

THEMATIC CARTOGRAPHY AS AN INTERPRETATIVE TOOL IN THE NATURTEJO GEOPARK

S. Canilho^{1*}, C. Neto de Carvalho^{1,2} & J. Rodrigues¹

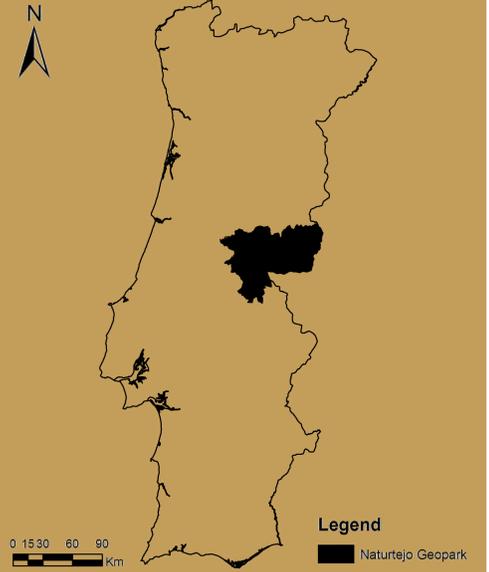
¹ Geopark Naturtejo da Meseta Meridional, European and Global Geopark under UNESCO. ² Geology and Paleontology Office, Centro Cultural Raiano. Avenida Joaquim Morão, Idanha-a-Nova, Portugal *Sara Canilho (sara.canilho@gmail.com)



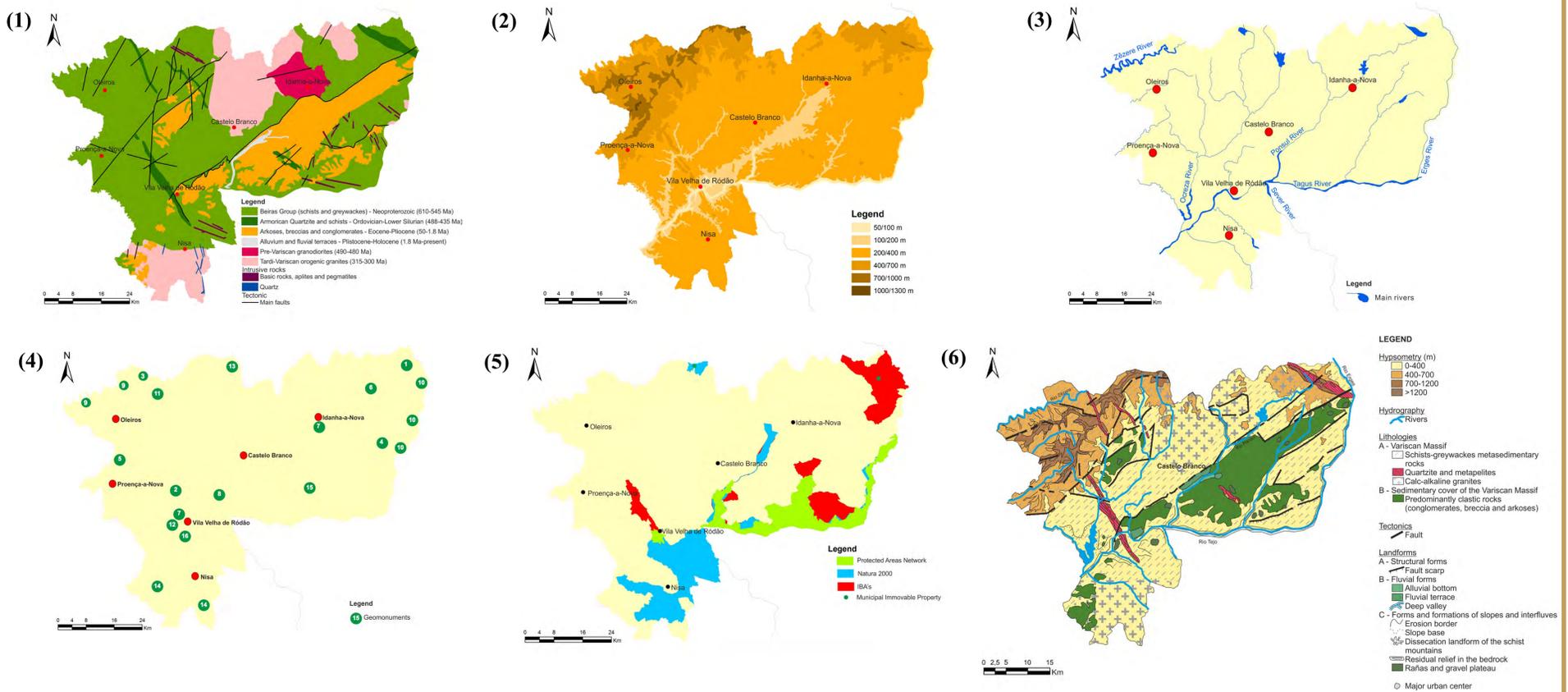
The Naturtejo Geopark was the first Portuguese geopark to join the European and Global Geoparks Network, under the UNESCO auspices, in 2006. It is a 4617 km² territory which integrates 6 municipalities: Castelo Branco, Idanha-a-Nova, Nisa, Oleiros, Proença-a-Nova and Vila Velha de Ródão.

The goals of the Naturtejo Geopark are to investigate, protect, promote and disseminate the Geological Heritage through educational and tourism activities. Together with other scientific and cultural thematics, it also intends to manage the geodiversity, with the support of the public consciousness, such as the promotion of the science in the education. The work described in this paper is about the digital thematic cartography developed during an internship at Naturtejo Geopark, as a support tool for the formal and non-formal education in several thematics.

Based on the available digital information in the Environment Digital Atlas – Environment Institute, in Portugal, it was possible to build a cartographic database for the Naturtejo Geopark territory. Therefore, with the support of the EDRISI ArcGIS software, several thematic maps were developed, combining different information in several shapes: geological (1), tectonics, soils, hypsometric (2), hydrographic (3), geomonuments (4), protected areas (5) and geomorphologic (6).



THEMATIC CARTOGRAPHY



APPLICATIONS

The utility of the thematic maps it is not only important to the educational programs of Primary, Elementary, Secondary, High School and University levels of the Naturtejo Geopark, but also to the scientific meetings, conferences and others, as a framework for the works in progress at the scientific or geotouristic levels.

Concerning the target audience, it is important to consider the sort of maps to use, based on the goals of the visit. The thematic cartography is also advantageous to include in leaflets (7) interpretative panels (9) and field guides to contextualize the theme and the discussed area (8, 10).

