

Foreword

The Green Lines Institute for Sustainable Development is an institution that aims at promoting sustainability throughout scientific research and educational actions. Within the scope of its action, the organization of international scientific events aims at gathering eminent scholars and researchers in order to promote the debate and exchange of recent experience and fieldwork.

Sustainability is nowadays a subject that commits both individuals and nations, not only on what concerns environmental and economic practices but also for the defense of cultural difference. In this sense, heritage, wherever it may be, becomes common heritage of humanity. Helping each other to preserve it from all menaces becomes common goal and common responsibility.

Heritage 2008 was a challenge to The Green Lines Institute for Sustainable Development. The decision was to organize an international event to discuss the role of heritage for a sustainable world, by gathering researchers and scholars from all over the world in a remote, small Portuguese town, Vila Nova de Foz Côa, which deserved international attention due to its proximity to one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites – the Valley of River Côa and its engraved pre-historical rocks. Besides, Vila Nova de Foz Côa is located in another UNESCO site, the Alto Douro Wine Region, which is a cultural heritage site. It seemed to be the perfect heritage location for such event.

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The main topics for Heritage 2008 were: Heritage and Human Development, Natural Environment, and Building Preservation. Considering that heritage must be addressed in innovative-sustainable ways, this event encouraged authors to present papers on the role of human and natural heritage, both tangible and non-tangible. Presenters were also invited to make evidence of innovative undergoing approaches and researches. Presenting the topics for this event, special attention was given to the relationships between world heritage and world sustainability, understanding sustainable development at all its levels, such as environmental preservation, economy, human welfare, history and social relationships.

The responsiveness of the international scientific community overwhelmed our perspectives, the number of abstracts received being more significant than we would at first have expected. In order to guarantee scientific standards to this event, we invited a number of scholars as Members of the Scientific Committee, who reviewed submitted abstracts, proposed amendments and rejected some. The result of this process are these proceedings, where papers accepted to Heri-

tage 2008 are now being published. We would like to express our gratefulness to all Members of the Scientific Committee who helped us in this process.

We would also like to thank all sponsors who joined this event and helped in many different ways. Finally, we want to thank all our partners, mainly the Câmara Municipal de Vila Nova de Foz Côa that always encouraged and helped us in all possible ways; the Ministério da Cultura and the Instituto dos Museus e da Conservação, for the institutional support; the Parque Arqueológico do Vale do Côa, for the presence in the event and the guided visit to the Prehistoric Rock Art Site; and the Turismo de Portugal and ADETURN – Turismo Norte de Portugal for all unconditional support and help.

The Organizing Committee and Proceedings Editors

Rogério Amoêda
Sérgio Lira
Cristina Pinheiro
Filipe Pinheiro
João Pinheiro