

THE PALEONTOLOGICAL PARK OF SÃO JOSÉ DE ITABORAÍ - R.J. - BRAZIL - A SOLUTION FOR DEGRADED AREA AFTER 50 YEARS OF MINERAL EXPLORATION

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The Paleontological Park of São José de Itaboraí - Rio de Janeiro, Brasil, has as objectives, the recovery and conservation of the natural resources in the calcareous basin, with the participation of the civil society in the solution of the environmental problems, as well as, together with Universities installed in the State of Rio de Janeiro, to develop scientific studies of geology and Paleontology, to promote training in the environmental subject, exposed the fossil on ecological trails, to motivate the tourism, the industry and the trade, to produce small reply of the prehistoric animals. Since 1928 the area, with 1.341.552,50 m², went object of open cut mine. In 1984, with the mine paralization, remained an degraded area with 70 meters depth, creating an great lake. Its margins still preserves layers with fossils of the tertiary, paleocene, pleistocene and quaternary periods, as mollusks, seeds, leaves, vertebrates, and vestiges of prehistoric's man. In 1990, the area was declared of public usefulness. In 1995 the Park was created, through the Law no.1.346/95. In 1996 the primary schools participated of the choice of the logotype of the Park, where 131 drawings were presented in a public exhibition. The local population sent photos of the old mine, that it generated an exhibition with 37 historical photos. The works are desenvolved by DEPARTAMENTO DE RECURSOS MINERAIS DO ESTADO DO RIO DE JANEIRO, PREFEITURA MUNICIPAL DE ITABORAÍ, MUSEU NACIONAL - UFRJ, DEPARTAMENTO DE GEOCIÊNCIAS DA UFRRJ, COOPERÁGUA, MOVIMENTO ECOLÓGICO DE SÃO JOSÉ, ASSOCIAÇÃO DE MORADORES DE SÃO JOSÉ.