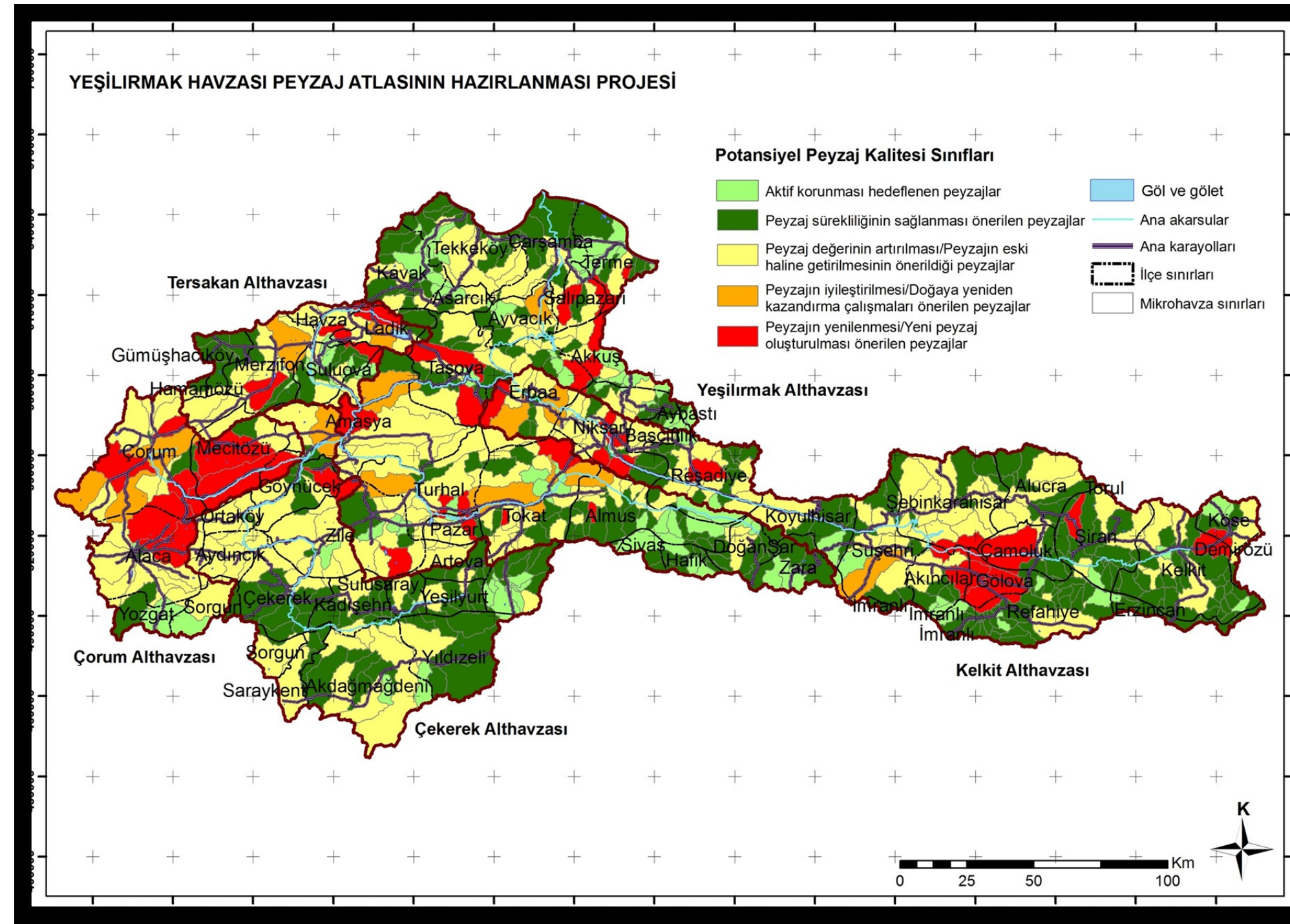


# YEŞİLİRMAK BASIN LANDSCAPE ATLAS PROJECT II

## YEŞİLİRMAK BASIN LANDSCAPE ATLAS PROJECT

“Yeşilirmak Basın Landscape Atlas (Landscape Character, Landscape Diversity and Biodiversity, Landscape Quality, Landscape Strategies) project is a significant milestone in fulfilling the requirements of European Landscape Convention (ELS) adopted in 2003 by our country. This project demonstrates the method and the approach of integration with sectoral plans, primarily spatial planning within the conventions highlighted under the European Landscape Convention (European Union Water Directive, Basin Development Plans, Water Action Plans, Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment, Natura 2000 etc). Objectives of Yeşilirmak Basın Landscape Atlas are to carry out the landscape character assessment (landscape character, landscape function, change and pressures and landscape quality analyses) on the basis of natural and cultural landscape inventory of Yeşilirmak Basin, to identify the landscape character types and landscape character areas, as well as landscape diversity and biodiversity, to create the map of landscape quality, and consequently, to establish sectoral landscape guidelines.

In the project, the landscape planning approaches were directed at the microbasins levels, as well as the decisions on protection, management and planning. In this context, the backbone of the analyzes was constructed by landscape function analyzes which were constructed in coordination with the notion of ecosystem services; indicators of human use, socio-economic structure, riparian corridors along with other indicators of basin evaluation; and landscape impact, change and pressure analyzes. By taking into consideration the factors increasing or decreasing landscape quality, first, potential landscape quality/factors to increase landscape quality were determined under the Landscape Quality and Landscape Quality Objectives heading. Secondly the existing landscape quality was revealed, as a result of integration of factors decreasing/increasing the landscape quality. Quality objectives were defined and mapped on the basis of existing landscape quality of the basin, the microbasins, and finally spatial objectives were determined.



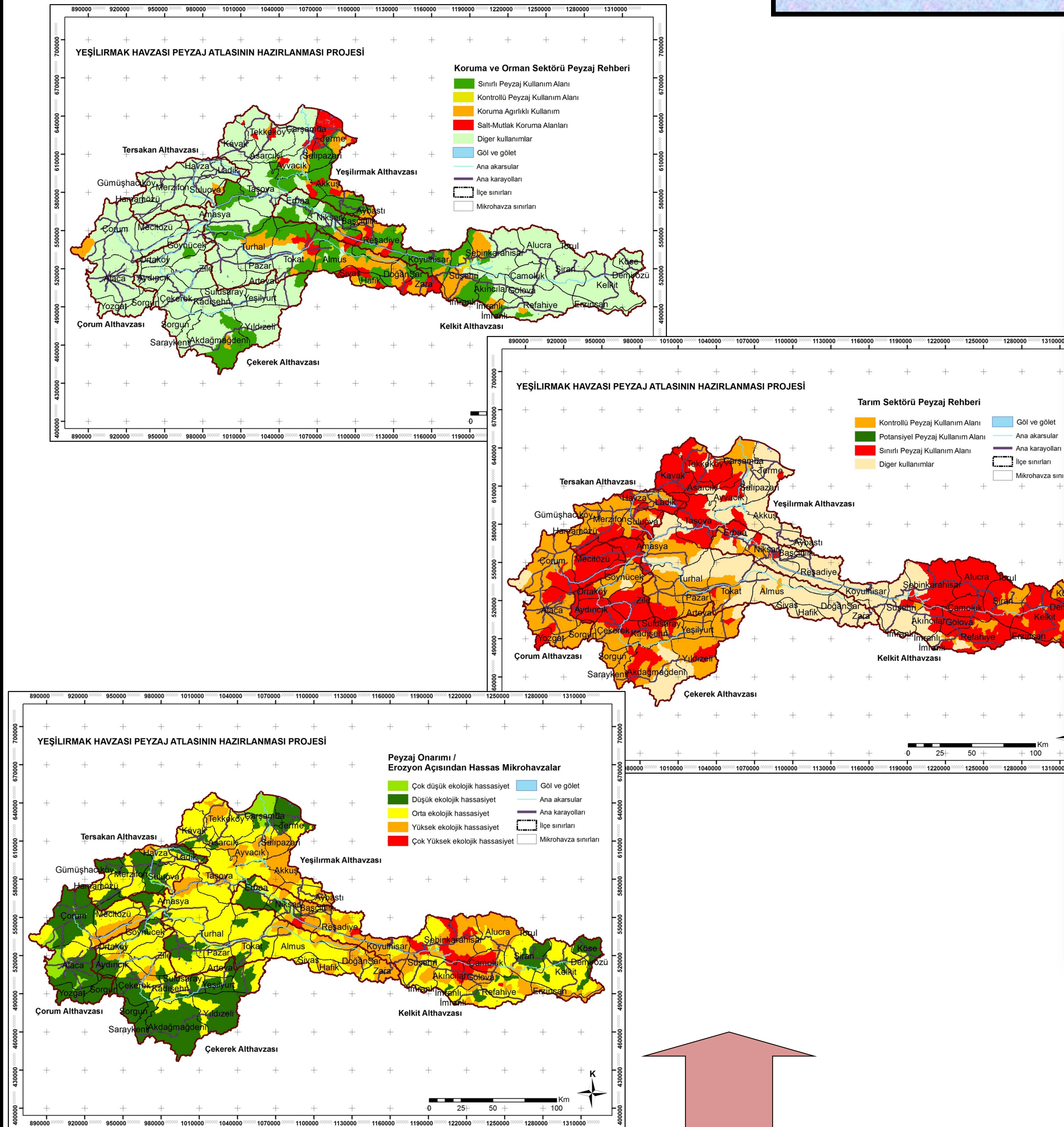
**Considering the current landscape quality related to the basin, the landscape quality objectives were determined and mapped on the basis of microbasins. Thus, the objectives were determined spatially for each microbasin. Brief explanations on terms and expressions that are seen in the atlas are provided in the below**

In the Spatial Cohesion-Noncohesion-Conflict Areas section, existing context was evaluated with regards to the preparation of ecology based environmental plans and development plans which is a hot debate especially last few years. This assessment focuses on the concept of landscape quality of the environmental plans that were prepared for the provinces within the Yeşilirmak Basin. It was revealed that some of the decisions taken in the relevant environmental plans were conflicting with the landscape quality concept that focuses on ecology in some microbasins. These assessments show that there is an urgent legal and administrative need for the integration of landscape plans and landscape planning approaches with the spatial planning activities and sector plans (protection, forestry, agriculture, etc).

The ecological vulnerabilities were presented related to the forest, protection, agriculture and urbanization sectors utilizing the relevant landscape functions within the scope of “Landscape Development Strategies and Landscape Guides”. In addition to that, the guidelines for development strategies and landscape were produced for each sector. The microbasins, vulnerable to erosion (potential erosion risk, surface water flow, landslide and Hydro Electric Power Plants (HEPPs), the microbasins which require the rehabilitation due to urban solid wastes and discharge points and the microbasins requiring the rehabilitation due to agricultural contaminators were determined in order to define the strategies related to the landscape rehabilitation. Moreover, priorities of rehabilitation were determined for microbasins in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd rank microbasins.

**As a Result,** Yeşilirmak Basın Landscape Atlas has the qualification to be a guide to all public organizations and institutions (governor, district governor, mayor, mukhtar, field services of departments, etc.), Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) representatives during the spatial planning and decision-making processes at the microbasin level. Since the atlas was issued in a language and mapping system that everybody may understand, it is easy-to-use. Furthermore, “Project of Issuing the Yeşilirmak Basın Landscape Atlas” is a project which will enlighten to remove the significant lacks in spatial and sector plans in Turkey. Project is an important tool for integrating different scales of environmental, social and economic plans with the landscape plans.

Current Landscape Quality Degree	Current Landscape Quality Description	Landscape Quality Objectives
Very little degradation	Areas where the ecologic sensitivity is at the very high level	Landscapes which the active protection is aimed / Areas where it is recommended to assign the landscape protection statutes
Little degradation	Areas where the ecologic sensitivity is at high level	Landscape which it is recommended to provide the sustainability of landscape (Those are the areas where the landscape protection statute may be assigned to the proper areas.)
Moderate degradation	Areas where the ecologic sensitivity is at the medium level	Increasing the landscape value / Landscapes where the landscape recovery is recommended
Degradation	Areas where the ecologic sensitivity is at the low level	Recovery of landscape / Landscapes where the recovery works for nature is recommended
High level of degradation	Areas where the ecologic sensitivity is at the very less level	Renovation of landscape / Landscapes where the new landscape creation is recommended



Data, obtained from the Environmental Regulation Plan

Data, Obtained from the Current Landscape Quality Map

Landscape of Forest and Semi-Natural Areas, Wetlands

Agricultural Landscapes

Landscapes of Settlements, Industry, etc. (Artificial areas)

Areas where the ecologic sensitivity is at the very high level  
(Very little degradation of landscape quality)

Landscape protection area/Pure-absolute protection area

Limited landscape use area/Balanced protection and use

Limited landscape use area/Balanced protection and use

Areas where the ecologic sensitivity is at high level  
(Little degradation of landscape quality)

Landscape protection area/Pure-absolute protection area

Limited landscape use area/Balanced protection and use

Limited landscape use area/Balanced protection and use

Areas where the ecologic sensitivity is at the medium level  
(Moderate degradation of landscape quality)

Limited landscape use area/Balanced protection and use

Controlled landscape use area/Use weighted protection

Controlled landscape use area/Use weighted protection

Areas where the ecologic sensitivity is at the low level  
(Degradation of landscape quality)

Controlled landscape use area/Use weighted protection

Controlled landscape use area/use weighted protection

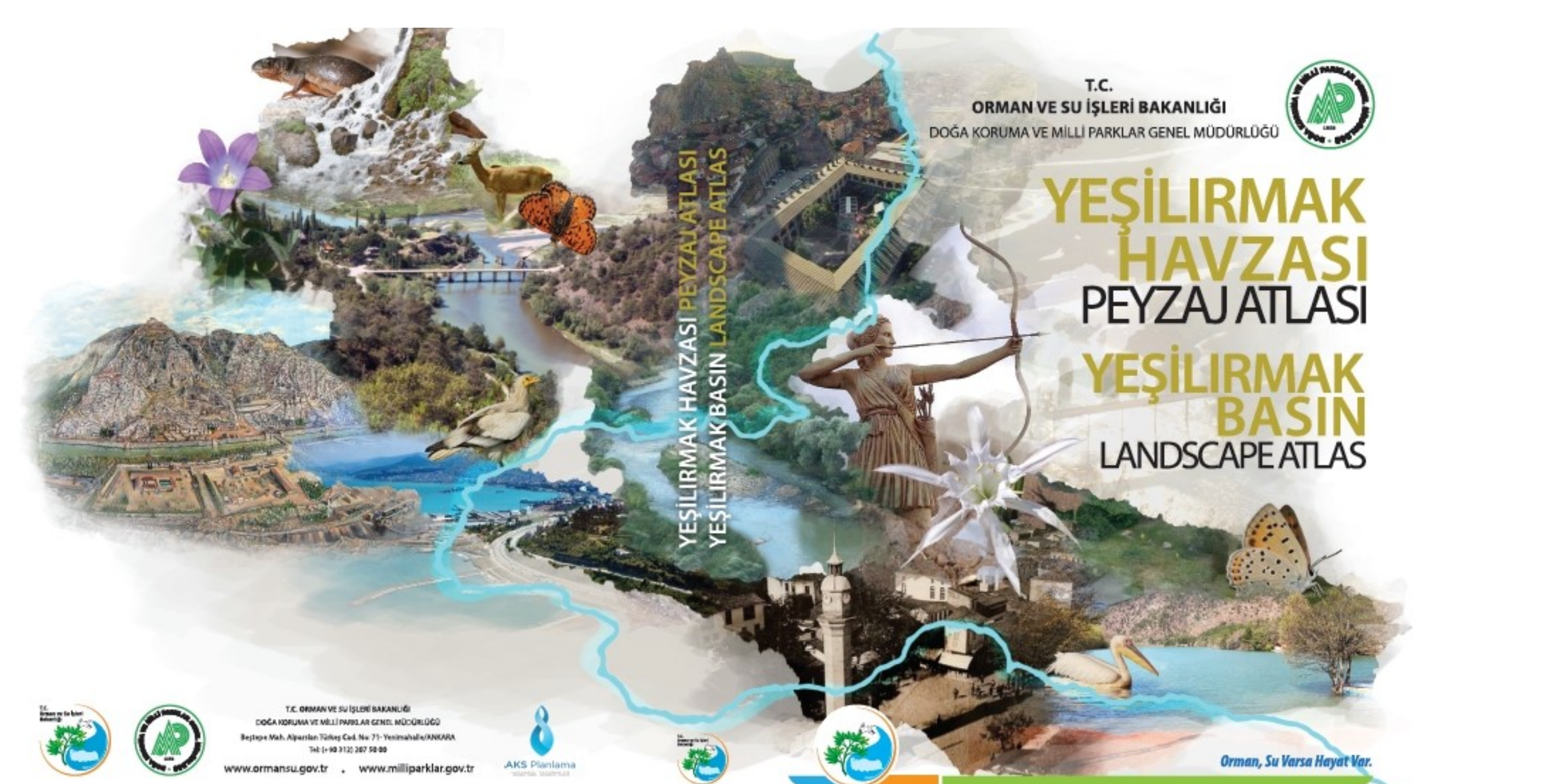
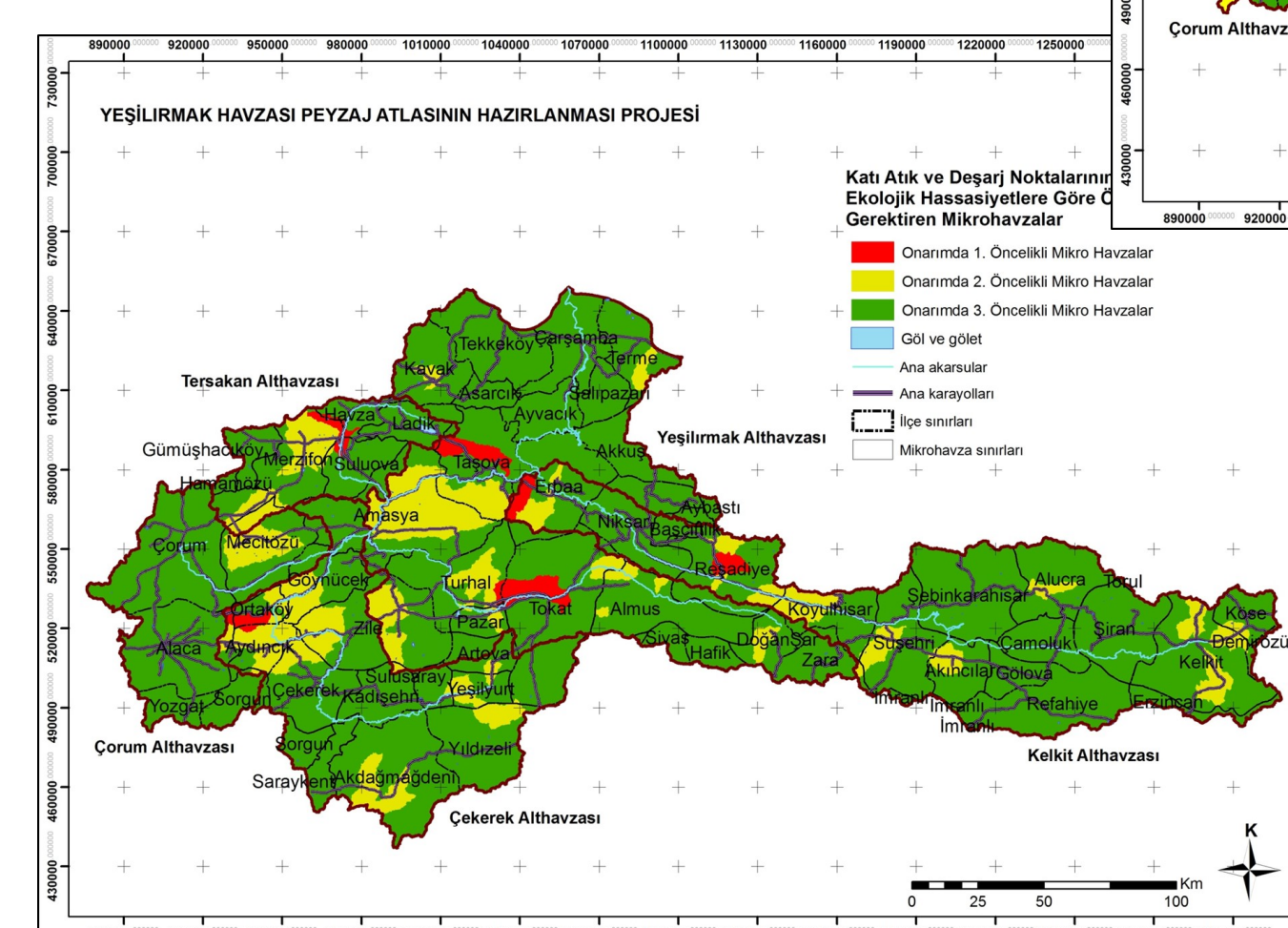
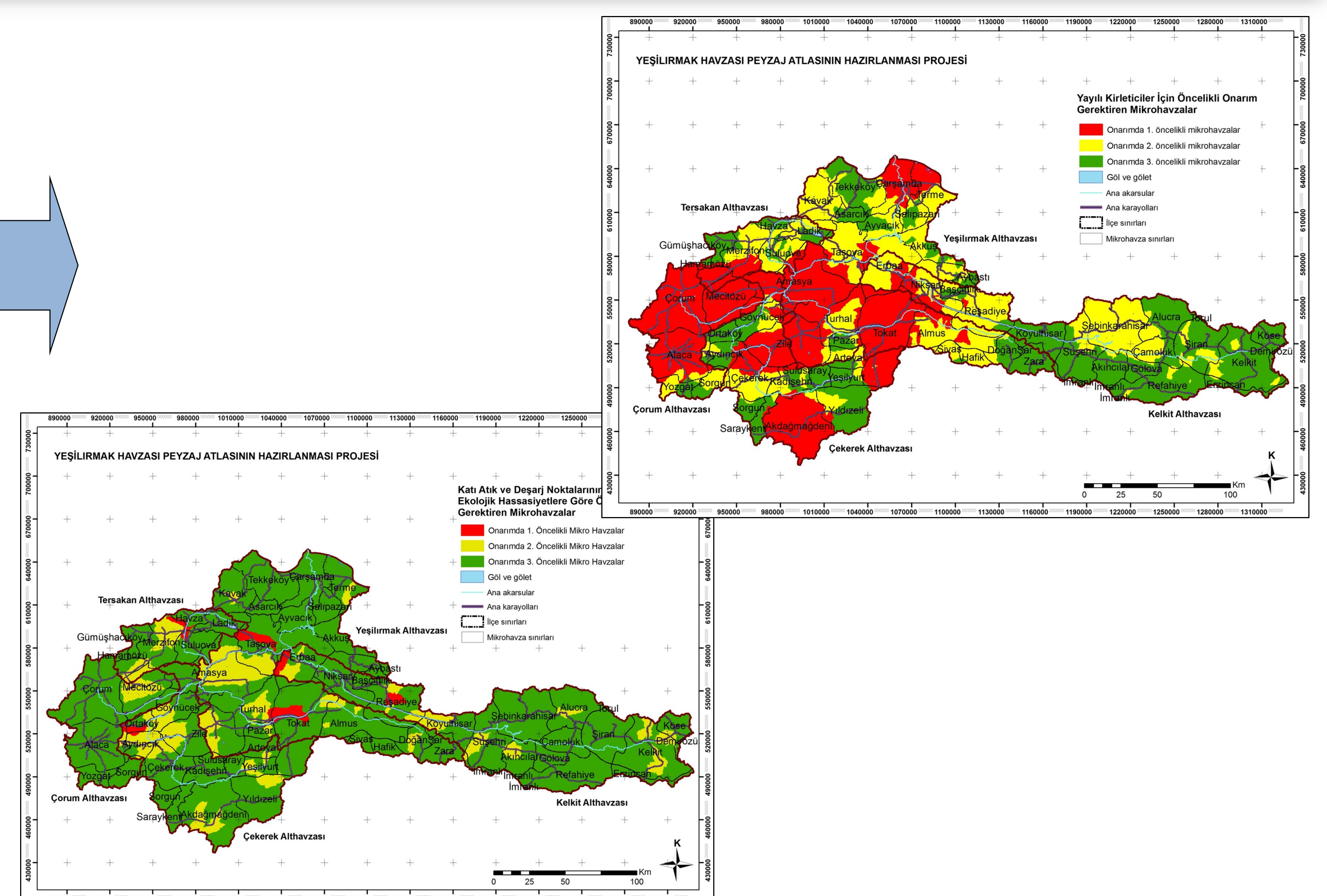
Controlled landscape use area/Use weighted protection

Areas where the ecologic sensitivity is at the very less level  
(High level of degradation in landscape quality)

Potential landscape use area/Use

Potential landscape use area/Use

Potential landscape use area/Use



Terminology, Used in the Development of Landscape Development Strategies and Sector Landscape Guides

At the end of the project, Yeşilirmak Landscape Atlas Project Book has been published as a guide to