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# CRUZIANA

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









#### GEO-stories of our places and people: Freixial do Campo

In the granite plain of Castelo Branco extends between paths Freixial do Campo. In agricultural land there are few evidences of granite outcrops hidden among pine forests. But there we find a huge rock mushroom and in the western edge, in the small quartzite ridge hiding the small village of Barbaído, in the valley of Tripeiro River, we find evidences of Roman presence searching for El Dorado in a small gold mine and in Buraca da Moura possibly from before the Empire. Búzio Menhir and Cuco Necropolis tell us this territory with 18,62km2 is a land of ancient human presence. In Freixial do Campo, Vale da Barrocas and Barbaído live 468 inhabitants from the land, not always generous, where olive trees and a flammable forest persists in terrifying lives and properties. However, changing life challenges into art of living was always the daily routine of these people. Freixial do Campo integrated recently the Artistic Villages Project which brought urban art into this rural world. The murals created still persist in the village maybe to remind that it takes creativity to not let die the rurality. The country with its lands named after plants could be the bridge between an urbanity that empty territories and the ancestry of practices and traditions, not to forget technological societies cannot survive without what the Earth provides to our ultimate existence as biological beings. The cities are welcome in Freixial do Campo!

Cover: (Projecto Objectiva: Geopark)

The editor Carlos Neto de Carvalho Scientific coordinator Geologist

## **MONTHLY ACTIVITIES**





**3 March – Field trip for the Accredited Training Course for teachers "Naturtejo Geopark -UNESCO Global Geopark as educational resource"-2nd Edition.** This field trip was aimed for 19 teachers who attend the training course "Naturtejo Geopark – UNESCO Global Geopark as educational resource". The field trip named "Travel through Bio/Geodiversity from the past and present in Naturtejo Geopark – UNESCO Global Geopark". Participants discovered two of the geomonuments integrated in the Educational Programmes of Naturtejo Geopark: the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia (including a visit to the fossil's house) and the Erges Gorge in Segura (including a visit to the Interpretative Centre for Biodiversity "Lands of Idanha"). In Segura the group visited a partner company of Naturtejo Geopark, Aromas do Valado. The teachers could apply the theoretical concepts discussed in the theoretical and practical sessions, as well as define the type of educational resource that would develop as a group. The trainer for this activity was Manuela Catana, supported by Catarina Caria.



**7 to 11 March - Naturtejo coordinates the Global Geoparks Network in the biggest tourism fair in the world.** With 20 Geoparks from all over the world, the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network has the biggest representation ever on ITB, the biggest tourism fair in the world, in Berlin, coordinated by Naturtejo Geopark. The success of this participation led Armindo Jacinto, president of Naturtejo, to announce the twofold space increase next year and the strengthening of promotion actions, in partnership with the School of Management of Idanha-a-Nova with Hotel and Restaurant Courses to promote local products and gastronomy in different Geoparks.

Visiting the tourism fair, the Portuguese Minister for Economy, Manuel Caldeira Cabral, and the Secretary of State for Tourism, Ana Mendes Godinho, expressed their support to the presence of UNESCO Global Geoparks Network. Naturtejo offered the Minister for Economy a Strawberry Tree to patronize, planting in Naturtejo Geopark and visit and monitor over time the growth of his tree.

The same offer was made to more than 70 journalists present for the press conference of UNESCO Global Geoparks Network and to the many professional visitors in ITB, so they may cooperate to recovery the burnt areas and do tourism in the territory, thereby contributing to its development, creating wealth and jobs.



12 and 13 March - Funiushan Geopark authorities visit Naturtejo Geopark. Four directors of Funiushan Geopark - UNESCO Global Geopark visited the territory of Naturtejo Geopark. This visit of four authorities from Henan Province, in China, is a result from a partnership developed with Naturtejo Geopark, signed in the city of Nanyang in July last year. This partnership takes place within the framework of UNESCO Geoparks Programme which aims to get closer two regions concerning tourist promotion and development of rural areas. The delegation of Funiushan also attended ITB in Berlin, invited by Naturtejo who coordinates the participation of 20 UNESCO Geoparks in Europe, Middle East and China, on the biggest and most important tourism fair in the world. The Chinese representatives were received by Mayors of the municipalities within Naturtejo Geopark, Castelo Branco, Idanha-a-Nova, Oleiros, Proença-a-Nova and Vila Velha de Ródão for an iniciative called "Responsible Reforestation", in the Living Science Forest Center in Proença-a-Nova. This initiative intends to not forget the major losses experienced in the region by the fires last year, so the mayors planted native trees of the region, in addition to an orange tree symbolizing the historical relations between Portugal and China. Still on the same day, besides the biggest reference of education on Sciences and environment of the Living Science Forest Center, the Chinese representatives visited the project of Barrocal Park and the Museum Network in Castelo Branco with the mayor of this Municipality. Funiushan region is known by its fossils of dinosaur nests in Xixia and the granitic landscapes with towers and peaks, with a tourism based on five parks and a network of museums which attracts millions of visitors every year.

The Chinese authorities were received in Idanha-a-Nova by the President of the Administration Board of Naturtejo and President of the Municipality, Armindo Jacinto, who took them to know the new project of Bio-Region, not forgetting the important geological heritage which is the major foundation for the development of tourism in the municipality, both in Termas de Monfortinho as in Monsanto.



14 March - Valorisation plan of Natural Park of Tejo International 2018-2022 in development.

**14 March - Valorisation plan of Natural Park of Tejo International 2018-2022 in development.** Naturtejo Geopark was invited to cooperate on the preparation of the Valorisation plan of Natural Park of Tejo International 2018-2022, currently developed within the framework of a national Pilot Project to Cooperative Management of PNTI. This project aims to protect its values and initiate the promotion processes and territorial resources through a proximity management.

On this stage Naturtejo Geopark also participates in meetings in the parish villages of PNTI, by Joana Rodrigues. This meeting took place in Perais, to community scrutiny. This meeting was attended by some Partners, Vale de Aromas, who, despite the recent activity, recognized the importance of promoting natural heritage for his economic activity.



**14 March – Field trip "Fossils in Penha Garcia and Boulders in Monsanto" and visit to the Ponsul Fault Scarp.** This activity was attended by 54 students and 4 teachers from the School Group Nuno Álvares, in Castelo Branco. The field trip was conducted within the framework of the subjects of Biology and Geology for 11th grade. Students could watch the Ponsul Fault Scarp in Idanha-a-Nova and the Devesa thrust fault so they applied some concepts already learned in classes. Due to bad weather in Monsanto instead the Boulders Trail, the group attended a presentation on Inselberg of Monsanto analysing photos of the stopovers along the trail and also a documentary on the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia, in the Tourist Office of Monsanto. The Fossils Trail in Penha Garcia was also shortened but students could analyse some quartzite slabs with Cruziana near Pego Dam. The guides for this activity was Catarina Caria and Manuela Catana.

**17 March – Tourist Program at Naturtejo Geopark.** A group of 45 tourists brought by the Travel Agency Rotas do Sul, from Castro Verde, southern Portugal, came to visit Naturtejo Geopark. After lunch in Penha Garcia, Rui Nunes guided the group through the Fossils Trail passing by the Knights Templar Castle, the Ichnological Park (fossils) and the watermills. Later they visited the Historical Village of Monsanto, a unique experience for each visitor. Rising atop the Granite Inselberg of Monsanto and down through the narrow streets at the bottom. Besides the magnificent granite houses, the Mercy Church, the Lucano Tower, the Knights Templar Castle, the anthropomorphic graves, the 13 Bowls rock also stand out, among so many other stunning places.



17 and 18 March – Jewish and Catholic Easter Celebrations in Medelim. The 4th edition of "Jewish and Catholic Easter" took place in Medelim, with dramatizations, historical recreations, conferences, Jewish and Christian gastronomy, Knights Templar processions and Jewish music. Under the motto "One Celebration, Two Cultures", Medelim is the meeting point of Jewish and Christian communities, in an event inspired by local traditions and organized by the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova, the Parish of Medelim, and supported by Naturtejo Geopark. Besides the entertainment, the streets of Medelim showed taverns and exhibitors with local and kosher products, delighting all visitors. Saturday, the highlight went to the Balconies Trail, the book presentation "Aristides Sousa Mendes, Memories of a grandchild" by António Moncada S. Mendes, live cooking, dramatizations of Jewish and Christian traditions, the Jewish concert "Words of Love" by Noa Noa in the Mercy Church of Medelim and the celebration of Purim with a show of Theatre and Fire.

On Sunday, the Chef Valdir Lubave prepared a kosher breakfast, followed by a debate on Jewish influence on Christian gastronomy. In the afternoon there were dramatizations and processions representing rituals and traditions of both communities.



**18 to 20 March – 4th Meeting of the European ESTEAM Project in Slovenia.** The 4th partners meeting of the ESTEAM project, financed by the European programme Erasmus+ took place in ·rni Vrh, Idrija and Ljubljana (Slovenia). Manuela Catana and Mariana Vilas Boas represented Naturtejo Geopark – UNESCO Global Geopark, and André Azeiteiro represented the School Group José Silvestre Ribeiro in Idanha-a-Nova.

Idrija Geopark – UNESCO Global Geopark arranged the meeting in partnership with the Elementary School of ·rni Vrh and the Geology Department of Ljubljana University. The ESTEAM project elapses between September 2016 and September 2019. The project has three phases, and at this point the partners successfully complete the first – research national curricula in teaching Natural Sciences in Portugal, Norway and Slovenia, and the result is the e-book published in: http://esteamproject.wixsite.com/mysite/por-2.

The analysis held on the first phase of the project presented some precious and stimulating information on the needs felt by teachers and students of Natural Sciences, as well as the point of view of future teachers.

These results will form the basis for contents, methodologies and outdoor activities to include in the educational App being created. An effort was also made to add to the App everyday practical examples so that knowledge acquired can be used in daily life. One part of the App aims to study, check and test knowledge. In the end, it will be an educational tool for teaching Natural Sciences at home and at School.

Most of the 4th meeting was dedicated to the concept, content and technical specifications of the App which may be used both in mobile phones and tablets. During the 3rd period of the school year the pilot versions will be tested, prepared with previously defined tasks, applied outdoor in field trips which will result on answers later analysed and evaluated. The next phase will be testing the App, the trial version in the beginning of next school year. In 2019 all parts of the entities participating in the project will be subject to platform training and will carry out several dissemination actions. Each of the three Geoparks will formally present the learning tool and promote this new learning tool. Naturtejo Geopark will dedicate the App to the Geomonument Inselberg of Monsanto using a part of the Boulders Trail.

In the activities outside the meeting room, the partners were able to see the plateau ·rni Vrh and contact local culture and its unique heritage. They felt the hosts hospitality, visited the exhibition of local craftsman, tasted sweets and homemade delicacies. In Idrija they visited the new Interpretative Centre and the mercury foundry. The meeting ended with a short visit to the University of Natural Sciences and Engineering, a partner in the project, and the lovely city of Ljubljana.

The next ESTEAM partners meeting will happen this year in October in Naturtejo Geopark.



**19 to 23 March - European Geoparks Network Meeting at the cross border Geopark of Karavanke-Karawanken.** The 41st Meeting of the Advisory Committee of the European Geoparks Network took place in Klagenfurt, in the cross-border UNESCO Global Geopark Karawanken-Karavanke. Carlos Neto de Carvalho represented Naturtejo Geopark in a meeting to decide several proposals and activities of the European Geoparks Network for this year. As member of the Advisory Committee and coordinator of the working group for Tourism, Carlos Neto de Carvalho gave his contribution for the future of this regional network which includes the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network. More than 140 geoparks coordinators also had the chance to get to know the outstanding karst and mining heritage between Austria and Slovenia.



**23 March – Training at Geomonument Portas de Almourão.** Trainers from Naturtejo Geopark attended an outdoor training session on the Trail "Travel through the Earth's Bones", in Proença-a-Nova, with the geologist Joana Rodrigues. Simultaneously they also evaluated the state of conservation of the trails, with the arrival of Spring season, in an area pretty much affected by last Summer's fires.

**24 and 25 March – Spanish group visit Geopark with tour operator Sermar.** A group of 56 Spanish tourists from Valladolid, northern Spain, brought by Sermar and guided by Jorge Costa visited Naturtejo Geopark: Balconies Trail, Boulders Trail, walking down the Inselberg and walking to Idanha-a-Velha.

**24 and 25 March - Naturtejo Geopark receives the Sports and Cultural Group of the Insurance Company Fidelidade.** On this weekend, the Geopark welcomed a group of 28 participants to visit the Historical Village of Idanha-a-Velha and the Historic Centre of Penamacor. The second day was dedicated to hiking to discover Geodiversity, through the Boulder of Monsanto and the Fossils of Penha Garcia, guided by the partner company Geolife Tours.



**28 March - Field training for interns.** Within the framework of the internship program in Naturtejo Geopark, Inês Cerejo and Maria Lopes, students at the Superior School for Technology of IPCB, held field training with Joana Rodrigues, to collect base material to develop graphic work, as banners, posters, layouts and others. They visited several places as the walking trail "Discovering the River" and the "International Appalachian Trail", in Oleiros, and the Schist Village of Martim Branco.

- **29 March to 1 April Spanish Tour Operator in Naturtejo Geopark.** Jorge Costa accompanied a group of 17 Spanish tourists who chose the following program: Vultures Trail; Balconies Trail; Boulders of Monsanto walking down the Inselberg and walking to Idanha-a-Velha and the Fossils Trail.
- **29 March to 1 April Spanish Tour Operator Geographica visits Naturtejo Geopark.** Naturtejo Geopark hosted a group of 53 Spanish tourists for several visits, such as Monsanto and Idanha-a-Velha and also a boat tour in Vila Velha de Ródão. The group was accompanied by Susana, from the partner company Geolife.
- **29 March to 1 April Walking Trails and Cultural Program for Spanish tour operator.** The Spanish tour operator Arawak carried out another program through the Geopark with 55 participants accompanied by Rui Nunes. The group held the Fossils Trail in Penha Garcia and the Telhada Trail in Perais. The group also visited the Cargaleiro Museum and the Garden of the Episcopal Palace in Castelo Branco, the Urban Geology and Archaeology Trail in Vila Velha de Ródão AND THE Historical Village of Monsanto.



#### **IMPACT OF GEOPARK IN MEDIA**

#### TV & Radio

9 March (Rádio Cova da beira) – China Representatives visit "Naturtejo" 10 March (Rádio Castelo Branco) – Chinese visit Naturtejo Geopark

#### **Newspapers & www**

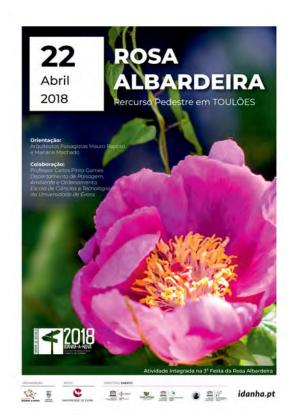
- 7 March (Povo da Beira) Penamacor New Tourist Map presented at BTL
- 7 March (Povo da Beira) Naturtejo Geopark offered one thousand trees during BTL to reforest the burnt area
- 7 March (Gazeta do Interior) At BTL Penamacor presents the new tourist map
- 7 March (Gazeta do Interior) Beira Baixa brand promoted at Tourism Fair in Lisbon
- 8 March (Reconquista) Chinese visit Naturtejo Geopark
- 8 March (Reconquista) Penamacor updates Tourist Map 10 March (Beira news) Chinese visit Naturtejo Geopark
- 14 March (Gazeta do Interior) Ambassador of Equatorial Guinea sponsors Pond garden
- 14 March (Povo da Beira) 4th Fossils Run registrations opened
- 14 March (Povo da Beira) Municipality promoted at BTL
- 14 March (Povo da Beira) Ambassador of Equatorial Guinea planted trees in the Pond garden
- 28 March (Gazeta do Interior) Surrounding área of Frágua de Água d'Alta will be recovered
- 29 March (Reconquista) Oleiros receives 2300 trees

### **PROMOTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

















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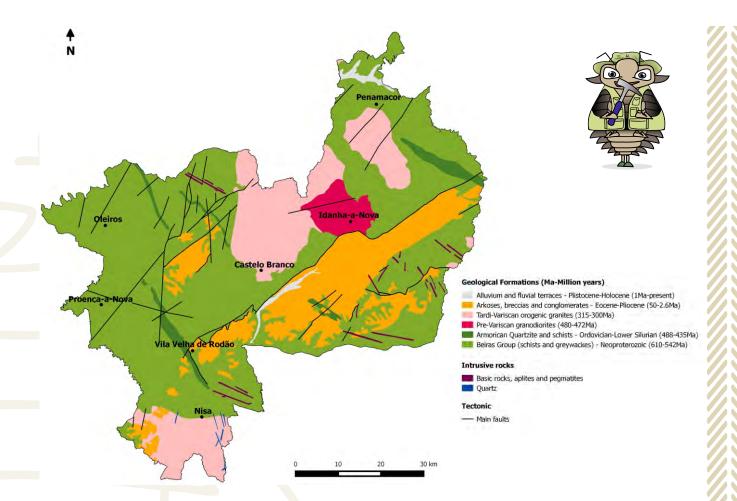
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### Geoparks: Geology with human face

