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# **MONTHLY ACTIVITIES**

**Measures against the social and economic crisis COVID-19 in the municipalities of Naturtejo Geopark** The pandemic continues to escalate around the world. There are now more than 10 million people infected and more than 500,000 deaths worldwide. In Portugal an endless plateau has been reached. Almost 42,000 people were infected and 1568 lost their lives by the end of June. In Naturtejo Geopark, the numbers have grown in the last month and have reached four of the seven municipalities, now totalling 37 infected. With the exiting of the coronavirus lockdown and widespread relaxation of social distancing measures, the municipalities of Naturtejo Geopark territory continue to do their best to prevent the pandemic from spreading in what is one of the country's most ageing regions.

Many municipalities have distributed free masks en masse. The Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova started delivering surgical and community masks to the population of the municipality, as well as disinfectant gel. The kit is being distributed with the support of the post office national company, to minimize unnecessary contacts, and is estimated to have reached four thousand homes. The municipality of Oleiros has distributed 11 thousand reusable masks free of charge to the inhabitants. Taking into account the continued epidemiological situation in the country, the Municipality of Penamacor has been distributing individual protection equipment and disinfectant gel to all traders and entrepreneurs in the municipality.

But job losses have been widespread and social difficulties are increasing. Since the beginning of the COVID 19 Pandemic, the Municipality of Penamacor has provided several social supports, namely the distribution of food baskets to households in the municipality whose children and young people are attending school. Considering the increased difficulties and constraints caused in these critical times, the municipality intends to extend this support to other residents or households in a situation of greater social vulnerability and whose monthly income has been proven to have been significantly reduced, through the delivery of food baskets and goods. In a particularly difficult period for families, the municipality of Idanha-a-Nova extended the number of beneficiaries of food support from its Social Bank by more than 100%. At the moment, 291 residents are beneficiaries of food support, who receive a balanced basket of food every month, designed to ensure the quantity, diversity and quality appropriate to the needs of households. This action currently moves more than three tons of food. Its sources are the Food Bank Against Hunger, reinforced by the municipality to create a Standard Basket, and the food support programme of the Social Security Institute (POAPMC), which has also been increasing the number of beneficiaries. The municipality of Nisa has also co-financed the elderly population identified in the Nisa Social programme with medicines.

The necessary school return and the continuation of distance learning for most school years posed major challenges for a rural population, which the municipalities sought to address. The Municipality of Castelo Branco distributed 400 computers, with 3 months of guaranteed internet, which aim to support students in need. The Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova delivered computer equipment to students with identified needs in this area, with the aim of providing better monitoring of distance learning, following the preventive measures of the outbreak of COVID-19. The municipality distributed 140 laptop computers and 185 tablets, in an investment of around 94 thousand Euros. The Internet access equipment was donated by companies connected to the municipality of Idanha-a-Nova. With this measure, the municipality contributes so that all students have the same learning conditions and the fact that they cannot have access to their classes in person, due to the current pandemic, does not translate into school failure. The Municipality of Penamacor has developed the Supplementary Environmental Study, integrated in the scope of the Integrated and Innovative Plan to Combat School Failure, and carried out using the Radio Voz da Raia, based in the municipality. This program goes on air on Thursdays at 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., and is carried out in conjunction with the teachers of the Ribeiro Sanches School Group, and is aimed at students who are attending the 2nd, 3rd and 4th years of the 1st cycle. The aim of this initiative is to reach all students, not excluding those who do not have adequate technological means to access computer tools and online. Regarding the schools reopening, the Municipality of Nisa carried out a coronavirus screening test on the teaching and non-teaching staff of Nisa Schools Group. The action also included operational assistants and technical assistants who work in that school infrastructure as well as teachers from the 11th and 12th grade classes who will resume, on May 18, the classroom activities in the subjects where the students will take national exams. The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation presented how the Gulbenkian Academy of Knowledge of Idanha-a-Nova, a project aimed at children and young people, reinvented itself during the confinement. The Knowledge Academy began working in the classrooms in February this year but, faced with the pandemic situation, it had to adapt and start operating at distance. Its activities then reached the children through the Internet, but also through more traditional means: by mail and radio. The work basis done at the Gulbenkian Academy of Knowledge of Idanha-a-Nova is the book 'Yellow's Troubles', by Pedro Rosário.

#### **GEOPARK NATURTEJO - GEOPARQUE MUNDIAL DA UNESCO - E-MAGAZINE**

From the book, activities are proposed to work social and emotional skills in children and young people. For six weeks, every Tuesday at Radio Clube de Monsanto, a programme dedicated to the activities of the Academy of Knowledge was broadcast supported by the Gulbenkian Foundation.

Meanwhile, hotels and catering industry has returned to receive customers. The "CLEAN & SAFE" establishment seal, awarded by Turism of Portugal, aims to recognize tourist activities and equipments committed to comply with the recommendations issued by the National Tourism Authority, in conjunction with the guidelines of the Health Autorities, to reduce the risks of contamination in their spaces with SARS-CoV-2 or other infections. Naturtejo not only obtained this seal but also provided information to all its associates and partners so they can be recognised as safe tourism spaces. The tourist offices have reopened in the municipalities with reinforced security measures. Several municipalities helped to establish the national ADAPTAR programme, a financial support for the reconversion of micro, small and medium companies.

Betting on the valorisation of their patrimony, the municipalities took advantage of the period of confinement to carry out works. The municipality of Oleiros invested half a million euros in the recovery and improvement of Geo-Rota do Orvalho and access to the Fraga da Água d'Alta. The beauty of the work carried out framed by the landscape of the Muradal Mountain has already attracted more than 20000 curious people after the deconfinement and even before the inauguration of the new infrastructure. The Municipality of Nisa, through its Brigade of Forest Sappers, recently cleaned the access road to the Chapel of Our Lady of Redonda, in Alpalhão, as well as the access and surroundings to the Dolmen of São Gens. Beyond the cleaning of isolated heritage spaces, the Municipality of Nisa is carrying out a project to improve a footpath in the village of Amieira do Tejo. The intervention aims the creation of a wooden walkway, with a suspended bridge, in an extension of about 1 km, which begins near the Fratel Dam and converges with the PR1 NIS - Jans Trail. At the beginning of the Trail "Figueiró Walkway", a glass viewpoint will be installed over the waters of the Tejo River, a distinctive feature that will enrich the offer in the vast network of walking trails and, consequently, the nature tourism in Nisa municipality. The new trail will also have a Birdwatching point on the right bank of Figueiró Stream. Several municipalities have promoted, through their platforms, virtual guided tours to their museum spaces.

The numerous spring festivals that enliven the region had to be cancelled or changed to original formats. The Municipality of Castelo Branco organised the Irresistible Flavours 2020 - online edition, from May 29th to June 7th. In order to promote and support the dissemination and marketing of regional products, this initiative included the creation of an online product sales platform. Traditional Products, Handicraft companies and Restaurants interested in joining this initiative were able to participate in this event. In addition, the Festival walked the streets of the city in the form of "Concerts on Wheels", in a bus where several artists performed for the audience gathered in the balconies and windows. The second BiodivSummit celebrated the International Day of Biodiversity with the theme "Water in the World and the World of Water - What Future?". The Conference brought researchers and experts to the Proença-a-Nova Living Science Forest Center, from where it was available online and live to the world through the Municipality of Proença-a-Nova platform. The Municipal Gymnasium of Idanha-a-Nova is holding group classes outdoor. Thus, young people, adults and elderly can have regular classes in the open-air auditorium of Raiano Cultural Centre, contributing to a good physical and psychic condition.

#### #GeoparkNaturtejoEmCasa



**May - #NaturtejoGeoparkAtHome (#GeoparqueNaturtejoEmCasa).** With the renewal of the confinement recommendations, Naturtejo Geopark continues to strengthen the online platform #NaturtejoGeoparkAtHome (#GeoparqueNaturtejoEmCasa), gathering digital content that can be explored at home. Students Juliana Rodrigues, Cátia Cardoso and Miguel Salvado from the Professional Higher Technical Course in Multimedia Product Development, from the Polytechnic Institute of Castelo Branco, currently doing internship in Naturtejo Geopark, besides several graphic contents related to the current situation have also developed hobbies for a children and youth audience. The #NaturtejoGeoparkAtHome, in permanent update, also gathers suggestions from several partners, namely from the Mines Guide and UNESCO Global Geoparks. In addition, the sharing of educational resources of its own and other partner entities is maintained, on Naturtejo Geopark facebook page and on the microsite www.geonaturescola.com. The videos and online missions of the "Earth School" Program (https://ed.ted.com/earth-school), are also shared daily on the Geopark Facebook.

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**May - Contacts with Geopark Members and Partners about standards, opening date and "Clean & Safe" Seal.** Tourism of Portugal provides the "Clean & Safe" seal to distinguish companies in the tourism sector that comply with the recommendations of the Directorate-General for Health to avoid contamination of spaces with the new coronavirus. As part of the seal created by Tourism of Portugal, all Members and Partners are being contacted in order to raise awareness to the importance of obtaining the "Clean & Safe" Seal (with information on the necessary measures for social distancing, hygiene and cleaning of establishments), reinforcing confidence in Portugal as a "safe" destination.

May - Website update www.naturtejo.com - Accommodation and Restaurants (partners and associates) - in progress. The website content is currently being updated at www.naturtejo.com, namely, Associates and Partners that already have the Clean & Safe seal, promoted by Tourism of Portugal.

**5, 9, 14 and 23rd May - Maintenance of the planted area at Tapada do Sobral.** Manuel Catana and Catarina Caria continued the maintenance work of the area planted and sown with native species during last year's Autochthonous Forest Week in Tapada do Sobral, Idanha-a-Nova.

**6th May – Mixteca Alta Global Geopark hosts webinar on the impacts of the pandemic on UNESCO Geoparks.** The third anniversary of the Mixteca Alta Geopark in Mexico was marked by an international virtual forum where several UNESCO Global Geoparks participated. This forum discussed the social and economic impacts of the pandemic on geoparks and how they have responded. Carlos Neto de Carvalho represented Naturtejo Geopark as a partner of the Mexican counterpart.



**6th May - Virtual Meeting of the Partners of the Guide of the Portuguese Geological and Mines Sites.** Given the impossibility of holding the Annual Meeting of the Guide of Mines Partners, scheduled for July, the Partners met virtually in order to resume contacts between the group at the time of confinement. Partners shared their experience and presented alternative strategies they have developed in the last months. Much of the meeting focused on the debate of the impact of the pandemic situation on tourism activity in all locations of the Mine Guide and possible solutions for future times, especially for the summer period. Strategies for visitation and interaction with the public are being reorganised, adopting the authorities' recommendations and strengthening security measures. The Partners and the Guide are also reprogramming activities for the coming months and developing new tools to exploit the Sites. Naturtejo Geopark was represented by Joana Rodrigues.

8th May – Meeting between Tourism of Portugal and Portuguese Geoparks. The Tourism of Portugal met with the geoparks to define a technical partnership and the main objectives are:

Structuring the national geoparks network, aiming at improving the product and the tourist experience in network logic;

Increasing of sustainability and safety practices as differentiating elements of this tourism offer;

A concerted approach of promotion at national and international level.

As part of the networking to be initiated, investment projects that meet the needs of the network could be identified, as well as possible sources of funding to be launched in the near future - national and EU. In Tourism of Portugal, the monitoring of the network will be done by the Directorate for the Valorisation of Supply, Leonor Picão and the Department for the Dynamisation of Supply and Resources, with Teresa Ferreira and João Portugal.

All Geoparks agreed on the relevance of networking, confirming their willingness and commitment to move forward with this articulation process. All Geoparks review the areas of intervention in the working document proposed by Tourism of Portugal. All Geoparks have already developed work that can be enhanced in the context of the network. It was mentioned the contribution that this work can bring to the 3 strategic focuses of the TP: territorial cohesion at the level of the tourism business; mitigation of tourism seasonality; growth in value.

Areas for starting work:

Safety - risk and fire prevention; codes of conduct; health safety - Clean&Safe seal

Training for companies and partners - define themes and plan; deepen the theme "profile of the geopark guide" Network products - assess what is feasible to develop in the short and medium term (see examples in the working document and others)

Geoparks signage - situation point and definition of the action

Websites Communication - good practices, improvement areas, information to share

Monitoring - identifying common information sharing tools

Promotional actions - Tourism of Portugal will assess with ERT and ARPT the issue of the promotion of Geoparks, in the framework of the promotion plans of these entities. Naturtejo Geopark had the participation in this virtual meeting of Armindo Jacinto, Joana Rodrigues, Carlos Neto de Carvalho, Manuela Catana, Rafael André and the consultant Fábio Lourenço.



# 13th and 15th May - Training "Clean & Safe, Travel Agencies and Tourism" - promoted by Tourism of Portugal. With eyes set on the recovery of the tourism sector, Tourism of Portugal launched the 'Clean&Safe'

seal for companies in the tourism sector that comply the recommendations of the Directorate General of Health to avoid contamination of spaces with SARS-CoV-2. The training was attended by Carla Jacinto.

## Visita virtual exclusiva à nova plataforma Webinar Dinamizado pelo SmartFarmer da Beira Interior



**15th May – Naturtejo Geopark and partners develop Food Hub.** The SmartFarmer e-commerce platform was presented, a social business that aims to facilitate the access of small and medium farmers to the market, under fair conditions, giving priority to proximity and sustainability. This is a social business of the NPO Oikos developed with the mission to suppor small and medium-sized farmers to sell more and better, bringing them closer to consumers and promoting online purchase, whenever possible, directly to the producer.

This project is based on a network of local partners who maintain a close relationship with the farmers in the network. In this way, Naturtejo Geopark will participate in the SmartFarmer network as Food Hub, a local management unit. The Food Hub of Naturtejo Geopark will include the geoproducers of the territory, sharing common values related to the promotion of local economy, nature conservation, sustainability and fair market access.

The public presentation of the project took place by videoconference, bringing together farmers, producers and local partners, with a virtual visit to the new platform.

**22nd May – Geoparks develops strategies with Tourism of Portugal.** After the organization of the working group of the Portuguese Geoparks with the Tourism of Portugal, an intense joint work was started in order to respond to several challenges regarding the resumption of tourism activity, after the period of confinement resulting from the current pandemic.

The Tourism of Portugal, the UNESCO Global Geoparks of Naturtejo, Arouca, Azores and Terras de Cavaleiross and the Aspiring Estrela came together again, aiming to improve the product and tourist experience in network logic. Common cleaning and hygiene procedures to be adopted in the activities of the Geoparks were discussed, as well as codes of conduct for self-protection of visitors. A training and education plan has also begun to be prepared. Communication strategies of UNESCO Global Geoparks destinations were discussed in order to strengthen tourists' confidence. Joana Rodrigues and João Pousinho represented Naturtejo Geopark.



**25th May to 10th June – Landscape Festival – Digital European Geoparks Week.** The Landscape Festival is the great event of Naturtejo Geopark for the promotion of its territory. But this European Geopark Week has gone digital. During the Festival period, the 17 Geomonuments that characterize Naturtejo Geopark were introduced. Day by day we created stories to Discover our Geomonuments. A photo and a story were the starting point for a trip to the most beautiful places in the territory classified by UNESCO. This edition also resulted in a set of videos for the Discover... series, produced by Venezuelan photographer Jesus Salazar, which will present the main geological landscapes and geomonuments of Naturtejo Geopark.

**26th May - Participation in the Webinar "Provere Centre of Portugal - Post-Covid-19 Strategies" - Promoted by Tourism Centre of Portugal .** A new session of the videoconference cycle "See Portugal ON", promoted by Tourism Centre of Portugal, took place. This time, dedicated to the theme "PROVERE Centre of Portugal: Post-COVID-19 Strategies" and where the iNature network was represented which includes Naturtejo Geopark, as well as the Historical Villages of Portugal, the Schist Villages and the Central Thermal Spa, as well as the Coordination and Development Central Commission. Carla Jacinto, Alice Marcelo and Joana Rodrigues attended this Webinar.



26th May – Participation on promotional film about walking trails in Proença-a-Nova.

**26th May – Participation on promotional film about walking trails in Proença-a-Nova.** The Municipality of Proença-a-Nova is preparing a virtual celebration of the Municipality day, Proença Onfesta. On the next 12th and 13th there will be a non-stop broadcast on the online platform of the Municipality of Proença-a-Nova where it is intended to show the best of this municipality. Carlos Neto de Carvalho was invited to present the Geomonument Portas de Almourão, in a promotional video about the Great Route of Cortiçada and the municipal network of walking trails coordinated by the head of this municipality, Isabel Gaspar.

**27th and 28th May - Training Portugal 2020 - How to Prepare an Application to Community Funds - by QVO LEGIS - Training and Consulting** This training was attended by Carla Jacinto, having as main objectives to know the structure and concepts of "Portugal 2020" and the success factors for the approval of an application to "Portugal 2020".



**28th May – Geofood Partners Meeting.** UNESCO Global Geoparks, partners of the GEOfood brand, met to take stock of the implementation of the brand in the various territories. The new GEOfood Manifesto, developed by Geopark Magma (Norway), with the collaboration of Naturtejo Geopark, was presented, a guiding document that presents the philosophy behind the concept. The partners discussed specific aspects regarding the criteria, their operationalization and also joint promotion.

This meeting was attended by Geoparks Magma, Rokua, Terras de Cavaleiros, Arouca, Vis Archipelago, Sesia Val Grande, Karawenken, Styrian Eisenwurzen, Tuscan Mining and Naturtejo, represented by Joana Rodrigues.





## **IMPACT OF GEOPARK IN MEDIA**

### Newspapers & www

28th May (Descla) – Along the trails of Portugal - Gardunha Trail, Castelo Branco



# SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE GEOPARK AND THE GEOSCIENCES

- Albuquerque, T., Roque, N., Rodrigues, J., Antunes, M. & Siva, C. - Groundwater Vulnerability Assessment in the Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark, Portugal. In Abrunhosa, M., Chambel, S., Peppoloni, S. & Chaminé, H. (eds.), Book of Abstracts of the Geoethics & Groundwater Management Congress, 18-22 May 2020, Porto, Portugal, p. 47



## **PROMOTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC**



#### 3º Aniversario del Geoparque Mundial UNESCO Mixteca Alta

Martes 5 de mayo de 2020		10:00 a 13:00 horas Aspectos generales del GMUMA	
Horario	Título	Ponentes	
10:00-10:15 hrs.	Presentación y bierwenida	Manuel Suárez Lastra, Director del Instituto de Geografía de la UNAM José Luis Palacio Prieto, Director de la ENCIT de la UNAM, Coordinador del SUGeo Prof. Aarón Paz Zambrano, Presidente del Geoparque Mundial UNESCO Mixteca Alta	
10:15-11:00 hrs.	El Geoparque Mundial UNESCO Mixteca Alta, surgimiento de la idea y nombramiento	Oralla Oropeza Orozco, Instituto de Geografía de la UNAM	
	Características del Geoparque Mundial UNESCO Mixteca Alta, una visión general	José Luis Palacio Prieto	
11:45-13:00 hrs.	El entorno cultural del Geoparque Mundial	Dr. Ronald Spores	
	UNESCO Mixteca Alta; notas sobre la evolu- ción histórica de la Mixteca Alta		
		10:00-13:15 Los Geoparques en el mundo	
	ción histórica de la Mixteca Alta		
<b>Miércoles</b> Horario	ción histórica de la Mixteca Alta	Los Geoparques en el mundo Ponentes	
Miércoles Horario 10:00-10:30 hrs	ción histórica de la Mixteca Alta <b>5 6 de mayo de 2020</b> <u>Título</u> Mensaje de la Red de Geoparques de Améri-	Los Geoparques en el mundo Ponentes Patricio Melo, Coordinador de la Red de Geoparques de América Latina y al Caribo Angel Hemnindez, Geoparque Mundial UNESCO Maestrazgo, Carlos	
Miércoles Horario 10:00-10:30 hrs 10:30-12:00 hrs	ción histórica de la Mixteca Alta <b>5 6 de mayo de 2020</b> <b>Título</b> Mensaje de la Red de Geoparques de Améri- ca Latina ya l'Caribe Situación de los desparques en el mundo	Los Geoparques en el mundo Ponentes Particio Meio, Coordinador de la Red de Geoparques de América Latina y di Cariba Angol Hernández, Geoparque Mundial UNESCO Maestrazgo; Carlos Cavarilos, Ceoparque Mundial UNESCO Martes La Javie Apez Cabaliter y José María Barrea, Geoparque Mundial UNESCO Martes La Javie Apez Cabaliter y Jara, Esgonis Biotonó, Geoparque Mundial UNESCO Martalisa, Javie Cabalitor particia Herrera, Geoparque Mundial UNESCO Martalisa, Javie Schill Ramínez, Geoparque Mundial UNESCO Martalisa, Javie Sofitivia Martinez, Bergarane Mundial UNESCO Martalisa, Delas Gordinia, Javie Schill Martinez, Geoparque Mundial UNESCO Martalisa, Delas Gordinia, Javie Schill Ramínez, Geoparque Mundial UNESCO Martalisa, Delas Gordinia, Javie Schill Ramínez, Geoparque Mundial UNESCO Martalisa, Delas Gordinia, Javie Schill Ramínez, Geoparque Mundial UNESCO Martalisa, Delas Javies J	





## PROMOÇÃO PARA O PÚBLICO EM GERAL



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#### Geoparks: Geology with human face



NATURTEJO UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK - E-MAGAZINE

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