

# GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2022

## 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



Geodiversity and the activities of the Geopark in the national training course for teachers organized together with the Portuguese Association of Geologists. Two publications organized for teachers by the scientific group and the educational staff of the Geopark are the outputs of this successful event.

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

**Number of Geopark staffs:** 21 staffs including 3 geoscientist(s)

**Number of visitors:** The number of visitors in the Geopark is estimated to 350000. The number includes the official numbers recorded in tourism offices and accommodations plus the major events estimates. The total of the overnight stays reached over 172000 in the Geopark lodging offer for 2021

**Number of Geopark events:** events held by management body: 26| events with cooperative organization: 110

**Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:** 24

**Number of Geopark press release:** 175

## 3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

### Major achievements in 2022

- Idanha-a-Nova Market was organized by the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova, with the collaboration of Naturtejo Geopark. This market, which will have a fortnightly periodicity, promotes the sale of local products, enhancing the short circuits and circular economy. Naturtejo Geopark's space is dedicated to the promotion of Geoproducts and GEOfood, aiming to make known Geopark partners as well as to sensitize for more sustainable agro-

food production ways.

- The Conference "Archaeology in Ródão: recent works", organised jointly by the municipality of Vila Velha de Ródão and the Upper Tagus Study Association (AEAT), fulfilled the goal of providing public testimony of the archaeological works carried out in recent years in the Geopark, with emphasis on those that had municipal support and part of which are still under development.
- 1st Updating Course for Teachers in Geosciences-Special celebrates the Educational Landscapes of Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark. The webinars that involved almost 100 teachers from all over the country in interaction with researchers will be followed next weekend by the Field Course of 30 hours, which will take teachers to discover some of the main geomonuments and sites with educational relevance to geosciences in the territory of Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark.
- NETO DE CARVALHO, C., RODRIGUES, J.C. & CATANA, M.M. (eds.) - Paisagens Educativas do Geopark Naturtejo Mundial da UNESCO. Naturtejo, EIM, Castelo Branco, 96 pp.; CATANA, M.M., RODRIGUES, J.C. & NETO DE CARVALHO, C. - Paisagens Educativas do Geopark Naturtejo Mundial da UNESCO – Guia do Curso de Campo. Naturtejo, E.I.M., 53 pp.
- Transhumance Routes through Naturtejo Geopark to Cultural Itinerary of the Council of Europe. Naturtejo, EIM integrated the International Association of Transhumance Routes and Rural Paths (TT&RR) (<https://ttrr.eu/>) aiming to value the rural paths and the historical routes where the cattle transhumance, mainly sheep, used to take place from Estrela Mountain, towards Idanha and Alentejo, crossing the municipalities of Castelo Branco, Vila Velha de Ródão and Nisa. The seven municipalities of the geopark territory declared Geological Global Heritage gather more than 1000 km of signposted pedestrian trails, of small and large routes. Each of these footpaths presents a theme of local relevance and are reference routes for tourism in the region.
- Minister of Culture of Portugal visits Penha Garcia
- 12th International Meeting of Phytosociology at the Polytechnic University of Castelo Branco
- 26 scientific papers published

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

- The 45th edition of the Coordination Committee Meeting of the European Geoparks Network was again held face-to-face. Several workshops were held to discuss themes, two of which dedicated to "Geoparks and business relations" were streamlined by Carlos Neto de Carvalho representing Naturtejo Geopark and Hartmut Escher representing TERRA.Vita.
- MOURA, M.E., CARVALHO, M.R. & NETO DE CARVALHO, C. – Project for groundwater resources characterization in the Vila Velha de Ródão syncline. European Geoparks

Magazine, 19, 32

- Meeting of the Tourism Working Group of the European Geoparks Network
- Arouca Geopark received the Meeting of UNESCO Portuguese Geoparks, in the scope of the European Geoparks Week
- Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark was invited to present its example in the III Workshop of the Project of Geopark Costões e Lagunas do Rio de Janeiro.
- 7th Anniversary of the official creation of the UNESCO International Geosciences and Geoparks Programme with video of Portuguese geoparks.
- 3rd International Digital Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks with the participation of Carlos Neto de Carvalho as lecturer
- Participation in the II National Forum of UNESCO Networks
- 2nd Coordination Committee Meeting of the Portuguese UNESCO Global Geoparks Network
- "Diversity Sustains Life" exhibition showcases GEOfood at UNESCO headquarters
- Naturtejo participated in the exhibition "United in Geodiversity" organized by the Geological Institute of Poland under the high patronage of the Ministry of Climate and Environment, and the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- 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. This book includes examples from Naturtejo Geopark geopartners.
- 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"
- The participation of Carlos Neto de Carvalho as evaluator in Revalidation of Courel UNESCO Global Geopark
- June 30th - The Portuguese UNESCO Global Geoparks Network is created
- Participation in the 16th European Geoparks Conference
- Participation in APGN Let's Do It: Sustainable Tourism as catalyst for the GGN Tourism Working Group

### **Management and Financial Status**

- "The last years were marked by the Covid impact in the economic activity and the impossibility to register all the investments and activities that were included in the approved european funds applications. This instability was accented by a new accounting and report system starting in 2021 that lead to the rewriting of the Balance and a significant and automatic devaluation. With a small intern structure and a large and growing partner team,

Naturtejo has fulfilled the goals without jeopardizing the financial superavit and answering the growing information request from the state for continuous check and balance."

### **Geoconservation**

- To celebrate the International Day of the Mountains was organized a Seminar about the Natural and Cultural Heritage of Muradal Mountains, focusing the Orvalho GeoTrail and the International Appalachian Trail.

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

- The first 100% Responsible by Geoparks programs in Naturtejo Geopark are now available. These programs, implemented by Tourism of Portugal, aim to stimulate the adoption of tourism practices of environmental, economic and social sustainability and are part of the national strategy Plan Turismo + Sustentável 20-23. The partner companies of the Geoparks undertake to adopt various sustainability requirements, some specific to these UNESCO territories and to raise their customers' awareness of these concerns.
- Executive Training Course "Geotourism by Geoparks" with Tourism of Portugal
- European Geoparks Week in another Landscape Festival in the Naturtejo Geopark with 25 activities
- i-Danha Food Lab Annual Event. The event brings together investors, companies, startups and entrepreneurs working in the agri-food value chain, namely in the CleanTech, FoodTech and AgriTech industries.
- Arrebita Idanha Bio, the local and sustainable gastronomy festival returned to the territory of Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark to honour the best products of Portugal. The festival took place in the Historical Village of Idanha-a-Velha and in the middle of the Ichnological Park, in Penha Garcia and counted with 20 renowned chefs, some of the biggest stars of the national cuisine.
- Idanha-a-Nova hosted the 2nd International Forum Relevant Territories for Sustainable Food Systems (FISAS). Organized by Naturtejo Geopark, the event counted with the partnership of Idanha-a-Nova Municipality and the Municipal Center of Culture and Development, putting food in the centre of the sustainability debate.

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

- "Participatory Forum - Environmental Education for Geoconservation and Geological Heritage in the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries
- IGCP Project 736 - "SEDSNet - Science and Education Networks for Sustainable Development in UNESCO Global Geoparks"
- The International Seminar APHELEIA - FÔLEGO (Ice N' Fire) promoted by the UNESCO

Chair in Humanities and Integrated Cultural Management of the Territory of the Polytechnic Institute of Tomar took place in Mação. Naturtejo participated in the debate 'Communicating Ice & Fire through the landscape' with Þorvarður Árnason, Professor at the University of Iceland and presented 'Resilience to Mega-fires and Climate Change in Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark'. The event was attended by students from the Erasmus Mundus Master programs 'Dynamics of Cultural Landscapes and Heritage Management' and 'Quaternary and Prehistory' and also with students from the Mação Primary and Secondary Schools.

- The International Master Pangea, of which the University of Minho and Naturtejo Geopark are associated partners, organized a visit to Naturtejo Geopark.
- Accredited training course for Biology and Geology teachers from Guimarães "Field classes - a strategy for science teaching VII - Naturtejo Geopark".
- Celebration of International Biodiversity Day, with actions integrated in the Iberian Invasive Species Week 2022
- Capacity building sessions on climate change took place for the technicians of Portuguese Geoparks.
- The celebration of the International Geodiversity Day in Naturtejo Geopark started in the school EB2,3/S José Silvestre Ribeiro, in Idanha-a-Nova, with the offer of the first pedagogical kit " Litholibrary of Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark". This initiative will reach all the school groups of the geopark territory.
- 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.

### **Strategic partnership**

- The Portuguese UNESCO Global Geoparks and Tourism of Portugal kicked off 2022 with a webinar dedicated to the theme "Communication in Geoparks", under the 6th Anniversary of the UNESCO International Geosciences and Geoparks Programme
- On International Education Day we continued with the work of spring water collecting samples for Elisa Moura's master's thesis on the water availability of the quartzite aquifer of Ródão (supervised by Professor Rosário Carvalho of the Faculty of Sciences of Lisboa)
- The Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova and the Eco-Ativo Association promoted an online Forum, under the LudVISION Project, co-funded by the Environmental Fund. The main focus of the LudVISION project is the invasive species *Ludwigia peploides*, detected for the first time in Portugal in 2016
- Fôlego Project, an international artistic intervention programme, promoted its first Symposium in Iceland, bringing together artists, academics, curators and sustainability experts from Portugal, Iceland, France, United Kingdom and Greenland.

- Participation of the geopark in the XXIII Meeting of the Environmental Studies in Portuguese Speaking Countries Network – REALP

#### **Promotional activities**

- Podcast "Aqui Entre Nós" ("Here Amongst Us") by Tourism Center of Portugal. Episode 51 - Special 'Route through the Geoparks of Central Portugal' - Naturtejo Geopark
- Portuguese UNESCO Geoparks and aspiring geoparks together at Lisboa Tourism Fair
- Naturtejo Geopark highlighted in National Geographic Portugal Special Travel Edition
- Launch of the Chumbo Art Gallery Podcast about the Fault/Falha Project and the Geological Heritage of Muradal mountain
- An initiative of Tourism of Portugal, supported by the Portuguese Consulate in Shanghai, WeChat, the largest social network of the Mandarin speaking community was the vehicle for a long report on Naturtejo Geopark
- Portuguese UNESCO Geoparks Geotourism Strategy finalist in the National Tourism Award
- Two panels promoting Orvalho Geotrail and the International Appalachian Trail were placed in the entrance of Orvalho, in the national road 112, as well as in the border of the Geopark territory with the municipality of Fundão.

#### **4. CONTACTS**

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