Geopark Naturtejo.

The Minister of Culture, João Soares highlighted, at the opening of the celebrations of 10 years of integration into the Global Network of Geoparks, elapsed in the municipality of Penamacor, the success of the Naturtejo Geopark, in the central region, and recalled the contribution that the project may have on the affirmation of Portugal at international level. "The Naturtejo Geopark has given to the country a very important contribution in the affirmation of cultural values, which are identity values and also one of our gains in terms of affirmation in the world of international competition," he said. During the ceremony, the Minister of Culture reiterated the idea that this project is an "example at all levels, not only for the region but also for the country and for Europe". This example was also seconded by the Secretary of State of Tourism, Ana Mendes Godinho, who, although in other functions, accompanied the start of the project 10 years ago, that is, at a time when "few even knew what a Geopark was".

"Currently, the Naturtejo Geopark already symbolizes what I want for the tourism and it is what I consider a good example of tourism in Portugal, in particular the ability of coordination and cooperation," She said.

Recalling that tourism in Portugal already represents 16% of exports, the ruler underlined that "we still need to do more" and highlighted the importance of "cross-border cooperation" and the "statement of Iberian work". The celebrations were also attended by the State Secretary of Energy, Jorge Seguro Sanches.

The President of Naturtejo, Armindo Jacinto, recalled that the project and the efforts made over the last decade allowed the growing from of accommodation units, which then existed in that territory, to the current 89. According to the President of Naturtejo, in the restaurant area snapped from 114 to 147 establishments and, if before there were no mountain biking centres, now there are four. The data point the presence of Naturtejo Geopark in 43 fairs and more than 158 symposiums and congresses.

The municipality of Penamacor also will be represented in these events, since it joined the network in September 2015.

During the ceremony, the President of the municipality which today hosted the birthday celebration emphasized the gains that the cooperation with the Naturtejo Geopark already represents for the County, particularly in terms of disclosure.

António Luís Beites ensured that this bet "worth it" and is convinced that it will contribute to "a better development of the territory in a touristic level", with emphasis on natural, endogenous and cultural resources of the municipality. Carlos Neto de Carvalho, scientific coordinator of the Geopark Naturtejo, spoke about how the work was developed over the first decade, highlighting the main needs that the project aims to ensure its continuity of success for the benefit of local communities. All the staff of Naturtejo Geopark was present, as well as many of the associates and partners of Naturtejo and students and representatives of local schools, filling the room with more than 100 participants. Highlight also goes to the Geoproducts tasting that took place at the end of the ceremony, with the participation of the managers of the companies Acha Doce and Geocakes.



5 to 9th February – Portugal O'Meeting brings more than 1000 athletes to the natural scenery of Penamacor.

About of 1000 participants were present in what is the biggest orientation event held in Portugal, among which were more than 20 athletes of the world's top 50. The Portugal "O" Meeting, in its various modes, was divided by different geographies of the municipal territory of Penamacor. Forest and urban circuits, day and night, covering the full range of participants, from infants to veterans, amateurs, professionals and federated and non federated athletes, finishing in the ranks of elite and super elite who dispute the first places in the world rankings, all of this in the Meeting of Penamacor. The organizational logistics is the great challenge to COC-Orientation Center Club, in which the Portuguese Federation of Orientation has delegated the event. Tough job, but nothing that has frightened the leadership of the Club, who are used to organizations of this grandeur, just possible thanks to the voluntary labor of its members. In total, were about 80 people directly involved, with an impeccable organization. The Naturtejo Geopark attended this very important sport event with promotional material and a stand in one of the stages of the competition in the geosite of Serrinha, coordinated by Mariana Vilas Boas. Once again the Portugal O' Meeting is organized in the territory of Naturtejo Geopark, once more demonstrating the international interest of his tracks to this sport, with the prior recognition of Monsanto tracks as the course of the year at international level. And the tourism sector in the region, which goes beyond the Naturtejo Geopark, is the winner with these nature sports events.

6th February - Tour of the XXVI Luso-Spanish Scientific Management Journey in the Geopark.

These Journeys took place between 3 and 6 February of 2016 in the Superior School of Idanha-a-Nova. "Competitiveness of border regions" was the main theme for a reflection with the purpose of creating research projects that aim to create social wealth, and, on the other hand, enable the exchange of scientific knowledge among scholars in various fields. The Group of 75 people held the Fossils Trail, as well as a visit to the historic village of Monsanto, with partial walk in the Boulders Trail, accompanied by the technicians of the Geopark, Sérgio Ribeiro and Hugo Oliveira.



6 and 7th February - Tradition and entertainment brand Olive Oil and Smoked Meat Festival of Proença-a-Velha . The olive oil and the Smoked Meat returned to "reign" in Proença-a-Velha, in a festival that showed all the vitality and originality that characterize the municipality of Idanha-a-Nova.

Organized by the municipality of Idanha-a-Nova and the Parish Council of Proença-a-Velha, with the support of the Naturtejo Geopark, the XIV Festival of Olive Oil and Smoked Meat dedicated two days to promote these traditional products in an environment of great animation. The program of the event was marked by the music cultural groups of Idanha-a-Nova and a night of fado.

At the opening ceremony, the Mayor of Idanha-a-Nova, Armindo Jacinto, highlighted the role of thematic festivals "in stimulating new markets, by providing visitors the opportunity to purchase quality products and enjoy the territory". In addition, continued the Mayor, these festivals "represent investment in the local economy and in the dissemination of our culture, which today is recognized worldwide" with the classification of Idanha-a-Nova as a City of Music.

The Festival of Olive Oil and Smoked Meat was another success, this event is well rooted in the region, "as the President of the Parish Council of Proença-a-Velha. Helena Silva explained that the parish of Proença-a-Velha "has a vast olive grove and the olive oil has always been present in the life of the population". At the same time, "the people of Proença-a-Velha preserved to this day the tradition of killing the pig at home, occurring in December to produce high quality Smoked Sausage to consume now".



8th February - Spanish Group visits Monsanto. 55 people of the Bercianos Studies Institute from Ponferrada-Leon did a tour to the historical village of Monsanto accompanied by our tourism technician, Sérgio Ribeiro.



17th February - Slide and treasure hunt on the Fossils Trail. The 35 students from the secondary school selected within the framework of the project "my class is the best in school" from the schools of Idanha-a-Nova group made a trip to the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia. In Ponsul fault scarp they participated in recreational and sports activities, like "Slide" and "treasure hunt", performed by the company Vila Fraga. The students were accompanied by a psychologist, a social worker and a teacher of natural sciences and our field Monitor was Hugo Oliveira.



25th February - Field Trip to the exhibition "Ab initio geologically" in Penamacor. On this day, 19 students from the 9th grade in Vocational Technical of Entrepreneurship Class of Amato Lusitano Schools Group of Castelo Branco, accompanied by a teacher held a visit to the exhibition "Ab initio Geologically" where they could meet the work carried out in the municipality of Penamacor which lead to their integration in the Naturtejo Geopark – UNESCO World Geopark. In this exhibition, students could understand some episodes in the history of Earth and observe specimens of rocks, fossils and minerals, as well as elements of geodiversity in the Municipality. During the visit the group performed some games, such as the geological time, the dice of geosites of Penamacor and puzzles with various representative elements of geodiversity of this municipality. The monitors were Hugo Oliveira and Mariana Vilas Boas.



26th February - Educational Program between the Fossils of Penha Garcia and the Boulders of Monsanto.

During this day, 51 students of the three classes of the 7th grade from the School Group José Silvestre Ribeiro traveled part of the Fossils Trail to the Viewpoint next to the Church, where they could get a panoramic view of the Ichnological Park area. In the historic village of Monsanto they could better understand the formation of the Inselberg of Monsanto, observe the architectural heritage and the history associated with the people who inhabited this place leaving his testimony. The students were accompanied by two teachers of Natural Sciences and the monitors were Hugo Oliveira and Manuela Catana.

IMPACTE DO GEOPARK NOS MEDIA



Newspapers & www

February (Raiano) - Geopark Naturtejo streamlines school contest "natural disasters: how to minimize the risks and learn to live with them" in partnership with the UNESCO National Commission

3 February (Povo da Beira) – UNESCO Naturtejo Geopark states in Madrid

3 February (Povo da Beira) - The World Championship Crossbow Shooting takes place in Idanha-a-Nova

3 February (Gazeta do Interior) - Government members visit the District

3 February (Gazeta do Interior) – Idanha-a-Nova receives the World Championship Crossbow Shooting

4 February (Reconquista) – Idanha-a-Nova ensures the World Championship Crossbow Shooting

4 February (Reconquista) – Soares visits border towns - The 10 years of the Geopark and the Creative City of Music of UNESCO bring the Minister on his first visit to the district

5 February (Beiranews) - Minister of Culture highlights the success of Naturtejo Geopark

5 February (Diário Digital) – João Soares highlights the success of Naturtejo Geopark

6 February (Diário de Coimbra) - Naturtejo Geopark reiterate cultural values

8 February (Turisver) - Naturtejo Geopark celebrated a decade of success

10 February (Povo da Beira) - Tradition and animation brand the Olive Oil and Smoked Meat Festival in Proença-a-Velha

10 February (Povo da Beira) - Naturtejo Geopark streamlines school contest

11 February (Reconquista) - President of Naturtejo requires more help in promotion - Geopark increased tourist offer

11 February (Reconquista) – Olive Oil and Smoked Sausage threw a party

12 February (Diário de Coimbra – Supplement) - Naturtejo Geopark marked 10 years of activity

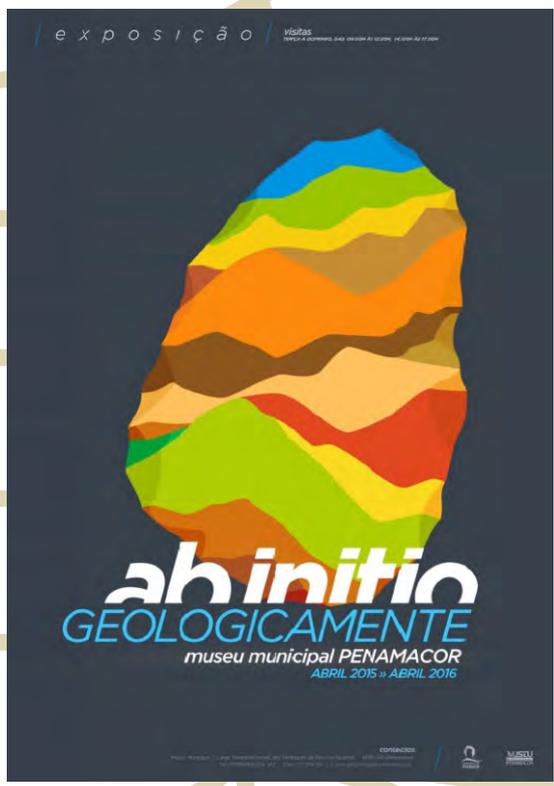
17 February (Gazeta do Interior) - Proença-a-Velha gives a taste of olive oil and Smoked

SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE GEOPARK AND THE GEOSCIENCES



- Ramos, G.M.A. (2015) - Institutional innovation, tourism and development in low density territories. The case of Naturtejo Geopark. Doctoral thesis, Geography Dept, University of Coimbra.

PROMOTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC



Até Abril de 2016



Campanha de Primavera

Escavações Arqueológicas
20 de Março a 3 de Abril
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Bateria das Batarias (Ponte do Alvito)
Linha Defensiva das Talhadas-Moradal

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**PENAMACOR
20 MARÇO**

Concentração dos participantes,
pelas 9:30h, no Terreiro de S. António

INFORMAÇÕES E INSCRIÇÕES

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PROMOTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC



LX ENCONTRO DE CANTARES QUARESMAIS

FORUM CULTURAL DE IDANHA-A-NOVA, 19 MARÇO DE 2016, PELAS 21H30

Grupo de Trajes e Cantares de Cambra - Vouzela (Beira Alta)
Amentar das Almas

Grupo de Alcains - Castelo Branco (Beira Baixa)
Encomendação das Almas e Ladainhas

Grupo de Lavacolhos - Fundão (Beira Baixa)
Os Penitentes

Grupo de Idanha-a-Nova - Idanha-a-Nova (Beira Baixa)
Encomendação das Almas

Adufeiras de Monsanto - Idanha-a-Nova (Beira Baixa)
Cânticos da Encomendação das Almas, Martins, Verónica, Três-Marias e outros

MESA REDONDA com Pedro Serrano, Florentino Beirão, Abílio Guerra, Maria da Conceição Sousa Silveira e Maria Amélia Fonseca.
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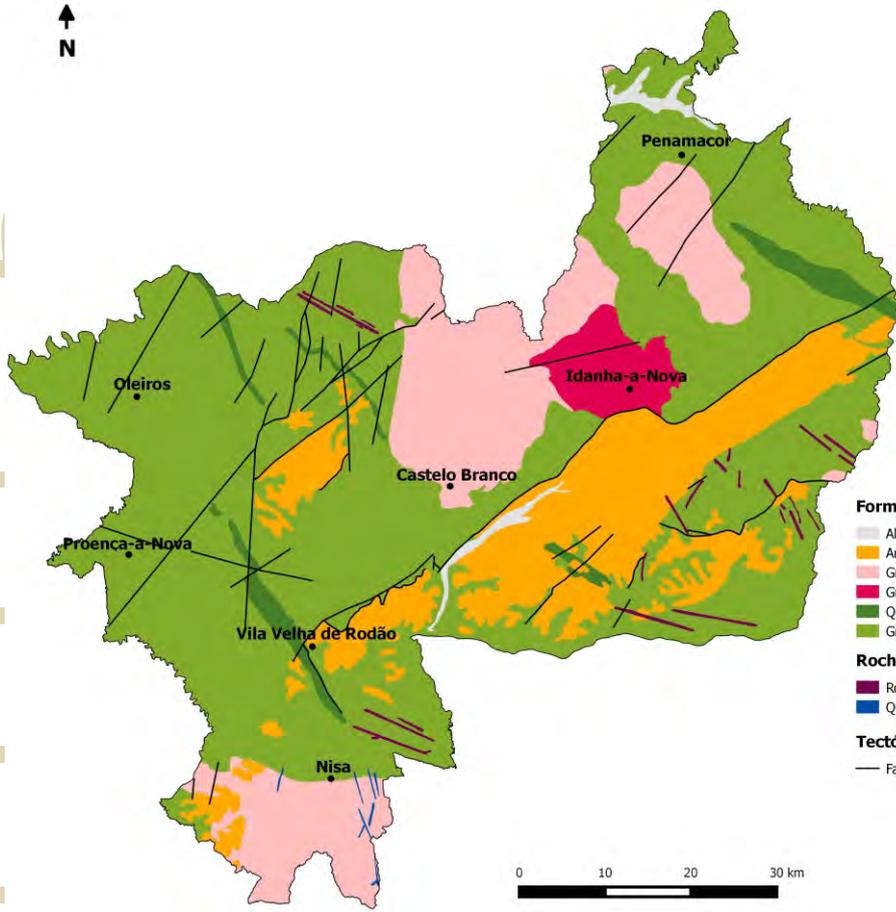
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Formações geológicas (Ma-Milhões de anos)

- Aluviões e terraços fluviais - Plistocénico-Holocénico (1Ma-presente)
- Arcoses, brechas e conglomerados - Eocénico-Pliocénico (50-2.6Ma)
- Granitóides orogénicos tardi-Variscos (315-300Ma)
- Granodioritos pré-Variscos (480-472Ma)
- Quartzito Armoricano e xistos - Ordovício-Silúrico Inferior (488-435Ma)
- Grupo das Beiras (xistos e grauvaques) - Neoproterozóico (610-542Ma)

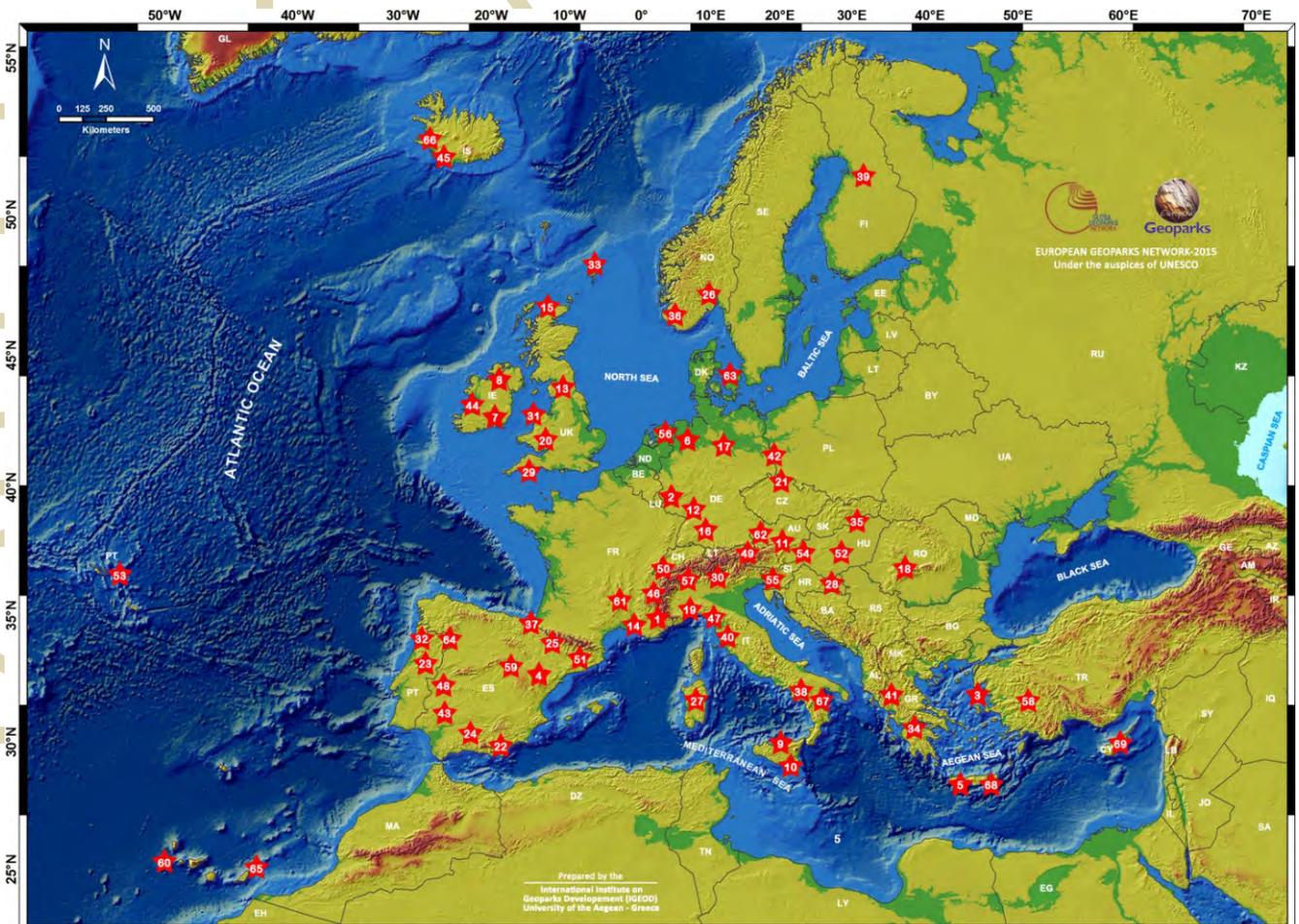
Rochas Intrusivas

- Rochas básicas, apíticas e pegmatíticas
- Quartzito

Tectónica

- Falhas principais

Geoparks: Geology with human face





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