

European Geoparks Week 2008  
Report

Name of Geopark: **Geopark Naturtejo Meseta Meridional  
(Portugal)**

Dates of geoparks week: **25th May-8th June**

Contact person: **Carlos Neto de Carvalho (Scientific  
Coordinator)**

1. Please give the following information:

- number of activities/events held in geoparks week 22
- number of press releases announcing geoparks week events 3.....
- number of printed copies for program flyer/brochure/posters  
200flyers/400 posters
- total number of visitors/participants 6278

2. Describe the Geoparks Week 2008:

During two weeks European Earth Festival at Naturtejo Geopark enlightened geology to 6278 locals and visitors! The EGN annual event is becoming a serious case of success to divulgate our common goal: step on rocks with the respect and understanding they deserve. This year Naturtejo Geopark presented 26 events to celebrate its Earth Heritage & People including for the first time all the municipalities of its territory. Here is the highlight events of our Geoparks Week.

**24<sup>th</sup> May – Geodinner in the Georestaurant: *Geology on the Table***

The European Earth Festival couldn't start better: the Dinner of Earth among granites presented with a geo-menu showing the new geotourist map of the Geopark, and tasted with some music and outstanding images of the Geoparks widespread around the world. The evening was fulfilled with 5 geopoetries and life stories of invited geologists, Profs. João Mata and Mário Cachão from Lisbon University.

**30<sup>th</sup> May – Seminar "*António de Andrade: from Oleiros to the World*".**

This seminar intended to demonstrate the importance of António de Andrade to reveal Oleiros to the world. 57 interested participants attended to the seminar including priests and nuns! Jorge Fialho, famous documentary producer, presented his new project about the António de Andrade travels and his legacy to the Himalayan cultures; Carlos Neto de Carvalho, showed an innovative project to exhibit the mountains from the world based on the stories of António de Andrade. Andrea Baucon from Milan University/Naturtejo Geopark presented a mosaic of stories relating famous travelers and their adventures through geological landscapes that became the basement for fundamental scientific discoveries in Asia.

**31<sup>st</sup> May – The Jewels of Orvalho attracted hundreds.** The thematic visit to Orvalho geosites was organized by local people with the help of Naturtejo Geopark. 240 participants between 4 and 80 years old discovered a new world in Oleiros municipality! On the top of the mountain the Orvalho village prepared a cultural night rich in food made by the locals and Celtic rhythms at the sunset with "A Velha Gaiteira" band.

**4<sup>th</sup> June – *Searching for Waters with such enthusiasm is worthy!*** 43 brilliant pupils with 8/9 years old from the Primary School from Oleiros found the importance

of water for building landscapes and life in a full day of activities. Kids from Oleiros visited the geomonuments around their school and found many examples for concepts they really knew! We visited and draw the Zêzere River meanders with the eyes of a geomorphologist. After there was the visit to Álvaro Schist Village beach in the Cabril Dam lake to talk about water pollution. Children were really enjoying the moment and it was with an explosion of happiness that they started again the trip to Fraga de Água d'Alta waterfall. This beautiful corner of the Geopark suddenly was full of smiles and curiosity.

4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> June – **Book Fair in Nisa exhibits Conhal do Arneiro to thousands.** 5000 visitors from Nisa town and outsiders visited the 28<sup>th</sup> edition of Nisa's Book Fair. This year the Book Fair was part of the European Earth Festival so Naturtejo was there with a stand with the support of the Natural History Museum of Lisbon. The Environment Group from Nisa Municipality worked with the Primary School in the project "Environmental Interpretation Guides" and with the help of two classes from the 4<sup>th</sup> grade created a very interesting exhibition right in the middle of the Book Fair. The main theme was the Naturtejo Geopark and the geosites from Nisa.

5<sup>th</sup> June – **Pupils from Castelo Branco District visit the Past and the Present of their Forest.** The annual Meeting of PROSEPE Forest School Clubs was organized this year in the World's Day of Environment. 60 pupils coming from Oleiros, Castelo Branco, Vila Velha de Ródão and Sobreira Formosa, all schools in the Geopark's territory participated in a full day of activities. They made a Time travel to the Ródão landscapes 10 million years ago and expose concerns about the inappropriate economical use of forest and the plantation of exotics relating with the fires that almost destroyed the territory in the past few years.

5<sup>th</sup> June – **Flavours of Oleiros discussed...and tasted!** Rui Tomás Marques was the invited speaker for a conference in Oleiros about traditional food and local products as tourism products.

6<sup>th</sup> June – **International Seminar "The Mountains Dynamics: from Oleiros ranges to Pyrenees and Himalaya"**

Prof. Rui Dias, director of Living Science Centre from Estremoz, amazed all talking about the definition of Geological Time and the mechanisms for orogenesis. Dr. Ferran Climent Costa, representing Sobrarbe European Geopark, presented 70 million years of mountain building in the Pyrenees and fantastic photos. Dr. Andrea Baucon related geological history of Alps with culture and Geotourism.

8<sup>th</sup> June – **Opening of the Schist Trail and Schist Shop in Martim Branco.** The small Schist Village of Martim Branco in Castelo Branco received 150 guests for the opening of the Schist Trail and the Schist Shop.

8<sup>th</sup> June – ***Kayak Trip "Across the Zêzere Meanders"***

And if we propose to you a well spent afternoon in the Zêzere valley, meandering with the river waters finding landscapes and traditional schist villages? This guided boat trip offered relaxing moments by the wavy waters, the blowing of the wind, the energy of sporting and the amazement of unknown landscapes. A big success for the European Geoparks Week and for sure a new tourism product for the Oleiros municipality.

### 3. Photos:

