



CRUZIANA

GEOPARK NATURTEJO DA MESETA MERIDIONAL-EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL GEOPARK - MONTHLY REPORT

In this issue: – Watermelon Festival of Ladoeiro sells 40 tons! – Teaching Module on Geoparks tested – Monitoring the network of 35 footpaths in the Geopark – Summer Course “Portuguese Language, Literature and Culture”...and more!



Olá/Hola/Ciao/Bonjour/Γειά σου/Hallo/God Dag/Salut/Zdravo/Hello/Ahoj/Helo/Helló/ Hei

Geo-stories of our places and people: Malpica do Tejo

Fields are tidying up on the gentle descent to the steeply valley of the Tejo river. Malpica do Tejo extends by this gentle slope with wide views over an Alentejo beyond Spain towards south, a Spain beyond Tejo towards East, the Ponsul river on the feet of Castelo Branco towards west and the bland Monforte Hill towards north. There are 246,02km² of space, lot of space, where olive trees and few more thrive, among this "rye stone". In the Galisteu estate stands majestic cork tree which, hidden as it is, can't remind the past native forest. The present is the olive tree and the olive tree prevails in the horizons.

But International Tejo Natural Park possesses here one of the entrances to this almost wild Tejo valley. In its scarps geologists found some of the most ancient rocks of sedimentary origin existing in Portugal and formally designated them as Malpica do Tejo Formation. To north, already in the Monforte mountain at Sancada, other original sedimentary rocks less old, with 480 million years old, show curious remains of past ways of life. However the most important geological site of Malpica do Tejo is Monte dos Cancelos. Included in the Geological Heritage National Inventory, it shows rare carbonate formations in the region extending for kilometers, which were explored for lime since, at least, the building of the Bishop's Palace in Castelo Branco till the second half of the twentieth century. Lime kilns and galleries are still there, covered by an exotic nature in the context of the Naturtejo Geopark, since soils of carbonate origin enable the presence of well-adapted species, such as orchids. Landscape is also different, in the shape of a 500 m wide valley, with almost vertical slopes and flat bottom, like the ones in Maghreb, to where Ponsul river runs small by the summer or fast extending during floods.

Not being an ancient village, Malpica do Tejo of six centuries includes in its area remarkable antiquity of human occupation shown by the numerous archeological findings, which is worth to mention the Roman dam in Vale do Represão, 117m long, and the rock art in Monte de S. Domingos. In the old village stand out the 16th century doors, the King's Fort and the Mother Church of S. Domingos, from the 17th century. Out of doors there is the chapel of the Lady of Snow, where tradition says Malpica born, and the bridge over Ponsul.

Presently in this space vastness live 517 inhabitants of rooted tradition, known by their traditional costume and by the richness of their songs collected by Michel Giacometti and Zeca Afonso. Orlando Ribeiro calls for the renowned beauty of the Malpica girls. Also renowned is the associative entrepreneurship. CADOMATE joins 400 olive local producers to develop high quality olive oil imposing on the market. Copnmate joins bakeries of Malpica do Tejo to go further the traditional bread, the olive oil flat and the honey pones. Together with the dairies and the chasing estates they include all the potential of these lands. The Escrivão Estate is an agro-company working for the supportive and sustainable market, producing certified biological cheese and olive oil. It was also the first farm to produce biological goatling in Portugal, from the local endangered Charnequeira breed.



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Also the Monte Barata estate, property of Quercus Association for the Protection of the Environment, is developing biological farming, environmental education and accommodation in direct contact with Nature. The enormous Cubeira estate, between Malpica do Tejo and Rosmaninhal, spreading out by the Tejo slopes for 11km, developed sustainable tourist chasing, in harmony with the ecological dynamics. Thus the touristic potentialities of Malpica do Tejo are sustained by the environmental-friendly chasing, agro tourism associated to high-quality products with biological certification and ecotourism in the International Tejo Natural Park. The boat trips in the Tejo and Ponsul rivers are directed for Spain and for the Spanish market, being possible to reinforce the offer from the experience with the ways of life in Malpica do Tejo. The existence of a river dock and the need for better accessibilities to the river, together with the organization of the tourism offer in the village with proper signaling and the building of an interactive museum/interpretation centre dedicated to the traditional songs or to local gastronomy can diversify the tourism offer coming from the river and Castelo Branco, similar to what is happening already in the neighbor Cedillo. The opening to foreigner markets depends on the offer of high-quality accommodation in the area, still absent, on the availability of local products in the village' shops and on the existence of outdoor activities based on the timeless countryside rhythms, such as cattle breeding or farming, and the observation of fauna and flora with specialized guides, having Monte dos Cancelos an immense potential due to the closeness to Castelo Branco. The olive oil cycle is excellent example of a tourist product that can introduce Malpica do Tejo in emergent markets such as China. For the present, the showcase of all this tourist potential will continue to be the Olive, Olive Oil and Regional Products Fair, organized by the end of October, or events such as the International Tejo Raid Malpica do Tejo in mountain bike, that can be extended throughout the year, if the organization of the tourist activity in the region can be planned to benefit from the existing resources and for the innovative diversification of the offer.

Recommended Bibliography:

- Martins, M.A.M. (1986) – Malpica do Tejo. Terra Pobre, Povo Nobre. I.S.C.S.P, 454pp.
- Sequeira, A.J.D. (2011) – Microfósseis do Grupo das Beiras (Monfortinho-Salvaterra do Extremo, Beira Baixa, Portugal Central). *Comunicações Geológicas*, 98, 55-60.
- Silva, A.F., Romão, J., Sequeira, A. & Oliveira, J.T. (1995) – A sucessão litostratigráfica ante-ordovícica na Zona Centro-Ibérica (ZCI), em Portugal: Ensaio de interpretação com base nos dados actuais. XIII Reunião de Geologia do Oeste Peninsular, Salamanca, pp. 71-72.

The Editor
Carlos Neto de Carvalho
Scientific Coordinator
Geologist

ACTIVITIES OF THE MONTH



July - Analysis and evaluation of the 35 footpaths existing in Naturtejo Geopark. Aylton Carvalho is student of Tourism and Environment from the Professional School of Sertã. For almost two months he has been trained in Naturtejo Global Geopark, with Carlos Neto de Carvalho as supervisor. The scope of this training period was to make the evaluation of about 500 km of footpaths. Aylton was responsible for monitoring the condition of the paths by walking or driving as a tourist across them. Facing the hot temperatures of summer in the region Aylton evaluated several parameters for quality of these networks of footpaths and reported the conservation conditions of the path and equipments. His reports will be send to the municipalities that are in charge of the management of the footpaths to improve the quality of the visits and experiences in the geopark.

July - Animation Programme for Termas de Monfortinho. During the summer months of July, August and September many activities are planned for Termas de Monfortinho which is a tourism spot during this period in Naturtejo Geopark. From music to night walks and astronomy, the diversity of options follows the diversity of tourists during this period, always with the support of Naturtejo Geopark.

2 July - Children with summer activities in the Fossils Trail. 30 children from Sabugal came to enjoy several summer leisure activities in the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia.



2-7 July – Summer Course “Portuguese Language, Literature and Culture” for Californian students. By the 4th consecutive year Naturtejo Global Geopark welcome the Summer Course as a partnership between the University of Berkeley, and the University of the State of California in San José with the Portuguese universities of Azores, Lusofónia in Porto and Lisboa, and the School of Management of Idanha-a-Nova. The participating students have different background. During 5 days, they have participated in Portuguese Language and Literature classes in the School of Management facilities and field classes in the Geopark' geomonuments by Manuela Catana. They visited the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia and, after an incursion to the Roman Bridge of Alcantara in Spain, they went to Segura to meet the new enterprise “Aromas do Valado”, which is producing biological soaps and facial oil from autochthonous species of plants. They visited the Olive Oil Museum of Proença-a-Velha and got some relax in the spa of the hot springs of Termas de Monfortinho. In Idanha-a-Nova, they saw the rehearsal of the Adufe Player women from Rancho Etnográfico de Idanha-a-Nova and experienced to play Adufe, and also participated in the rehearsal of the Banda Filarmónica Idanhense music band. They visited the historical villages of Monsanto and Idanha-a-Velha and made the boat trip to the Portas de Ródão Natural Monument. They look for the fossil trees in the House of Tejo' Arts and Culture, and the traditional village of Foz do Cobreão. The Summer Course started on 20th June in Ponta Delgada, Azores and will finish by 14th August in Lisbon.

6-7 July – My Motorbike Tour for 26 people. Motorbikers came to the Geopark to get involved by tradition and some geology. The tour package developed by Naturtejo included visits to Tejo's Rock Art Interpretative Centre and the Olive Oil Press of Vila Velha de Ródão, the Ethnographic Centre of Lousa, the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia and Monsanto. The group finished the tour in the Geo-Restaurant Petiscos & Granitos.

11 July – Workshop on Nature Tourism. Armindo Jacinto was invited to talk on the III Table' Talks of the School of Tourism of Coimbra under the subject Nature Tourism: new Opportunities in the Center Region



12 July – Partnership with the Bodoquena-Pantanal Geopark Project with local actions on behalf of education .

The Government of the State of Mato Grosso do Sul, through the Foundation to Support the Development of Education, Science and Technology (FUNDECT), in partnership with the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq) and the Municipality of Nioaque through the education office presented the Institutional Program of Grants for Junior Scientific Research Initiation in Mato Grosso do Sul (PIBICJr-MS). Here one more step towards the implementing of Geopark Bodoquena Pantanal in Nioaque was given. This stage included the participation of municipal managers, teachers and coordinators representing Nioaque Nucleus together with 16 students granted to work in the Geopark for one year, and their parents. These students came from the municipal schools Escola Guilherme Corrêa da Silva, Escola Indígena 31 de Março and Escola Estadual Odete Ignêz Restel Villas Bôas.

In this meeting there was present the Nioaque Coordinator of Bodoquena-Pantanal Geopark, Paulo Corrêa, the representative of the Culture and Tourism Board, Euza Camargo Nunes, the Geomonitors Maria Aparecida da Silva, Noêmia Martins, Jara Leandro and Andréa Rocha da Silva, the geologist Carla Gasparini and the institutional coordinator of the Bodoquena-Pantanal Geopark project, Guilhermina Brites. The geologist Joana de Castro Rodrigues, which for one year is providing collaboration for the development of the Geopark Project as specialist was also in the meeting representing Naturtejo Global Geopark from Portugal.

16 July – Verão Total in Monsanto: 4 hours TV dedicated to the Geopark .The national television RTP1 daily live show “Total Summer” came for a 4 hours non-stop emission in the “Most Portuguese Village”. Armindo Jacinto found a great opportunity to present Naturtejo Global Geopark, local culture, tourism-related projects and to promote the Geopark from Idanha-a-Nova area. Carlos Neto de Carvalho was invited to talk about the application of the historical villages of Monsanto and Idanha-a-Velha to the World Heritage List.



19 July – Teaching Module on Geoparks in action

19 July – Teaching Module on Geoparks in action. Under the EU project GEOschools Naturtejo Global Geopark is responsible for development of a teaching module dedicated to explore geoparks and geosites. This teaching module is based on examples from Naturtejo Global Geopark but is structured to be adapted to any geopark, geological reserve or geosite. To test the teaching module it was selected a group of 25 teachers from the Training Center of the Aveiro Region which organized together with the University of Aveiro and some Portuguese geoparks a Field Course on Geoparks. So these teachers have the chance not only to experience the Teaching Module from Naturtejo Global Geopark but also to compare it with other Geoparks they visited, namely Arouca and Terras de Cavaleiros geopark project. Carlos Neto de Carvalho was the guide for this experience. The group started to meet the Geopark context in the Archaeological Hall of the Tejo Rock Art Interpretative Centre. Then they visited the Fossil Trees of Vila Velha de Ródão in the Fossils Garden. In the Portas de Ródão Natural Monument viewpoint they realised the recent build up of the landscape. After a picnic in the Devesa area, they got into contact with the outcrop to analyse the Ponsul Fault. During the afternoon the teachers stopped in the bottom of Monsanto Inselberg to measure geological time and relate to regional landscape-made processes and climbed this major residual landform all to the top. Finally they achieved the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia with the best light to see the best trilobite traces they ever found. The teaching module about Geoparks was tested with great success according to the results of a final questionnaire especially developed for it.

19 July – Seminar on Rural Development and the next EU program. Idanha-a-Nova Municipality organized a workshop for local entrepreneurs about the next EU funding program and the opportunities of rural development in the region. The meeting was held in the headquarters of Naturtejo Geopark, the Borderland Cultural Centre.



20 July – Geology in Summer conquers the castle of Monsanto. Summer Living Science Program is back to the Geopark region. Some activities concerning Geology, Biology and Astronomy are planned by several institutions to be carried out in the Geopark. The Portuguese Geologists Association and Naturtejo Geopark organized a visit to some geomonuments of the Idanha-a-Nova municipality to show examples of how geodiversity influenced human settlement, which in several periods was dependent on geomorphology and the presence of geological resources. Geologists and Manuela Catana guided 3 participants to visit the Ponsul Fault from the Castle of Idanha-a-Nova and Devesa roadcut; Marechal Carmona reservoir; Termas de Monfortinho hot springs; the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia; and the Inselberg of Monsanto.

20-21 July – Great success of the Watermelon Festival of Ladoeiro. 40 tons of watermelons were sold locally during the weekend in the Watermelon Festival! Bursting local economy based on agriculture the Watermelon Festival is a great success and one of the oldest events with the support of Naturtejo Geopark in the area of Idanha-a-Nova. Many thousands of visitors taking the period of summer vacations came to Ladoeiro to taste the sweetness and freshness of some of the best watermelon in Portugal.

23 July – Workshop for students of the Portuguese Army. Naturtejo welcomed the officials of the Portuguese Army in its facilities in Castelo Branco. This was a field excursion in the region for the future leaders of the Army to face the contact with real world so the Portuguese Army requested a presentation of the Geopark by the scientific coordinator Carlos Neto de Carvalho.



25-27 July – Naturtejo Geopark in support of the Lands of Knights Geopark Project. Portuguese Geoparks Forum together with Lands of Knights Geopark Project organized a field inspection to this geopark for representatives of Portuguese Global Geoparks. Lands of Knights Geopark Project is located in the North of Portugal in the Northern Meseta area and well known for the allochthonous terrane of Morais obducted during the Variscan Orogeny. Carlos Neto de Carvalho representing Naturtejo Global Geopark had the chance to give own view and participate in discussions about the development of the Geopark with local responsables. He also got the opportunity to visit some of the existing geosites, most of them in the Geological Tour, the new Geological Interpretative Centre of Morais, the Biodiversity Path, the Interpretative Centre of the famous “Caretos” in Podence, the beaches from Azibo Reservoir and to get involved with local people in Morais, taste some of the best food in Portugal and practice some water sports again in Azibo.



31 July -3 August- Evaluation mission to the Emilia-Romagna Geopark project in Italy. Emilia Romagna Geopark project, the Land of Gypsum and Karst, is located very close to the city of Bologna in Italy. Under the duties of a Global Geopark with green card Carlos Neto de Carvalho was selected by the coordination of the European Geoparks Network to make the evaluation of this new geopark application together with the colleague and expert in sustainable development Klaus George, from Harz European and Global Geopark in Germany.

During this very intense evaluation Carlos Neto de Carvalho had the possibility to meet the reality of Gypsum ancient culture in Brisighella, to visit very well organised regional natural parks, to contact locals and experience gastronomy in Castel d'Aiano and to follow the Gypsum Vein for kilometres, as the present most impressive landscape landmark of the Messinian Crisis in the Mediterranean Sea.

31 July-4 August - Borderland Fair in Idanha: an example of cooperation. 50000 Portuguese and Spanish met in Idanha-a-Nova for the 17th Borderland Fair. This is still one of the strongest examples of transborder cooperation among communities between Portugal and Spain. As in other previous Fair the Borderland Fair was aimed to promote rural life and products. Cooperating with the Municipality of Moraleja and with the support of Naturtejo Geopark Idanha-a-Nova promoted the brand Land Products for local made high-quality products. More than 200 exhibitors were present in full-days agenda. Naturtejo Geopark was part of the exhibition with own stand.



IMPACT OF GEOPARK IN MEDIA

Newspapers & www

- June-December (AutohojeTT & Aventura) –
- June (Boletim Municipal de Vila Velha de Ródão) – Fish soups foster the municipality for three days
- June (Boletim Municipal de Vila Velha de Ródão) – Portas do Almourão candidate to regional Protected Area
- June (Boletim Municipal de Vila Velha de Ródão) – Valuing the archeological site of Foz do Enxarrique
- July (O Concelho de Vila Velha de Ródão) – Portas de Almourão under protection
- 2 July (Diário de Coimbra) Fair has shown the best of Vila Velha de Ródão
- 2 July (Diário de Coimbra) – Centre of Portugal is starting a new tourist route by the UNESCO world heritage
- 7 July (Açoriano Oriental) – Naturtejo Geopark
- 17 July (Gazeta do Interior) – Proença and Ródão United to make Portas de Almourão a Nature Park
- 17 July (Gazeta do Interior) – International Appalachian Trail will be implemented
- 17 July (Gazeta do Interior) – Borderland Fair
- 18 July (Reconquista) – Portas de Almourão as regional Nature Park
- 18 July (Reconquista) – Oleiros in the Appalachian Trail
- 18 July (Reconquista) – Watermelon Festival this weekend
- 18 July (Reconquista) – Borderland Fair presented this friday
- 24 July (Gazeta do Interior) – Idanha-a-Nova bets for promotion of rural life and innovation
- 24 July (Gazeta do Interior front page) – Festival sells 40 tons of watermelon in two days
- 25 July (Reconquista headline) – Fair promotes innovation in the rural world
- 25 July (Reconquista) – 40 tons were sold in the festival

TV & Radio

- 16 July – RTP1 Portugal no Coração live show – Interview to Armindo Jacinto and Carlos Neto de Carvalho about Nature Tourism and other projects in Naturtejo Geopark

SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE GEO PARK AND THE GEOSCIENCES



Mateus, O., Neto de Carvalho, C. & Klompmaker, A.A. – Decapod crustacean body and ichnofossils from the Mesozoic of Portugal. In Krobicki, M.(Ed.), 5th Symposium on Mesozoic and Cenozoic Decapod Crustaceans, Book of Abstracts: 61-64.



PROMOTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Oliveira H., Lopes I., Catana M. M. - Dia Mundial do Ambiente. Raiano – Publicação Mensal do Concelho de Idanha-a-Nova. Ano XL – N.º 439 – 13 de Junho de 2013. pp 3.

Catana M. M. - Alunos da Califórnia estudam língua e cultura Portuguesa no Geopark Naturtejo. Raiano – Publicação Mensal do Concelho de Idanha-a-Nova. Ano XL . N.º. 440 – 11 de Julho de 2013. pp. 15.

Catana M., Sousa M. & Romão J. - A Geologia na Rota dos Castelos do Reino: À conquista do Castelo de Monsanto. Guião da Acção de Geologia no Verão 2013. Agência Nacional para a Cultura Científica, 12pp. (in Portuguese) (<http://www.cienciaviva.pt/veraocv/comum/2013/actividadeshoje.asp>)

Guia das Praias Fluviais e Zonas Balneares da Região Centro – Blanche, 146 pp (in Portuguese only, with the support of Naturtejo Global Geopark).

3rd International GEOschools Conference: TEACHING GEOSCIENCES IN EUROPE
from Primary to Secondary School
28 & 29 September 2013, GREECE

GEO SCHOOLS

28 September
Old University of Athens

29 September
Aegina Island

Under the Auspices of the Hellenic Ministry of Education & Religious Affairs, Culture & Sports



PROMOTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

TEJO - VOGAR CONTRA A INDIFERENÇA
19. OUTUBRO. 2013
 DESCIDA DE CANOA
 PORTAS DE RÓDÃO > FONTE DAS VIRTUDES > ARNEIRO

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PROGRAMA

08:00 **CONCENTRAÇÃO**
 PORTAS DE RÓDÃO - CANOA

10:00 **PARAGEM NA FONTE DAS VIRTUDES**
 DIVULGAÇÃO DOS OBJECTIVOS DA INICIATIVA

12:30 **CHEGADA AO ARNEIRO**
 ALMOÇO/SOPA DE PEIXE DO RIO

PELOS NOSSOS RIOS, PELO NOSSO FUTURO
<https://www.facebook.com/tejavogar>

Logos: ARA, cortaxo, organizamos, Movimento Cívico, proTEJO, rede de rios, naturtejo, apoiamos, NISA, Associação de Proteção do Tejo, Tullio

Proença-a-Nova International Archaeological Field **2013**
Campo Arqueológico de Proença-a-Nova

19 de Agosto a 14 de Setembro
Intervenções arqueológicas nas sepulturas pré-históricas das Moitas

7 de Setembro
Colóquio "Novos aspectos da Arqueologia de Proença-a-Nova e do Tejo Interior"
 19:00 Auditório Municipal

20, 23, 27, 30 de Agosto e 2, 6, 9 e 12 de Setembro
Visitas de estudo
 Serra do Sêmede | Porto de Sinesaú | Aldeia de Figueira
 Centro de Cultura Viva de Beja | Estádio Municipal de Beja | Museu do Tejo
 Parque de Recreio e Centro de Interpretação de São Roque do Tejo

19, 22, 24, 26, 29, 31 de Agosto e 3, 5, 10 e 13 de Setembro
Tertúlias
 17:30
 Cafetaria/Galeria Municipal
 Parque Urbano Comendador João Martins

8 de Setembro
Percurso Pedestre "A História da Paisagem"
 08:30 Moitas

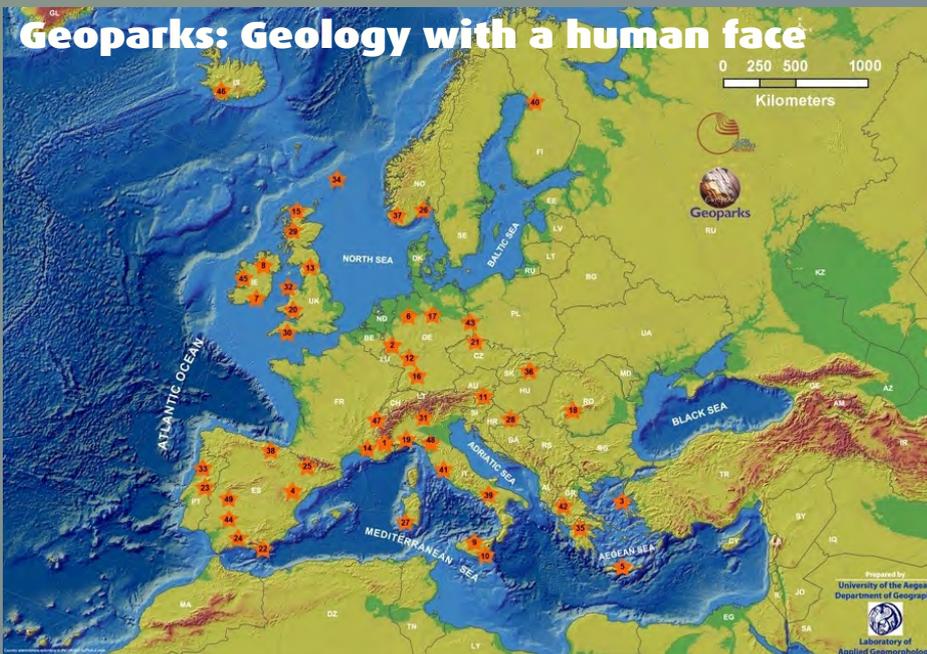
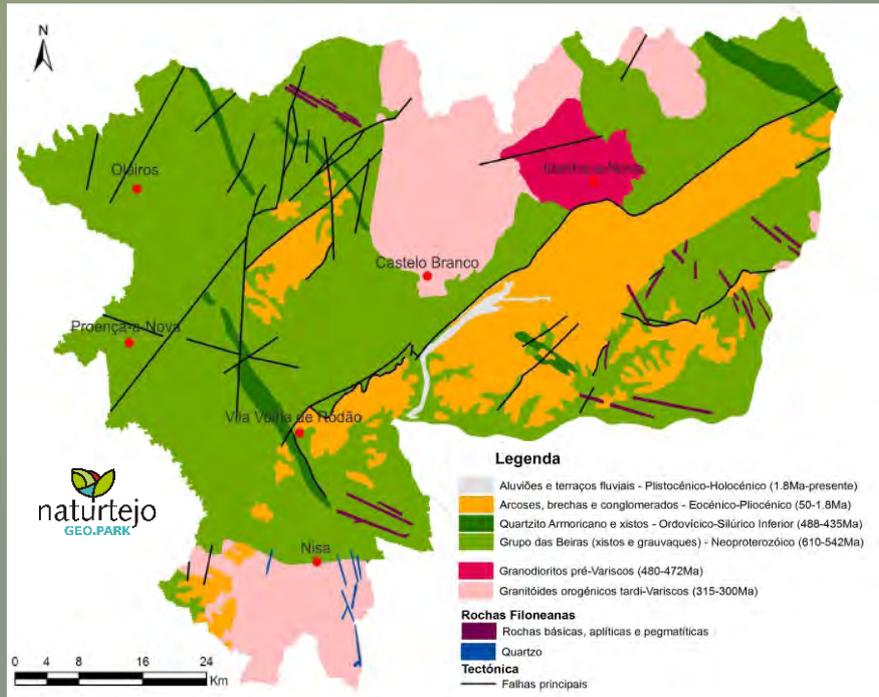
Contactos para informações: 274670000

Logos: CHAIA, HERCULES, Universidade de Alentejo, LIPORTO, naturtejo, EMERITA

Geopark Visibility Poster within the European Geoparks of Note [shows the quality brand of Geoparks]:

Die besten Geoparks in Europa
 Die Steirische Eisenwurzeln ist einer davon...

Logos: Geoparks, Europa



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