

# Total vegetation cover soil protection

## Region:LGA Cowra\_(A) NSW

Date: March 2025

This report describes vegetation protecting the soil surface from erosion during a chosen month compared to previous years. This report has been generated using MODIS fractional vegetation cover information available in Rangelands and Pasture Productivity (RAPP) map tool <https://map.geo-rapp.org/#australia>. The report is based on 500 metre pixel data on monthly time steps.

Land use forest cover:

Results can be shown for the whole region (polygon), and separated by land use and forest cover classes which are likely to show different cover patterns and targets. Land use is divided into four broad classes: Conservation and natural environments, Agriculture, production native forests and plantation forests (no report), and other (no report). Agriculture is divided into grazing, crops and horticulture which are sub-divided into non-irrigated and irrigated. If forest is present land use is further divided into: non-forest, woodland forest and non-woodland forest. The area of each land use and forest class are shown as a map and chart. The report content is repeated for each land use and forest cover class that covers at least 1% of the area of the chosen region.

Total vegetation Cover:

The total vegetation cover indicates where soil is likely to be protected from wind and or water hillslope erosion. Total vegetation cover for this month is shown on a map and chart classified into 4 classes.

- 71-100% High cover - protected from wind and usually water erosion (high rainfall, steep slopes, and erodible soils may need greater than 80, 90, 95 and up to 100% cover)
- 51-70% Moderate cover - protected from wind erosion
- 31-50% Low cover - not protected
- 0-30% Very Low cover - not protected

Erosion protection: Wind erosion 50% total vegetation cover

The vegetation cover threshold required to prevent soil erosion is usually 50% to reduce wind erosion, 70% or 80% to reduce water (hillslope) erosion depending on the steepness and rainfall. Areas protected from erosion for the month:

- Map: water erosion protection (>70% cover) percentage area and hectares.
- Map: wind erosion protection (>50% cover) percentage area and hectares.

Comparison with previous years:

- Map: anomaly comparing this month to the average cover from the same month in previous years.
- Map: deciles rank of month against the same month in previous years.

Anomalies and deciles until September 2019 are calculated comparing to the same months 2001 to 2019. Extra monthly data will be used to calculate anomalies and deciles post September 2019 as they become available.

Time series monthly from January 2001 to current:

Erosion protection

- Wind erosion protection time series: percentage of the area of the region with greater than 50% cover for each month (orange lines). Horizontal lines are 10th (cover target) and 50th percentiles.
- Water erosion protection time series: percentage of the area of the region with greater than 70% cover for each month (blue line). Horizontal lines are 10th (cover target) and 50th percentiles.

Rainfall

- Millimetres rainfall each month (black line).

Each time series is also stacked by year. The black line shows the current year of data.

Water erosion protection for higher rainfall and steeper slopes:

Water erosion protection on higher slopes. As slope increases, more cover is required to control water erosion. The thresholds reported are:

- the percentage area with pixels greater than 80% total cover.
- the percentage area with pixels greater than 90% total cover.
- the percentage area with pixels greater than 95% total cover.

### Acknowledgment of data:

1. <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/aclump/land-use/alum-classification>
2. <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/forestsaustralia/sofr/sofr-2018>
3. <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pastures-and-rangelands/establishment-mgmt/production-management2/groundcover>
4. MODIS Fractional cover algorithm:  
<https://doi.org/10.4225/08/5848a3f19a7b3>



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Ecosystem Research Infrastructure

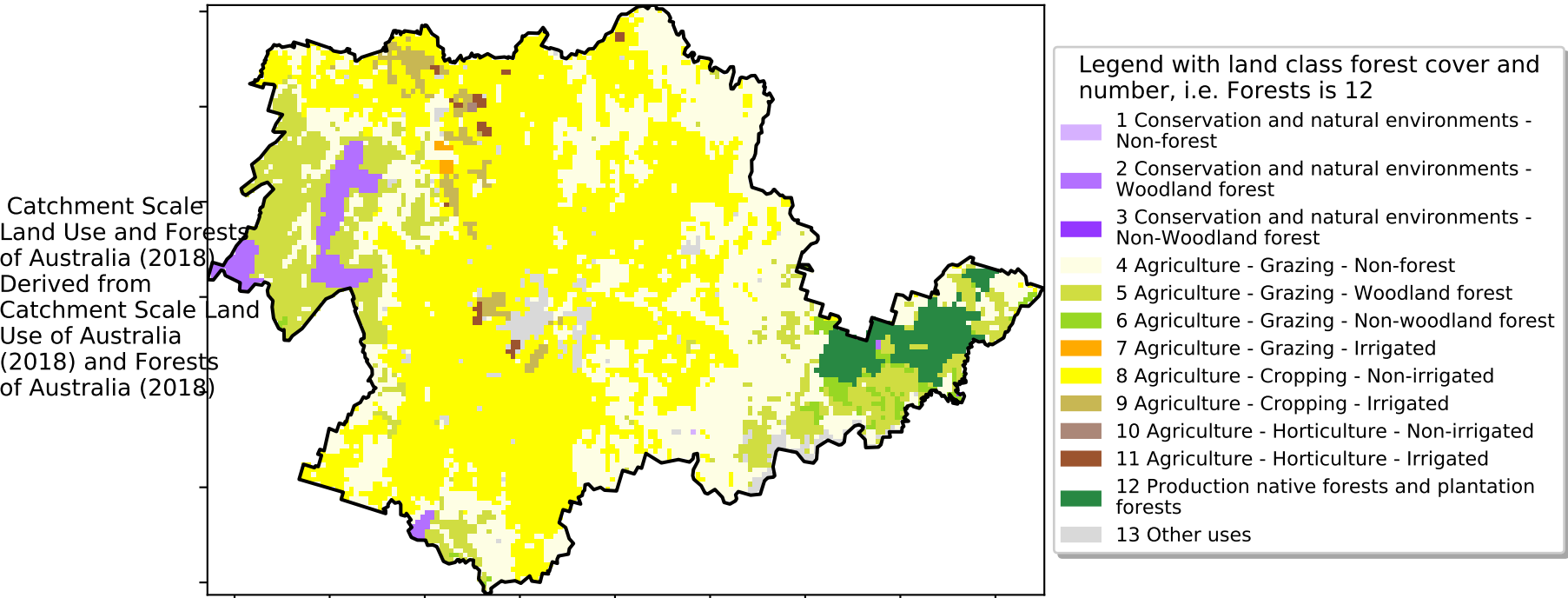


National  
Landcare  
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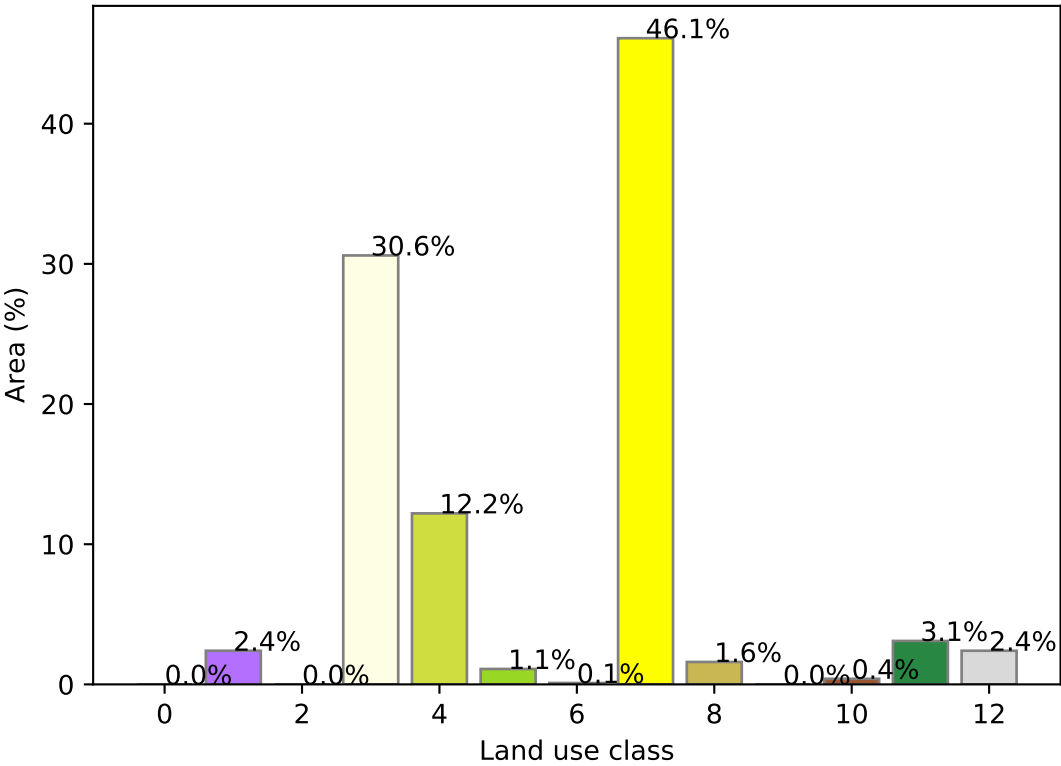


# Vegetation Cover Mar 2025

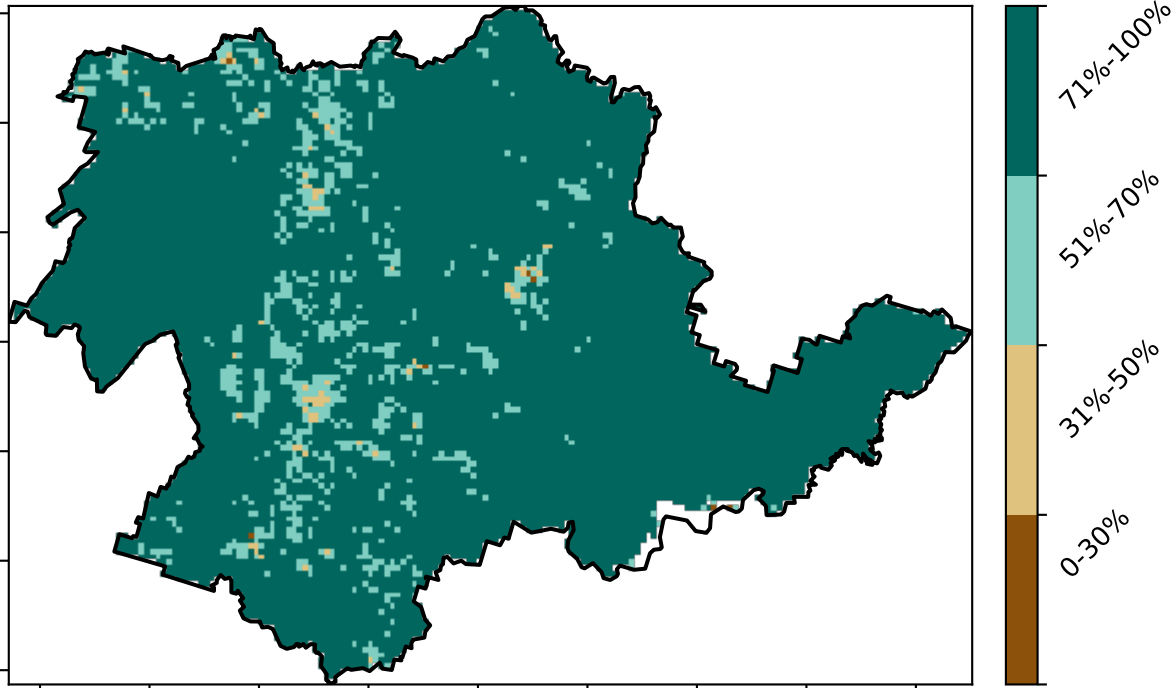
Land use and forest cover



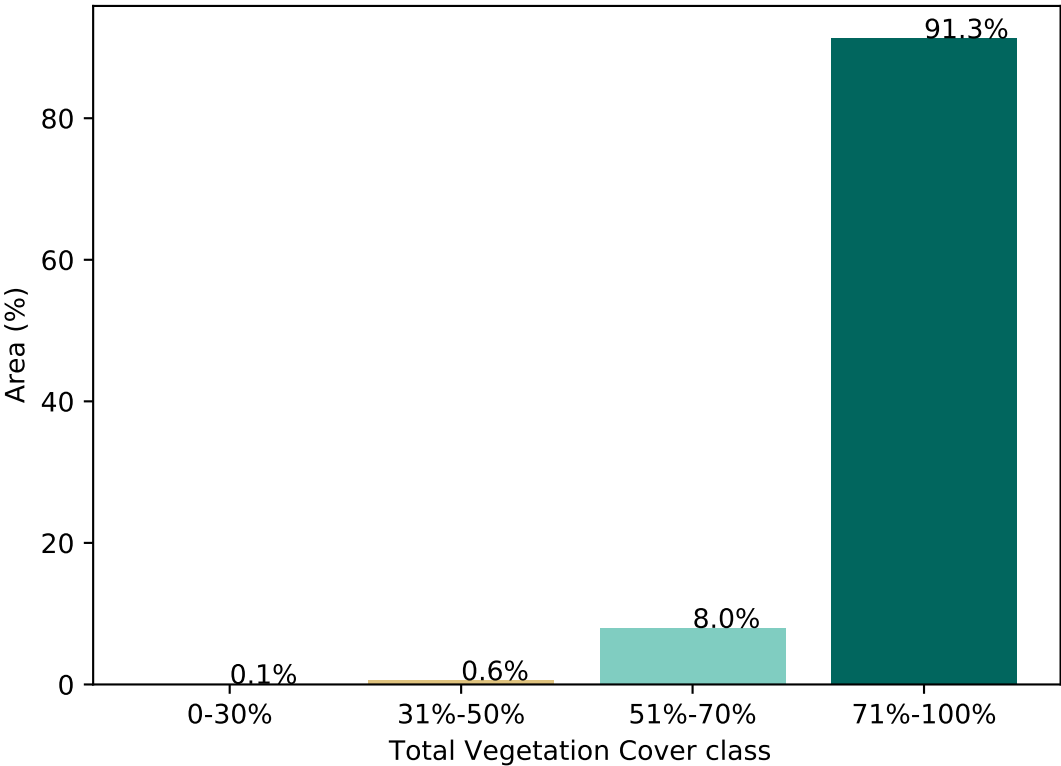
Proportion of each land class in area



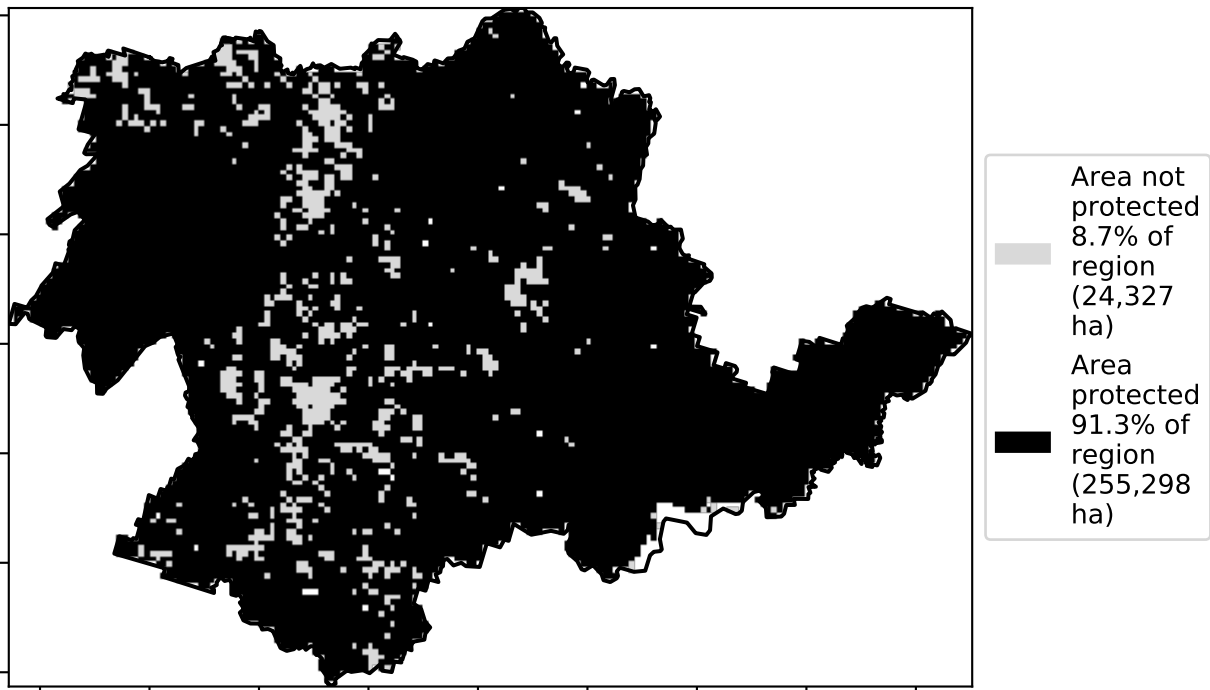
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



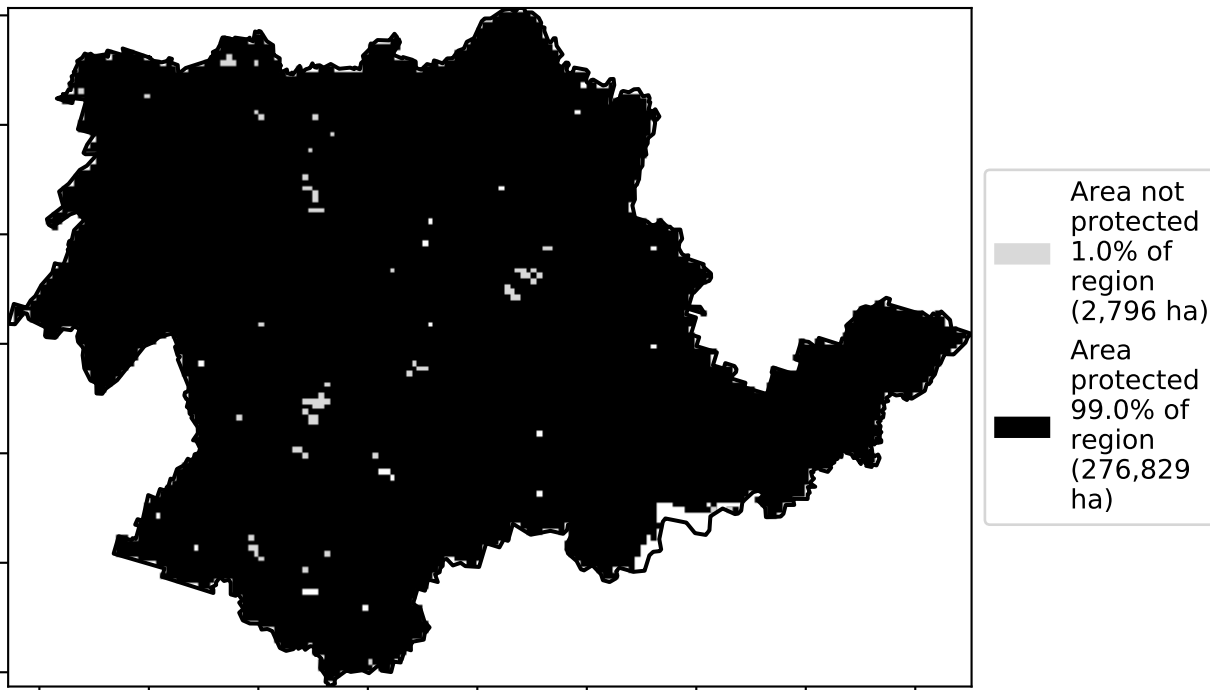
Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



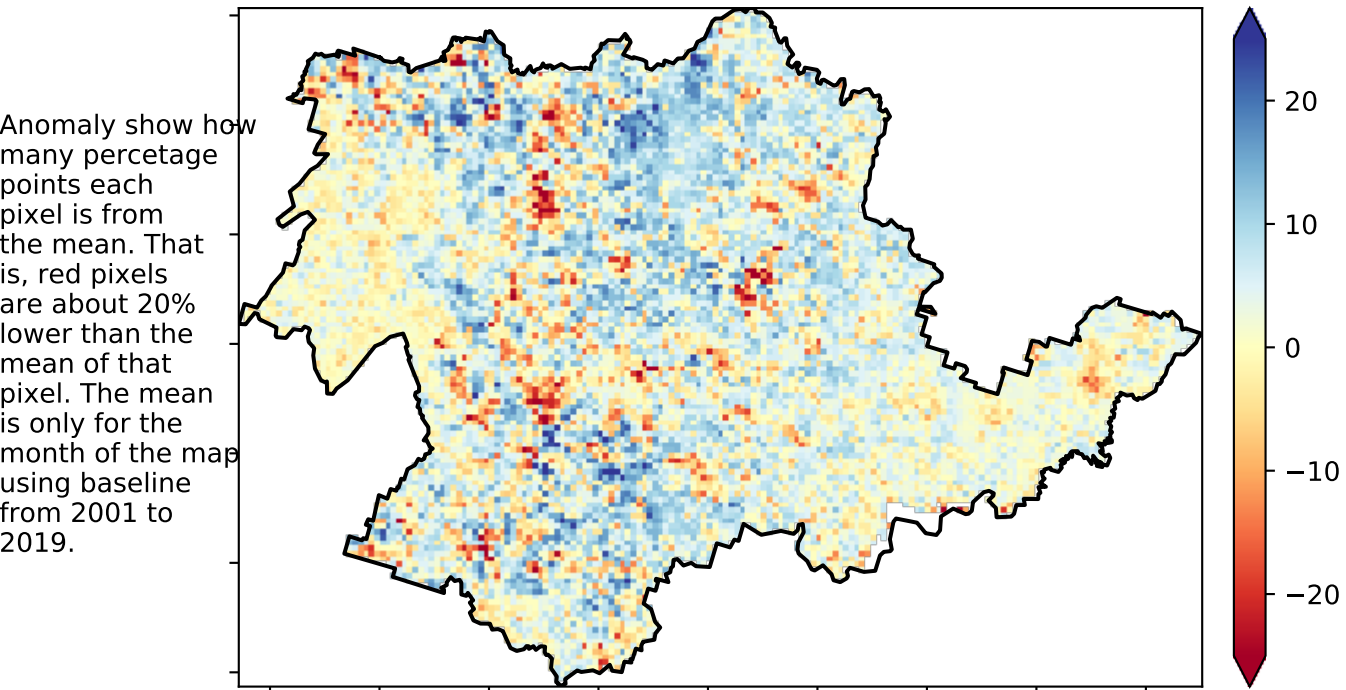
% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)

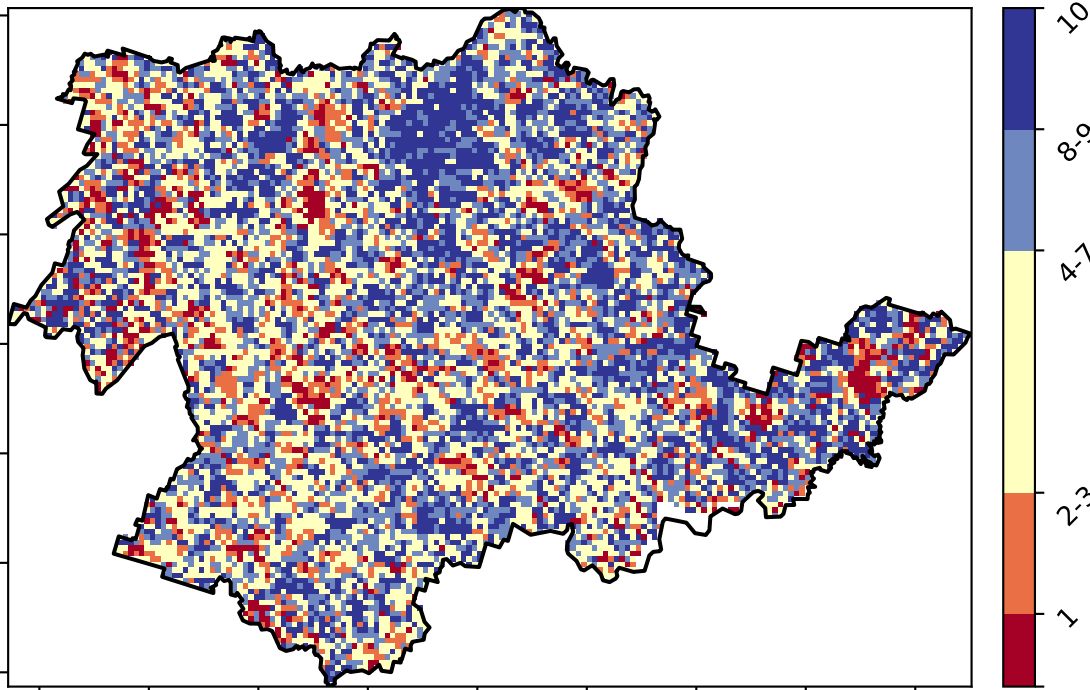


Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]



Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]

Deciles show where the pixel value lies in the record, from highest to lowest, for that month. That is, red pixels are in the lowest 10% of records for that month of the map using baseline from 2001 to 2019.



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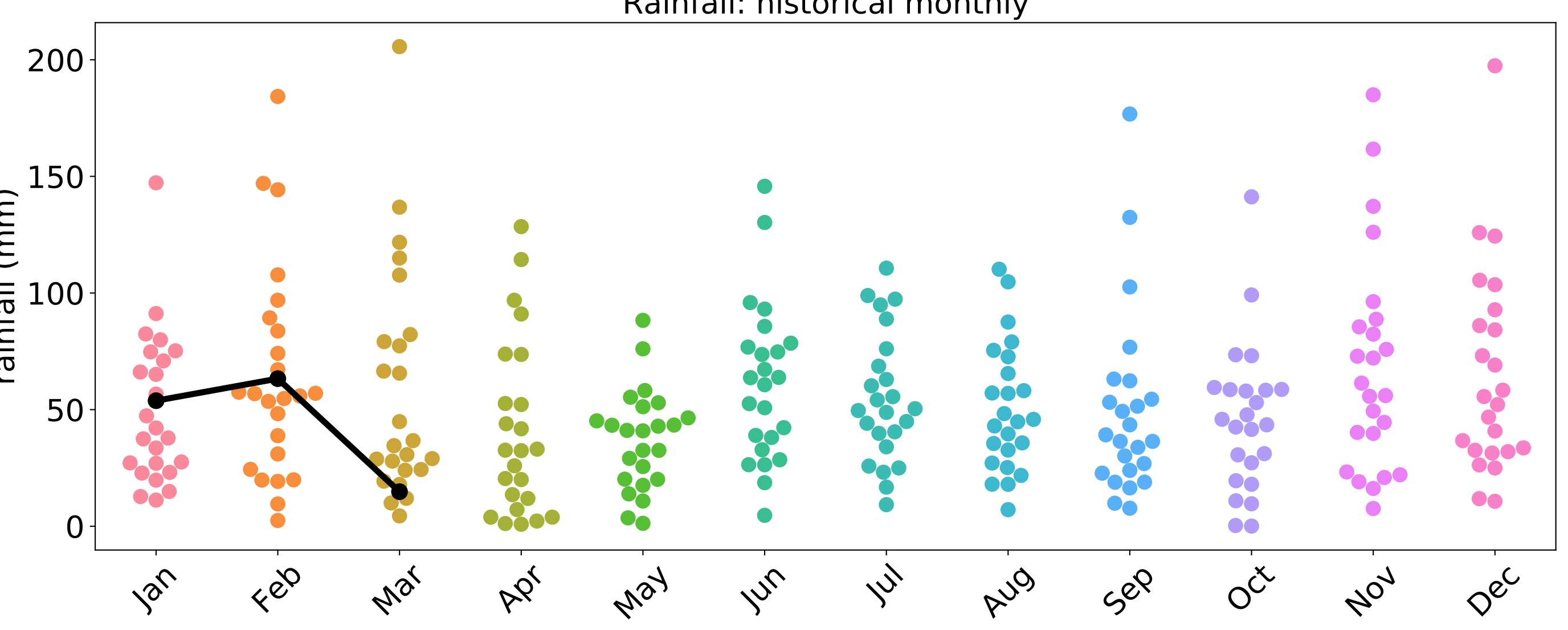
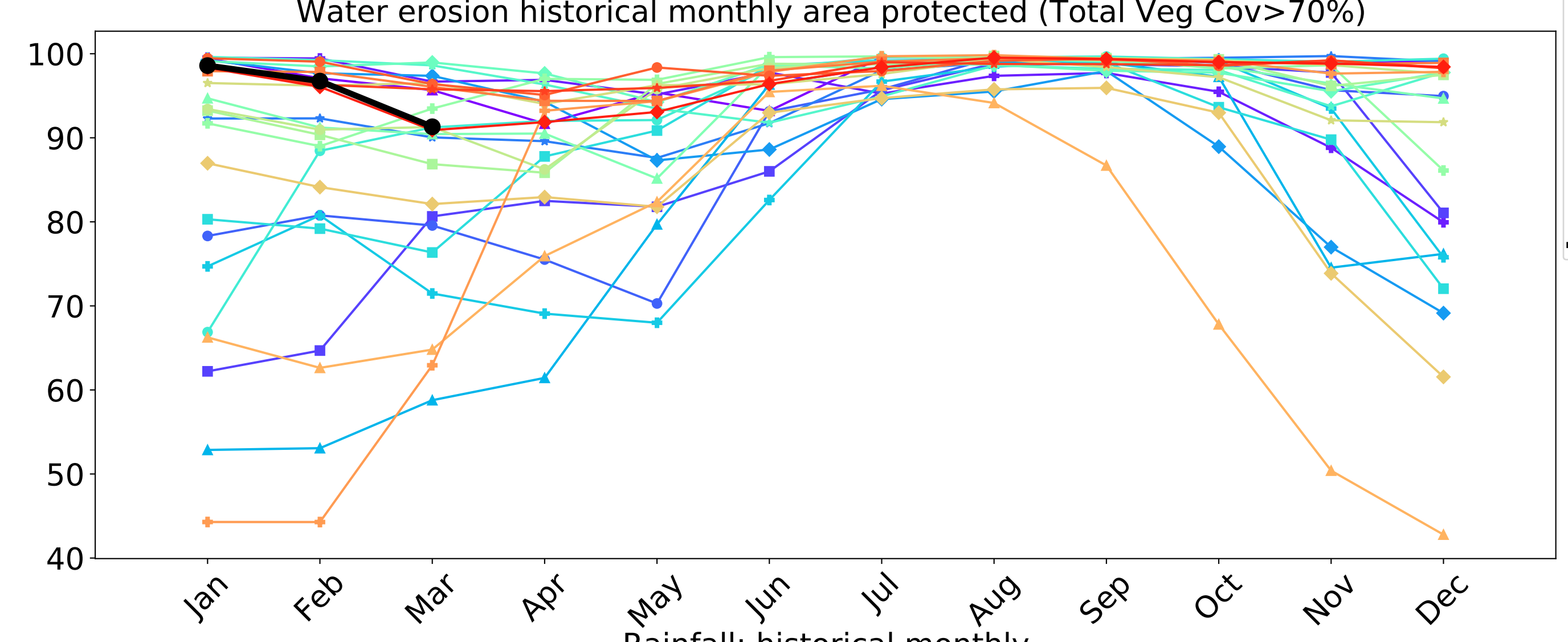
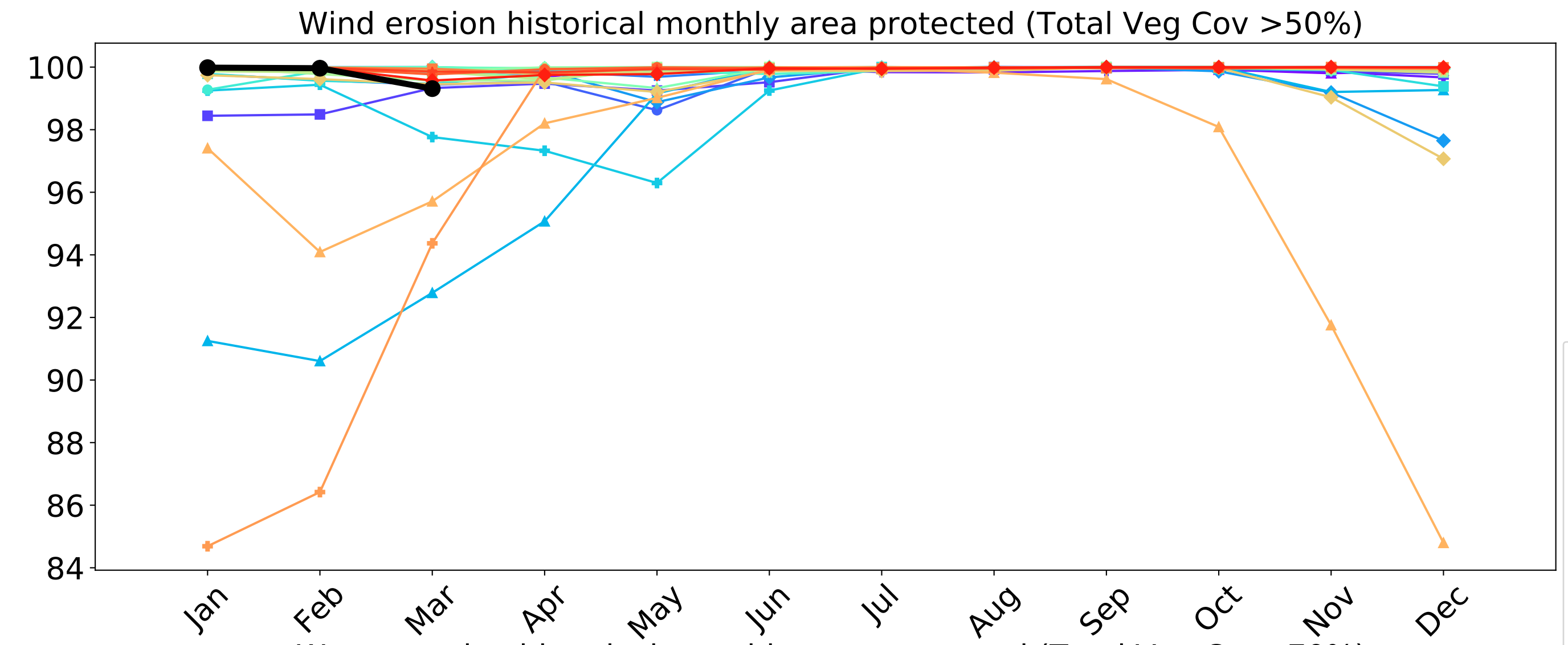
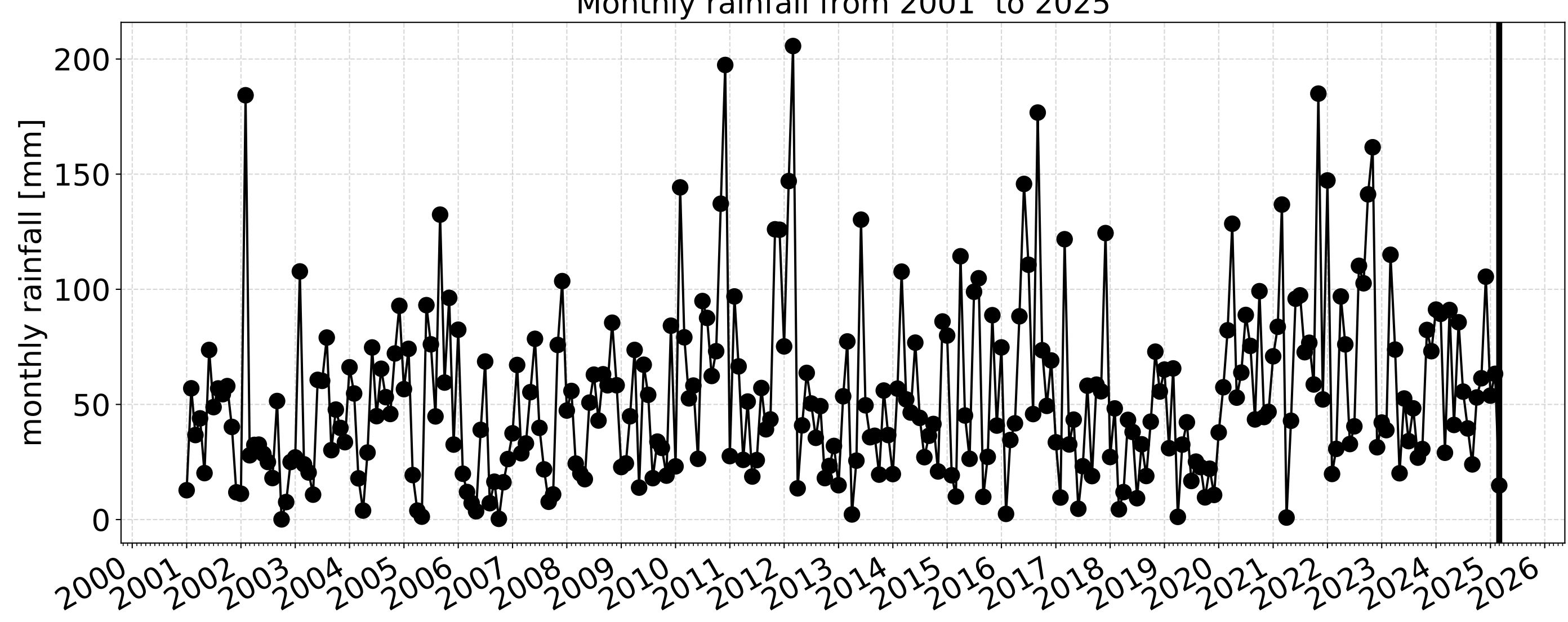
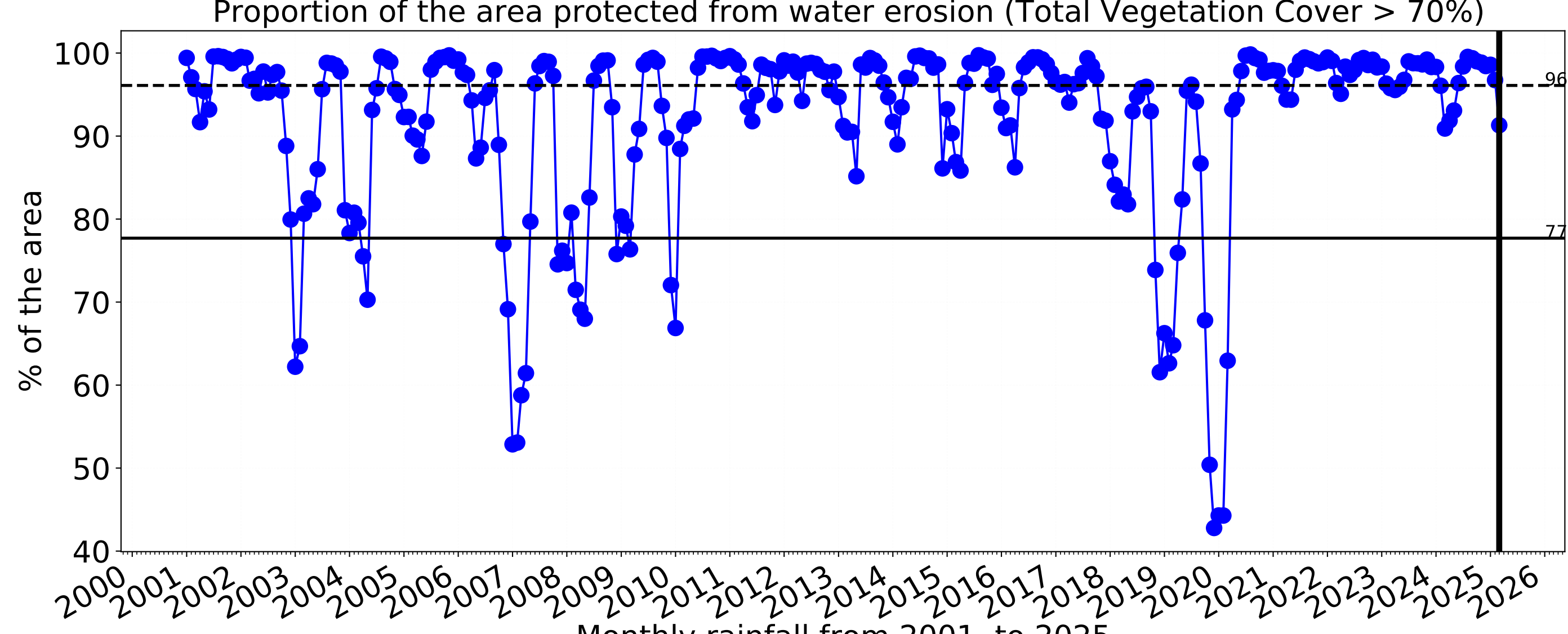
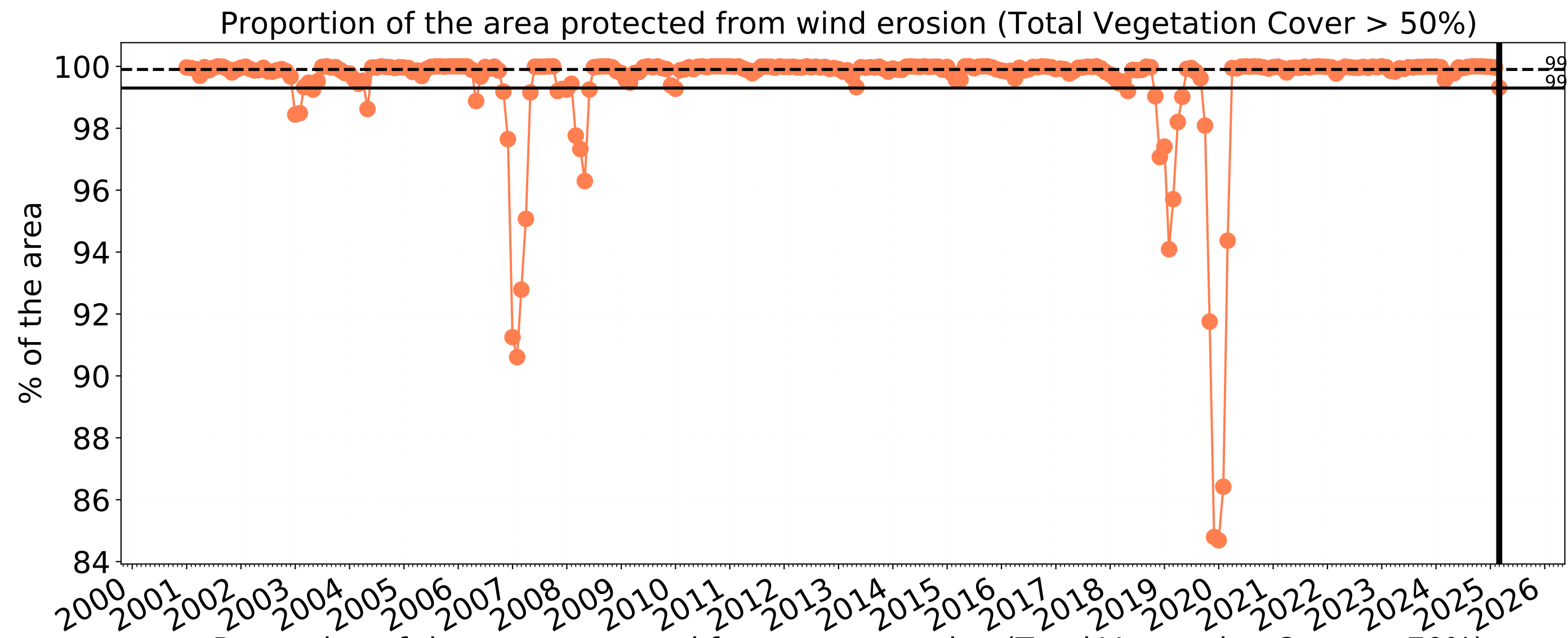


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National Landcare Programme

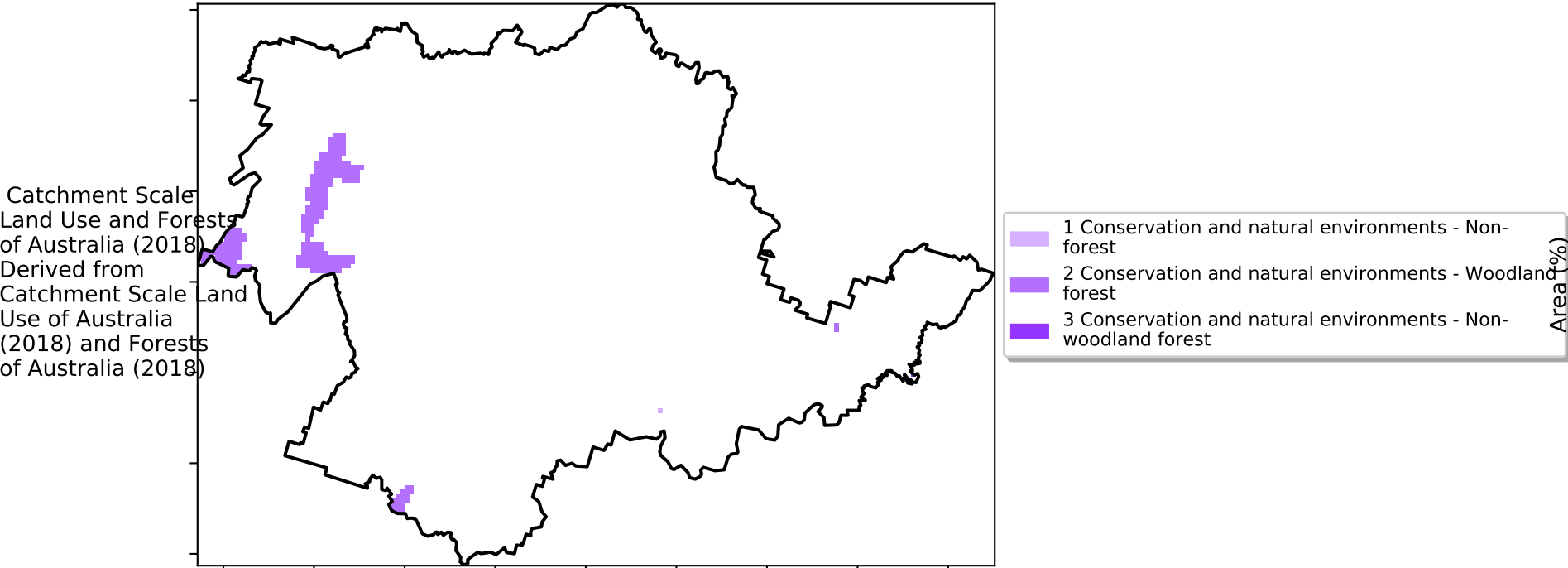




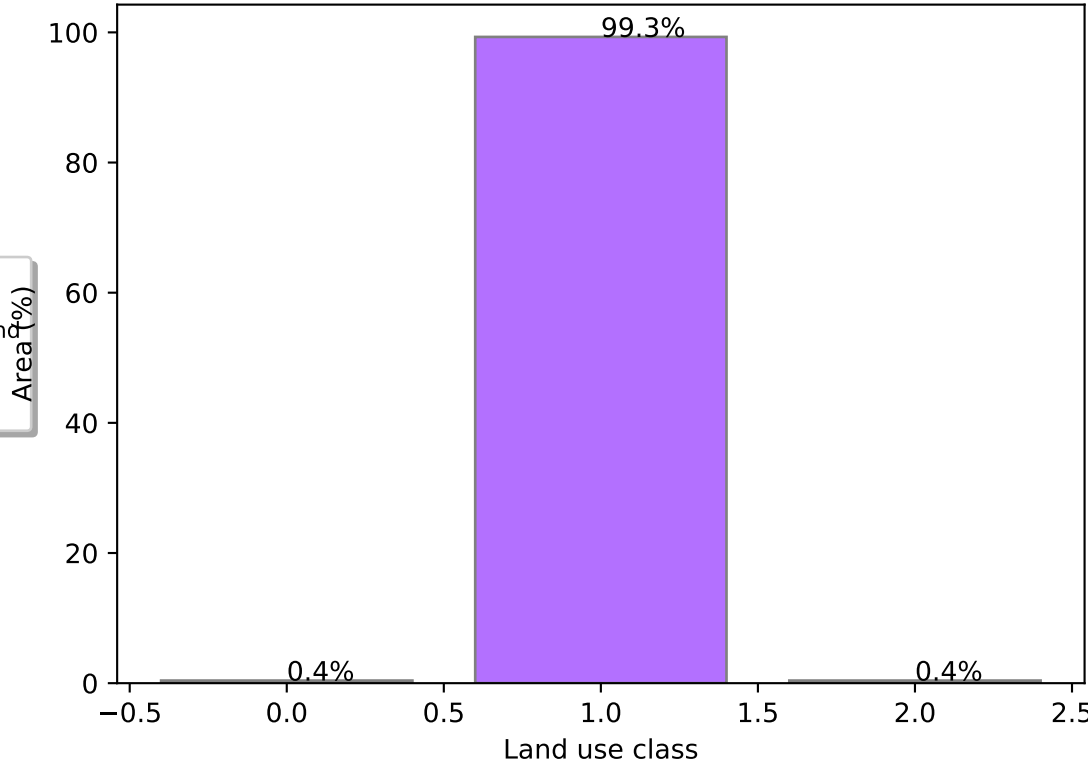


Conservation and natural environments

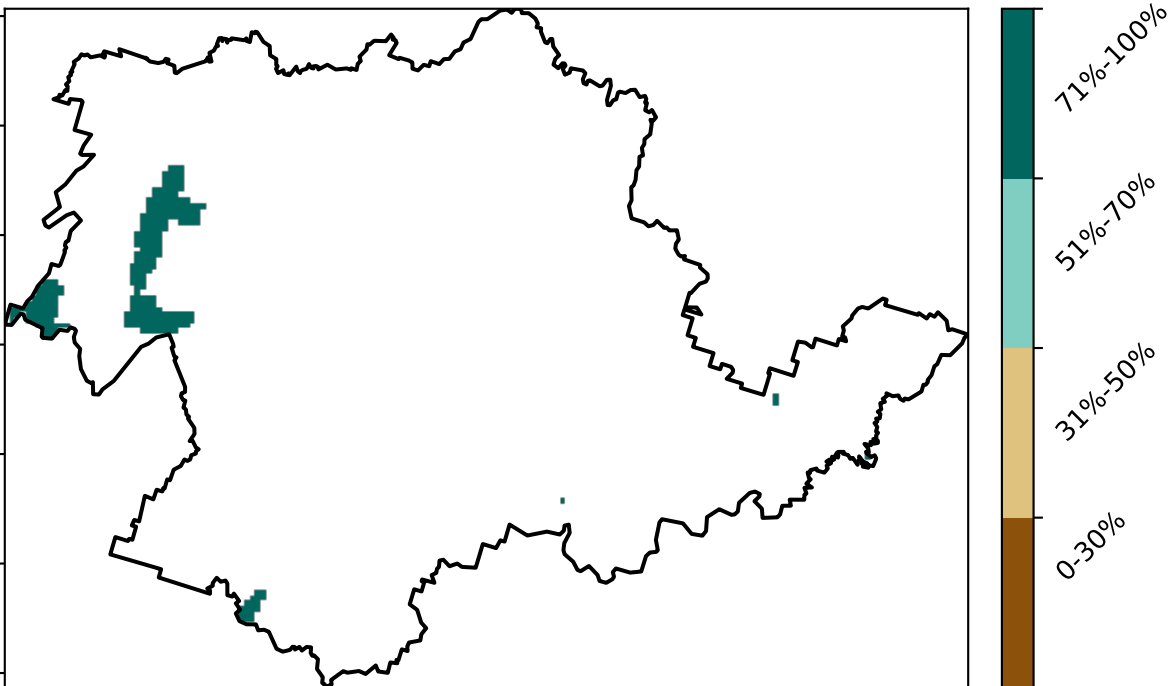
Land use and forest cover



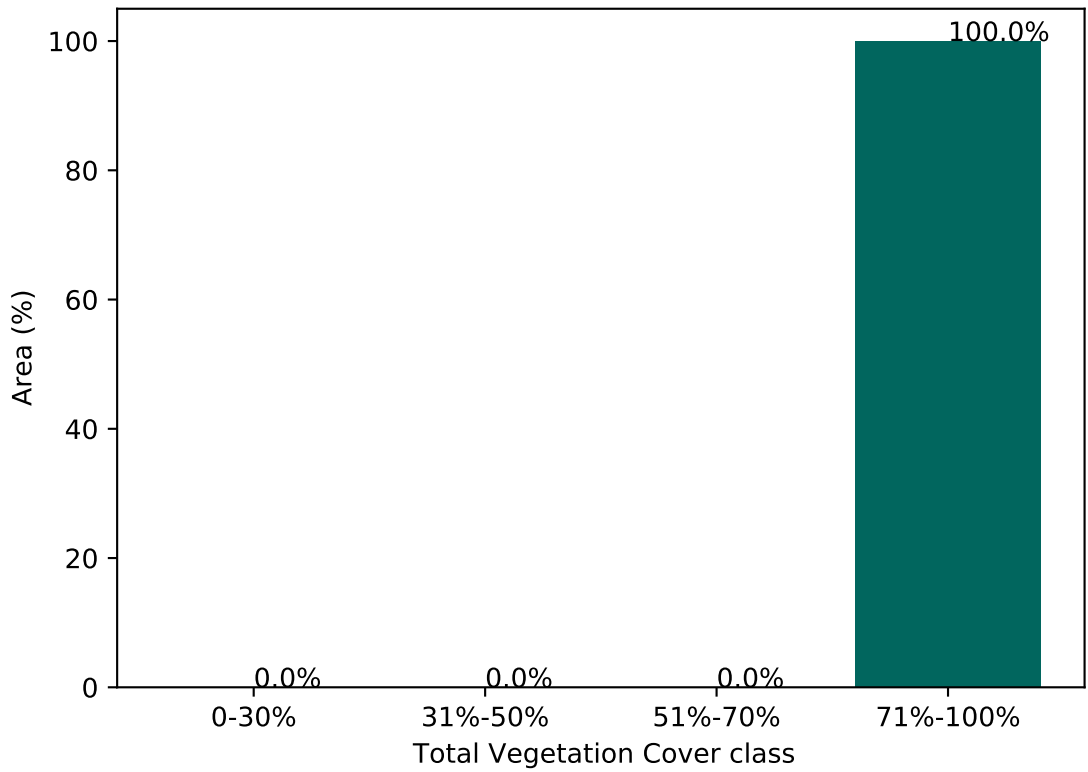
Proportion of each land class in area



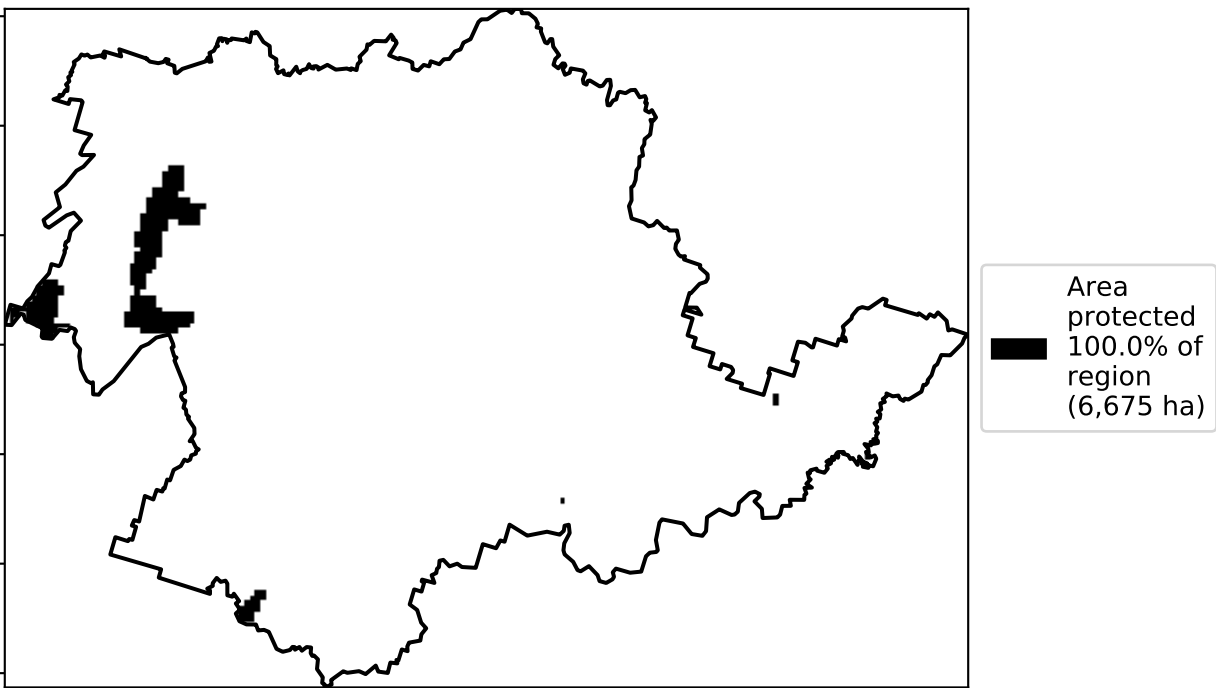
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



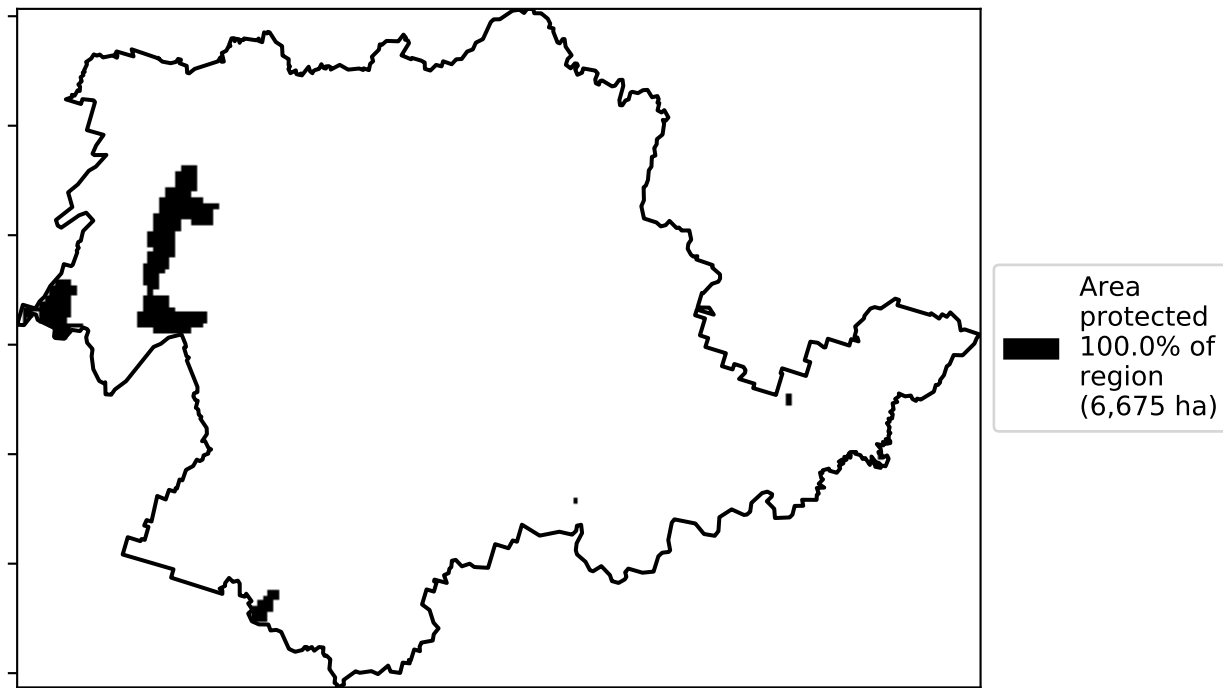
Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



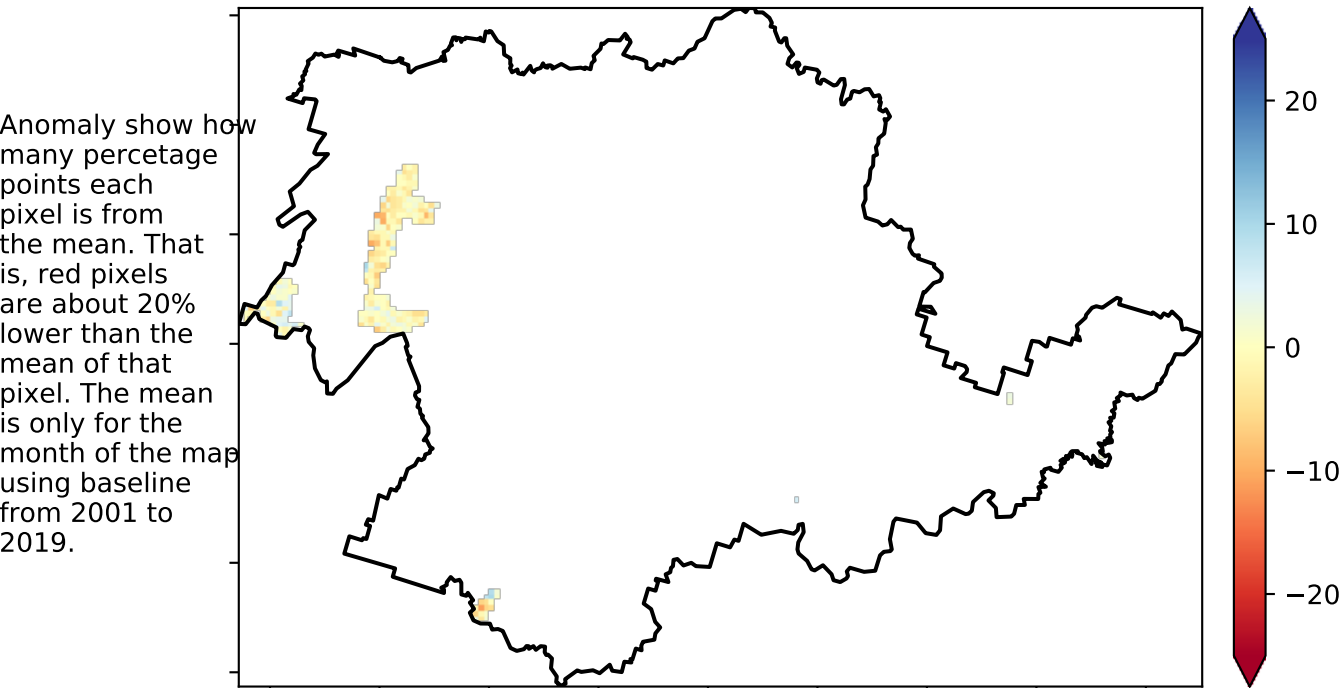
% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



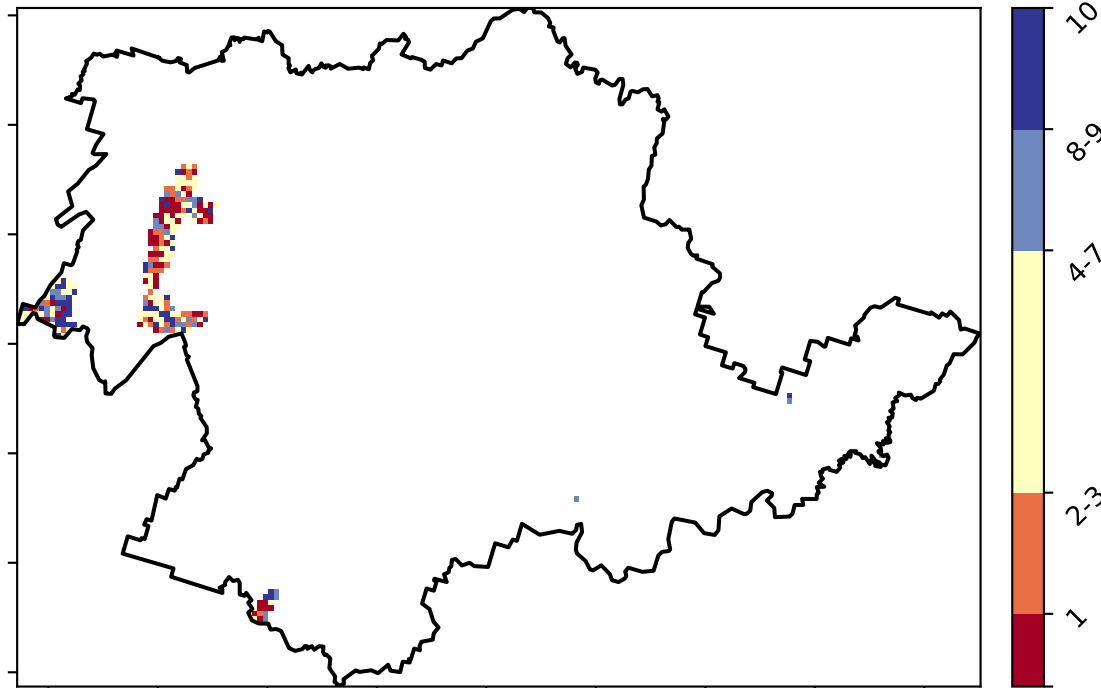
% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]



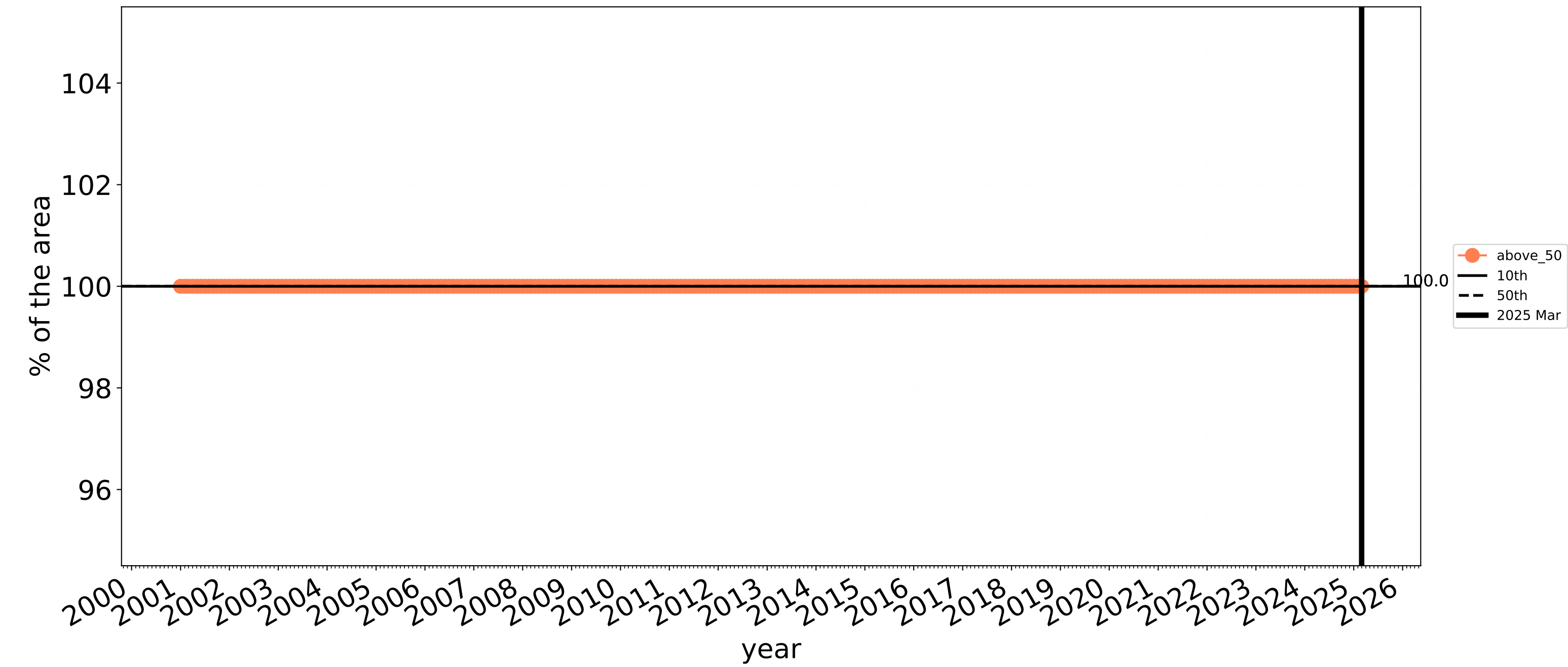
Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]



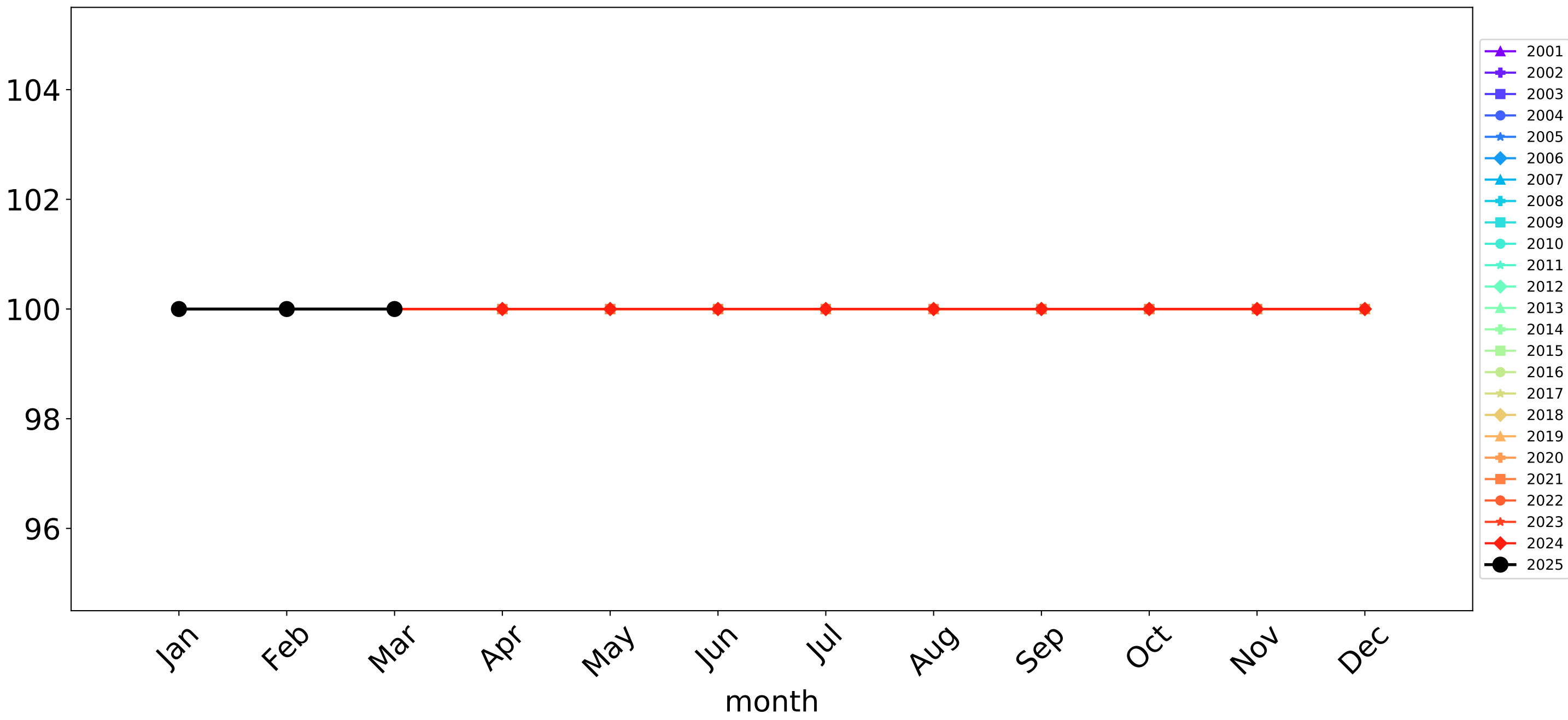


Conservation and natural environments timeseries

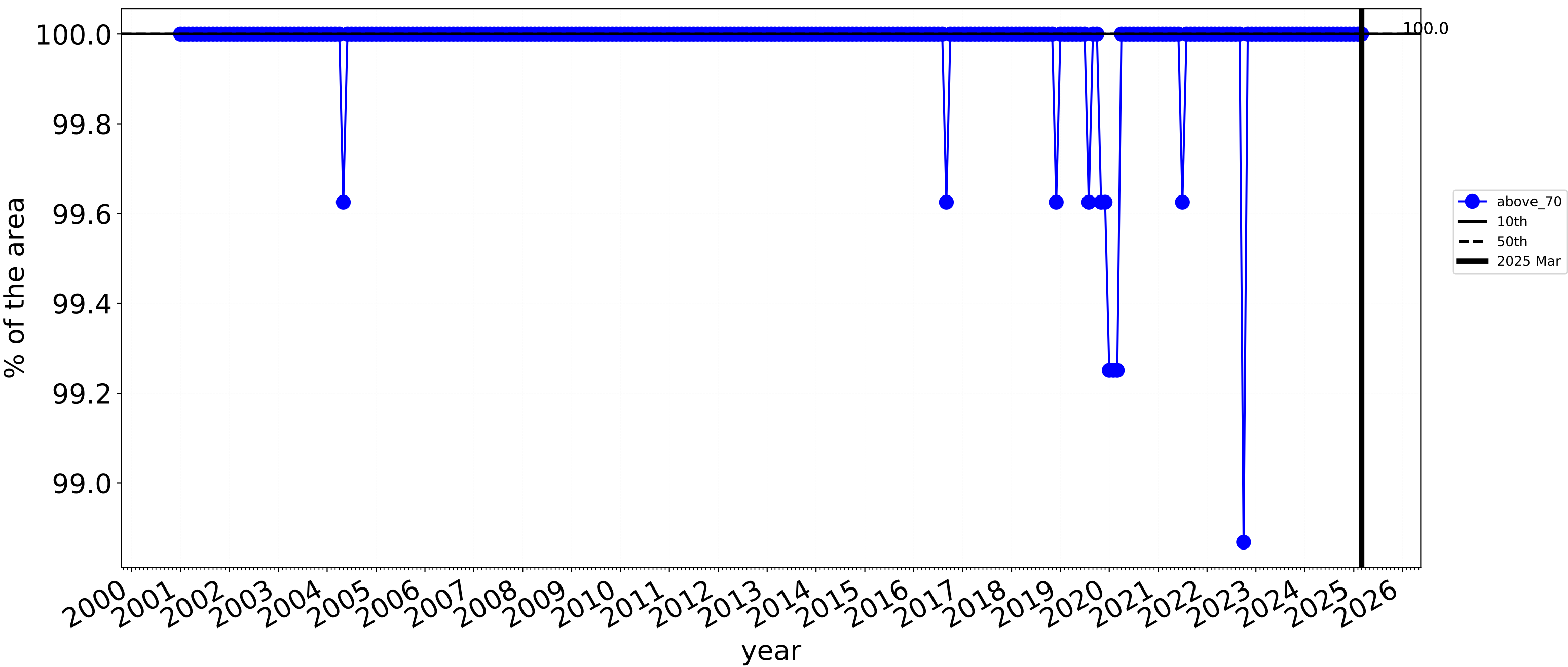
Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)



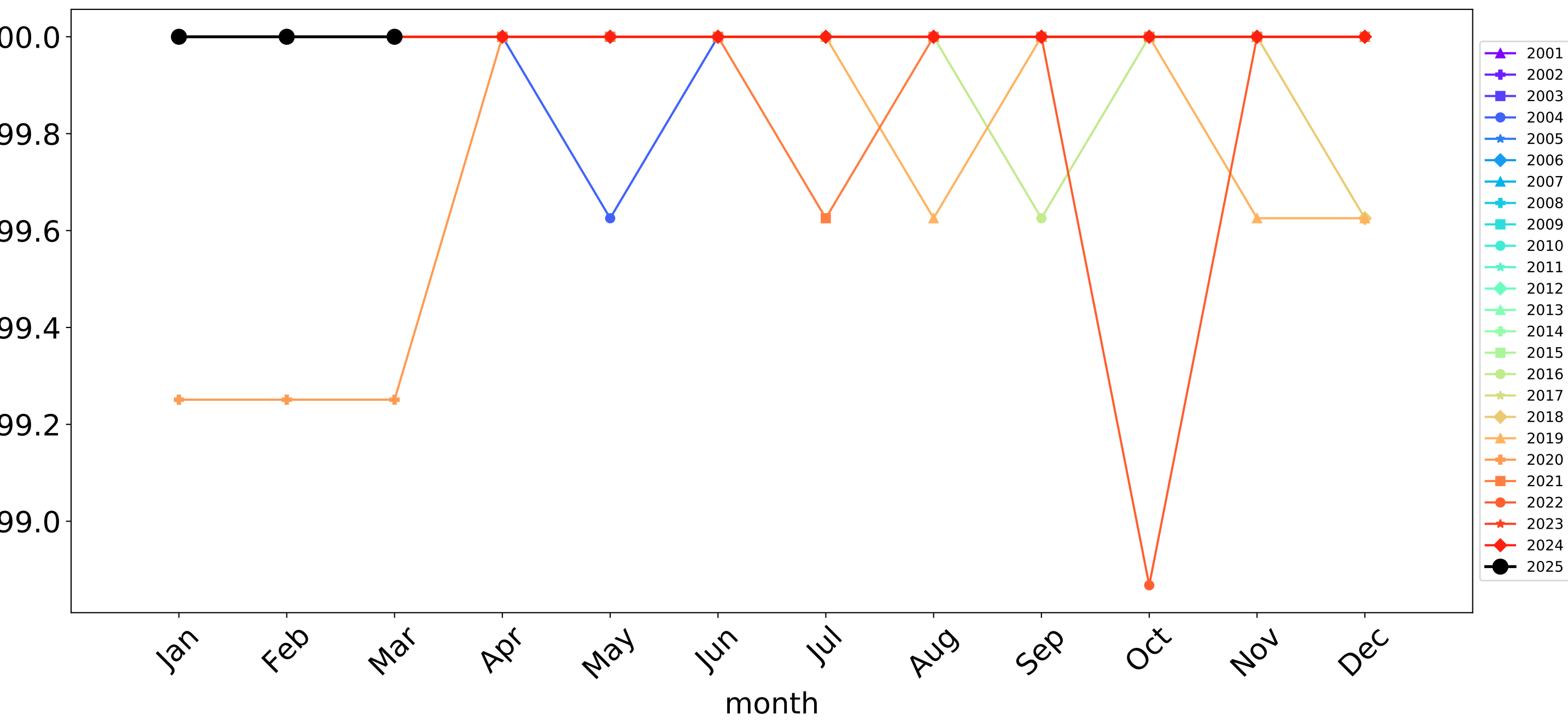
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



Proportion of the area protected from water erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 70%)



Water erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov>70%)



Conservation and natural environments Woodland forest

Land use and forest cover

Catchment Scale  
Land Use and Forests  
of Australia (2018).  
Derived from  
Catchment Scale Land  
Use of Australia  
(2018) and Forests  
of Australia (2018)



1 Conservation and natural environments - Woodland forest

Total Vegetation Cover [%]



Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



Area protected  
100.0% of  
region  
(6,625 ha)

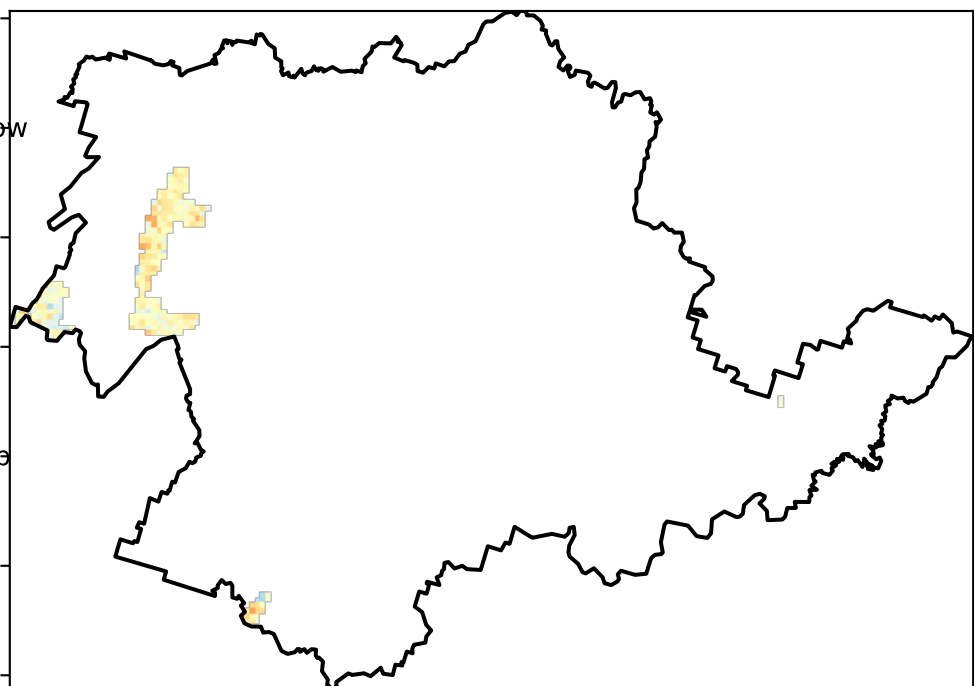
% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



Area protected  
100.0% of  
region  
(6,625 ha)

Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

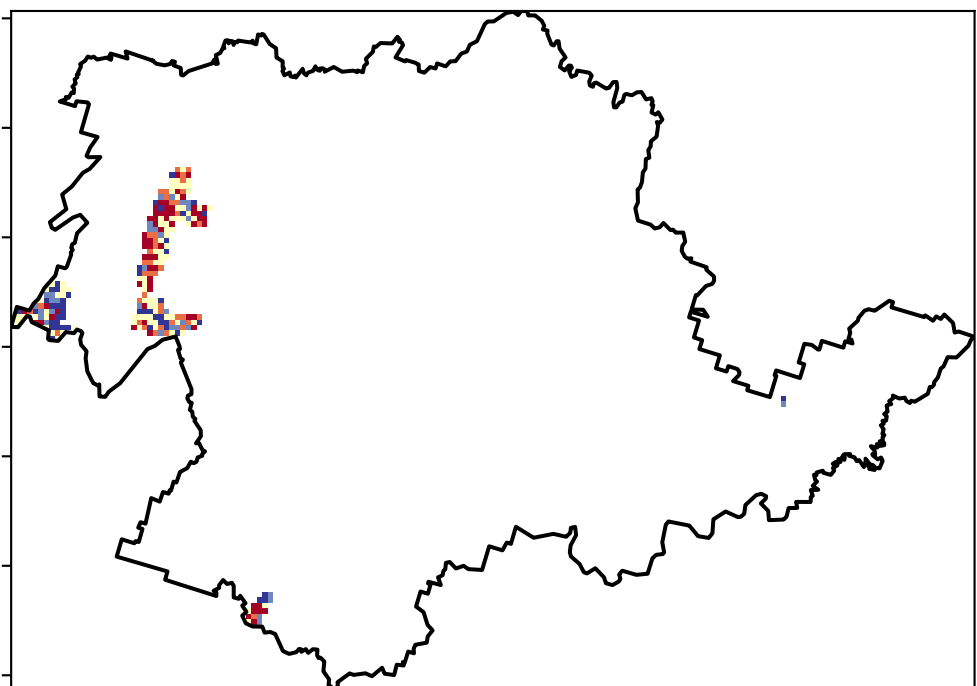
Anomaly show how  
many percentage  
points each  
pixel is from  
the mean. That  
is, red pixels  
are about 20%  
lower than the  
mean of that  
pixel. The mean  
is only for the  
month of the map  
using baseline  
from 2001 to  
2019.



20  
10  
0  
-10  
-20

Deciles show where the  
pixel value lies in the  
record, from highest to  
lowest, for that month.  
That is, red pixels are  
in the lowest 10% of  
records for that month of  
the map using baseline  
from 2001 to 2019.

Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]



10  
9  
8  
7  
6  
5  
4  
3  
2  
1



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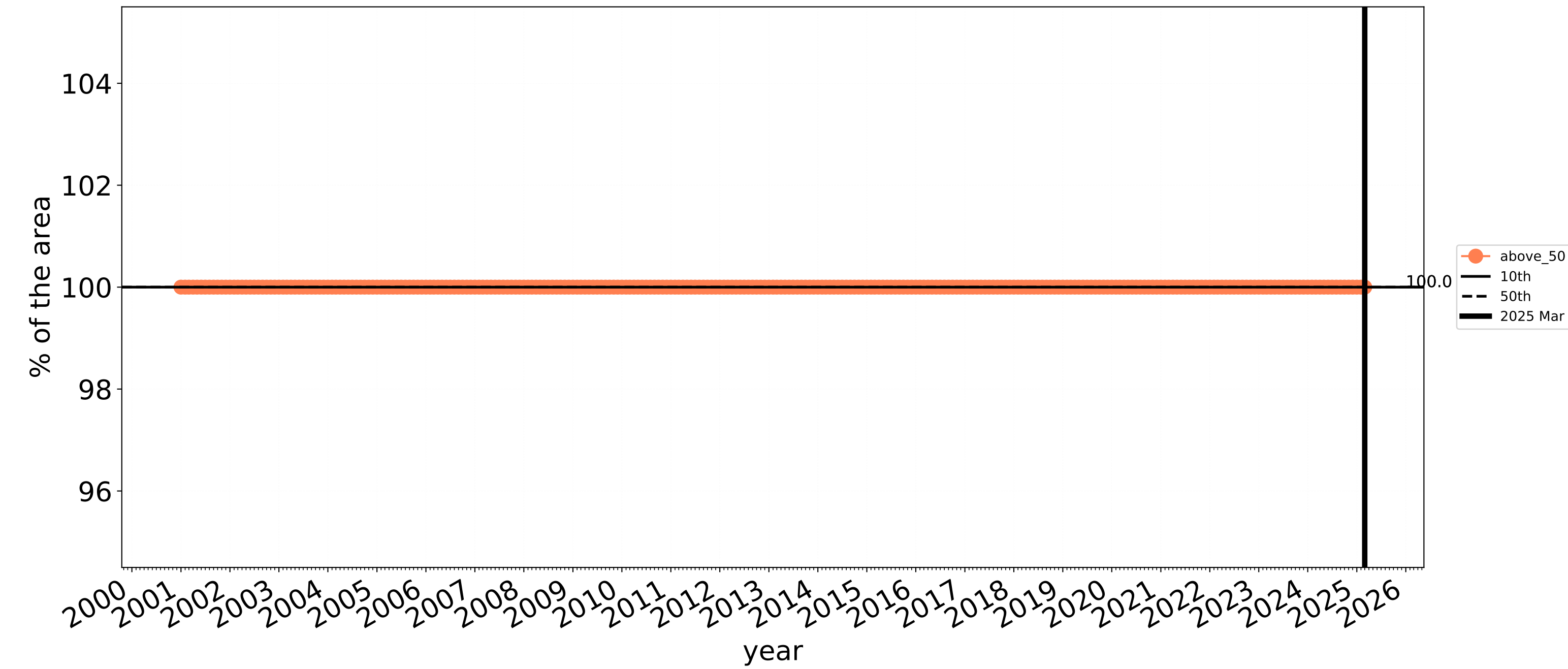


Australian Government

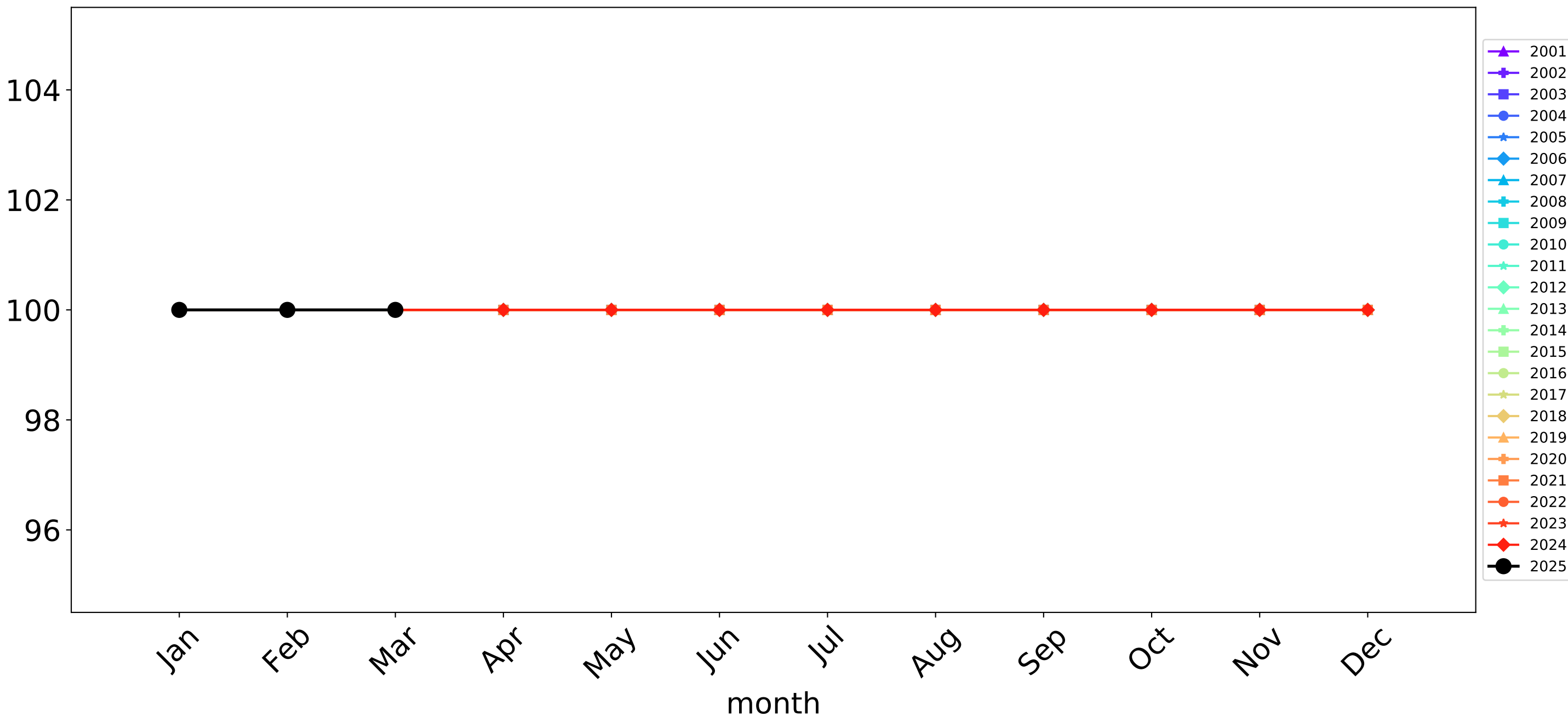
National  
Landcare  
Programme



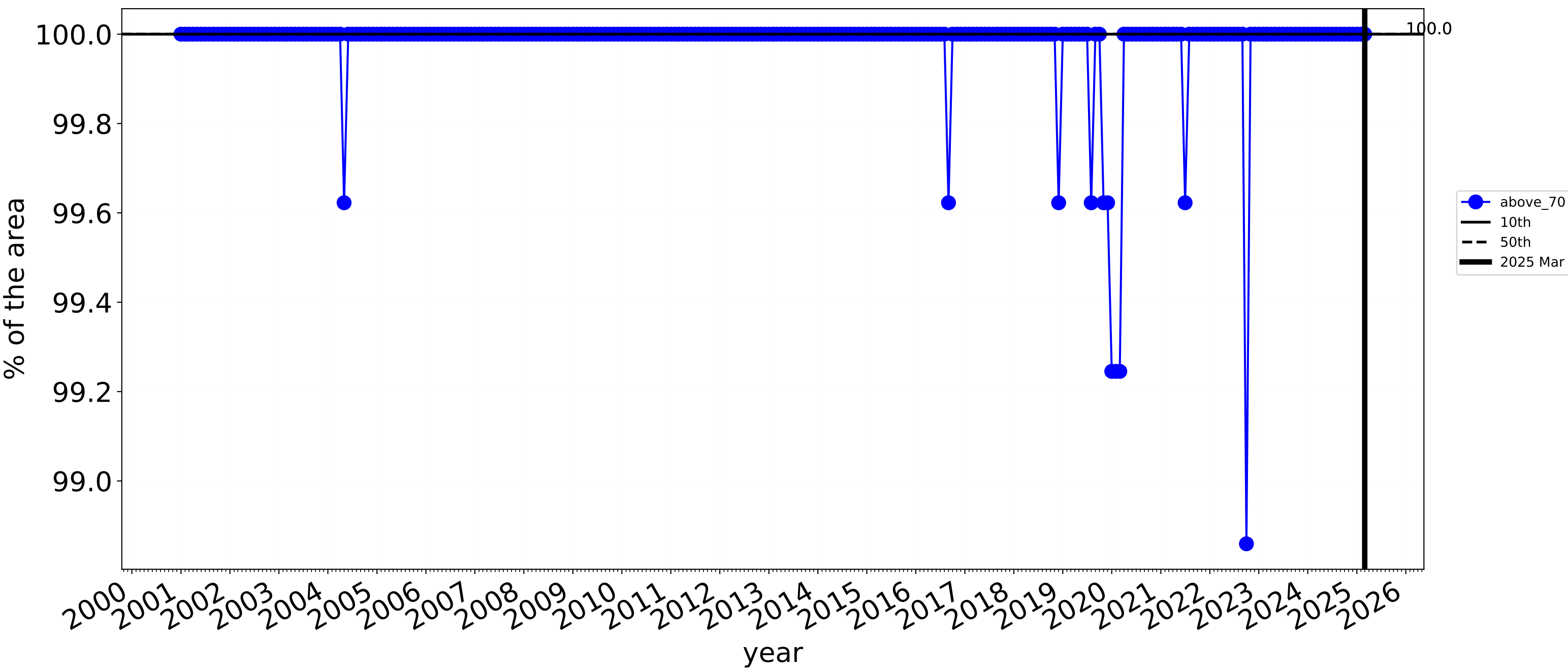
Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)



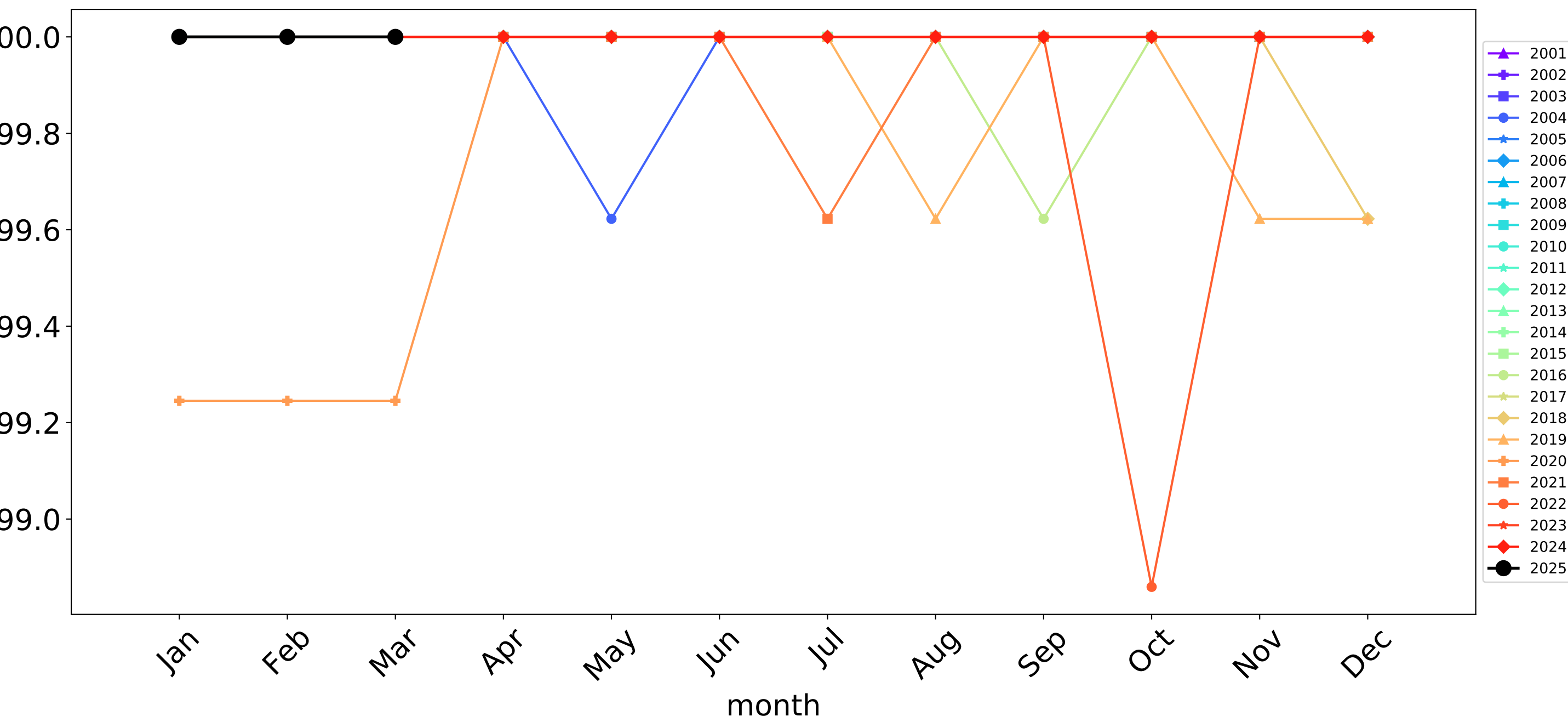
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



Proportion of the area protected from water erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 70%)



Water erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov>70%)



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National  
Landcare  
Programme

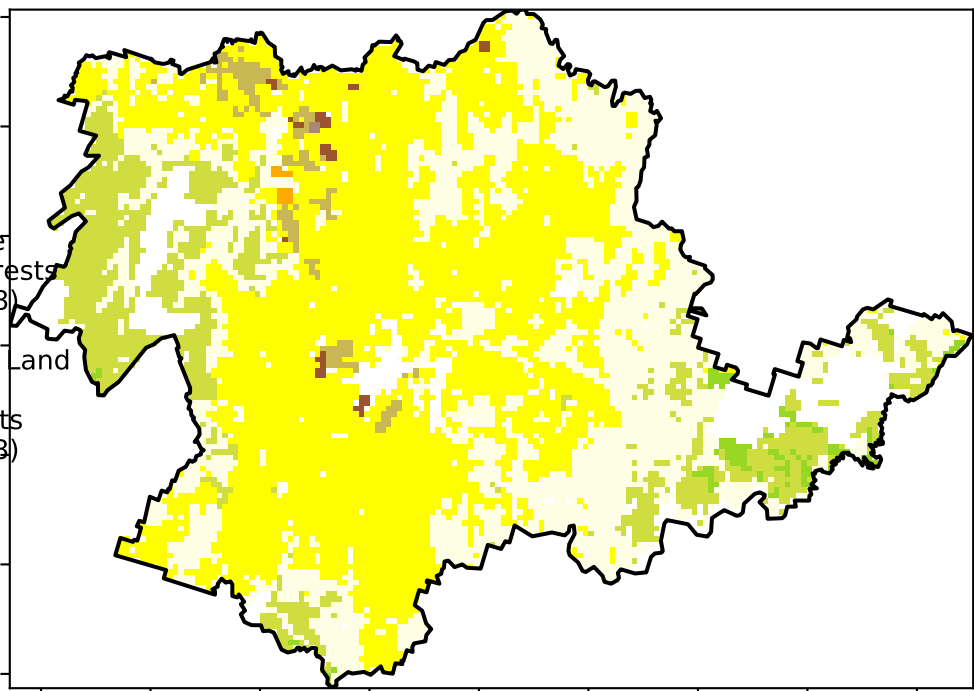




Agriculture

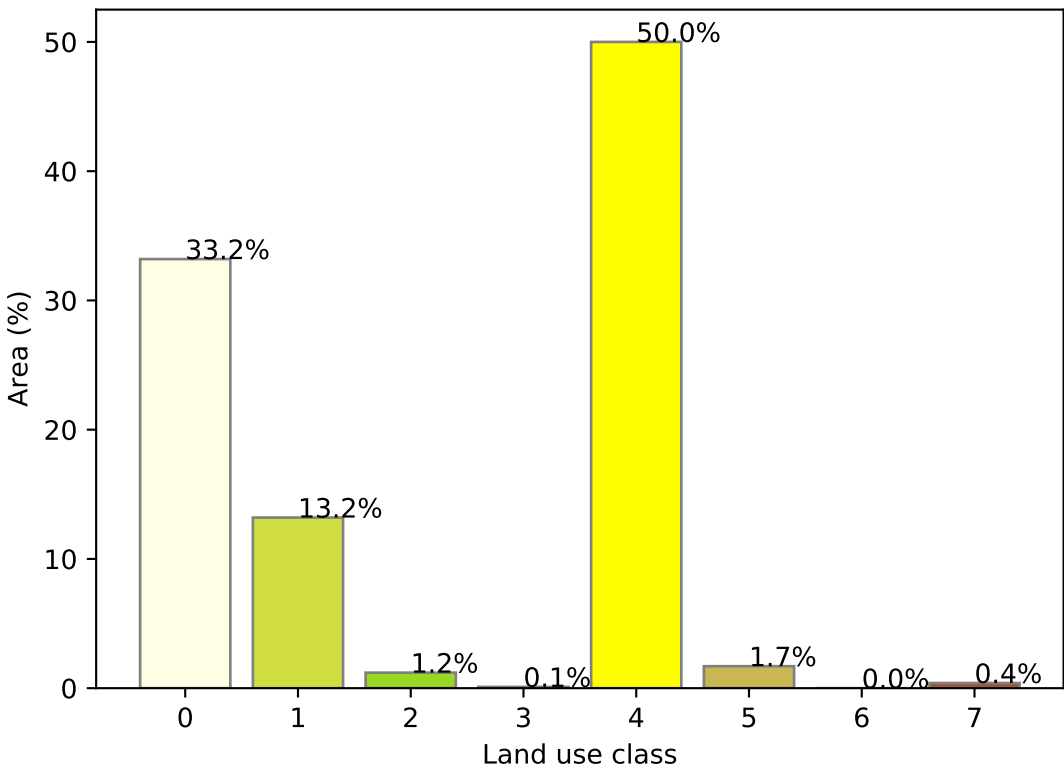
Land use and forest cover

Catchment Scale Land Use and Forests of Australia (2018). Derived from Catchment Scale Land Use of Australia (2018) and Forests of Australia (2018)

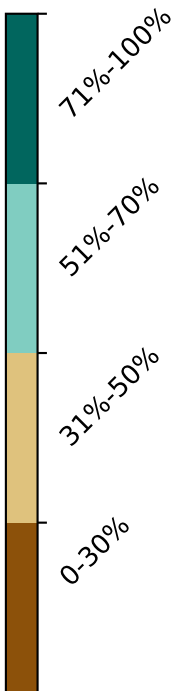
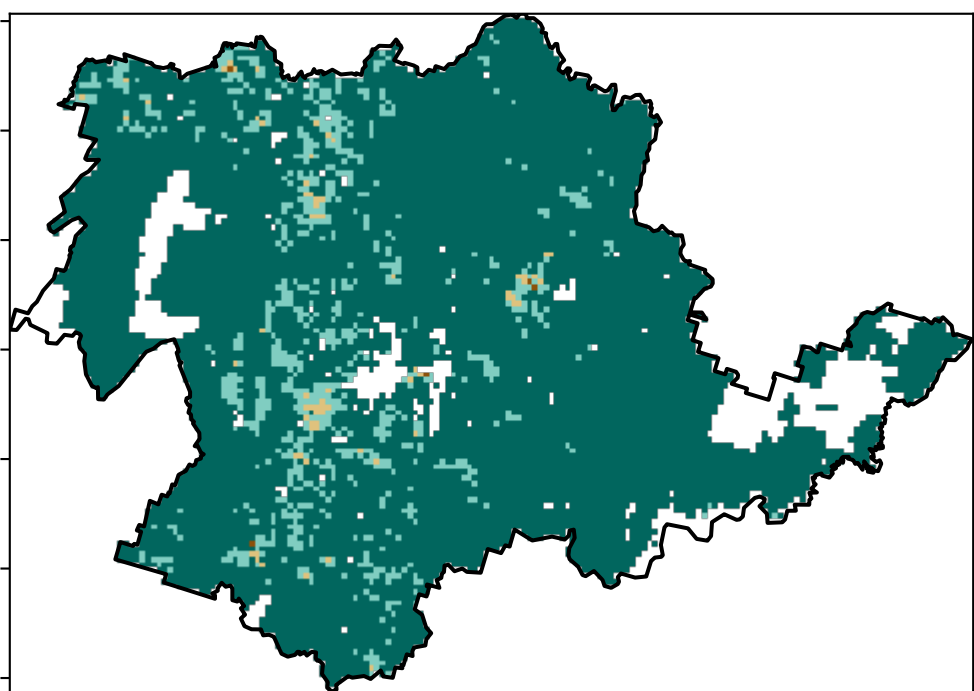


- 1 Agriculture - Grazing - Non forest
- 2 Agriculture - Grazing - Woodland forest
- 3 Agriculture - Grazing - Non-woodland forest
- 4 Agriculture - Grazing - Irrigated
- 5 Agriculture - Cropping - Non-irrigated
- 6 Agriculture - Cropping - Irrigated
- 7 Agriculture - Horticulture - Non-irrigated
- 8 Agriculture - Horticulture - Irrigated

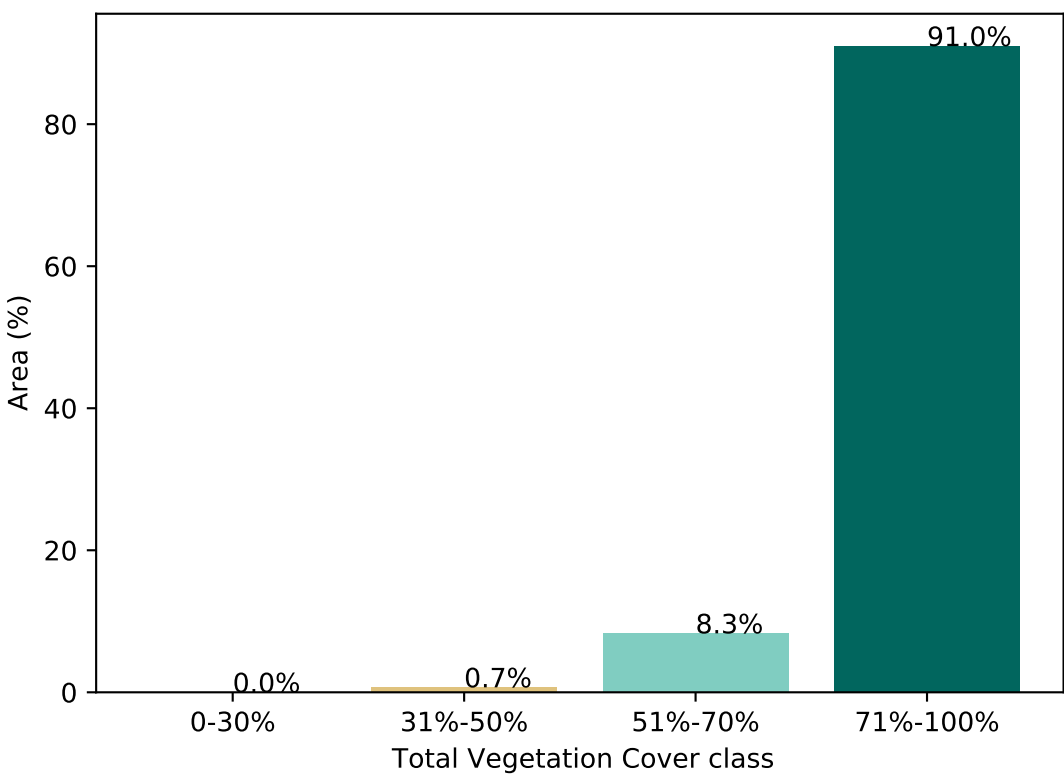
Proportion of each land class in area



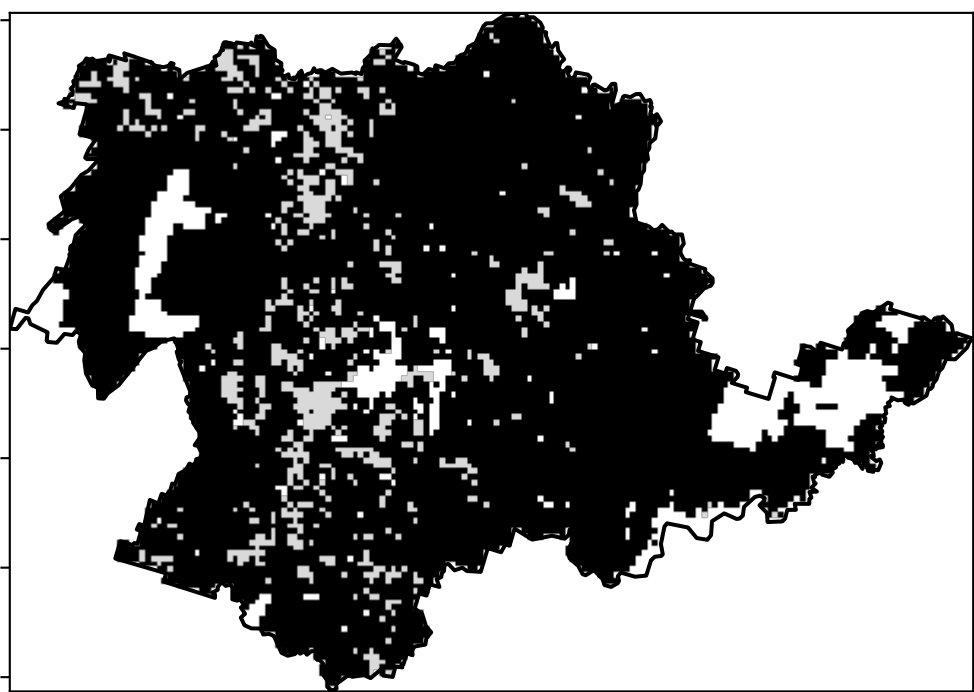
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



Proportion of vegetation cover class in area

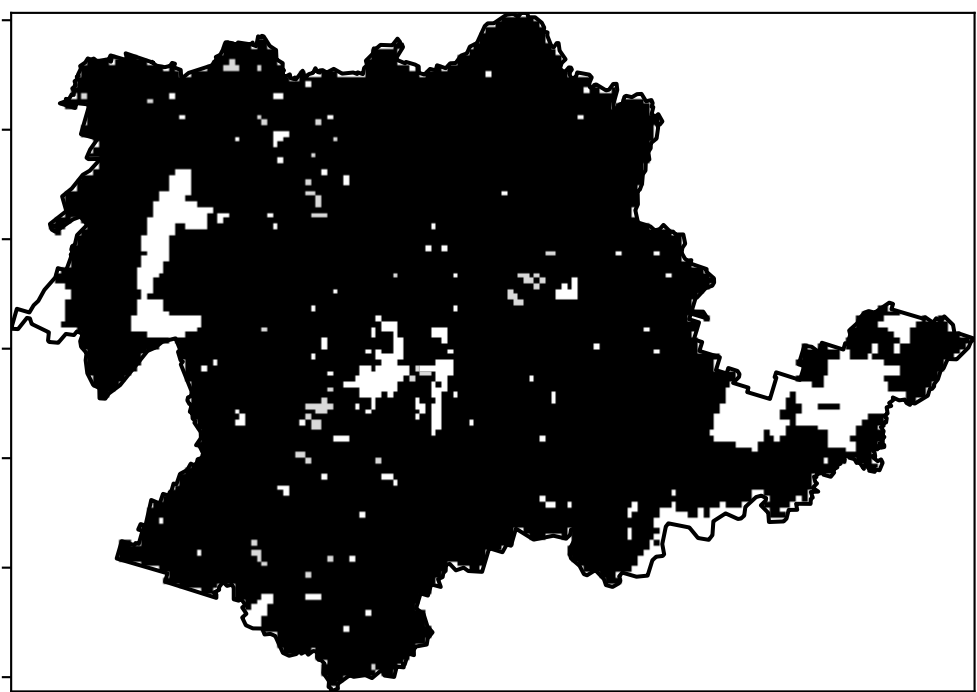


% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



- Area not protected 9.0% of region (23,256 ha)
- Area protected 91.0% of region (235,144 ha)

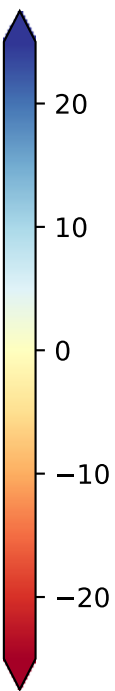
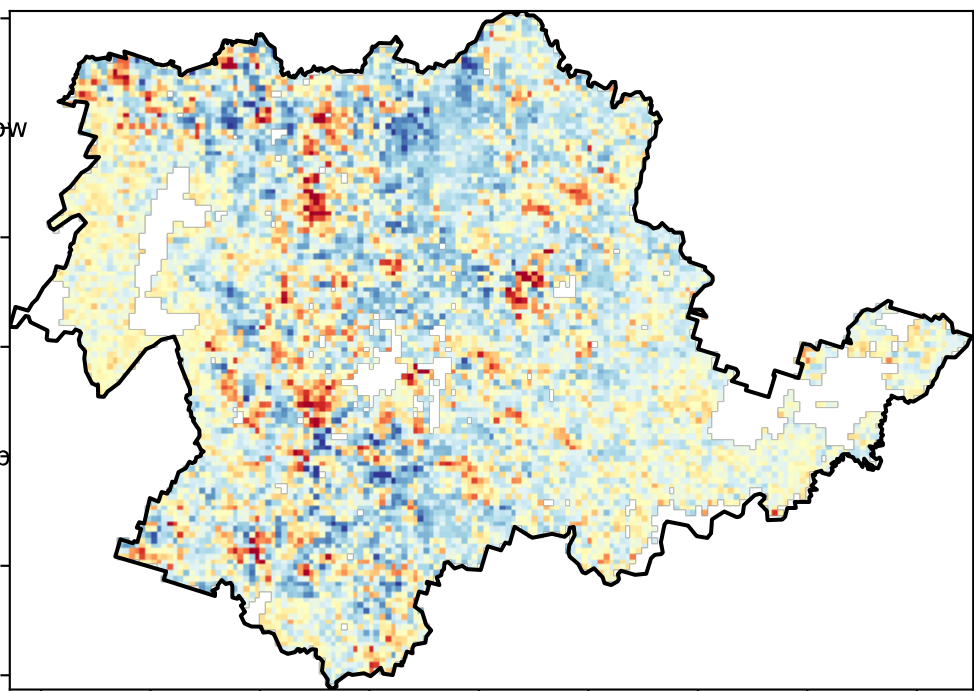
% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



- Area not protected 1.0% of region (2,584 ha)
- Area protected 99.0% of region (255,816 ha)

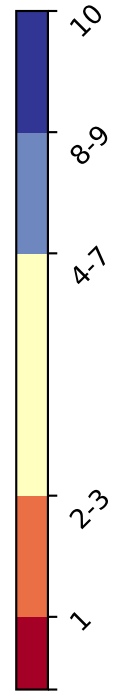
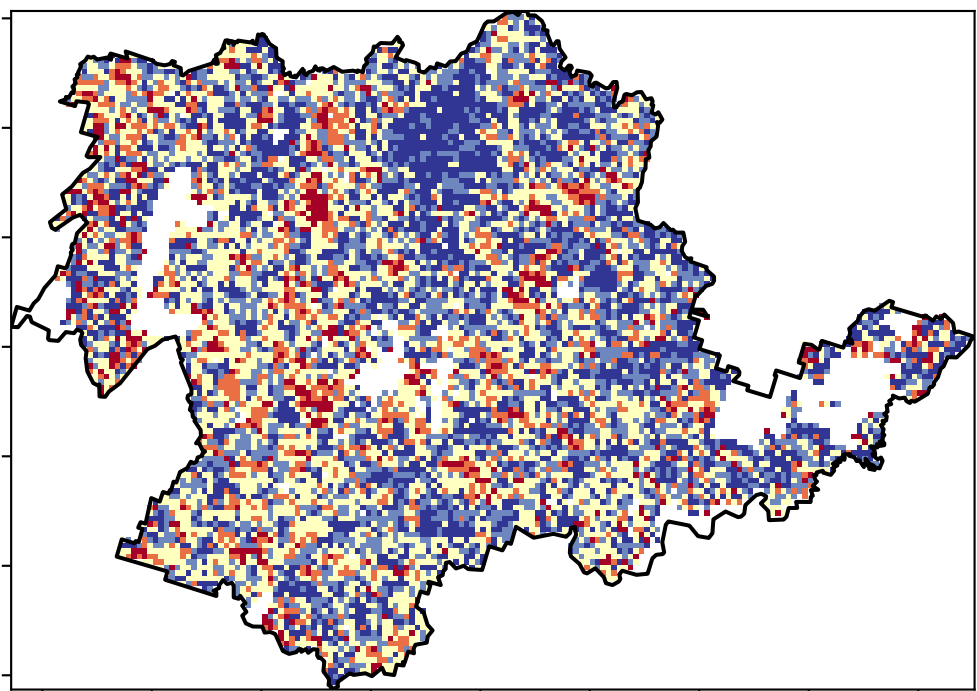
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

Anomaly show how many percentage points each pixel is from the mean. That is, red pixels are about 20% lower than the mean of that pixel. The mean is only for the month of the map using baseline from 2001 to 2019.



Deciles show where the pixel value lies in the record, from highest to lowest, for that month. That is, red pixels are in the lowest 10% of records for that month of the map using baseline from 2001 to 2019.

Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]



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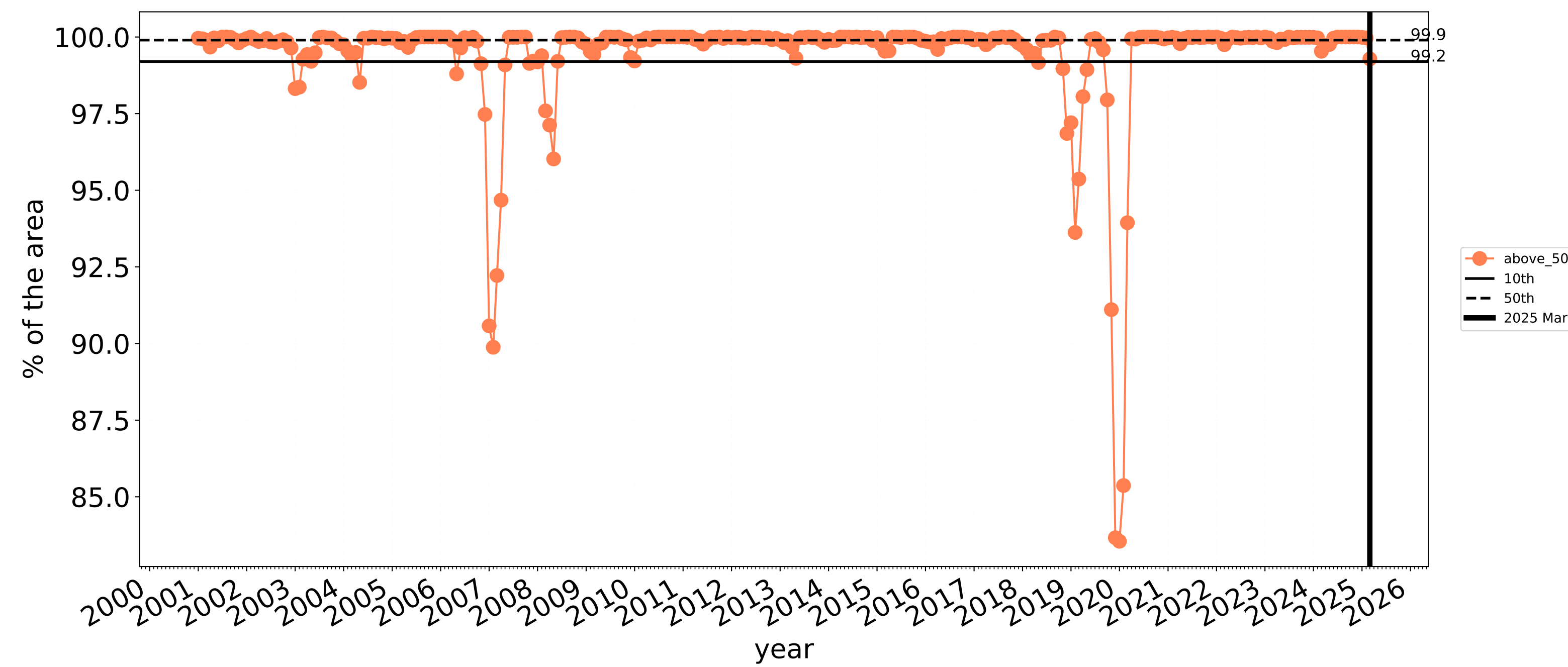
National Landcare Programme



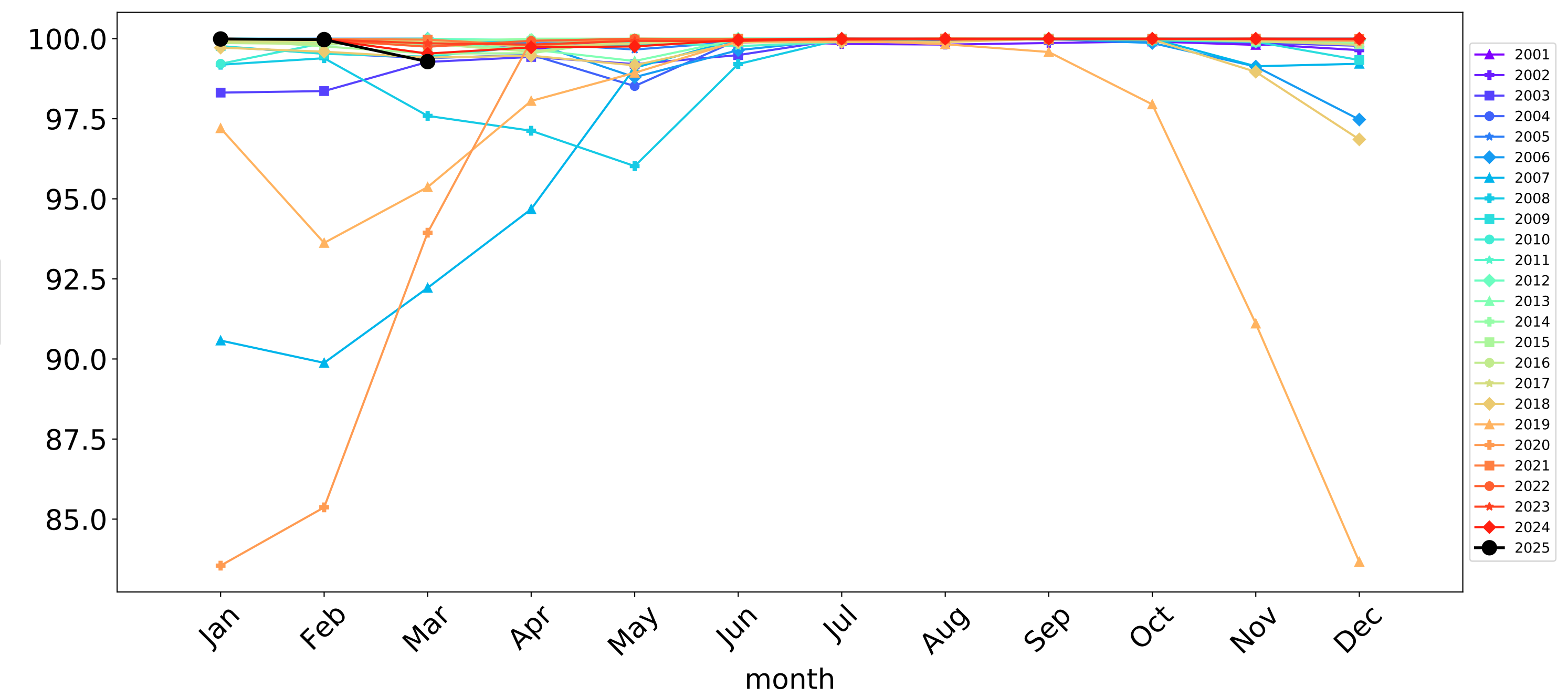


# Agriculture timeseries

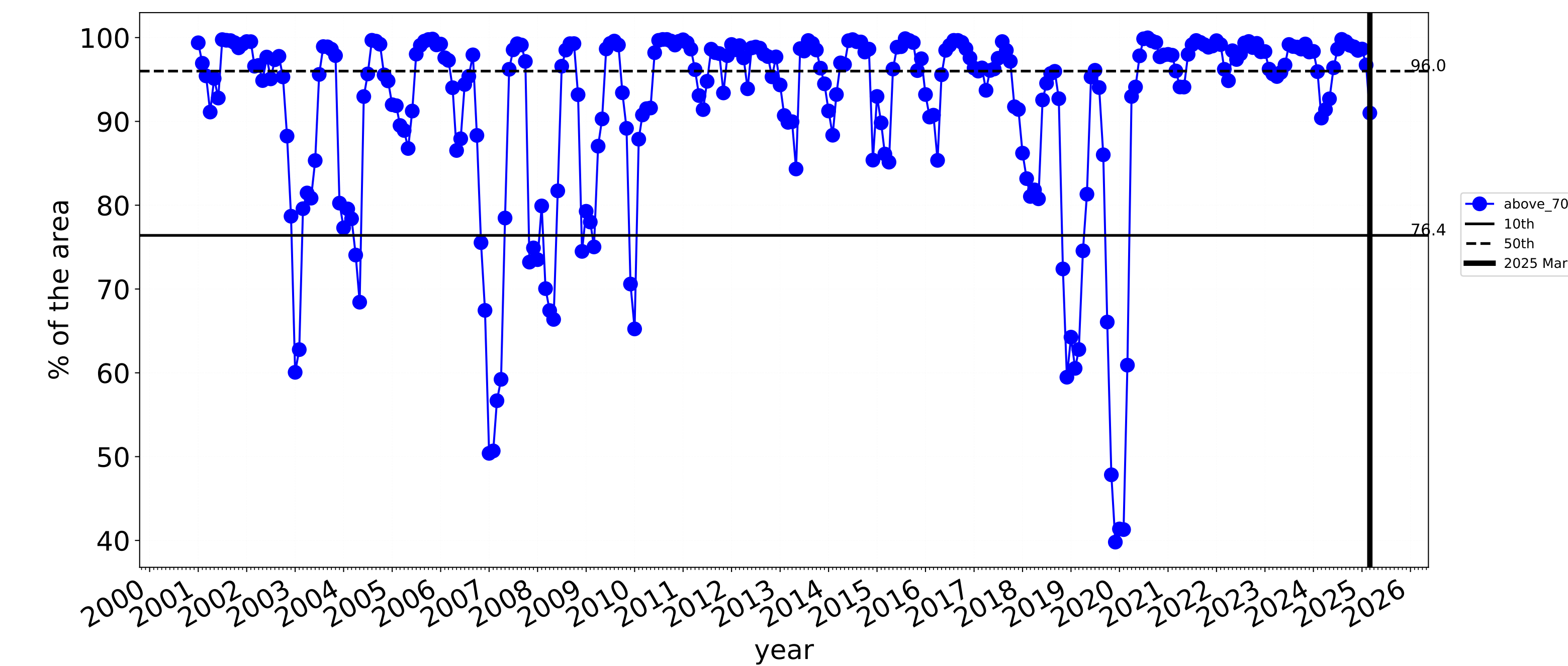
Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)



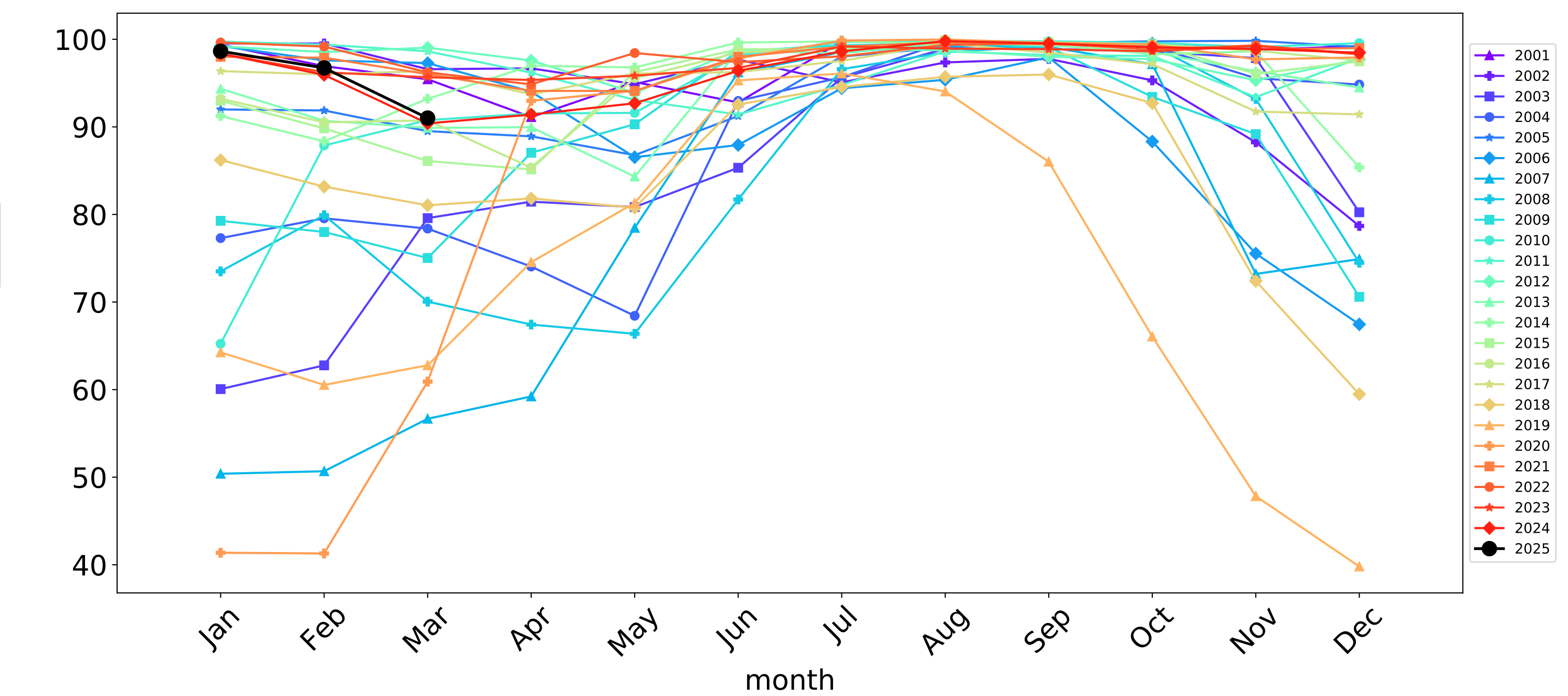
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



Proportion of the area protected from water erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 70%)



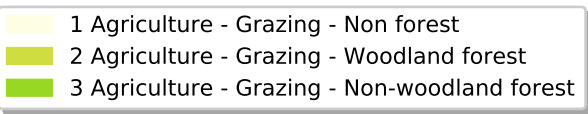
Water erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov>70%)



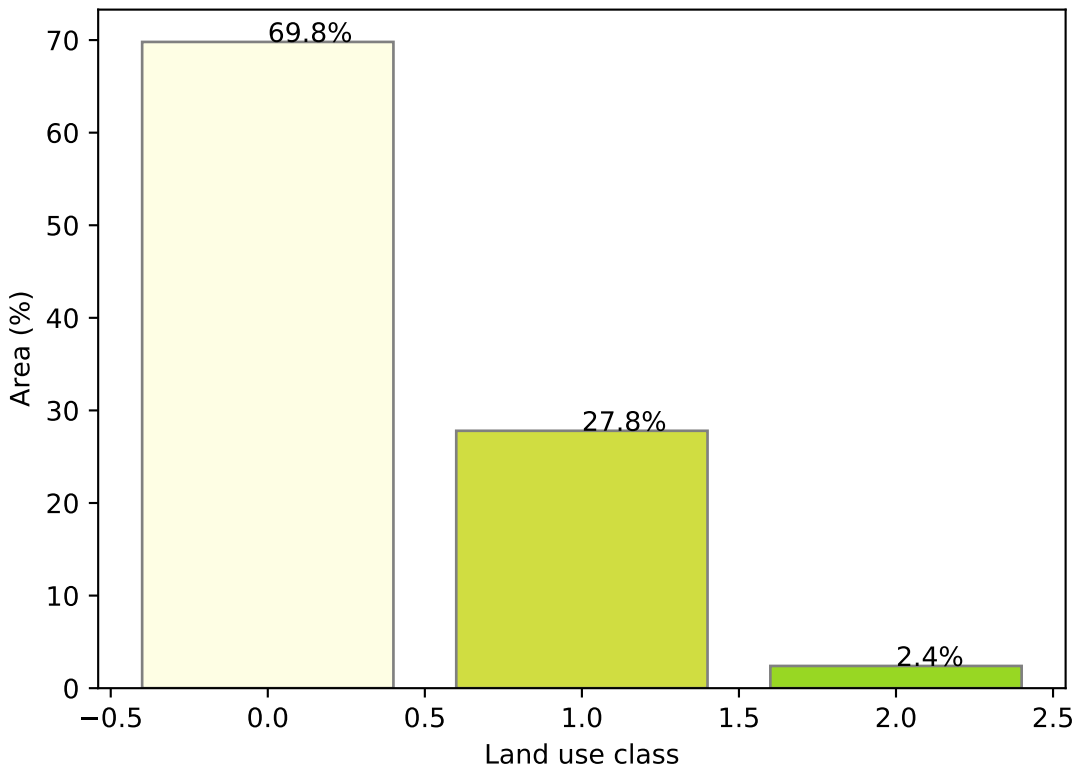
Grazing

Land use and forest cover

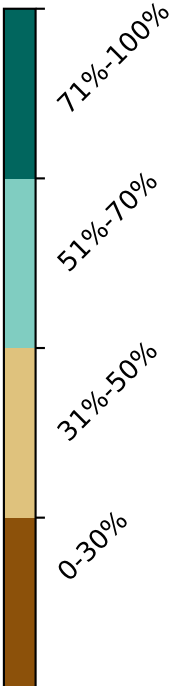
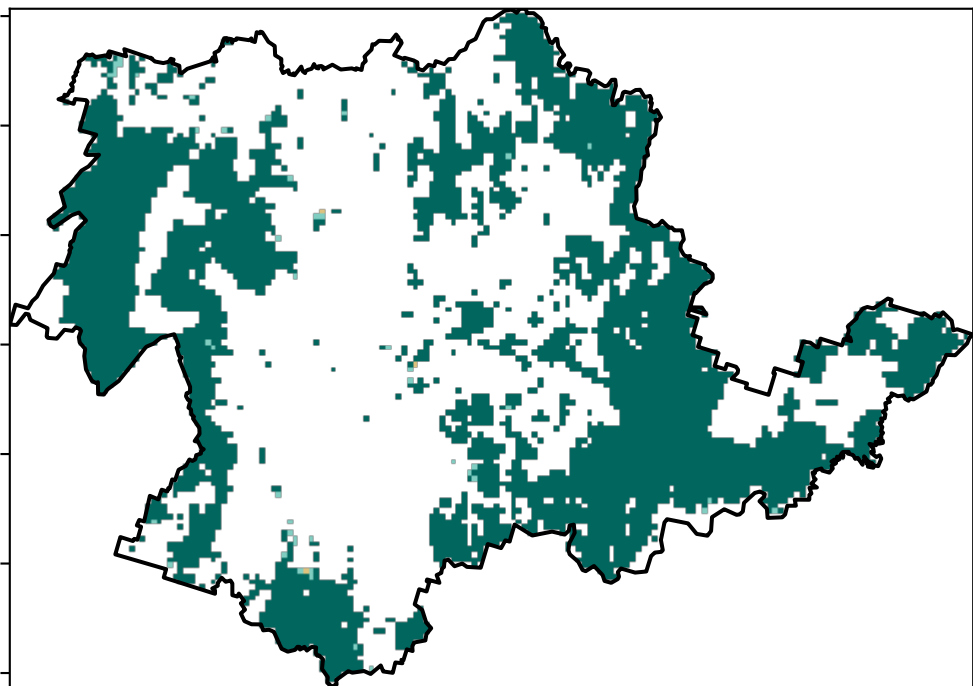
Catchment Scale Land Use and Forests of Australia (2018). Derived from Catchment Scale Land Use of Australia (2018) and Forests of Australia (2018)



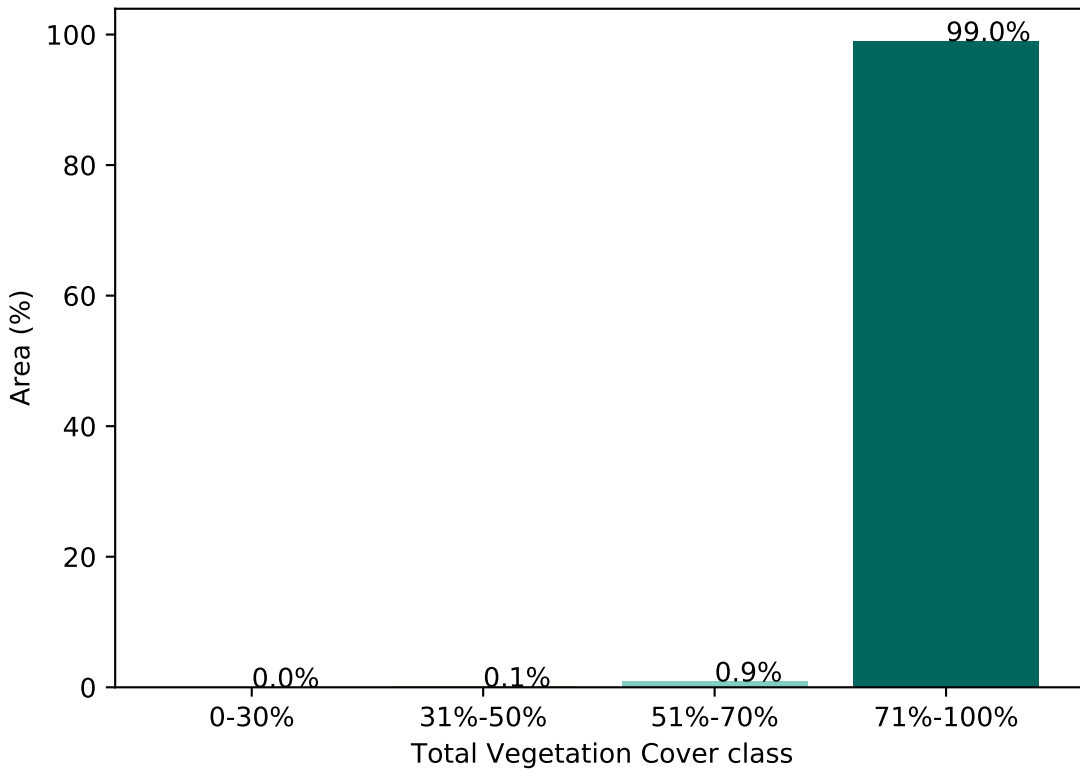
Proportion of each land class in area



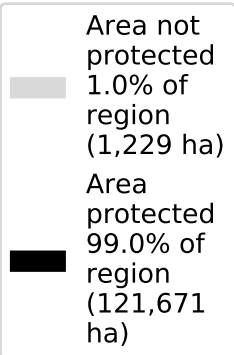
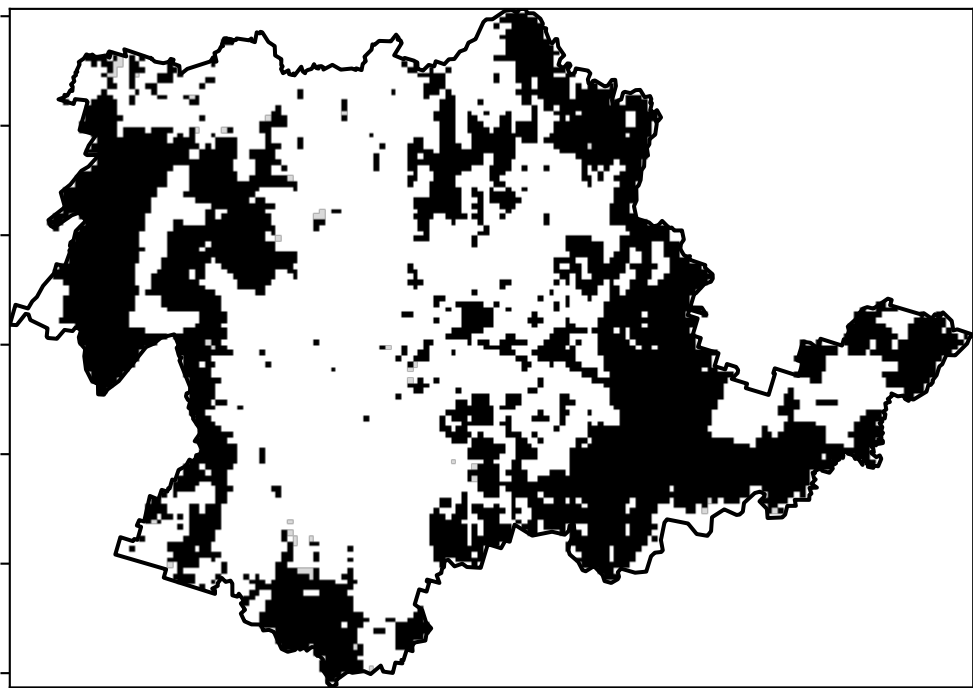
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



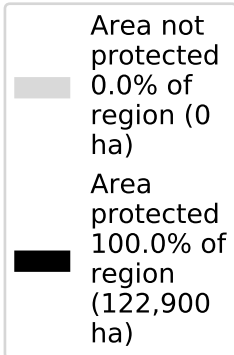
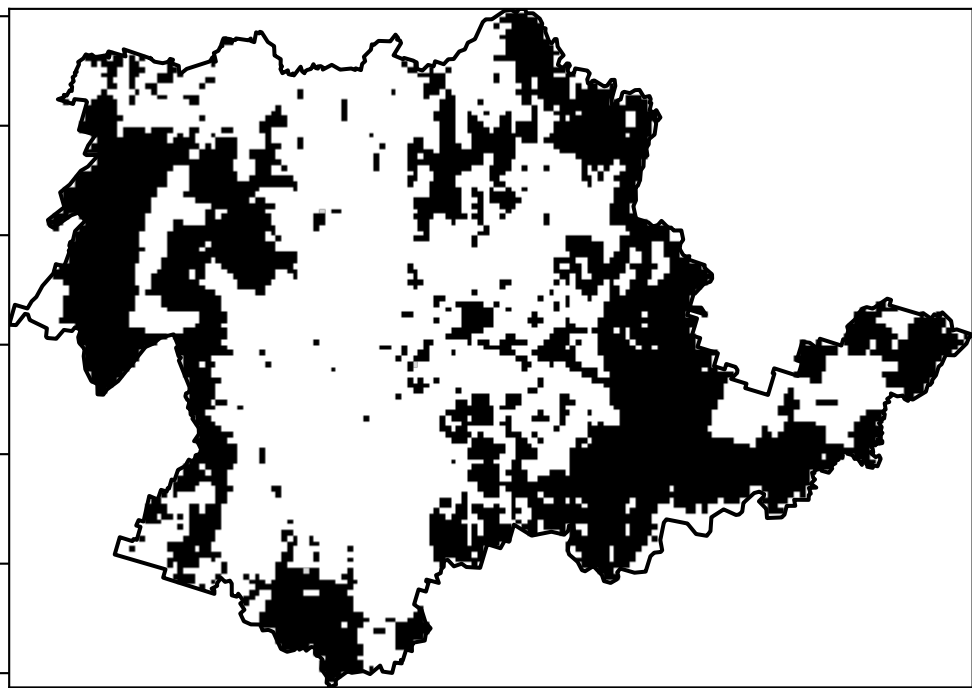
Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)

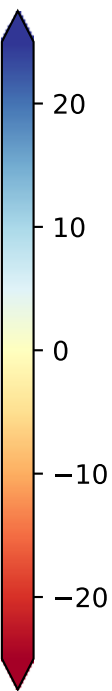
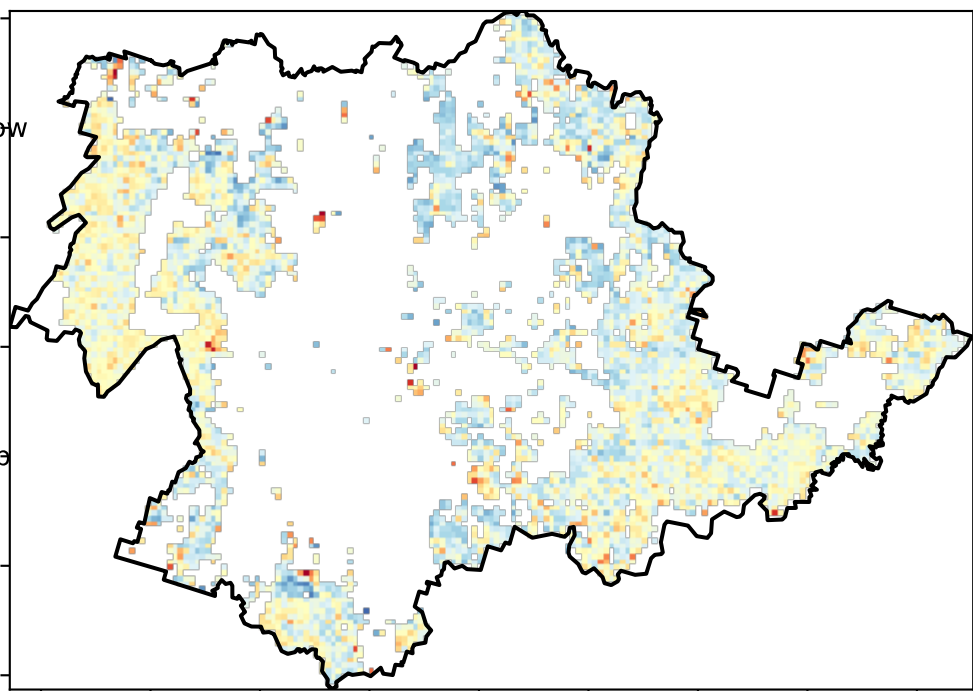


% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



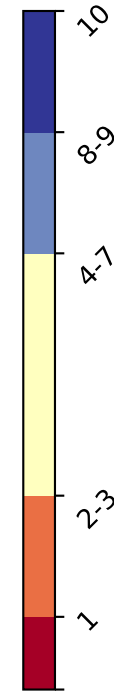
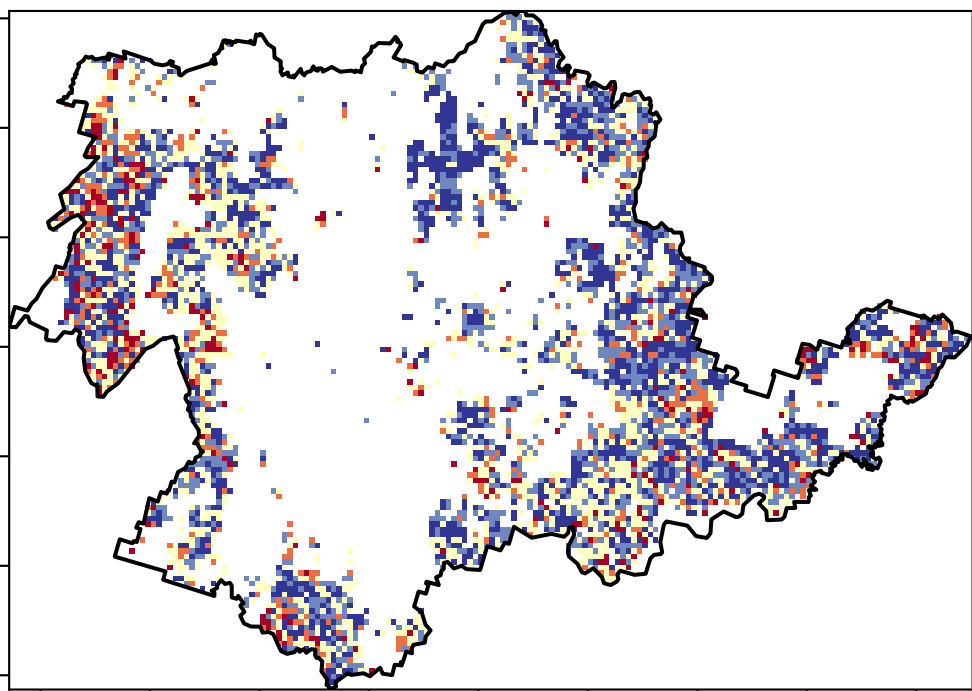
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

Anomaly show how many percentage points each pixel is from the mean. That is, red pixels are about 20% lower than the mean of that pixel. The mean is only for the month of the map using baseline from 2001 to 2019.



Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]

Deciles show where the pixel value lies in the record, from highest to lowest, for that month. That is, red pixels are in the lowest 10% of records for that month of the map using baseline from 2001 to 2019.



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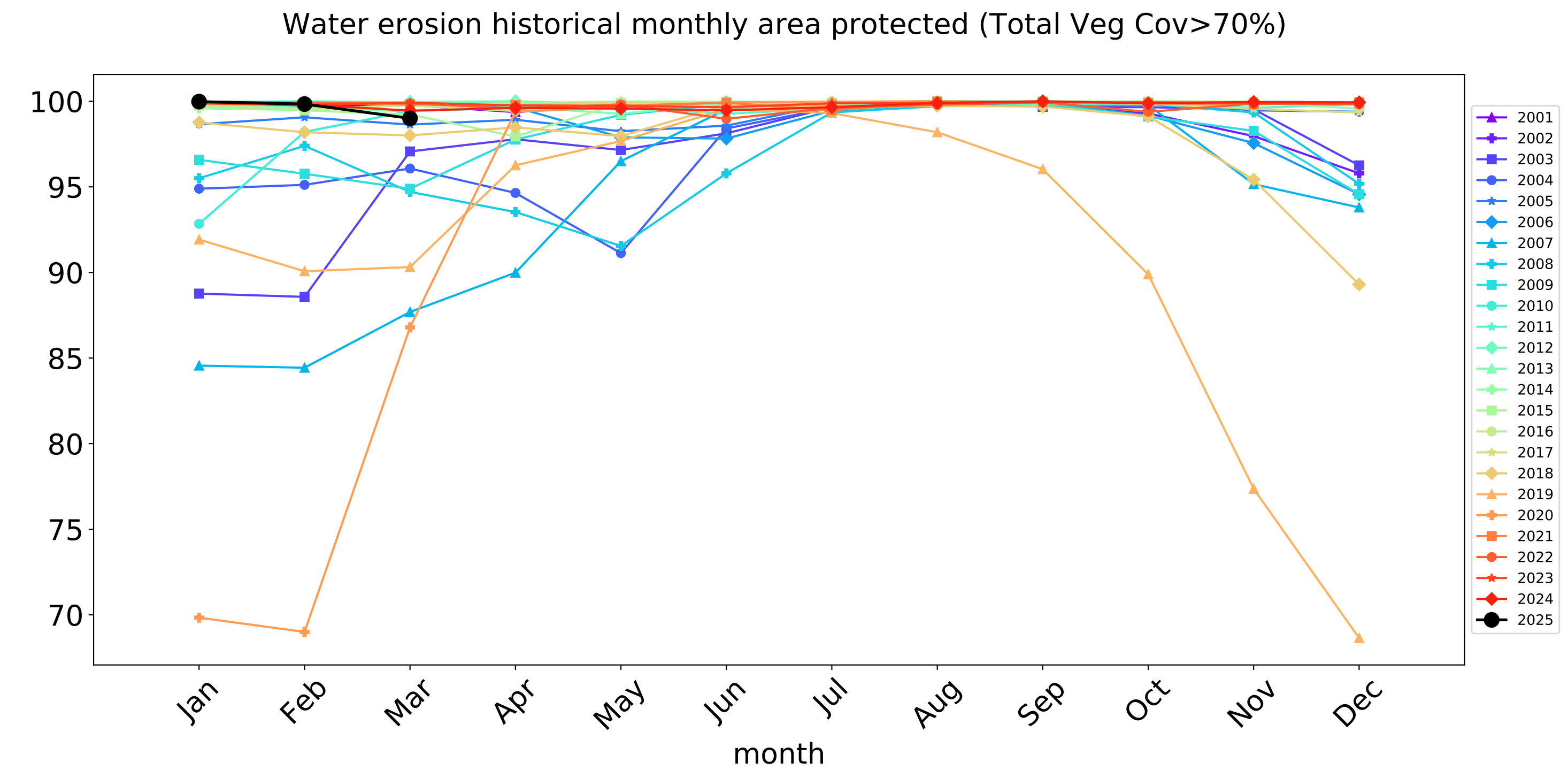
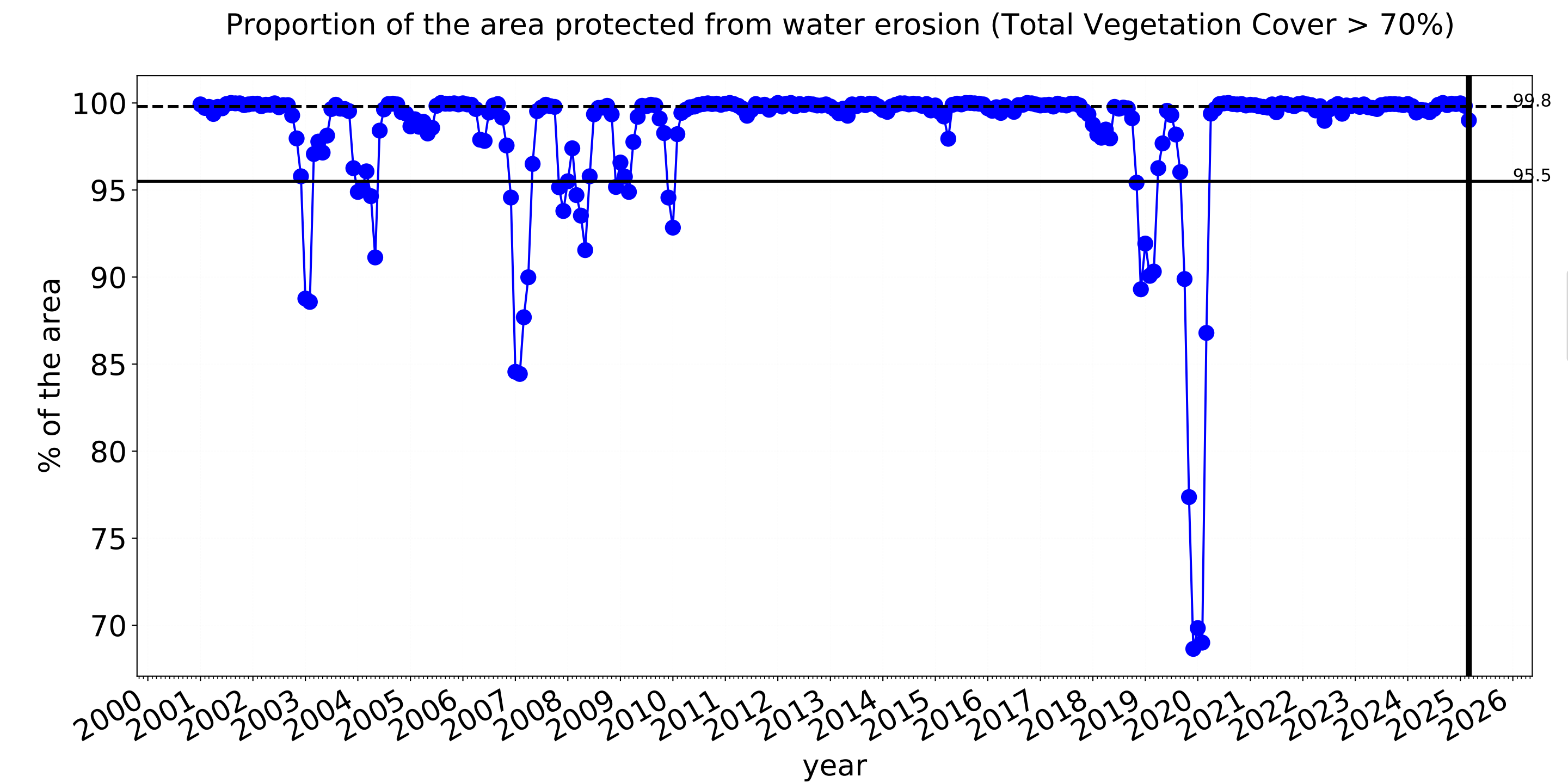
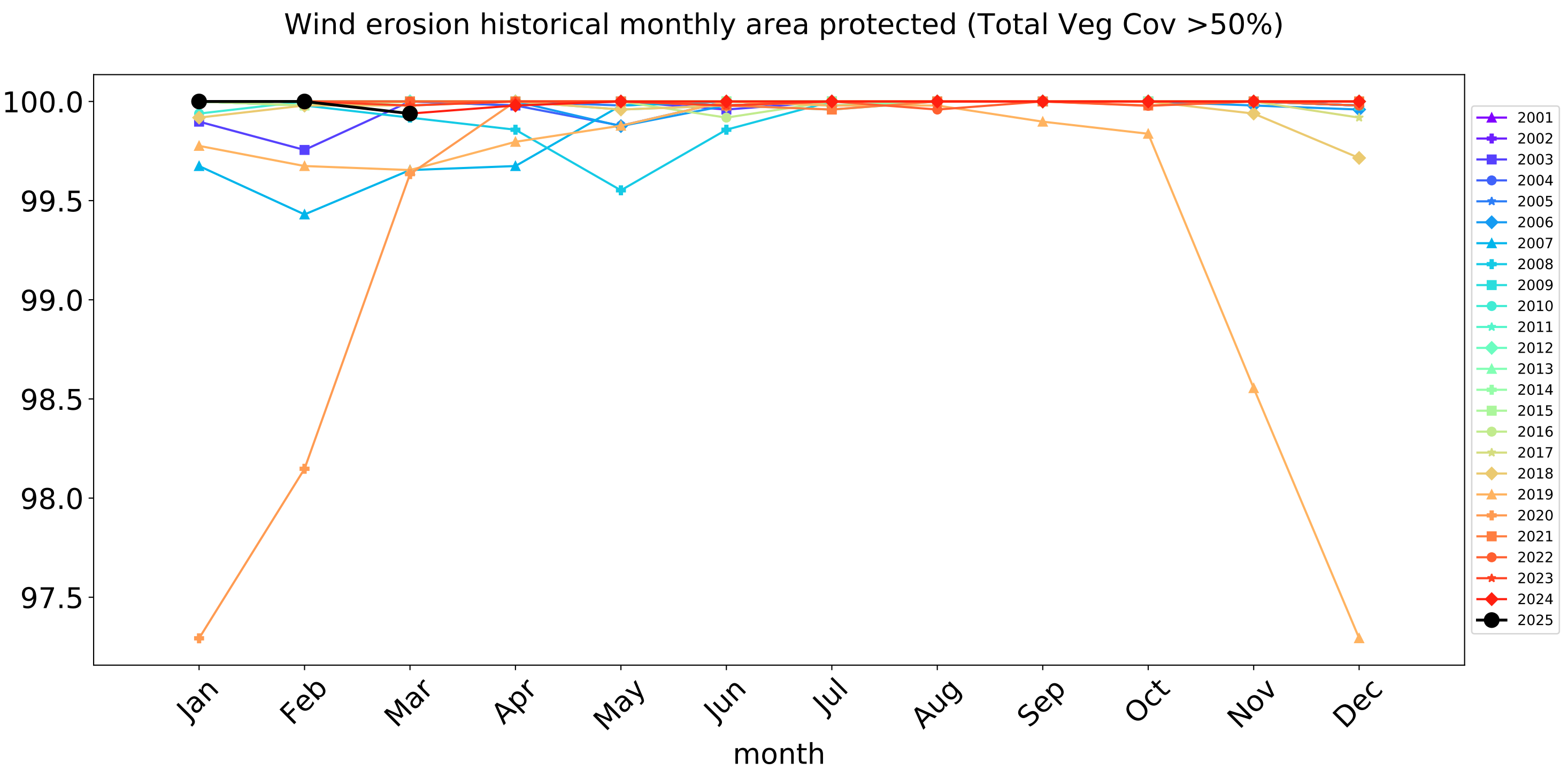
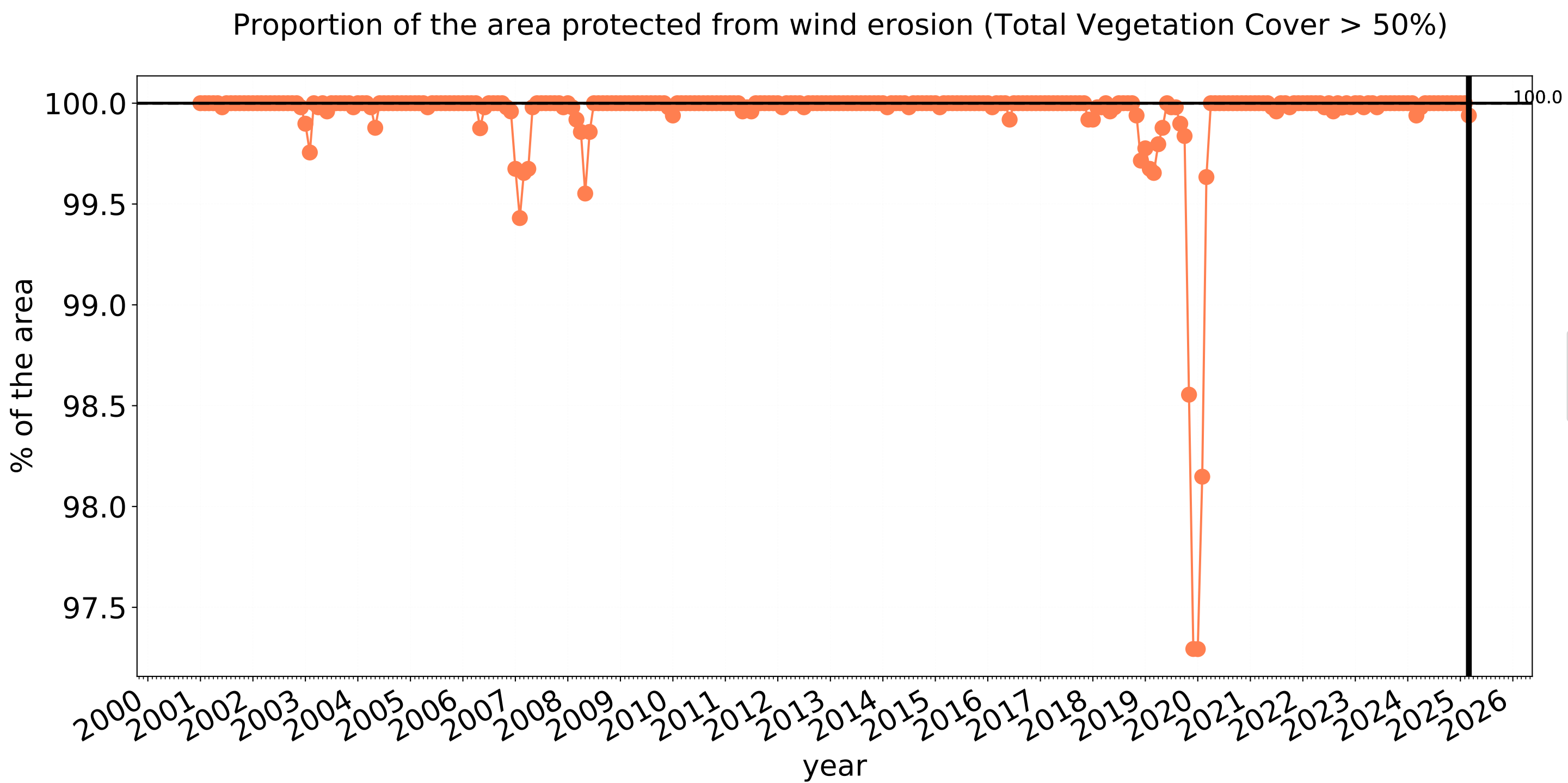


National Landcare Programme





Grazing timeseries



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Grazing non forest

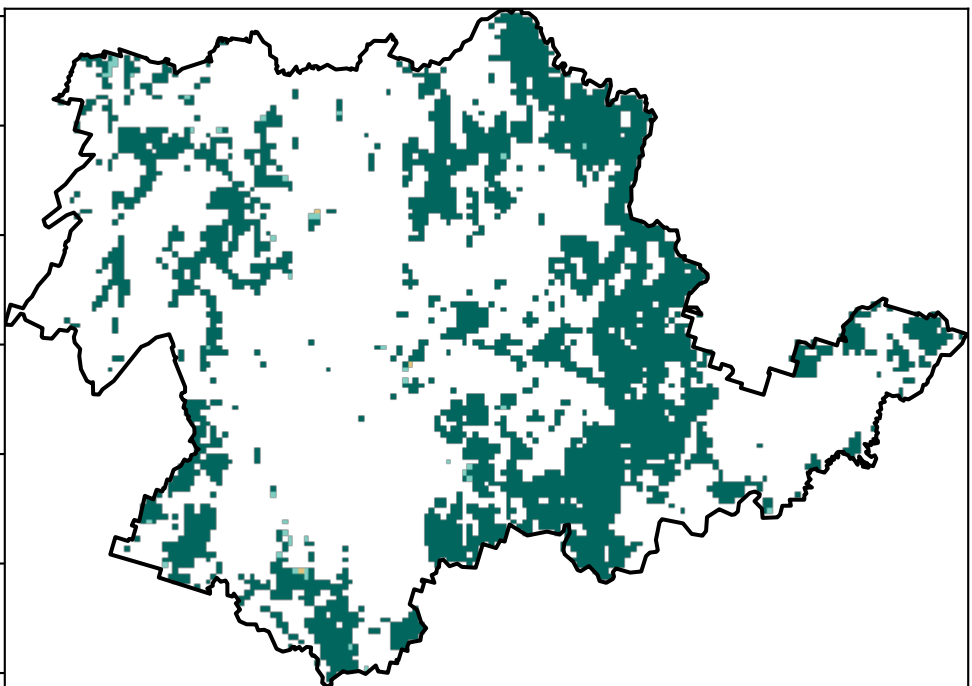
Land use and forest cover

Catchment Scale  
Land Use and Forests  
of Australia (2018).  
Derived from  
Catchment Scale Land  
Use of Australia  
(2018) and Forests  
of Australia (2018)

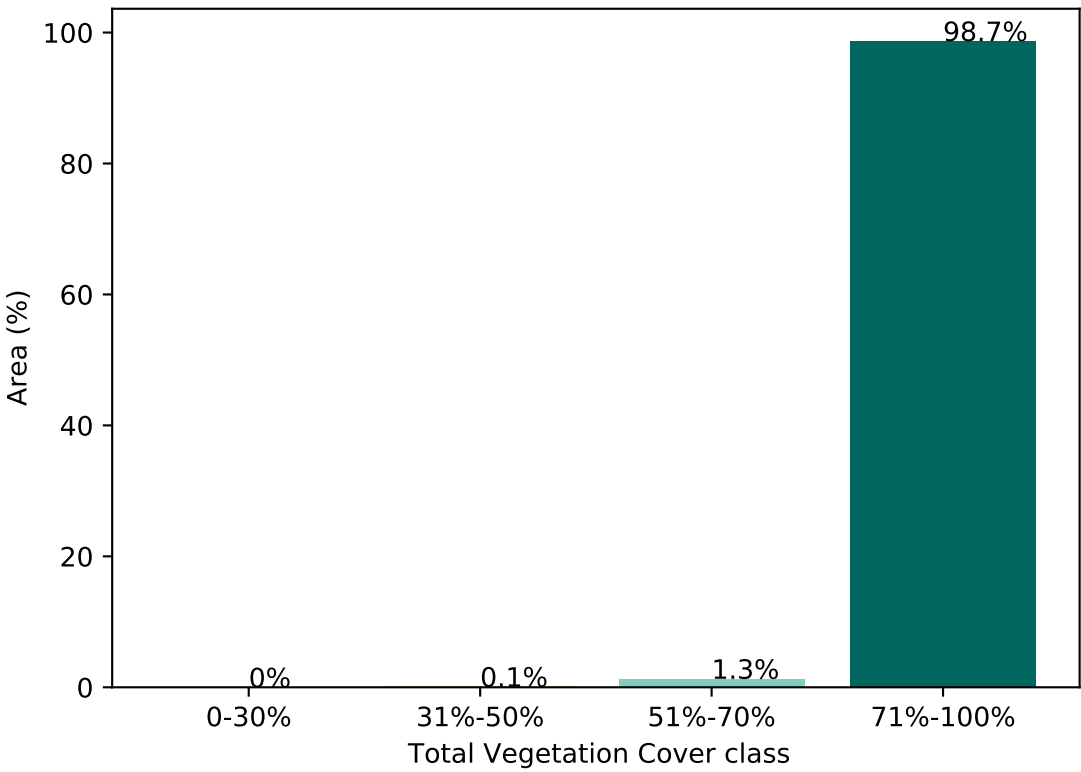


1 Agriculture - Grazing - Non forest

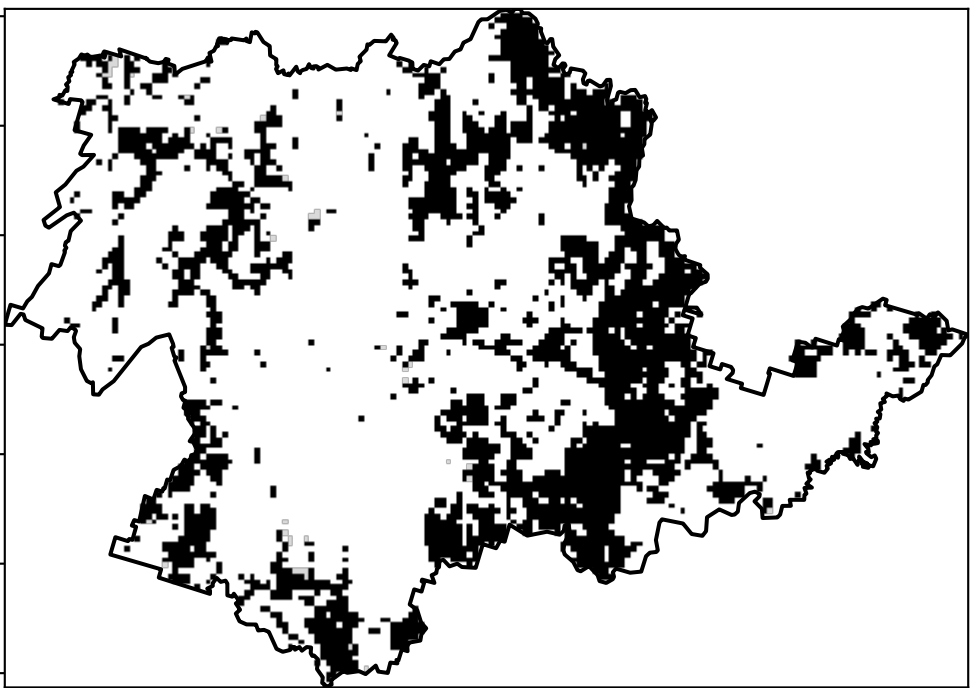
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



Proportion of vegetation cover class in area

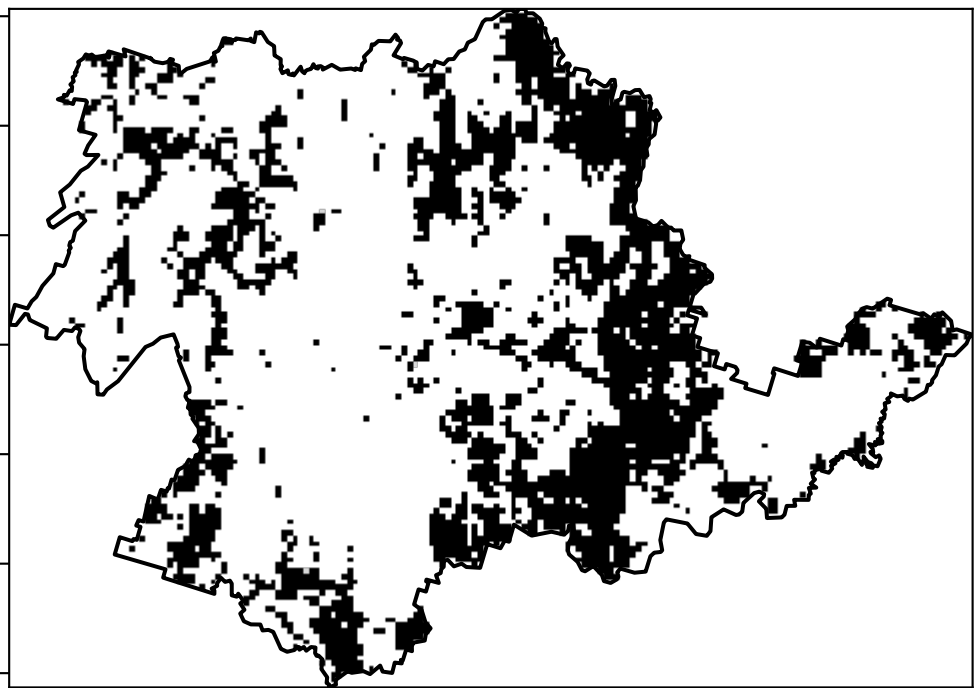


% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



Area not protected  
1.3% of region  
(1,114 ha)  
Area protected  
98.7% of region  
(84,561 ha)

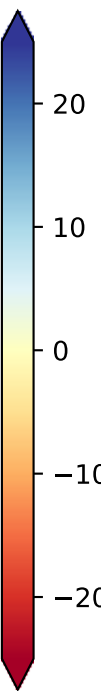
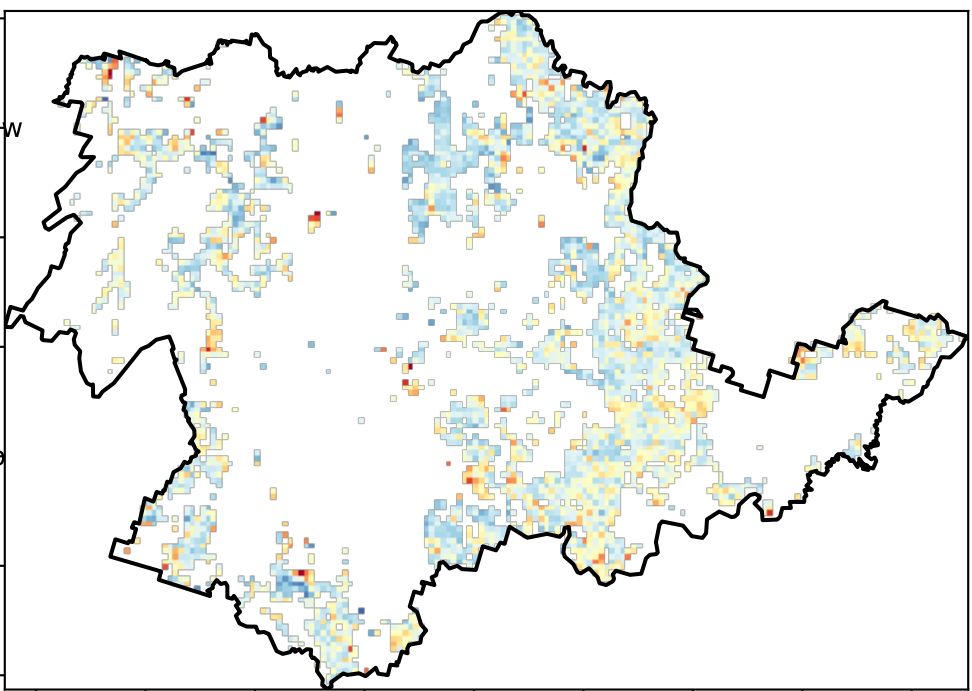
% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



Area not protected  
0.0% of region (0 ha)  
Area protected  
100.0% of region  
(85,675 ha)

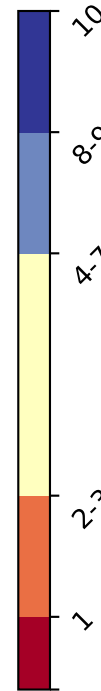
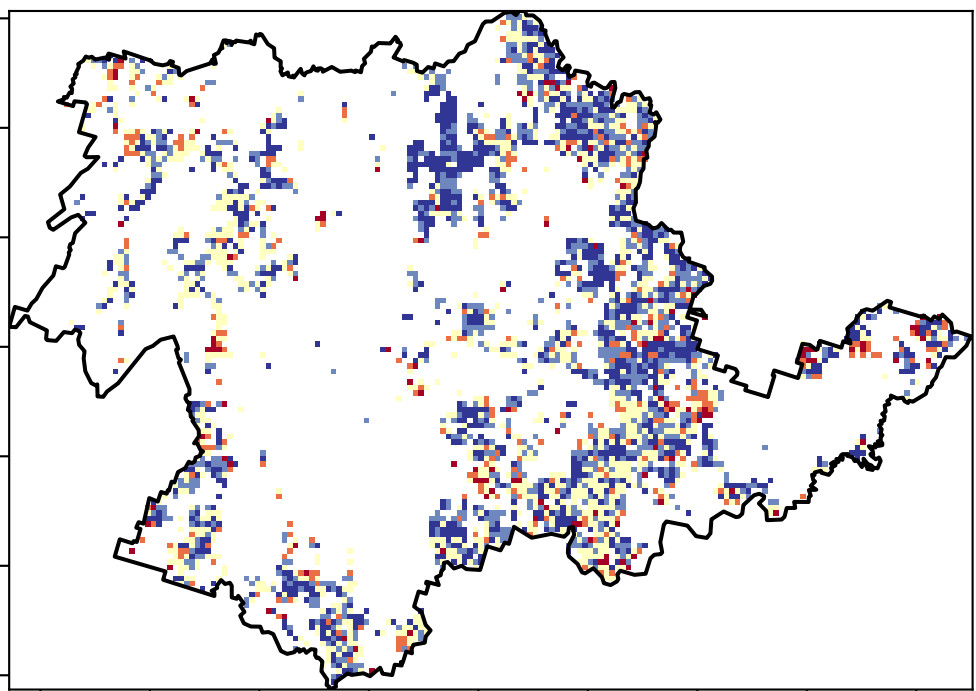
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

Anomaly show how  
many percentage  
points each  
pixel is from  
the mean. That  
is, red pixels  
are about 20%  
lower than the  
mean of that  
pixel. The mean  
is only for the  
month of the map  
using baseline  
from 2001 to  
2019.



Deciles show where the  
pixel value lies in the  
record, from highest to  
lowest, for that month.  
That is, red pixels are  
in the lowest 10% of  
records for that month of  
the map using baseline  
from 2001 to 2019.

Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]



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Ecosystem Research Infrastructure



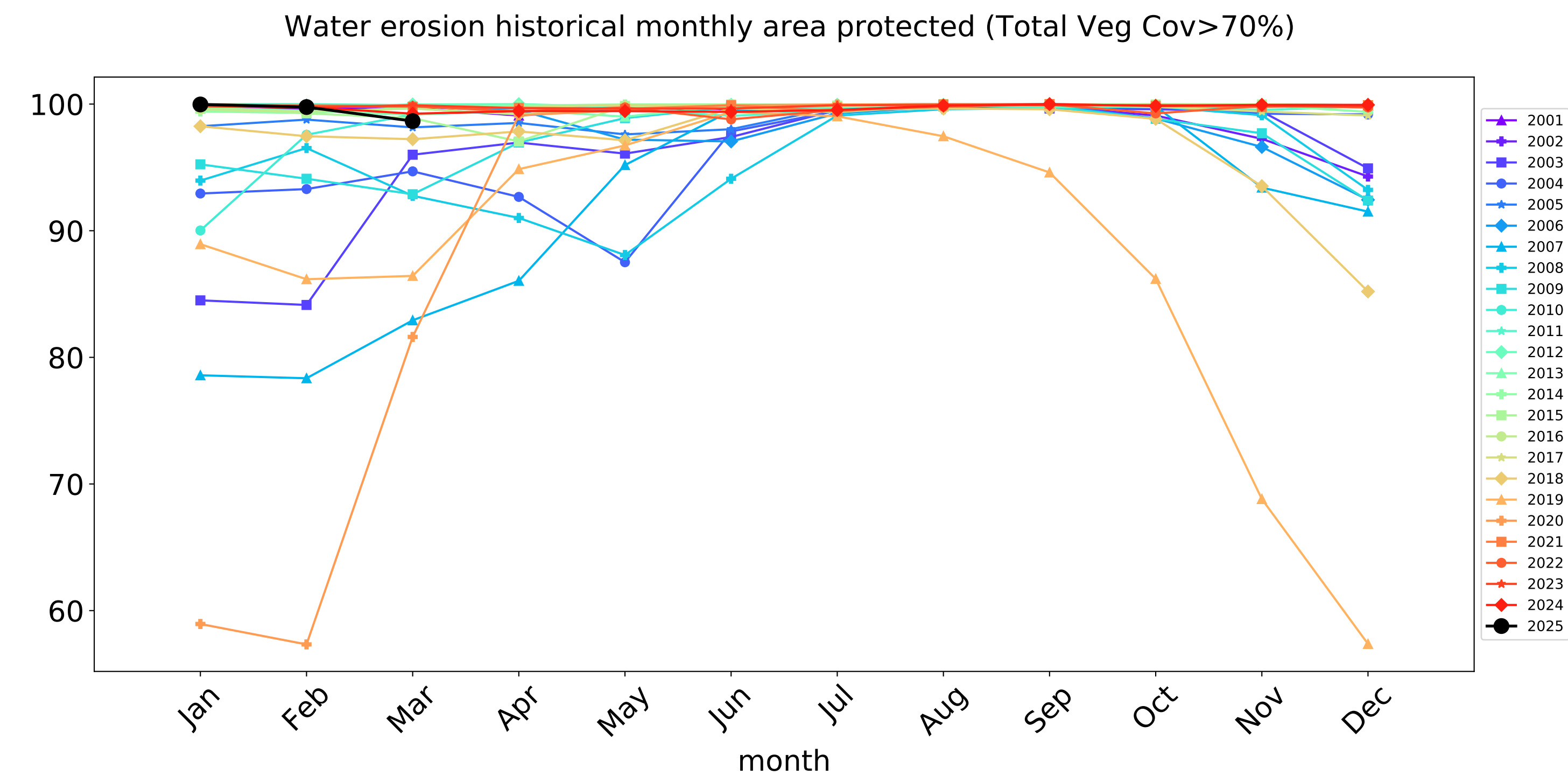
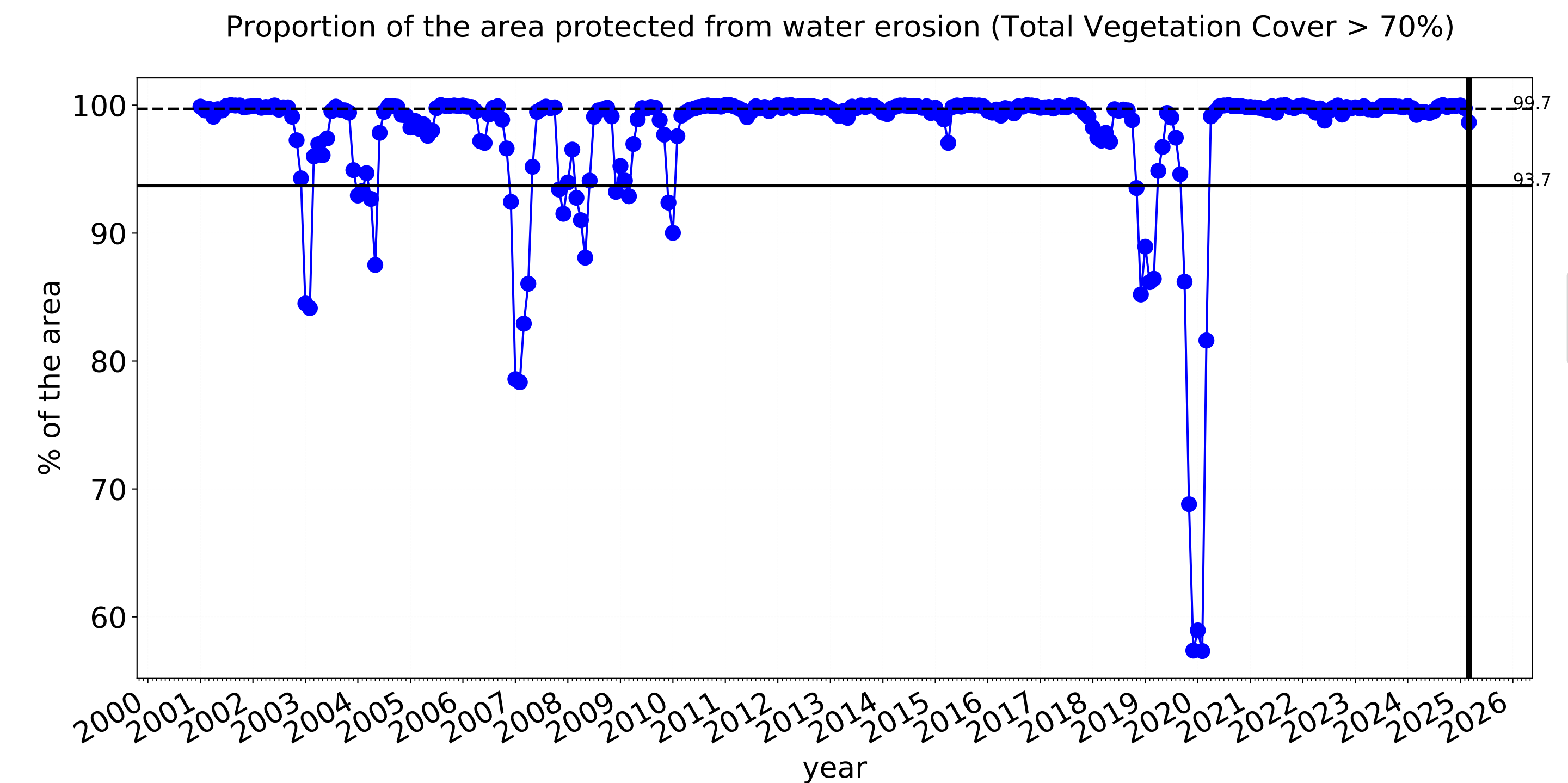
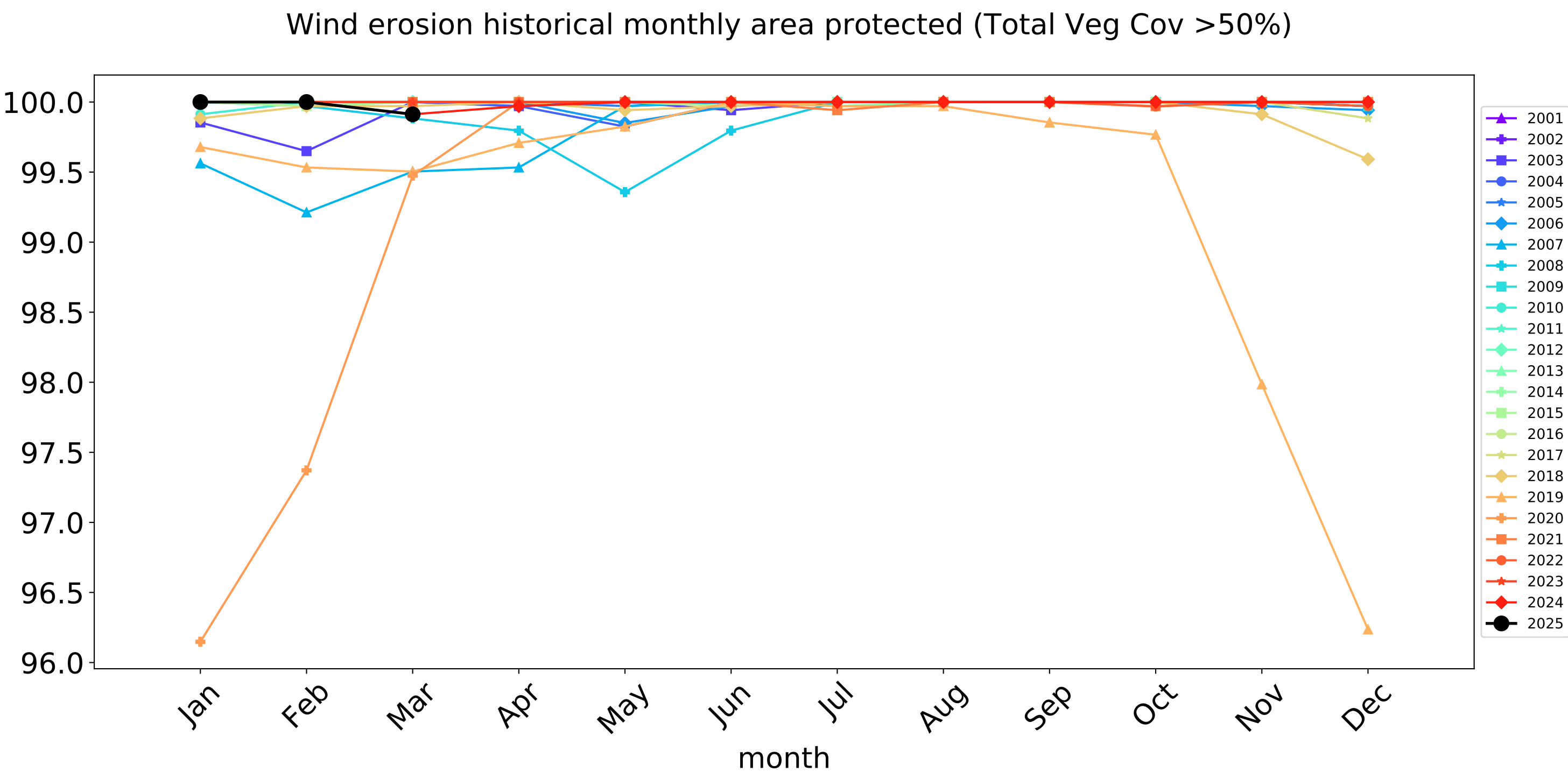
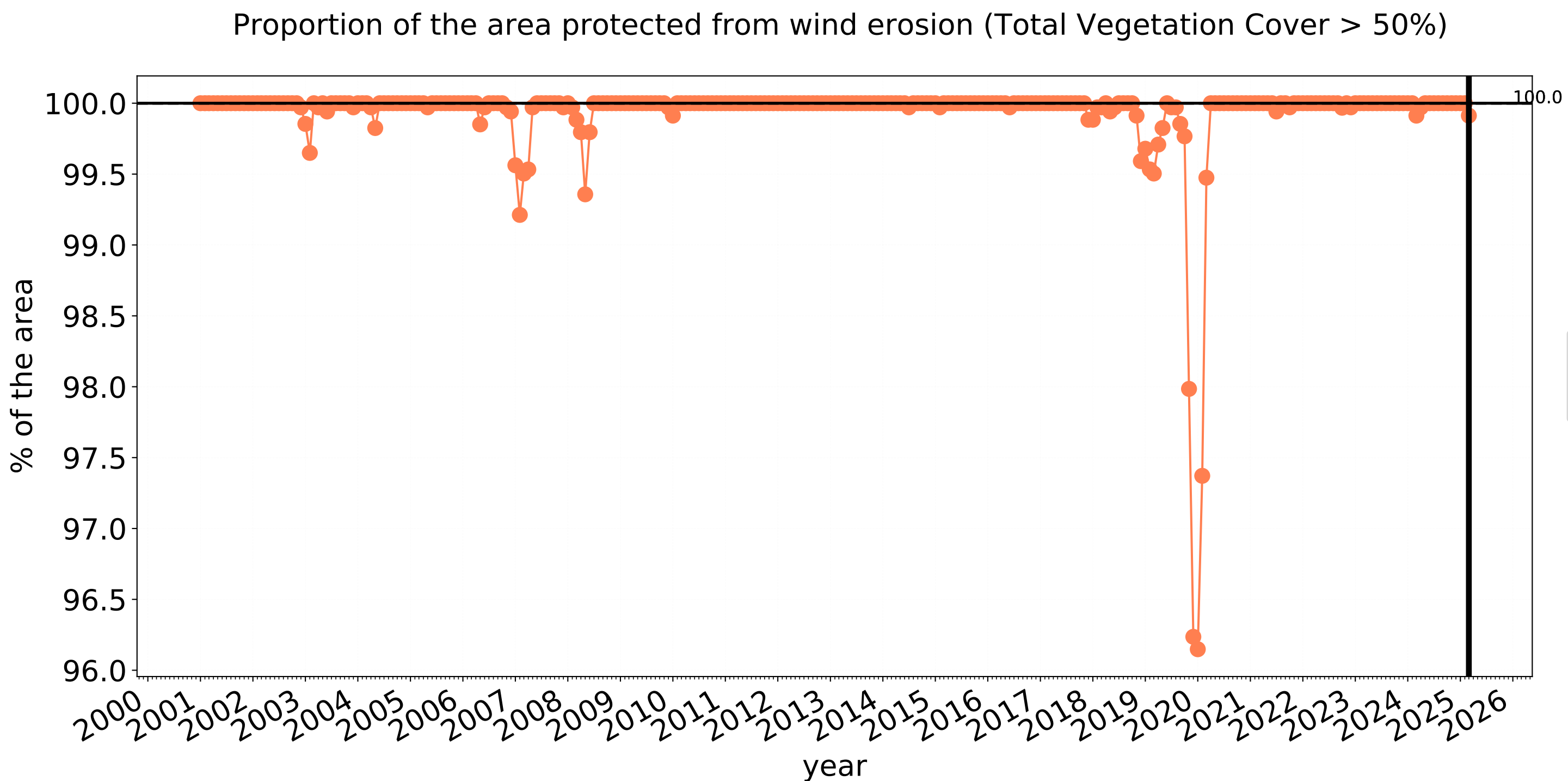
Australian Government

National  
Landcare  
Programme





Grazing non forest timeseries



Ecosystem Research Infrastructure



National Landcare Programme



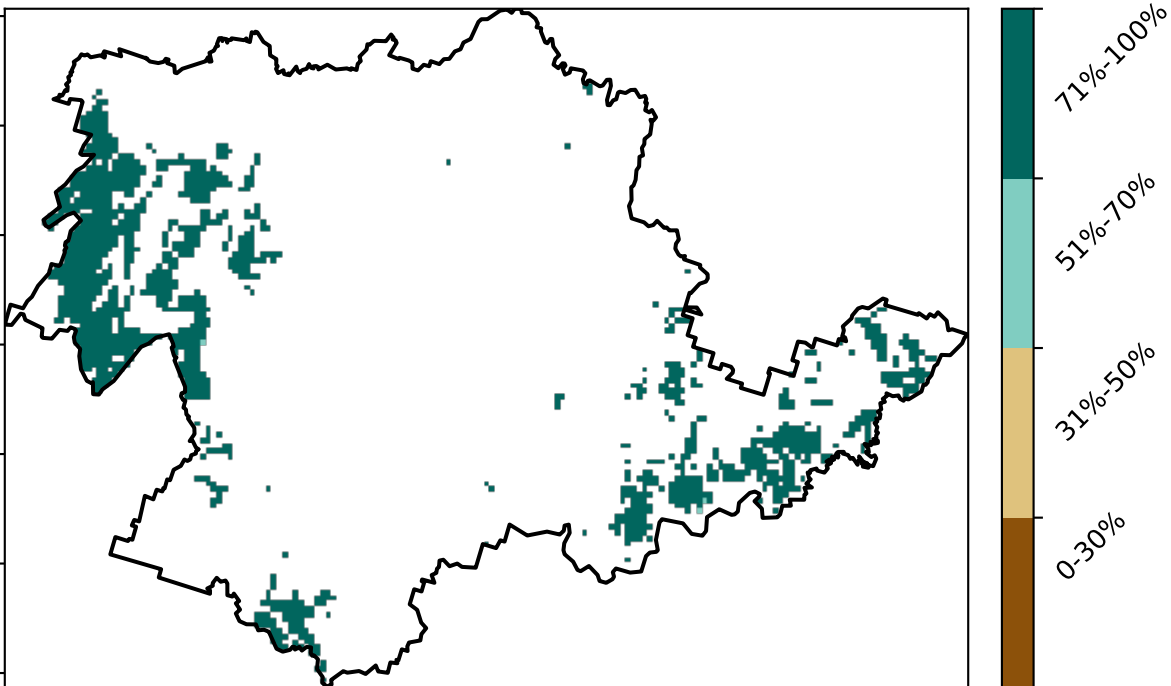
# Grazing Woodland forest

Land use and forest cover

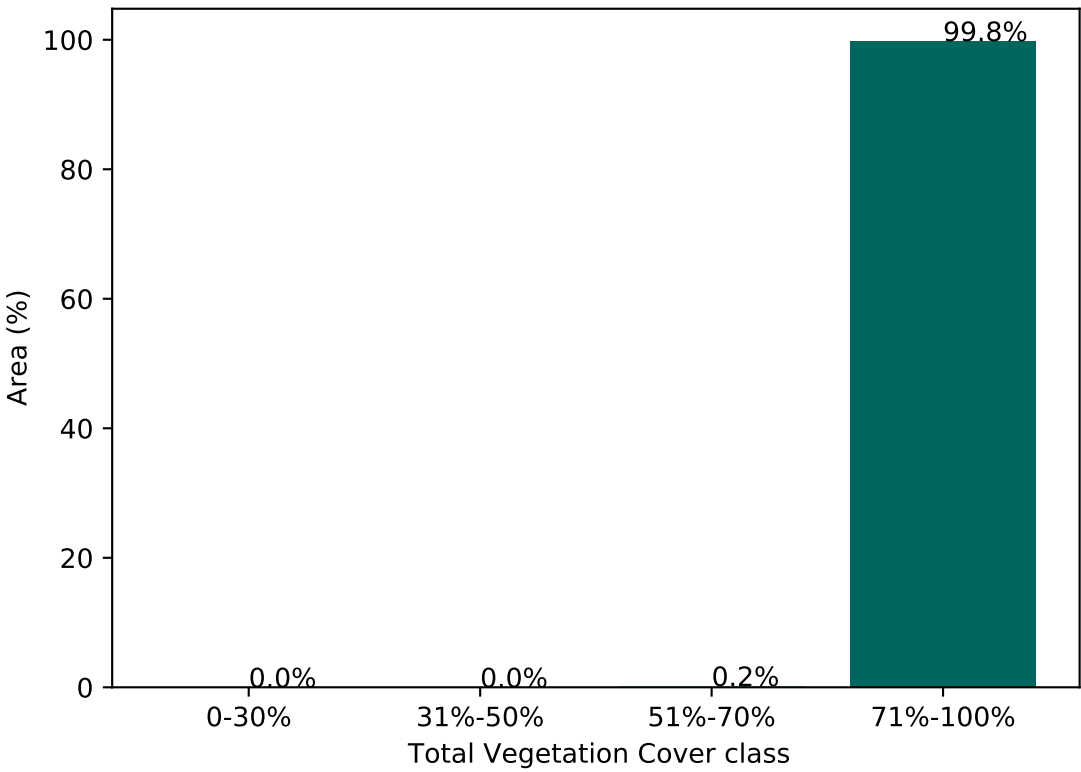
Catchment Scale  
Land Use and Forests  
of Australia (2018).  
Derived from  
Catchment Scale Land  
Use of Australia  
(2018) and Forests  
of Australia (2018)



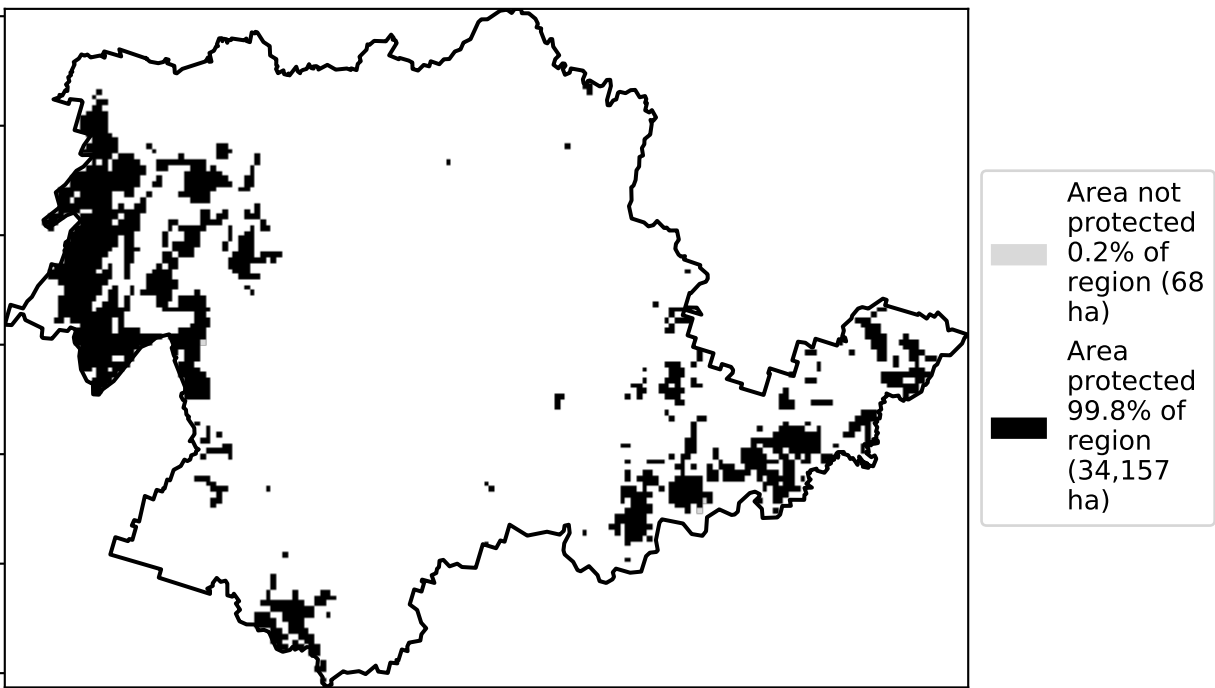
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



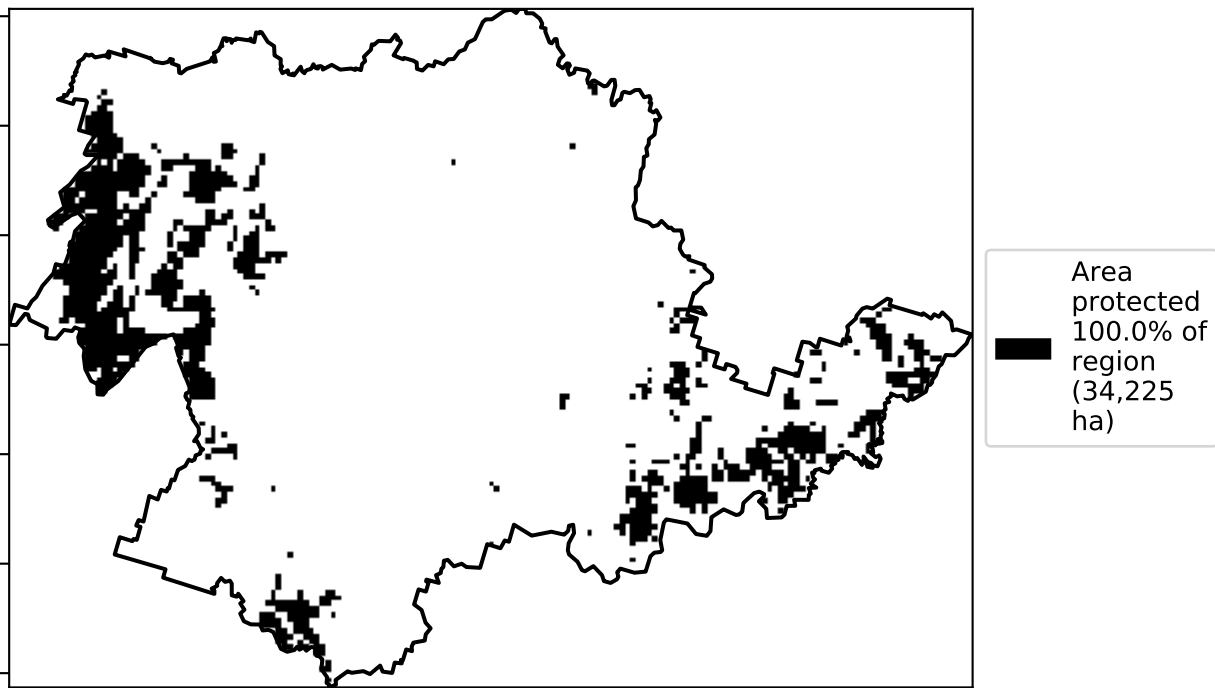
Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)

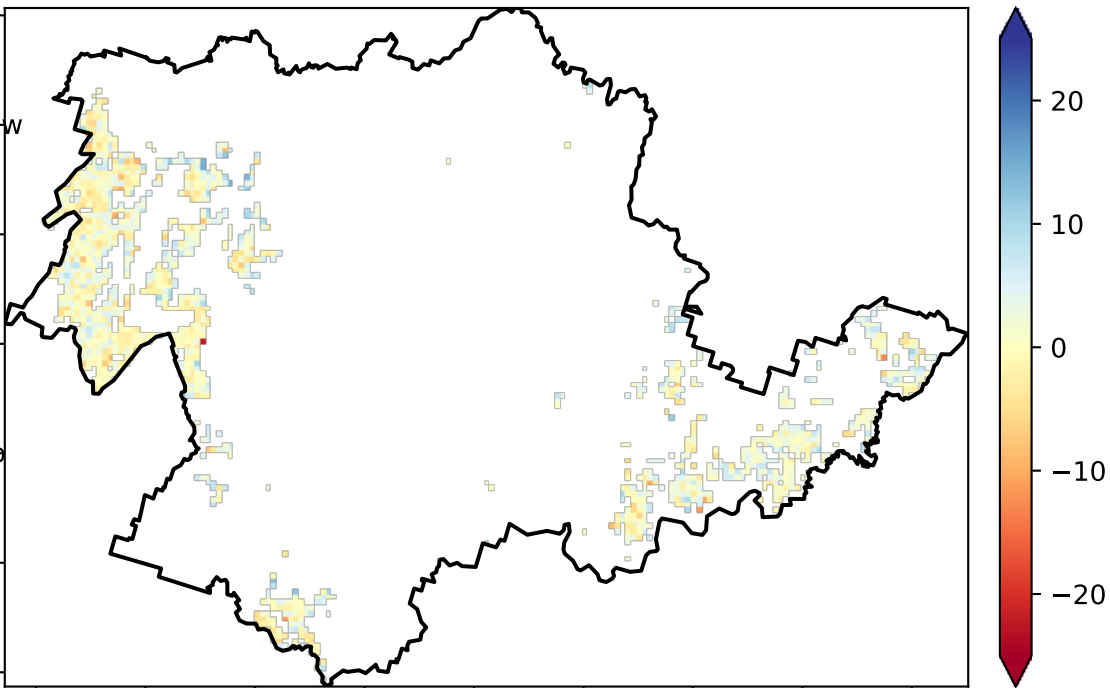


% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



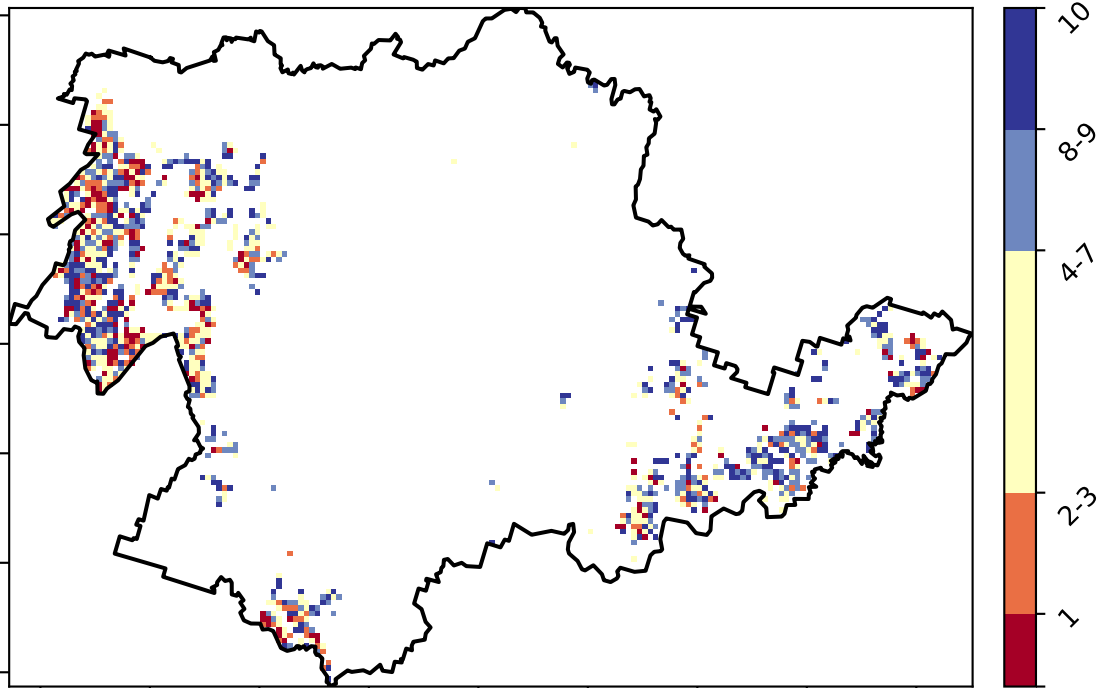
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

Anomaly show how many percentage points each pixel is from the mean. That is, red pixels are about 20% lower than the mean of that pixel. The mean is only for the month of the map using baseline from 2001 to 2019.



Deciles show where the pixel value lies in the record, from highest to lowest, for that month. That is, red pixels are in the lowest 10% of records for that month of the map using baseline from 2001 to 2019.

Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]



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Ecosystem Research Infrastructure



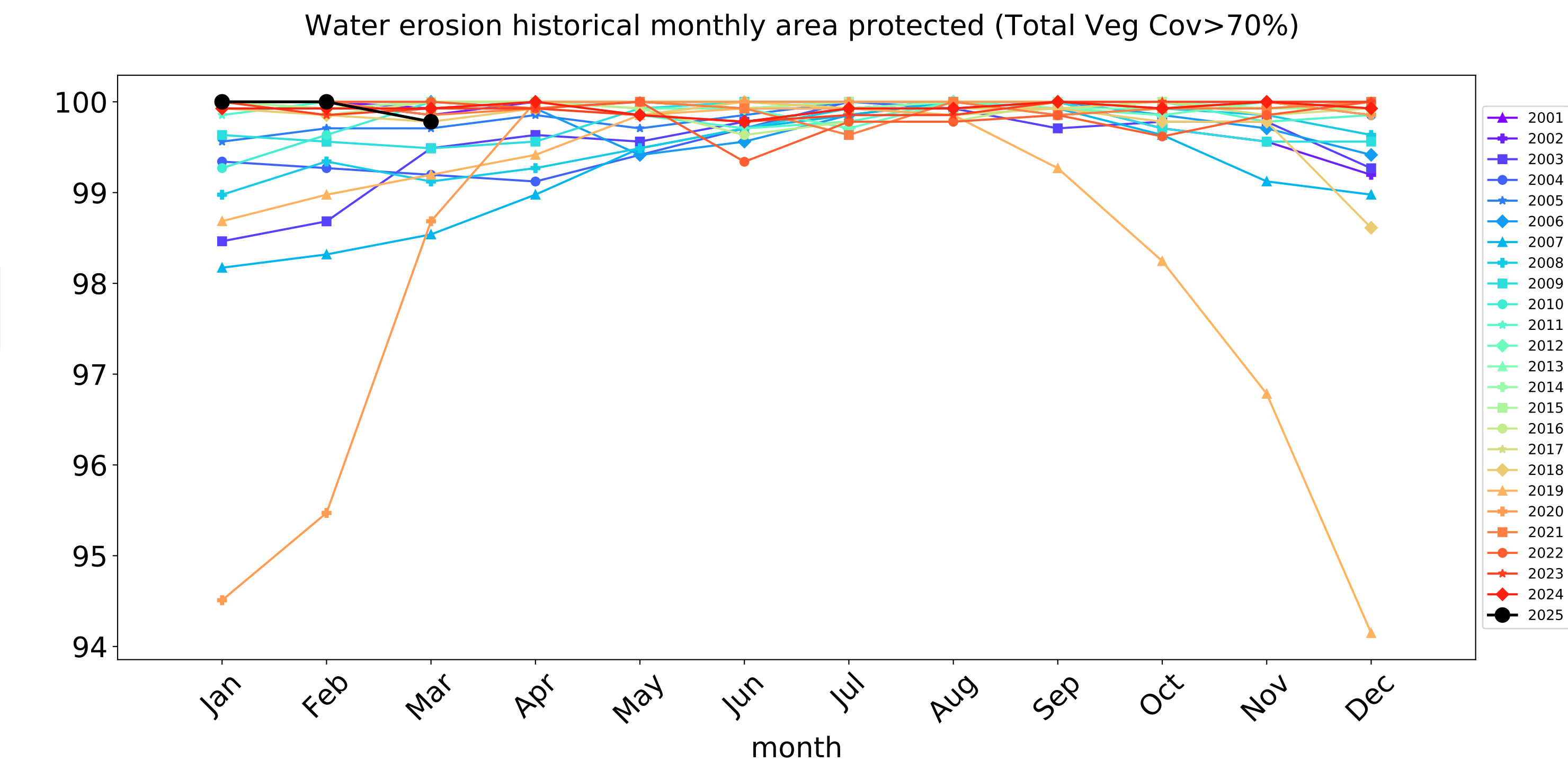
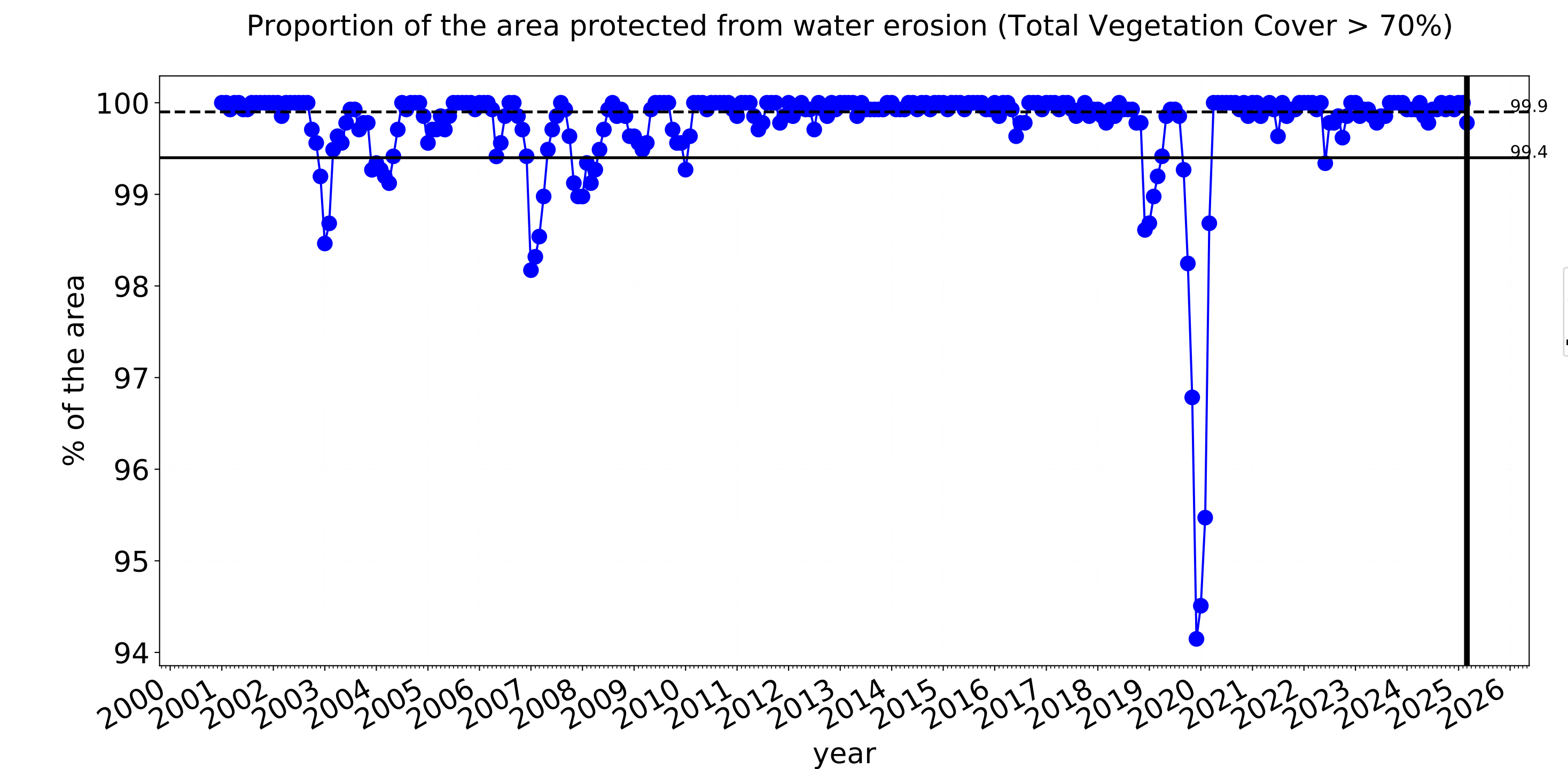
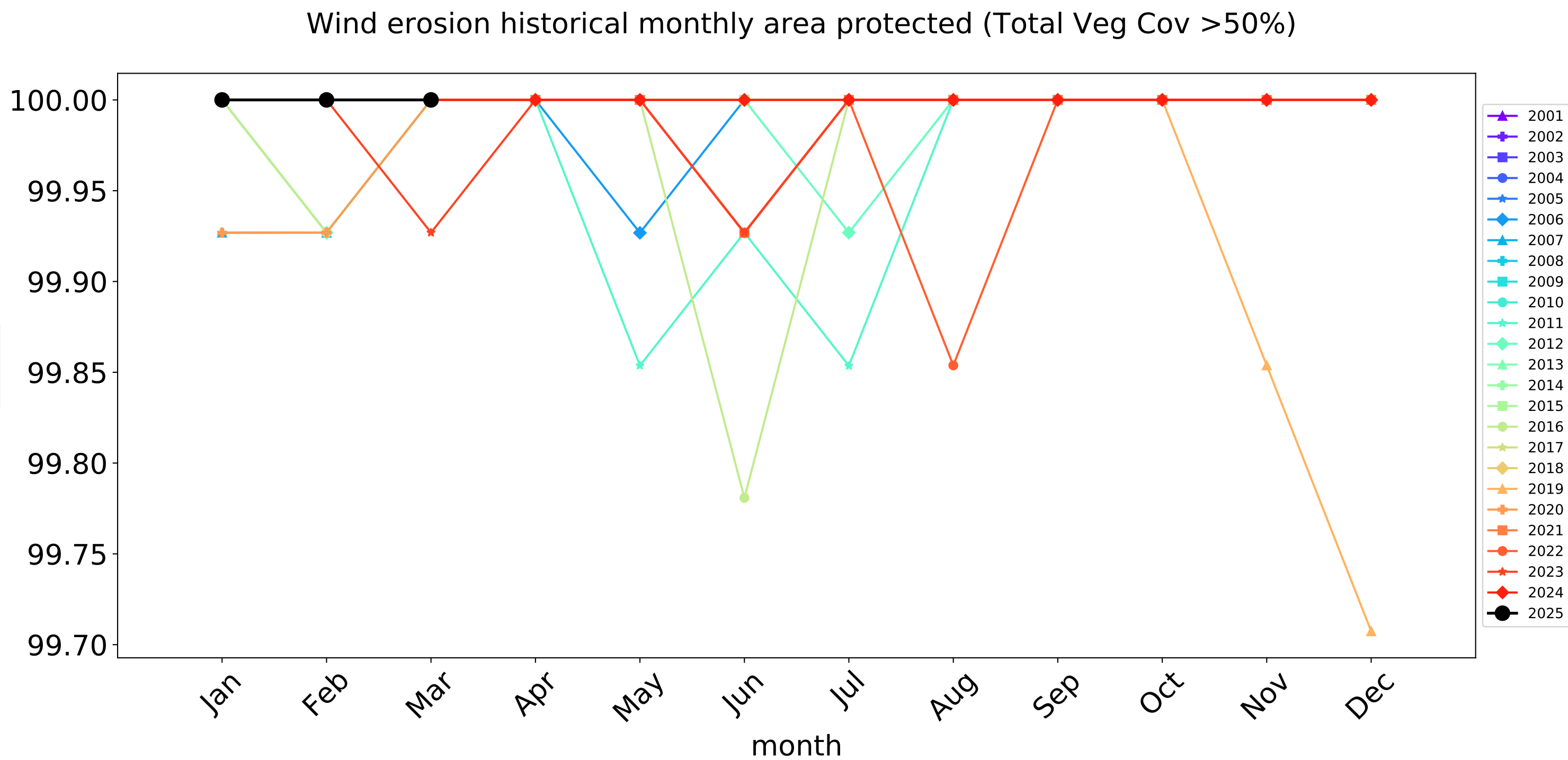
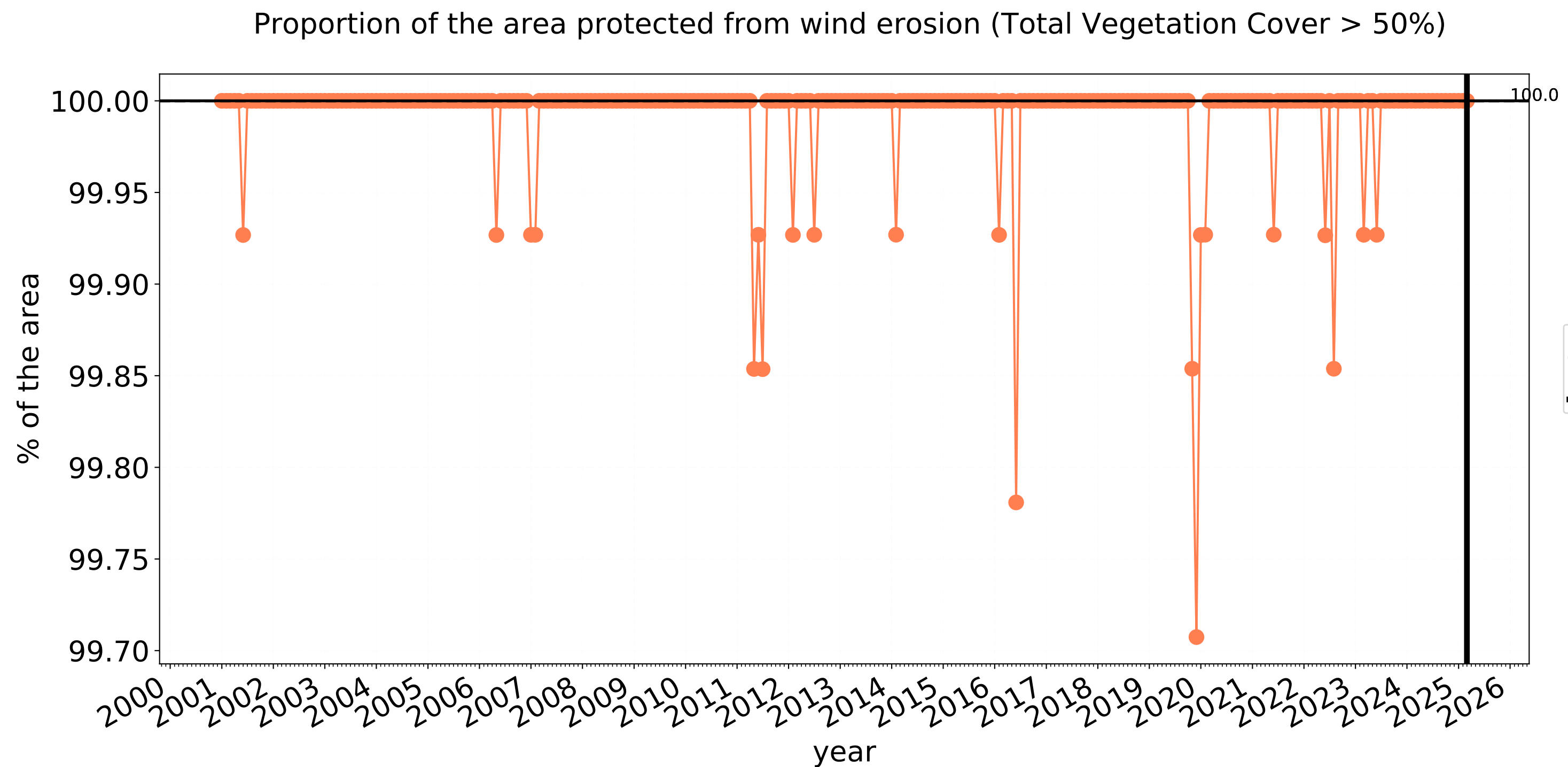
Australian Government

National  
Landcare  
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Grazing Woodland forest timeseries



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Ecosystem Research Infrastructure



National  
Landcare  
Programme



# Grazing - Forest (non woodland)

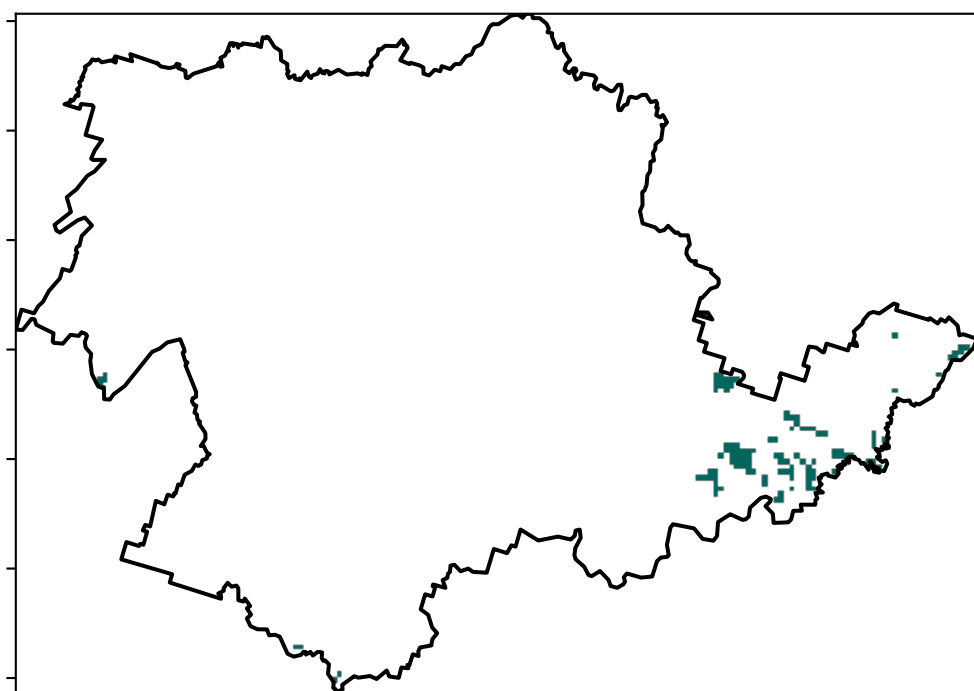
Land use and forest cover

Catchment Scale  
Land Use and Forests  
of Australia (2018).  
Derived from  
Catchment Scale Land  
Use of Australia  
(2018) and Forests  
of Australia (2018)



1 Agriculture - Grazing - Non-woodland forest

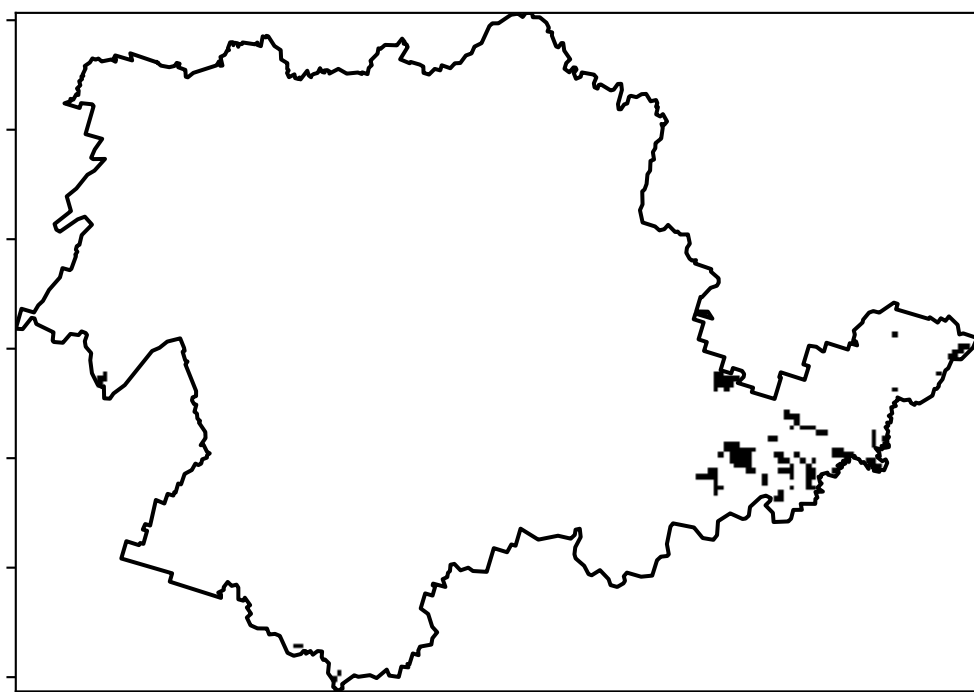
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



Proportion of vegetation cover class in area

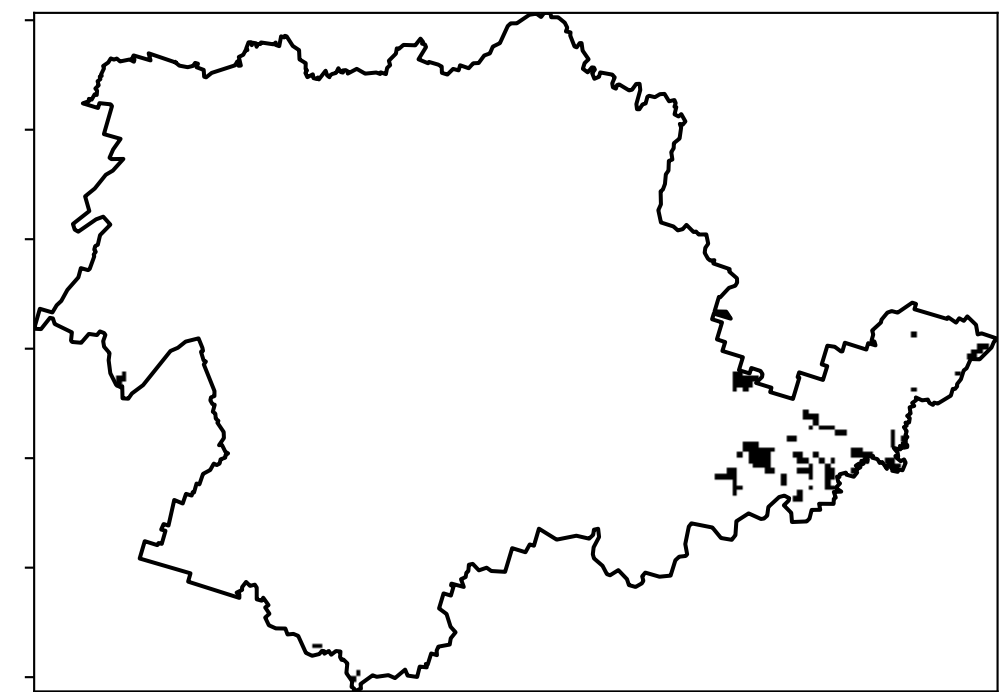


% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



Area  
protected  
100.0% of  
region  
(3,000 ha)

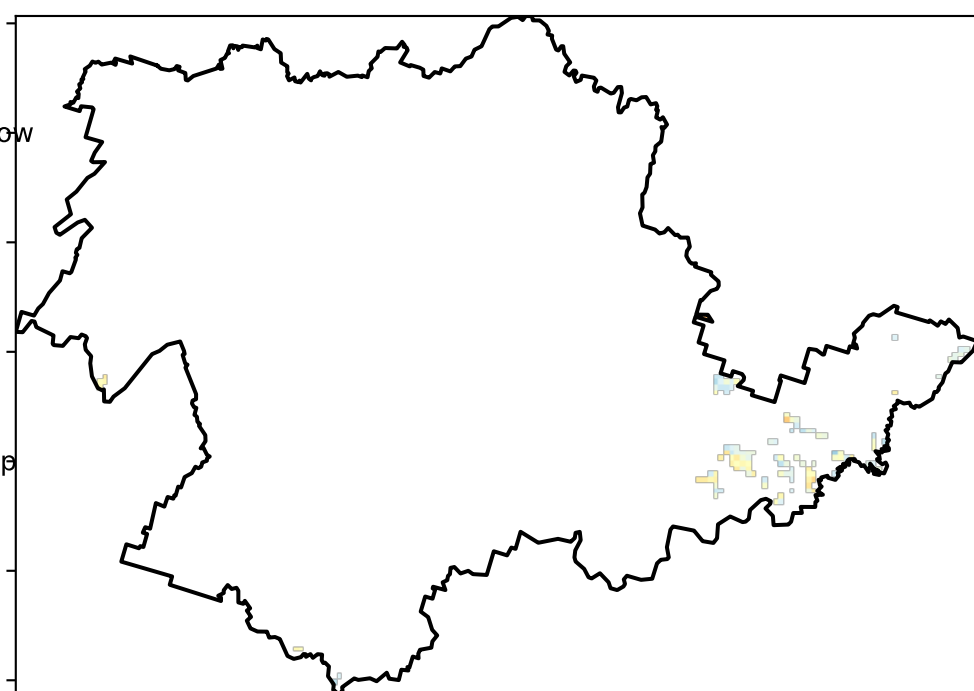
% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



Area  
protected  
100.0% of  
region  
(3,000 ha)

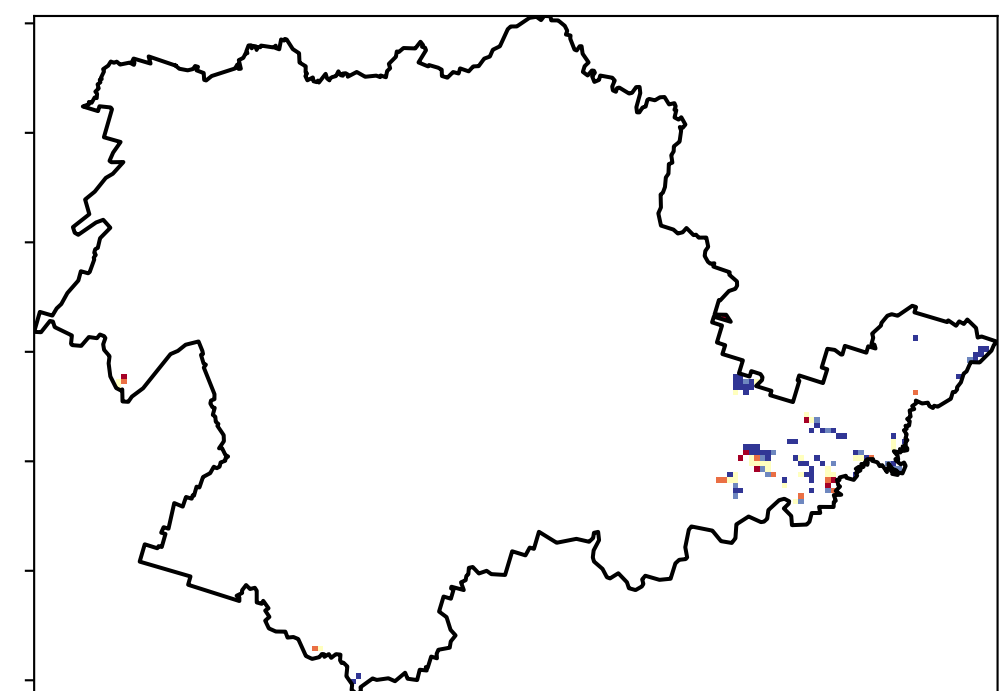
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

Anomaly show how  
many percentage  
points each  
pixel is from  
the mean. That  
is, red pixels  
are about 20%  
lower than the  
mean of that  
pixel. The mean  
is only for the  
month of the map  
using baseline  
from 2001 to  
2019.



Deciles show where the  
pixel value lies in the  
record, from highest to  
lowest, for that month.  
That is, red pixels are  
in the lowest 10% of  
records for that month of  
the map using baseline  
from 2001 to 2019.

Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]



tern  
Ecosystem Research Infrastructure



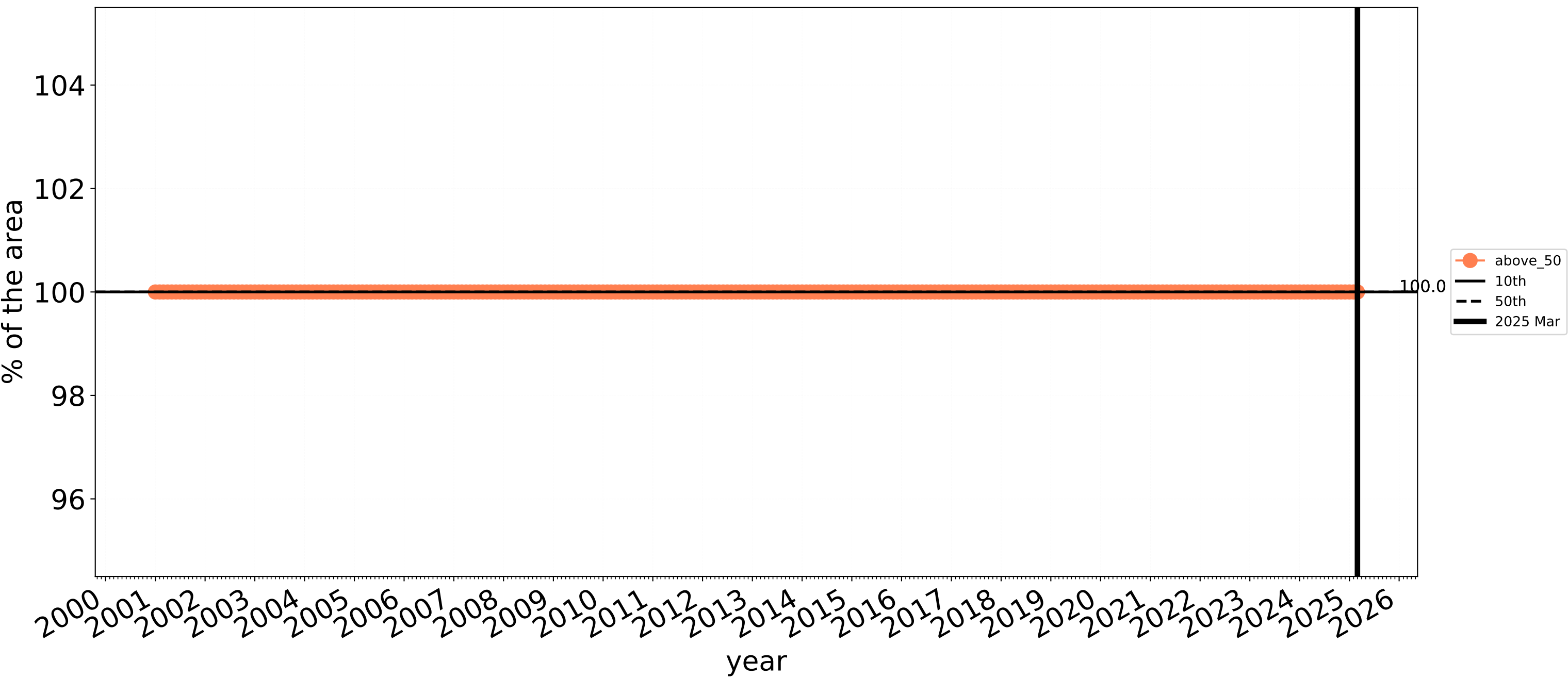
National  
Landcare  
Programme



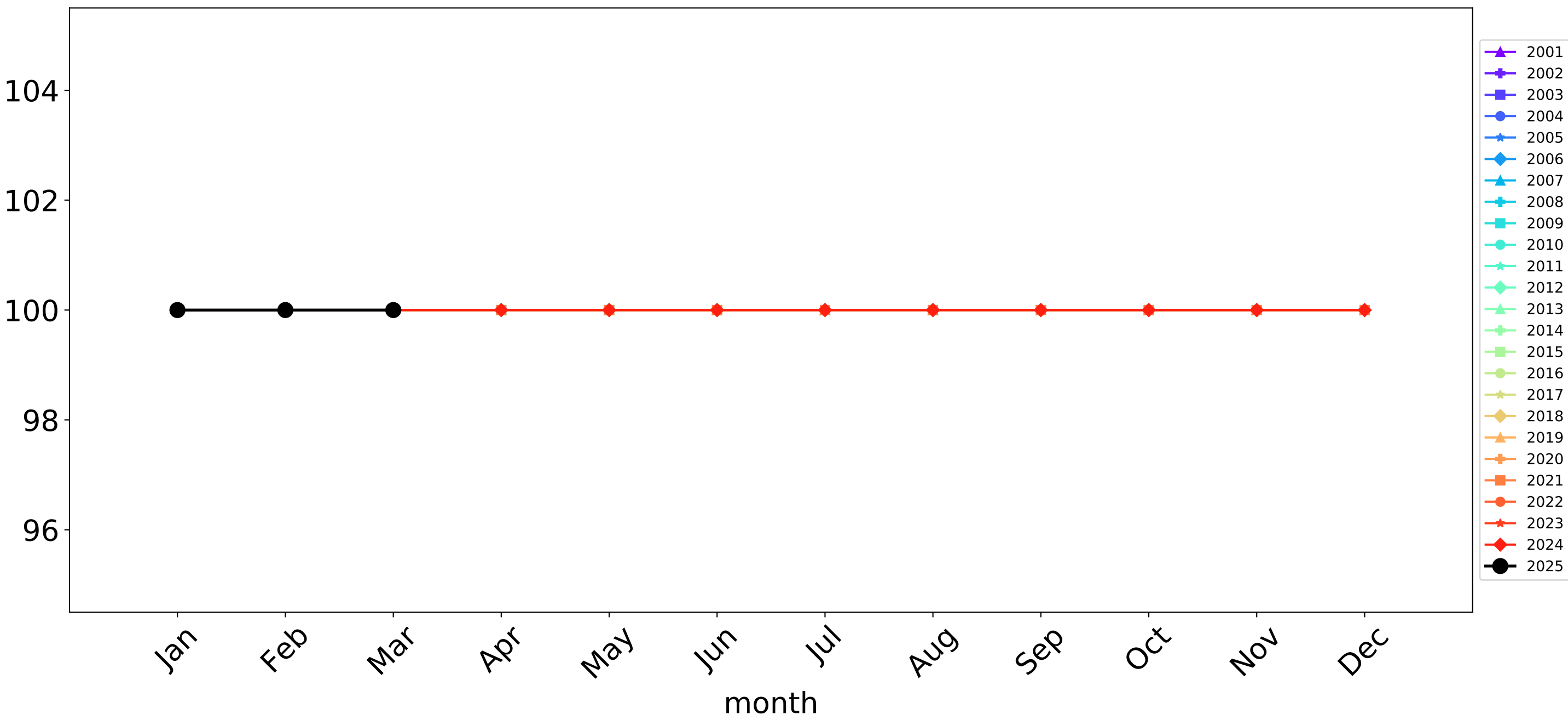


Grazing - Forest (non woodland) timeseries

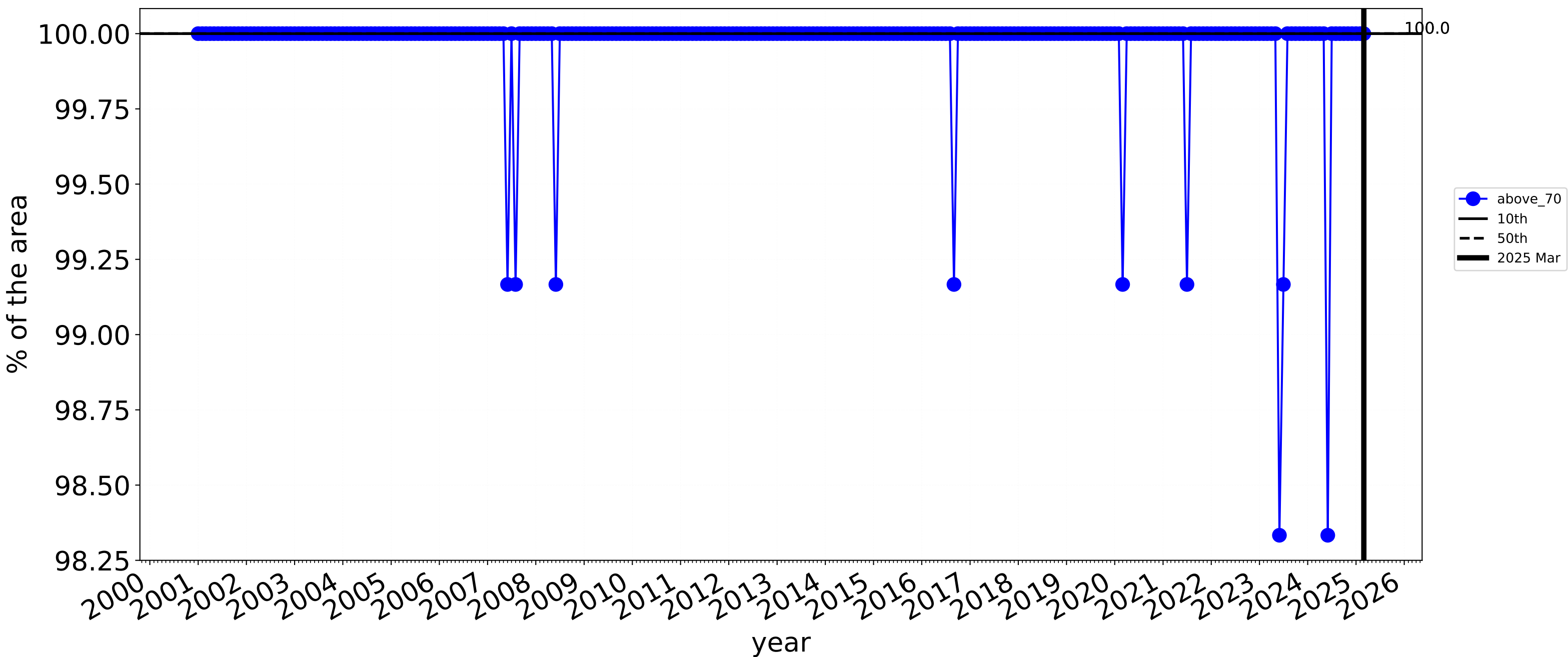
Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)



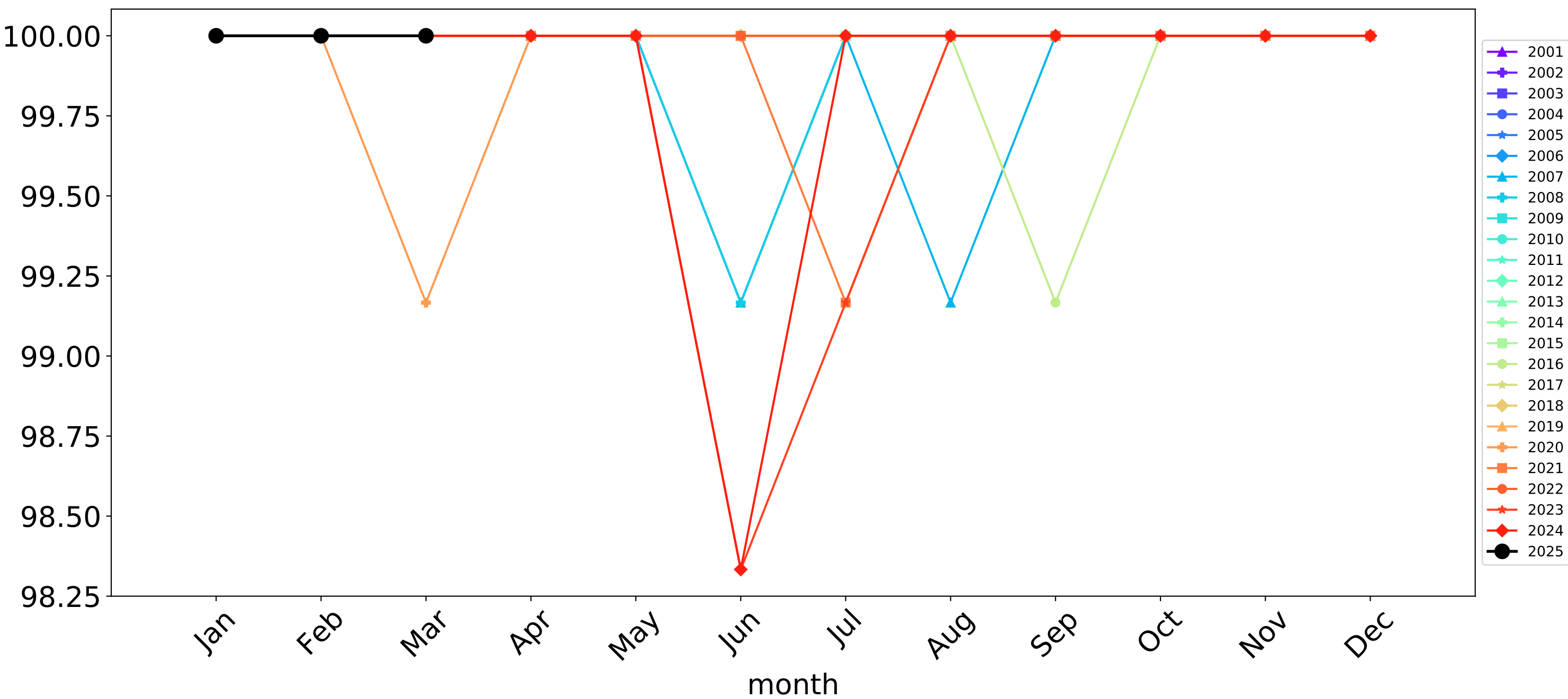
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



Proportion of the area protected from water erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 70%)



Water erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov>70%)



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Ecosystem Research Infrastructure



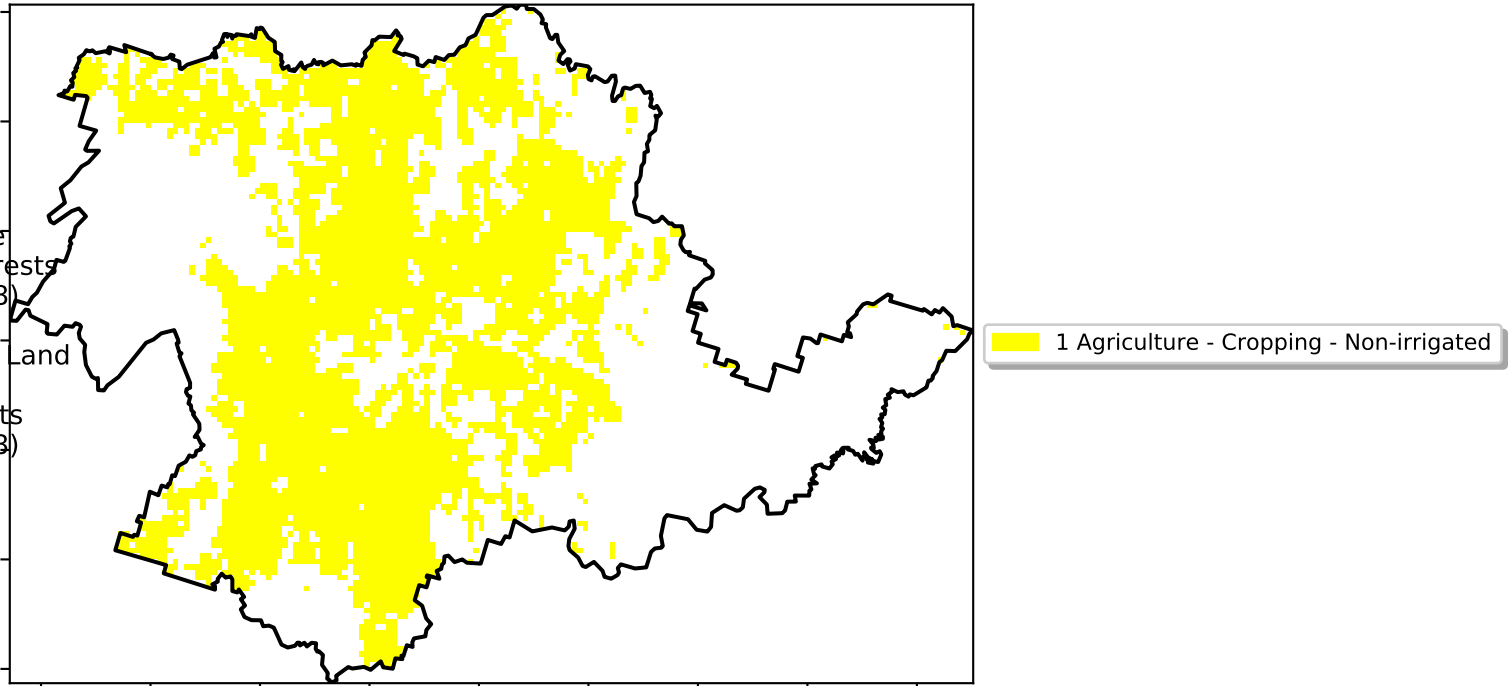
National  
Landcare  
Programme



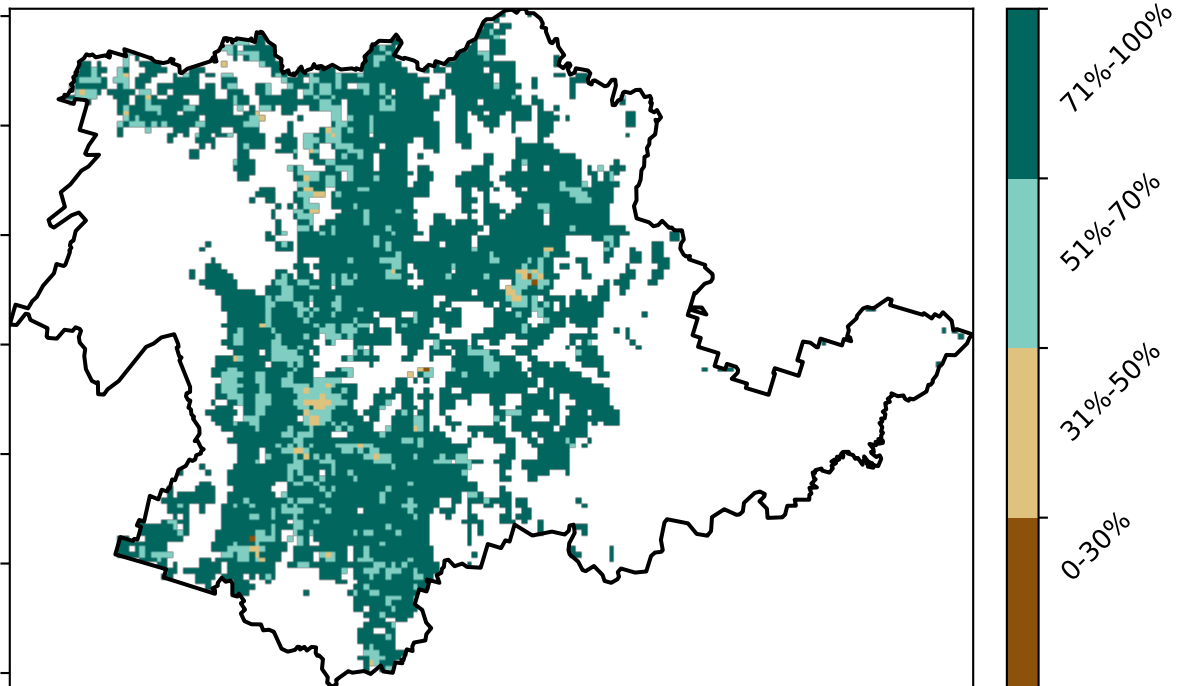
Cropping

Land use and forest cover

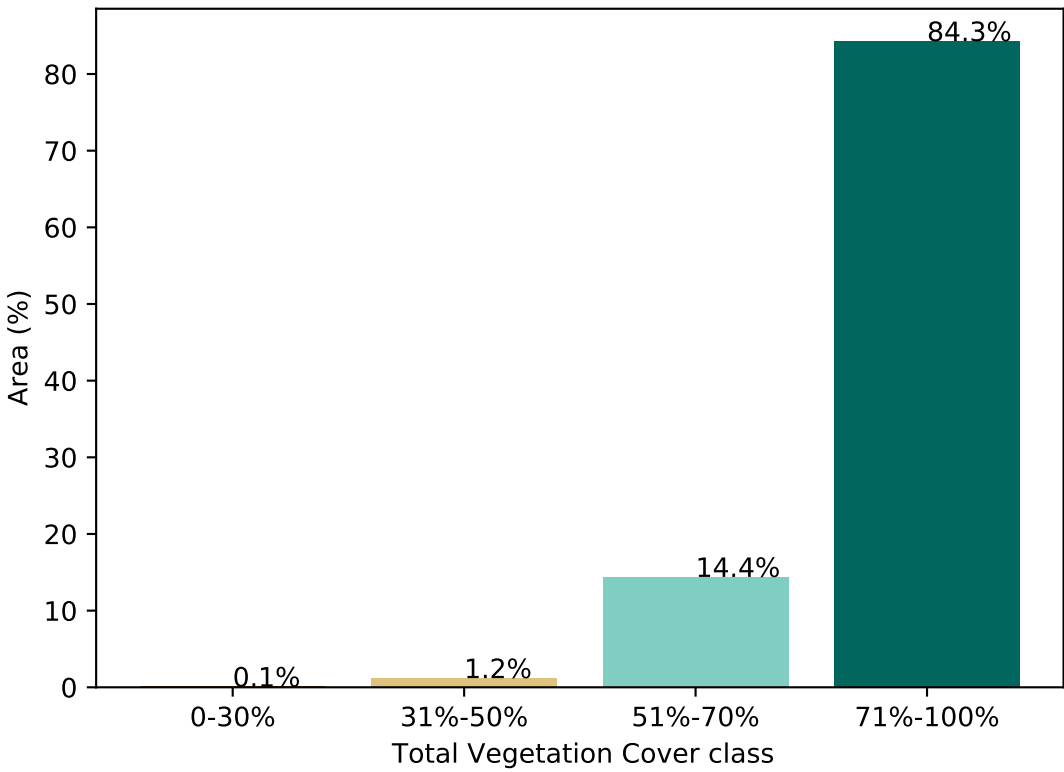
Catchment Scale  
Land Use and Forests  
of Australia (2018).  
Derived from  
Catchment Scale Land  
Use of Australia  
(2018) and Forests  
of Australia (2018)



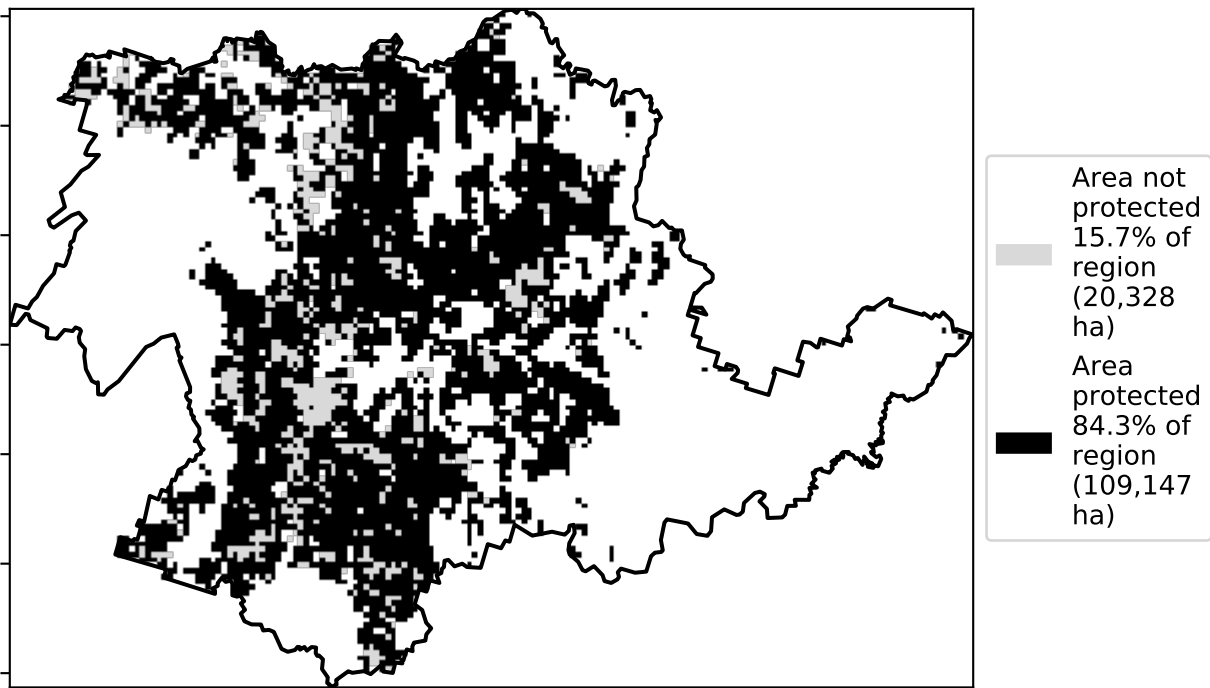
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



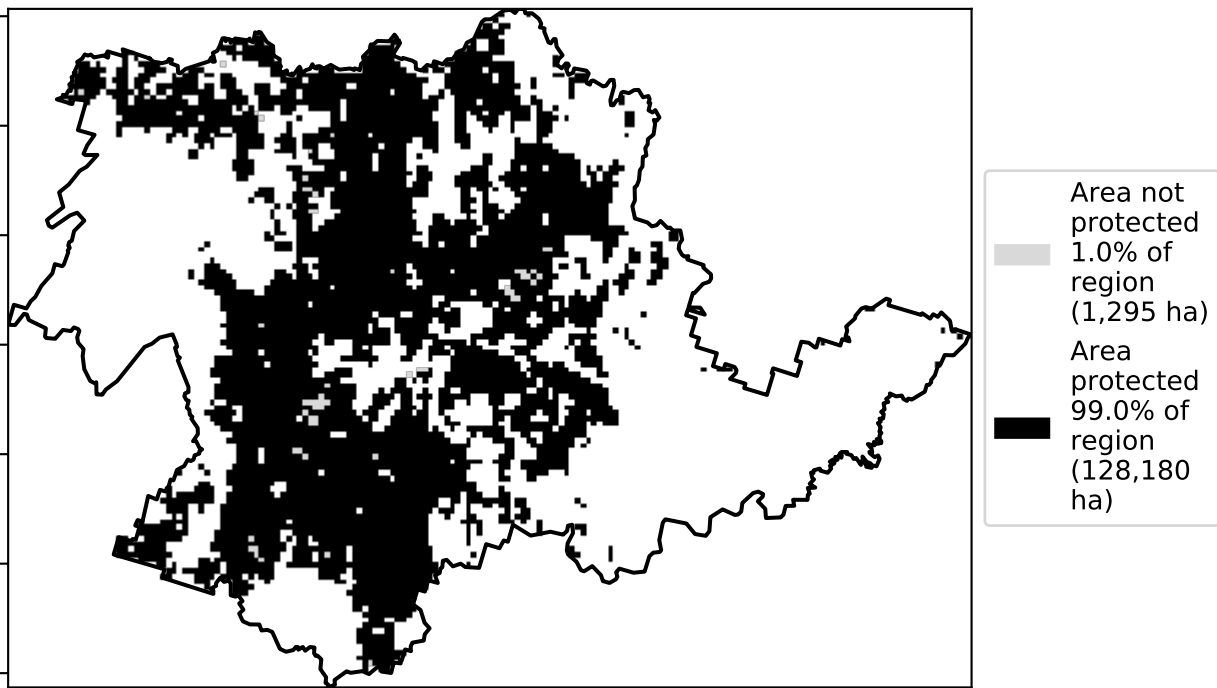
Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)

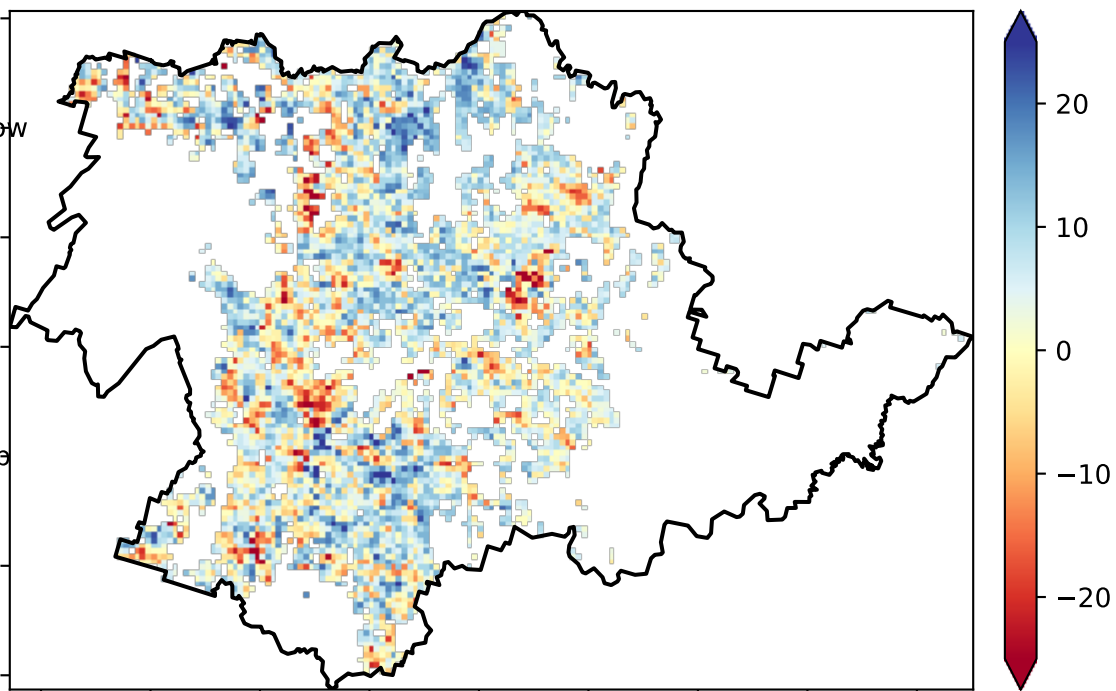


% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



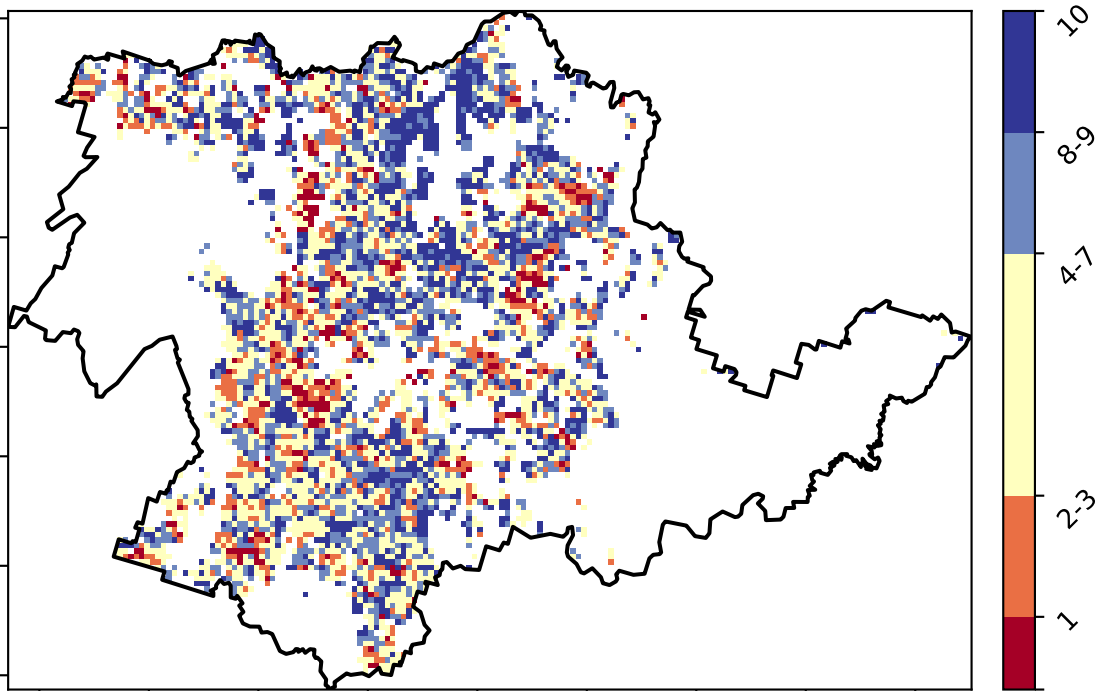
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

Anomaly show how many percentage points each pixel is from the mean. That is, red pixels are about 20% lower than the mean of that pixel. The mean is only for the month of the map using baseline from 2001 to 2019.



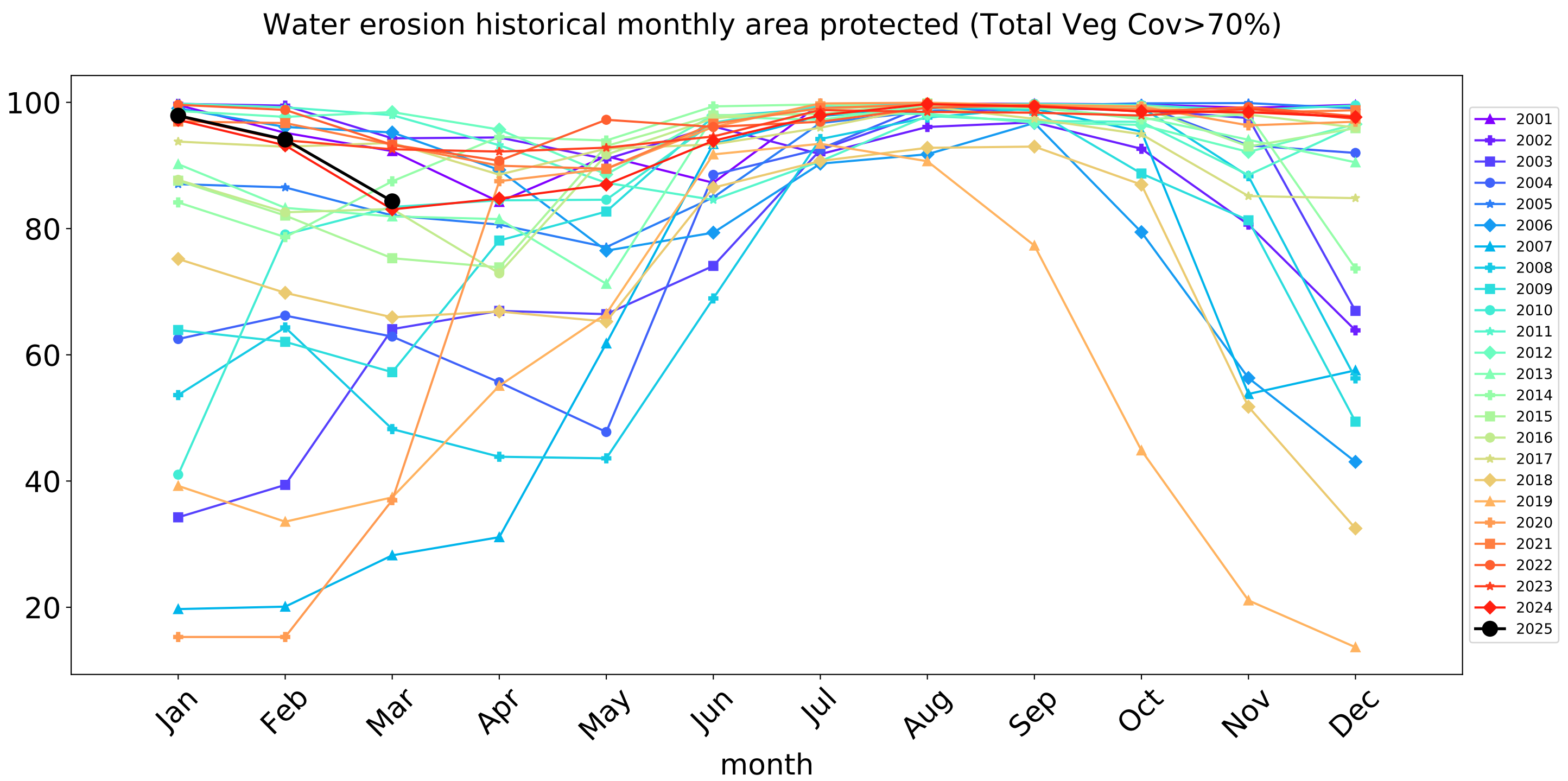
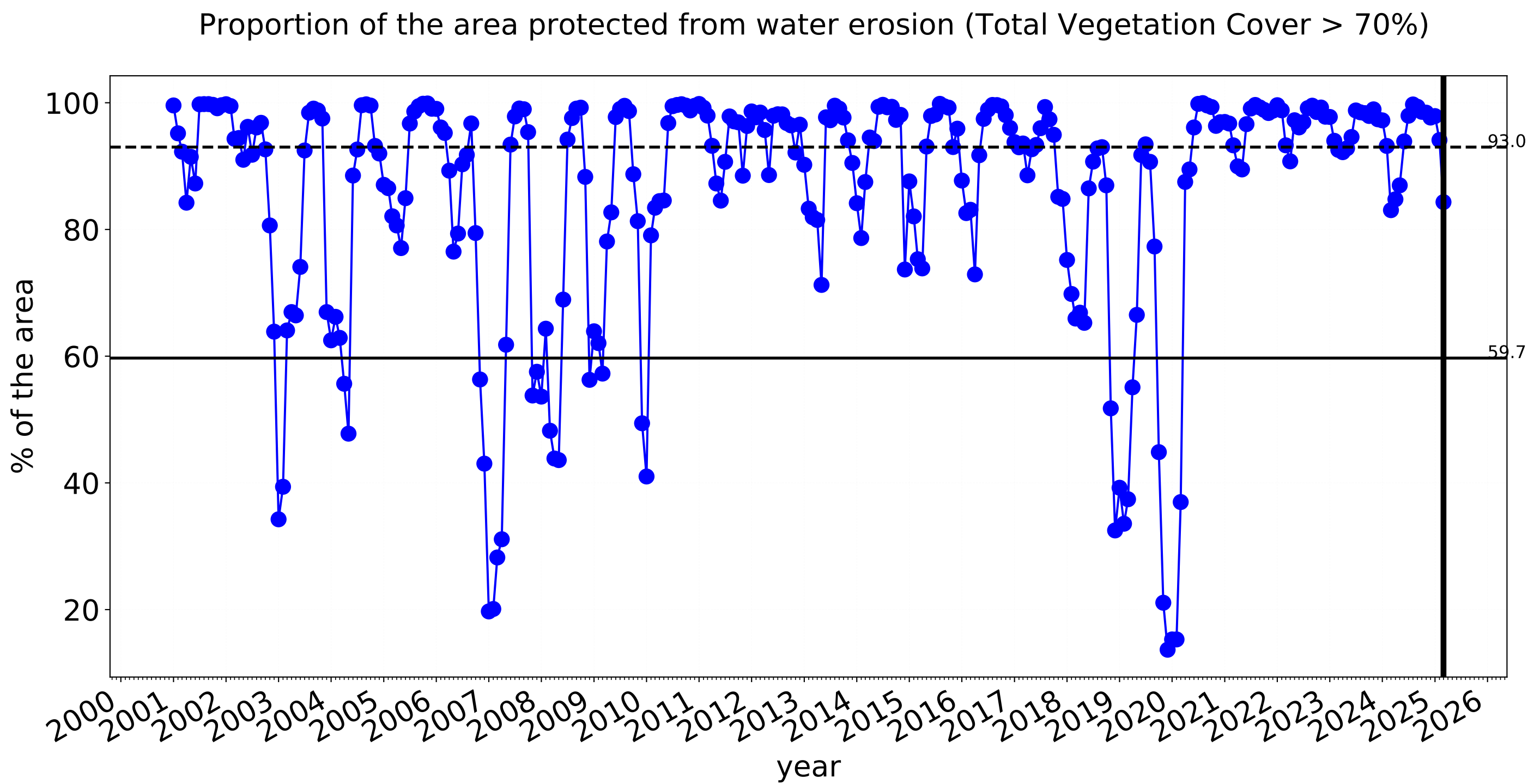
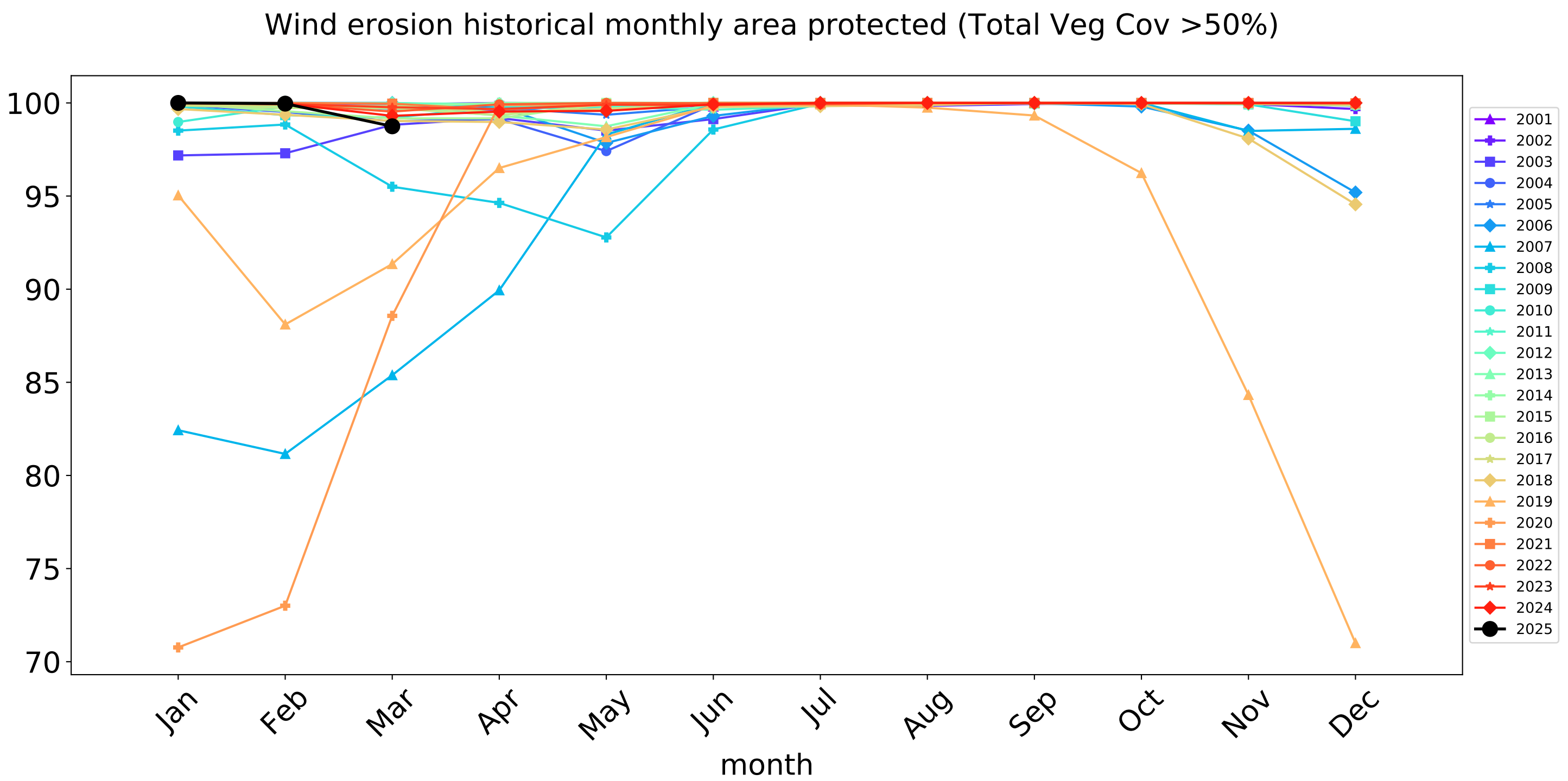
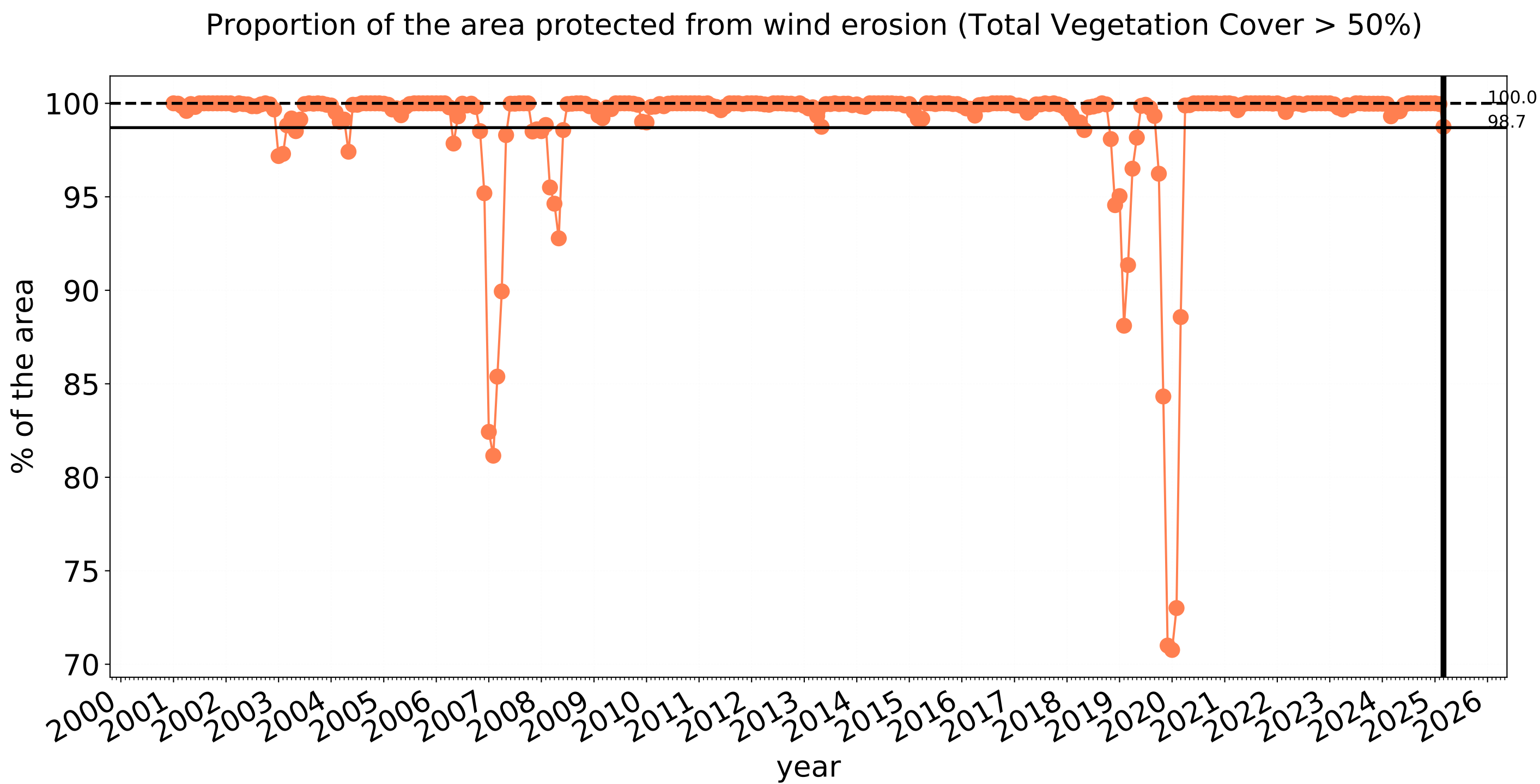
Deciles show where the pixel value lies in the record, from highest to lowest, for that month. That is, red pixels are in the lowest 10% of records for that month of the map using baseline from 2001 to 2019.

Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]





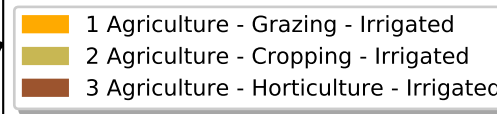
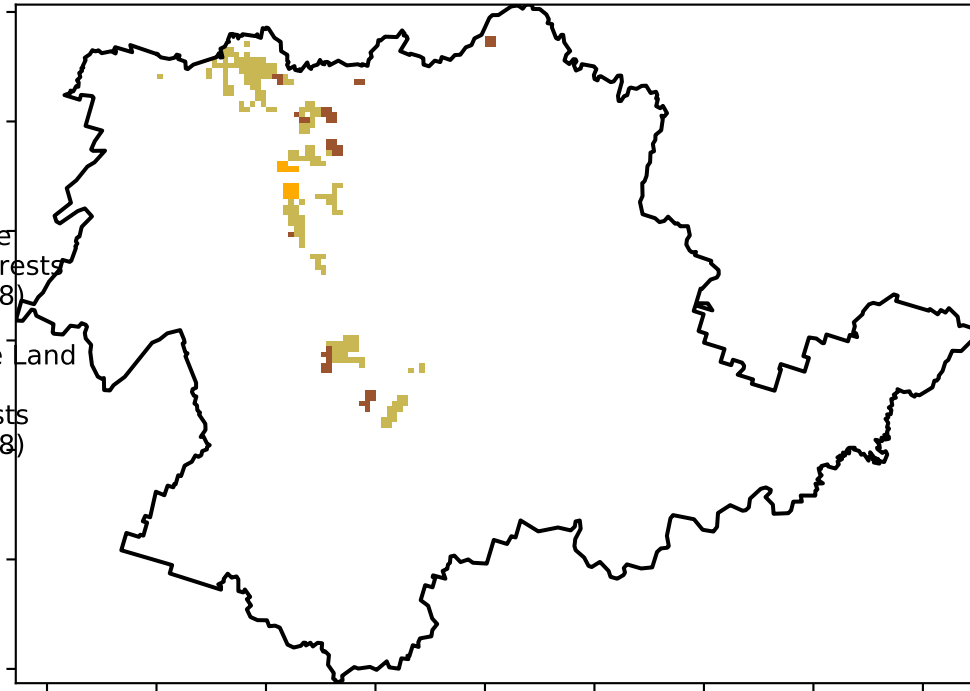
Cropping timeseries



# Irrigation

Land use and forest cover

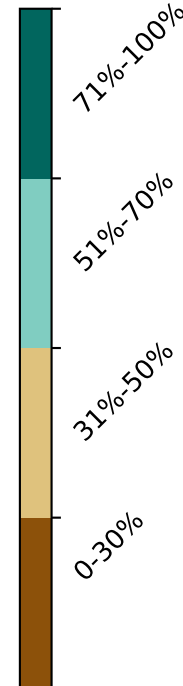
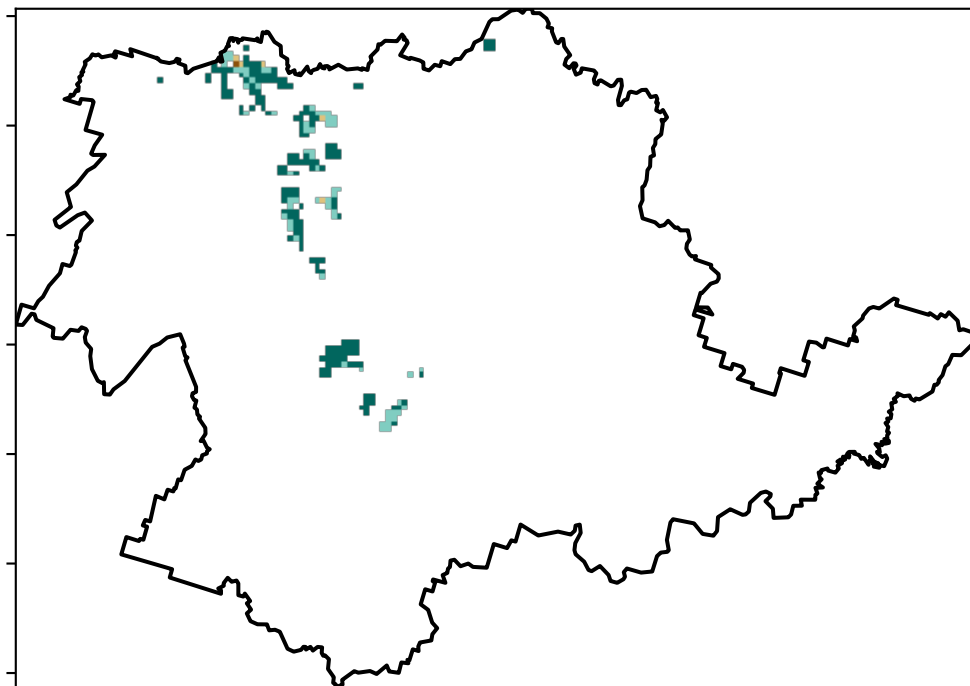
Catchment Scale Land Use and Forests of Australia (2018). Derived from Catchment Scale Land Use of Australia (2018) and Forests of Australia (2018)



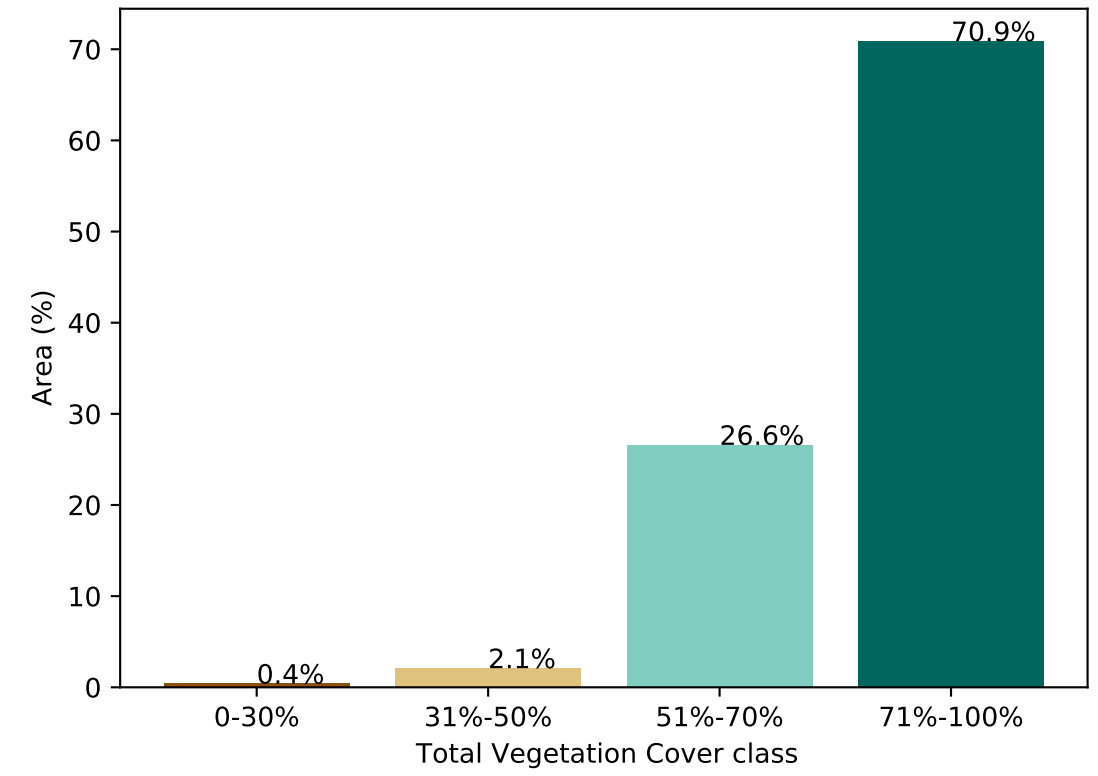
Proportion of each land class in area



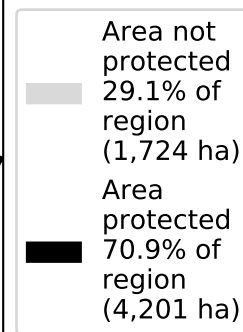
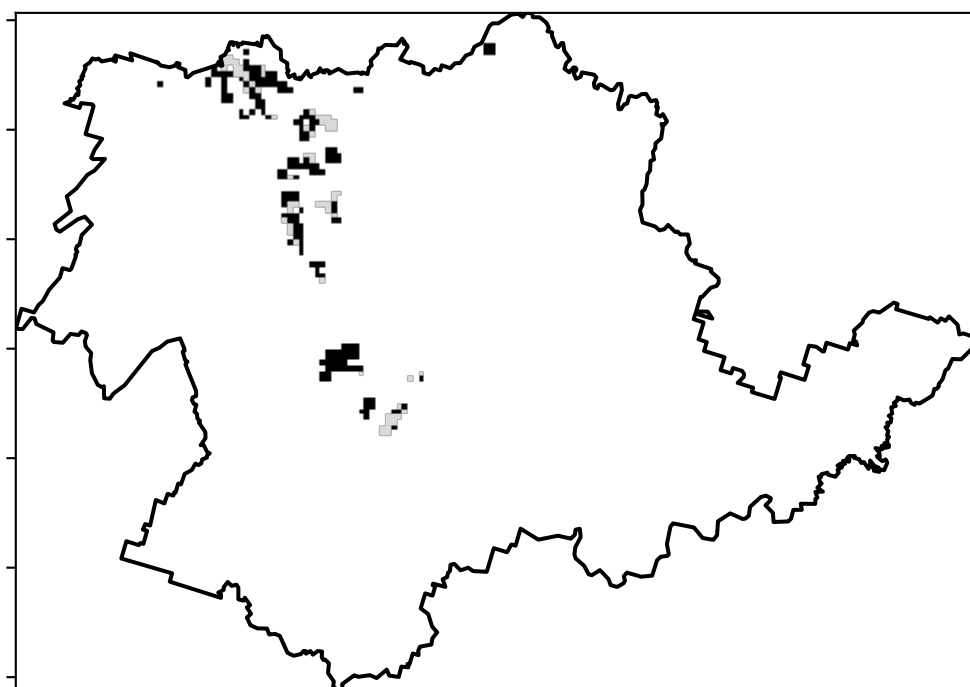
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



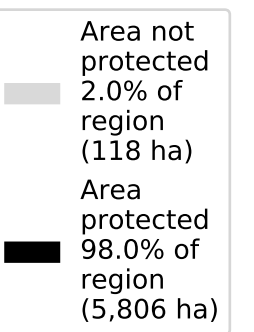
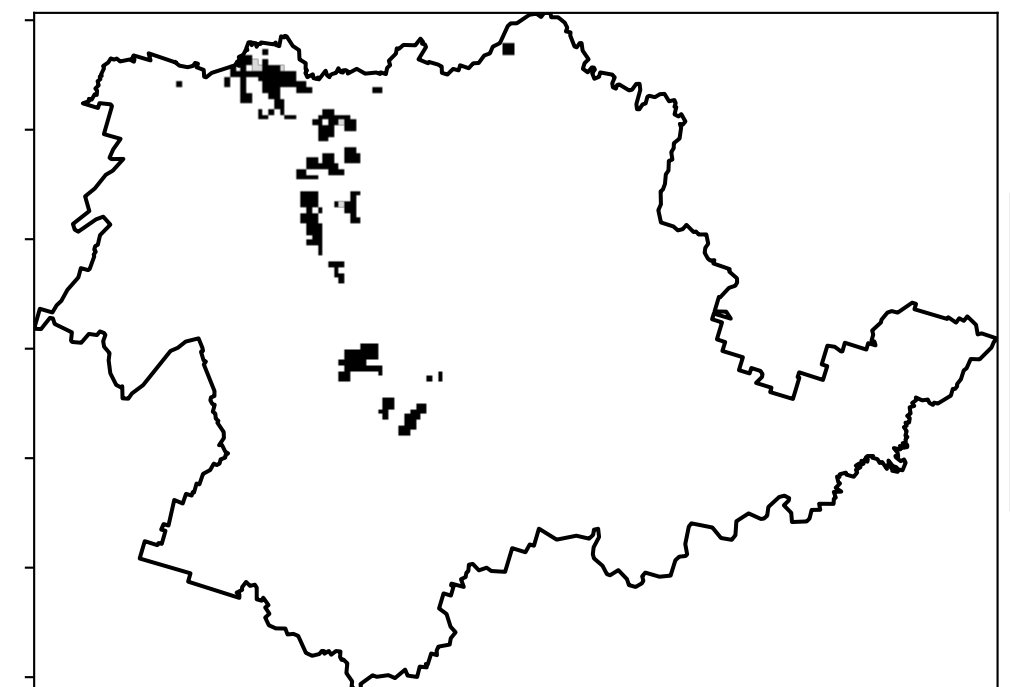
Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)

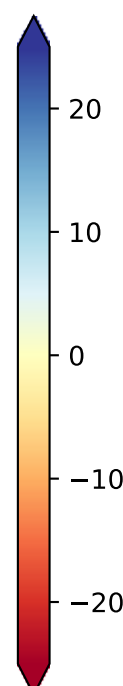
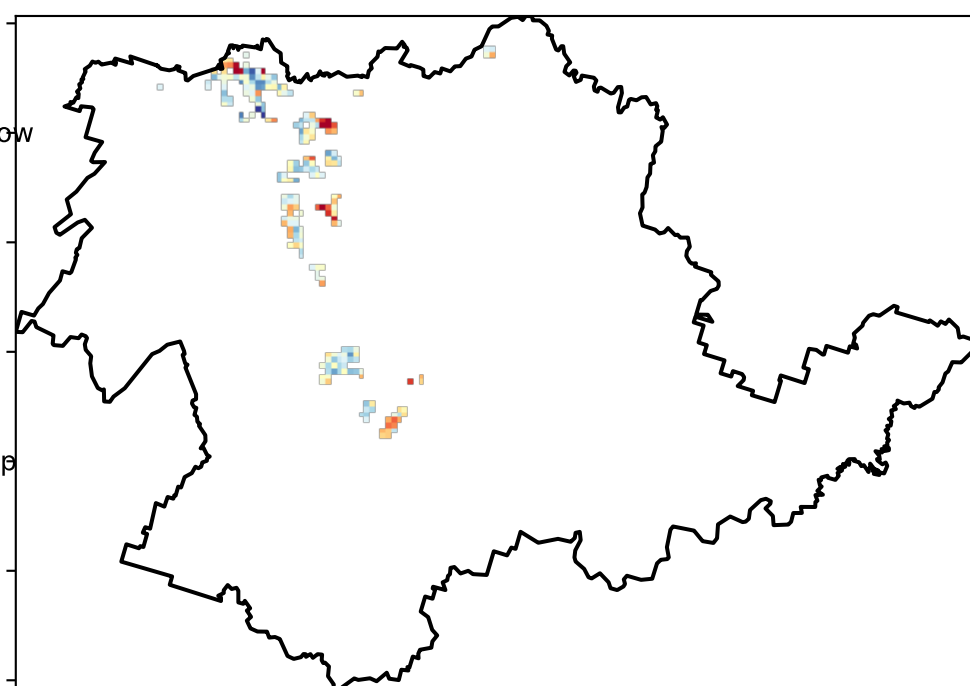


% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



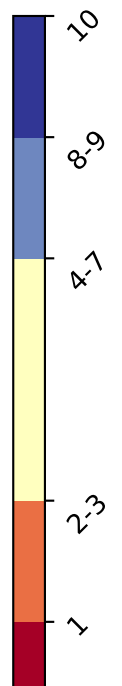
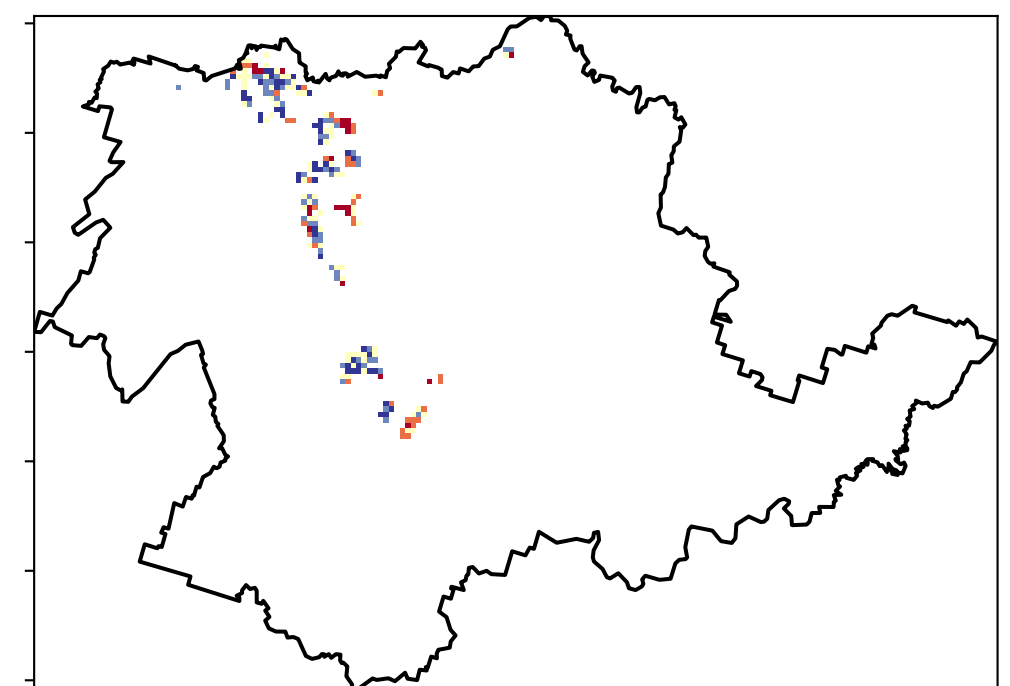
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

Anomaly show how many percentage points each pixel is from the mean. That is, red pixels are about 20% lower than the mean of that pixel. The mean is only for the month of the map using baseline from 2001 to 2019.



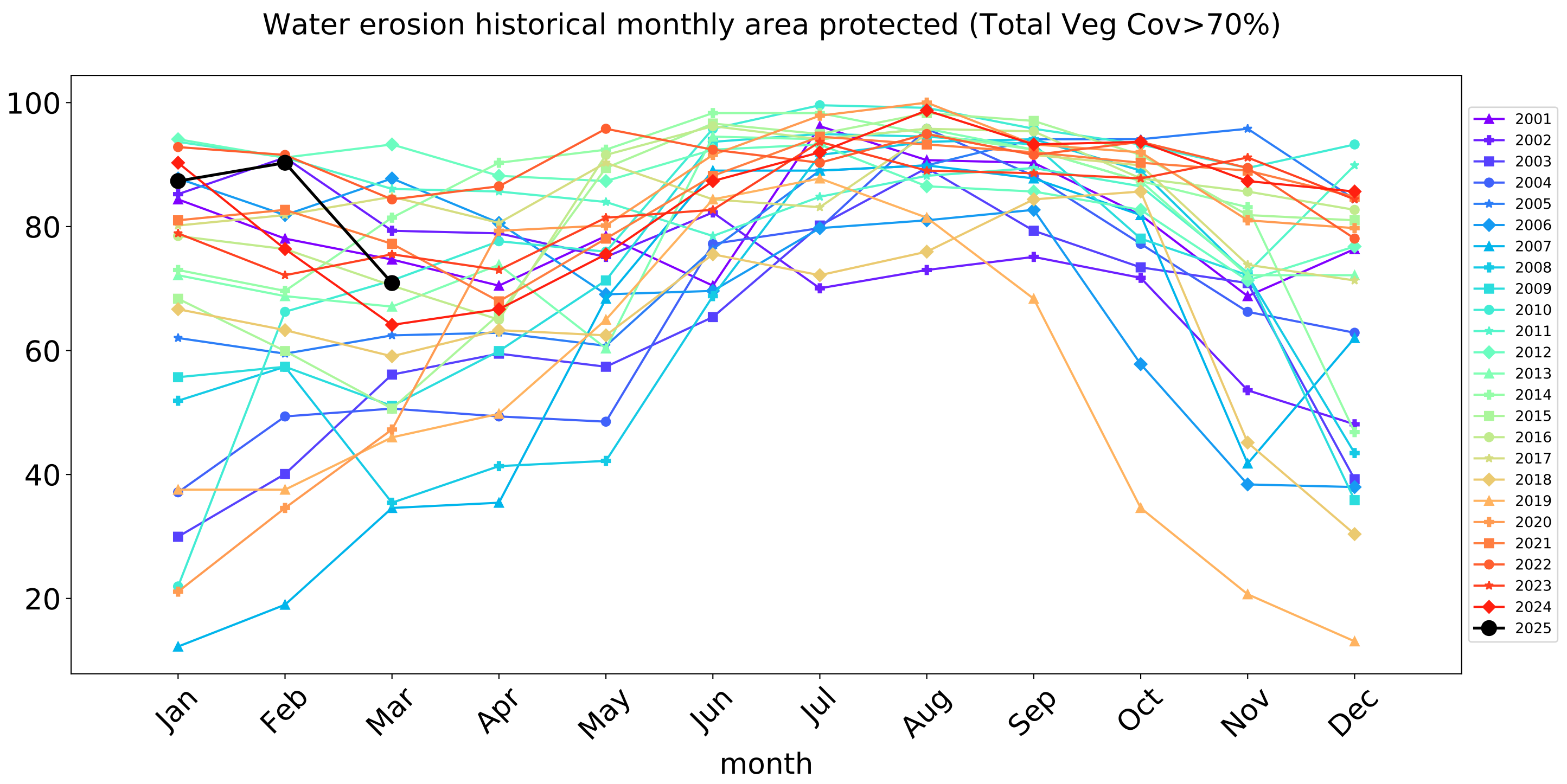
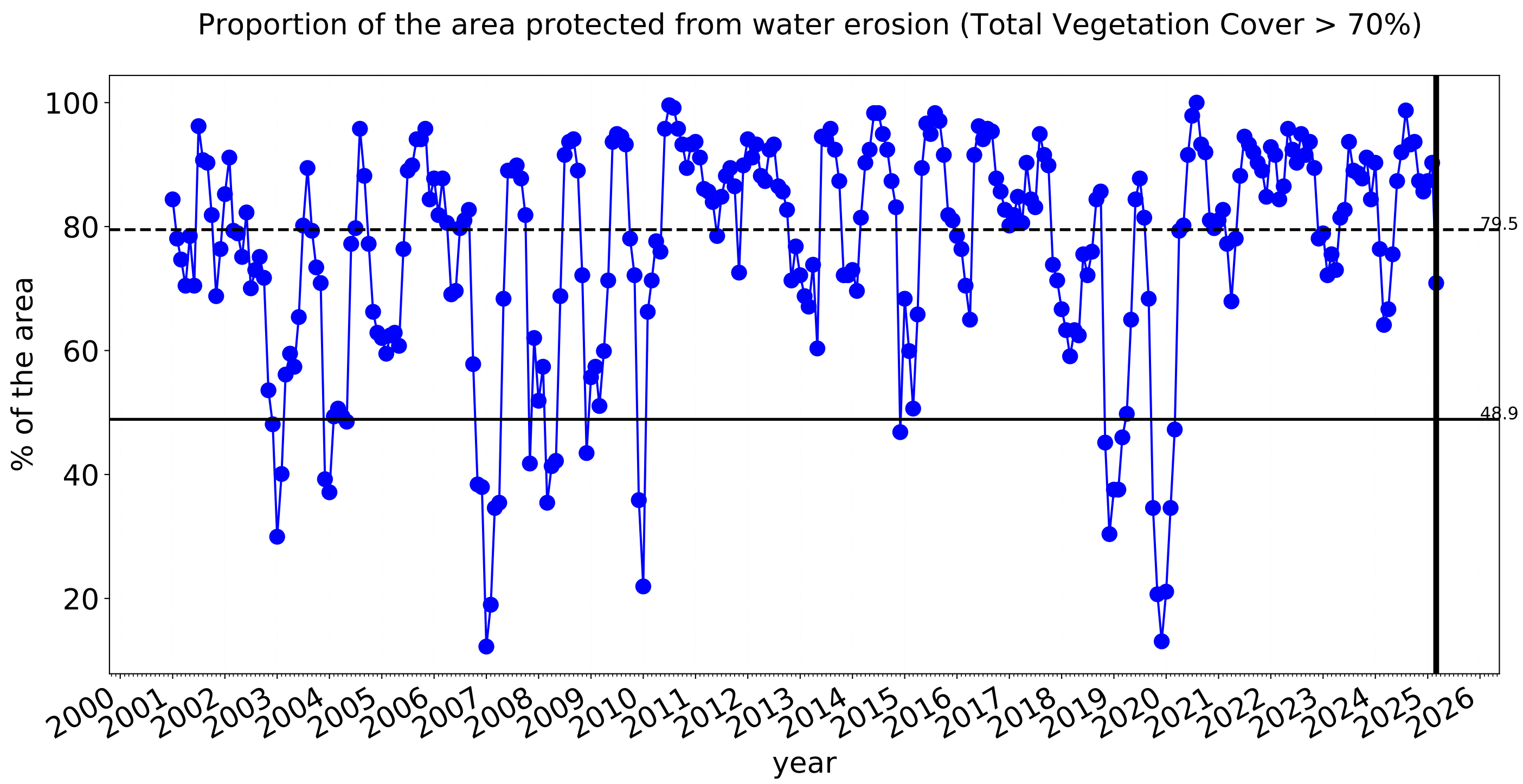
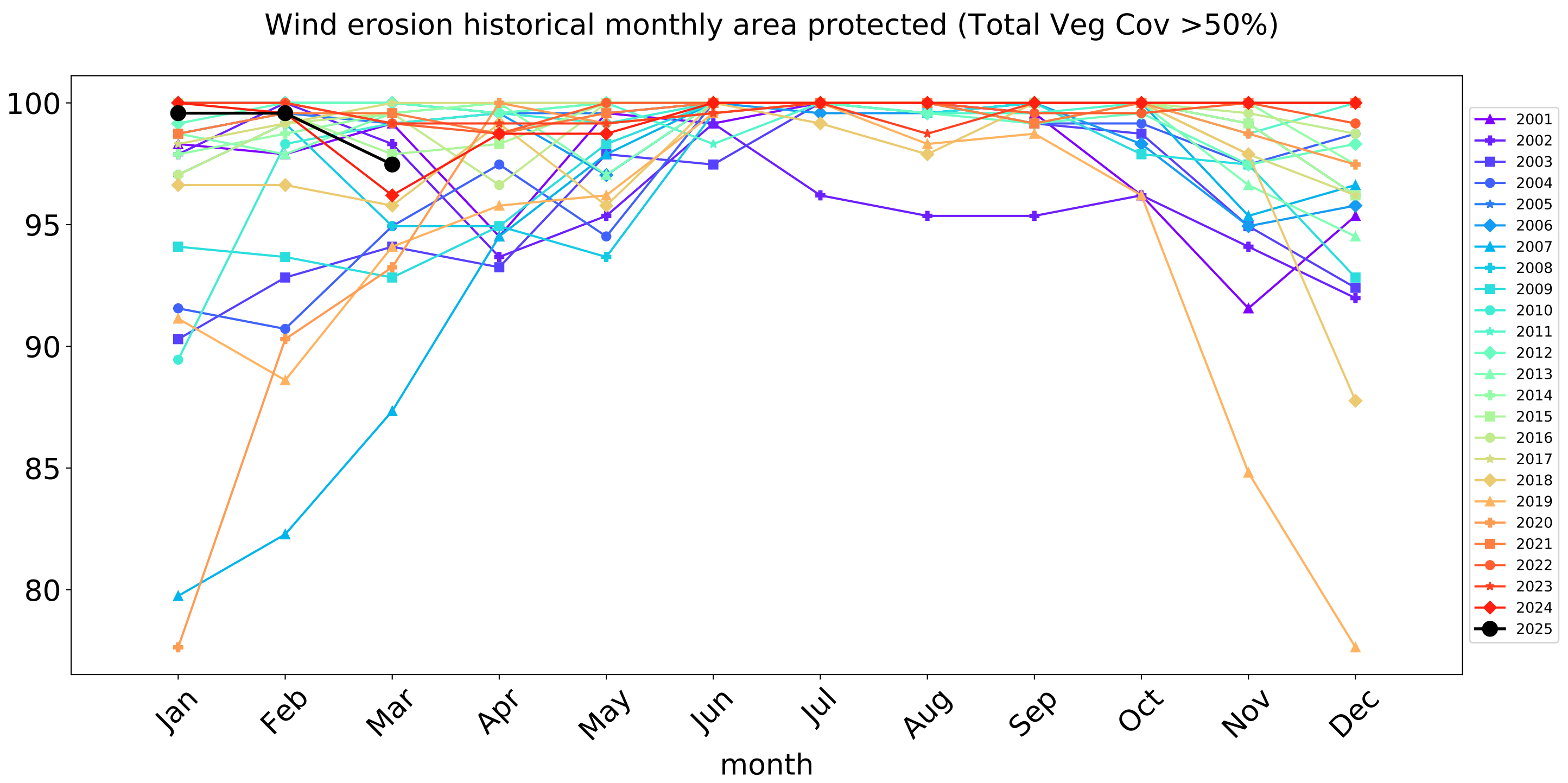
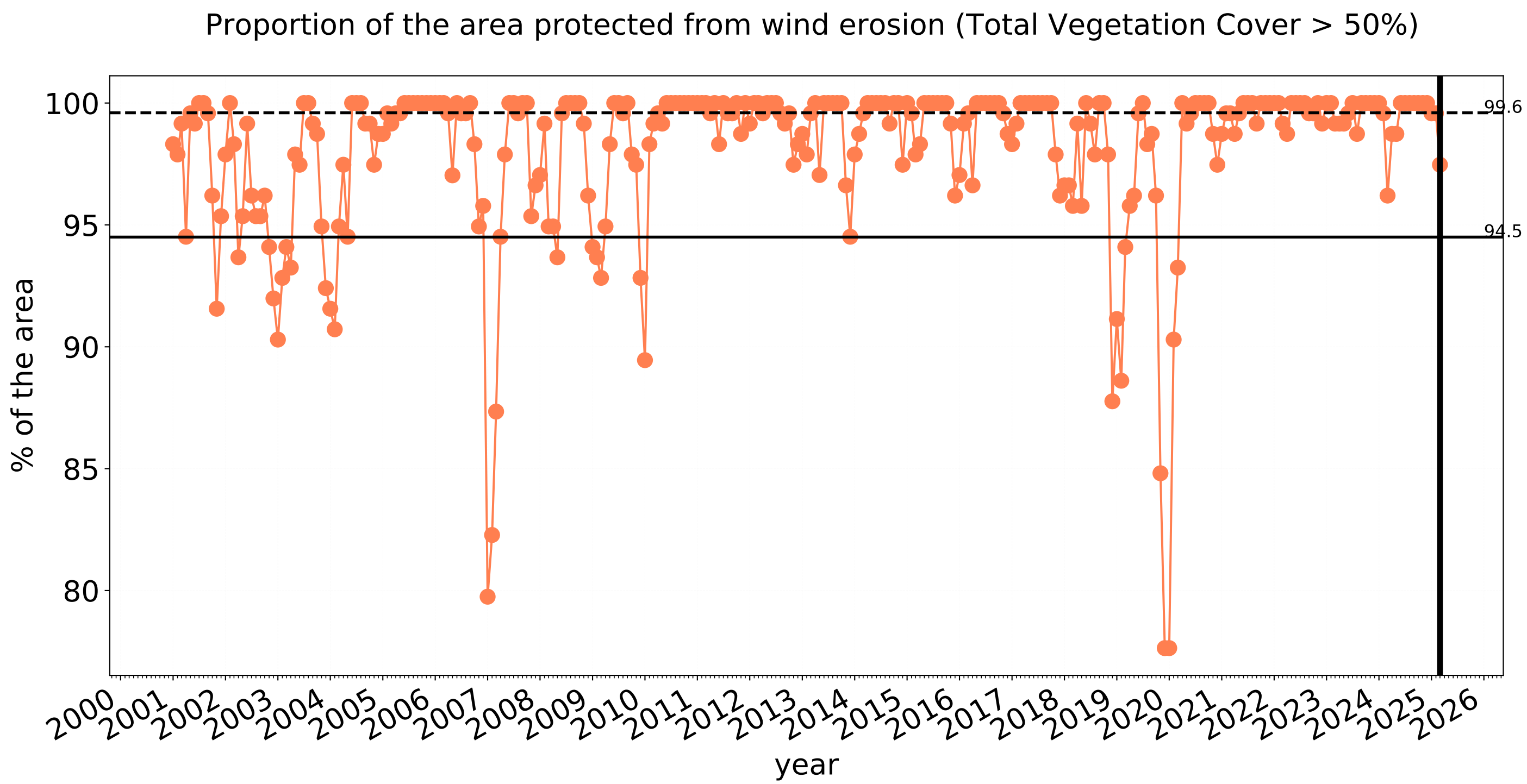
Deciles show where the pixel value lies in the record, from highest to lowest, for that month. That is, red pixels are in the lowest 10% of records for that month of the map using baseline from 2001 to 2019.

Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]





Irrigation timeseries



Production native forests and plantation forests

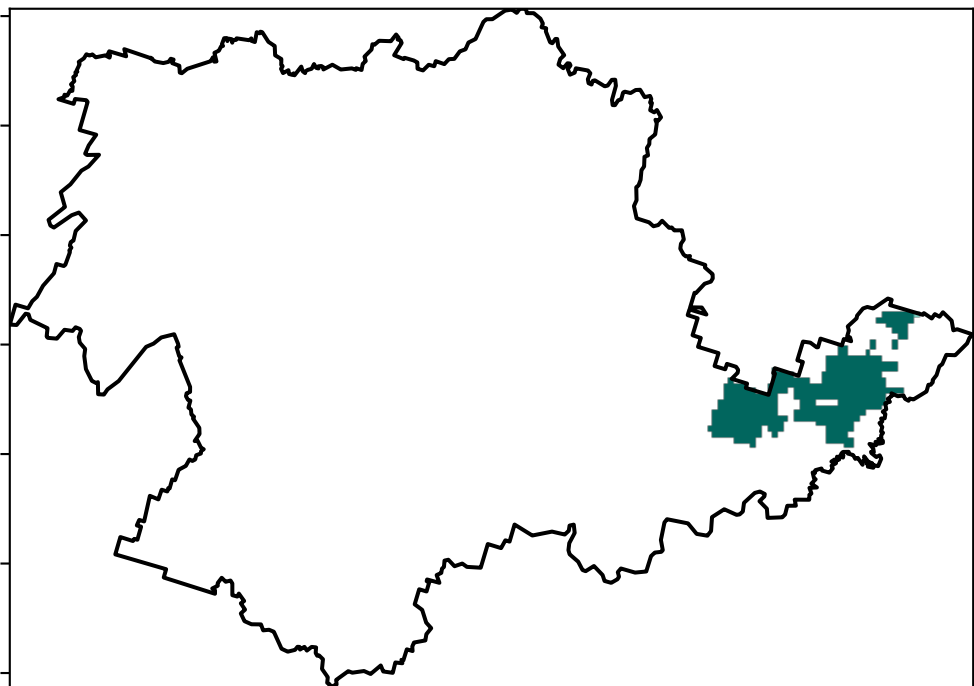
Land use and forest cover

Catchment Scale  
Land Use and Forests  
of Australia (2018).  
Derived from  
Catchment Scale Land  
Use of Australia  
(2018) and Forests  
of Australia (2018)

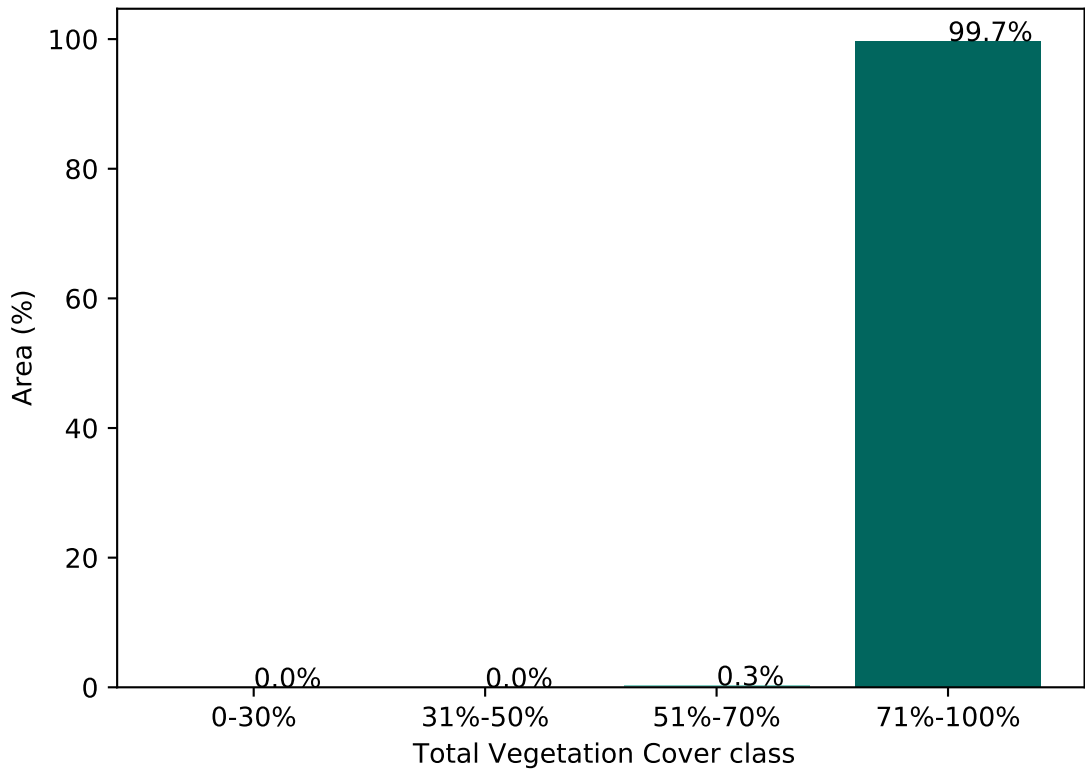


1 Production native forests and plantation forests

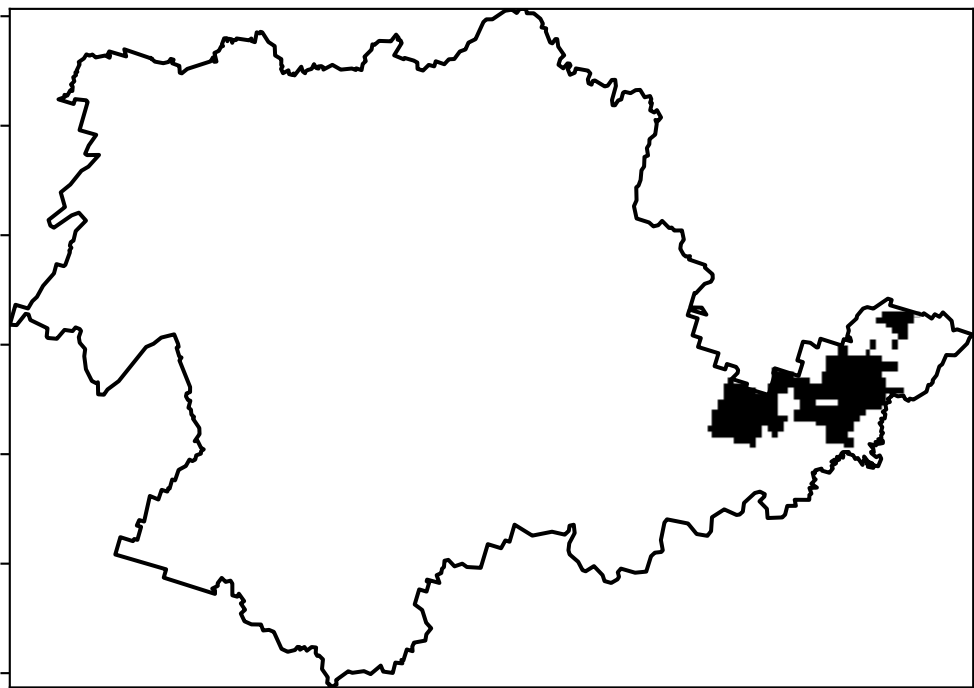
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



Proportion of vegetation cover class in area

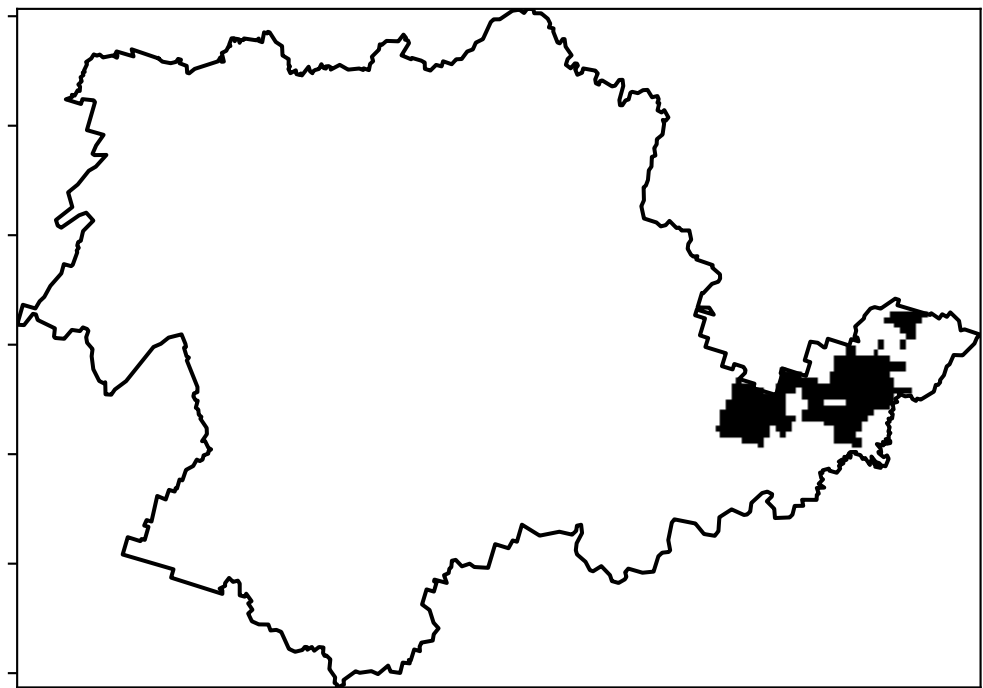


% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



Area not protected  
0.3% of region (26 ha)  
Area protected  
99.7% of region (8,749 ha)

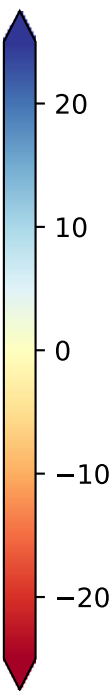
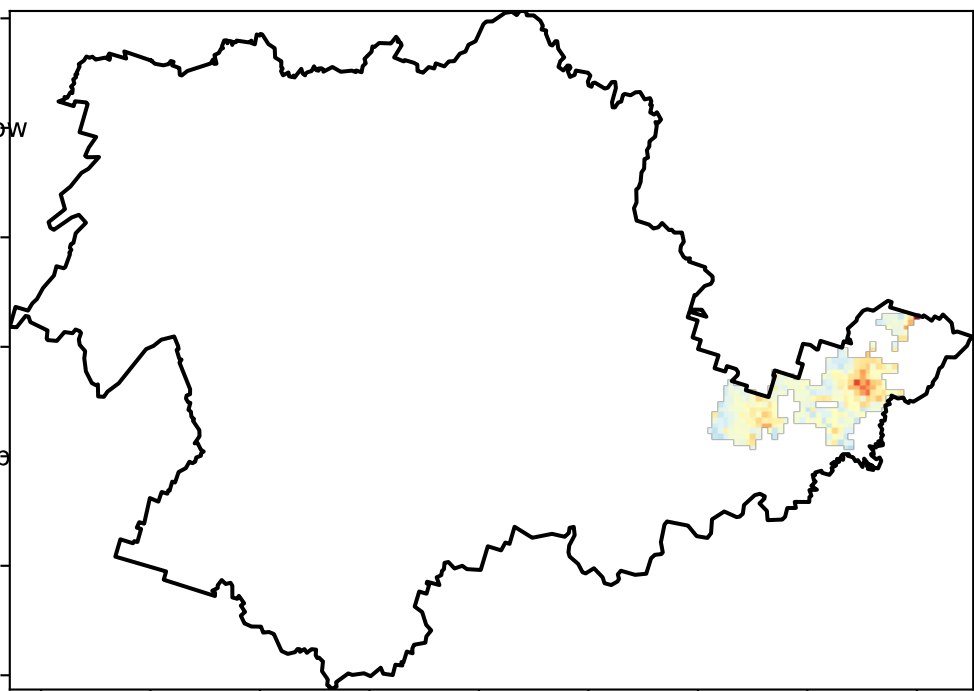
% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



Area protected  
100.0% of region (8,775 ha)

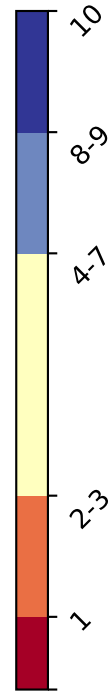
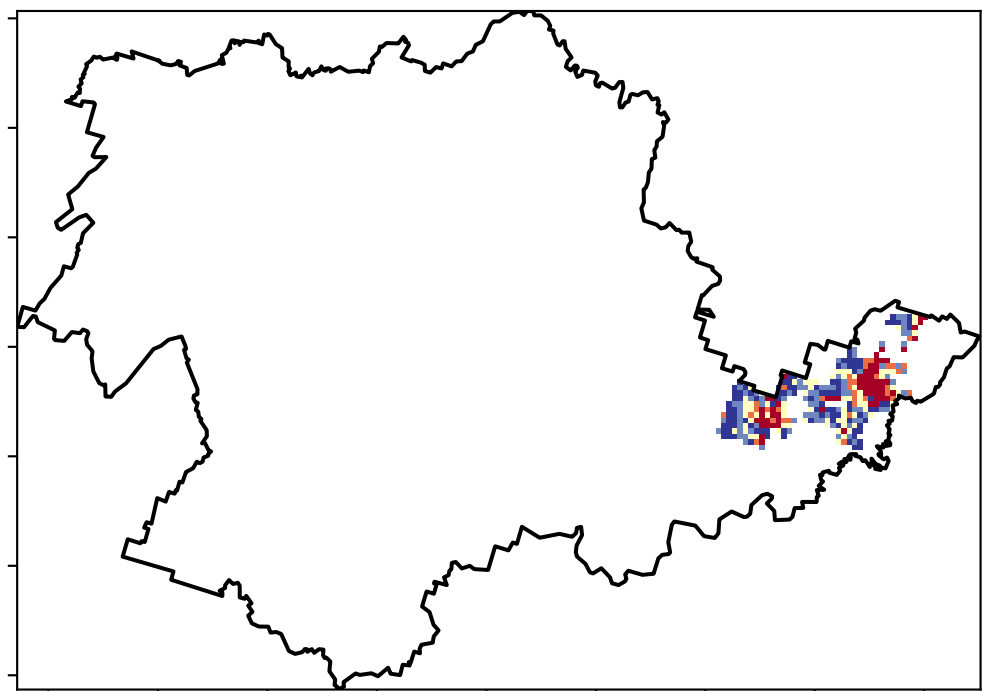
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

Anomaly show how  
many percentage  
points each  
pixel is from  
the mean. That  
is, red pixels  
are about 20%  
lower than the  
mean of that  
pixel. The mean  
is only for the  
month of the map  
using baseline  
from 2001 to  
2019.



Deciles show where the  
pixel value lies in the  
record, from highest to  
lowest, for that month.  
That is, red pixels are  
in the lowest 10% of  
records for that month of  
the map using baseline  
from 2001 to 2019.

Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]



Ecosystem Research Infrastructure

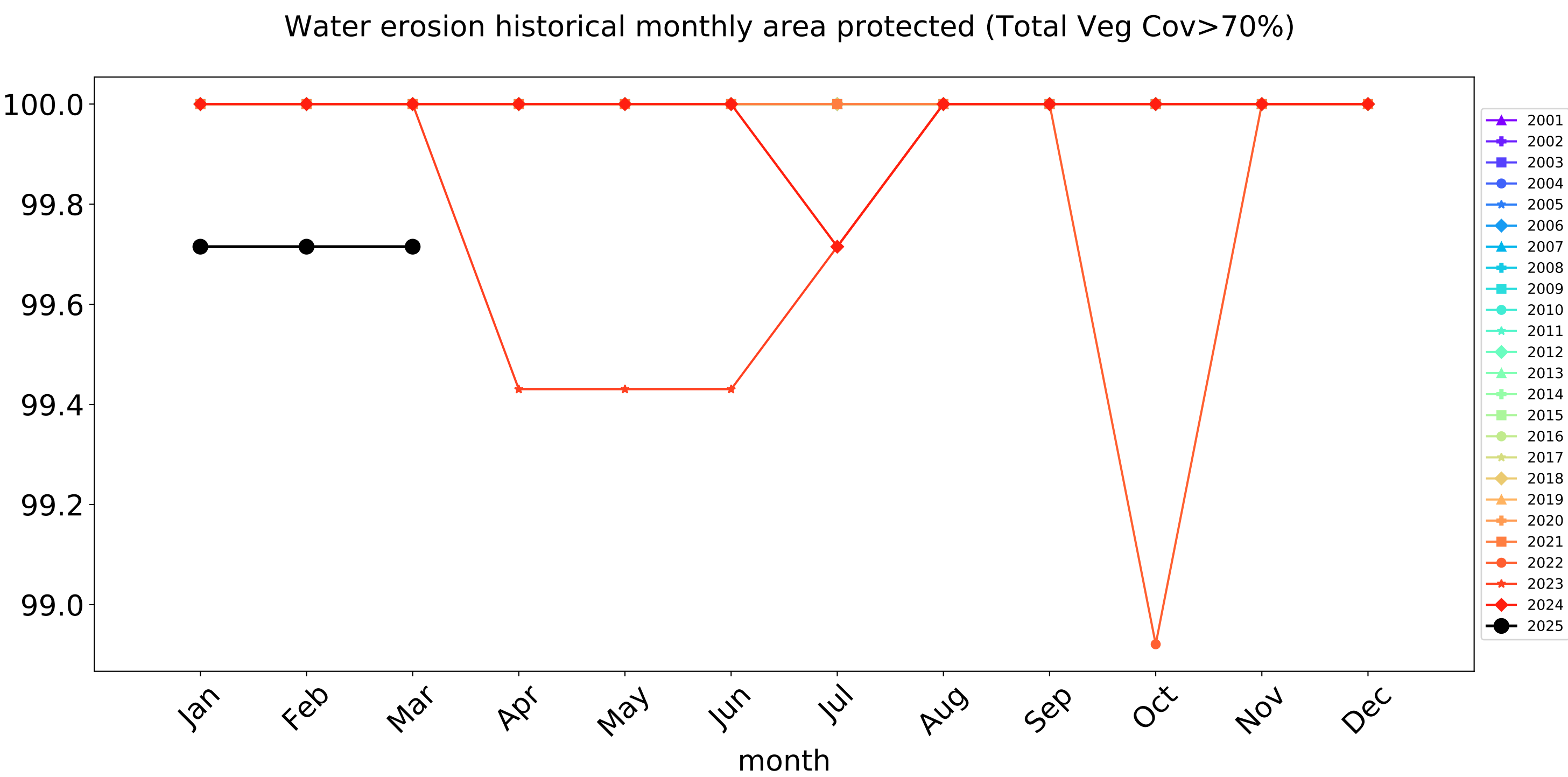
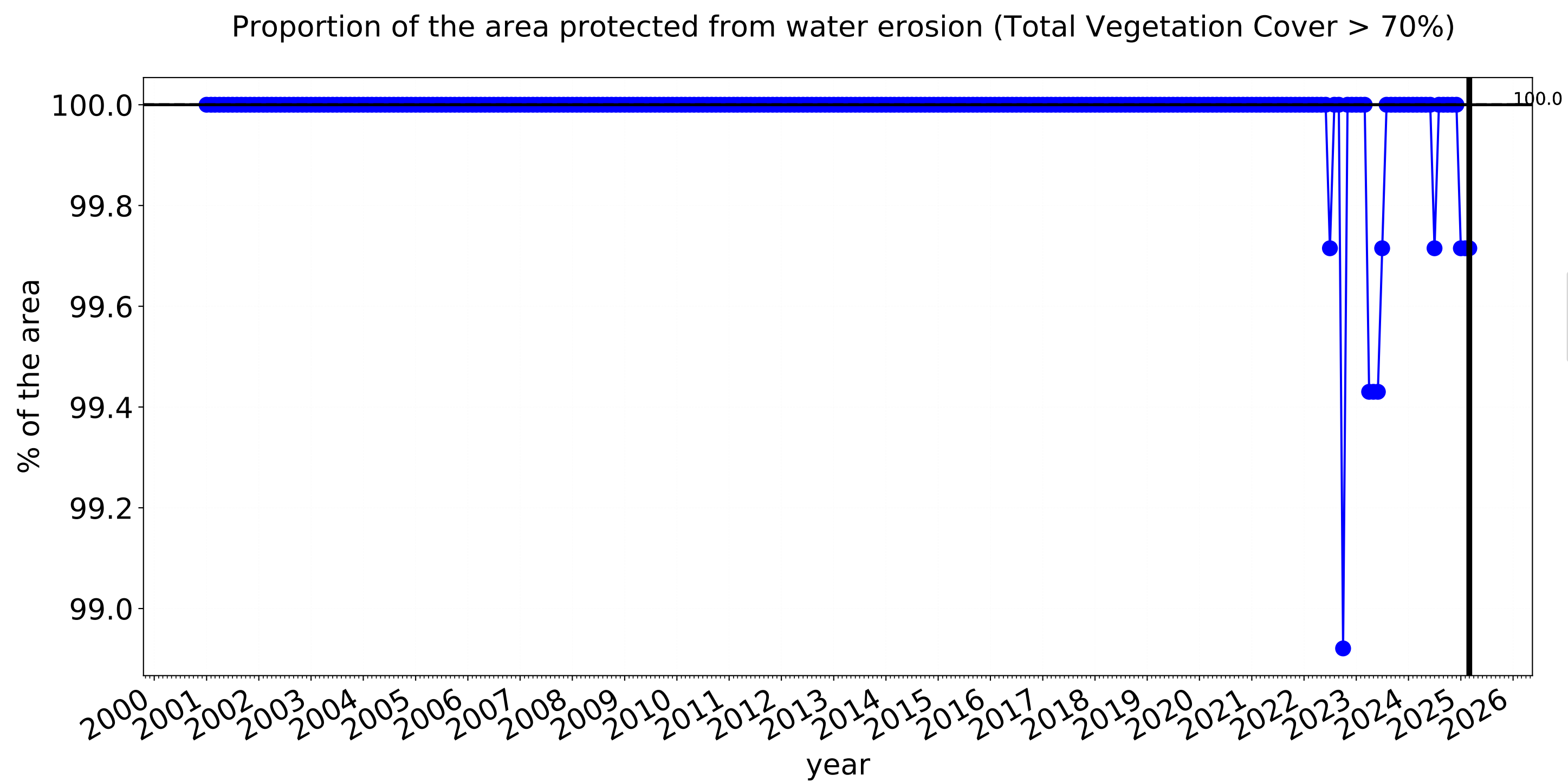
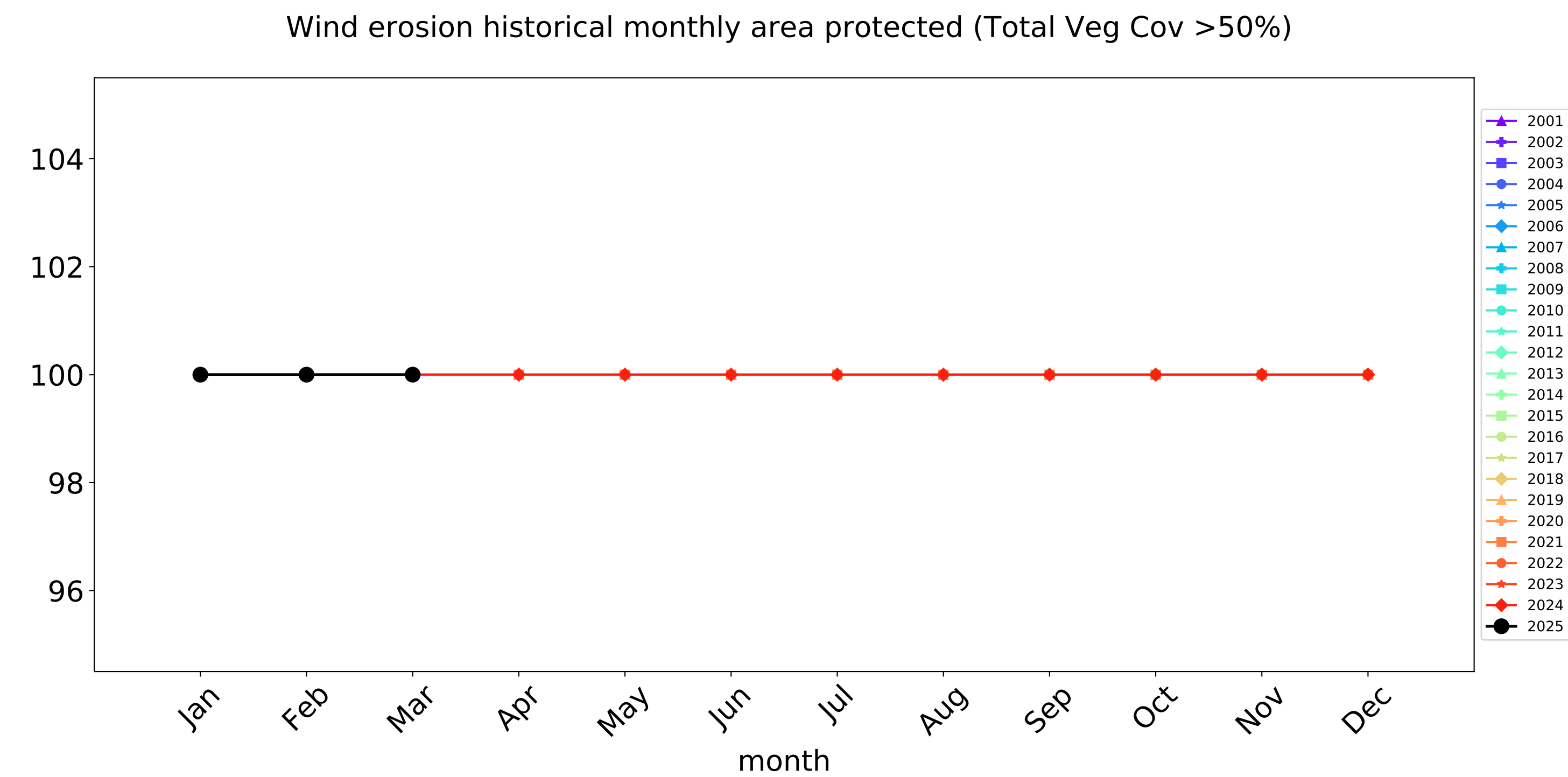
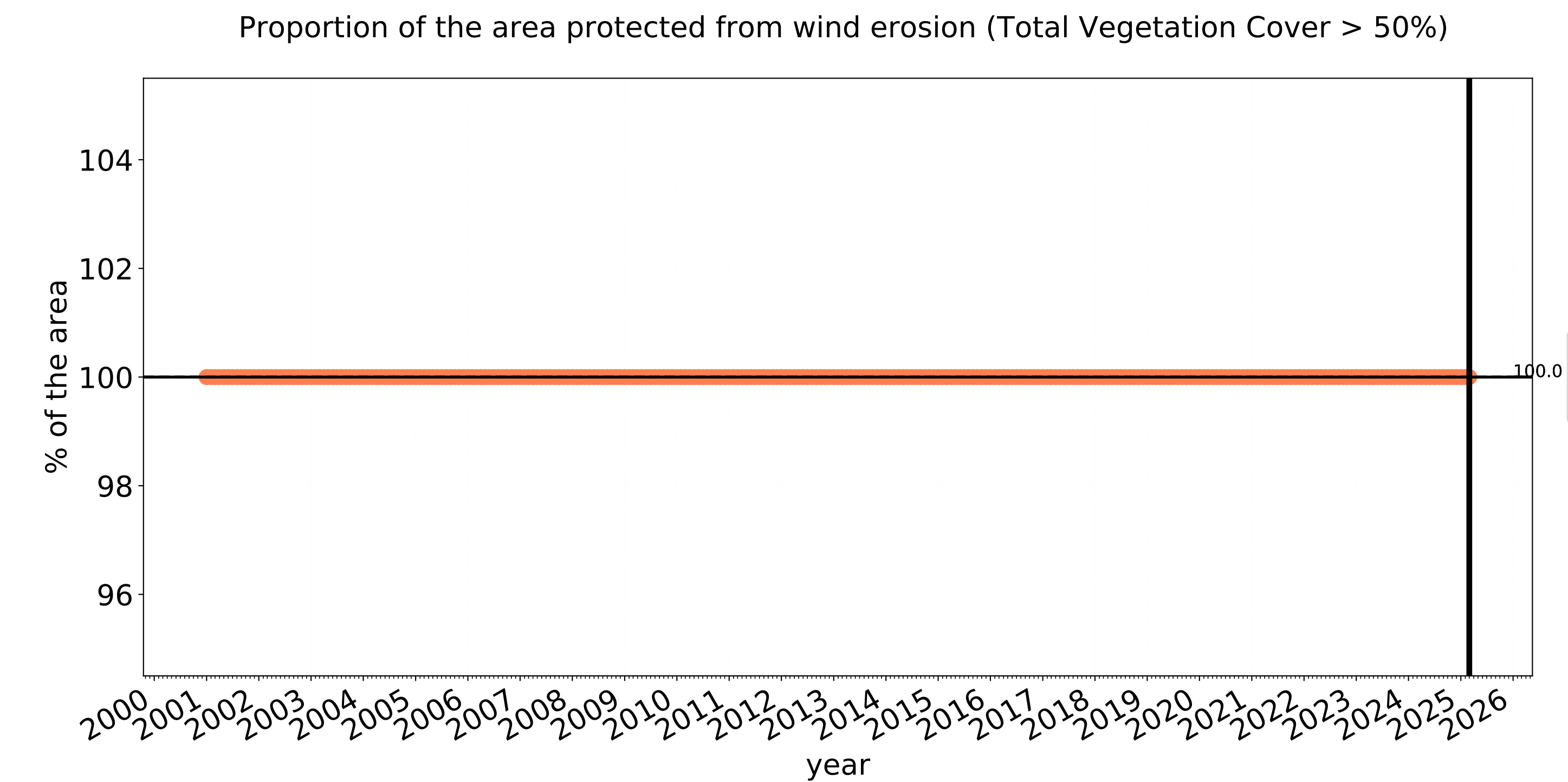


National  
Landcare  
Programme





Production native forests and plantation forests timeseries



Cowra\_(A) (279,625 ha and no data 1,218 ha) Percentage area and hectares protected with TVC threshold 30,50,70,80,90 and 95%

Land use and forest cover Class	area(ha)	above_30	above_50	above_70	above_80	above_90	above_95
Entire region	279,625	99.9% 279,450	99.3% 277,700	91.3% 255,325	77.0% 215,225	42.4% 118,650	19.4% 54,200
Conservation and natural environments	6,675	100.0% 6,675	100.0% 6,675	100.0% 6,675	98.1% 6,550	45.3% 3,025	7.1% 475
Conservation and natural environments Woodland forest	6,625	100.0% 6,625	100.0% 6,625	100.0% 6,625	98.1% 6,500	45.3% 3,000	6.8% 450
Agriculture	258,400	100.0% 258,275	99.3% 256,550	91.0% 235,150	76.2% 196,875	41.6% 107,550	19.0% 49,150
Grazing	122,900	100.0% 122,900	99.9% 122,825	99.0% 121,675	94.4% 116,025	60.9% 74,850	28.1% 34,525
Grazing non forest	85,675	100.0% 85,675	99.9% 85,600	98.7% 84,525	92.5% 79,275	62.3% 53,400	32.8% 28,075
Grazing Woodland forest	34,225	100.0% 34,225	100.0% 34,225	99.8% 34,150	98.6% 33,750	57.0% 19,500	15.4% 5,275
Grazing - Forest (non woodland)	3,000	100.0% 3,000	100.0% 3,000	100.0% 3,000	100.0% 3,000	65.0% 1,950	39.2% 1,175
Cropping	129,475	99.9% 129,375	98.7% 127,850	84.3% 109,175	60.8% 78,675	24.9% 32,175	11.1% 14,425
Irrigation	5,925	99.6% 5,900	97.5% 5,775	70.9% 4,200	36.3% 2,150	8.9% 525	3.4% 200
Production native forests and plantation forests	8,775	100.0% 8,775	100.0% 8,775	99.7% 8,750	98.6% 8,650	80.9% 7,100	49.3% 4,325