



Case study of the implementation of the Geopark in the city of Ipeúna.

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Abstract

This project is part of the need for studies to implement the geopark in the Corumbataí River Basin through a case study in the city of Ipeúna, located in the interior of São Paulo. The research seeks to analyze how the different sectors of the ipeunense society react to the implementation of the geopark.

For this, interviews and questionnaires were carried out in order to receive and understand the importance of the geopark, as well as the demographic data of the city in question.

Key words:

Geoparque, Ipeúna, patrimônio cultural

Introduction

Present an overview of the topic and your research objective(s). For the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) the concept of geopark is as follows¹:

"UNESCO's World Geoparks are unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological relevance are managed on the basis of a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development. Its bottom-up approach that combines conservation with sustainable development while at the same time engaging local communities is becoming increasingly popular. " UNESCO, 2018

Thus, it is perceived that the geopark must have, besides its geological relevance, components that involve other spheres of commitment, such as the involvement of the local community, sustainable development and the preservation of a patrimony that goes beyond the natural, historical and cultural city.

The geopark project is consolidated at the end of 2015, when the Inter-municipal Consortium of Piracicaba, Capivari and Jundiá Rivers (PCJ) Rivers receives the Unesco endorsement for the implementation of the geopark in the Corumbataí river basin. Subsequently, the Special Action Group for the Environment (GAEMA), the State University of São Paulo (UNESP) and the State University of Campinas (Unicamp) supported the initiative.

Understanding the regional reality of the area of geopark implementation is one of the essential points for its creation. In this way, the main objective of the research is to survey the understanding of the local population about the importance of the geopark and the processes of preservation of the cultural and natural patrimony of the city.

Results and Discussion

During the research period, a questionnaire was developed that was applied to 32 individuals, although it was done before its application, during the research it was noticed that some adjustments were still necessary, especially in relation to the open questions.

However, even though it is a small amount, the data obtained, in general, reveal geopark ignorance and with this, the difficulties involved in the project. There were only three people who knew the geopark project, they heard about the project, but did not know what it was, as did the other 29 people who did not know what a geopark or the project itself was.

The research in relation to the demographic data reveals that the city of Ipeúna has a young and adult population. Thus, these age groups deserve attention during the implementation of the geopark.

Conclusions

According to the data obtained, there is a great lack of knowledge of the population in relation to issues related to environmental patrimony, including the geopark itself. However, the interviewed population itself considers environmental and cultural preservation important and 100% of the sample also considers the implementation of the geopark to be important. This situation is paradoxical, why consider something important that we do not even know what it is? Why support and consider important the implementation of a project that is practically unknown? Does society not practice some values, but still consider them important? How to make this transition from the abstract field of values and make them real in the lives of these people, so that they not only feel important the conservation and the implementation of the geopark, but feel and practice in their daily life this importance and integrate defense of these values? In this way, the data contribute to show this paradoxical situation, which up to now shows an alien population while acting and knowledge of heritage and environmental issues, but somehow receptive, as they consider them important.

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¹ UNESCO <<http://www.unesco.org/new/pt/brasil/natural-sciences/environment/biodiversity/geoparks/>> disponível em 19 de abril de 2018