

Cruziãna

ବ୍ୟାଞ୍ଚନ ଘଟଣାରେ ଇନ୍ ପୂର୍ବଦି ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶିତ

monthly report of the Geopark Naturtejo Meseta Meridional



In this issue: – Geopark exhibited in Foz do Cobrão – One Year of Planet Earth celebrated in the National Assembly – International Seminar on Geoparks in Brazil with Naturtejo Geopark– NaturGeo2008 in Granada shows the best of Andaluzia *and more...*

www.geoparknaturtejo.com

Olá/Hola/Ciao/Bonjour/Γειά σου/Hallo/God Dag/Salut/Zdravo/Hello

This month was intense concerning international cooperation. Naturtejo Geopark was invited to be in international seminars organized by regional governments, Andalusia in Spain and Ceará in Brazil respectively, that are deeply involved in the conservation and sustainable use of their geodiversity. There are many amazing examples developed by the Environmental Council of Andalusia perhaps not well exposed and understood by EGN or their local communities. The same happens in Brazil where the big game is being played by the Secretaries and did not reach yet the communities. But the main concern on geodiversity is being well rooted and irrigated in both regions and we want to emphasize it and help to collect the best fruits in the near future. The Cities Secretary of Ceará Government is counting with the Naturtejo Geopark to help in the creation of a strategy for geodiversity popularization and geotourism development. In Turkey, Izmir University works actively for the application of the first geopark with total support of Naturtejo Geopark and some concern about the involvement of local active participation. Almost everyday we are in direct contact with Fundación Geoparques de Venezuela advising about geotourism initiatives and the implementation of the project for the first Geopark in Nueva Esparta, helping as we can the crazy but brave pursuit of Roigar López, Jesus Salazar and Francisco Hurtado to congregate local interests with national funding that is lasting to come. Here we have no doubt about local participation in a future geopark but we are still concerned about National prerogatives and political trajectories. But we don't forget our country. We have signed a cooperation document with Geopark Porto Santo in Madeira Islands almost one year ago and we follow closely the fast and strong development of Azores Geopark by the interest of the Regional Autonomic Government. Seems the application to EGN of the third Portuguese Geopark will be ready by the end of 2009 and this will be a major achievement to the network concerning the international importance of Azorean volcanic geoheritage, exemplar protection measures of natural resources and high-quality tourism standards founded on Nature Tourism. A European Geopark must be seen as a source of inspiration for governmental or local institutions in respect to implementation of sustainable strategies for geodiversity use. However, a European Geopark should also actively help those who wish for doing better. Tutoring should formally be established by EGN as part of its main activities. It must be one of our major duties even if our daily activities of management and the lack of workers take all our time...



Geopark Naturtejo Meseta Meridional is...



Armino Jacinto
Agronomist Engineer
Chairman of Naturtejo
Vice-president of Idanha

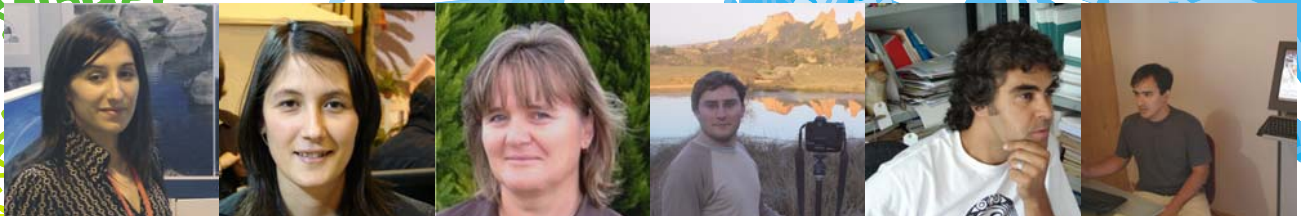
Carlos Neto de Carvalho
Geologist
Scientific Coordinator
Researcher

Rui Marques
Biologist
Marketing

Rafael André
Economist
Financial Planner

Cristina Pregoça
Journalist
Administrative

Jesus Alarcón
Commercial
Agent for Spain



Fátima Rodrigues
Agronomist Engineer
Tourism/Communication

Eliane Antunes
Financial Manager
Tourism/Webpage

Alice Marcelo
Accountant
Administration assistant

Pedro Martins
Ecotourism
Tourism/Photographer

Eddy Chambino
Anthropologist
Researcher

Nuno Capelo
Marketing
Marketing/Designer



Manuela Catana
Teacher of Natural
Sciences
Educational Programs

Andrea Baucori
Geologist
Exhibition tools/Research

Miguel Costa Silva
Doctor of Law
Lawyer

Tiago Oliveira
Management
Events

Pedro Dias
Environment Engineer
Planner/Tourism Fairs

Joana Rodrigues
Geologist
Geoheritage

The team work!

Where...

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1) Activities



31st October-2nd November – A group of Spanish tourists came to the Geopark to do the Historical Villages Tour. They enjoyed to visit the villages of Monsanto and Idanha-a-Velha and met also the Templar village of Idanha-a-Nova. This group composed by 25 people was brought by ARAWAK tour operator. Naturtejo guided the visit through Eliane Antunes and Cristina Preguiça with the help of tourism technicians from Idanha-a-Nova municipality and a local History expert, Dr. António Catana.



8th November – **Crafts and Tastes at Foz do Cobrão.** One more event was celebrated in the small village of Foz do Cobrão by the Estudos do Alto Tejo Association and the local Group of Friends with the help of Naturtejo Geopark. This time the main aim was to taste the tradition of Foz do Cobrão. Naturtejo Geopark installed a multimedia interactive exhibition about the Vila Velha de Ródão geosites emphasizing Portas do Almourão outstanding geomonument in the interpretive centre of the village. Visitors coming from many parts of the country started with a visit by the village. After, they had the opportunity to visit the exhibition followed by a presentation of Joana Rodrigues on the Geopark. People lay down in carpets to listen local music and stories while tasting teas made with autochthonous plants. Finally they went to the communitarian oven to learn how to make traditional cookies.



9th November

– **Group of bank workers celebrate chestnuts.** Naturtejo in collaboration with Oleiros Municipality prepared a special program for Caixa Geral de Depósitos bank workers in the scope of the Chestnut & Arbutus Week occurred in Oleiros between November 1-9. Activities involved the participation of more than 50 people and were followed by the friendly municipal technicians Inês Martins and Carlos Lourenço. Reception of the group was done by the vice-mayor himself, Victor Antunes. The day began with a walking along the Sertã river to find the autumn colours of the chestnut-trees. After the group visited the traditional village of Isna and tasted the good old-style made barbecue of chestnuts accompanied by Jeropiga drink they returned to Oleiros to find the wonders of arbutus pie and marmelade with regional cheese, arbutus liquors and traditional recipes of chestnut. The program finished with an “assault” to the tourism office and a local cheese shop emptied of local products!



9th November

– **Guided visit to Orvalho geosites.** Carlos Neto de Carvalho and Joana Rodrigues were invited to guide a group of 30 people by the president of Orvalho village. 2 local young guides took the opportunity to have training about the geosites of the Orvalho trail. People were amazed by the green and autumn colours of the forest and by the richness and appeal of the visited geosites. Mushrooms were also the main focus of the photos...



12th November – **One Year of Planet Earth in the National Parliament.** The National Commission for UNESCO celebrated one year and 362 activities developed during the International Year of Planet Earth with the opening of the multimedia exhibition *International Year of Planet Earth – Earth Sciences for Society*. Naturtejo Geopark was invited for the opening of this mediatic exhibition held in the foyer of the National Parliament to raise the awareness of national politicians, where EGN and Naturtejo Geopark have a very good visibility. Carlos Neto de Carvalho, Joana Rodrigues and Manuela Catana assisted to the opening made by the President of the National Parliament and the President of the National Commission for UNESCO, which gave a long praise to all the work and dynamics of Naturtejo Geopark. The exhibition is going to travel all country with a stop in the Naturtejo headquarters by the time of the VIII European Geoparks Conference.



13-14th November – **Naturtejo Geopark as example in the International Seminar on Geoparks and Geotourism, Brazil.** The Government of Ceará State, through the Cities Secretary, organized the International Seminar on Geoparks and Geotourism. This successful event held in the Nordeste Bank, Passaré (Fortaleza), has as the main purposes to aware about the UNESCO Global Geoparks program, to emphasize the importance of Araripe Geopark for the development of Cariri and to contribute for creation of new geoparks in the country and Americas. For the seminar were invited coordinators of international geoparks, such as Armindo Jacinto (Geopark Naturtejo, Portugal), Rosária Módica (Geopark Madonie, Italy), Guy Martini (Reserve Géologique de Haute Provence, France), among others. The challenge of Araripe Geopark and Ceará Government, despite of so much

efforts, is to make this Geopark an example of success for this State, for Brazil, for Americas and for the Global Geoparks Network. The dynamics of this strategy must be headed by Cities Secretary, also cooperating with Tourism, Environment, Culture and Science secretaries, the Regional University of Cariri and other entities, involving local companies, cultural and social associations. It is possible to include in this strategy of development young people through universities, local society, cooperations at national and international levels combining several sciences like geology, biology, anthropology, history, archeology, museology, economy, architecture, environment, management, marketing, design, informatics, tourism, etc. It is fundamental to create a management structure to assure stability and the run of the Geopark beyond political cycles. The geotopes nowadays not well developed for tourism, will be an important achievement developed by the Cities Program.

14th November – **Project of birdwatching presented by Naturtejo Geopark.** The International Seminar on Nature Tourism was held this year in Tróia, Portugal under the main subject “The tourist potentialities of birdwatching”. Naturtejo Geopark was there through Pedro Dias and Pedro Martins. Complementing the seminar organized by the Tourism of Portugal with SPEA, there was an exhibition of projects on birdwacthing, where Naturtejo Geopark was also included.

15th November – **Policemen and kids sliding across the Ponsul gorge.** More than 200 people among policemen, kids and local people participated in an entertaining afternoon of outdoor sports in the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia. After the training of policemen about the natural and cultural heritage of Idanha-a-Nova municipality there was time to experiment some fun in the second and last part of the trainee. The event was open to all and several schools from the municipality gladly participated.



16th November – **Schools are starting again to come to the Geopark.** 25 students from the 10-11th grades and two teachers of S. Lourenço High School, Portalegre, open the year of Educational Programs in the Naturtejo Geopark. The school went to the Geopark in the scope of the discipline of Phylosophy! They visited the Fossils

Trail of Penha Garcia and the Boulders Trail of Monsanto. Manuela Catana was the guide with the support of the geologist engineer Rodrigo Ceia from Portalegre municipality that was there for training on the organization of educational programs at the Naturtejo Geopark.

25th November – **Seniors visit Castelo Branco city.** A travel agency with Naturtejo brought a group of 49 senior people to visit the only city of the Geopark. Tiago Oliveira guided the group to the Templar castle and old city, the Garden of the Bishop Palace and Francisco Tavares Proença Júnior Museum.



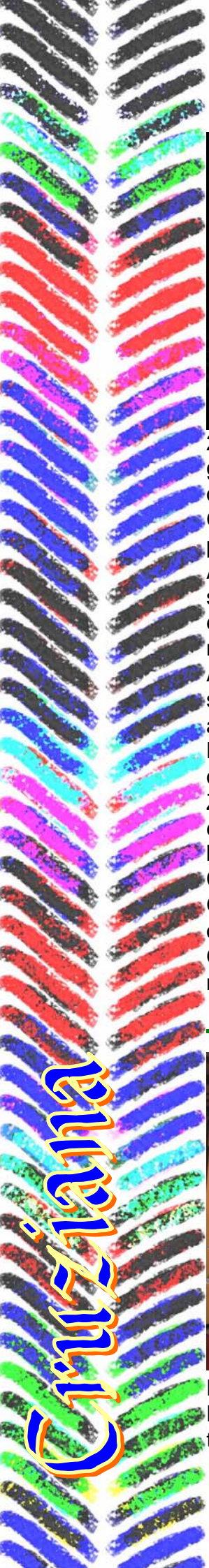
26th November – **Skal International presented to the Geopark's tourism entrepreneurs.** The Movement Skal International was presented in the Naturtejo Geopark at Best Western Hotel Rainha D'Amélia, Castelo Branco: The creation of a Skal club, as member of the international board of tourism professionals spread all over the world, was the main challenge of Naturtejo Geopark. 3 directors of the Skal Lisbon and Skal Algarve filial were present to show the importance for Naturtejo's tourism businessmen of this club. Skal is composed by 20.000 associates spread by 5 continents, through 50 clubs belonging to 90 countries. Skal congregates in the same environment transport companies, travel agencies, hotels, event companies, tourism official institutions, specialized *media*, among other components of world tourist trade. In Portugal there are 5 clubs, namely in Algarve, Lisboa, Porto, Madeira and Azores. It is worth to remember that this presentation reunited entrepreneurs and public and private institutions from the tourism sector after attribution to Naturtejo Geopark of the Ecotourism Award in the category of Educational Programs – Media. Armindo Jacinto was the host of this presentation to 30 people among travel agents, hotel managers, event organizers, responsible for official tourism organisms, transporters and restaurant businessmen representing tourism segments that act or are implanted in the territory of Naturtejo Geopark.



26-28th November – **Andalusia presents a wonderful example on geoheritage in Granada.** The Environmental Council of Andalusia Government organized a very successful II Seminar on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Geodiversity in Granada, called NaturGeo 2008. More than 300 people participated in this seminar held in Granada to promote geodiversity of Andalusia which also attracted much attention from regional media. In this seminar were presented several successful examples of geoconservation, environmental research and management, environmental planning and territorial management, local rural development, tourism planning and management in Andalusia. Also it was presented international examples of conservation and sustainable use of geodiversity with European Geoparks Network as the major achievement. The EGN and Lesvos Petrified Forest were very well presented by Katerina Vassileiadou. Carlos Neto de Carvalho also reinforced the importance of EGN and GGN and showed several examples of Naturtejo Geopark. Zacharenia Skoula finished EGN talks with the presentation of Psiloritis examples. Andalusia geoparks and their promising innovative projects were before presented by Rosa Mendonza and Baldomero Moreno, respectively from Cabo de Gata-Nijar and Subbeticas geoparks. During the seminar the Geological Survey of Spain and Andalusia Government showed several projects on geoheritage in promotional stands that got much attention. The Iberian Geoparks and EGN corner made a good introduction to many interested to know more about the network.



28th November-1st December – **Naturtejo Geopark presented as one of the 4 territories of the Centre of Portugal Tourism Region.** The Centre of Portugal Regional Tourism Entity through Armindo Jacinto participated in the Beira Interior Fair of Economical



Activities, FERCAB, occurred in Castelo Branco. The stand promoted its territory divided by 4 poles of tourist trade. During the fair, visitors got the opportunity to do a virtual trip to some of the most beautiful places of the Centre of Portugal, comprising delegations of Castelo Branco-Naturtejo, Coimbra, Ria de Aveiro and Dão-Lafões. Cristina Preguiça showed the richness and diversity of heritage of this region to many locals as well as Spanish visitors.

3) Geopark's Impact in Media

Newspapers/Magazines

- November/December (Quercus Ambiente) – “Clean up the world – cleaning Tejo promoting biodiversity”**
- November (Raiano) – “Old trails in Monsanto”**
- November (Raiano) – “Naturtejo Geopark wins “Ecotourism Award” Prize”**
- November (Agenda Cultural de Castelo Branco) – “Naturtejo Geopark wins “Ecotourism Award” Prize”**
- November (Ensino Magazine) – “Searching for Trilobites”**
- November (O Concelho de Vila Velha de Ródão) – “Crafts and tastes of Foz do Cobre”**
- November (Turismohotel) - “Naturtejo Geopark wins “Ecotourism Award” Prize”**
- November (Turismohotel) - “Meeting of Museologists”**
- November (Turismohotel) – “Boom Festival 2008: alternative culture in Beira Interior”**
- 2nd November (Sonntag Aktuell German newspaper) – “Im Steinbruch des Lebens”**
- 4th November (Povo da Beira) – “Gastronomy and culture evidenced”**
- 5th November (Gazeta do Interior) – “Iberian Seminar in Idanha-a-Nova”**
- 6th November (Jornal do Fundão) – “Know-hows and tastes of Foz do Cobre”**
- 11th November (Povo da Beira) – “Naturtejo associated in the creation of a special Tour to visitors”**
- 12th November (Gazeta do Interior) – “Foz do Cobre spoils urban people”**
- 12th November (Gazeta do Interior) – “Salvaterra do Extremo – village re-found tourism”**
- 13th November (Reconquista) – “Casa do Forno with Earth slices”**
- 13th November (Reconquista) – “Alto Tejo” promotes genuine traditions”**
- 18th November (Povo da Beira) – “Earth slices”**
- 19th November (Gazeta do Interior) – “More than two hundred speeding up in Penha Garcia”**
- 25th November (Al Di@ Spanish newspaper) – “Cooperation in tourism in both sides of the borderland”**



8th European Geoparks Conference
Naturtejo Geopark(Portugal)

“New challenges with Geotourism”
Idanha-a-Nova, 14-18th September 2009

Geoparks & Tourism
Geotourism & Local development
Geoparks & Science
Geoconservation best practices & wrong ways
Marketing strategies for a stronger EGN brand
Man & Nature: Cultural landscapes
Strong vs weak points in a Geopark
New geoparks & their tutors

Feira Rajana
The 2nd International Geoparks Fair
Cultural nights with local people
inspired in Nature Tourism

Dare to come?

www.geoparknaturtejo.com

**1st Circular is coming out in the beginning of January 2009.
Keep it in mind!!!**

Cruziana