

Report of the Portuguese National Forum of Geoparks - PNFG

September 2014 – March 2015

National and International Meetings:

- **Two annual meetings** of the Portuguese National Forum of Geoparks - PNFG (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 8th of October 2014 and Terras de Cavaleiros Global Geopark, 30th of January 2015);
- Participation of the Coordinator of the PNFG in the **two meetings of the Working Group** of the proposed Program “*Global Geoparks of UNESCO*”, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, 9th of January and 24th of February 2015;
- Organization of the **technical meeting of the National Fora of Geoparks**, in partnership with Terras de Cavaleiros Global Geoparks and the Municipality of Macedo de Cavaleiros, Portugal, 31st of January – 1st of February 2015. Participated in this meeting, representatives of the National Fora/National Committees of Geoparks of Brazil, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Norway, Portugal and Slovenia, as well as the representative of UNESCO (Margarete Patzak).

Conferences and Workshops:

- Formal support to the **Workshop Geoparks in volcanic areas – Sustainable development strategies**, organized by Azores Global Geopark, in Terceira & Graciosa Islands, from 29th of October to 1st of November 2014;
- Participation in the **Seminar Azores Geopark & Portuguese National Forum of Geoparks**, including a **showcase of geoproducts** from the Portuguese geoparks (Azores Global Geopark, Arouca Global Geopark and the proposed Terras de Cavaleiros Geopark), Casa dos Açores do Ontário, Toronto, Canada, 17th September 2014. This event was covered by the local and regional Portuguese media based in Toronto;
- Participation in the **6th World Conference of Geoparks**, Saint John, New Brunswick, Stonehammer Global Geopark, Canada, 19th-22nd September 2014;
- Co-organization of the **Seminar Geoparks – new territories of Education, Science and Culture of the XXI Century: Strategies of Development and incomes**, in partnership with Terras de Cavaleiros Global Geopark, the Municipality of Macedo de Cavaleiros and the Portuguese National Commission for UNESCO, 30th January 2015;
- Participation in the **Round-table** in the framework of the **Journeys “Um olhar sobre a Serra da Estrela”**, organized by Polytechnic Institute of Guarda, Portugal, 11th of March 2015. This initiative included the presentation of the new proposed Program “Global Geoparks of UNESCO”;
- Participation of the Coordinator of the PNFG in the **International Workshop “Geoeducation in Action: good practices in European Geoparks”**, organized by Arouca Global Geopark, 27th of March 2015 (in partnership with Lesvos Global Geopark - Greece, Beigua Global Geopark –Italy, North Pennines Global Geopark – England).

Exhibitions, Fairs and Field Trips:

- Formal support to the **Exhibition *Paleo-art: fossils that come alive***. This exhibition was received and promoted by Terras de Cavaleiros Global Geopark, from 15th-26th of September 2014;
- Participation in the **National Fair of Hunting and Tourism**, organized by the Municipality of Macedo de Cavaleiros and with the support of Terras de Cavaleiros Global Geopark, 30th 31st January – 1st of February 2015. This fair was visited by several mayors and representatives of the Portuguese Government including general public (more than 30 000 visitors). The representatives of the National Fora of Geoparks also visited this Fair (from Canada, Germany, Ireland, Norway and Slovenia), including one member from UNESCO (Margarete Patzak);
- Participation in the **field trip** organized by Terras de Cavaleiros Global Geopark, in the framework of the **technical meeting of the National Fora of Geoparks** organized in this Global Geopark, 1st of February 2015;
- Participation in the **field trip** organized by Arouca Global Geopark, in the framework of the **International Workshop "Geoeducation in Action: good practices in European Geoparks"**, 27th March 2015.

Educational Programs:

- Formal support to the **Educational Program *GEA – Mother Earth***, of the Portuguese National Committee for the International Geosciences Program of UNESCO (IGCP), in partnership with the Portuguese National Commission for UNESCO. In this sense, it was launched in the four Portuguese Geoparks the **school contest *It's the soil that sustains life!*** (2014/2015), in the framework of the ***International Year of Soils***.

Lisbon, 17th of March 2015

Elizabeth Silva

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