

The **Axios - Loudias - Aliakmonas National Park** is located in Northern Greece, just a few kilometres from the centre of Thessaloniki. **Four river-mouths** and extensive **lagoons** form one of the largest and most complex **wetland systems** in the country, with salt marshes and water meadows, coastal islets, riparian forests and rice fields providing **suitable bird life habitats**.

GALLIKOS RIVER-MOUTH - KALOHORI LAGOON

Marshes and coastal lagoons alive year round with flamingos and other wading birds. Vagrants, including the Terek sandpiper, are regularly spotted.

COASTAL SECTION OF THE GALLIKOS & AXIOS RIVERS

The islets are used by gulls and terns (e.g. Mediterranean gulls, common terns and little terns) for nesting colonies and by pelicans for resting places, while the shores and salt flats attract wading birds.

AXIOS RIVERBED & DELTA

Hérons, cormorants and some raptors (e.g. sparrowhawks) nest in the riparian woodlands, while shorebirds, ducks (especially in the winter) and pelicans congregate in the delta. Herons, spoonbills and glossy ibis feed in the rice fields.

LOUDIAS & ALIAKMONAS RIVER-MOUTHS

Extensive system of riparian woodland, rice fields, salt flats, mud flats and marshes. Particularly rich in wading birds, Mediterranean and slender-billed gulls, and gull-billed terns.

NEA AGATHOUPOLI WETLAND

The large congregations of water birds (thousands of ducks, including teal, pintails, mallards and shovelers), especially in the winter, attract a number of raptors (e.g. white-tailed eagles, spotted eagles and marsh harriers). This is also an important site for species that frequent reed beds (ferruginous ducks, purple herons, great bitterns).

KITROS SALT PANS

Lagoon, salt pans, extensive sand dunes, and saltmarshes. Important for flamingos and large congregations of shorebirds in the winter and during the migrating season. Northern lapwings, black-winged stilts and stone curlews nest in the marshes and dunes. Seabirds, including yellouan shearwaters, come to the coastal waters.

Good conduct

- Be careful not to disturb any birds, especially during the breeding season. If terns, pratincoles or shorebirds start to swoop over you, calling aggressively, you are probably too near a nesting colony. Some shorebirds will try to distract you if you get too near their chicks, by pretending to be injured, while terns may fly right at you. If you encounter such behaviour, move away quickly and quietly.
- If you find an injured bird, call the Action for Wildlife society: +30 6979 914852 and +30 6986740122
- Fire Service emergency number: 199



Operational Programme Macedonia - Thrace 2007-2013

Supporting the operation of Axios - Loudias - Aliakmonas Delta Management Body, aiming at the management of its area of responsibility



REGION OF CENTRAL MACEDONIA
Intermediary
Managing
Authority



The project is co-financed by Greece and the European Union

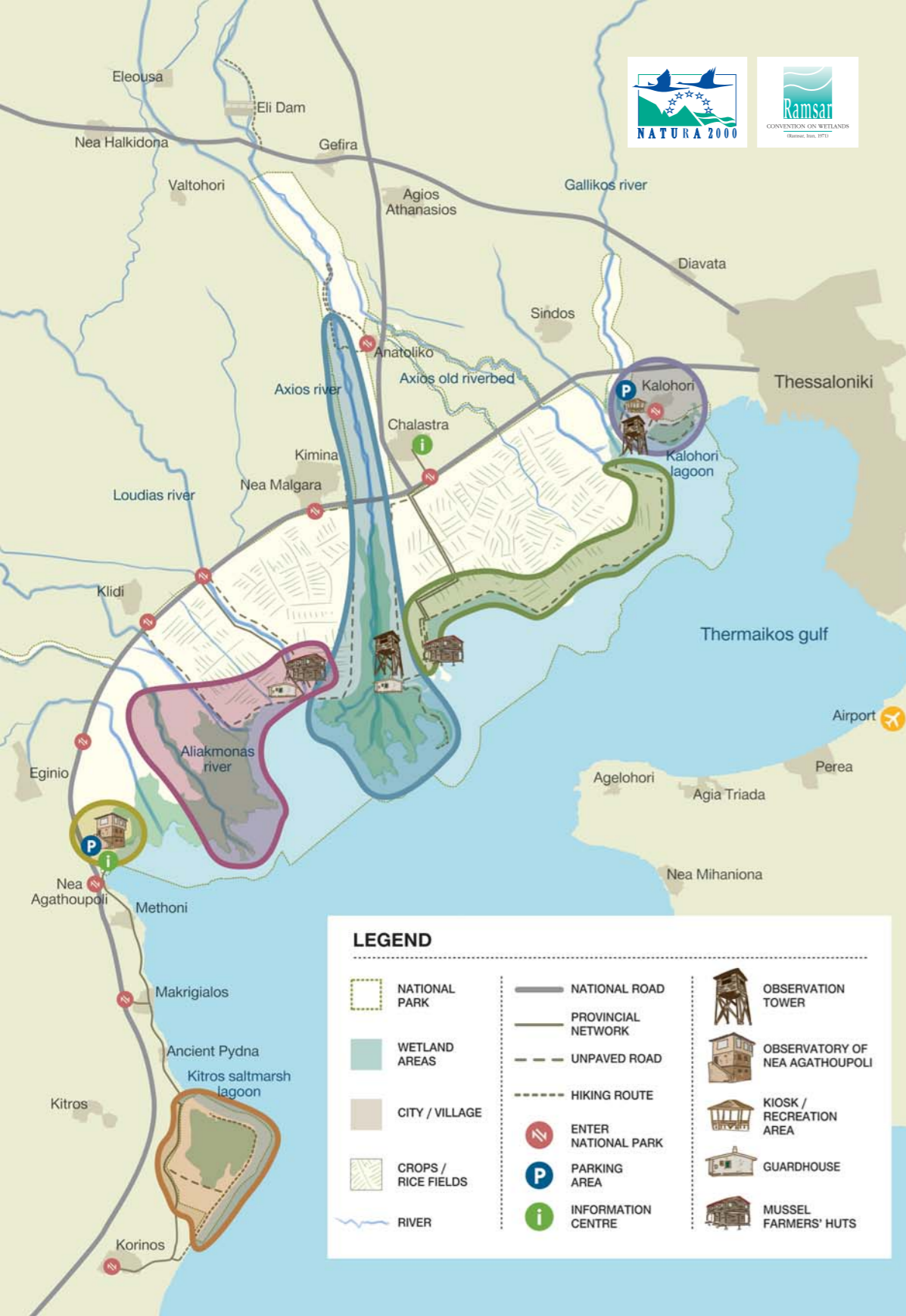
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AXIOS DELTA NATIONAL PARK
FASCINATING
BIRDLAND

Welcome to one of Greece's most important wetlands!
295 species of birds, in an amazing variety of habitats, are here for you to discover





The distribution shows where you are most likely to see these birds, but you may be lucky enough to spot them in other parts of the Park as well



Purple heron

Uses much of the area of the National Park. Nests in reed beds in the Axios Delta and the Nea Agathoupoli wetland.



Spur-winged lapwing

There are a few nesting pairs, mainly around the Loudias and Aliakmonas river-mouths. They may also be seen along the Axios and in the Kalohori salt flats.



Calandra lark

Nests, like the greater short-toed lark, in open areas at the mouths of the Axios, Loudias and Aliakmonas, and in the Kitros salt pans.



Glossy ibis

There is a small breeding population, while large flocks arrive during migration. Easiest to see in the Kalohori lagoon and the rice fields along the Axios river.



Flamingo

One of the National Park's most impressive species, seen mainly during the winter in the Kalohori lagoon, at the mouth of the Axios and around the Kitros salt pans, where it has also attempted to nest.



Black-winged stilt

Nests in almost all suitable habitats in the National Park, but is easiest to spot between spring and autumn on the Kalohori lagoon, in the coastal stretches of the Gallikos and Axios rivers, and in the Kitros salt pans.



Greater spotted eagle

Easiest to find in the cold months, especially in the marshes of Nea Agathoupoli, where a number of individuals overwinter.



Collared pratincole

Observed primarily in summer, in its breeding grounds at the mouth of the Aliakmonas and in the Kitros salt pans.



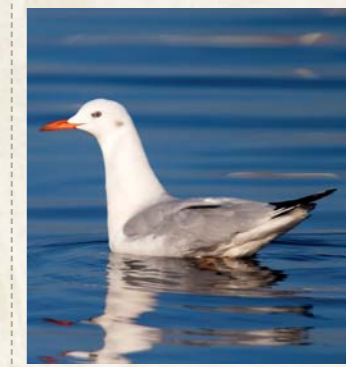
Ferruginous duck

A few pairs nest in the Nea Agathoupoli marshes. Most individuals appear in the winter.



Gull-billed tern

Nests in the Axios and Aliakmonas river-mouths, and may be observed feeding in the Nea Agathoupoli wetland and in coastal rice fields.



Slender-billed gull

Nests in the mouths of the Axios, Loudias and Aliakmonas but may be observed year round in the coastal zone of the National Park.



Mediterranean gull

Nests in noisy colonies on islets in the coastal areas of the Axios and Aliakmonas, and often feeds in nearby rice fields.

○ Permanent year-round resident ● Winter vagrant ◐ Summer vagrant