

**MANAGING
MEDITERRANEAN
MOUNTAIN
GEOHERITAGE**



ABSTRACT BOOK.

Geoconservation in action: restoring the Alto Vez geosite

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Abstract: The Alto Vez valley is located in the Peneda Mountain in northern Portugal. It includes one of the most remarkable fields of glacial erratic boulders in Portugal, in addition to other relevant glacial features such as an U-shaped valley and side moraines. These relevant features justify why this site is one of the most important glacial geosites in the Portuguese geoheritage inventory. Despite its scientific relevance, the major part of the area of the valley is located outside the contiguous Peneda-Gerês National Park, the most important protected area in Portugal. In 2012, the local administration built a horse racing track affecting the integrity of this geosite. A citizen's complaint was the starting point of a campaign to save the geosite from further destruction. The legal and administrative actions made by the Portuguese Institute of Nature Conservation and Forests and by the municipality of Melgaço, under the scientific supervision of the Earth Sciences Centre of the University of Minho, have resulted in the closure of the racing track and the establishment of a restoring plan for that geosite. Aerial photos captured by unmanned aerial vehicles, together with dGPS and GIS procedures, were used to restore the initial topography and the moving of the erratic boulders back to their original position.

KEYWORDS:

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RESTORATION

ALTO VEZ

PENEDA