



Teacher Training Course for the Portuguese Association of Biology and Geology Teachers Presentation of the Biennium for Climate Action in Portuguese Geoparks First Annual Meeting of the Project IGCP 726 - GEOfood for Sustainable Development in UNESCO Global Geoparks ...and more!

CRUZZIANA NATUREJO UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK - E-MAGAZINE



MONTHLY ACTIVITIES



June – 'Handbook for the Development of Geopark Tourism Projects in Brazil' with examples of Naturtejo Geopark. The Ministry of Tourism of Brazil, in partnership with UNESCO, launched the 'Handbook for the Development of Geoparks Tourism Projects in Brazil', aiming to promote tourism development in these territories, investment orientation, marketing and promotion actions.

The Manual is composed by several documents, designed for professionals in the sector and presents several examples of Naturtejo Geopark territory, as well as the case study of Geocakes, as an example in the development of local products and sustainability.

June 1st - Presentation of the Biennium for Climate Action in Portuguese Geoparks. The contribution of the geoparks in the Climate Change issue is the new project that unites the Portuguese geoparks. This two-year project was presented in a Webinar organized by Estrela Geopark. The Portuguese Geoparks, in partnership with UNESCO National Commission and Tourism of Portugal, presented the project "Biennium for Climate Action" in this webinar, where they discussed the work that each geopark has been developing locally to achieve the goals of the United Nations Goal 13. Carlos Neto de Carvalho was the spokesman of Naturtejo Geopark.



June 3rd - Students broaden their horizons at the Quartz Museum in Viseu. Students from the 3rd year 1st cycle class of the Basic School of Penamacor visited the Quartz Museum, in Viseu, as part of the annual activities within the Integrated and Innovative Plan to Combat School Failure (PIICIE). After a field trip and a day of classroom activities dedicated to rocks, minerals and the geologist's work, students had the opportunity to visit a museum entirely dedicated to Geology, with a permanent exhibition about quartz.

Students also visited the temporary exhibitions "Cradle of Quartz", dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the Museum and to the evolution of this project, from the abandonment of exploration to the birth of the museum space and also "Seeing Planet Earth: on the shoulders of Giants", an interactive exhibition that allows to better understand the hydrological cycle, the storms, the functioning of our body or the internal structure of the Earth. The class was accompanied by Mariana Vilas Boas and Joana Rodrigues.



June 4th and 5th - New project for the study of ancient underground mining in Naturtejo Geopark. Popular curiosity named them Aljubes and Vieiros, Lapas, Covas, Buracos and Buracas "da Moura". These are cavities that open up in the rocks, which tradition says have legendary extensions, often unknown. There is no quartzite mountain in the region that does not have them: they are the vieiros of Salvador (Penamacor) and lapas of Penha Garcia (Idanha-a-Nova), buracas da Moura of Barbaído (Castelo Branco) and Serra das Talhadas (Proença-a-Nova), the aljubes of Monforte da Beira (Castelo Branco) and Buraco da Faiopa (Nisa). In a region where there are almost no limestone rocks, these cavities should not exist in the natural environment. They are ancient mines, but from which time and which metals were exploited, as well as the dismantling methods and technologies used still remain largely a mystery.

In many regions of the country, more and more importance is given to a more or less distant mining past which is a reference in the community memory or local heritage, sometimes of great expression and which should be valued. This is the case of Monforte da Beira, whose Parish showed interest in understanding the relevance of the universe of mines that are developed around the "Castle", a settlement dating back to the end of the Bronze Age. Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark team, in collaboration with the Upper Tagus Studies Association which has been making the inventory of mining sites since the seventies, has been identifying this as a relevant geo-archaeological heritage for the region, with such significant places as Conhal do Arneiro, in the parish of Santana, and the Mining Complex of Presa-Covão do Urso, in Penamacor, extensive and important mining areas which date back, at least, to the Roman period. But what is known about the ancient mining pits and galleries which open up, with amazement, in the crags and hills, is still very little.

Naturtejo Geopark Landscape Festival integrated in the European UNESCO Geoparks Week ended last weekend with the start of the research work carried out by the team of the Speleology and Mountaineering Group. With great experience in the mapping and clearance of the Roman fojos of Valongo, what may have been the largest underground mining complex of the Roman Empire, the Group expects the publication of an important work in two volumes about the discoveries made, already next month. Supported by Naturtejo, EIM, the Parish Council of Monforte da Beira and the Upper Tagus Studies Association, the team led by André Leite and Pedro Aguiar, and accompanied by the geologist Carlos Neto de Carvalho and the archaeologist Francisco Henriques, made a prospecting visit to the main underground cavities of the region.

In Monforte da Beira occurs the largest concentration of these old mines, and the team visited five of them. The President of the Parish Council, João Ramos, showed a great interest in knowing better these spaces in the Monforte Mountain which are part of the collective memory, in the perspective of valuing them as geomining and archaeological spaces, habitats for a practically unknown cavernous biodiversity, with the support of the Municipality of Castelo Branco. The same happens with the Municipality of Penamacor, which intends to learn more about the monumental vieiros of Salvador. With an origin not yet deciphered, these mines had a last phase of exploration for iron ore. In the 50s, many people from the village worked in these mines, which are still a reference in their toponymy. Close to Portas de Ródão and in the middle of the protected area, with an amazing view over the Arneiro moat, there is Buraco da Faiopa. With probable Roman exploitation, this cavity was observed by archaeologist Francisco Henriques in the seventies. Fifty years later, Francisco went down again to the mine to guide the Speleology and Mountaineering Group, in what turned out to be the most extensive and complex mine visited by the team so far. After two hours of prospecting, the joy was visible on the muddy face of the well-known researcher of the region: "I happily remembered my youthful days, with renewed energy".

The multidisciplinary work of topography, geology and archaeology will continue to take place in the coming months, in these and other known ancient mining cavities in the region of Naturtejo Geopark. "It will be a contribution to the millenary knowledge of the exploitation of natural resources and an opportunity for heritage valorisation", recognized Carlos Neto de Carvalho.



June 6th – Termas de Monfortinho with renewed Summer Festival. It was officially presented the festival "Termas é Monfortinho", a summer program that will take place between July 15th to September 25th, with more than 50 activities with Naturtejo Geopark as partner.

The presentation had the presence of the Mayor of Idanha-a-Nova and Naturtejo EIM, Armindo Jacinto, the President of Tourism Center of Portugal, Pedro Machado and the vice-president of the Iberian Association of Inland Tourism, Ana Palmeira de Oliveira, who highlighted the importance of the event to attract the public during this period. The Festival will include music, culture and debates and will take place in the Thermal Spa of Monfortinho (in the Laranjeiras Garden, the Storks Room and the Solarium) and will count with initiatives promoted by Naturtejo Geopark.

June 6th to 9th – Naturtejo Geopark collaborates in the Oxford Geoheritage Virtual Conference. Naturtejo Geopark attended the OxGVC2022 - Oxford Geoheritage Virtual Conference, an online conference that gathered hundreds of experts from all over the world in Geological Heritage and Geoconservation. Joana Rodrigues presented a communication about the Guide of the Portuguese Geological and Mines Sites and collaborated in the presentation of the project IGCP726 - GEOfood for Sustainable Development in UNESCO Global Geoparks.

June 11th and 12th - VI Congress of Traditional Medicines of Penha Garcia. Penha Garcia hosted the VI Congress of Traditional Medicines, dedicated to healthy food, uses and customs. The event took place at S. Pedro de Alcântara Museum Centre and was organized by the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova and Penha Garcia Parish Council, in partnership with local associations, supported by Naturtejo Geopark.

The main theme of the works was healthy food. They had the participation of Carolina Figueiredo, from Raiano Documentary Centre; Tânia Andrade, from Bio-Region of Idanha-a-Nova; Josefina Pissarra and Catarina Rodrigues; Joana Rodrigues, from BeatRoot; and Talho das Manas.

This was followed by lunch at Frágua-Bar, prepared by chef Leandro Fans and Josefina Pissarra. In the afternoon, the Fears and Fossils Trail took place.



June 14th – Naturtejo Geopark in the presentation of the Strategic Plan of Oeste Aspiring Geopark. It was presented, in Caldas da Rainha, the Strategic Plan of the Oeste Aspiring Geopark. This document is an essential management instrument, not only for the development of the candidacy to UNESCO Global Geopark, but mainly for the implementation of territorial scope measures related to geoconservation, education and tourism. Joana Rodrigues was present, representing Naturtejo Geopark. Remember that the West territory includes the municipalities of Bombarral, Cadaval, Caldas da Rainha, Lourinhã, Peniche, Torres Vedras and intends to submit its application in December 2022.



June 15th - Training Action for Naturtejo Geopark partners, on the Fossils Trail of Penha Garcia. Another Training Action for Geopark Naturtejo partners, in the Fossils Trail of Penha Garcia. Besides a brief introduction to Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark and to the resources of the territory it addressed touristic information about Penha Garcia, namely the regional framing, patrimonial values, visitation places, touristic infrastructures, activities and events, regional natural heritage. Along the Trail, points of touristic interest and technical information were explored. Tourism entertainment and accommodation companies from Monsanto, Penha Garcia and Penamacor attended this action, lead by the geologist Joana Rodrigues. During the training there were also moments of experience sharing in the territory, as well as the consolidation of partnerships between companies.

June 15th - Naturtejo Geopark renews Clean & Safe Certificate for Geoparks. The new version of the Tourism of Portugal Clean & Safe Certificate is now available. This is a support tool for companies in "crisis management", boosting confidence in Portugal as a destination and in its tourism resources.

The scope of the certificate has been extended to other possible public health situations (CLEAN component), and also to other dimensions of transversal safety of tourists associated to other types of vulnerabilities and risks inherent to the various experiences they will develop in the territory (SAFE component). It is thus intended to be a "crisis management" tool. This way, the certificate covers the requirement of training and the adoption of action plans regarding health (other pandemics besides the Covid-19 / infections by biological agents, heat waves), extreme phenomena / collective risks - rural fires, floods, earthquakes and tsunamis and international constraints - cybersecurity and refugees.

Naturtejo Geopark renews thus the adhesion to Clean & Safe for Geoparks, for the next two years, keeping valid the contingency plan to contain the spread of Covid-19, adapted to the current epidemiological reality, according to the Health National Authority guidelines. All the information is available to the public at the national platform portugalcleanandsafe.com.

June 17th - First Annual Meeting of the Project IGCP 726 - GEOfood for Sustainable Development in UNESCO

Global Geoparks. The first annual meeting of the project IGCP 726 - GEOfood for Sustainable Development in UNESCO Global Geoparks was held, aiming to organise the work for Objective 2, namely the research methodologies, the working groups and the intended results. The second year of the project is coordinated by Hateg Geopark (Romania) and is dedicated to the development of evaluation methodologies, implementation and results of GEOfood.

This was followed by the GEOfood international brand meeting, where some implementation challenges were discussed and where each of the 33 current partners presented their work. The 5 new joining members were also introduced: Haute-Provence (France), Thüringen Inselsberg-Drei Gleichen (Germany), Grevena - Kozani (Italy), Stonehammer (Canada) and Sitia (Greece). Joana Rodrigues, project secretary, represented Naturtejo Geopark in both meetings and presented the status of the brand implementation in the territory.



June 17th-19th – Geoproducts and GEOfood at the Shepherd Festival. Geoproducts and GEOfood from Naturtejo Geopark were at the Shepherd Festival in Manteigas. This event celebrated and honoured all the Shepherds that were part of the History and Culture of Estrela Mountain.

During three days, street animation, taverns, local products, musical performances, theatre and workshops filled the historical centre.

In the GEOfood Street, promoted by Estrela Geopark, there were workshops, snacks, tastings, wine tastings, a GEOfood show-cooking and also a discussion on 'Local Products and Identity'.

Besides the regional products in the GEOfood Street there were also products from all the Portuguese Geoparks, including jams, biscuits and tea from Naturtejo Geopark.



June 18th and 19th - Teacher Training Course for the Portuguese Association of Biology and Geology Teachers. The Accredited Training Course "Geodiversity and geological heritage in Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark" was an organization of the Portuguese Association of Biology and Geology Teachers with Naturtejo Geopark. About 27 participants coming from all over the country, but also from local schools, attended this training course, of 15 hours, which took place under the guidance of Carlos Neto de Carvalho, Scientific Coordinator of the Geopark. The participants went through the big Ponsul Fault, from Idanha-a-Nova to Penha Garcia, where they visited the Ichnological Park, passing through the Monsanto inselberg. The following day was spent in Portas de Ródão Natural Monument, finishing in Portas de Almourão Geomonument.

June 21st – American group visit Monsanto. A group of eight Americans made a program in Monsanto with a demonstration of Adufes, guided by our partner Porta Raiana.



June 28th to July 1st - Revalidation of Courel UNESCO Global Geopark. Carlos Neto de Carvalho was once again one of the evaluators selected by UNESCO for a revalidation mission, this time the Courel Geopark located in Galicia. Together with Sigurdur Sigursveinsson, the Icelandic Katla Geopark, the mission aimed to verify the work that has been developed to enhance the local geological heritage for the benefit of communities. The visit included local partners and new projects for interpretation centres, viewpoints and tourist offices, as well as a final big event in support of the geopark where more than two hundred people converged.

June 29th - Collaborative Networks Meeting. This session was dedicated to the Transform Tourism programme, applications submitted, in preparation and to be formulated, by each Network or by several Networks and query handling. Carla Jacinto represented Naturtejo Geopark.



IMPACT OF GEOPARK IN MEDIA

TV & Radio

June 7th (Beira Baixa TV) – Naturtejo Geopark - Underground treasures revealed June 7th (Rádio Castelo Branco) - Underground treasures from Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark begin to be revealed

Newspapers & www

June 6th (Jornal de Oleiros) - Underground treasures from Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark begin to be revealed

June 6th (Gazeta Rural) - Underground treasures from Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark begin to be reve<mark>a</mark>led

June 6th (https://centroty.sapo.pt/) - Underground treasures from Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark begin to be revealed

June 6th (https://www.sapo.pt) - Underground treasures from Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark begin to be revealed

June 6th (BeiraNews) - Underground treasures from Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark begin to be revealed

June 6th (forumcovilha.pt) - Underground treasures from Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark begin to be revealed

June 7th (sapobrasil.com.br) - Underground treasures from Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark begin to be revealed

June 7th (Descla) - Underground treasures from Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark June 7th (www.e-cultura.pt) - Underground treasures from Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark

June 7th (Mais Beiras) - Underground treasures from Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark June 7th (Pinhal Digital) - Underground treasures from Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark June 15th (Reconquista) - Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark - Underground treasures begin to be revealed

June 15th (SapoViagens) - 12 of the most spectacular geological formations in Portugal June 17th (El País) - The coast of the giants: footprints in the Gulf of Cadiz confirm the coexistence of huge aurochs with other megafauna and Neanderthals.

June 19th EL PAÍS English Edition) - Coast of giants: Footprints in Spain confirm coexistence of massive aurochs with Neanderthals

June 24th (www.nationalgeographic.pt) – Monsanto: granite as floor, wall and ceiling June 28th (www.vortex.mag.net) – A Portuguese village the Japanese love

SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE

- NETO DE CARVALHO, C., MUÑIZ, F., CÁCERES, L.M., BELAÚSTEGUI, Z., RODRÍGUEZ-VIDAL, J., BELO, J., MOREIRA, N., CACHÃO, M., CUNHA, P.P., FIGUEIREDO, S., GALÁN, J.M., ZHANG, Y., GÓMEZ, P., TOSCANO, A., RUIZ, F., RAMÍREZ-CRUZADO, S., GILES-GUZMÁN, F., FINLAYSON, G., FINLAYSON, S. & FINLAYSON, C. - Aurochs roamed along the SW coast of Andalusia (Spain) during Late Pleistocene. Scientifc Reports, 12:9911. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-022-14137-6.

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Geoparks: Geology with human face



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