

CRUZIANA

Geopark Naturtejo da Meseta Meridional-European and Global Geopark monthly report



45

In this issue: – European Geoparks Week with the highest number of events – Cooperation agreement with Timor-Leste – Opening of the “Travelling Dinos” – Naturtejo manages nature tourism in the Centre Region...and more!



Olá/Hola/Ciao/Bonjour/Τεϊά σου/Hallo/God Dag/Salut/Zdravo/Hello

The fourth edition of the European Geoparks Week is dedicated to the landscape of Naturtejo Geopark. 40 events occurring in all the municipalities of the territory made from the Landscape Festival 2010 a starting success. This year's edition is marked by the strong support of municipalities, villages, local NGO's and sport clubs, and Tourism of Centre Region. During three weeks, between May 22 and June 13 there are trekking and mountain bike activities, educational programs, workshops with Living Science Centre of Forest, special visits to DinoExpo and to "Travelling Dinos", exhibitions, parties and events celebrating the International Year of Biodiversity. In this period of time a new way of tourism with GPS, the "geocaching", will be emphasized with special events letting know the "caches" already existent at the Geopark. Also, the winners of the school contest Climate Change and Biodiversity will be found by the Geopark.

Landscape Festival starts with the celebration of the International Day of Biodiversity. On 23rd Estreito Trails is launched as a new tourist footpath for the Geopark, and the 4th of Oleiros municipality. The Apiarist's Day is celebrated with the exhibition "In the Kingdom of Bees" at Proença-a-Nova.

Once again, Oleiros municipality gets deeply involved with the European Geoparks Week. On the 28th the World's Day of Energy is celebrated taking the students to a wind farm. The night of 29th is fueled with geoshots in the GeoParty at Açude Pinto fluvial beach. During the same weekend the Lamb Festival of Rosmaninhal promises to connect Mediterranean cultures through gastronomy, celebrating 500 years of the town. June starts with the Children's Day, promoting environmental fest at Idanha-a-Nova. The photo contest "Ruralities" is exposed at the Gallery of Oleiros. The Environment's Day is celebrated with cinema at Oleiros and in Living Science Centre of Forest. The 5th Orvalho Geotrail is ready for the success of former editions, but paying more attention to minimize ecological footprint. Astronomy and sunrise is promised for Corgas geosite, waking up this ancient landscape. On 6th, a mountain bike tour pretends to connect the geosites of Orvalho village. Starting on 10th, the almost 300 km mountain race Trip-Trail Geopark Naturtejo will cross the Geopark and unify the six municipalities. This European Geoparks Week ends on 13th in Penha Garcia with the "Water Trails from Monfortinho" by walking or riding horses, following the mountain to the borderland Termas de Monfortinho. For finishing this most important annual event for EGN, nothing better than the promise of a relaxing hydro massage at the thermal spa. With such a European Geoparks Week calendar and so frenetic moment, we should deserve to relax...

1. ACTIVITIES



May – **Internships at DinoExpo.** During May, Elisabete Mendes, a student from the course Rural and Environmental Tourism of the Commercial and Industrial Association from Castelo Branco made her final formation, in working context, at the Educational Area of DinoExpo, collaborating not only with Educational Programs but also with general public and disabled visitors. In the beginning of May, Elisabete visited the exhibition with her teacher and colleagues and proposed herself to make here her internship. Elísio Milheiro and Pedro Valente from Idanha-a-Nova Secondary School are in the 2nd year of the course Environment Management and also made their working context formation in the Educational Area. They boosted the Educational Digging Site and other practical activities. 1437 students participated in Dino.Expo educational programs only this month!

1-2nd May – **I Flower Festival at Aldeia de Santa Margarida.** Naturtejo Geopark supported the first edition of the Flower Festival, where people from Aldeia de Santa Margarida ornamented the streets with colourful flowers and more than 60 professionals presented and sold their traditional products and handcraft. Traditional sounds were also played for hundreds.



1-

2nd May – **II TTransGeopark 2010: from the Zêzere to Tejo rivers.** TTransGeopark of this year rolled over the spectacular tracks from the north of the Geopark, exploding of colors. Participants came from the south of Portugal to (re)discover a region with the help

of trained eyes. The organization of Casa do Forno and Naturtejo Geopark, including Carlos Neto de Carvalho, João Geraudes and Joana Rodrigues guided the participants to this ecological adventure.

This adventure, a mix of apprenticeship and environmental consciousness, betting on local resources, outstanding landscapes and minimization of the ecological footprint of tourist activity, started from the Schist Village of Álvaro. A very generous breakfast was provided by Oleiros County, with regional products and geo-cookies. After a visit to the village, the group departed to Orvalho following up to Zêzere river. Orvalho received TTransGeopark with a lunch at the geomorphological viewpoint of Cabeço Mosqueiro.

Participants crossed all the Gardunha range, between shales and granites, always with vast horizons. The end of the stage was in Ninho do Açor ethnographic museum, where a local winery prepared wine tasting. Dinner was marked by the geo-gastronomy of Casa do Forno and after, time to discover by foot the smuggling trails of Salvaterra do Extremo into the darkness of Erges Canyon geosite.

Next morning was made of fascinating landscapes along the Tejo Internacional Natural Park, between Segura and Rosmaninhal. Monforte da Beira received the off-road adventurers. Aldeia em Movimento local association prepared olive oil tasting and delicious biological cheese from a local farm.

With the support of locals, TTransGeopark reveals the best places of the Geopark, giving use to old tracks. The ecological footprint is always mitigated by environmental education initiatives such as planting of autochthonous trees, contributing for sustainable tourism.



3rd May – **Opening of the “Travelling Dinos” at Proença-a-Nova.** The “Travelling Dinos” is already a huge success. As a part of DinoExpo, this smaller exhibition aims to reach everybody by being closer in the small towns of Naturtejo Geopark, supporting also local initiatives. For 20 days dinosaurs invaded Proença-a-Nova and were visited by the whole schools from the area. The commitment of Proença-a-Nova was great so the exhibition received many visitors during the 1st Science and Technology Fair. The “Travelling Dinos” was launched with the presence of the President of Centre of Portugal Tourism Region,

Pedro Machado, Armindo Jacinto and João Manso, the vice-president of Naturtejo and responsible for tourism and culture at Proença-a-Nova; as well as Aart Walen, the owner of DinoExpo. A long opening visit was conducted by Carlos Neto de Carvalho.

3-5th May – Tourism Working Group gives Nature Tourism of Centre Region to Naturtejo. The Tourism Working Group is part of the Commission for Economy, Innovation and Energy Affairs from the Republic Assembly and visited the Centre region for three days. 18 deputies were chaired by the region's deputy Hortense Martins and Pedro Machado, president from Tourism of Centre Region. During this meeting, it was decided that Castelo Branco/Naturtejo Pole of the Tourism of Centre Region will manage the product Nature Tourism in this region. The new delegation of the Tourism of Centre Region will be located in Castelo Branco, including the city tourism office and Naturejo Geopark administrative office.



5-

6th May – Environmental Geology learned at the Geopark. 50 students, master students, PhD. Students and professors from the University of Lisbon visited the Geopark in a field trip organized for the courses of Exploitation and Management of Groundwater Resources and Land Management and Environmental Impact. During two days they studied management plans and projects for regional development. Armindo Jacinto provided the welcome at the headquarters of Naturtejo Geopark, Centro Cultural Raiano in Idanha-a-Nova, in a workshop presenting Naturtejo Geopark. Joana Rodrigues presented the geological heritage of the Geopark, as well as geoconservation measures and geotourist developments. Then, there was time for a long visit to Termas de Monfortinho sources, to learn about the hydrochemistry of the mineral waters. A short visit to the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia made by Carlos Neto de Carvalho resumed the importance of the geological heritage of the Geopark.

During the next day, Carlos Neto de Carvalho was also the catalyst for discussions about the protection of Portas de Almourão, with municipal technicians. The Declaration of Environmental Impact for the building of Alvito Dam was deeply discussed, as well as the change of place to save the geomonument. At Portas de Almourão the main subject was the economic opportunities created by environmental management, the pollution of Tejo

river and the Spanish policies of water use. According to Sara Cura, from ProTejo Movement Tejo river is being drained by Spanish Government resulting in the lost of quality of waters, lost of potential for energy production, and use in agriculture and tourism. The last workshop was accomplished at Nisa, with the support of the municipality, and several NGO's against the exploitation of the uranium ore. Discussion reached the climax with the presentation of sustainable alternatives to mining, in the scope of 21 Agenda.

Naturtejo Geopark educational programs are being enriched by the experience of partner institutions, contributing for an education more adjusted to reality in a region with exceptional conditions for apprenticeship.



7th May – Opening of the exhibition

“Biodiversity from Portas de Ródão Natural Monument”. The municipality of Vila Velha de Ródão organized a photo exhibition in the House of Arts and Culture of Tejo. Several photographers of the region shared with the public their views concerning wildlife at Portas de Ródão Natural Monument, promoting it in the national contest New 7 Natural Wonders. Also exhibited was the work of local students and Prof. Graça Passos that won the national school contest “Wood near you” from Living Science, included in the celebrations of the International Year of Biodiversity.

ANIMAÇÃO DAS ALDEIAS HISTÓRICAS DE PORTUGAL | MAIO 2010

Festa da Divina Santa Cruz
Vila-Santo
MONSANTO

7 Maio
20h - Ceia Medieval (Soprito e disponibilidade. Para mais informações contactar os Pontos de Turismo)
23h30 - Espetáculo de Fogo

8 Maio
14h - Arruada pelo Burgo e Auto de abertura do Mercado
15h - Cortejo pelas ruas a receber El-Rei D. Afonso Henriques e D. Gualdim Pais e os seus respectivos comitês
16h - Torneio de armas armado - D. Afonso Henriques conquista Monte Santo aos Mouros
17h - Aniversário de El-Rei e a aguiça
18h - D. Afonso Henriques dos Monarcas à Ordem dos Templários (1140) e D. Gualdim Pais compromete-se a reger um castelo em Monsanto
19h - Concorra tradicional e lóberos de milho-chou na taberna do burgo
20h - Ceia Medieval (Soprito e disponibilidade. Para mais informações contactar os Pontos de Turismo)
20h30 - A Festa sacra com danças do ventre e a arte da cantadeira de antigas
21h - D. Afonso Henriques concede Carta de Foral a Monsanto (1174)
22h - Juízo de malfeitores, demandas heréticas e pederestras malignas
23h - Deposição de Fogo sobre uma lenda local
24h - Encerramento da Feira

9 Maio
8h00 - Percursos pedestres "Rota dos Barrocas" (Descrição e informações aos Pontos de Turismo)
10h - Mercadores e artesãos iniciam as suas

atividades de comércio
11h - Visita do Homem da Vara às Tendões de Mendonça, Almoxarfe e Campos de Budeirinhais para afeição dos Penos e Medidas
12h - Atuação do grupo coral "PAZ E BEM" na sala da igreja
12h45 - Preparação do cortejo pelo Rancho Folclórico de Monsanto
13h - Início do cortejo para o castelo
- Festejos e folguedos, bailes e folias com salimbancos e baixões
13h30 - Soudade à Vila do Castelo pelo Rancho Folclórico de Monsanto à porta da capela - Ruinarista e Precioso
14h30 - Concorra e lóberos no castelo. Não vos esqueçam da Menada. Na taberna do Castelo haverá merendade à venda para os merendadeiros para os expedientes, merendadeiros e desaparecidos.
15h - Atuação do Rancho Folclórico de Monsanto
16h30 - Transpiloneiros de arremedilhas, malabaristas e acrobatas mostram as suas habilidades no serviço
16h - Lançamento do pote
16h15 - D. Afonso Henriques e Foral de seu pai e manda reedificar e fortalecer de Monsanto assim como prover os seus repovoamento (1150)
16h30 - Transpiloneiros de arremedilhas, malabaristas e acrobatas mostram as suas habilidades no serviço
17h00 - Torneio de armas a cavalo, no castelo, em homenagem a D. Gualdim Pais - Mestre da Ordem dos Templários
18h - Concorra e lóberos nas tabernas da Feira. Festejos e folguedos, bailes e folias com salimbancos e baixões
19h - Jantão ao burgo por uma messada do Reino de Leão e Castela
- Encerramento da Feira

Ata de reguessa a velha tradição das merendadeiros no castelo após a Missa, pedem a todos os peregrinos que tragam o seu Foral. Portos de Turismo comunicam a todos os lóberos de merendadeiros e desaparecidos para os expedientes, merendadeiros e desaparecidos. A organização não se responsabiliza por quaisquer danos que possam ocorrer durante o evento.

PRINCIPAL PATROCÍNIO

7-9th May – Medieval Fair at the top of Monsanto

Inselberg. Festivities in honour of the Divine Holy Cross had this year the support of Naturtejo Geopark, with thousands of participants. The Templar village of Monsanto was

well dressed for the celebrations that included medieval dinners and market with 140 tents selling local products, fire works, local music, street theatre and revivals with 90 actors. The origin of the village, dated back to 1165, was recreated by a series of street theatre plays, including the conquest of Monsanto to Moorish by Afonso Henriques, the first king of Portugal, and subsequent donation to the Templar Order, leading to build a powerful castle by the Master D. Gualdim Pais and the establishment of a municipality in 1174. On Sunday, there was Boulders Trail and the traditional picnic at the top of the castle, from where the legendary pot with flowers is dropped.



8th May – 5th International Mountain Bike Marathon of Idanha-a-Nova. It was impressive to assist to 1200 bikers participating in the Marathon of 100 km connecting Idanha-a-Nova with the Spanish town of Zarza la Mayor, next to the borderland. This event counted with the support of Naturtejo Geopark, where bikers cycled in the immensity of the plains and were astonished by the beauty of geosites such as Monsanto inselberg or Erges canyon, at Salvaterra do Extremo. More information in www.maratonabttidanha.com.



9th May – Kayaking against indifference. The organizations from both sides of the national border in defense of Tejo prepared a special event to ask for sustainable management of Tejo hydrographic basin, and counted with the support of Naturtejo Geopark. From the Spanish village of Cedillo to Portas de Ródão Natural Monument, 80 people and 30 boats paddled down the river to present and sign the Chart against Indifference in front of hundreds of people from the municipalities of Vila Velha de Ródão and Nisa. This Chart asks for the application of the Water Directive for the quality of Tejo waters, support of the fluvial ecosystems, and the refuse of the transport of Tejo waters for other hydrographic basins to be used in intensive agriculture, drastically decreasing Tejo flow and consequent increasing pollution. This event counted with the support of United Photo Press/2010 – International Year of Biodiversity.



10th May – **Educational program at the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia.** Jácome Ratton high school came for a full day at Naturtejo Geopark. 53 students and 5 teachers enjoyed the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia with Manuela Catana and Catarina Loureiro.

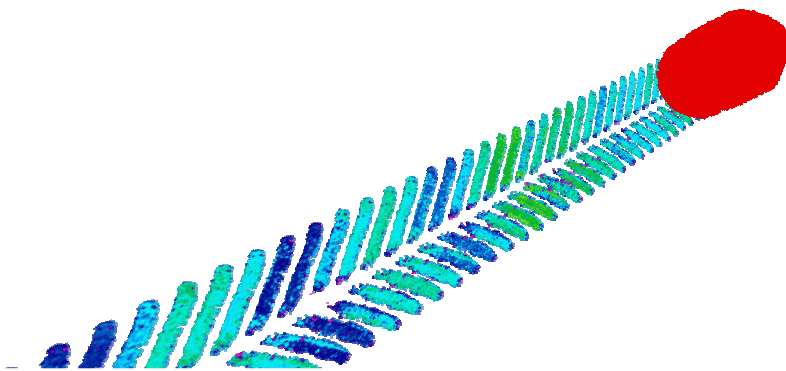
10-19th May – **Dutch holidays discovering the Geopark.** Oliva Travel operating from Holland is responsible for the Dutch discover of the Geopark. One more couple came for a long distance walking discovering the most precious natural and cultural wonders from Idanha-a-Nova region.

11th May – **High school Spanish students visit the Geopark.** João Geraledes was the “teacher” for 18 students and 2 teachers from Valle Ambroz, between the granite morphologies of Monsanto inselberg and the trace fossils from the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia.

12-14th May – **Nature, Culture and Adventure at Naturtejo Geopark.** Champagnat College from Lisbon prepared the annual school trip at Naturtejo Geopark. 147 pupils and 18 teachers were organized by Naturtejo and Incentivos Outdoor for outdoor activities during three days. The first day was for visiting Portas de Ródão Natural Monument and the Tejo Valley, including the already famous boat trip to the geomonumento and the visit to the Fossil Trees. At the end of the day a Griffon Vulture was released at Portas de Almourão geomonument.

Second day was time for the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia: casting fossils at the Palaeozoic Museum and climbing the quartzite beds, besides donkey and horse riding. They also visited the historical village of Idanha-a-Velha. The last day was for discovering DinoExpo.

14th May – **Dinosaurs and Fossils Route at the Geopark.** 31 visitors from ALTRAN Portugal visited DinoExpo and the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia with Tiago Oliveira.





14-16th May – **Successful Science and Technology Fair of Proença-a-Nova.** The Science and Technology Fair was organized by the Living Science Centre and Proença-a-Nova county, right in the town centre. Many Science Centres from other towns and cities from Portugal were there showing in first hand scientific experiments and technological devices. Naturtejo Geopark was also invited to develop workshops for schools. “Fossils...in minutes” was a workshop of fossil casting run by Catarina Loureiro for 65 students and 7 teachers. Besides, Manuela Catana and Catarina Loureiro painted fossils with visitors, with the help of a technician from Idanha-a-Nova, Carla Nabais. Carlos Neto de Carvalho and Joana Rodrigues were invited for a “Coffee of Science” at the coffee shop to talk for the general public about the Geological Heritage from Proença-a-Nova: a legacy with more than 500 Ma”.



15th May – **Accessible Tourism – tourism for all.** Joana Rodrigues and Carlos Neto de Carvalho were invited by Pombal county and the Portuguese Association for Natural and Rural Tourism for talking in a bar from this city about Accessibility in Education. They presented the example of the Naturtejo Geopark to general public and the Mayor of Pombal.

16th May – **Trekking on the fountains and springs.** 70 people walked 7 km at Proença-a-Velha to know more about the importance of fountains and springs. This trekking supported by Naturtejo Geopark was associated to the 8th Festival of traditional soups.



17th May - 70 students discovered the world of Geology. Joana Rodrigues returned once again to her secondary school, Augusto Gomes in Matosinhos and imagined with the help of students what causeway stones would say to us if they talk. The students from 10th and 11st grade made a virtual travel through world and national monuments, buildings, geomonuments, outcrops and protected areas, in order to understand the value of geodiversity and the importance of its conservation.



17th May – **Casting fossils at Castelo Branco Primary School I.** 65 pupils and 4 teachers from the Quinta da Granja primary school learned how to cast fossils with Manuela Catana and Catarina Loureiro, with the help of a technician from Idanha-a-Nova.

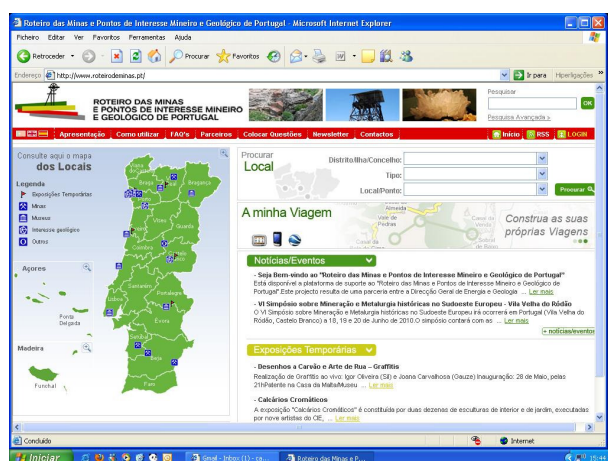


18th May – **Government of Timor-Leste visited Naturtejo Geopark.** The Minister of Tourism, Commerce and Services from Timor-Leste and deputies visited Naturtejo Geopark. The aim of the visit was to define common strategies for economical and tourist development, as well as to establish cooperation protocols. The governmental group was received at DinoExpo by the mayors of Castelo Branco and Nisa for a press conference. The Minister

signed the first document with Tourism of Centre Region with the presence of Armindo Jacinto, president of Naturtejo Geopark, for the development of a geopark project in this Portuguese-spoken country of Asia-Pacific.



18th May – **Press conference presented the winners of the contest “Climate changes and biodiversity”**. The winners of the school contest “Climate changes and Biodiversity” were presented in a press conference at DinoExpo. This contest was promoted by Naturtejo and Arouca geoparks, as well as National Commission for UNESCO, with the support of Naturtejo’s municipalities and outdoor companies, for the school year 2009/10. 250 students and 11 teachers from the schools of 3 municipalities participated with 18 work projects. The ceremony occurred with the presence of the Minister of Tourism, Commerce and Industry from Timor-Leste and certificates were given to the winners of the kindergarten category and Primary/Middle school category. The first prize will take 12 students to Arouca Geopark. The seconde prize gives the possibility to 38 students to discover the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia with adventure sports. The third prize is a boat trip to Portas de Ródão Natural Monument for 36 students. The aim of this school contest was to contribute for sensitization of scholar population for climate change and its effects for biodiversity stimulating young people for the purposes of the “Decade of Education for Sustainable Development”.



18th May – **Mining Guide is available online**. The Mining Guide is already available online in www.roteirodeminas.pt. This is a project of national Geological Survey to establish tourist routes among areas of special mining and geological interest. Naturtejo Geopark is one of the first 21 pioneering sites presented all over continental Portugal. All the information and events about these geotourist sites can be found at the web platform.



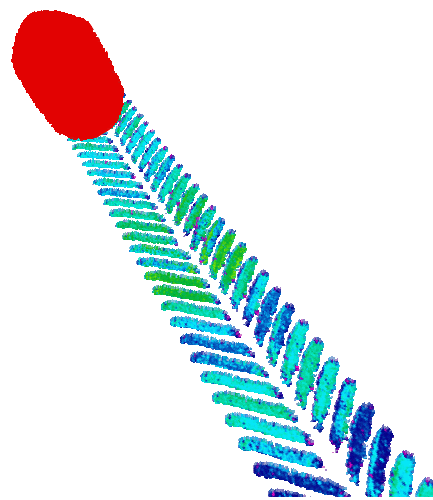
19th May – **Casting fossils at Castelo Branco primary school II.** 71 students and 3 teachers from João Roiz primary school were involved in casting fossils by Manuela Catana supported by two technicians from Idanha-a-Nova.



20th May – **Casting fossils goes to the villages.** 29 students and 1 teacher from Retaxo and Cebolais de Cima primary schools learned how to make casts from fossils with Manuela Catana and one technician from Idanha-a-Nova.

20-25th May – **Dutch in the Geopark.** One more Dutch couple walked across the Geopark to discover by their own the (geo) diversity of the landscapes.

21st May – **500 down the river!** Incentivos Outdoor, a partner company of Naturtejo, and the county of Vila Velha de Ródão prepared a day of sport for the Marista College from Lisbon. 500 students paddled down Tejo River between Vila Velha de Ródão and Fratel, crossing Portas de Ródão Natural Monument.



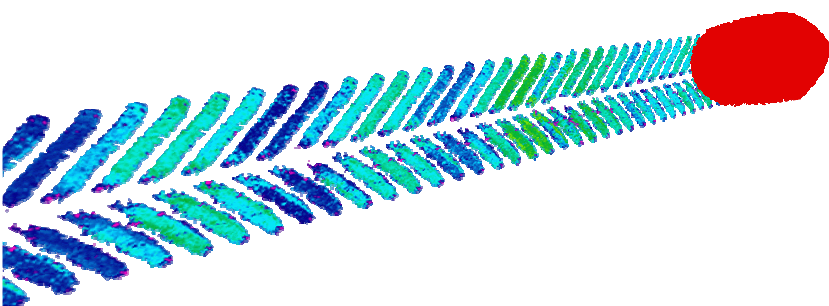


21-23rd May – **Walking & learning.** During three days, Gago Coutinho high school walked by the geopark learning with João Gerales, Catarina Loureiro and Tiago Oliveira. 17 students from the 11th grade and 1 teacher of Geology and Biology visited the granite morphologies of the Gardunha Mountain, learned about the Ordovician fossils from the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia and crossed the Tejo valley in a boat trip to Portas de Ródão Natural Monument.

22nd May – **1000th edition of Portugal em Directo news celebrated at Monsanto.** Portugal em Directo news from RTP 1 national TV is a reference for providing news from the different regions from Portugal. For the celebration of its 1000th edition the historical village of Monsanto was visited by the journalists to present innovative geoproducts, such as Petiscos & Granitos geo-restaurant and Casa do Forno geo-bakery.



22-29th May – **Rock Art exhibition at the Tourism Office.** The Oleiros tourism office exhibited the exhibition “Rock Art from the Inner Pinewood” included in the European Geoparks Week. This exhibition prepared by the Politécnico de Tomar institute presents the importance of the Rock Art from the region involving Oleiros. In this territory settlements are very ancient and Rock Art is one of the most important remains from those times.





22nd May – **The palaeontologist Luís**

Rodrigues visited the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia. The dinosaurologist from Algarve, Luís Rodrigues, visited the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia with Carlos Neto de Carvalho and Joana Rodrigues.

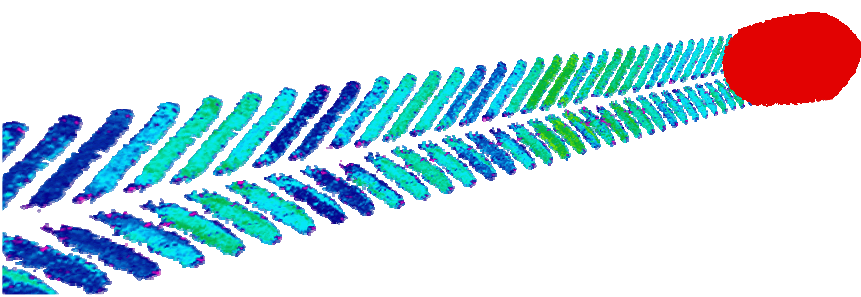


23rd May – **Opening of a new pedestrian trail for the Geopark region.** 130 people opened a 10km foot path surrounding the village of Estreito, at Oleiros municipality. Estreito Trails pass in the old Estreito, rich in schist architecture and showing important natural heritage following the Estreito stream.



24th May – **Penha**

Garcia fossils and the boulders from Monsanto. 83 students and 8 teachers from Viriato High School (Viseu) visited the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia and Monsanto Inselberg with Manuela Catana, João Geraldês and Catarina Loureiro.





26th May – **Exploring the trails of the Roman gold mine.** Nisa Secondary School made a special Educational Program prepared by the Geology teacher Henriqueta Matias. 10 students from the 12th grade went to Portas do Ródão geomorphological viewpoint guided by Joana Rodrigues and Jorge Gouveia, from the local Estudos do Alto Tejo association. In the afternoon the Roman trip at Conhal do Arneiro started and the students walked in the gold mine, near to their home town.

26th May – **Visit to Portas de Ródão Natural Monument.** 11 students and 2 teachers from Quinta das Palmeiras High School (Covilhã) floated with Catarina Loureiro towards the Geomonument.



26th May – **Opening of the “Travelling Dinos” in a convent from Portalegre.** Dinosaurs invaded the S. Bernardino Convent at the city of Portalegre! Pterosaurs are flying all over the church, *Protoceratops* may be found at the frontal staircase and *Tarbosaurus* is now part of the altar. “Travelling Dinos” moved to the city of Portalegre which is included in a proposal to enlarge the Geopark, and already part of the intermunicipal association “Natureza e Tejo”. For the next days until 16th June, the exhibition is going to be part of the celebrations of the Children’s Day.



27th May - **Geopark**

brought dinosaurs to the schools of Oleiros. “Geopark comes to School” educational program went to the House of Culture of Oleiros to talk about dinosaurs with 124 pupils from local primary schools. Joana Rodrigues presented the world of dinosaurs for such enthusiastic public, preparing them for the visit to DinoExpo, both in Castelo Branco and Oleiros.



27th May – **Winners of the contest**

“Climate Change and Biodiversity” visit Portas de Ródão. 12 disabled students and 3 monitors from APPACDM association of Castelo Branco enjoyed with Catarina Loureiro a boat trip to Portas de Ródão Natural Monument.



27-29th May –

National Congress of Geotourism in Venezuela: one more step towards the sustainable development of a Geopark. Fundación Geoparques de Venezuela (FGDV) hosted the 1st National Conference on Geotourism - Venezuela 2010. This conference was held in the city of Merida under the main subject “The Landscape – Tourist Resource

for Sustainable Development”, with the institutional support of Naturtejo Geopark. This was a space for discussion and debate on this new approach of tourism and geoconservation spreading all over the world. 370 participants, 20 universities and 18 institutions involved, as well as 4 working sessions are evidences of the tremendous success of the Congress. The 1st National Conference on Geotourism was totally free of charge for people who are interested in participation. FGDV firmly believes in the gratuity of the education and knowledge, which represented a generous but enormous effort to find 100% sponsorship. But this remarkable example must be emphasized and copied by others. Many people came from different areas of knowledge: experts from tourism, geology, architecture, philosophy, as well as students from tourism, environmental management, biology, geology, geophysics, geochemistry, geography, architecture, and education. Also non governmental organizations, tourism companies, cooperatives, representatives of local communities, and representatives of local and regional government, even the tourism ministry participated. Around 75% of Venezuelan states were represented in this conference. According to the organizers, the 1st National Conference on Geotourism was structured in key-note talks and communications during the morning and discussion groups during the afternoon. The discussion themes were Geotourism, Geoparks, Geological and Mining Heritage, National network for the protection of Geological and Mining Heritage. Other spectacular achievements from the Congress were the development of the Geotourism National Network and a new date for the second congress, to be held in May 2011 in Yaracuy, with the support of the Corporación Yaracuyana de Turismo. Roigar López, Jesus Salazar and Francisco Furtado must be congratulated for all the successful work done and we expect that they share their results in an international meeting somewhere in the future. Well done!



28th May – **Pupils celebrate World’s day of Energy at Oleiros.** The primary school of Oleiros visited a local wind farm to learn about renewable energies.



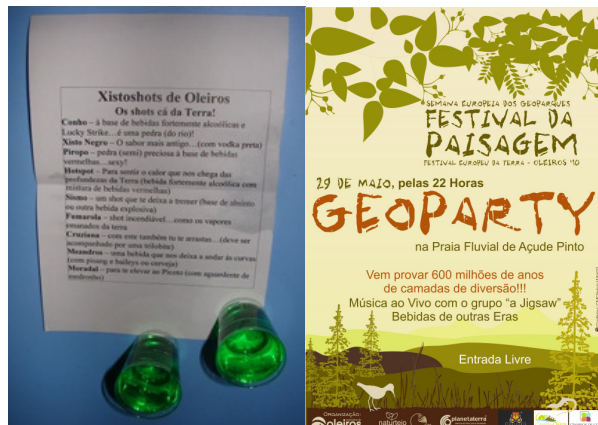
28-30th May –

Didactic applications of the Geopark. Paulo Santos, a student from the University of S. Paulo, Brazil visited Naturtejo Geopark to study the educational projects here developed. He and his wife visited some geomonuments of the Geopark where educational programs are applied. Manuela Catana presented the strategy developed for preparation and development of activities for schools. They visited the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia, Monsanto Inselberg, Portas de Ródão Natural Monument and the historical village of Idanha-a-Velha. They also found the delicious “volcanoes” from Casa do Forno geobakery, at Salvaterra do Extremo.



29th May – **Opening of the exhibition “Climate**

Change and Biodiversity” by the Geopark’s schools. DinoExpo has a new exhibition made by the schools and educational institutions from the Geopark. The contest “Climate Change and Biodiversity” was developed by National Commission for UNESCO with the Portuguese Geoparks for celebrating the International Year of Biodiversity and was a big success. 18 working projects were developed by pupils between 3 and 9 years old and between 10 and 14 years old in two different categories. More than a dozen diorama, posters, movies and art pieces are now exposed to the visitors.



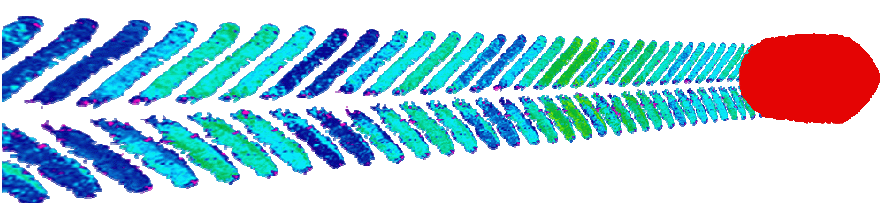
29th May – **Geoparty with American sounds and “Schistshots”**. Nice evening at Oleiros! The Açude Pinto camping prepared with the municipality of Oleiros a geoparty with a special menu of shots reminding local and general geology. Oleiros “Xistoshots” were powerful combinations of alcohol and good humour. Jigsaw was the band invited from Coimbra to heat the night. The palaeontologist Vanda Santos was the special guest of this event.

29-30th May – **Lamb Festival celebrates 500 years of Rosmaninhal**. The two-day gastronomic festival from Rosmaninhal was an event to celebrate 500 years as a town and the cattle annual fair. Lamb tastes from Lebanon, Greece, Morocco, Spain and Portugal were experimented by hundreds of visitors, showing the Mediterranean culture through gastronomy. The trekking “Shepherds: culture of a people” was appreciated by dozens of participants guided by Eddy Chambino throughout the cultural landscapes from Rosmaninhal.

29th May-6th June - **DINO-KIDS**. The Children’s week at Forum Castelo Branco mall counted with the presence of DinoExpo. Catarina Loureiro, Ana Moreira, Manuela Catana and technicians both from Idanha-a-Nova and “Forum” developed activities for children with dinosaurs as the main subject. Children made puzzles, games and a workshop for painting fossil casts.

29-30th May – **EDP group discovers the Geopark**. For a full weekend, a group of 53 professionals from EDP enjoyed the Geopark with Tiago Oliveira.

31st May - 5th June – **Geology and Walking at the Geopark**. Oliva Travel brought 4 Dutch people for discovering the Geopark.



2. GEOPARK'S IMPACT IN MEDIA



Newspapers

April (Oleiros Magazine) – “The Year of Biodiversity”

May (Super Interessante magazine) – “On the track of the ancient elephant”

May (Raiano’s first page) – “I Flower Festival”

May (Raiano) – “500th Anniversary of the Chart of Rosmaninhal”

May (Jornal de Oleiros) – “Living in a Geopark”

May (Jornal de Oleiros) – “TransGeopark off-road tour started in Álvaro”

May (Ensino Magazine) – “University learns at the Geopark”

May (O Concelho de Vila Velha de Ródão) – “Enjoy the Landscape Festival from the Naturtejo Geopark”

4th May (Destak) – “More than 100 people down the river in canoes”

5th May (Gazeta do Interior) – “Nature office stays at Castelo Branco”

5th May (Gazeta do Interior) – “10^o A field trip to Meseta Meridional Geopark”

5th May (Gazeta do Interior) – “1st Edition of the Science and Technology Fair from Proença-a-Nova”

6th May (Reconquista) – “Proença shows Science and Technology”

6th May (Reconquista) – “Afonso Henriques visits Monsanto”

6th May (Reconquista) – “Santa Margarida dressed of flowers”

6th May (Reconquista) – “TransGeopark started from Álvaro”

6th May (Reconquista) – “Travelling Dinos”

9th May (Expresso) – “Tejo: Chart against the indifference asks more respect for the river”

9th May (Diário de Notícias) – “Tejo: Chart against the indifference asks more respect for the river”

10th May (Público) – “Down the Tejo river protesting against nuclear”

11th May (Povo da Beira) – “PROSEPE Forest Clubs District Meeting is here to last”

11th May (Povo da Beira) – “Aldeia de Santa Margarida blooming”

11th May (Povo da Beira) – “1st Edition of the Fair of Science and Technology from Proença-a-Nova”

12th May (Gazeta do Interior) – “TransGeopark off-road tour started in Álvaro”

12th May (Gazeta do Interior) – “European Geoparks Week soon”

12th May (Gazeta do Interior) – “Rock Art from Inner Pinewood exhibited”

12th May (Gazeta do Interior) – “Walking trail at Estreito”

12th May (Gazeta do Interior) – “Portas de Ródão...a Nature wonder!”

12th May (Gazeta do Interior) – “Pupils from Pimpão visit DinoExpo”

13th May (Reconquista) – “Estreito with a trail for trekking”
 13th May (Reconquista) – “Rock Art at the tourism office”
 13th May (Reconquista) – “Geoparks Week at Oleiros”
 13th May (Reconquista) – “NGO’s ask for more respect to Tejo”
 15th May (Fugas magazine) – “A day with timeless stone giants”
 18th May (Expresso) – “Timor-Leste: Minister of Tourism wants Geopark like Naturtejo”
 18th May (Povo da Beira) – “University of Lisbon learns with the experiences of Geopark”
 18th May (Povo da Beira) – “European Geoparks Week in all the Geopark”
 18th May (Povo da Beira) – “Old-time Monsanto”
 18th May (Povo da Beira) – “Dinosaurs exhibition at Proença-a-Nova”
 18th May (Povo da Beira) – “Il TTransGeopark 2010: from Zêzere to Tejo”
 19th May (Gazeta do Interior) – “Timor-Leste Government visits Meseta Meridional Geopark”
 19th May (Gazeta do Interior) – “First edition of the Science and Technology Fair was a enormous success”
 20th May (Reconquista’s first page) – “Timor wants geopark”
 20th May (Reconquista) – “University learns at the Geopark”
 20th May (Reconquista) – “Prizes distributed”
 20th May (Reconquista) – “Oleiros starts activities”
 25th May (Povo da Beira’s first page) – “Naturtejo may create a Geopark in Timor”
 26th May (Gazeta do Interior) – “Lamb Festival at Rosmaninhal this weekend”
 27th May (Reconquista) – “Lamb tastes at Rosmaninhal”
 27th May (Reconquista) – “Naturtejo Geopark organizes European Week”
 27th May- 3rd June (Essencial magazine) – “Join the pieces to build a dinosaur”

Radio

1st May (Rádio Condestável) – “Dinosaurs arrived to the municipality”
 5th May (Rádio Portalegre) – “Down the Tejo river in canoe joins more than one hundred people for alerting to the problems of the river”

TV

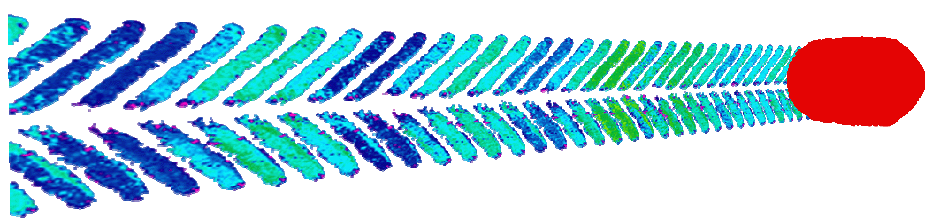
10th May (RTP1 national TV, “Portugal em Directo” news) – “For a Tejo flowing in Spain and Portugal”
 15th May (RTP2 national TV, “Universidade Aberta”) – 41 minutes documentary on “Geoconservation: Portas de Ródão Natural Monument”

22nd May (RTP1 national TV, “Portugal em Directo” news) – Celebration of the 1000th program live from Monsanto about geoproducts”

26th May (RTP1 national TV, “Portugal no Coração” daily show) – Portas de Ródão Natural Monument presented as finalist of the contest New 7 Natural Wonders of Portugal



- NETO DE CARVALHO, C. & BAUCON, A. (2010). Jurassic sex in the beach? *Macanopsis* from the Kimmeridgian of Praia do Salgado (Portugal). In J.M. Gibert, F. Muñiz, E. Mayoral & Z. Belaústegui (eds.), *Workshop on Crustacean Bioturbation – fossil and recent* (Abstract Book), Lepe, Spain, May 31-June 4, 71-75.

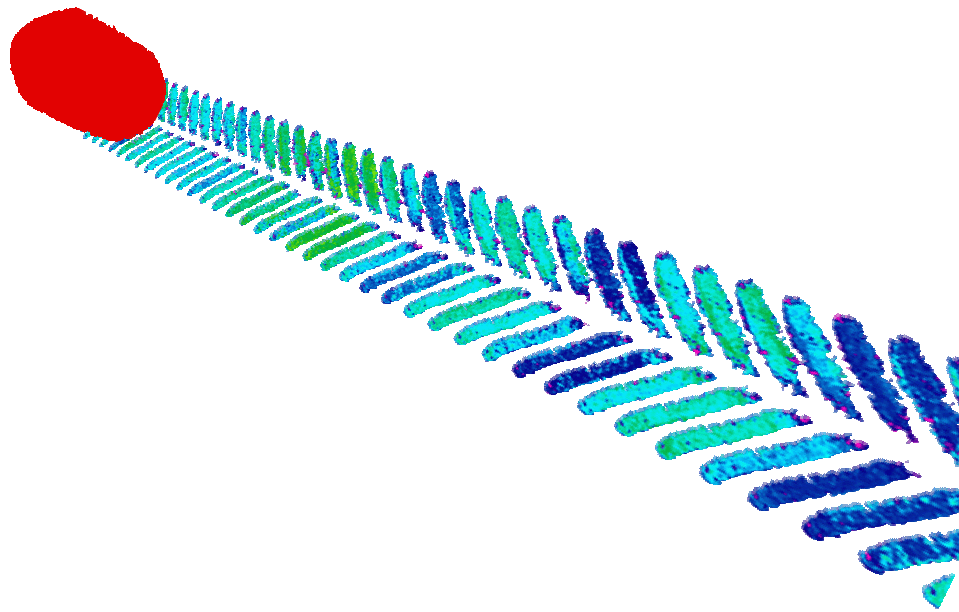


4. PROMOTION TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC



Catana M. M. (2010). Desfrute do Festival da Paisagem do Geopark Naturtejo. *O Concelho de Vila Velha de Ródão – Mensário Regionalista*. Ano XXVIII – n. 332. Mês de Maio, p. 12 (in Portuguese).

- www.roteirodeminas.pt (In Portuguese, for now)
- www.trip-trail.com (in Portuguese)



VI Symposium on Historical Mining and Metallurgy from SW Europe (Vila Velha de Ródão, 18-20th June 2010)






Ficha de Inscrição

VI Simpósio sobre Mineração e Metalurgia Históricas no Sudoeste Europeu


Casa de Artes e Cultura do Tejo - Vila Velha de Ródão

18, 19 e 20 de Junho de 2010

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Conferencistas
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 José Brandão: Museologia
 Josep Mata-Perelló: Património Geológico e Mineiro

Secretariado:
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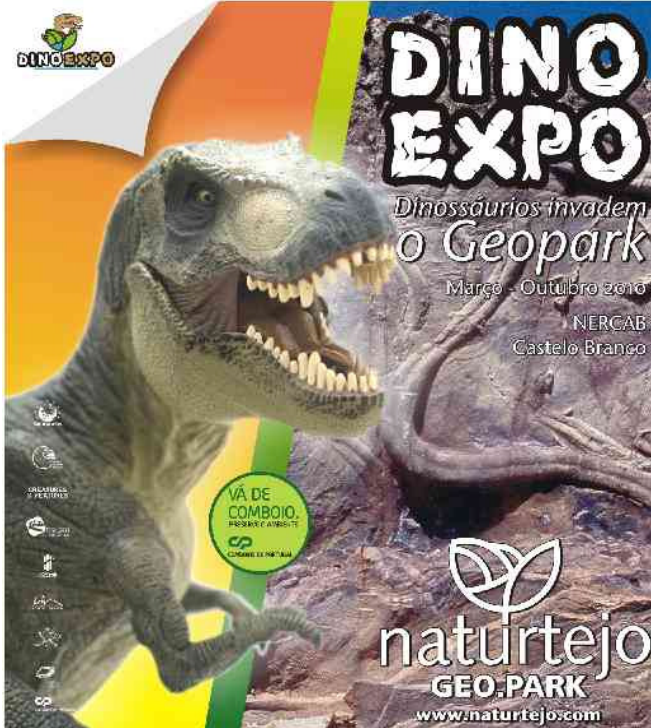
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DINO EXPO
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European Geoparks Week 2010

Geopark Naturtejo da Meseta Meridional
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FESTIVAL DA PAISAGEM

Landscape Festival

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22nd May to 13th June

Informação e Inscrições/Information and Registration:
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Geoparks “Geology with human’s face”

