

# GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2021

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

**Geopark name, country, regional Network:** Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark, Portugal, European Geoparks Network

**Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation:** 2006/ 2019



The Landscape Festival poster: annual celebration

of the European Geoparks Week

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

**Number of Geopark staffs:** 22 staffs including 4 geoscientist(s)

**Number of visitors:** 131196 overnight stays (average of 9,3% foreigners) (source INE National Institute of Statistics)

**Number of Geopark events:** Events held by management body: 11; events held in cooperative organization: 88.

**Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:** 45

**Number of Geopark press release:** 113

## 3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

### Major achievements in 2021

- Implementing the project Serra das Talhadas – Geodestination with MTB trails, a via ferrata and the viewpoint of Alto do Galego
- Organization of the International Congress “Tumuli and Megaliths in Eurasia”
- The UNESCO International Geosciences Programme (IGCP) approved the research project “GEOfood for the Sustainable Development in UNESCO Global Geoparks”, of which Naturtejo Geopark is part of.

- Landscape Festival in Naturtejo Geopark – EGN Week
- New Geopark and new GEOfood partners
- New Bio-Region of Idanha-a-Nova Market sell local organic products including geoproducts
- Research work of Naturtejo Geopark in the cover of the journal Geology
- The new Archaeological Map of the municipality of Proença-a-Nova
- Filming of the "Game of Thrones" saga set in the granite landscape of Monsanto Inselberg
- Age of landscapes associates Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark to international research team

### **Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation**

- Participation in the Digital Forums of the European Geoparks Network
- Participation “Working Group – Education” of the European Geoparks Network (EGN)
- Catalyst in the Work Group on Tourism of the EGN and Global Geoparks Network (GNN)
- Coordination of the participation of the Global Geoparks Network in the International Tourism Fair #ITBBerlinNOW, this year in digital format.
- Participation in the Webinar “Geotourism in Geoparks as Sustainable Tourism Destinations – Chile” organized by Kultralkura UGGp.
- Participation in the III Potiguar Meeting Seridó Geopark (Brazil)
- Presentation seminar of the Project 'GEOfood for sustainable development in UNESCO Global Geoparks
- Participation in the "Digital Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2021"
- Tourism of Portugal and the Portuguese UNESCO Global Geoparks promoted the webinar 'Geoparks: territories of sustainability'
- Naturtejo Geopark attended the Sustainable Earth 2021, online forum promoted by Sustainable Earth Institute, from the University of Plymouth (England)
- In the scope of ObservaEstrela 2021, promoted by Estrela Geopark, took place the Online Round Table 'Geoparks: Territories of Sustainability', with the participation of all the Portuguese UNESCO Global Geoparks.
- 1st Photo Contest of the Portuguese UNESCO Global Geoparks
- Catalogue of Scientific Research in Portuguese UNESCO Global Geoparks
- International Meeting of the IGCP 726 GEOfood Project
- Participation in the 9th UNESCO Global Geoparks International Conference in South Korea

### **Management and Financial Status**

- Management and financial status is balanced and similar to previous years (3 ongoing INTERREG projects) and a new ERASMUS+ project

### **Geoconservation**

- Geoconservation Award 2021 for Barrocal Park

- A new Master Thesis is being developed in the municipality of Vila Velha de Ródão and will allow the determination of the existing water reserves in the mountains of Talhadas and Perdigão, between the rivers Tejo and Ocreza.

### **Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)**

- Diagnosis of COVID-19 impact on the tourism sector of Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark
- Naturtejo Geopark with Tourism Centre of Portugal in FIO - International Ornithological Tourism Fair (Spain)
- The World Environment Day was celebrated by the community of Sobral Fernando/Geomonument of Portas de Almourão with the launching of the Experimenta Paisagem project
- Barrocal Park, in collaboration with Naturtejo Geopark, started a monthly visit program dedicated to value the natural and cultural heritage
- Living Science in summer at Naturtejo Geopark
- The tourist programs by Naturtejo Geopark are back after a long period in which it was not possible to structure organized visits
- Barrocal Park in Castelo Branco, in the heart of Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark, is one of the winners of the International Ecotourism Society Awards in the category Best Ecological Structure
- Arrebita Idanha Bio, a local gastronomy festival that once again focuses on sustainability and biodiversity
- The 10th Edition of Out of Place Festival - Idanha-a-Nova Ancient Music Festival

### **New education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction**

- Working Group "Educational Resources - of the Guide of the Portuguese Geological and Mines Sites
- Online Accredited Training Course for Teachers "Geodiversity and Biodiversity of Naturtejo Geopark
- Naturtejo Geopark participated in the online Round Table "Geodiversity & UNESCO Global Geoparks" promoted in the scope of the 'II Latin America MCAA Conference' organized by Marie Curie Alumni Association.
- Workshop and field trip in the scope of the project "Stones, small stones and gravel" for Penha Garcia kindergarten and primary school students
- Participation in the National Meeting "Tackling Geological Abandonment" organized by the Association of the Geology Students of the University of Coimbra
- Training Course "The Museum and the School (New Challenges/New Practices) of the Union of Teachers of the Central Region

- Lecture and Field Trip as part of the celebration of World Earth Day and National Geological Heritage Day
- Field Trip "Biodiversity of the International Tejo Natural Park"
- 'Geodiversity and Geomorphologic Heritage', from the Faculty of Arts of the University of Porto
- Formal Training Course for Teachers "Discovering the Geo-history of the last 600 MY in Beira Baixa and Geological Heritage"
- Teacher's Training Course "In the Lynx Lands - Geodiversity of Penamacor"
- Pangea International Master students at Barrocal Park
- Science Communication in the UNESCO Global Geoparks in Portugal on SciComPt
- Naturtejo Geopark at the 14th Meeting of Alentejo and Algarve Geosciences Teachers
- New Educational Program at Barrocal Park
- Visit to the natural and historical cultural heritage of Penha Garcia, Monsanto and Idanha-a-Velha, under the Municipal and Intercultural Mediators project of the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova
- Research work in Naturtejo Geopark by a young geoscientist awarded at the XI National Meeting of Young Researchers in Geosciences

### **Strategic partnership**

- The first course of Geotourism in Geoparks, promoted by Tourism of Portugal, Porto Hospitality and Tourism School and the Portuguese UNESCO Global Geoparks.
- The e-commerce platform SmartFarmer and the five Portuguese UNESCO Global Geoparks Naturtejo, Arouca, Açores, Terras de Cavaleiros and Estrela, signed a joint protocol for the promotion of the GEOfood brand.
- New twinning agreement with Villuercas-Ibores-Jara UNESCO Global Geopark
- Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark shared its experience in the series of Qualification Webinars 'Fire Management in UNESCO Sites', promoted by UNESCO Montevideo and the Platform for Climate, Risk and Resilience of UNESCO Sites in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Participation in the Webinar 'Tourism, Agriculture and Development of Inland Regions', promoted by the Terras de Cavaleiros Geopark
- Meeting of the Portuguese Geoparks within the scope of the Project "Biennium for Climate Action in Portuguese Geoparks (2021-2022)"
- The Living Science Forest Centre, in Proença-a-Nova, and Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark marked the World Earth Day and the National Geological Heritage Day with the opening of the exhibition 'Rocks and Minerals - Northern Portugal'.
- III BiodivSummit - "Living Economy" celebrates the International Day of Biodiversity

- Naturtejo Geopark integrated the project LEARN TO CHANGE, promoted by the Polytechnic Institute of Castelo Branco, financed by the Erasmus + agency for the period 2021-2023
- Participation in the 12th Annual Partners Meeting of the " Guide of the Portuguese Geological and Mines Sites"
- Participation in the EEA Grants Project "Fôlego (Breath)"
- Participation in the II Bolivian Meeting of Universities on Cultural and Natural Heritage, organized by the Habitat Research Institute, in Sucre, Bolivia, had the patronage of UNESCO

#### **Promotional activities**

- Naturtejo Geopark enlarges presence in the Social Networks with Twitter
- The new UNESCO Geoparks - Portugal (@GeoparquesPT) are, in this first phase, present on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Youtube and LinkedIn.
- (RTP1 programa "Aqui Portugal") – Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia
- TSF Radio "Terra a Terra" – Interview with Carlos Neto de Carvalho about the Geodiversity of the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia
- Six travel bloggers, from the Portuguese Travel Bloggers Association, and a photographer visited Naturtejo Geopark, in a trip of several days that crossed the territory, organized by Tourism Centre of Portugal
- The TV programme "It's good to do good" came to know the recovery work of the International Appalachian Trail, in Oleiros, greatly affected in the fires of 2017
- Spanish Television TVE2 between Penha Garcia Ichnological Park and Monsanto Inselberg
- The new GEOfood webpage ([www.geofood.no](http://www.geofood.no))
- New GEOfood baskets promote products of Portuguese Geoparks this Christmas
- Geoproducts on Bio-Region of Idanha-a-Nova Market - Christmas Special

#### **4. CONTACTS**

**Manager:** Armindo Jacinto [armindo.mpj@gmail.com](mailto:armindo.mpj@gmail.com)

**Geologist:** Carlos Neto de Carvalho [carlos.praedichnia@gmail.com](mailto:carlos.praedichnia@gmail.com)