

## "Climate Change & Biodiversity" School Contest: a tool on Education for Sustainable Development in Portuguese Geoparks

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The United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development - UNDESD (2005-2014), for which UNESCO is the lead agency, seeks to integrate the principles, values, and practices of sustainable development into all aspects of education and learning, in order to address the social, economic, cultural and environmental problems that we face in the 21st century.

The United Nations declared 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB), aiming to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by this date. UNESCO joins the Convention on Biological Diversity to make the IYB an effective instrument to advance the cause of biodiversity conservation.

Following the UNDESD (2005-2014), the celebration of the IYB (2010) and the protocols signed between the Portuguese Commission for UNESCO and the Arouca and the Naturtejo European Geoparks, a school contest was promoted during 2009/2010 entitled "Climate Change & Biodiversity". The main objectives of this school contest was to create awareness among students, teachers and local communities about "Climate Change & Biodiversity" issues and to increase the knowledge about the Portuguese Geoparks and the European Geoparks Network and their contribution to the UNDESD. The awards of the referred Contest were distributed between different school levels, namely Preschool, Primary and Secondary level. The winners of the first award made an exchange visit between both Geoparks. Due to the success of this activity, the Portuguese Commission for UNESCO, Arouca Geopark and Naturtejo Geopark will continue this work and give growing visibility to the European Geoparks Network in the forthcoming years.

### References

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