

Geopark Quadrilatero Ferrifero, Iron Quadrangle Minas Gerais Brazil

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The Geopark Quadrilatero Ferrifero - Geopark Iron Quadrangle was officially recognized as an Aspiring GGN Geopark in 2011. In September of the same year the Program was officially launched, with its inaugurating initiatives supported by the State Government of Minas Gerais, the professional and institutional members of the 1st version of the managerial system appointed. The gold rush and the barroco style heritage, the local geology and world-class contemporary iron ore mining and steel production determine the original genesis of the Geopark. Over 50 geosites have been compiled, described and are in the process of being prepared for visitation. From a geological perspective the QF is perhaps the most intensively studied region of Brazil. The Geopark Quadrilateral has consolidated itself as a multidisciplinary geo-scientific network, empowered with the aim of catalyzing an ambitious agenda for the sustainable development of the region. The Program Mission Bassin Minier, in the Nord Pas de Calais Region of France, recognized by UNESCO as 'Paysage culturel évolutif', is a formal partner, and a benchmark in strategic and operational planning. In 2012 the Steering Committee established a set of strategic directions for the Geopark in the coming 5 years: of major interest at this time are the Mountain Ranges Serra da Moeda and Serra de Ouro Branco as the territorial priorities, a more definitive and powerful Governance Model and the empowerment of a Local Sustainable Agenda as priority issues. These priorities have been implemented, adopting the Alto Paraopeba region and its seven municipalities and associated Development Consortium CODAP as a pilot territory and pilot regional governance. Supporting Family Farming is one of the leading initiatives for a more diversified and sustainable local economy. A list of most recent achievements and an evaluation of the current status of local recognition is discussed.

Presented in Theme 4