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# GEOTOURISM AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT IN FOGO VOLCANIC NATURAL PARK, CAPE VERDE

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Day: Friday

Session Number: 10

Time: 14:10

## ABSTRACT:

Volcanic eruptions constitute a threatness for people who live around them. However, volcanoes offer too numerous opportunities to the local communities living in volcanically active regions. The aim of this work is to study the natural and cultural heritage with potential use for geotourism and develop new tourist products in the Fogo volcanoes that contribute to promoting local development on this island as well as to focus on the possibility of creating new products as the volcano-tourism in Fogo for local development. Fogo island is located in the southern group of Cape Verde, about 600 km from the west tropical coast of Africa. The Fogo Natural Park (FNP) is located on the summit of the active volcanic island and has an important natural and cultural resources associated to the volcanic heritage (caldera, composite volcano, monogenetic cones, lava fields, deposits, ravines, unique plant landscapes and forms of agricultural use and small villages). The original resulting volcanic landscape is the result of a harmonious combination of natural resources with the agricultural uses of this tropical volcanic island. The last eruption (2014-2015) took place within the FNP and formed multiple cinder cones and pahoehoe and aa lava fields that destroyed Portela and Bangaeira villages. The most important economic activities of FNP are agriculture, livestock and geotourism. The methodology is based on a non-systematic inventory of resources from FNP, aerial photos analysis and fieldwork. The scientific literature about volcano tourism shows eight main attractive: landscapes, eruptions, hot springs, ecology, sports, sand beaches, cultural parks and religious traditions. Taking into account these touristic attractions, we propose new products based on volcanic heritage and the type of eco-tourists that arrive Fogo

island. The main resources for the geo-tourism in FNP are the trails to the top of Pico stratovolcano as well as routes visit and know about the culture of the territory focused on the production of wines and gastronomy. Currently, Fogo island has a touristic map with 13 trails in which are detected the main resources of the Island and of the FNP associated with the volcanic heritage. So, visiting the FNP, is easy to observe all the volcanic resources described in the scientific literature. These volcanic landscapes show the great opportunity for geotourism and the local development.