

**MANAGING
MEDITERRANEAN
MOUNTAIN
GEOHERITAGE**



ABSTRACT BOOK.

Mountains, geoheritage, and protected areas: a natural trilogy

[Diamantino Pereira](mailto:insuad@dct.uminho.pt) | insuad@dct.uminho.pt
Earth Sciences Centre, University of Minho

[Paulo Pereira](mailto:paolo@dct.uminho.pt) | paolo@dct.uminho.pt
Earth Sciences Centre, University of Minho

[José Brilha](mailto:jbrilha@dct.uminho.pt) | jbrilha@dct.uminho.pt
Earth Sciences Centre, University of Minho

Abstract: Mountain areas are excellent windows to the Earth geodiversity. Rocks, their structures and landforms are well exposed due to active tectonic and geomorphological processes. The high geodiversity of mountains underpins biodiversity and, together with the historical use of these territories by humans, originate landscapes that always have impressed people. For these reasons, it is understandable that mountain areas concentrate a high number of protected areas (PA). Sangay (Ecuador), Dolomiti Bellunesi (Italy), Kluchevskoy (Russia) or Yellowstone (USA) are examples of mountain PA recognised by UNESCO as World Heritage due to geoheritage. In mainland Portugal, 52% of the total area of PA corresponds to mountain areas and 36% of PA have this geomorphological character. In spite of the fact that most of these PA were designated for biological reasons, the high number of geosites inside PA should not be neglected. The occurrence of geoheritage and biotic values, combined in dramatic landscapes with high aesthetic value justify the tourism attraction of mountain areas, which is a major asset for UNESCO Global Geoparks. Tumbler Ridge (Canada), Yandangshan (China), Carnic Alps (Austria) or Chablais (France) are examples of geoparks in mountain areas with internationally significant geoheritage.

KEYWORDS:

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PROTECTED AREAS

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