

Araripe Geopark, Brazil

Geology: Araripe Basin is a geological unit which comprises an area of 12.000 Km². Its geological history started about 150 millions years ago, time of the big continent called Gondwana. The geological record shows important chapters of the Earth's history evolution. Sedimentary deposits preserve a great diversity of rocks (limestones, claystones, sandstones, thick deposits of gypsum) that are a record of geological environments that existed in this region. Furthermore, this basin preserved, exceptionally, several fossil records of life existing at the time, such as fish, arthropods, remains of pterosaurs, turtles, crocodylomorphs, as well as fossilized leaves and other logs and plant fragments. The preservation of this vast richness of fossil in the region was caused by unique conditions during the geological evolution of Araripe Basin, specially in the Cretaceous.

Geography: Araripe Basin is considered the largest sedimentary basin in the Brazilian Northeast inland, placed in the backwoods, extending into the utmost South of Ceará State, Pernambuco's northwest and Piauí's east. The Araripe Plateau is its main distinction, in terms of relief. In Araripe Geopark there are nine geosites in six cities of Cariri region, Ceará. All of them with structure to support tourism and educational use. Each geosite characterizes a different period of this region's geological time. Among Araripe Geopark geosites, some have relevant scientific interest, such as the geosites Parque do Pterossauros, Pedra Cariri, and Floresta Petrificada do Cariri. Others also stand out for having, in addition to the geological interest, historical and cultural values, such as the geosites Colina do Horto, Ponte de Pedra, Cachoeira de Missão Velha and Pontal de Santa Cruz; and others for the high ecological interest, such as geosites Riacho do Meio and Batateiras.

Education and Sustainable Development: Based on the historical and cultural identity of the people from Cariri, the Environmental Education and Interpretation Center of Araripe Geopark was created in 2010. In this center, pedagogical activities are performed for public and private schools, higher education institutions and the community, in general. The purpose is to propagate the concept of Geopark and the Environmental Education practices through an interactive way, providing an integrated understanding of the historical, cultural, socio-environmental, paleontological and landscape aspects of the geological sites. Also, Araripe Geopark has attracted interest from several governmental institutions, institutions of the third sector, the productive sector and the private sector, formalizing partnerships and jointly developing work in order to, finally, stimulate this economic activity of the region's tourism sector, in a sustainable development perspective.

Dates:

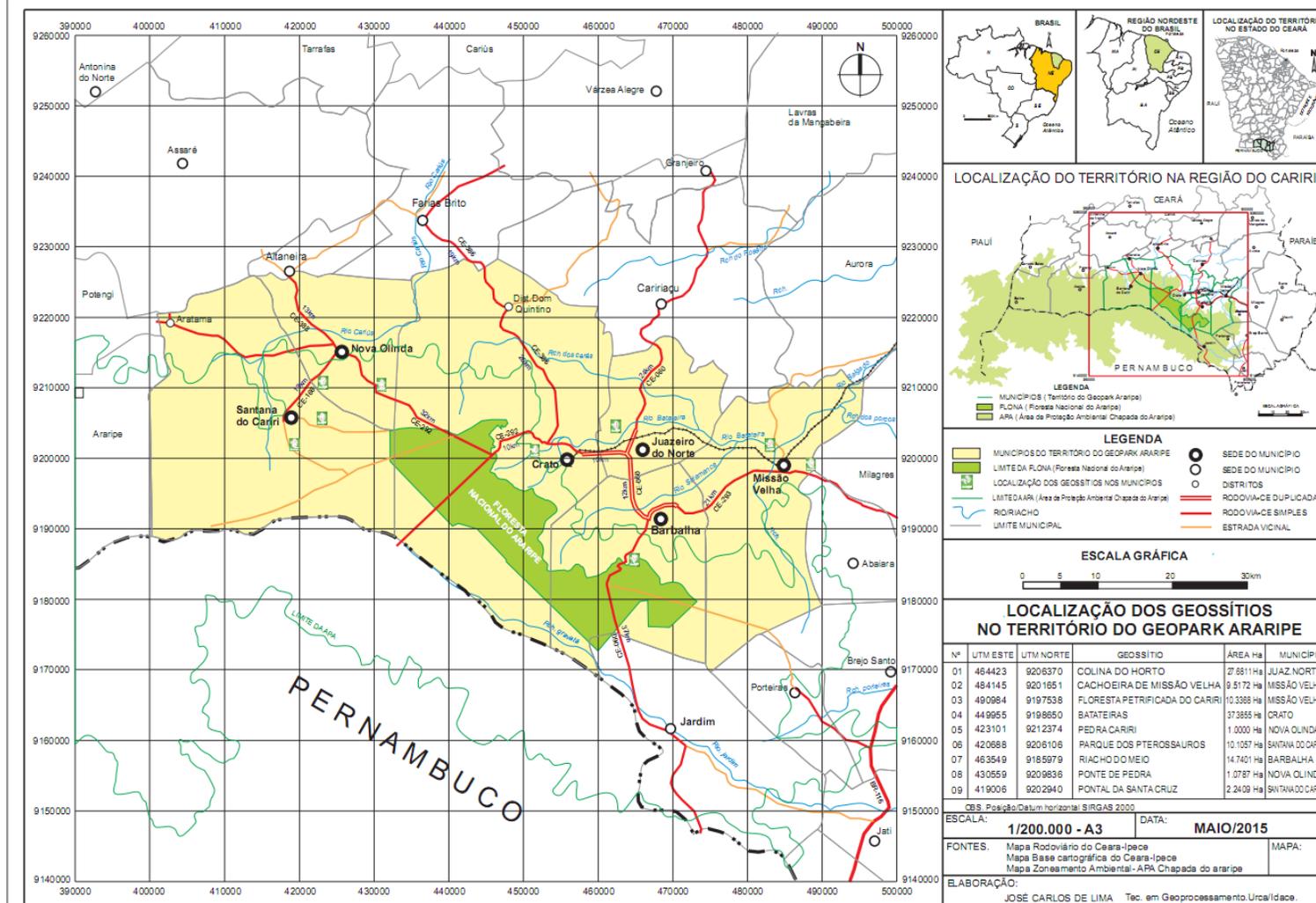
- Year of GGN membership entry: 2006
- Subsequent revalidations: 2010/ 2015 (currently)

Contacts:

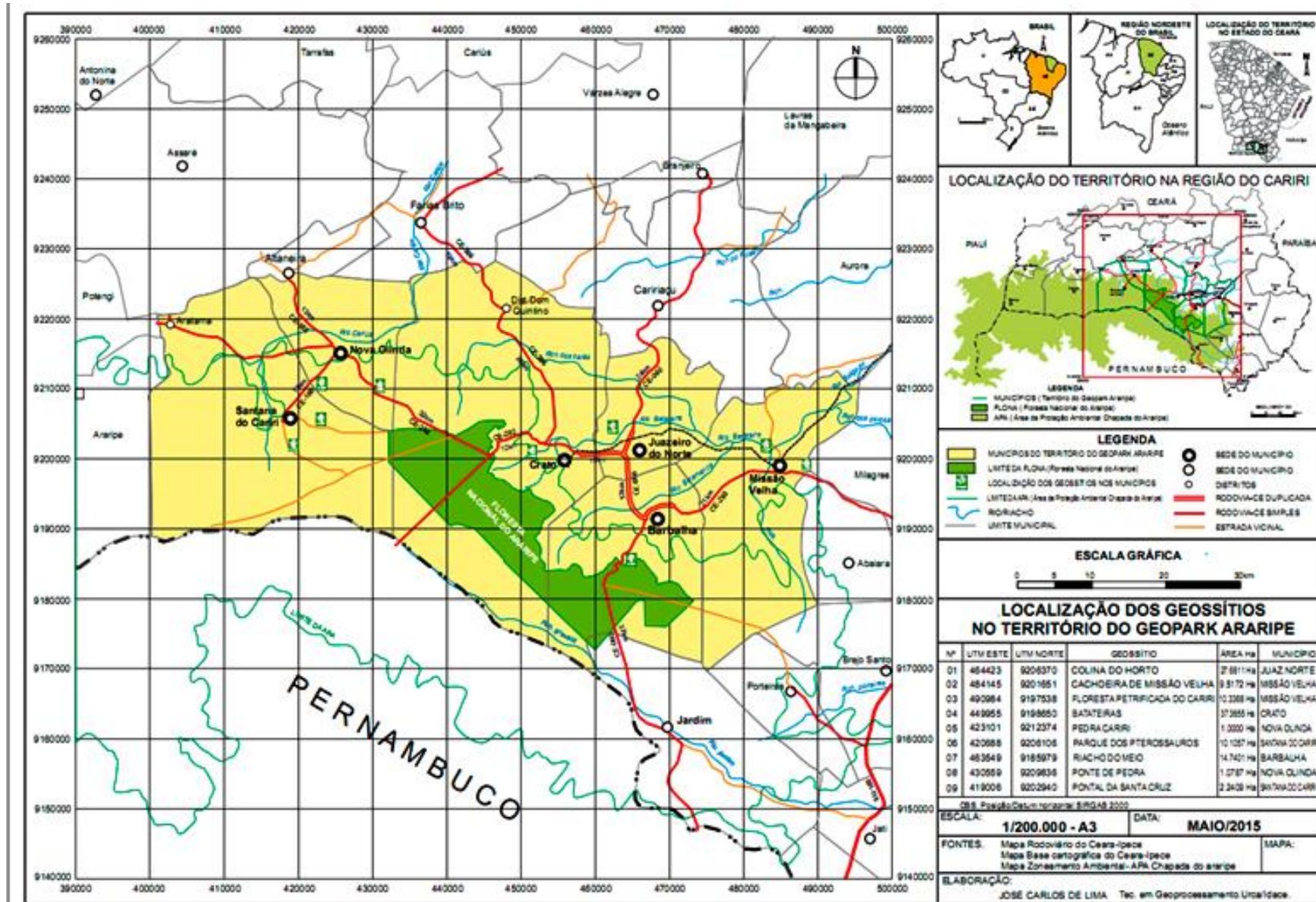
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Araripe Geopark Website: www.geoparkararipe.org.br

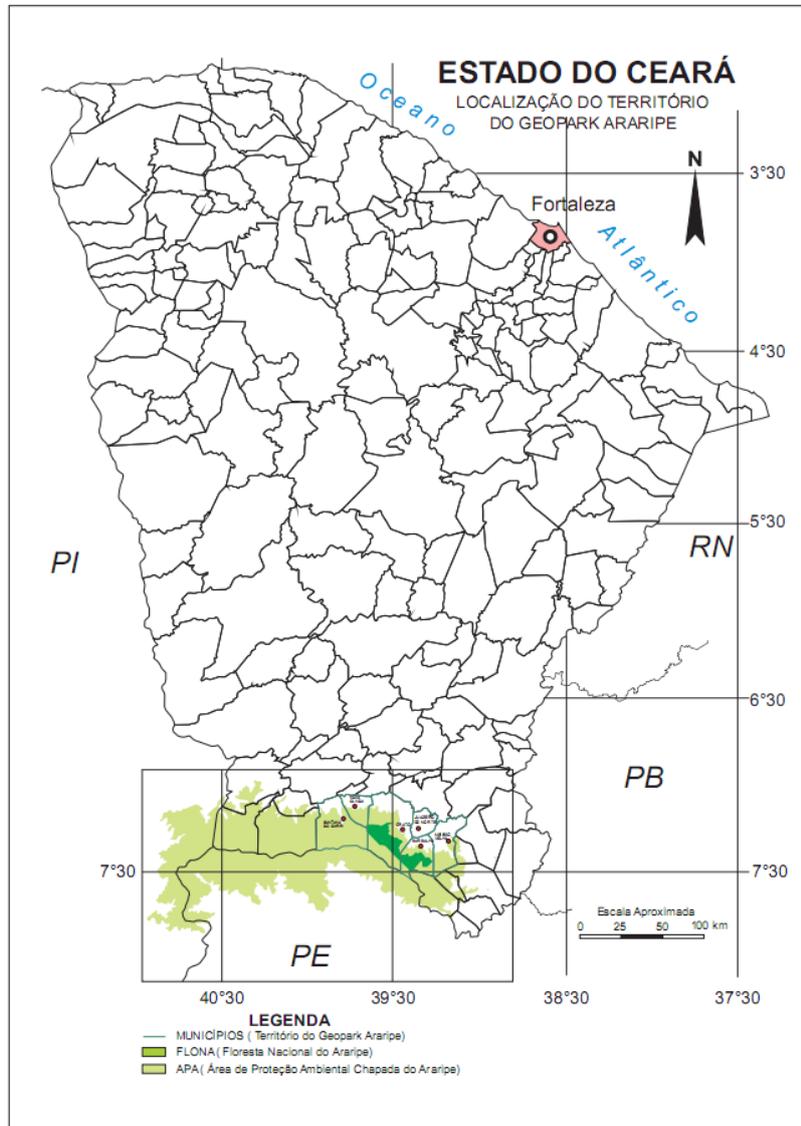
Araripe Geopark Local Map



Araripe Geopark Local Map



Brazil map, with Araripe Geopark featured



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