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The importance of non-formal education for geoconservation: the example of the Museum of Una – São José da Coroa Grande (Pernambuco, NE Brazil)

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The non-formal education is an organized educational process, which operates outside the structure of the formal system and is generally free of its rules, being directed to specific interests and learning needs of any subset of a population [1]. Non-formal activities are quite different and one of its main performance spaces are the museums.

Museums are an important instrument of informal and non-formal education, having the ability to arouse interest and curiosity to the visitors. According to the International Council of Museums [2] the definition of museums has evolved in conjunction with the Society. Currently we are witnessing a development of museums related to Geosciences in general and to the geological heritage in particular. Therefore, these spaces allow the creation of interconnections between several areas of knowledge, connecting the geological heritage to the remaining natural heritage and to the cultural heritage, emphasizing its usefulness to society and contribution regarding its evolutionary and technological process.



In this context, this work aims to emphasize the importance of the Museum of Una for visitors and for the local community, as a way to protect their natural and cultural heritage through non-formal educational activities. The museum is located in the fishing town Várzea do Una, in the municipality of São José da Coroa Grande, South coast of Pernambuco (NE Brazil) (Fig. 1). Was created by private initiative, with the initial goal to preserve the environment and keep the culture and the identity of the territory and its traditional communities.

Figure 1: Museum of the Una, São José da Coroa Grande, Pernambuco, NE Brazil.

In this museum are exposed elements of the local flora and fauna, historical objects representing several moments of the local history and culture, as well as minerals, rocks and some fossils. The museum aims to achieve a local interdisciplinary approach bringing together multiple thematic elements.

In this sense, it is important to highlight the social and environmental role that features the Museum of Una and the contribution of this space to carry out non-formal educational activities in this locality, to strengthen the conservation of natural (abiotic and biotic) and cultural (tangible and intangible) heritage

and local ecosystems, including mangroves, one of the community's economy sources, which is still based on traditional fishing.

References:

- [1] Coombs, P. H. and Ahmed, M. (1974) John Hopkins University Press, 312p.
- [2] ICOM (2013) Code of ethics for museums, 17p.

