

To stop the dam?

The future of the Tua and Alto Douro Region is debated Saturday at Mirandela

On the 3rd weekend of **May, Month for Tua** dedicated to Tua river, **Paulo Morais**, from the Portuguese Civic Association Transparency and Integrity and candidate to the Presidency of the Portuguese Republic, **João Roquete**, CEO of the wine company Grupo Esporão, **João Pedro Menéres**, owner of Quinta do Romeu, **Joanaz de Melo**, technical coordinator of the Plataforma Salvar o Tua and **Maria do Rosário D' Araújo**, in charge of the rural tourism in Casa dos Araújo's will come together to answer the following question: **Which sustainable development model for the Tua Valley and Alto Douro?**

The conference/workshop will take place at the [Professional School of Agriculture and Rural Development in Carvalhais/Mirandela](#), at 2:30 pm and it is on the programme of the *IV Week of Entrepreneurship and Rural Development*, organised by this school. It will have two parts: in the first part each of the guests will make a **speech** and then it will be followed by **thematic debates** organised in round tables between the audience and the invited guests. The moderator is Arminda Deusdado, journalist and coordinator of **Biosfera**, a TV programme transmitted in RTP2.

[Plataforma Salvar o Tua](#) was proposed to organise this activity day which starts with a presentation of **local products**. The best wines, cheese, smoked sausages, olive oils, jam, and regional products will be exhibited. At **7 pm** there will be a **degustation and wine and olive oils competition** in which participate the Comissão Vitivinícola Regional de Trás os Montes, Associação dos Olivicultores de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro and Gabinete de Apoio à Indústria Agroalimentar from Instituto Piaget. At **9:30 pm** the movie **documentary [DamNation](#)**, which is on world tour, will be exhibited for the first time in the North Region of Portugal.

This is the 3rd event of the programme **May, month for the Tua**. Previously, it was organised a [cleaning activity](#) of the Tua railway and train stations and a [walking tour](#). On **Saturday 30th** there is a new activity on the programme: [to go down the river Tua by raft or kayak](#). The inscriptions are already open. The participants will start early in the morning from the river beach at Brunheda and at their arrival they will make a **protest action in and out the water**, close by the nearest station of the construction site of the Foz Tua dam, at around 2:30 pm. This day marks the **2nd anniversary of the Plataforma Salvar o Tua**, founded on May 31st, 2013.

The Plataforma Salvar o Tua has taken part in the **public consultation** of the Environmental Assessment Report of the Project Execution (**RECAPE**) concerning the high voltage power line to connect the Foz Tua dam with the electric national grid, in which it contests the **non-compliance of essential requirements**, in particular: the illegality of the high voltage power line alignment, the impact of the dam and the power line over the landscape of the Alto Douro Vinhateiro Wine Region and the disappearance of the Tua Railway without the compensations established. The PST believes that there isn't and there will never exist any efficient mobility plan.

The project [Rios Livres – GEOTA](#), co-organizer of [May, month for the Tua](#) has as well released new data about the National Dam Programme of High Hydroelectric Power (PNBEPH). They have released an [interactive map](#) as well as a [scoping report](#) about all the dams projected and made a revision of the memorandum “The National Dam Programme of High Hydroelectric Power: An economic, social and environmental disaster” where it is stated that with the PNBEPH the household electricity bills in Portugal will have an increase of about 8%, which equals a [thirteen month](#) paying bills without bringing any other advantage.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME MAY, MONTH FOR THE TUA

[May, month for the Tua](#) intention is to show the natural values: the river, the local products, water sports and other activities that may be enhanced in the Tua Valley. It is organized by: the Associação Juvenil *Amigos do Castêr*, the Clube de Caonagem de *Águas Bravas de Portugal*, the Escola Profissional de Agricultura e Desenvolvimento Rural de Carvalhais/Mirandela, the Grupo Tamecanos de Mondim de Basto, the Movimento Cívico pela Linha do Tua, the Plataforma Salvar o Tua and Rios Livres–GEOTA.

ABOUT THE PLATAFORMA SALVAR O TUA

The Plataforma Salvar o Tua is an association for the protection of the environment composed of local, environmental and development associations and companies. It was founded in 2013. The mission of the Plataforma Salvar o Tua is to protect the Tua Valley by raising awareness about the incompatibility of the Foz Tua dam with the values abided by Unesco World Heritage nomination of the Alto Douro Wine Region. We demand the immediate suspension of the construction works before irreversible damages are committed over a natural heritage of a high ecological, social and economic value, part of our legacy and the Portuguese identity and culture.

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