

ZAGORI

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Exhibit centers

- Rizarios Handicraft Centre
Rizarios Exhibition Centre
Water Power Museum, Vovoussa, Municipality of Zagori, Tel.: (+30) 26560 22843

Monasteries - Churches

- St. Paraskevi Monastery, Monodendri, Vikos Gorge (1412)
Evangelistria Monastery, Ano Pedina (1793)
Kimissi Theotokou Monastery, Votsa, Vardas River (Greveniti, 7th century)
Panagia Spiliotissa Monastery, Aristi, Voidomatis River (1597)
St. Vlasios Church, Megalo Papigo (1852)
Taxisarxes Church, Kato Pedina (1591)
St. John Rogovou Monastery, Tsepelovo, Vikaki Gorge (1028-1034)
Agias Triadas Monastery, Vrisochori (1667)
Triune Church St. Triada - St. Dimitrios and St. George, Negades (1779)
Kimisis Theotokou Church, Koukouli (1630)
St. Dimitrios Church, Greveniti (1668)

Stone-paved footpaths

- Vradeto
Vitsa
Koukouli (Koukouli - Kipi, Koukouli - Vitsa)

Stone Bridges

- Noutsos or Kokori Bridge, Vikos Gorge (Koukouli, 1750)
Three-arched Plakida or Kalogeriko Bridge, Bagiotiko Flume (Kipi- Koukouli, 1814)
Kontodimos or Lazaridis Bridge, Vikaki Gorge

- Two-arched Petsioni Bridge, Tributary of Zagoritikos river (Fraggades, 1818)
Three-arched Kaloutas Bridge, Zagoritikos River (Kaloutas)
Kaber Agas Bridge, Zagoritikos River (Miliotades)
Tsiplani Bridge, Vardas River (Greveniti - Tristeno, 1875)
Missios Bridge, Vikos (Koukouli - Vitsa, 1748)
Agios Minas Bridge (Dilofo)
Two-arched Milos Bridge, Bagiotiko stream (Kipi, 1748)
Tsepelovo Bridges (Xatsiou, Anthias or Paleogefiro, 1804)
Kir-Aleksis Bridge, Skanneliotiko River (Skanneli, 1812)
Kouitsas Bridge, Tributary of Aaos River (Vrisochori)
Stathis Bridge, Tributary of Zagoritikos River (Dikorfo)
Vovoussa Bridge, Aaos River (1748)

Waterfalls - Springs

- Iliochoi Waterfalls, Iliochoi
Papigo Springs, on the road from Mikro to MegaloPapigo

- Watermill - Water based (flokati) cleaning facility
Watermill - Water based cleaning facility of Tristeno
Kipi Watermill (Kipi)
Water based cleaning facility of Vovoussa

Historical & Archeological sites

- St. Minas Kastraki
Acropolis of Hellenistic Period (3rd century BC)
Settlement and fortifications of Late-Byzantine -Post-Byzantine period, 13th -19th century BC
Grampala Hill (or Ruinikos), on the road from Aristi to Kato Pedina. Battlefield of 1940.
Ancient Settlement of Vitsa - Monodendri Settlement, cemetery, basins, aqueduct from Archaic, Classical period (9th - 4th century BC)
Skanneli Acropolis Ruins of entrenchment from Classical - Hellenistic period (4th - 3rd century BC)
Greveniti Acropolis Ruins of entrenchment from Hellenistic period (3rd century BC)
Makrino Acropolis (Kiatral Arie Hill) Ruins of entrenchment from Hellenistic period (3rd century BC)

Scenic Views

- Oxia location, Monodendri. View to Vikos Gorge
Monastery of Agia Paraskevi forecourt, Monodendri.
Belo location, Vradeto. View to Vikos Gorge, in Vikos village.
Panoramic view location to Vikos Gorge, in Vikos village.
Bokovo location, between Skanneli and Gyftokampos

KONITSA

Exhibit centers

- Information Centre of Municipality of Konitsa
Konitsa History Photography exhibition. Old Muslim School, Suleiman the Magnificent Mosque.
Folklore Museum at Konitsa.
House of Hamko (AliPasa's mother)
Wine Museum of Epirus
Folklore Museum at Agia Paraskevi.
Library, Konitsa.
Esodia tis Theotokou (Presentation of Mary) Monastery - Ecclesiastical Museum (1672), at Molista

Monasteries - Churches

- Panagia Stomiou Monastery, at Aaos canyon (Konitsa, 1774)
Anargiron Monastery, at Voidomatis gorge (Kleidonia, 1658)
St Apostles Monastery, at old Kleidonia (Kleidonia, 1662)
Oasios Nikanoras Monastery (Nikanoras, 1816)
Esodia tis Theotokou (Presentation of Mary) Monastery, at Monastiri(1672)
St. Nikolaos Metropolitan Church (Konitsa, 1842)
St. Paraskevi Church (Palaioselli, 1864)
St. George Church (Pigi)

Stone Bridges

- Voidomatis Bridge, Kleidonias (1853)
Konitsa Bridge, Aaos River (1850)
Bousi Bridge, Aaos tributary, Ntopolitsa (Konitsa, 1904)
Pournias Bridge, Sarantaporos tributary (1853)
Pigi Bridge

Historical & Archeological sites

- Klidi of Voidomatis. Prehistoric ruins (Paleolithic period, 14,000 - 8,000 BC)
Castle of Konitsa. Ruins of entrenchment, Byzantine period
Konitsa Historical Centre. Traditional settlement (50 mansions)
Zelinel Bei Mansion, Konitsa.
SuleimantheMagnificentMosque, Konitsa
4 Tourbedes (Tombs), (old Muslim monasteries' mausoleums) Konitsa.
St. Paisios' House in Konitsa tel. : (+30)2655023000

Scenic Views

- Prophet Ilias (AnoKonitsa)
St. Barbara Chapel(Konitsa)
Ano Kleidonia settlement with view to the Monastery, at Monastiri(1672)
Panoramic view to Aaos springs artificial Lake and to Valia Kalda Valley.

Water based (flokati) cleaning facility

- Water based cleaning facility of Agia Paraskevi
Armata Watermill
Water based cleaning facility of Distrato

METSOVO

Metsovo Information Centre
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Exhibit centers

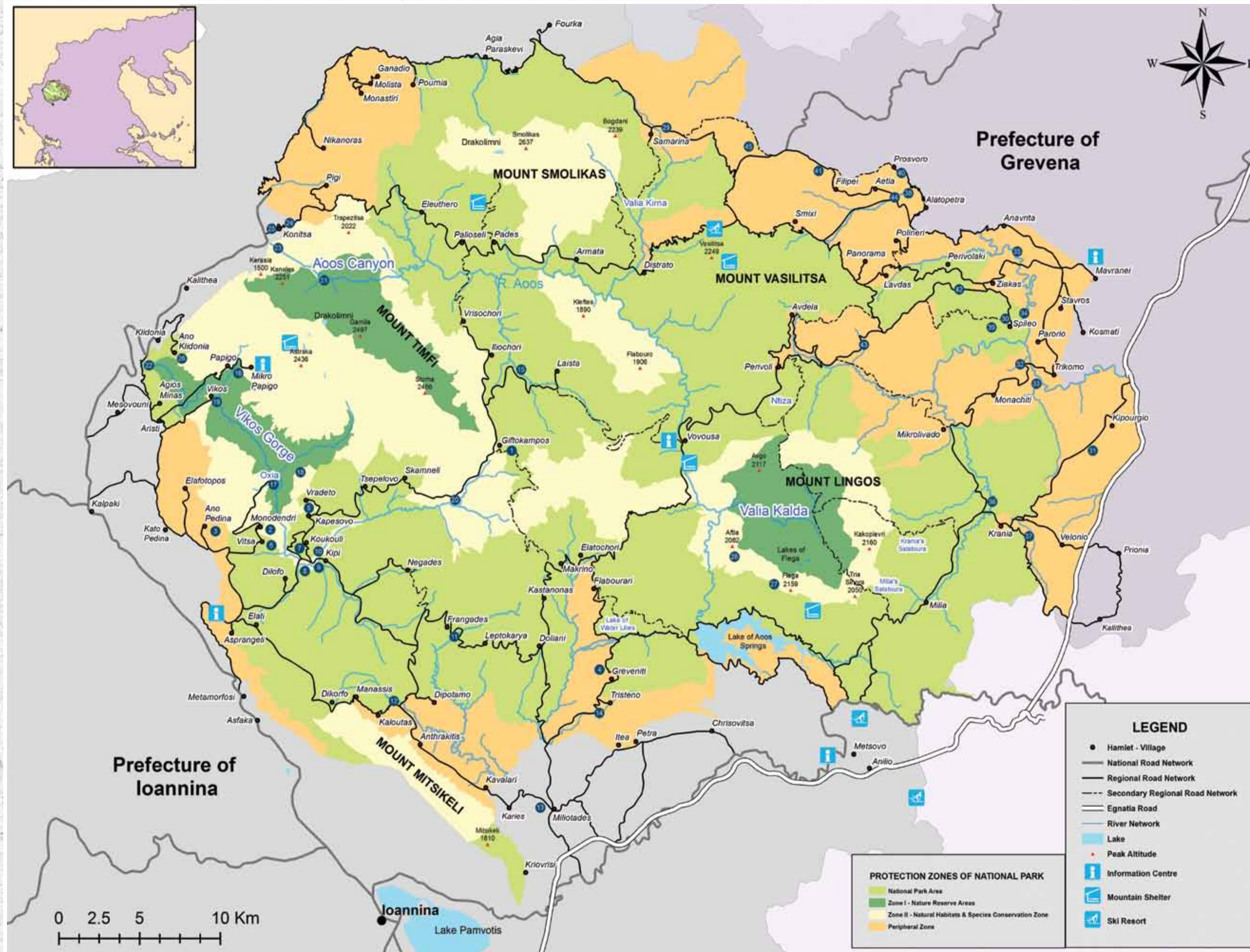
- Tositza Mansion in Metsovo, (Folklore Museum), Tel.: (+30) 26560 41084
E. Averof's Institution Gallery, Metsovo, Tel.: (+30) 26560 41210, Fax: (+30) 26560 42617
Visiting hours: 10a.m.-16p.m. daily (Tuesdays closed).
Paintings and sculptures made by Greek artists of the 19th and 20th century.

Scenic Views

- Katogi Traditional Winery, Metsovo, Tel.: (+30) 26560 41010.
Folklore Museum, Milia village

Monasteries - Churches

- Megali Panagia Church (Samarina)
Assumption of Mary (Koimisi tis Theotokou) Monastery (Spileao, 1633)
St. Athanasios of Gorgiani Monastery, on the road from



GREVENA

Mavranaii Information Centre

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Exhibit centers

- Mushroom - Folklore Museum at Lavda, Tel.: (+30) 6972033243
Folklore exhibition, Samarina, Tel.: (+30) 6979030119
Folklore exhibition - Manakis Brothers Photography exhibition (pioneering photographers and cinematographers in the Balkans, 1905-1918), open during the summer, Avdela village, Tel.: (+30) 6932033938

Monasteries - Churches

- Megali Panagia Church (Samarina)
Assumption of Mary (Koimisi tis Theotokou) Monastery (Spileao, 1633)
St. Athanasios of Gorgiani Monastery, on the road from

- Matsagani Bridge, single-arched, tributary of Venetikos (Krania, 1850)
St. Paraskevi Monastery, Samarina (Samarina, 1713)
St. Nikolas Church, between Ziakas and Perivoli villages (1803)
Sts. Theodore Church, between Polineri and Alatopetra villages
Transfiguration of Jesus Church (Metamorfofi tou Sotira), east of Avdela (1900)
St. George Church, in Perivoli's central square (1760)
St. Nikolas Church, Smixi (1750)
Sts. Constantine and Helen Church, Filipei (1886)

Stone Bridges

- Aziz Aga Bridge (triple-arched), over Venetikos River. Has the longest span of any arched bridge in Macedonia. (Trikomo, 1727)
Kagelia Bridge, double-arched, Venetikos River (Trikomo, Monahiti, 19th c.)
Portitsa Bridge, double-arched, Venetikos River, at Portitsa gorge (Spileao, 1793) -Katsogianni Bridge (or watermill bridge), triple-arched, Velonias River (Spileao, 1800) - Liatisas Bridge, single-arched, Velonias River (Spileao, 1800)
Ziakas Bridge, double-arched, Velonias River, tributary of Venetikos (Ziakas, 19th c.)
Stabeki Bridge, tributary of Venetikos (Krania, 1850)

Watermill - Water-cleaning mills (for blankets, rugs, flokati etc)

- Traditional watermill - traditional water cleaning mill for rugs and blankets. Mikrolivado village, at 850m.
Traditional cleaning mill for rugs and blankets, Samarina village, location outside Avdelavillage.
Katsogianni Watermill. Located 2km east of Spileao, by the Venetikos River.

Scenic Views

- Panorama from mount Orlikas-picnic location, Spileao village.

- Panorama-picnic location, Prophet Elias chapel at 1,384 m, near Prosvoro village.
Kourounas picnic location, on the road from Filipei to Samarina village.
Karastergios Spring picnic location, on the road from Ziakas to Perivoli village.
Picnic location Exarhos, on the road from Ziakas to Perivoli village.

Waterfalls

- Tsourgiakas gorge waterfall, 100m height, at Aetia village.

Historical & Archeological sites

- Anitsa War Monument, commemorated to the battles of the Pindos 1940-41. Accessible from the old road from Filipei to Samarina village.
Acropolis and tombs found at the archeological site of Spilaio, dating from Paleolithic to Byzantine Eras.

- Hellenistic temple and settlement, at the acropolis of Kastri, near Alatopetra village.

Trekking Shelters

- Ski resort Vasilitsa Tel: (+30) 2462076530
Ski resort Politsas, Metsovo Tel: (+30) 2656029111
Ski resort Anilio, Metsovo Tel: (+30) 6980760850
Tympi Trekking Shelter "D. Georgoulis", Astrakia - Papigo, Ioannina. Tel.: (+30) 6973 223100
Smolikias Trekking Shelter, Palioseli - Konitsa. Tel.: (+30) 6942 939939/6988 015656
Valia Kalda Trekking Shelter at Vovoussa, Ioannina. Tel.: (+30) 26510 29445 & 22226, 26560 22200, 6977 314779
Metsovo Trekking Shelter, Mavrovouni, Metsovo. Tel.: (+30) 26560 41207
DistratoTrekking Shelter - Chalet, Vasilitsa Ski Resort, Tel.: (+30) 24620 82820, Mob.: (+30) 6980 214027
Gomara Trekking Shelter - Chalet "Vasilitsa 1850", Vasilitsa Ski Resort, Grevena, Mob.: (+30) 6944 425074
Vasilitsa Trekking Shelter - Chalet, Vasilitsa Ski Resort, Grevena, Tel.: (+30) 24620 84100, Mob.: (+30) 693 270 2100

The Northern Pindos National Park

The mountainous woodlands of Northern Pindos host an exceptional ecosystem, inviting visitors to appreciate pristine mountain and forest environments. Preservation of this rare ecology has required the creation of an innovative, effective management policy.

The Northern Pindos National Park was created in 2005 with the unification of Valia Kalda and Vikos-Aoos National Forests and incorporation of the intervening wilderness region. With an area of nearly two thousand square kilometers (1.969.741.000sq.m.), it is the largest National Park on the Greek mainland. The Park includes nearly all the Zagori district, parts of Konitsa and Metsovo, and the western region of Grevena County.

The Park offers a unique combination of natural wilderness regions and traditional villages. A large number of endemic plant and animal species thrive on mountain slopes of rare geologic significance. Eleven regions of the EU-wide network of nature protection areas "NATURA 2000" are included at the National Park, eleven Wildlife Refuges, a Biogenetic Reserve Region (Valia Kalda) and two areas that are internationally recognized as bird conservation sanctuaries. The mountain of Orliakas, at the east of the Park region, is an "Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty." In 2010, the Vikos-Aoos region, hosting the world's steepest gorge (Guinness World Record), was established as an International Geopark by UNESCO, due to its large geological and geomorphological value. An aspiring UNESCO Geopark, the Tethys Geopark, is located in the Grevena region of the Park.

The Land Use within the National Park is an innovative scheme that unifies the protection of wilderness and conservation areas with traditional rural cultures dependent on herding, lumbering and mountain-based agriculture. To preserve the ecosystem and traditional mountain lifestyle, a land-use management system was developed that established a graded system of conservation zones.

Four distinct management regions have been delineated over the park area:

1. The Nature Reserve Areas (Zone I) include the core areas (National Forests) of the National Park,

that is, Valia Kalda, the Vikos Gorge and Aaos Canyon. These are the environmental hearts of the park and require the most effective protection of the existing natural environment with minimal human intervention. Scientific research, guided tours for visitors and eco-tourist programs have been designed to allow access to these areas, with the least environmental impact.

2. Four areas adjacent to the environmentally sensitive core areas have been delineated as Habitat and Species Conservation Zones (Zone II). The land uses in these areas are also restricted to preserve the natural environment. The sustainable management of these zones includes research activities and encouragement of traditional agriculture.

3. The Main Area of the Park constitutes the largest area of the National Park and includes several village lands where environmental and traditional mountain lifestyles are protected. The Park promotes the preservation of traditional activities, with maintenance of the environmental balance. Eco-tourism and education in this area is encouraged.

4. Areas outlying the National Park borders, but considered essential to the Park's ecosystem are included in four Peripheral Zones (Zone P). The Peripheral areas are buffers between the highly protected areas of the Park and the surrounding region. Land use restrictions are placed on activities that have a negative effect on the maintenance of the Park area in a natural state. The Peripheral areas overlap the range of protected species, such as the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) and other wildlife. Sustainable growth and development of recreational activities are promoted, with a goal of restoring these buffer zone regions to a more natural, but economically sustainable, state.

In general, traditional animal husbandry, agriculture, forestry usage, and the production and marketing of local resources and commodities are protected. The development of tourist facilities, "agri-business" scale farming, and hydroelectric projects are restricted. Country inns and guesthouses, trekking shelters, and small-scale agricultural units that promote environmental conservation and traditional lifestyles are encouraged.



Ursus arctos



Rupicapra rupicapra



Falco peregrinus



Kageia Bridge, Trikomo



Aaos Canyon, Monastery of Stomio



School educational program in Metsovo Information Centre



Patrolling in in Valia Kalda



Antacamptis pyramidalis



Ramonda serbica

Ski Resorts

The Pindos National Park hosts one of the most beautiful ski resorts of Greece. Located on Mount Vasilitsa (2,249m) 42km northwest of the city of Grevena, the ski centre was founded in 1975 and established as the National Ski Centre of Greece in 1991. Winter sports enthusiasts praise the quality and depth of its snow cover and its extended snow season: the resort is open for skiing from the first of December to March, and sometimes well into April. Vasilitsa offers alpine, slalom, downhill, freestyle, cross-country and snowboarding opportunities and hosts several winter sport competitions each year. It now hosts 18 runs, one of which is the longest natural ski run in Greece, 7 lifts (including 2 chair lifts, 4 t-bars and a "baby-lift") and a snowboard terrain park at 1,850m. Mount Vasilitsa is ideal for off-season fitness activities as well, such as Nordic (ski) walking and trekking, while during the summer the slopes host a Mountain Bike

Park and the Pan-Hellenic Downhill Race. For ski reports and announcements, contact the Vasilitsa Ski Resort Management Agency: Tel.: Intl Access + 30 - 24620-76530 or visit their website at www.vasilitsa.com. Metsovo has built a modern ski resort (Profitisilias Ski Resort) on Mount Politisies, right next to Profitis Ilias Chapel, at 1,360m in altitude. Appropriate for beginners, it hosts five downhill ski slopes, one cross-country ski run, 2 surface lifts and a baby lift. Still in a development phase, this centre offers a chalet with restaurant and cafeteria, a ski school and an equipment & snowmobile rental store. For more information and announcements: Tel.: Intl Access + 30 - 265602911, 2656042772, 2656041095, 265604263 or visit their website: www.metsovo-ski.gr. Furthermore, near Metsovo operates the ski centre of Anilio.

Management of the National Park

The Management Agency of Vikos-Aoos and Pindos National Parks was founded in 2002, and since 2007 has overseen operation of the Northern Pindos National Park. The Park agency is within the Hellenic Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, dedicated to supervision of protected wildlife areas and it is administered by an eleven-member Administrative Board. Management is responsible for the implementation of protective restrictions within the land use zones of the Park area, data collection required for environmental monitoring, proposals of scientific research initiatives, and of technical and infrastructure projects. The Park Management Agency is headquartered in Grevena, but its administration services currently are accommodated at the Vikos-Aoos Information Centre, located at Aspragelli, Zagori of Ioannina.

The Agency personnel consists of 22 people including scientific staff, tour guides and rangers. The "mission statement" of the Agency is to preserve the natural environment of the Northern Pindos National Park while promoting sustainable and traditional development within the Park's area. The implementation of the protected area of Northern Pindos National Park is coordinated in accordance to an approved plan that is adjusted on an annual basis. For optimal coverage of the Park area, the Management Agency has four park ranger teams covering the regions of Zagori, Metsovo, Konitsa and Grevena. The Agency also operates four Information Centres to aid visitors and scientists gain background and travel information. The Centres host educational programs for schools, give tourist information and promote eco-tourist projects.



School educational program



Capreolus capreolus



Salamandra salamandra

Ecological Value

The fact that the park hosts many rare ecosystem types and many endemic species of fauna and flora adds a high ecological value to the protected area. The biology of the region is determined by the particular topography (high mountain ranges, ravines, slopes with different orientation), the geology and the presence of special rocks, the climatic conditions and the presence of humans throughout the years.

Over 2000 plant species have been catalogued throughout the area of the Park. Many flowering plants and herbs are endemic and considered endangered species. Among the fungi of the area, over 2500 species of mushroom have been documented.

Wild life in the park includes 60 species of mammals, among these almost all of the endangered mammals of Greece. The most important are the chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra balcanica*) and the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*). The populations of these species are higher in the park refuge than anywhere else in Greece. Other important species include the wolf (*Canis lupus*), the roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*), the wild cat (*Felis silvestris*), the otter (*Lutra lutra*) and some of the more common ones, such as the boar (*Sus scrofa*) that has a population increase in the region. Some traces and observations indicate the lynx's (*Lynx lynx*) periodical presence in the region.

Among the 186 species of birds that the area hosts, the birds of prey are of great interest

and particularly the Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), which is a universally endangered species, the golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), the robin (*Falco peregrinus*), the fish hawk (*Hieraeetus pennatus*), the osprey (*Circaetus gallicus*) and the golden hawk (*Falco biarmicus*). There is also a remarkable woodpecker presence, such as the large black woodpecker (*Dryocopus martius*) and the Balkan woodpecker (*Dendrocopos syriaca*). 30 reptile species are encountered the National Park area, including 16 lizard, 10 snake and 4 turtle species. Indicatively, we note the presence of the Dalamatian *Algyroides* lizard (*Algyroides nigropunctatus*), the Japanese striped snake (*Elaphe quatuorlineata*) and the Marginated Tortoise (*Testudo marginata*).

Out of the 14 amphibian species that are hosted in the area, of particular interest are the alpine newts (*Triturus alpestris*) or the "dragons", located at high altitudes, such as the Dragon lakes at Mounts Smolikas, Tymfi and Flega and the salamander (*Salamandra salamandra*). The Park's rivers and their tributaries make an excellent habitat for 22 species of fish, among which: the pindovino (*Barbatula pindus*), an endemic species, only found in Aaos River; the Albanian Roach (*Pachychilon pictum*), another two endemic species of trout (*Salmo fario*ideskai&sal mopelagonicus), the european shub (*Squalius*) also found in Aaos River and some more common species, such as the trout (*Salmo trutta*), the fresh water mullet (*Leuciscus cephalus*), the common nase (*Chondrostomanusus*) and the barbel (*Barbus peloponnesius*).



Aaos springs lake



Dikorfo



Arkoudrema - Valia Kalda



Aaos Canyon



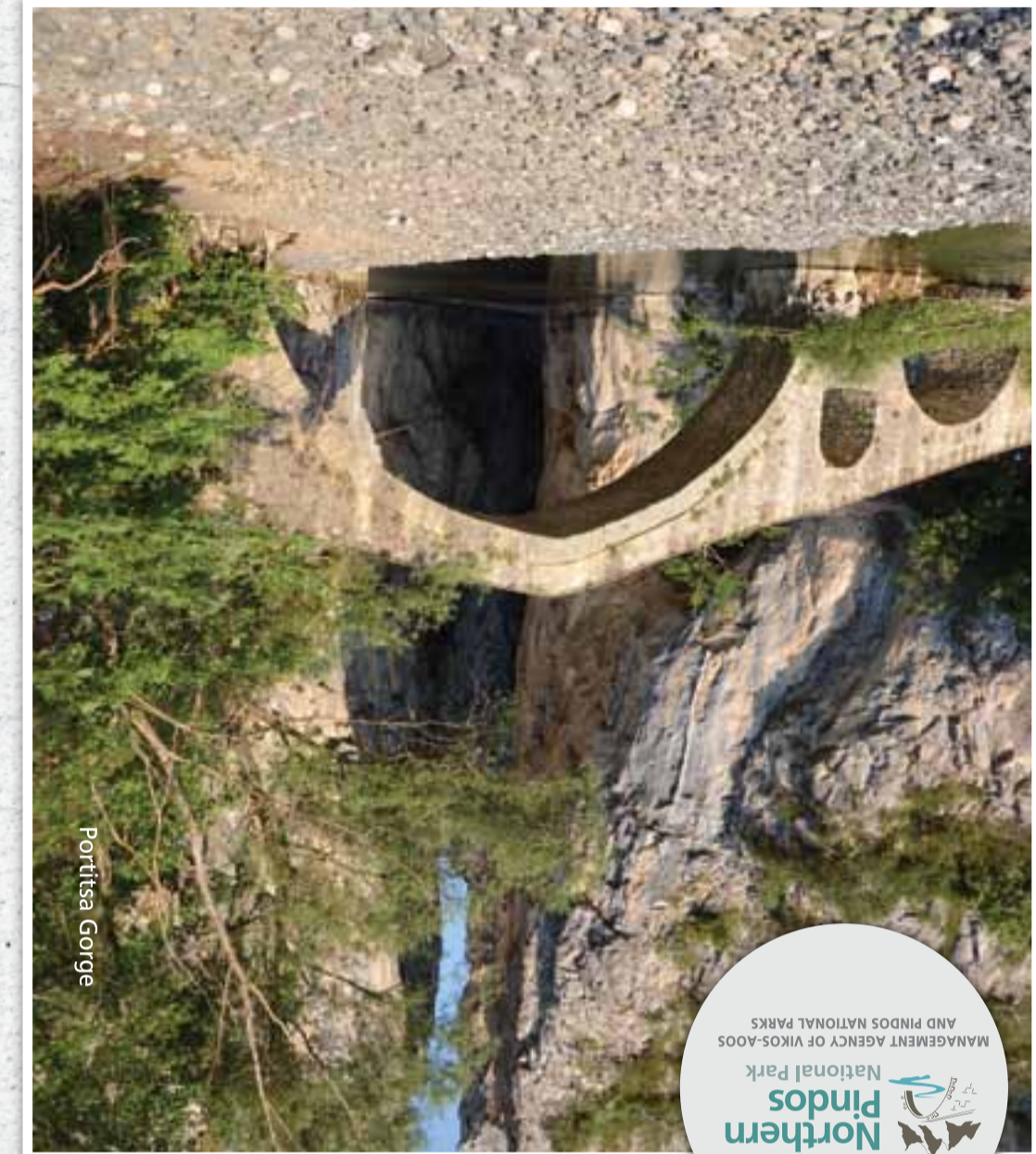
Trapezitsa - Konitsa



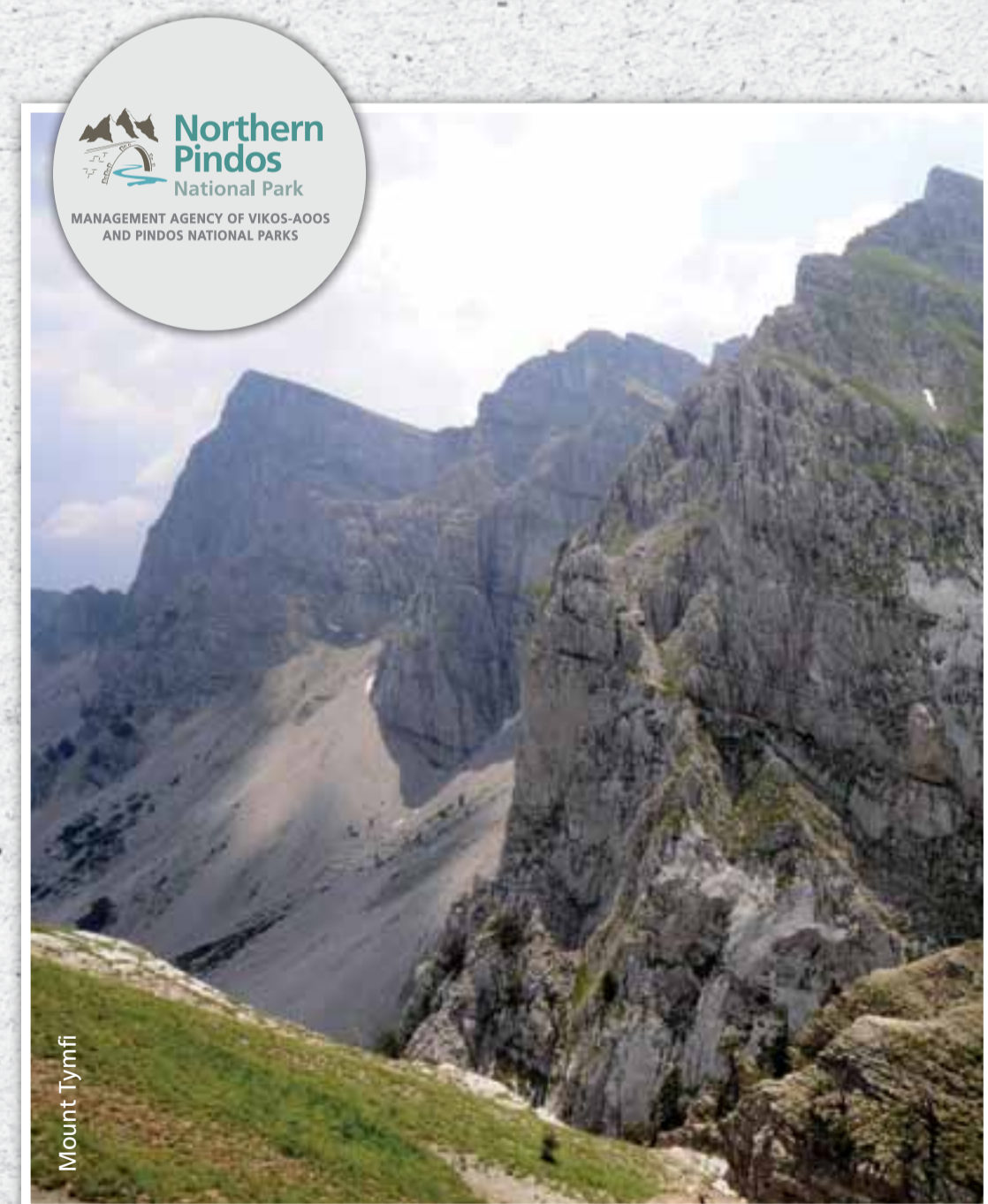
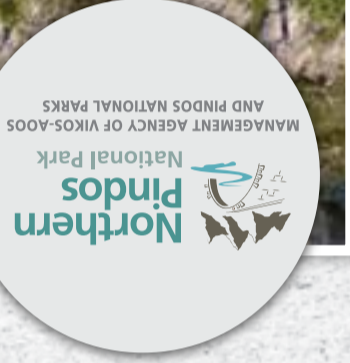
Vasilitsa Ski Resort



Vikos Gorge



Portitsa Gorge



Mount Tymfi

NORTHERN PINDOS NATIONAL PARK

Management Agency of Vikos-Aoos and Pindos National Parks
 Northern Pindos National Park
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 Aspragelli, Zagori, Zip code: 44007 Ioannina
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 Management Agency of Protected Areas
 for the year 2017
 GREEN FUND
 Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works

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