

MANAGEMENT IN NATURTEJO GEOPARK (PORTUGAL): GEOMORPHOLOGICAL VIEWPOINTS

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Naturtejo Geopark, part of the European and Global Geopark Network under UNESCO, includes an outstanding geological heritage where conservation, education and (geo)tourism are the basis to foster sustainable development.

As human activities may increase the threats it is a priority to promote raising awareness towards geoconservation, through interpretation of geodiversity for general public, schools, tourists and local communities. Networking within European and Global Geoparks promotes information and best practices exchanging, in order to establish the best strategies for each geopark, concerning national and regional realities.

There are about 170 geosites identified in the ongoing Naturtejo Geopark Geological Heritage Inventory, 16 of them with an outstanding value, combining scientific, educational and tourist interests, some of them with international relevance and some are natural icons for the region. These 16 geomonuments tell the geological history of the Geopark for the last 600 million years and most of them can be observed from one or more viewpoints. In Naturtejo Geopark there are 27 viewpoints identified, distributed in two geological contexts: Geomorphology and Tectonics/Structural Geology, and sub-divided in 5 categories (Table 1).

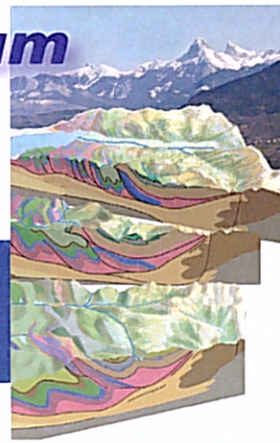
Geological context	Category	N. of viewpoints
Geomorphology	Tectonic landforms	4
	Residual relieves	7
	Fluvial	10
Tectonic /Structural Geology	Variscan	5
	Alpine	1

Table 1. Viewpoints: geological context and categories

Viewpoints are privileged geosites for raising public awareness; in general these are sites with aesthetic value, good visibility to one or more elements of interest, with considerable scale, combining also biodiversity and historical heritage/land use. In these cases geological heritage vulnerability is low, the main threats evolve specially constructions and land(scape) management and not the human impact in visiting places that stay relatively far from the interest sites. Visitors cause few impacts that can be minimized by a proper monitoring strategy: equipment' conservation, garbage cleaning, visibility and accessibilities maintenance. Viewpoints represent important tools, especially the ones in the main roads, for visitors who cannot or do not want to walk or do not have enough time to explore the territory and these places promote a general overview for all the geopark. These sites are also important for formal and non formal education, with high legibility and global comprehension. Few viewpoints are not accessible by car and are integrated in walking trails.

Naturtejo Geopark is preparing thematic routes through viewpoints that are properly equipped (including interpretation in situ or portable, safety infrastructures and accessibilities) to receive people and that are spread for all the territory.

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ABSTRACT BOOKLET

LIVRET DES RÉSUMÉS

