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— UNESCO Sites • Climate Change • Space Technologies

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The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: the contribution of the UNESCO Global Geoparks – the example of the Educational Program “GEA – Mother Earth”

Elizabeth Silva



Portuguese National
Committee for MAB
Programme



For UNESCO, the Global Education Agenda (Education 2030) is part of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that make up the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development



The Global Goals
and targets aim to
stimulate action
over the next fifteen
years based on five
pillars: People,
Planet, Prosperity,
Peace and
Partnership



UNITED NATIONS

TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD:



THE 2030 AGENDA FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT **GOALS**

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



Education is also included in goals on health, growth and employment, sustainable consumption and production and climate change.

In this context, education at all levels is at the core of the UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGG) concept.



In fact, the UNESCO Global Geoparks contribute for the formal, non-formal and informal education by sharing accumulated scientific and cultural knowledge about their territories



Geoparks assume a particular responsibility to contribute for the literacy of all those who visit these territories, being aware that the acquisition of literacy skills requires sustained learning and application in given context



It was in this framework that the Portuguese Committee for the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP-UNESCO) created in 2011, in partnership with the Portuguese National Commission for UNESCO and with the support of the Portuguese Forum of UGG, the **Educational Program “GEA – Mother Earth”**.



Bearing in mind the motto "**Geosciences in the Service of Society**", this program is based on school contests, focused in geosciences themes, itinerary exhibitions and training courses mainly for teachers, but including also UNESCO Global Geoparks and Biosphere Reserve staff members



Currently, in its fifth edition, it has been promoted among schools of the territories of the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves and Geoparks, and also in various municipalities in Portugal, including all schools of the Madeira Autonomous Region, involving more than 25,000 students



By creating awareness and looking for possible solutions, teachers and students have been involved in several educational projects based in different multidisciplinary approaches. In this sense, the themes of the training courses focus different topics such as education for sustainable development, climate change, geohazards, water, desertification, evolution of life and biodiversity and geosciences for society



By promoting an **Education for Sustainable Development**, this program also aims to motivate the **implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in the UNESCO Global Geoparks and Biosphere Reserves territories**, giving especial attention to the **Goal 17**



That is why this program has also been extending to the Portuguese speaking countries, mainly in Cape Verde and Brazil.



In this context, in the school year 2013/2014, it has involved more than 75,000 students and 2.500 teachers in the Araripe UNESCO Global Geopark (Brazil) and in the school year 2014/2015 this number reached more than 100,000 students.



geaterramae@urca.br



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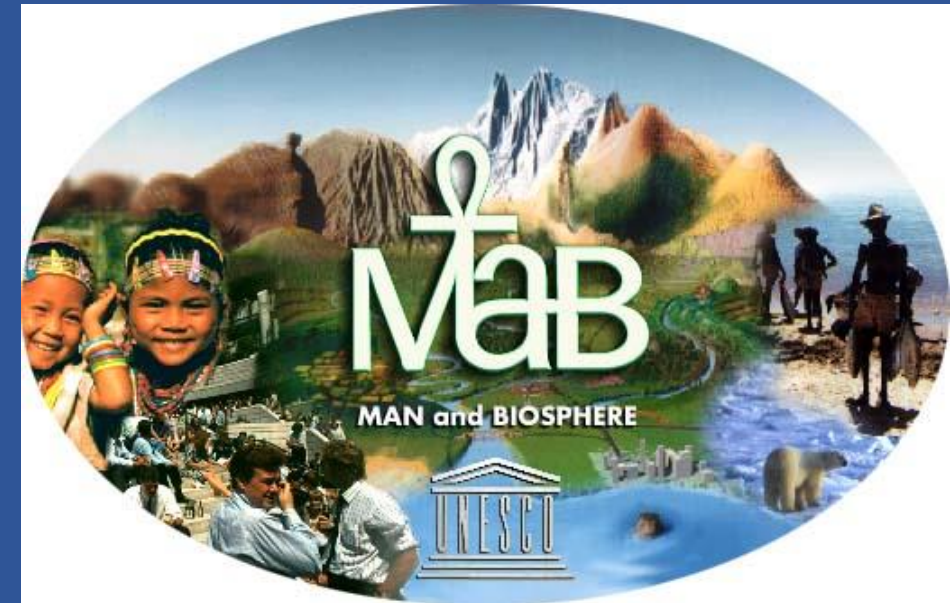
ORGANIZAÇÃO

APOIO

The educational Programme “GEA – Mother Earth” has also contributed to the promotion of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Programme and to disseminate many UNESCO thematics such as Education for Sustainable Development and Geoethics



In conclusion, through this educational program, **it is possible to link Geosciences to Society and to contribute to the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals**, hoping this way to increase the number of partners coming from other different UNESCO Global Geoparks and Biosphere Reserves and other UNESCO Networks.



Its a work of generations , full of challenges but worthwhile if we want to live in a better world and have a future in this wonderful planet that is our home!



By Frits Ahlefeldt

Elizabeth Silva

Responsible for the Science Sector
of the Portuguese National
Commission for UNESCO

Coordinator of the Portuguese
Forum of UNESCO Global
Geoparks

Member of the Portuguese
National Committee for IGCP
and member of the National
Committee for MAB

E-mail: elizabeth.silva@mne.pt



Thank you for your attention!