**Additional Material**

**Ecosystem services**

Current recreation and tourism:

(state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism;indicate type and frequency/intensity) The wetlands of the site are not used for recreation or tourism. One camp site is operating near Katafourko and another near Vonitsa, at the eastern and southern coasts of Amvrakikos which are generally considered as the best places for swimming at sea and are visited daily in the summer. In proximity to the site there are villages famous for good fish restaurants, visited by Greek nationals mostly (e.g. Koronisia, Menidi, Koprena). The whole of the surrounding area is undeveloped in terms of tourism, with about 2000 beds available to tourists in 1995. Promotion of bird watching and eco-tourism seems to be an interesting perspective for the site, as it is situated along a frequently used route along the western coast of Greece.

Current conservation education:

(e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.) An Information Centre in the old port of Koprena has been put in operation by ETANAM

with the support of the Hellenic Ornithological Society. Warden houses and observation towers have been built and another Information Centre at Salaora has been recently constructed to be operational soon. Environmental education and public awareness activities are undertaken at a wider scale by ETANAM under the Programme Agreement implemented in the area.

Social and cultural values: (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance,

archaeological site etc.)

The most important social and cultural value is that of lagoon fisheries, where the production reached 40% of Greek production during the period 1983-1991. After 1989, a high value was attributed to the potential of the site for modern aqua-culture both on land and in marine waters. Local aspirations for agriculture have been drastically reduced after the large drainage

works carried out since 1950. Within the site, agricultural land is restricted to small areas.

There is a value for grazing in the riparian vegetation and the hills surrounding the

wetlands.

Another social and cultural value is hunting, as the site used to be a main hunting area before the completion of drainage works. However, habitat modifications have attributed to the decrease of game species and combined with the relative hunting restrictions have had a negative impact on local income from tourism.

Since 1990, the social value of the site as a protected area has increased and has led to the

development of a value for eco-tourism, environmental education and bird watching, despite the lack of relevant facilities. Moreover, the area is of great scientific value in the fields of biology, ecology, hydrology and geology and numerous studies have been conducted. Considerable archaeological interest exist in and around the wetland area (ancient towns Amvrakos, Nikopolis etc.) and there is a certain local importance of religious traditions.

Since the first specific conservation measures were taken (1990), all activities have been subject to restrictions -regulations and there is ground in that most of these values today are consistent with the maintenance of natural wetland processes and ecological character.