

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

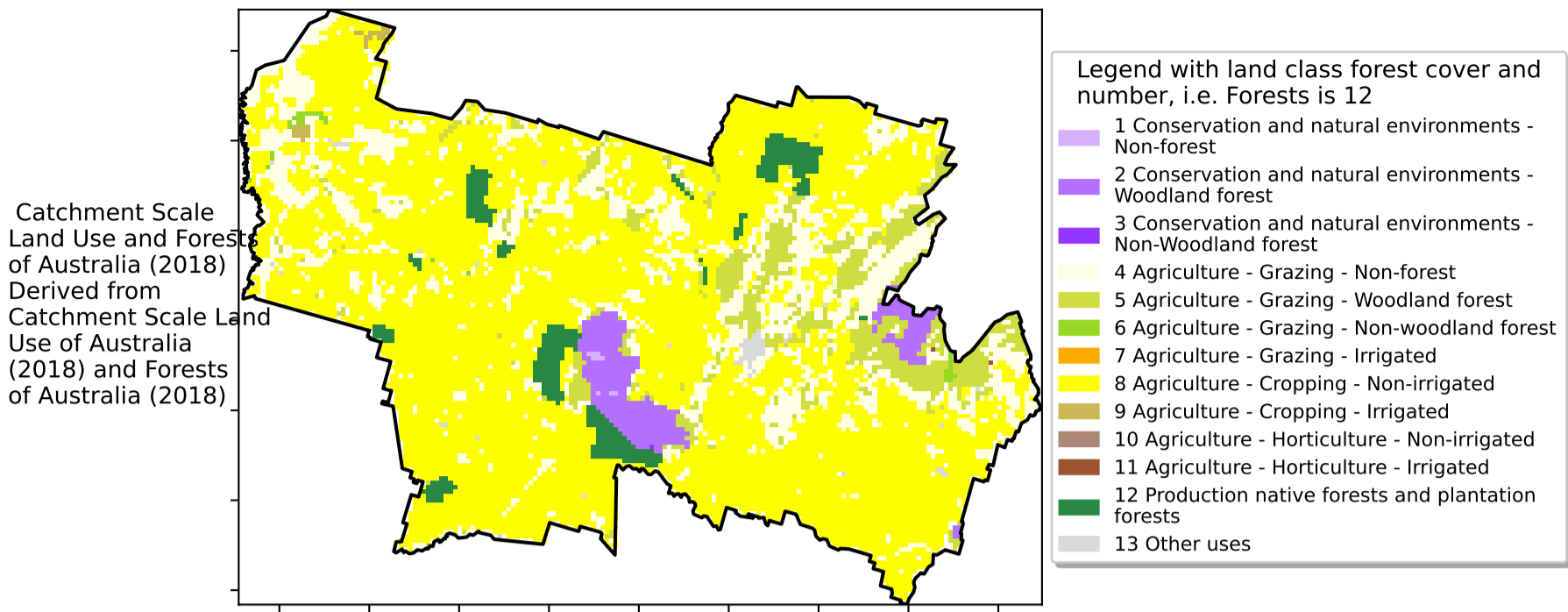


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Programme**

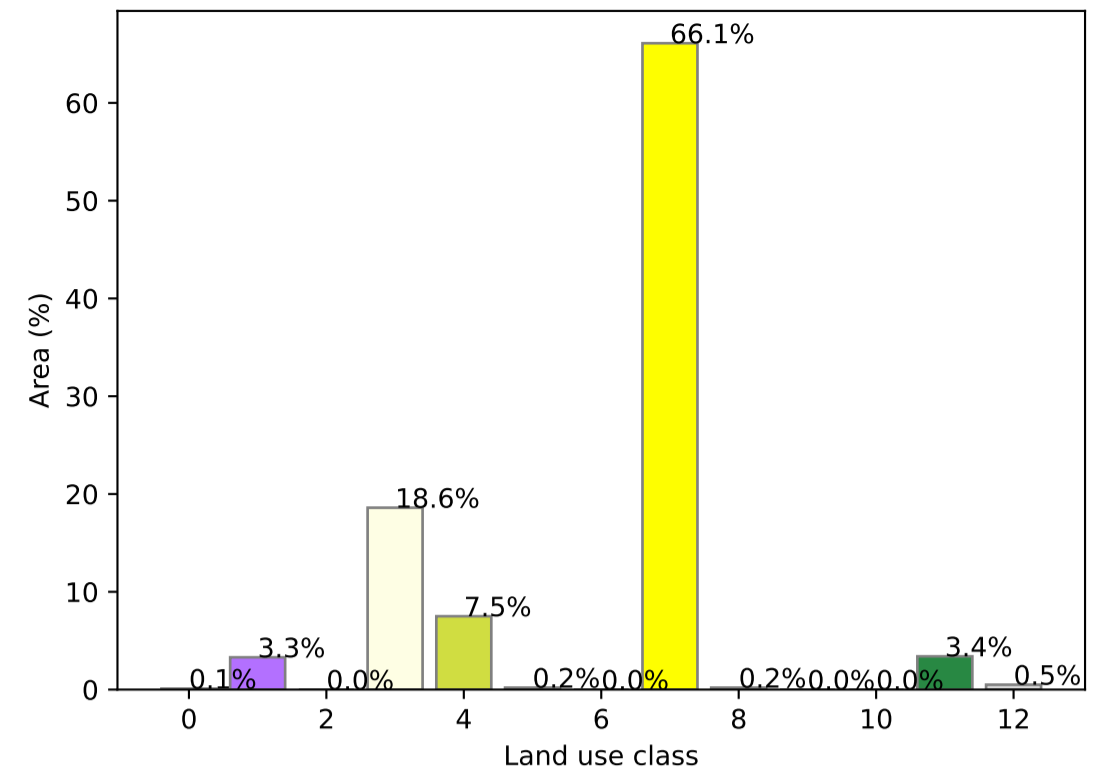


Vegetation Cover Mar 2026

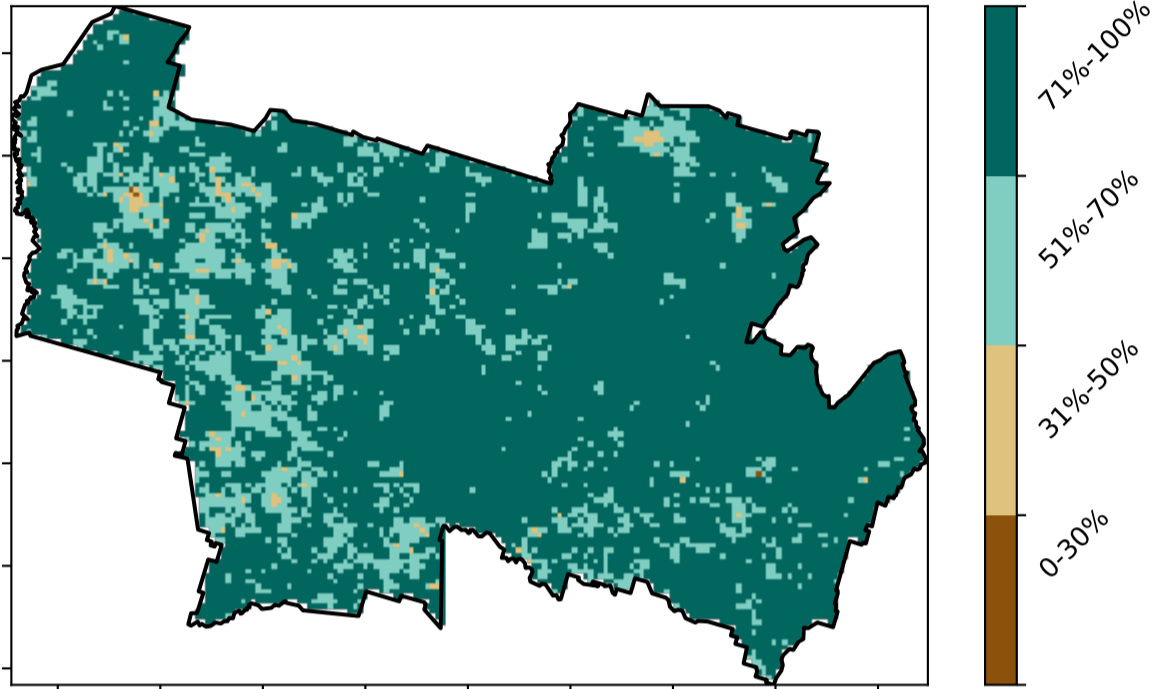
Land use and forest cover



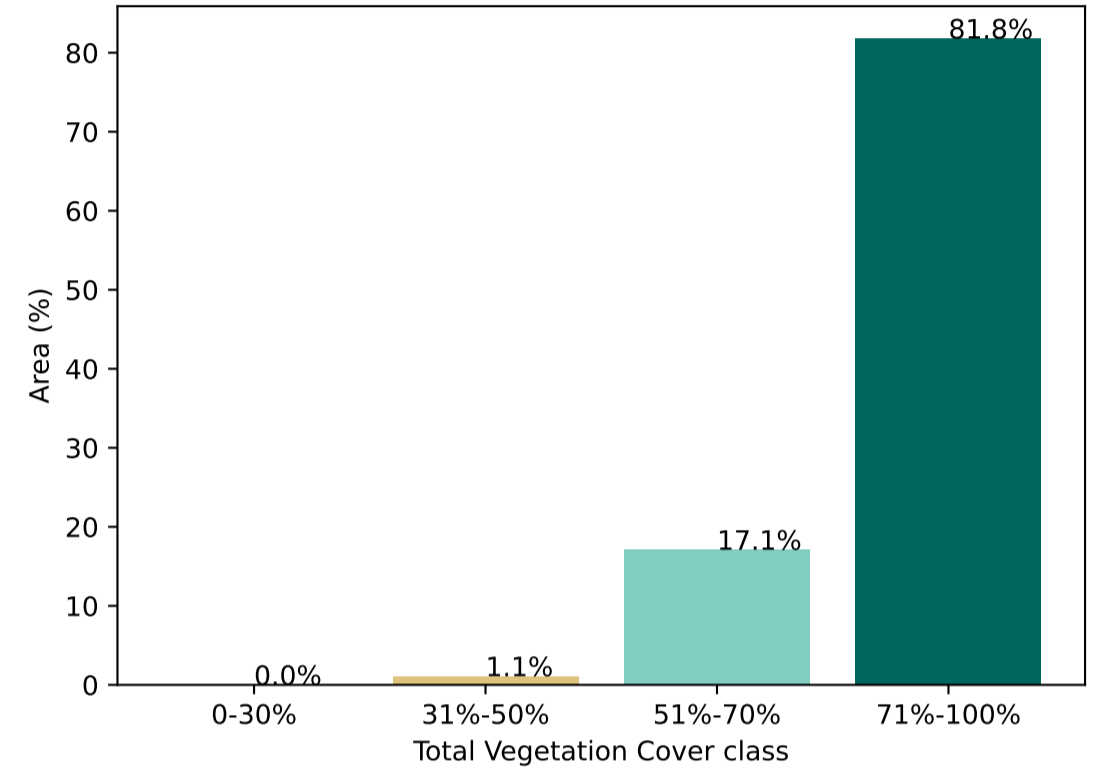
Proportion of each land class in area



Total Vegetation Cover [%]



Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



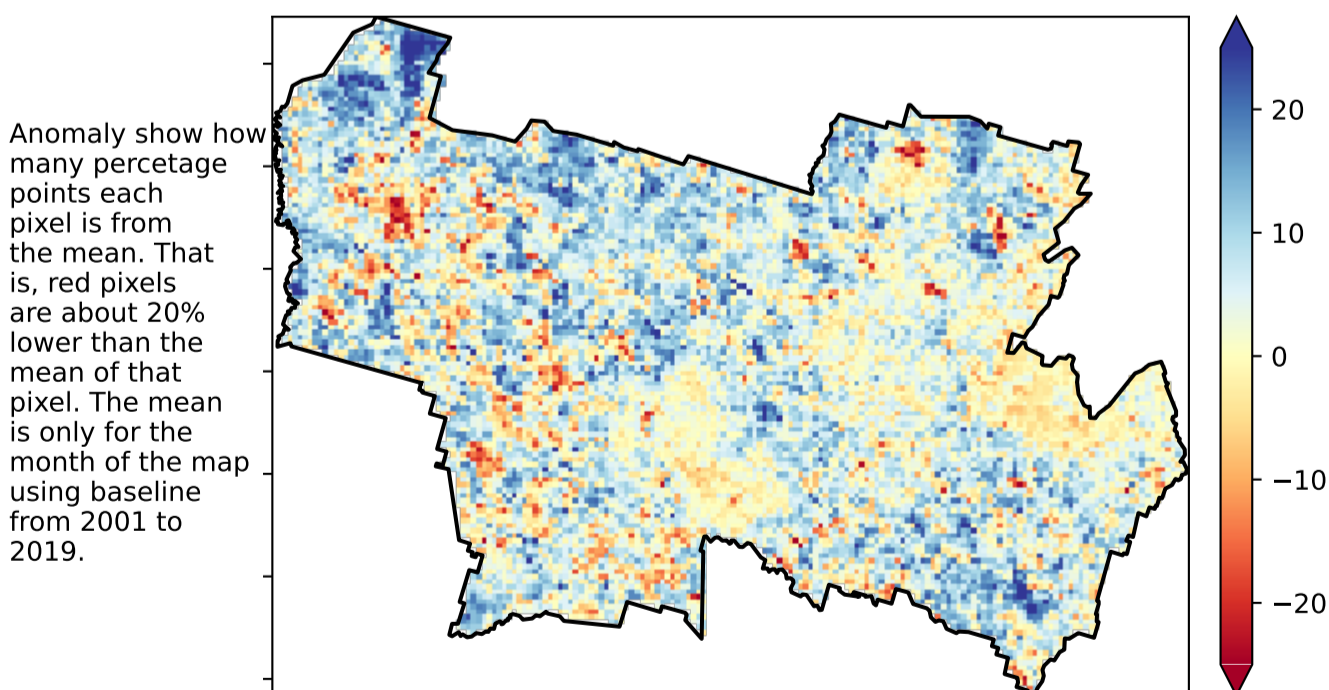
% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)

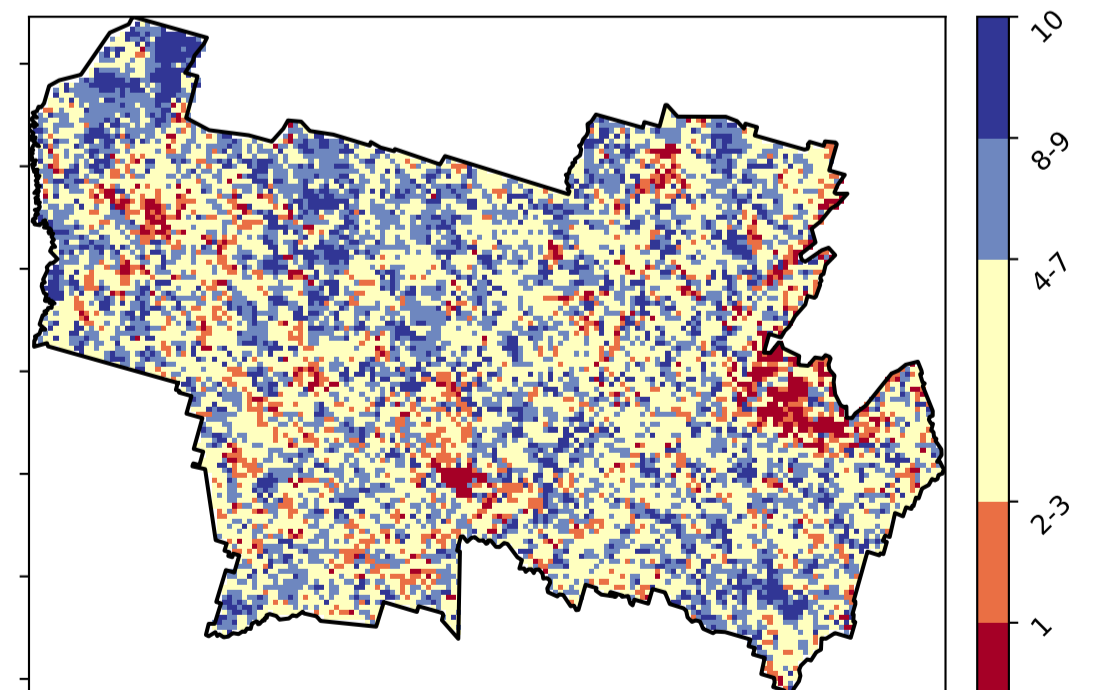


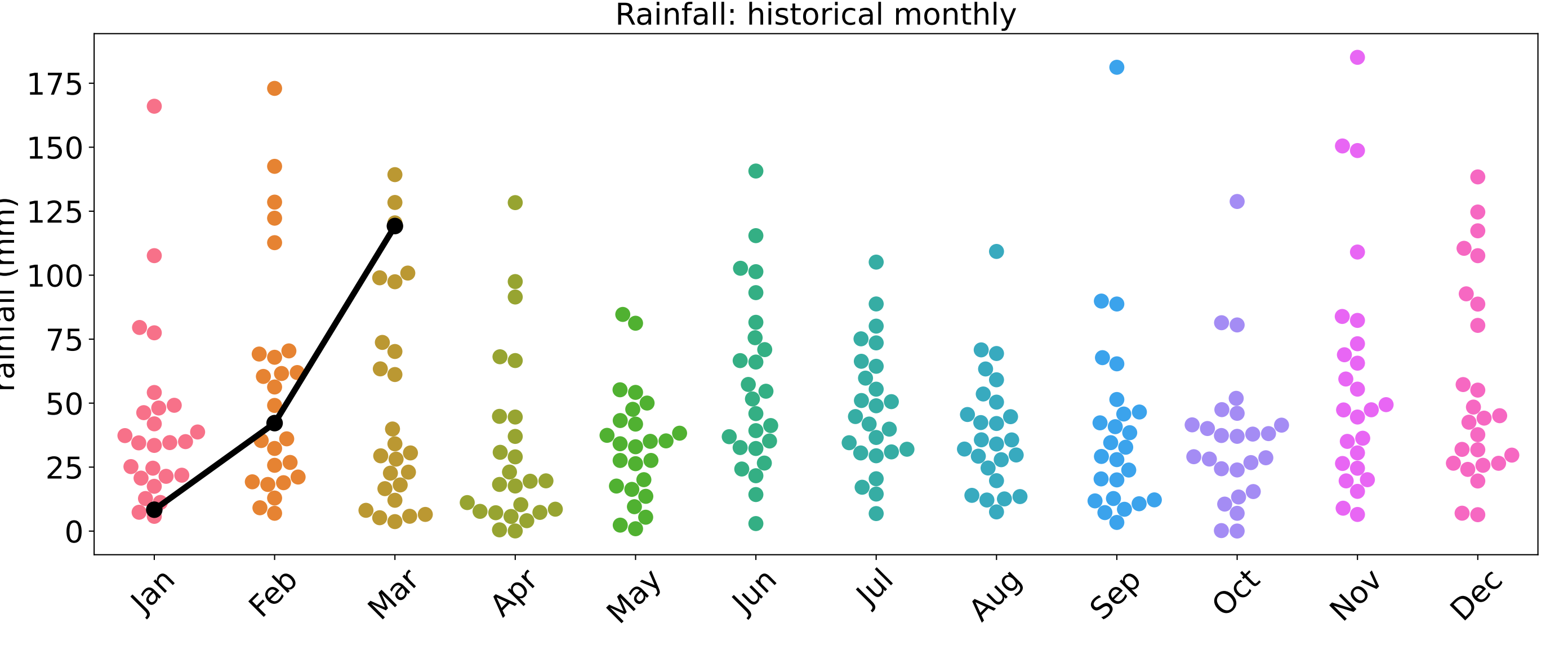
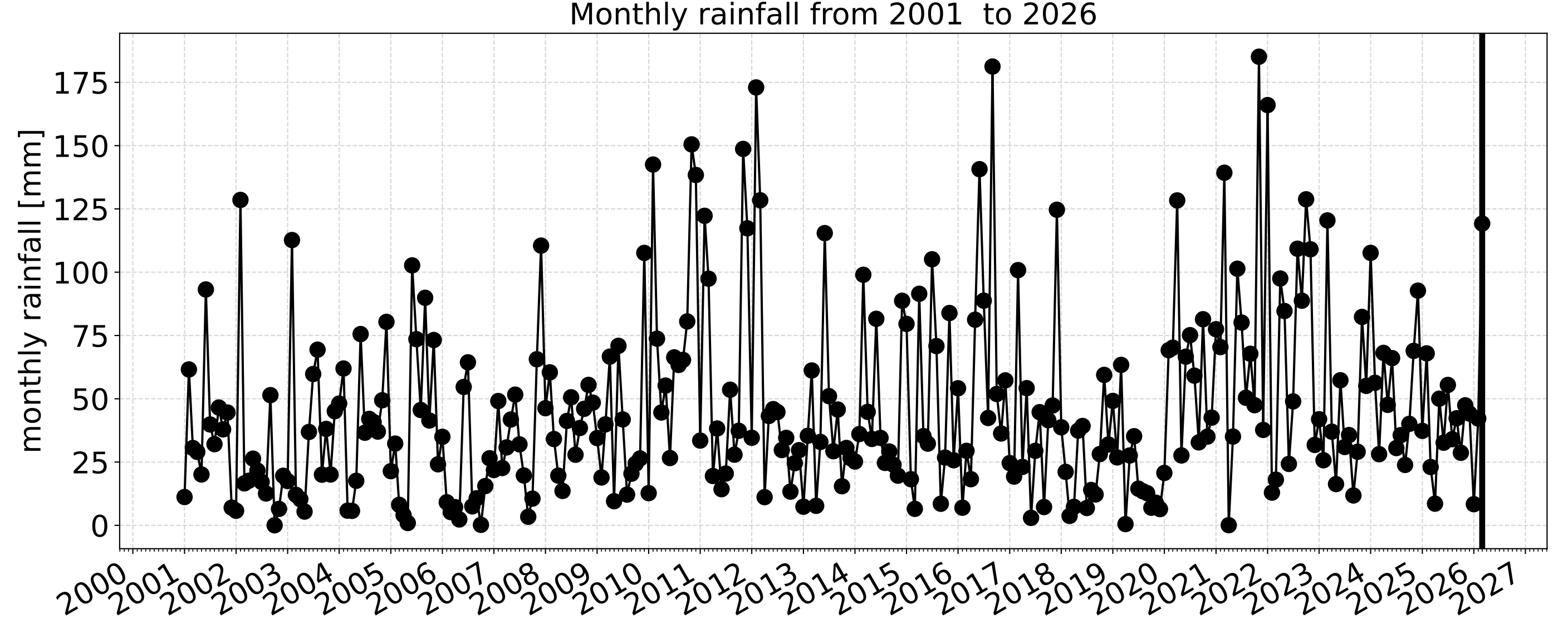
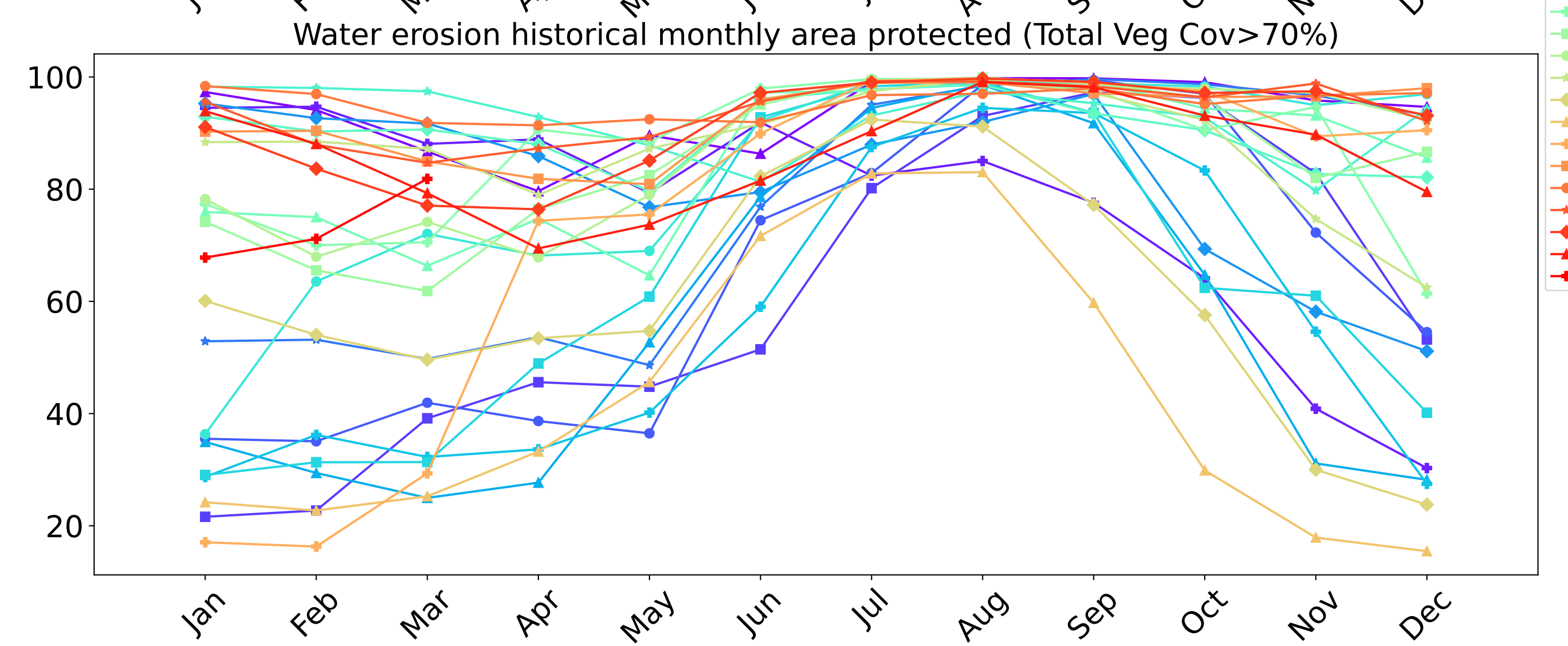
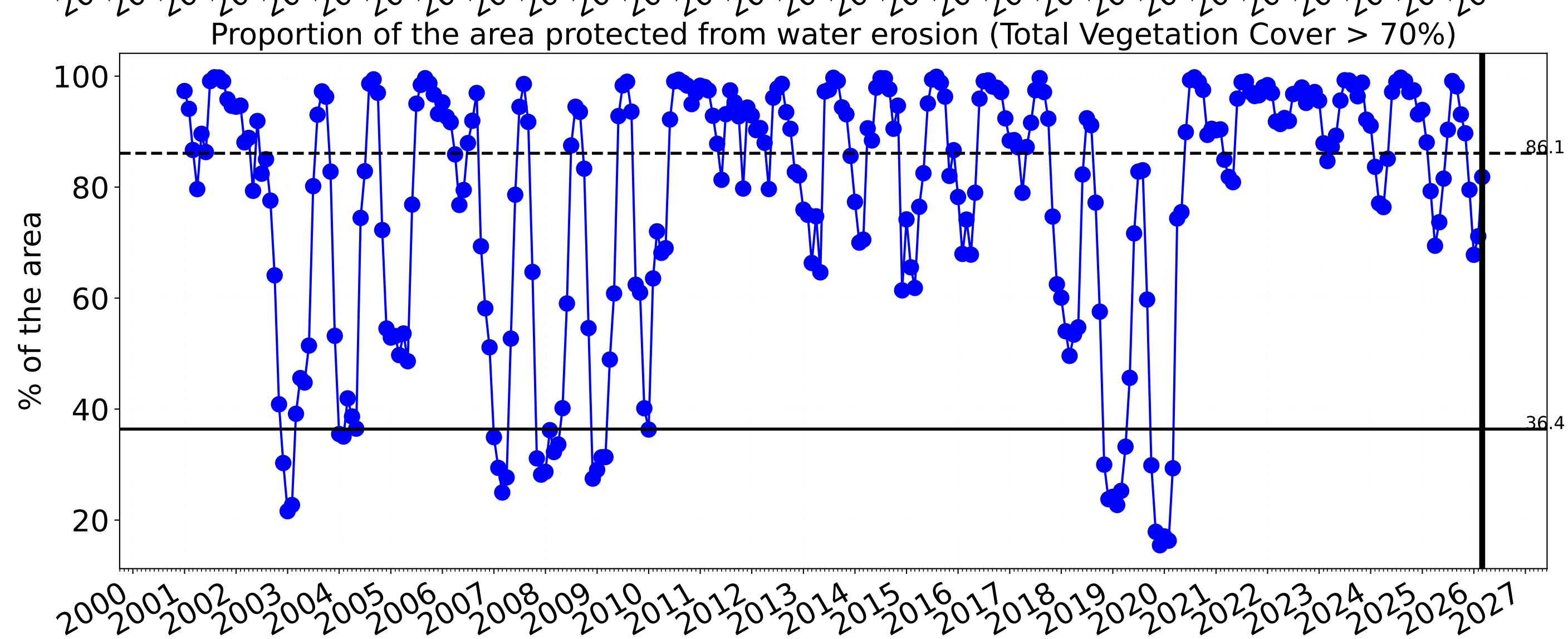
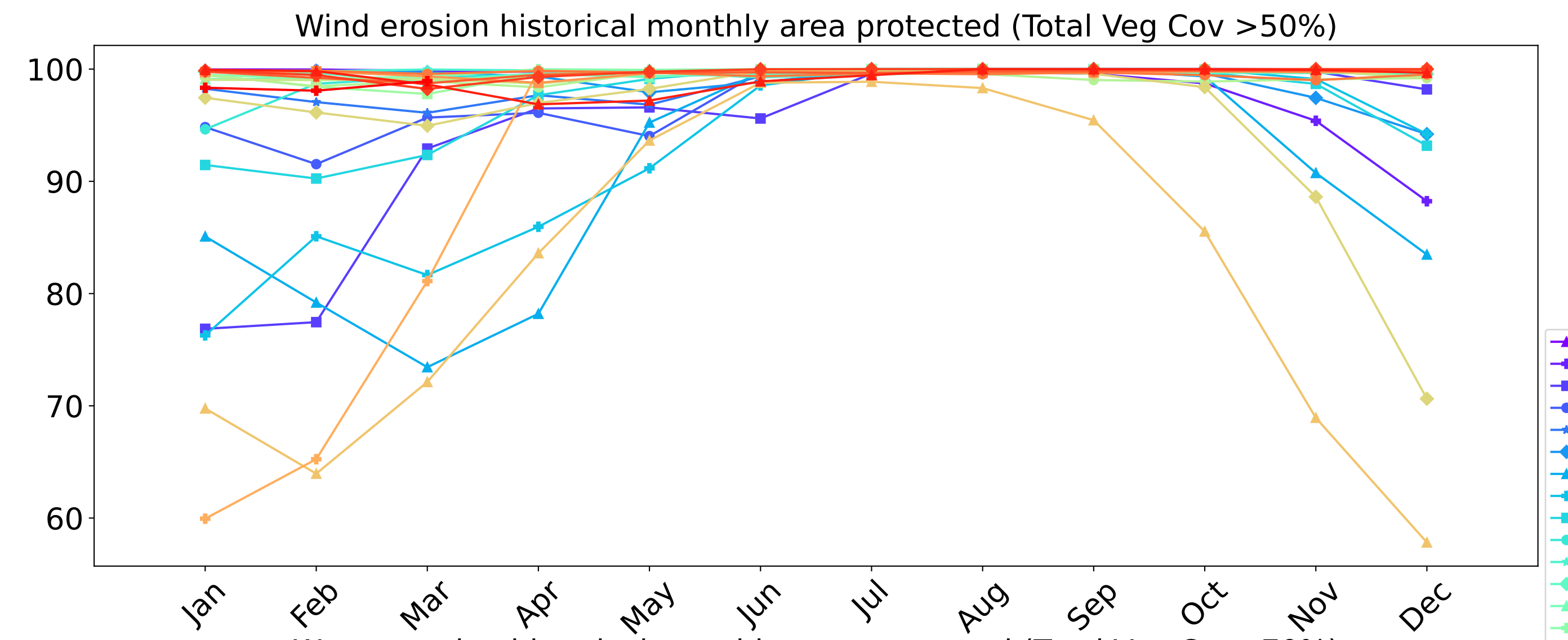
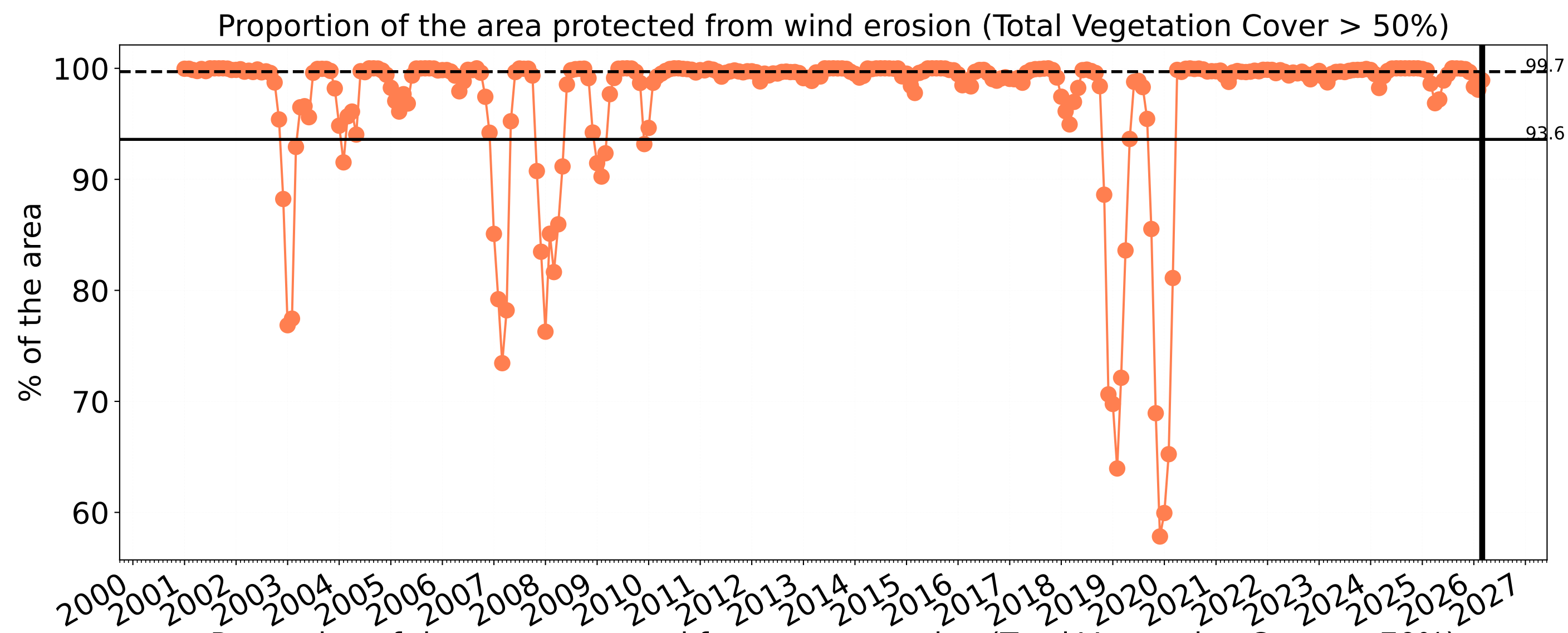
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]



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 [%]

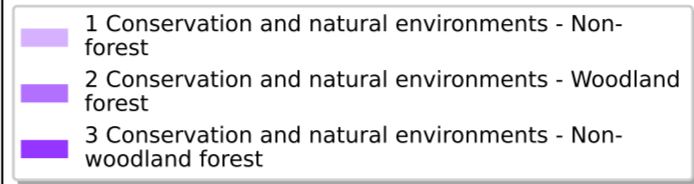
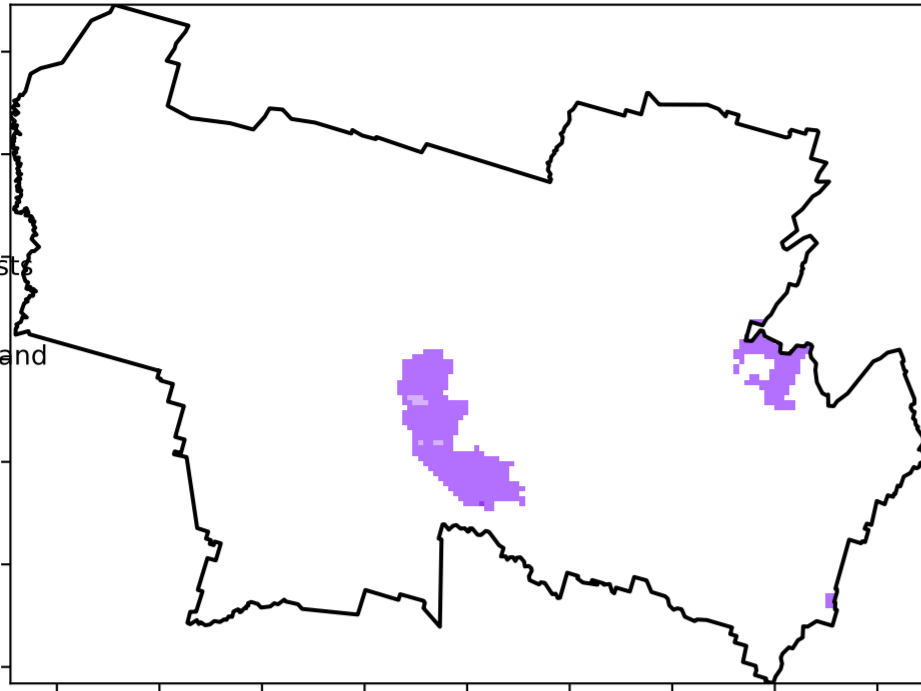




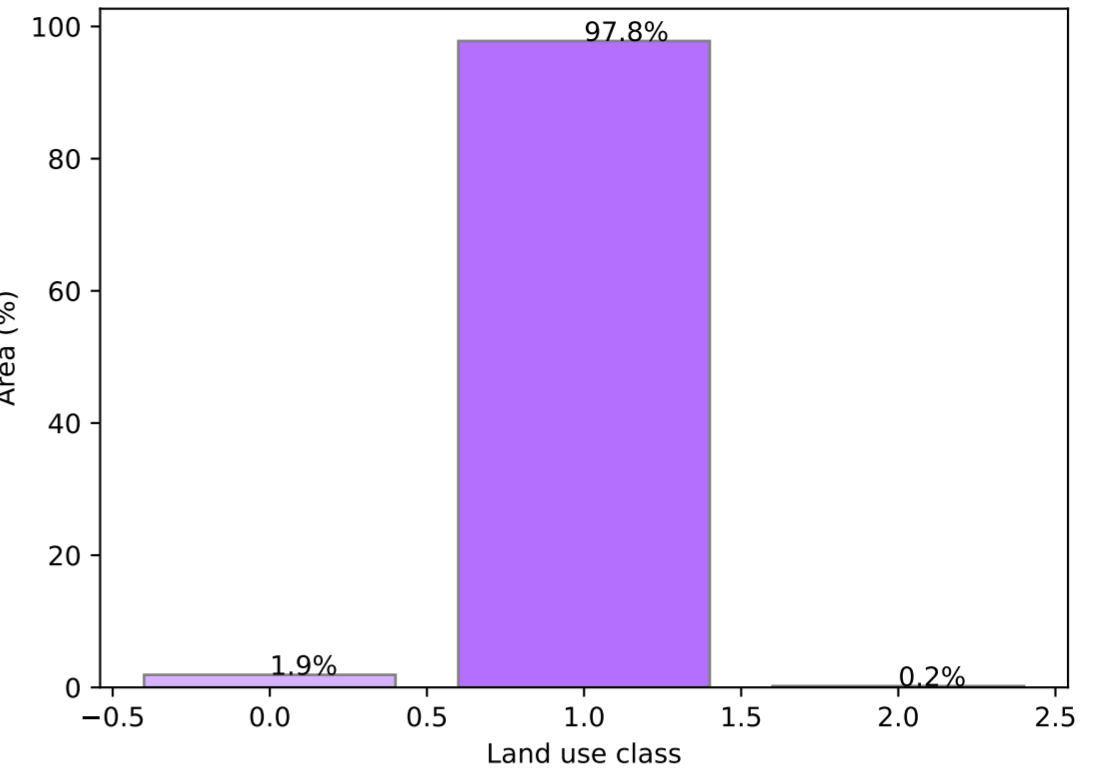
Conservation and natural environments

Land use and forest cover

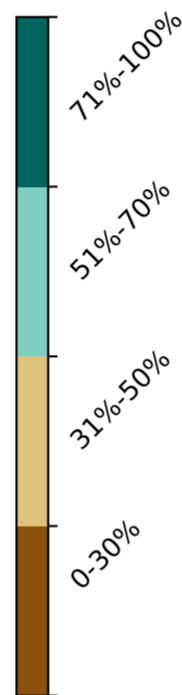
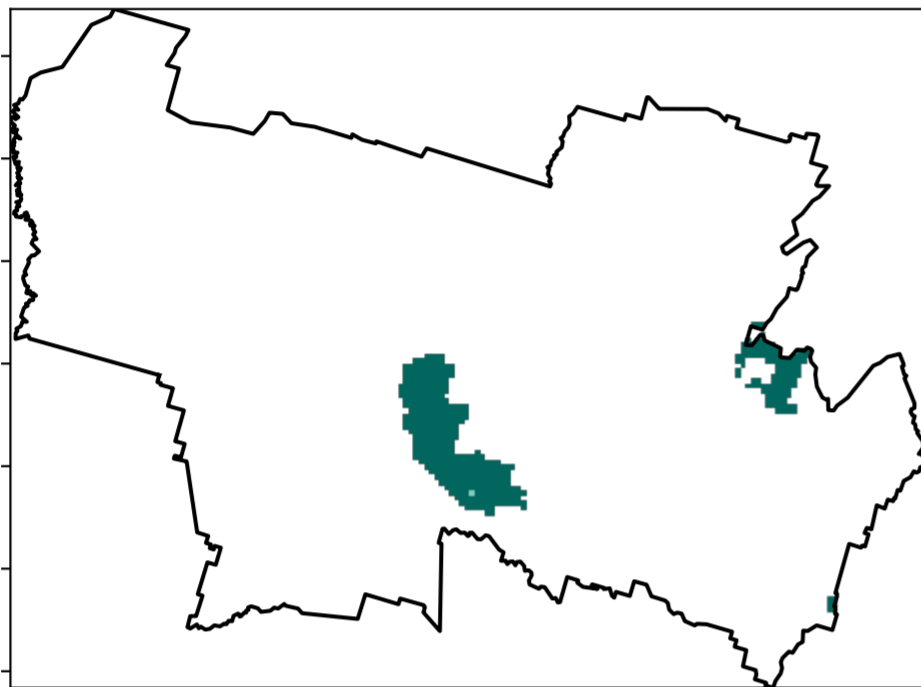
Catchment Scale Land Use and Forest of Australia (2018) Derived from Catchment Scale Land Use of Australia (2018) and Forests of Australia (2018)



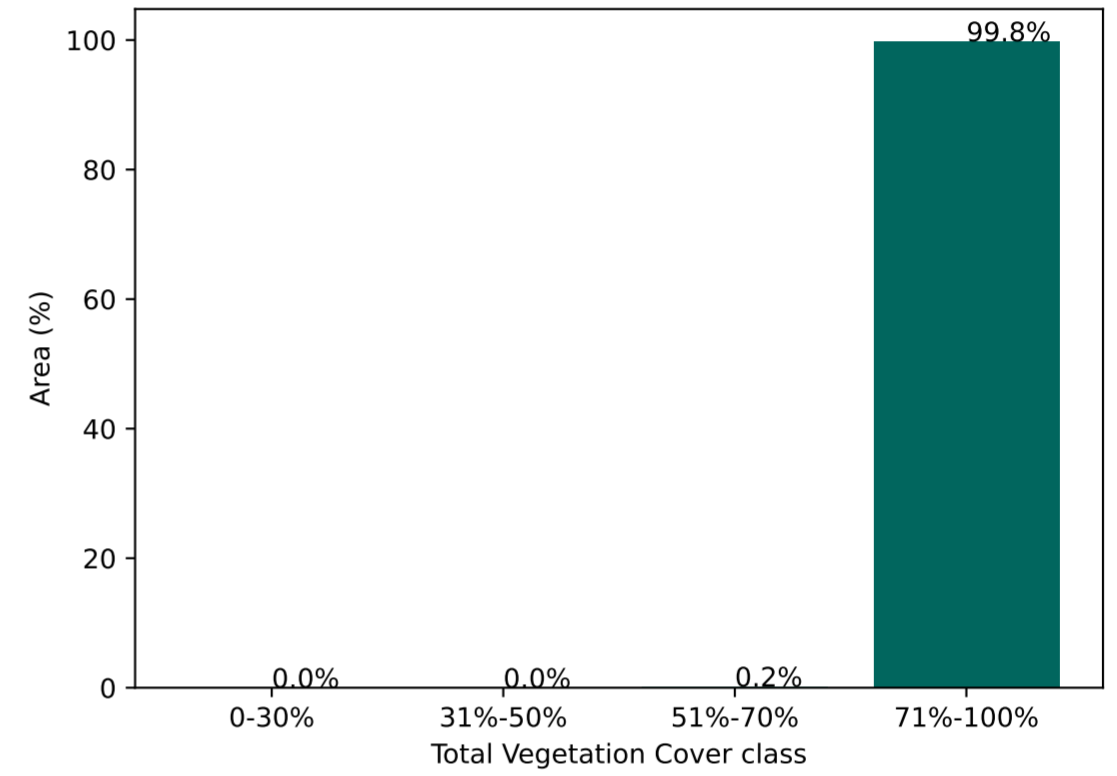
Proportion of each land class in area



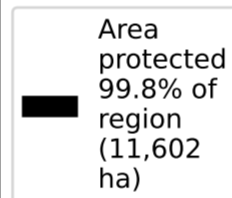
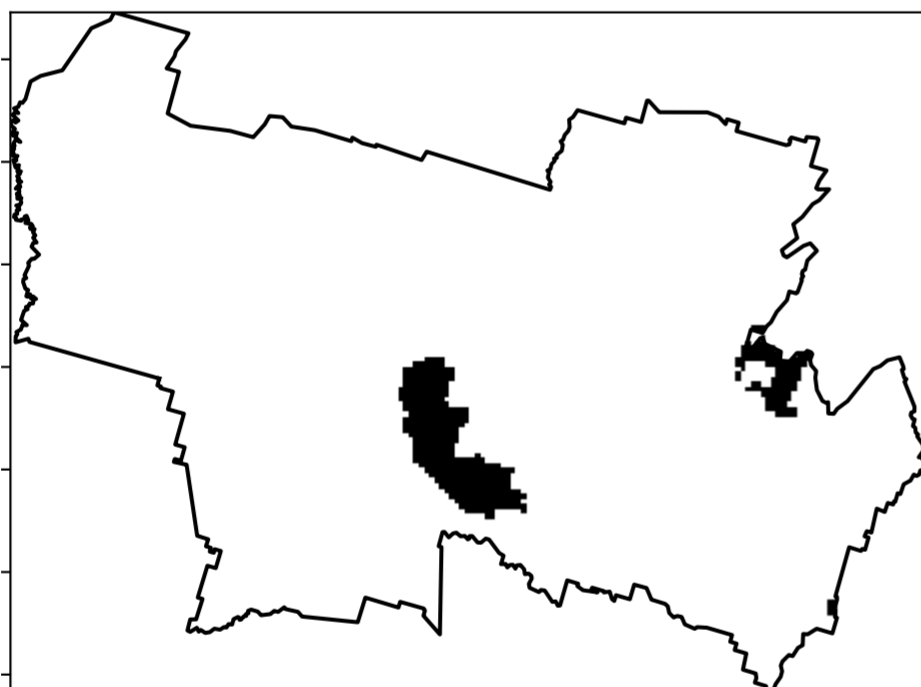
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



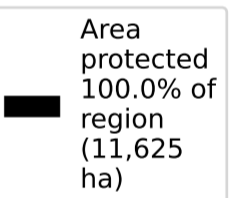
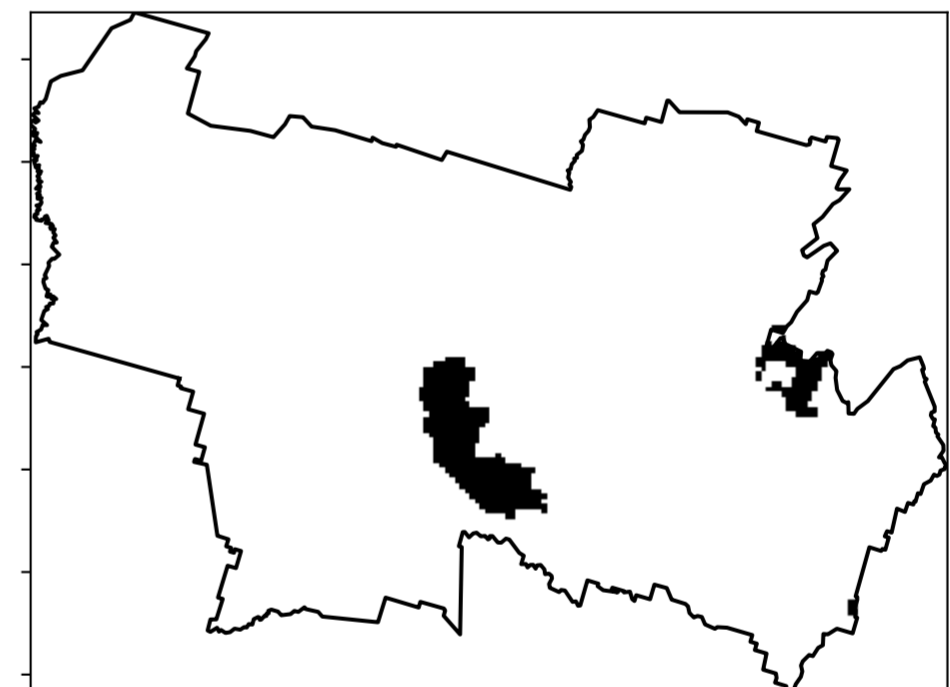
Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)

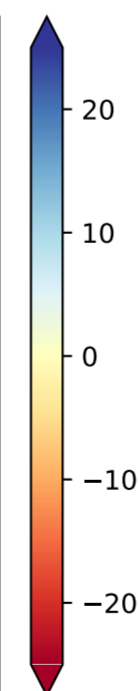
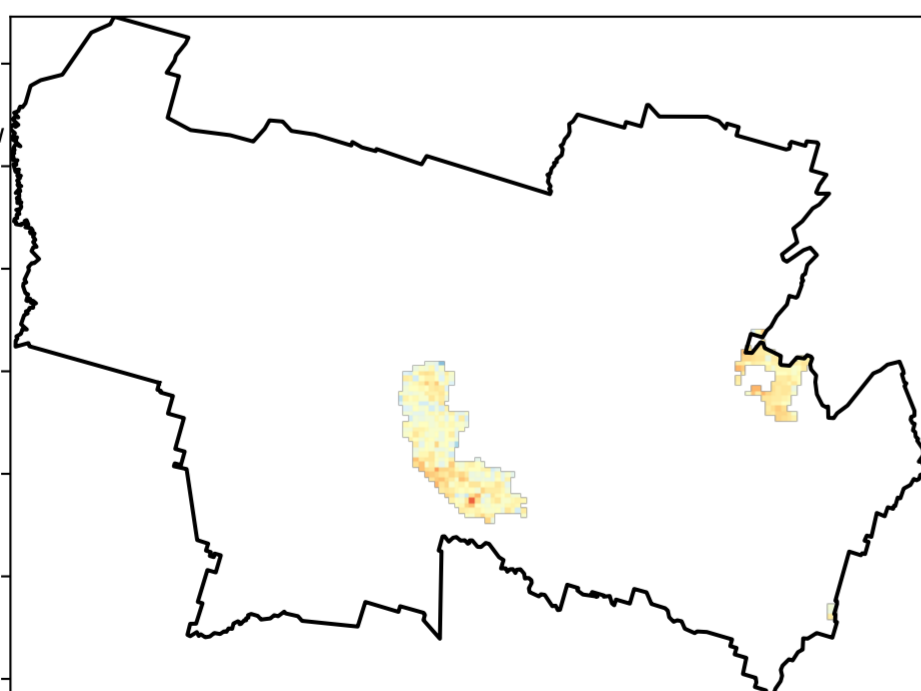


% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



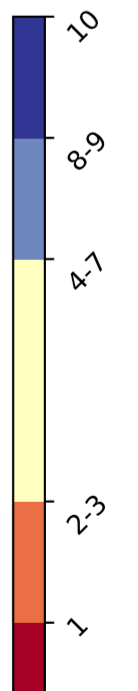
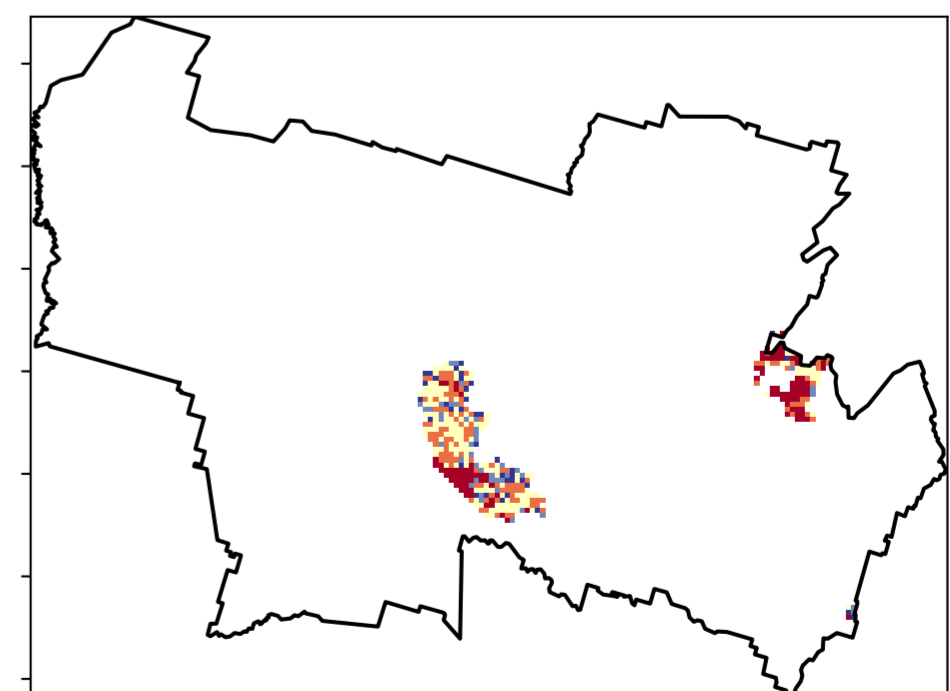
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

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.



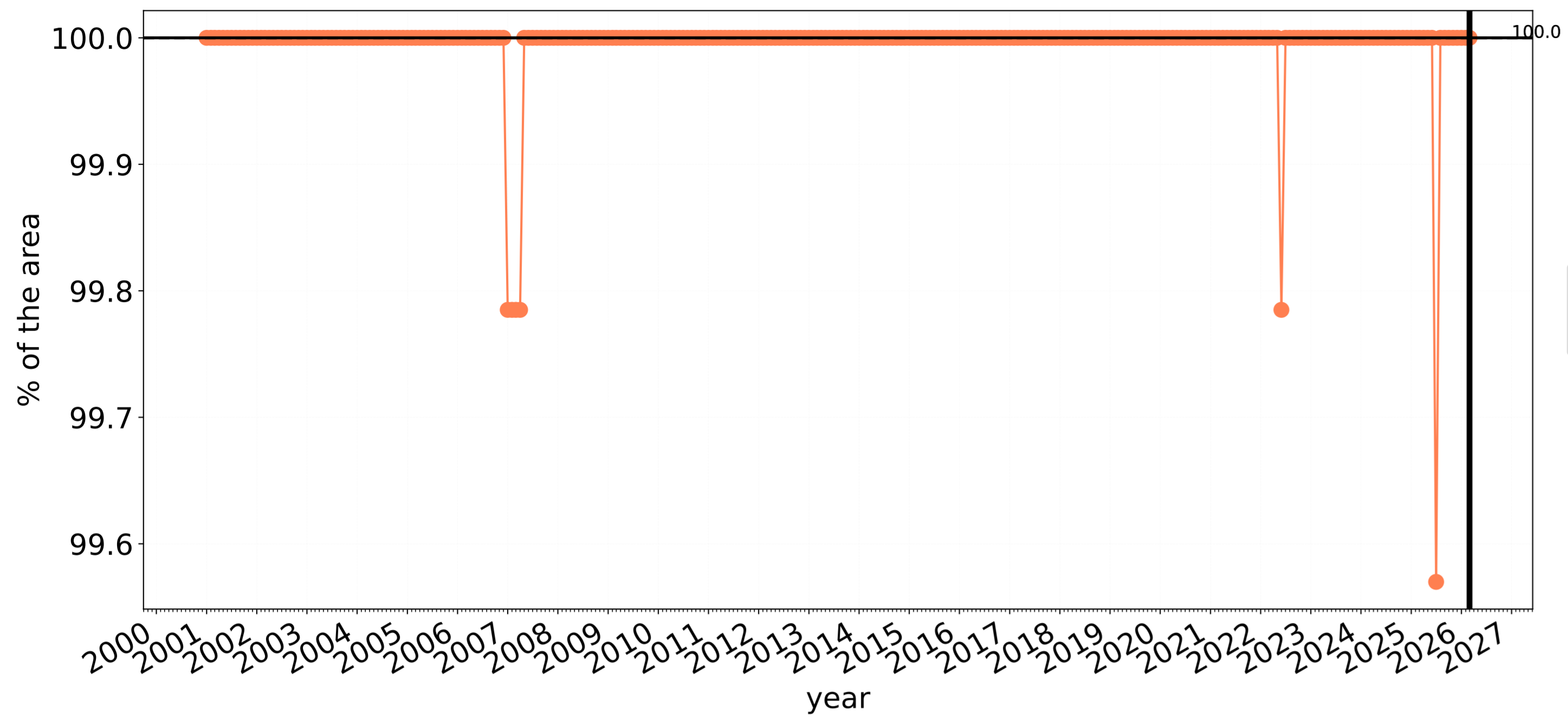
Deciles show where the pixel value lies in the record, from highest to lowest, for that month. That is, red pixels are in the lowest 10% of records for that month of the map using baseline from 2001 to 2019.

Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]

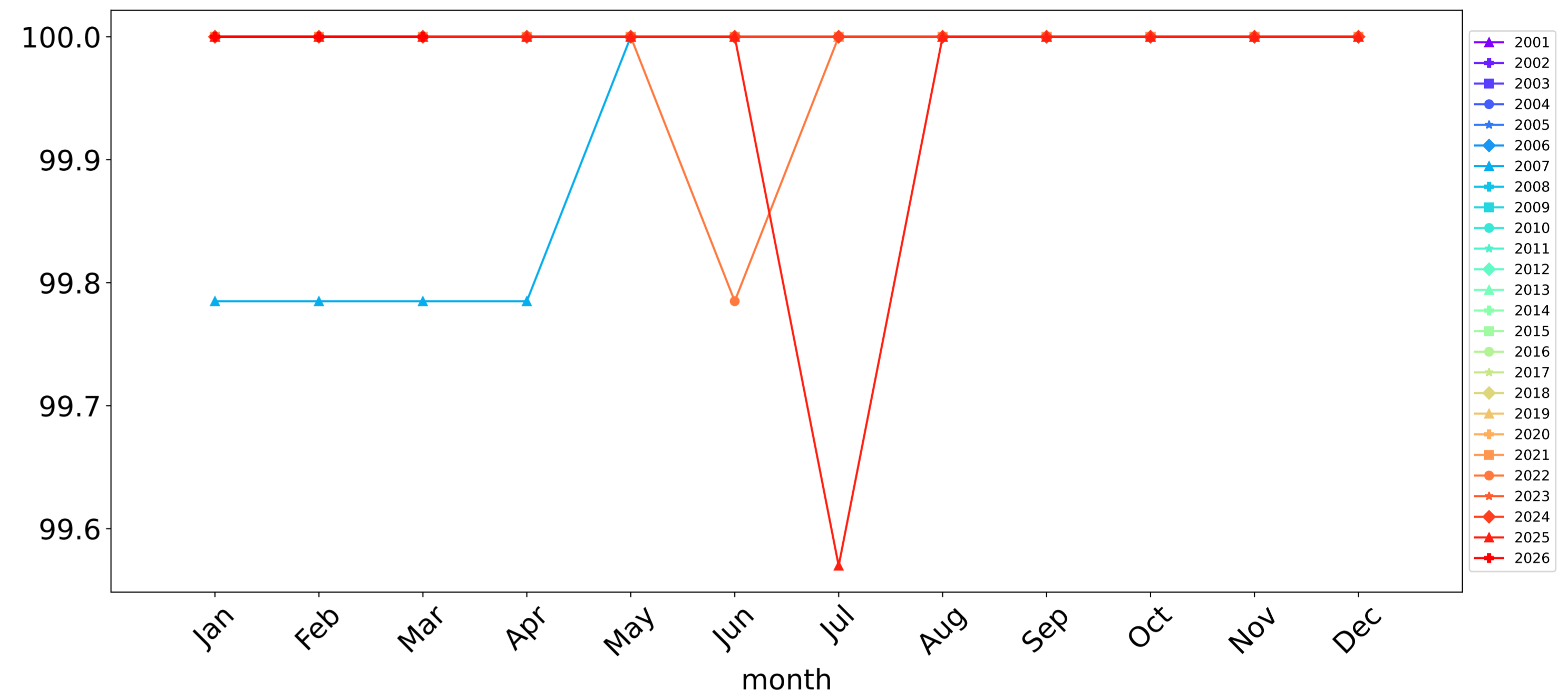


Conservation and natural environments timeseries

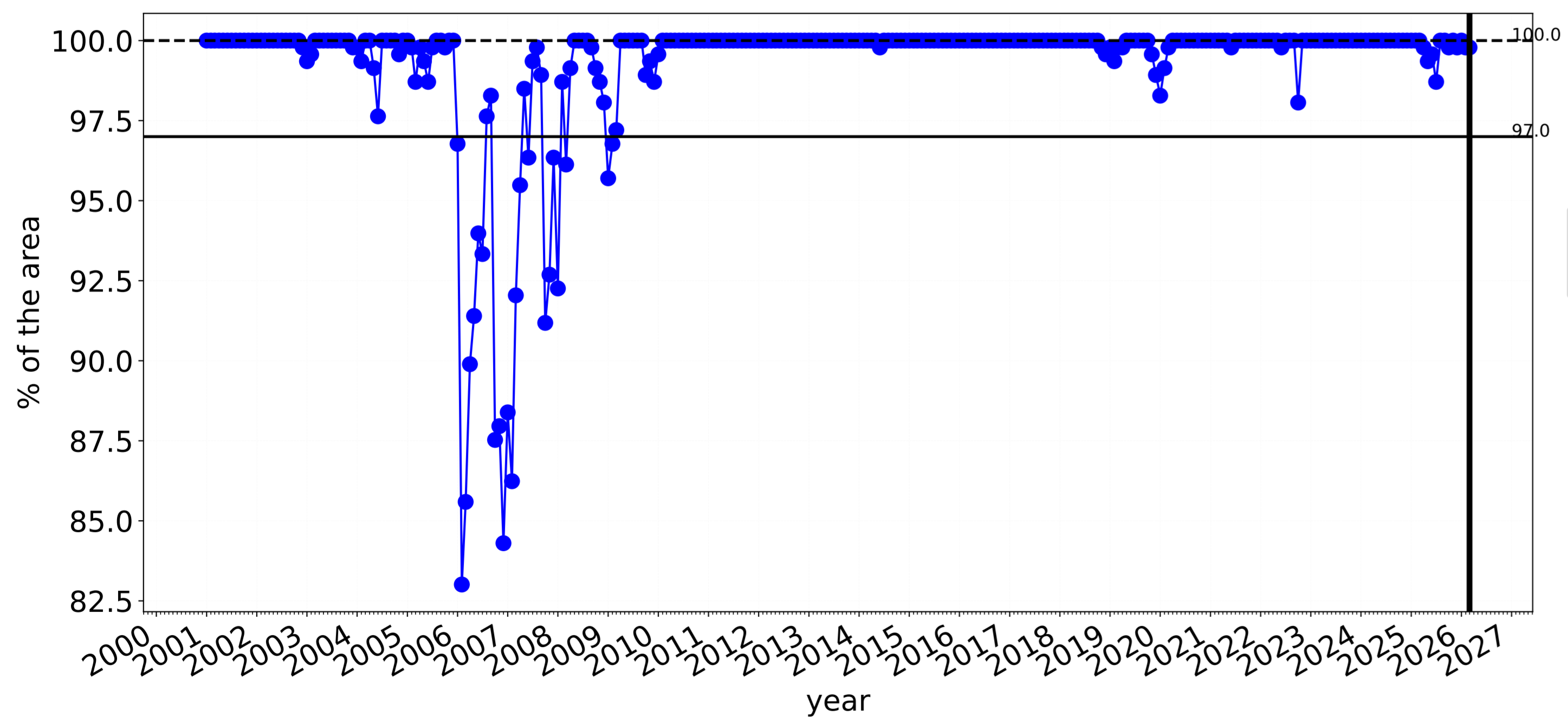
Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)



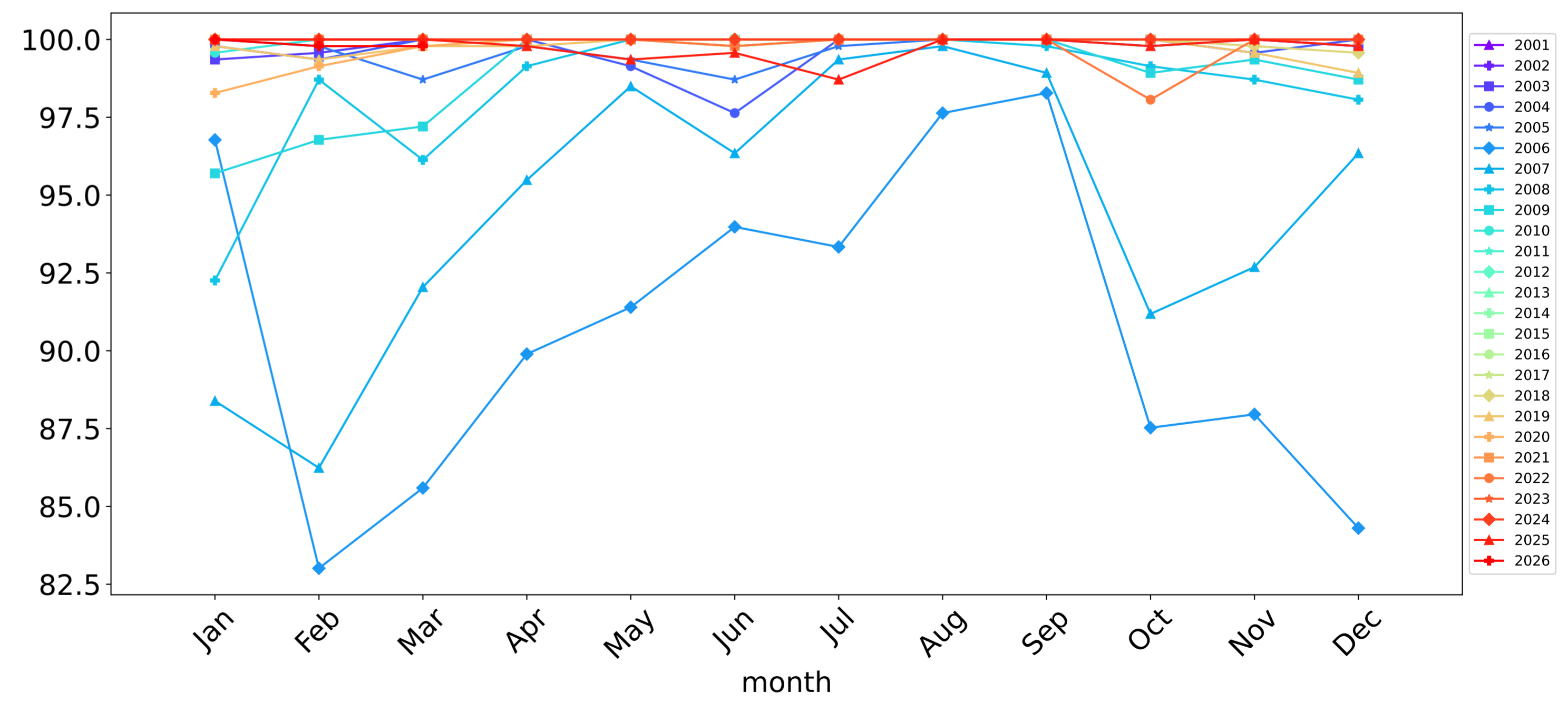
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



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



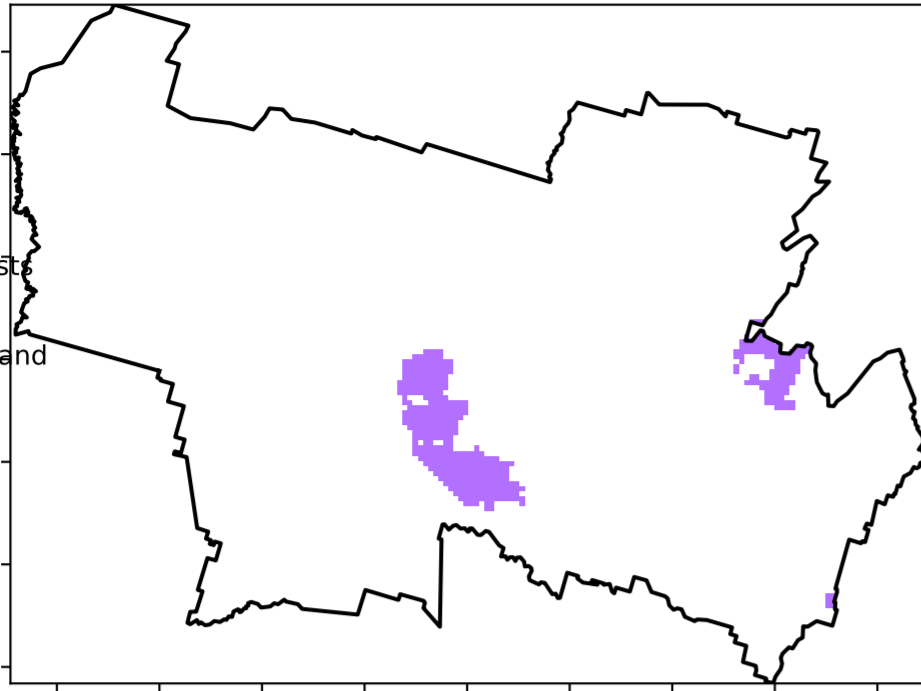
Water erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >70%)



Conservation and natural environments Woodland forest

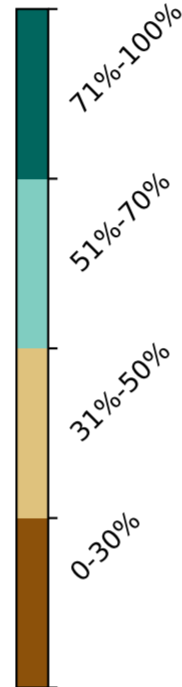
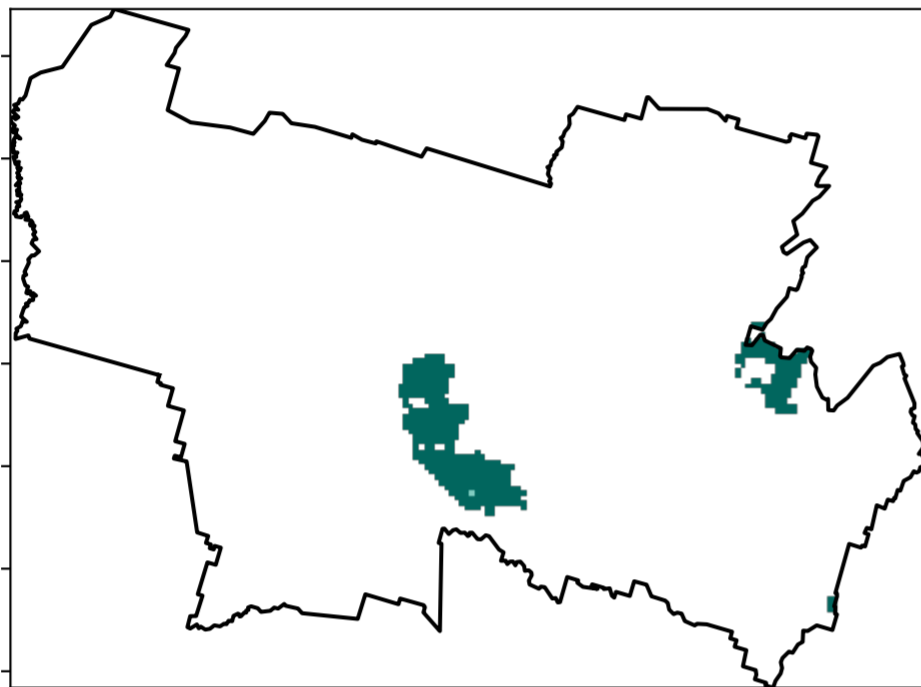
Land use and forest cover

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

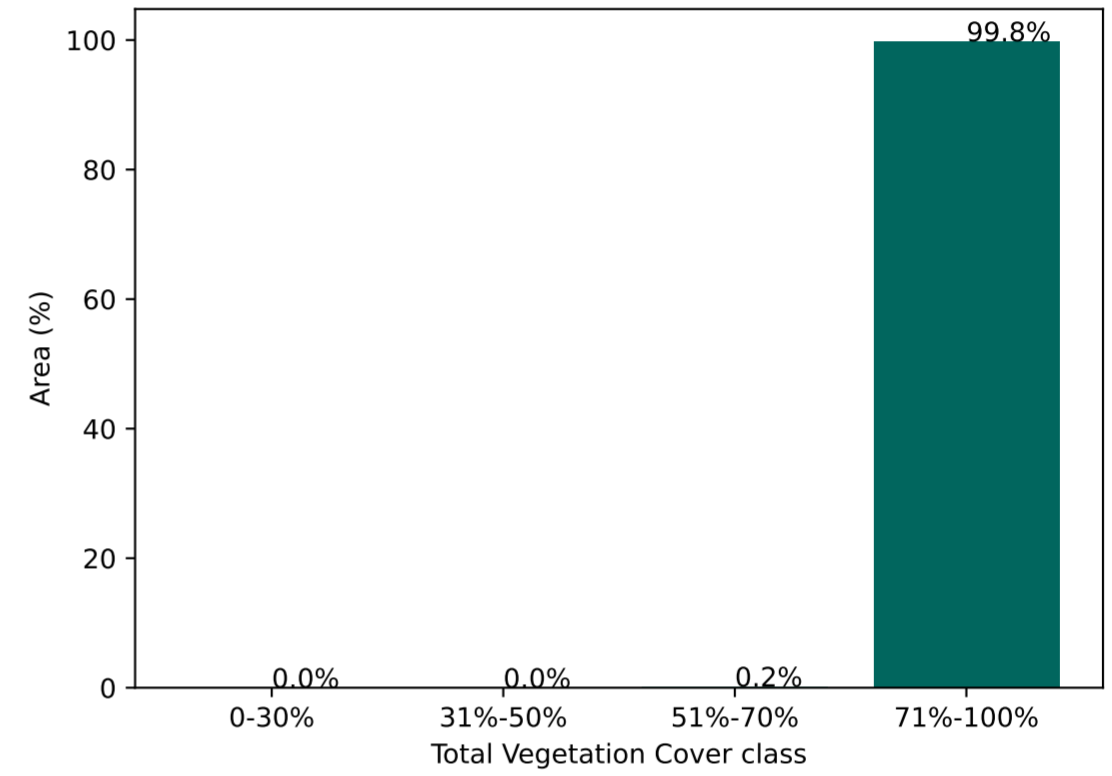


1 Conservation and natural environments - Woodland forest

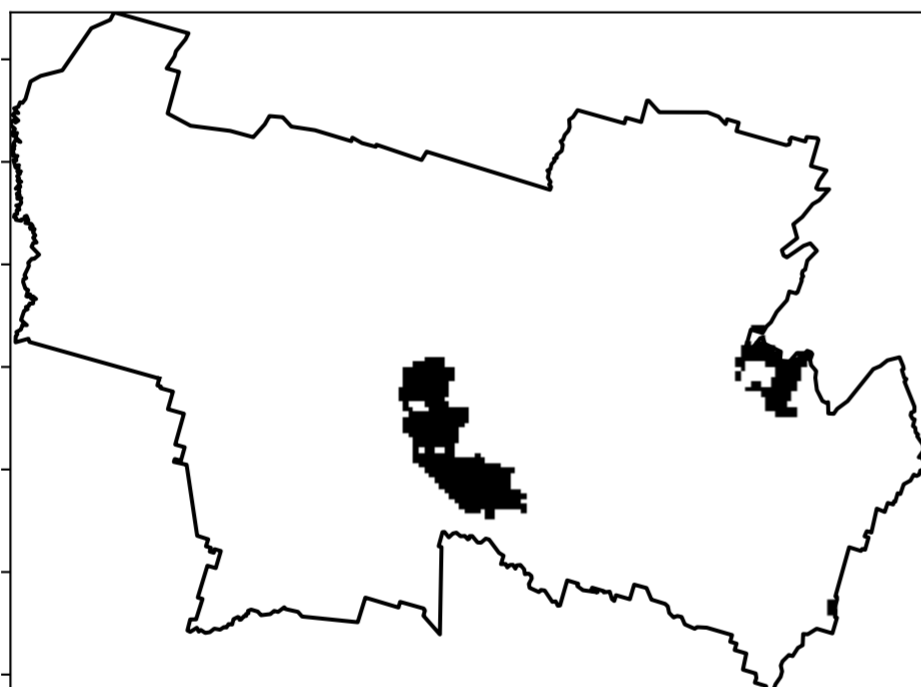
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



Proportion of vegetation cover class in area

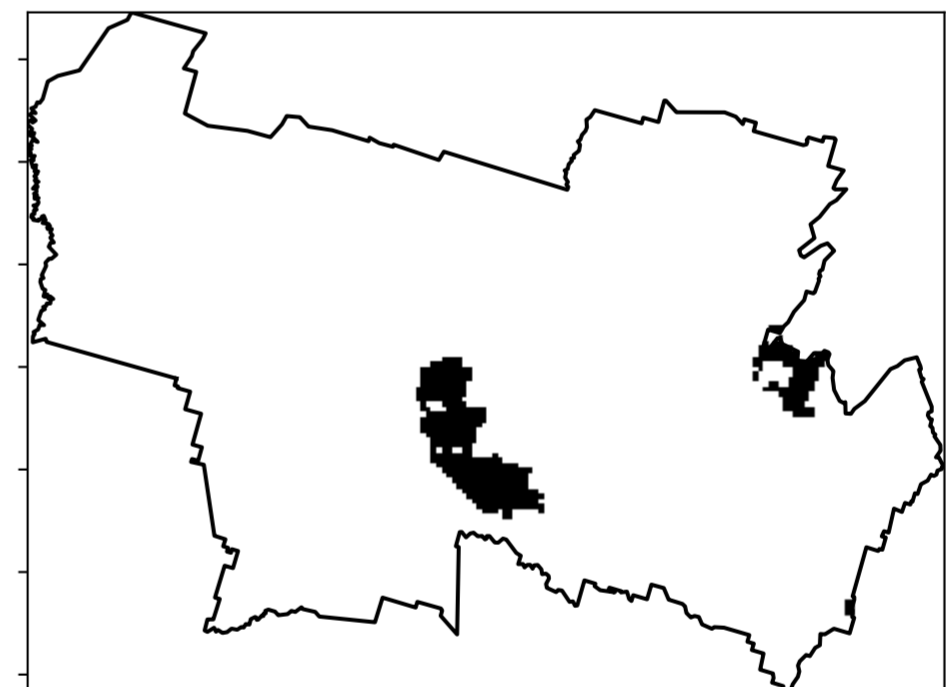


% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



Area protected 99.8% of region (11,352 ha)

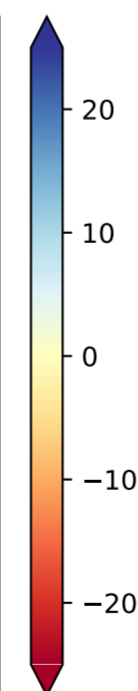
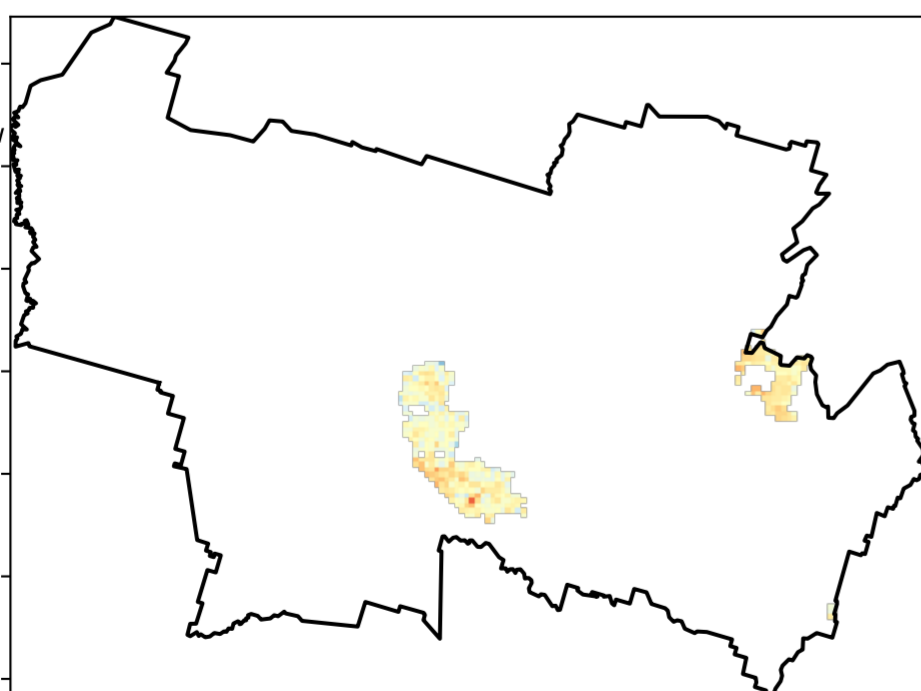
% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



Area protected 100.0% of region (11,375 ha)

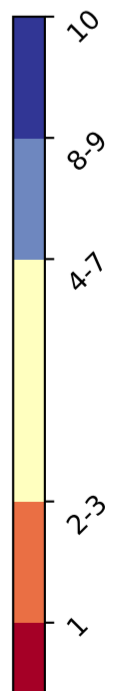
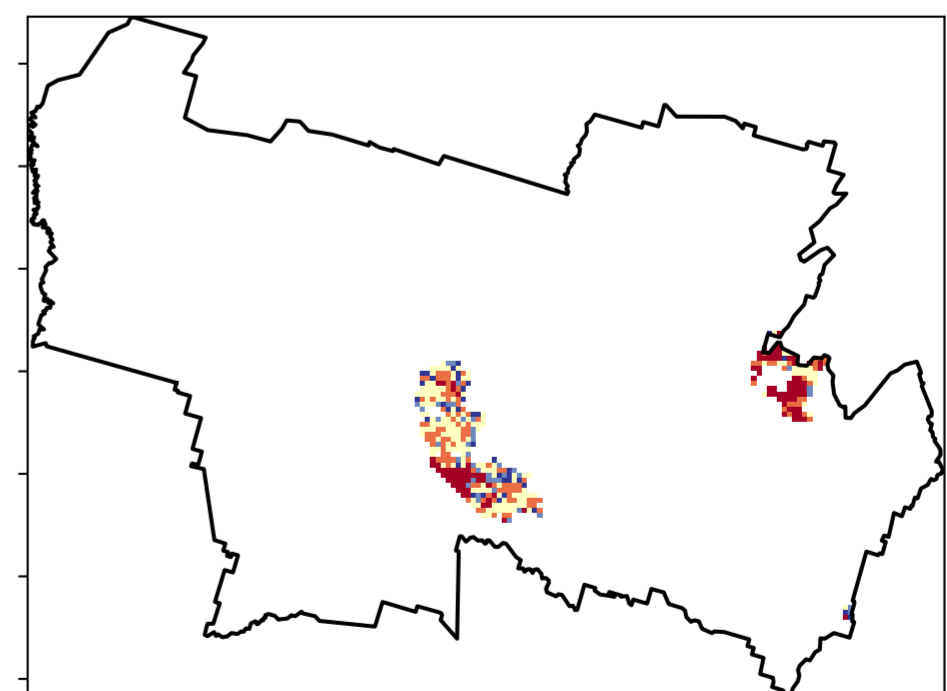
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

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.



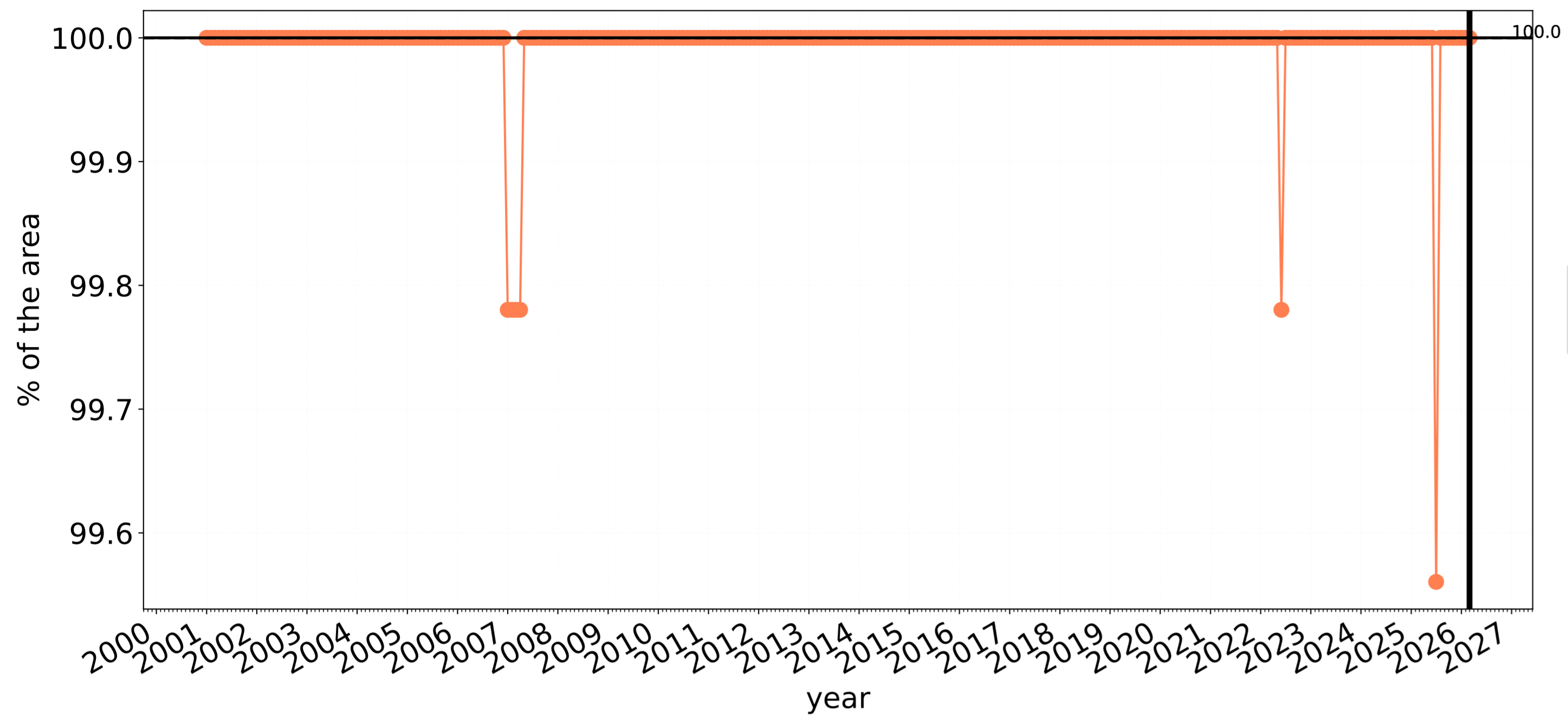
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Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]

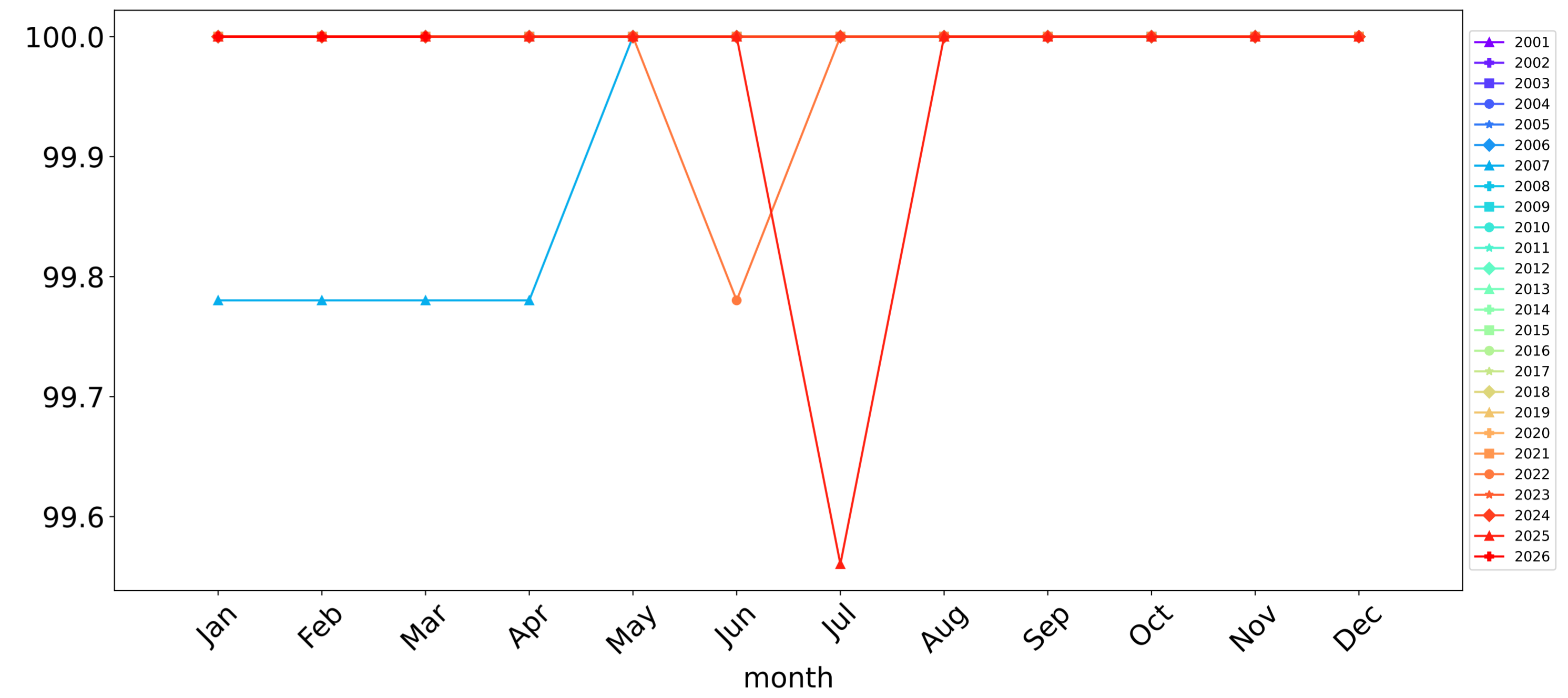


Conservation and natural environments Woodland forest timeseries

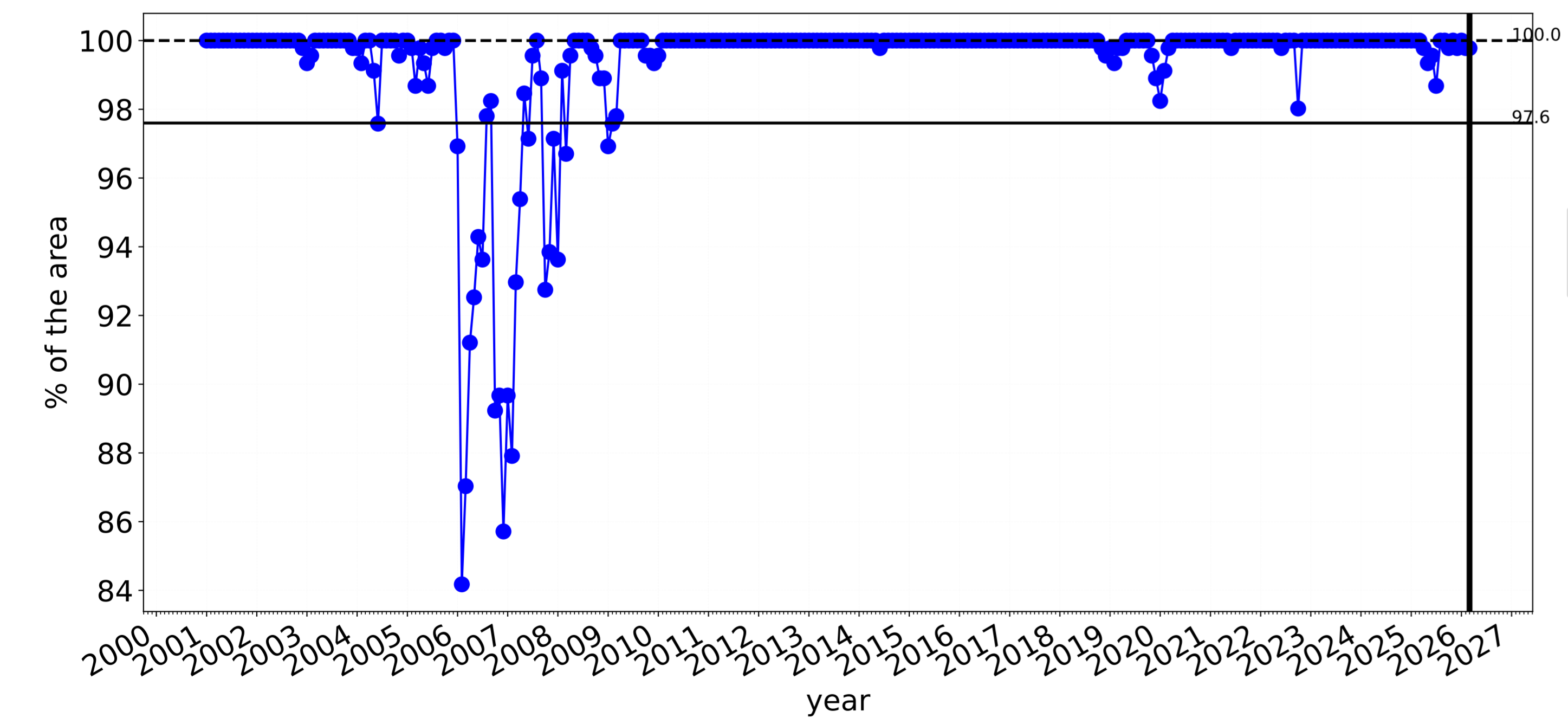
Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)



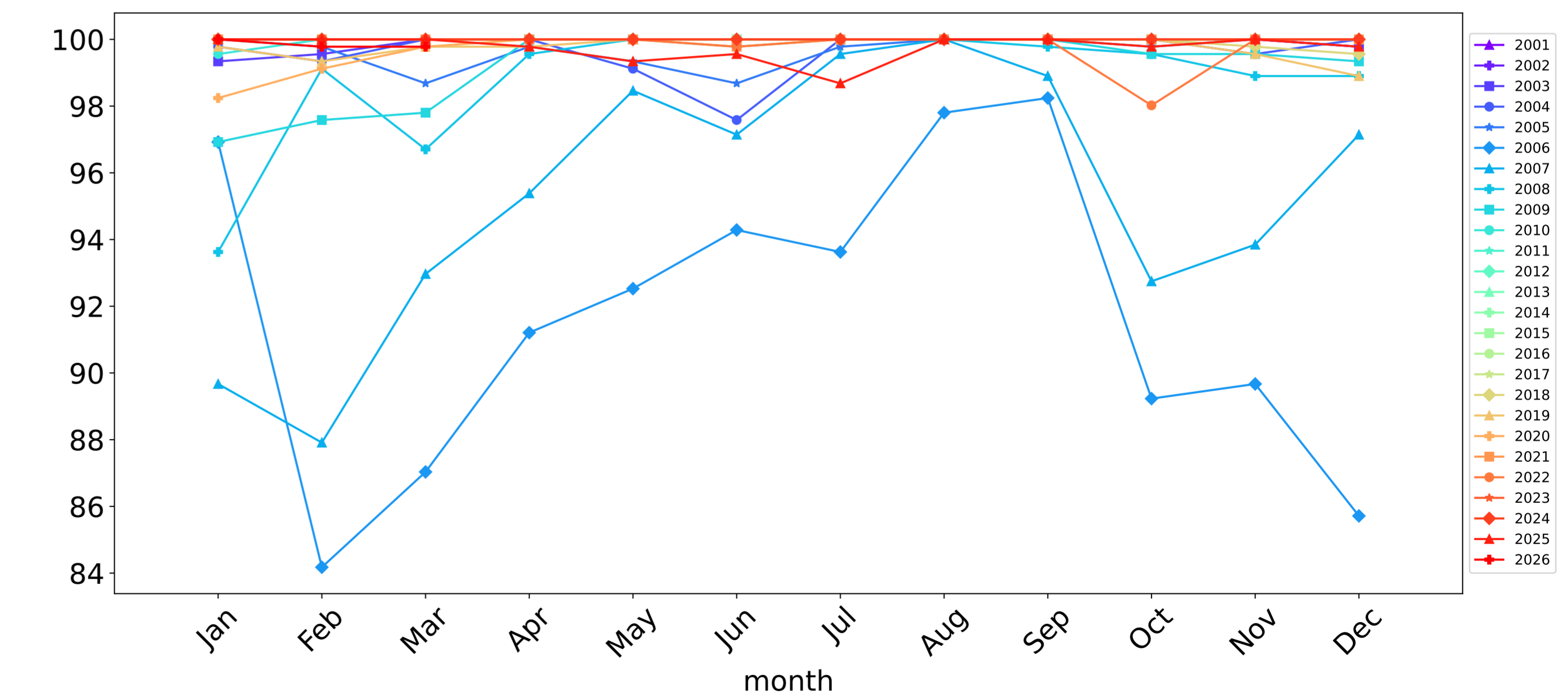
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



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



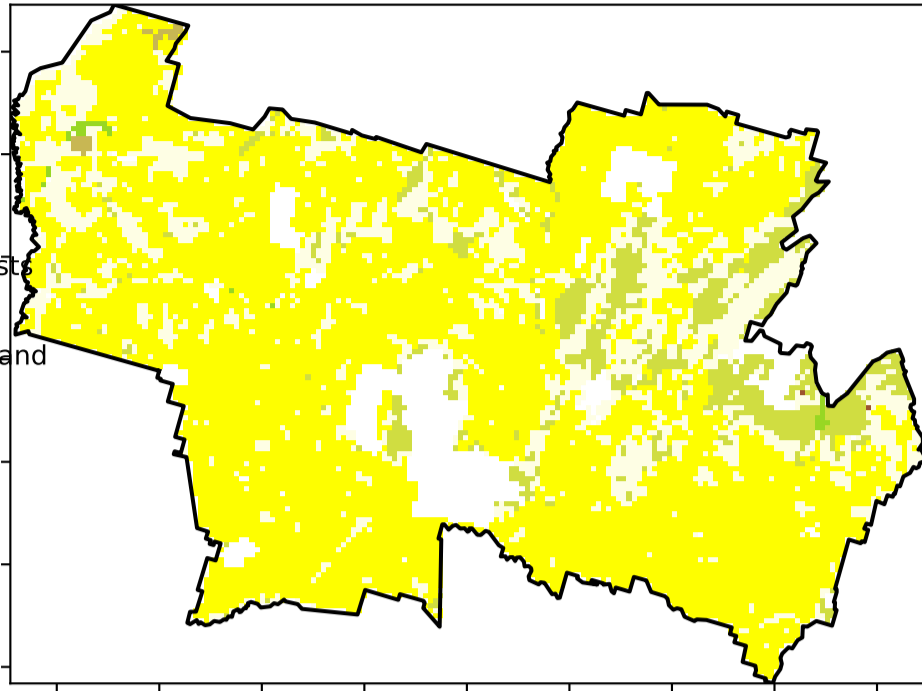
Water erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >70%)



Agriculture

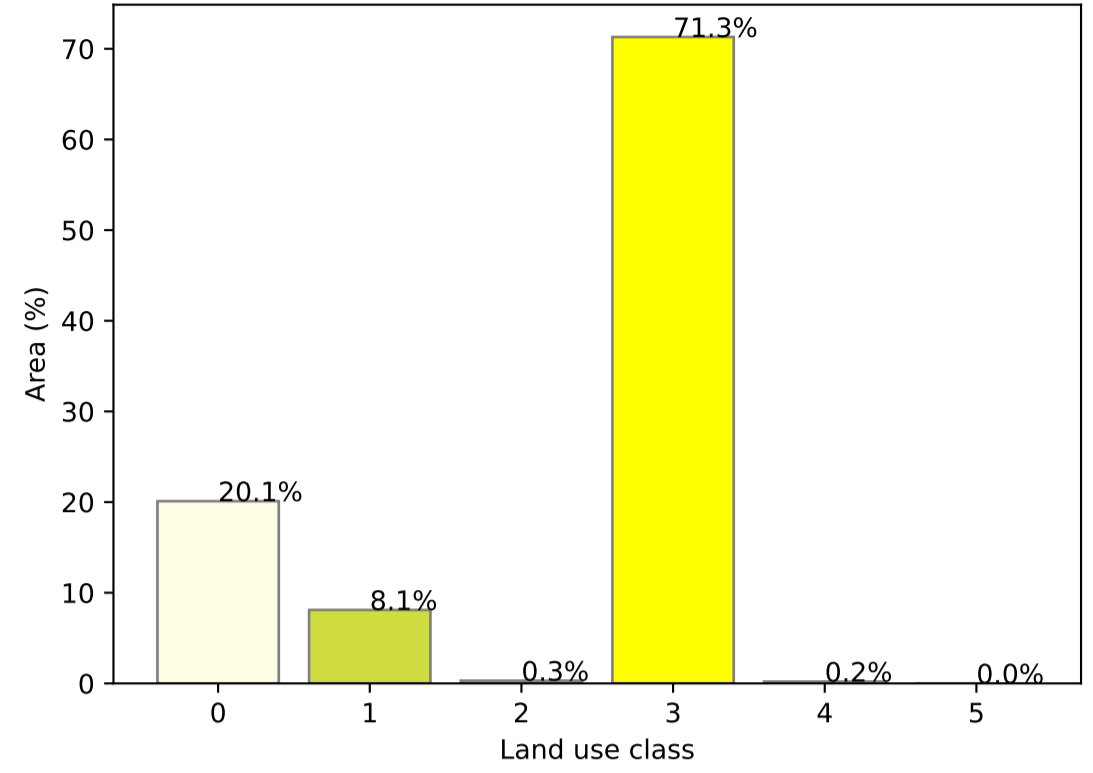
Land use and forest cover

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

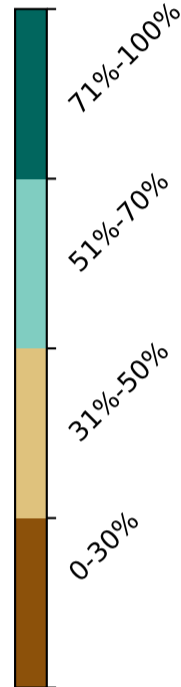
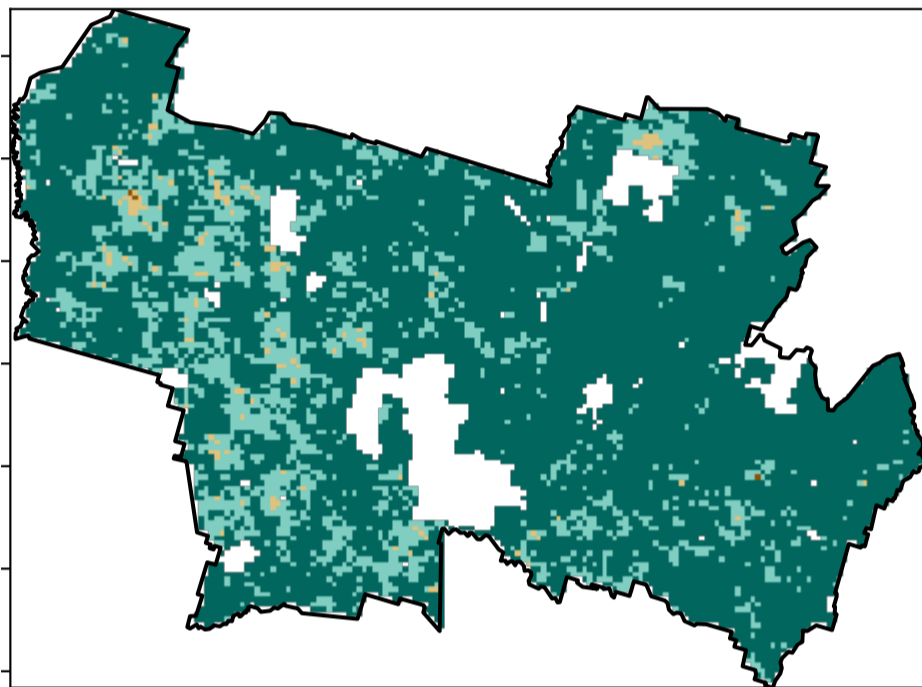


- 1 Agriculture - Grazing - Non forest
- 2 Agriculture - Grazing - Woodland forest
- 3 Agriculture - Grazing - Non-woodland forest
- 4 Agriculture - Cropping - Non-irrigated
- 5 Agriculture - Cropping - Irrigated
- 6 Agriculture - Horticulture - Irrigated

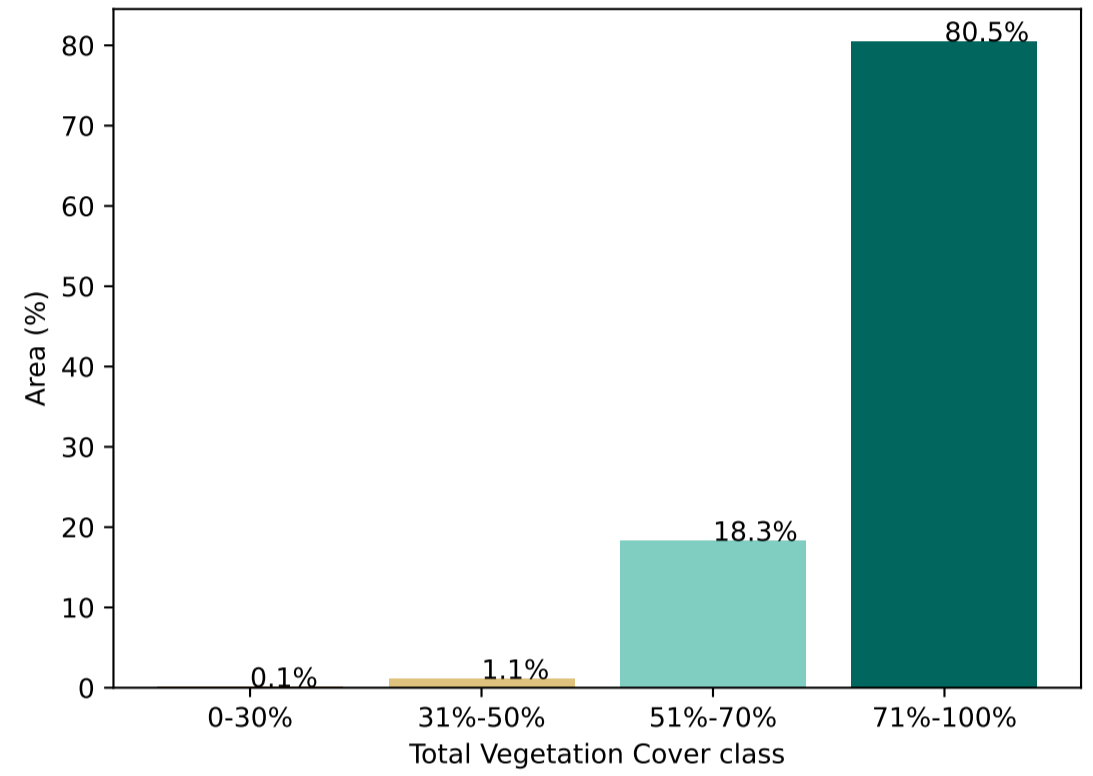
Proportion of each land class in area



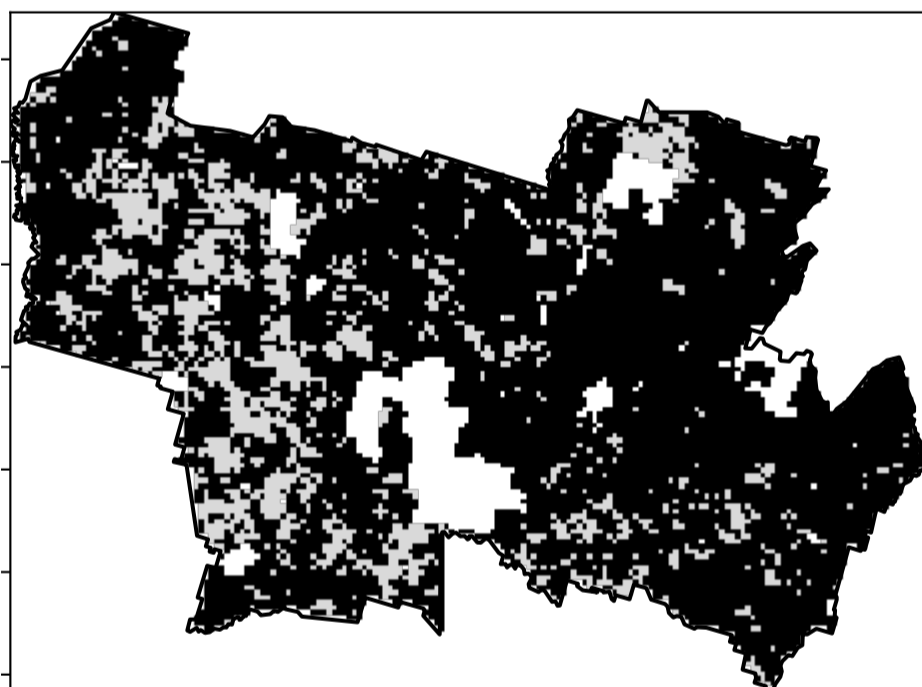
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



- Area not protected 19.5% of region (61,752 ha)
- Area protected 80.5% of region (254,923 ha)

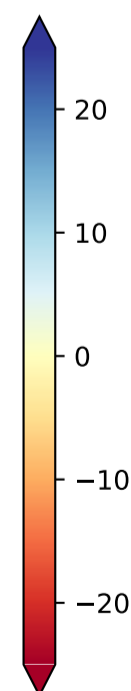
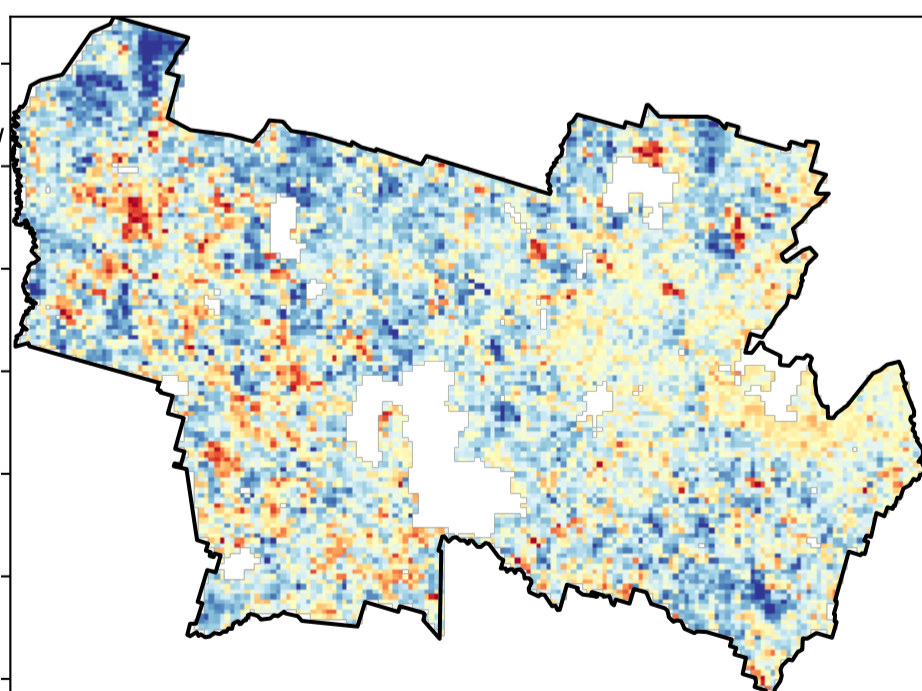
% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



- Area not protected 1.0% of region (3,167 ha)
- Area protected 99.0% of region (313,508 ha)

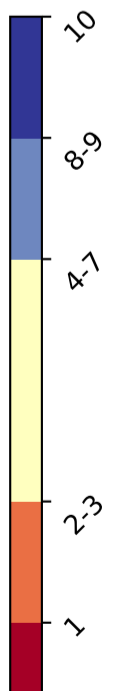
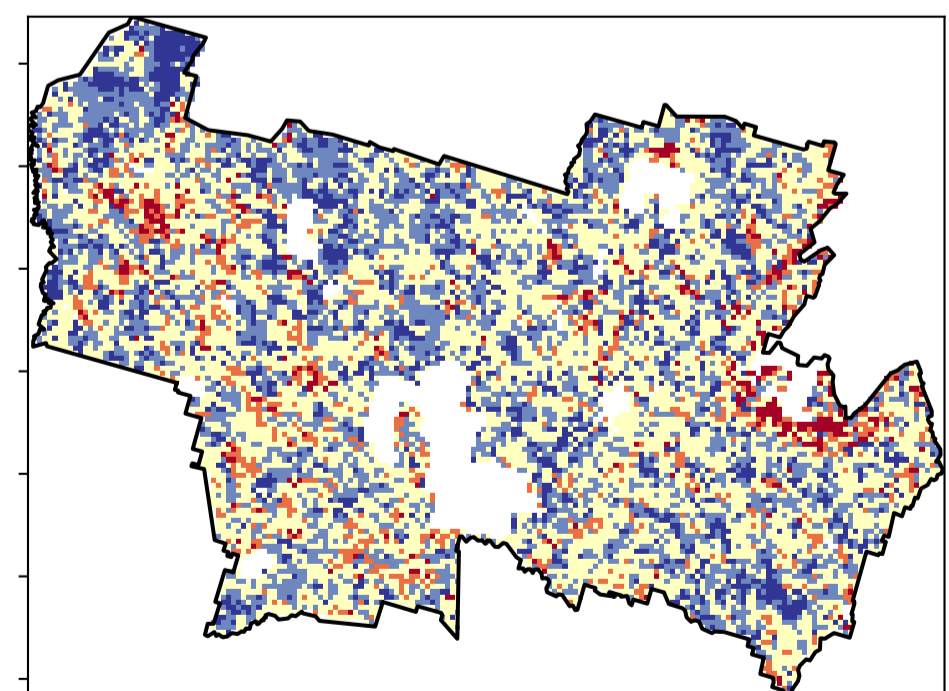
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

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.



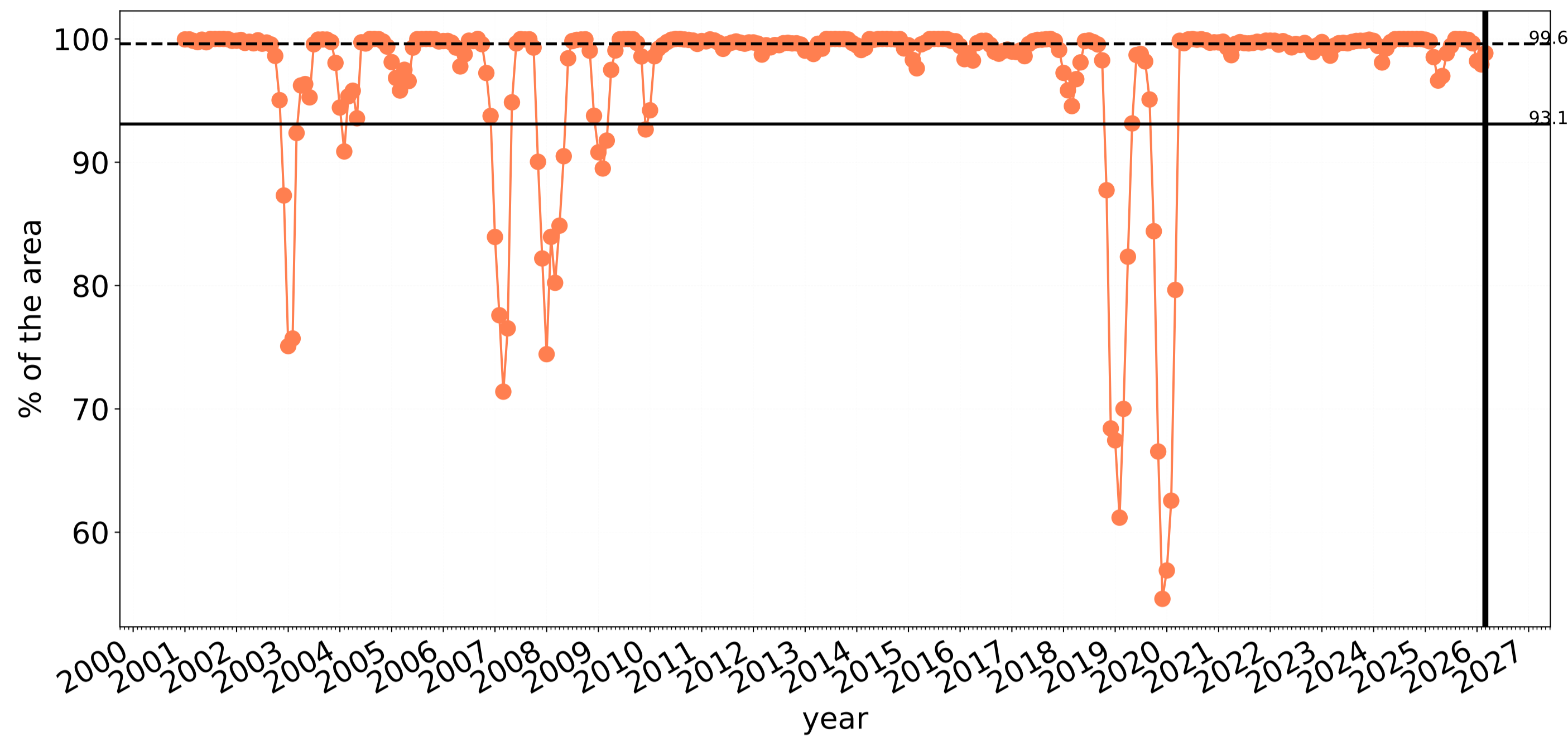
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Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]

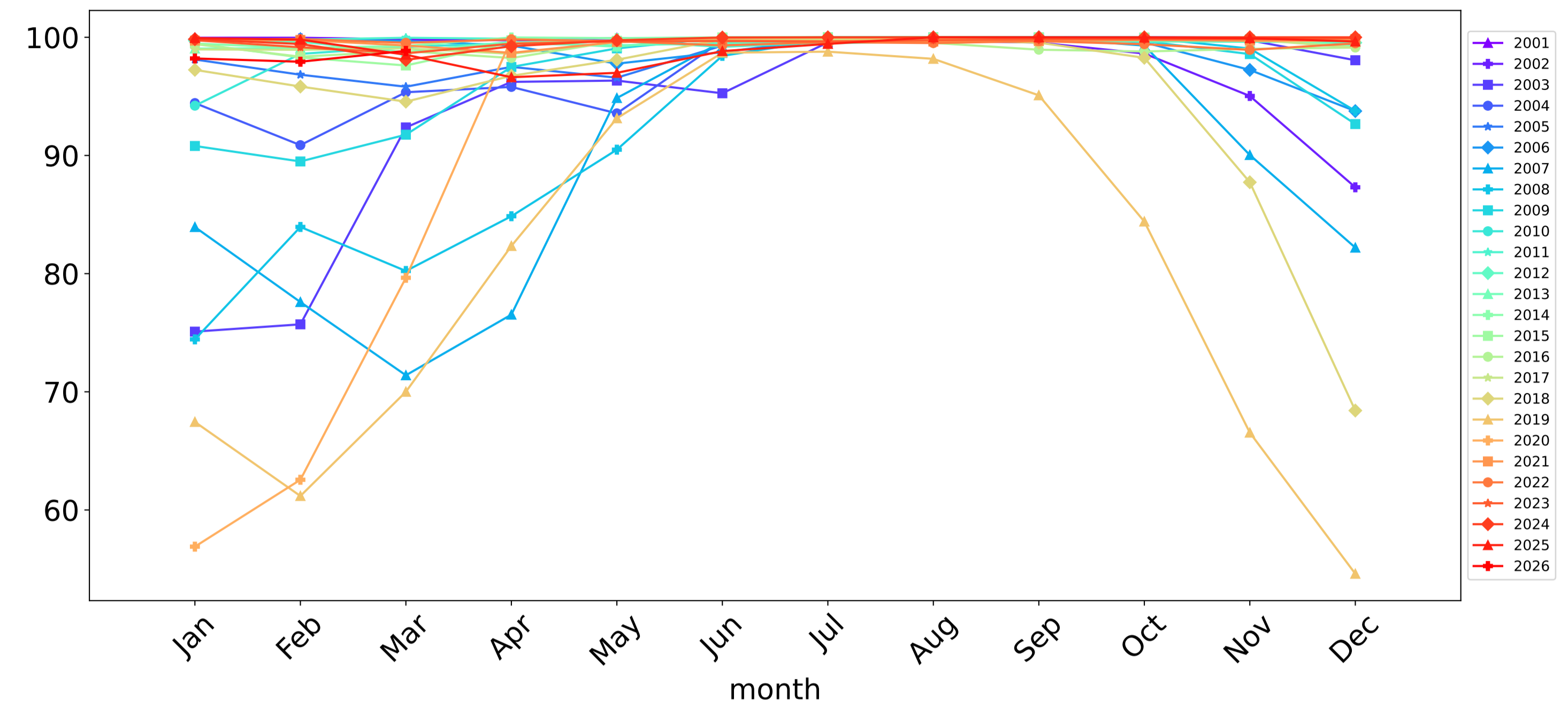


Agriculture timeseries

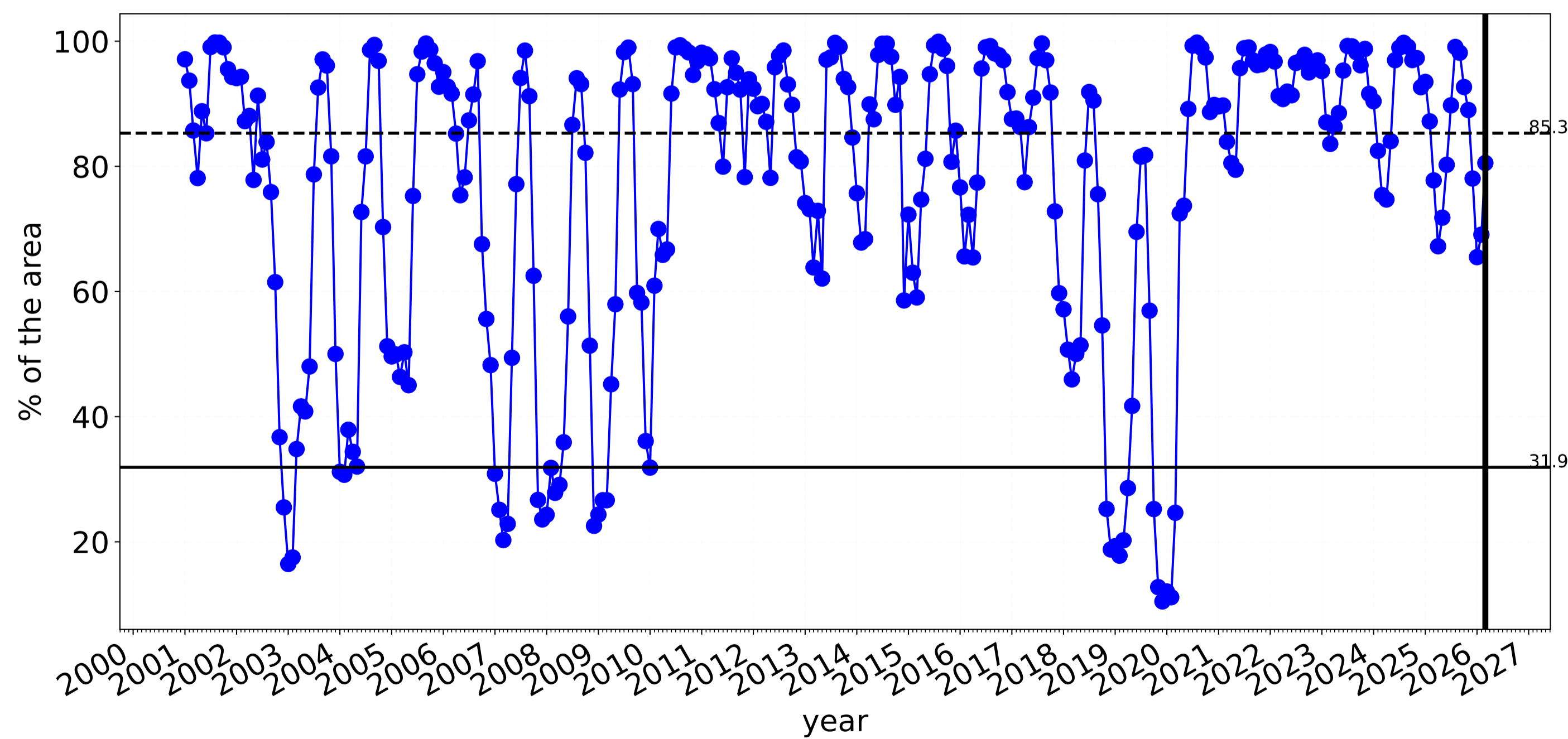
Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)



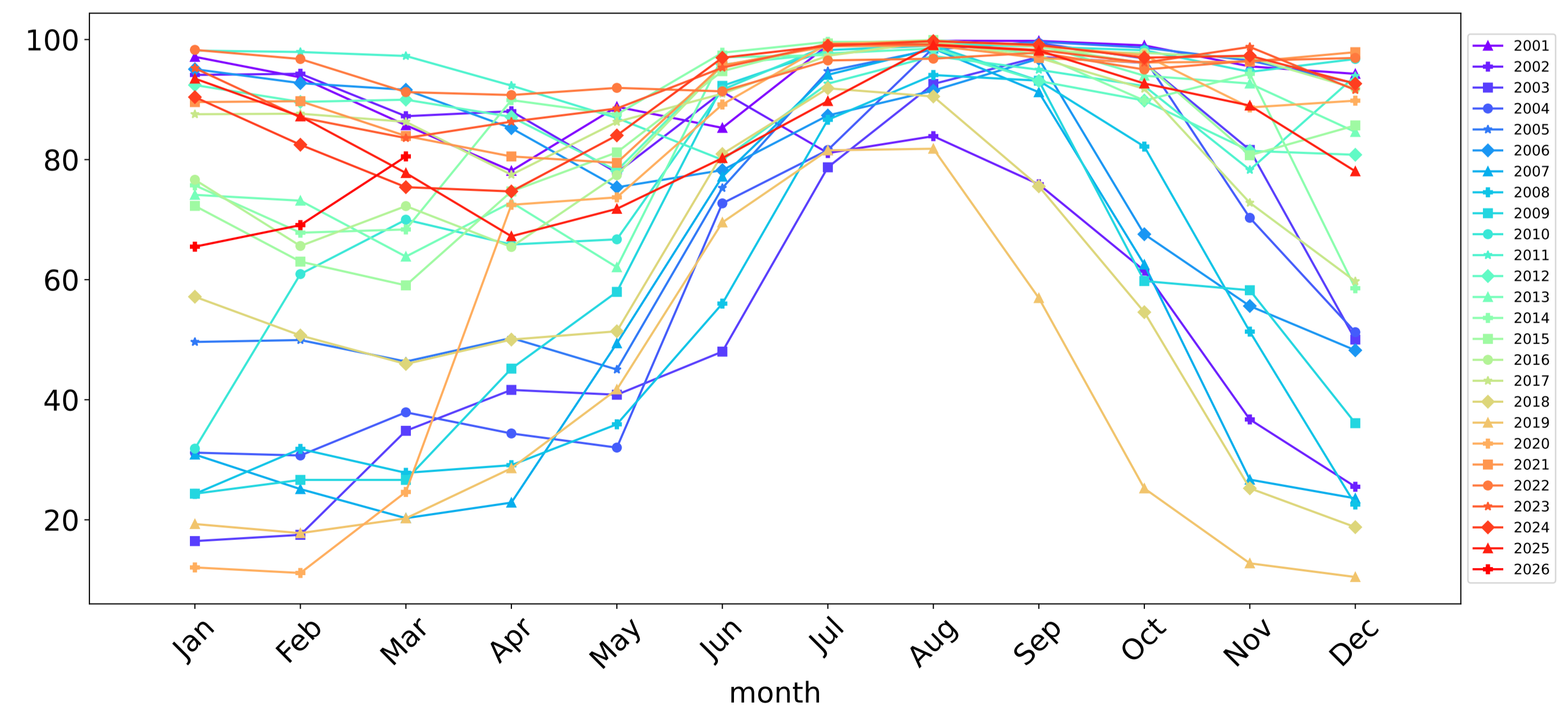
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



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



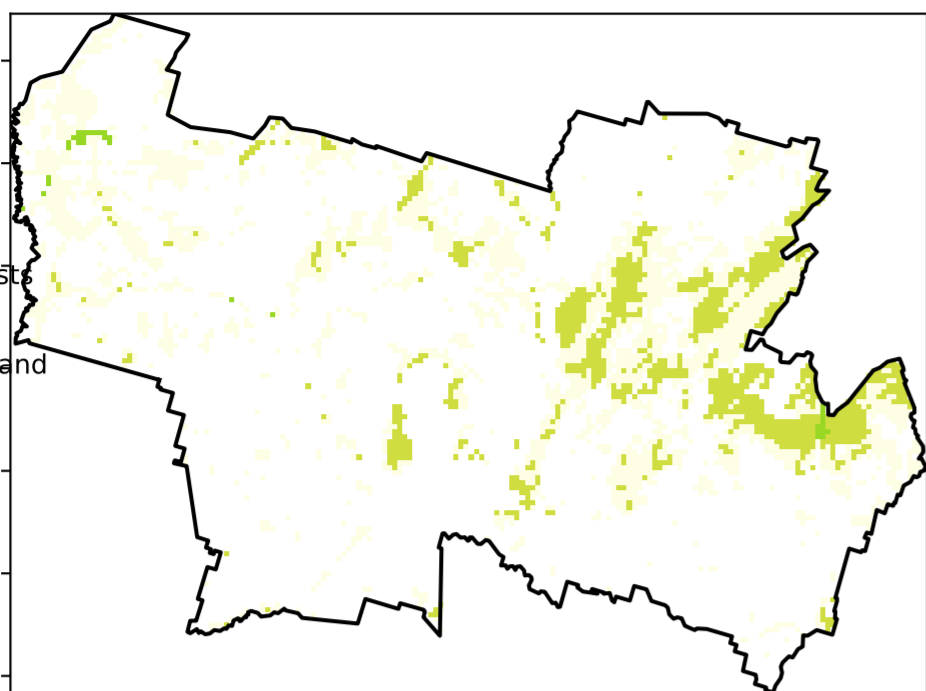
Water erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >70%)



Grazing

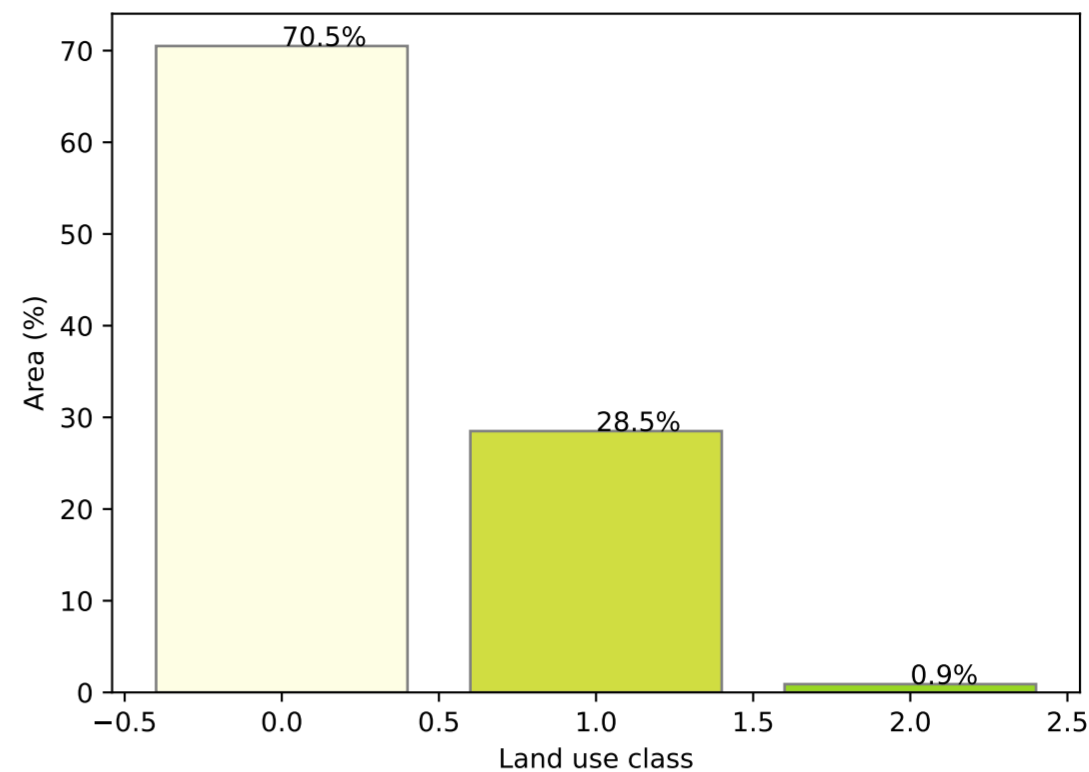
Land use and forest cover

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

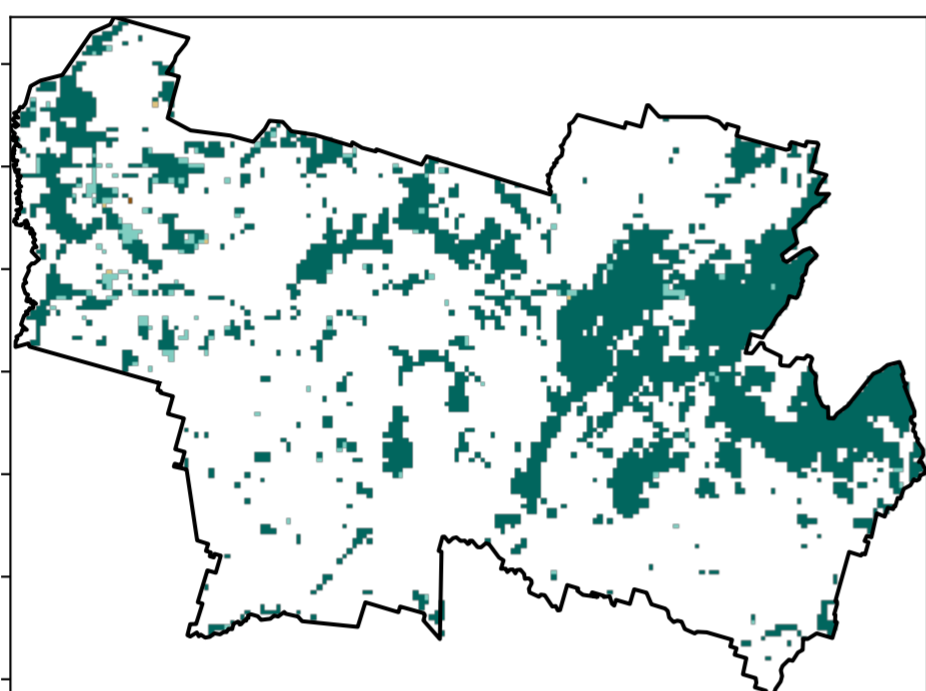


- 1 Agriculture - Grazing - Non forest
- 2 Agriculture - Grazing - Woodland forest
- 3 Agriculture - Grazing - Non-woodland forest

Proportion of each land class in area

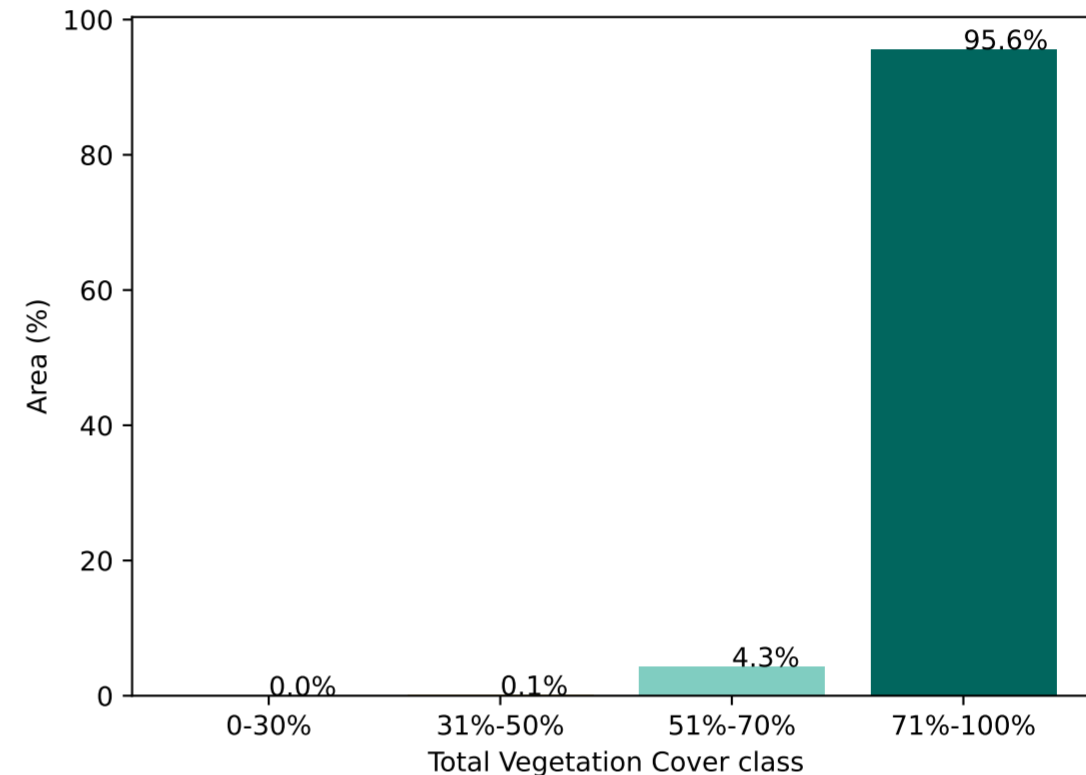


Total Vegetation Cover [%]

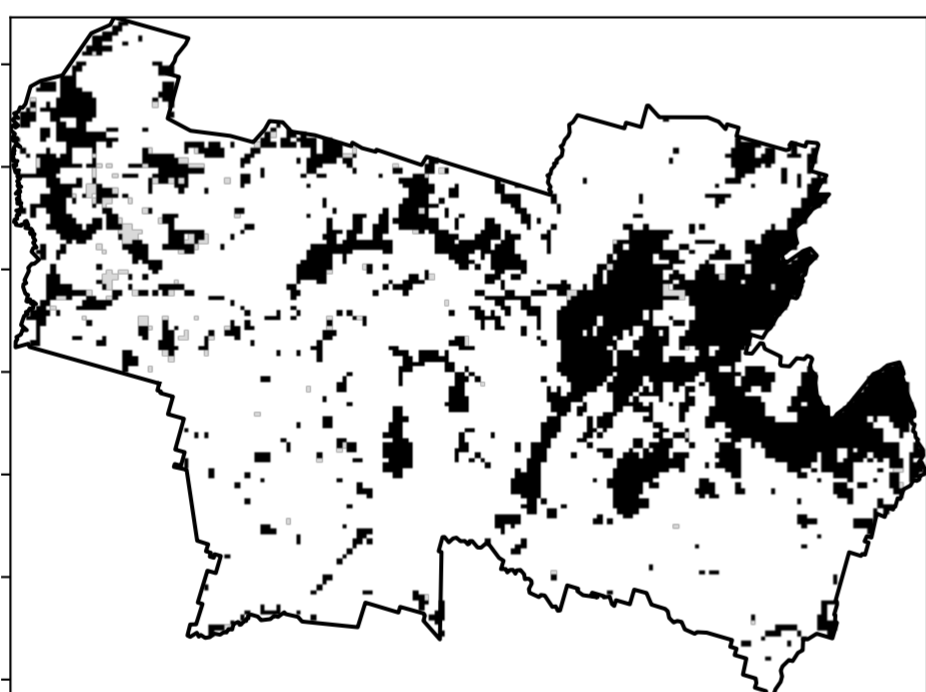


- 71%-100%
- 51%-70%
- 31%-50%
- 0-30%

Proportion of vegetation cover class in area

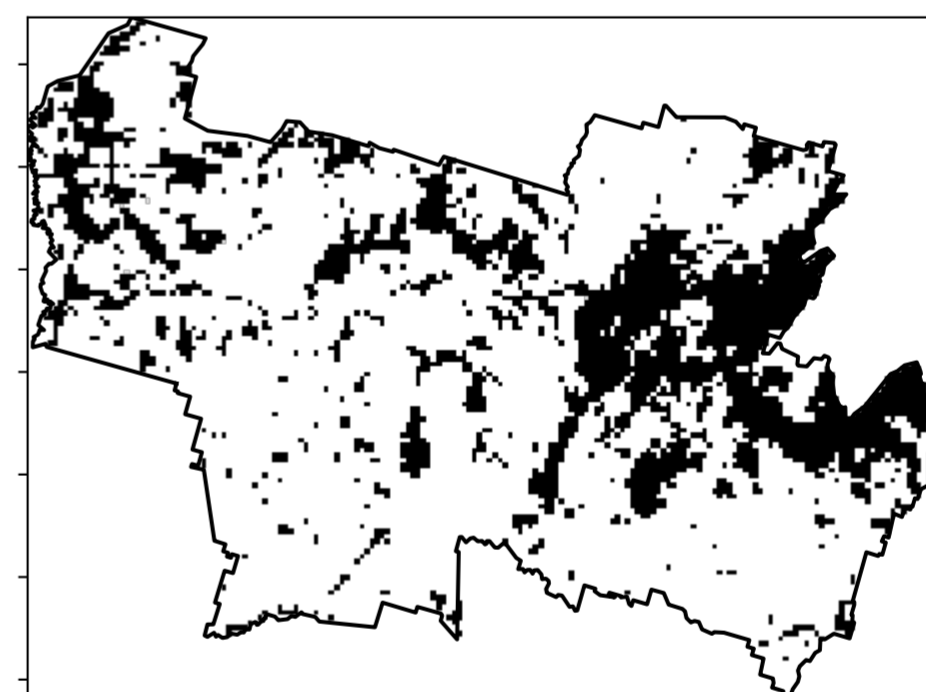


% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



- Area not protected 4.4% of region (3,969 ha)
- Area protected 95.6% of region (86,231 ha)

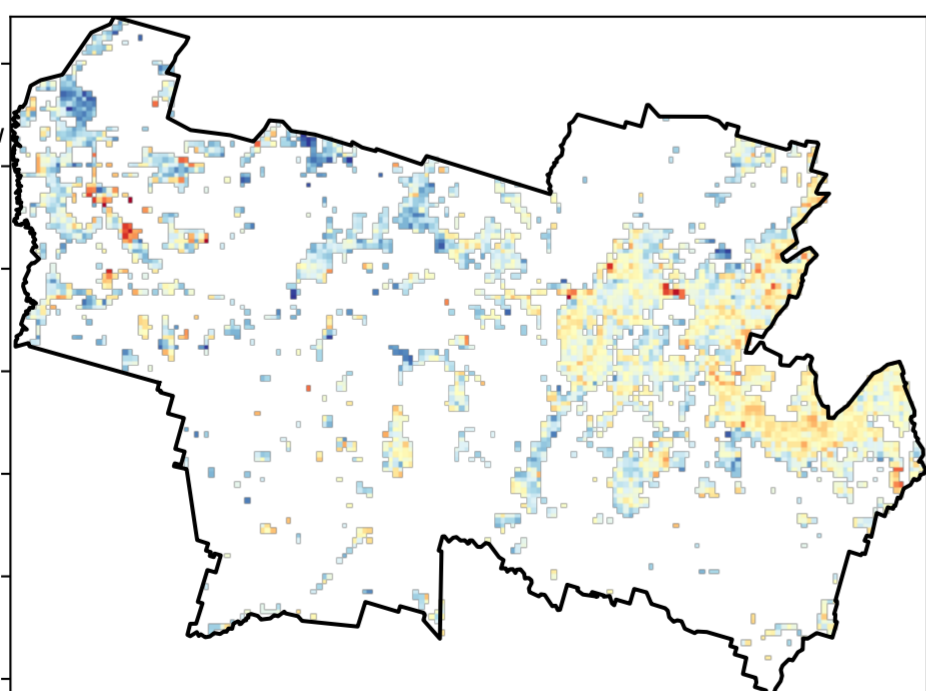
% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



- Area not protected 0.0% of region (0 ha)
- Area protected 100.0% of region (90,200 ha)

Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

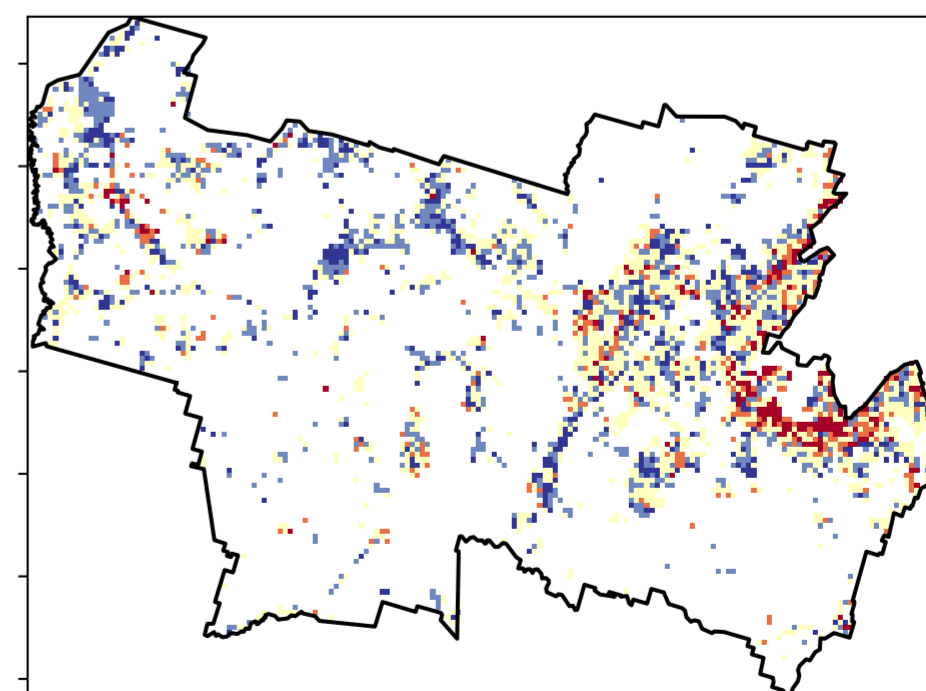
Anomaly show how many percentage points each pixel is from the mean. That is, red pixels are about 20% lower than the mean of that pixel. The mean is only for the month of the map using baseline from 2001 to 2019.



- 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 [%]

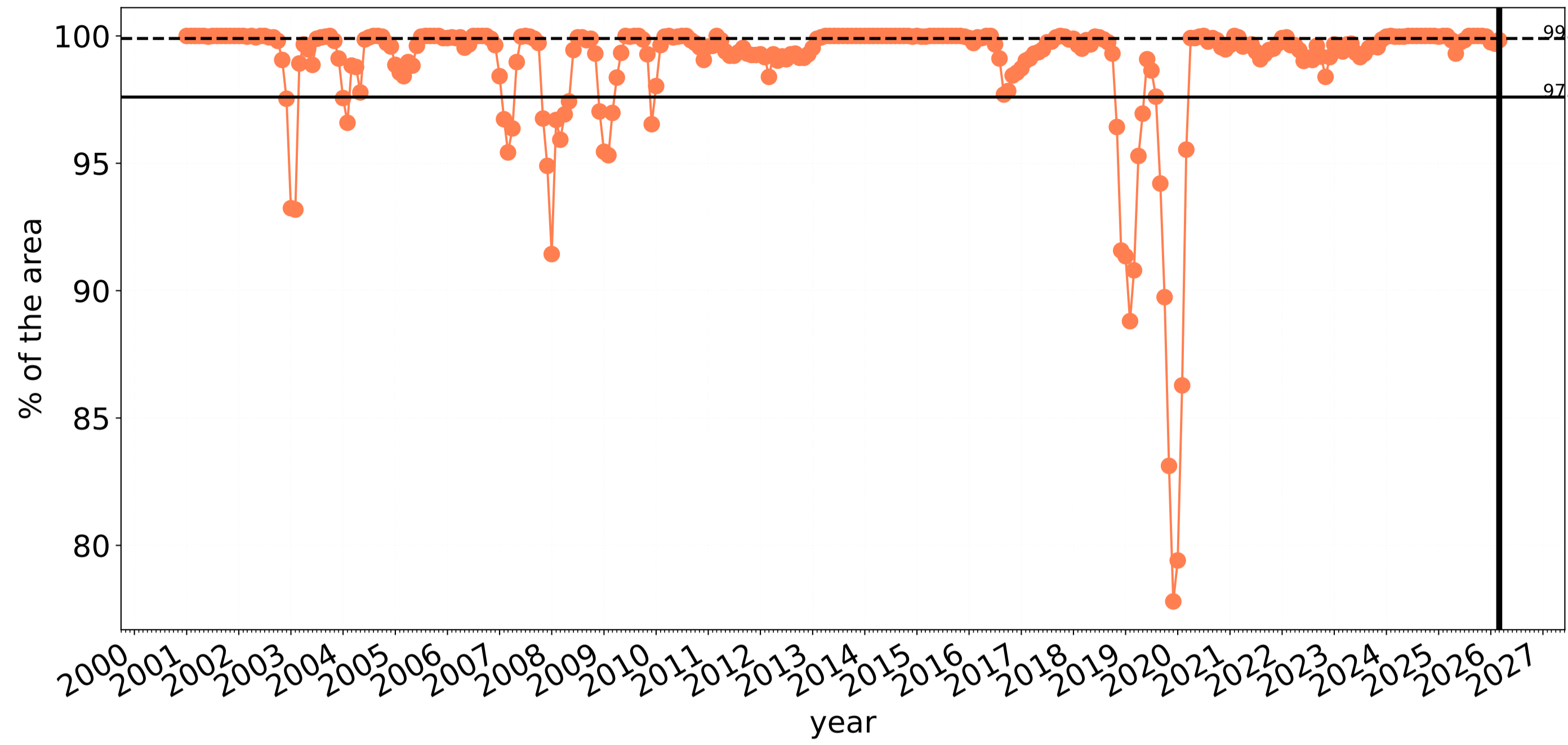


- 10
- 8,9
- 7,8
- 6,7
- 5,6
- 4,5
- 3,4
- 2,3
- 1

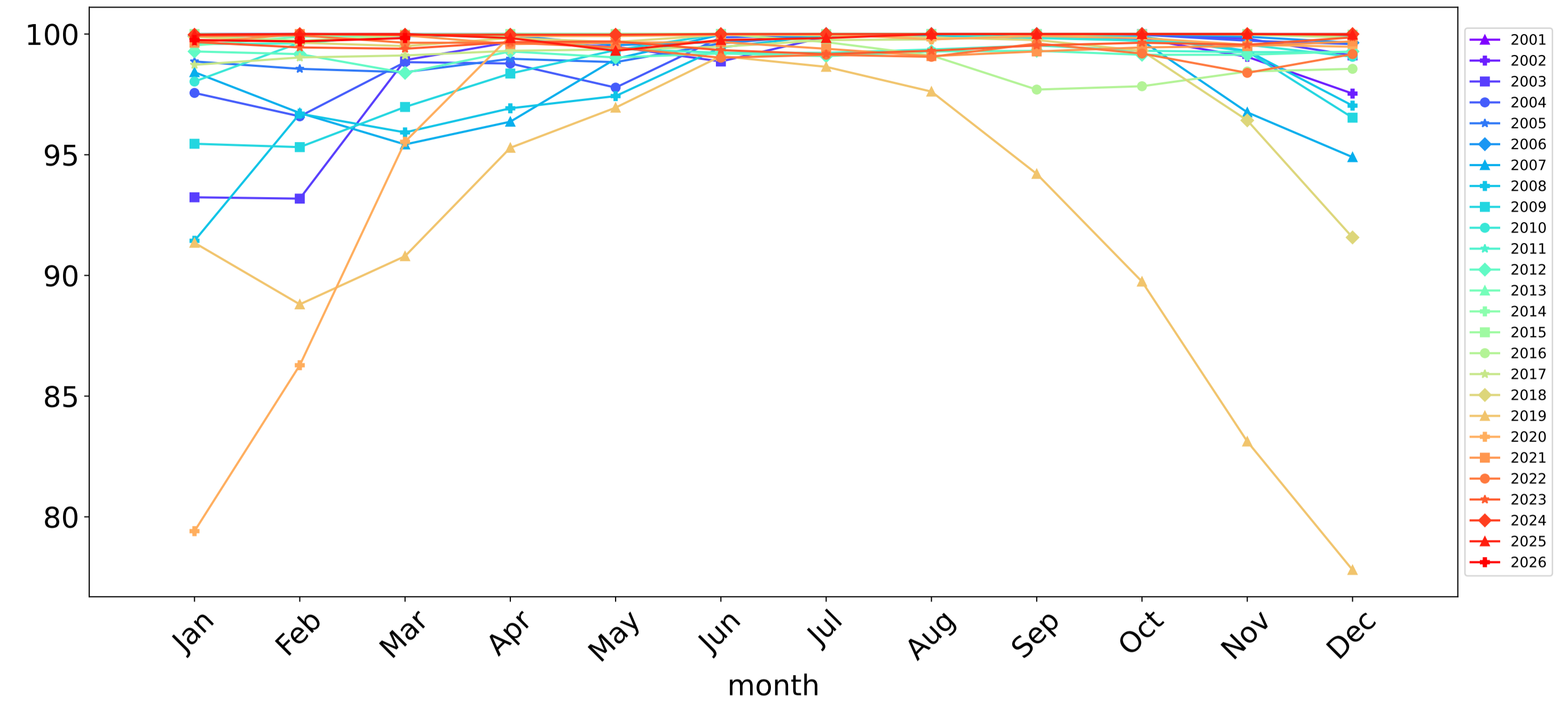


Grazing timeseries

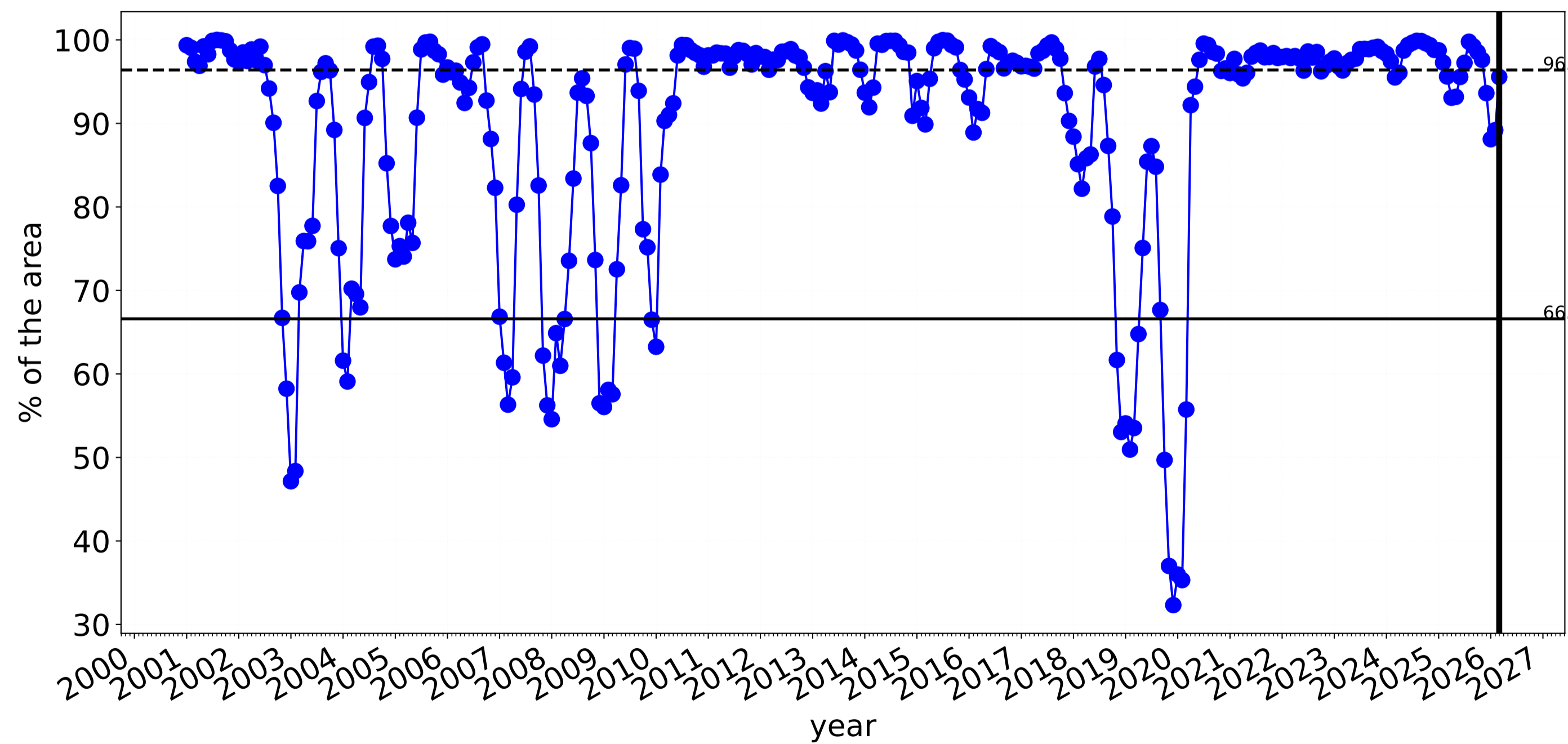
Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)



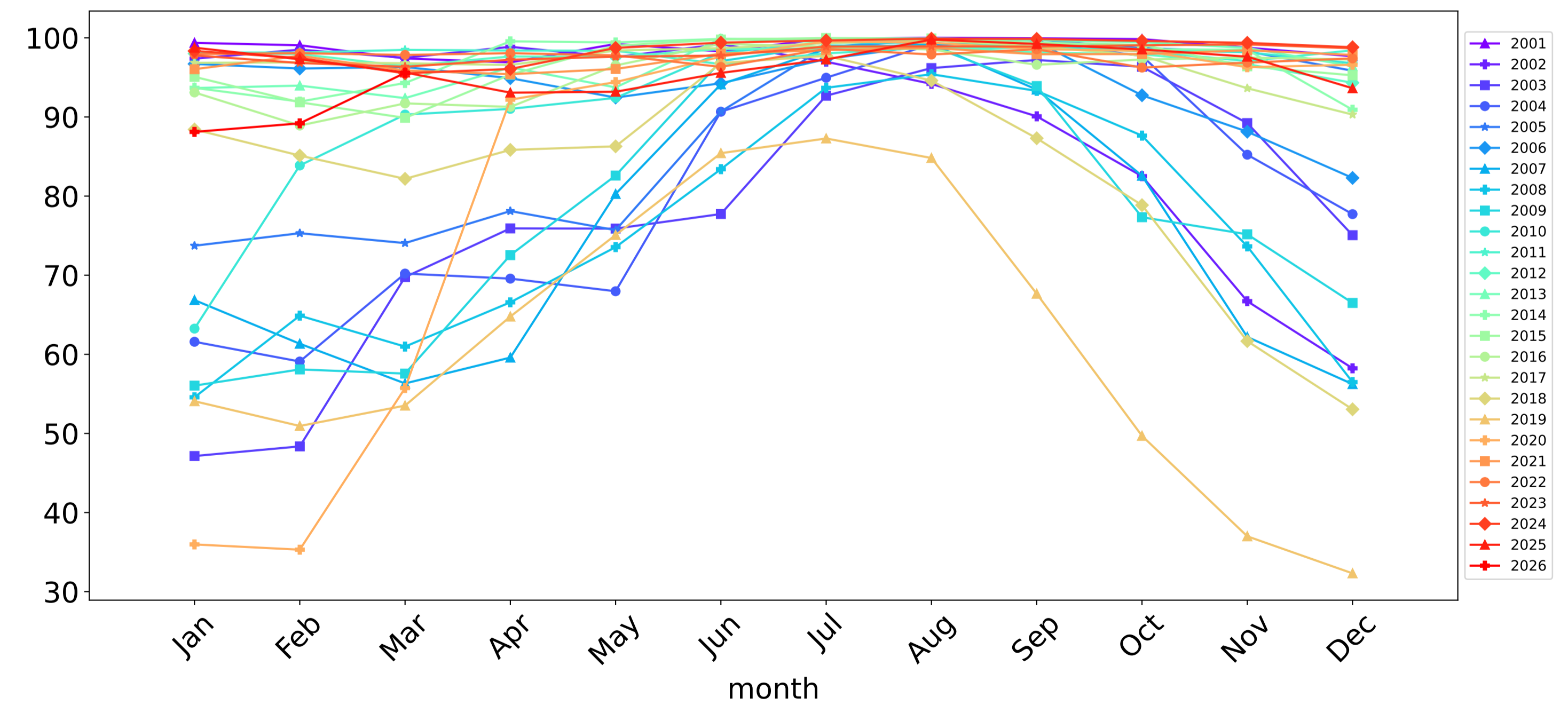
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



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



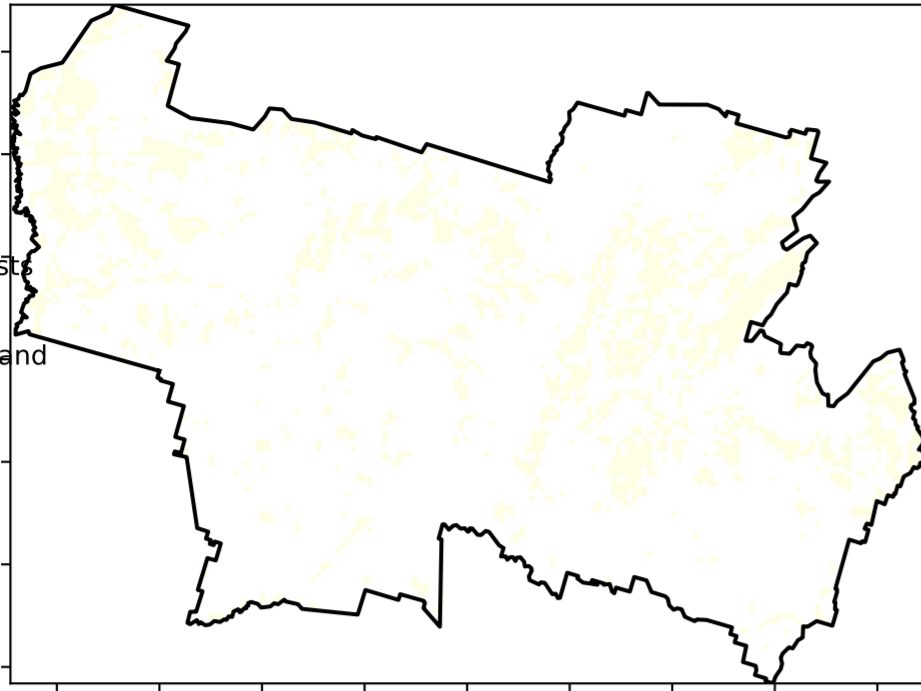
Water erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >70%)



Grazing non forest

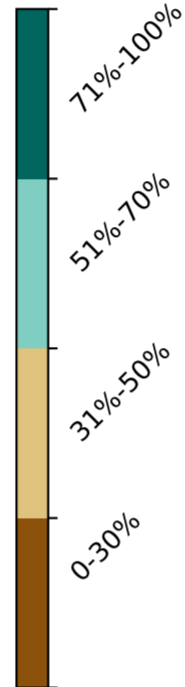
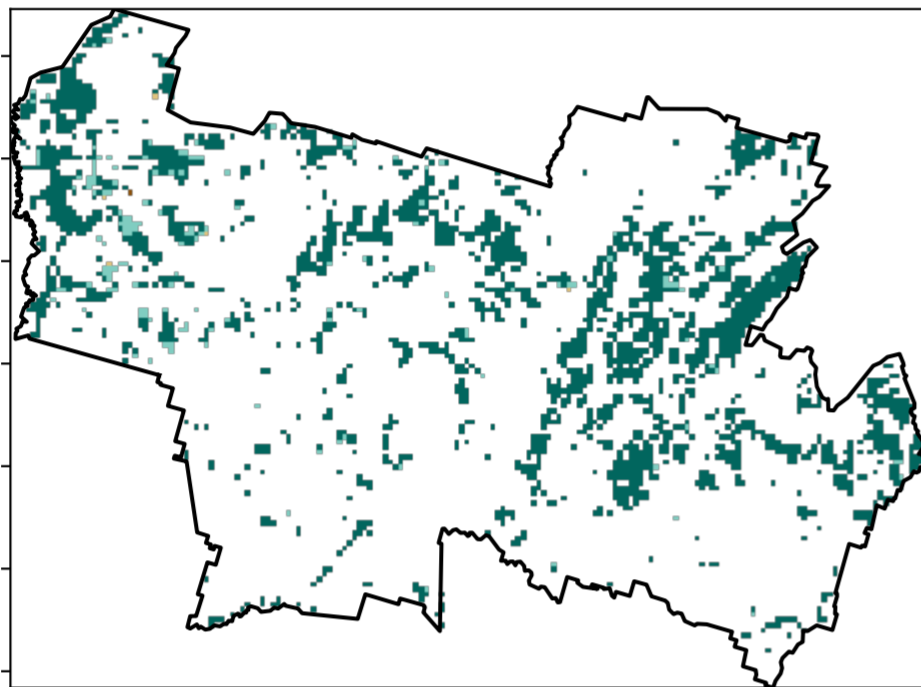
Land use and forest cover

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

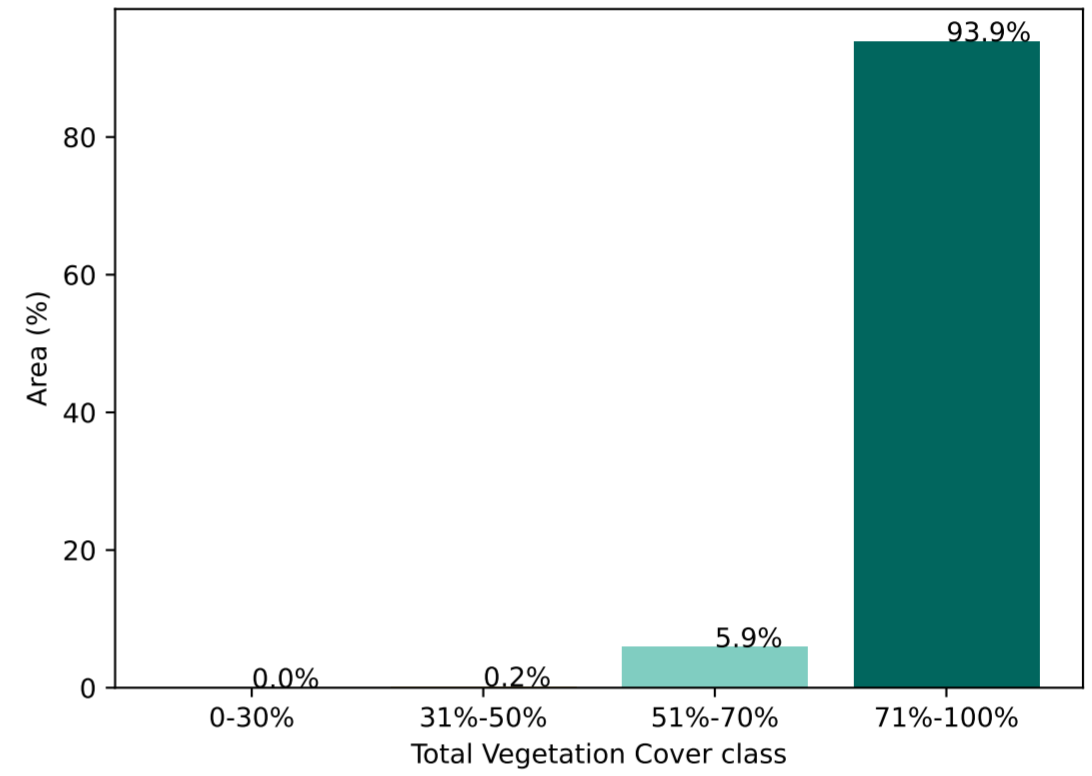


1 Agriculture - Grazing - Non forest

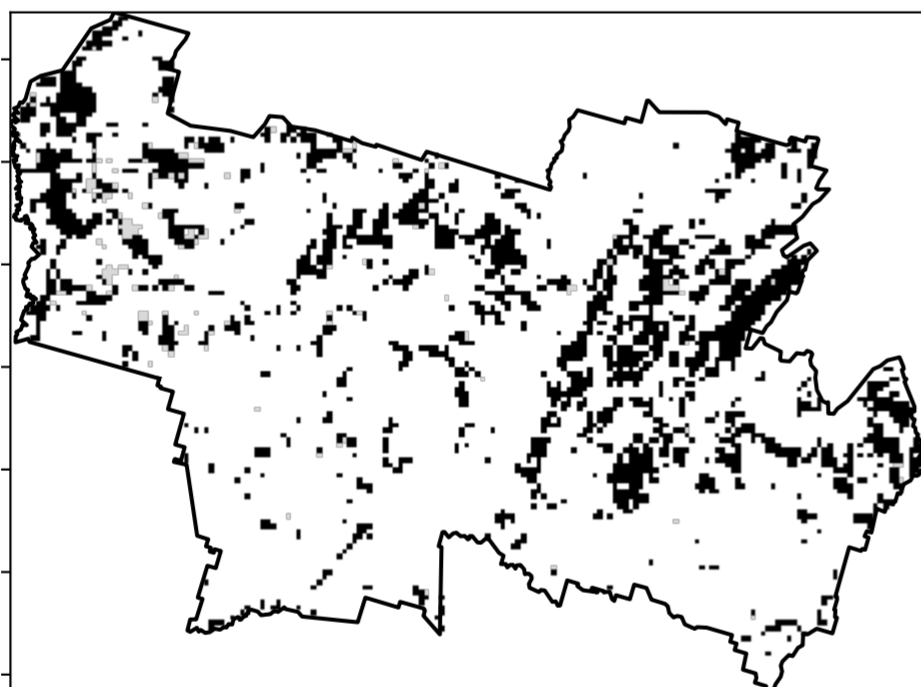
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



Proportion of vegetation cover class in area

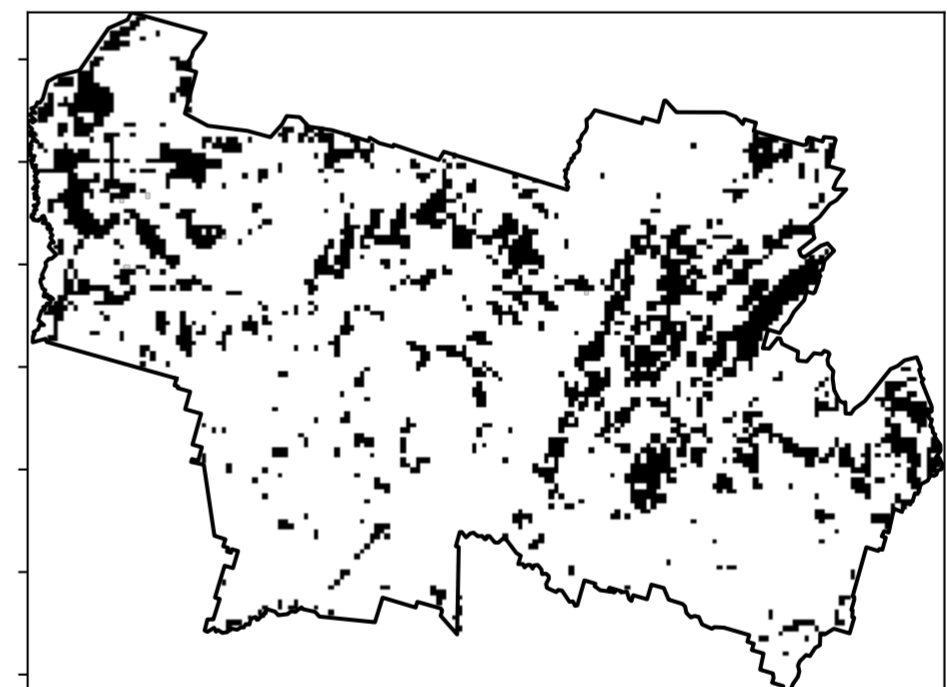


% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



Area not protected 6.1% of region (3,881 ha)
Area protected 93.9% of region (59,744 ha)

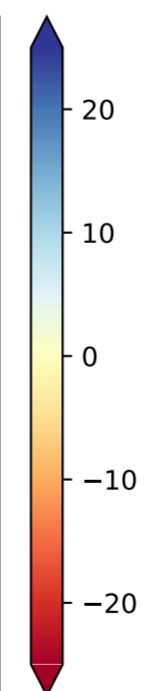
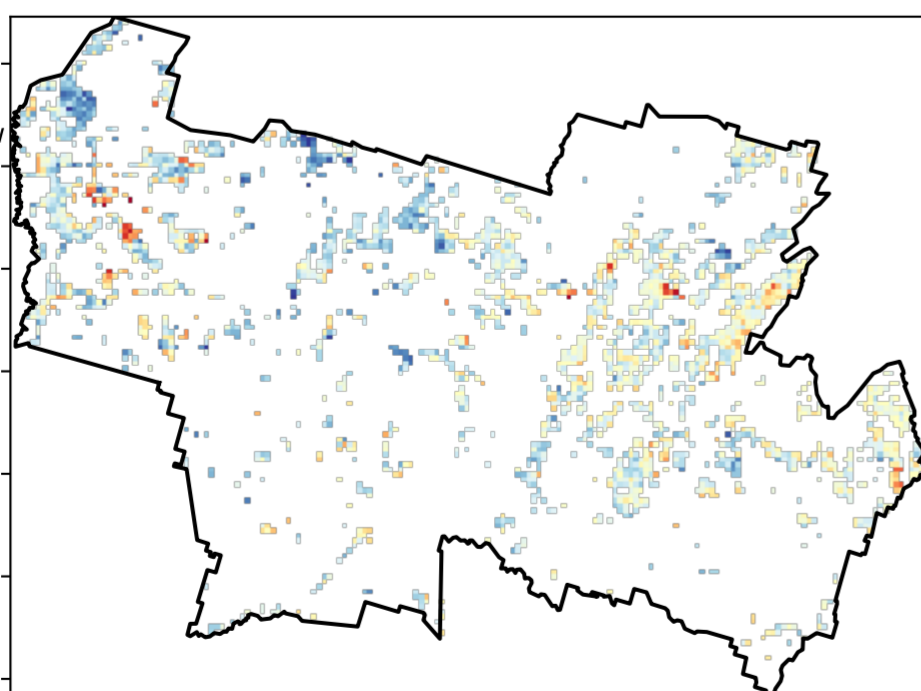
% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



Area not protected 0.0% of region (0 ha)
Area protected 100.0% of region (63,625 ha)

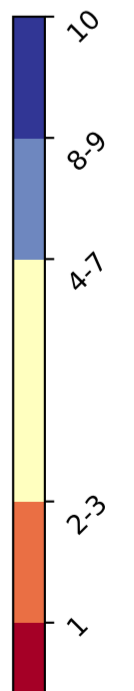
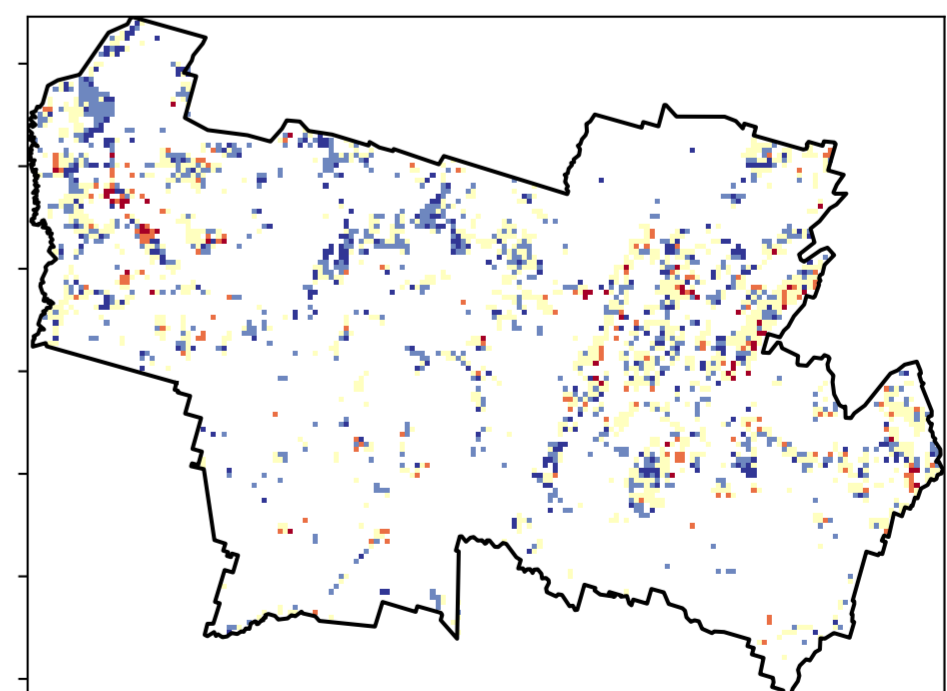
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

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.



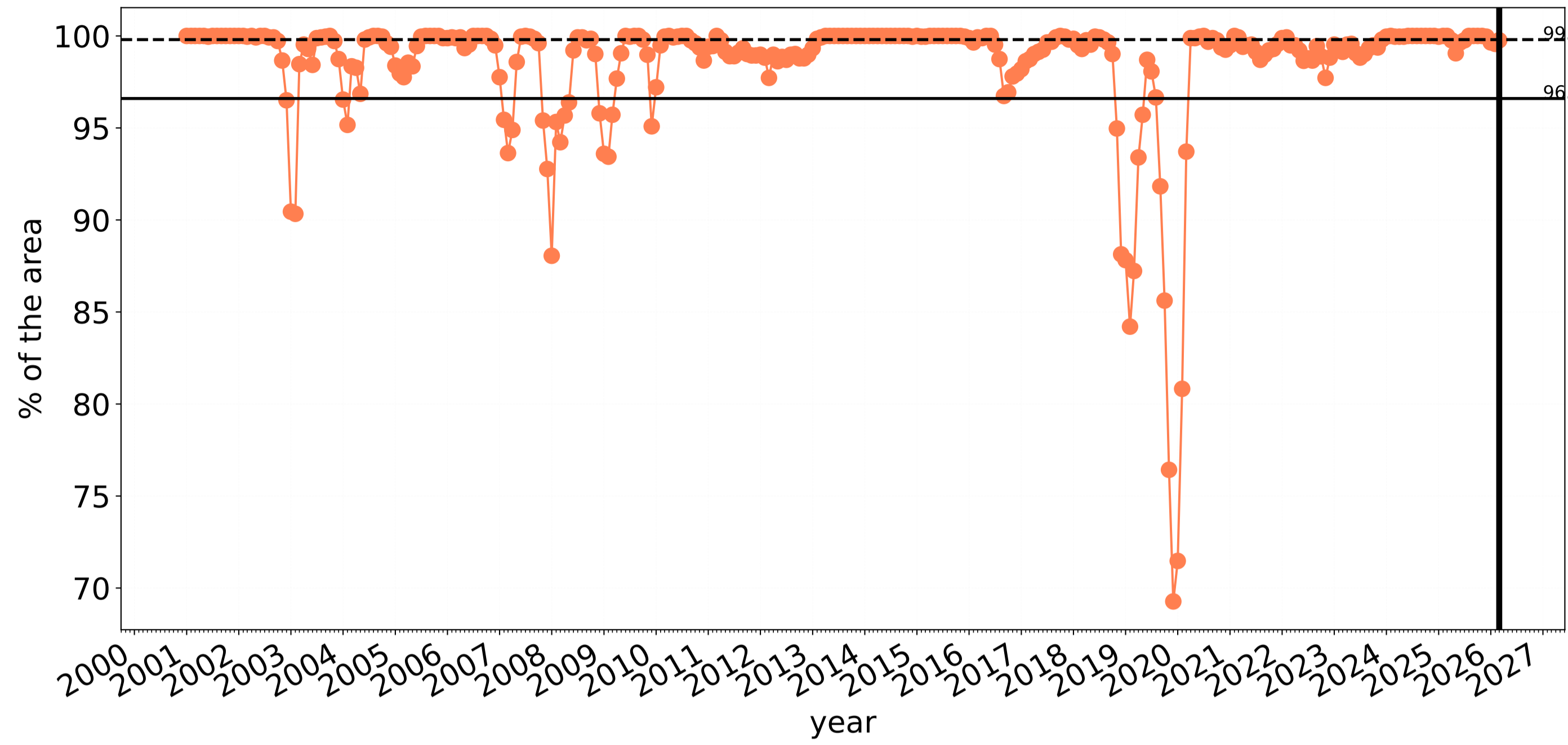
Deciles show where the pixel value lies in the record, from highest to lowest, for that month. That is, red pixels are in the lowest 10% of records for that month of the map using baseline from 2001 to 2019.

Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]

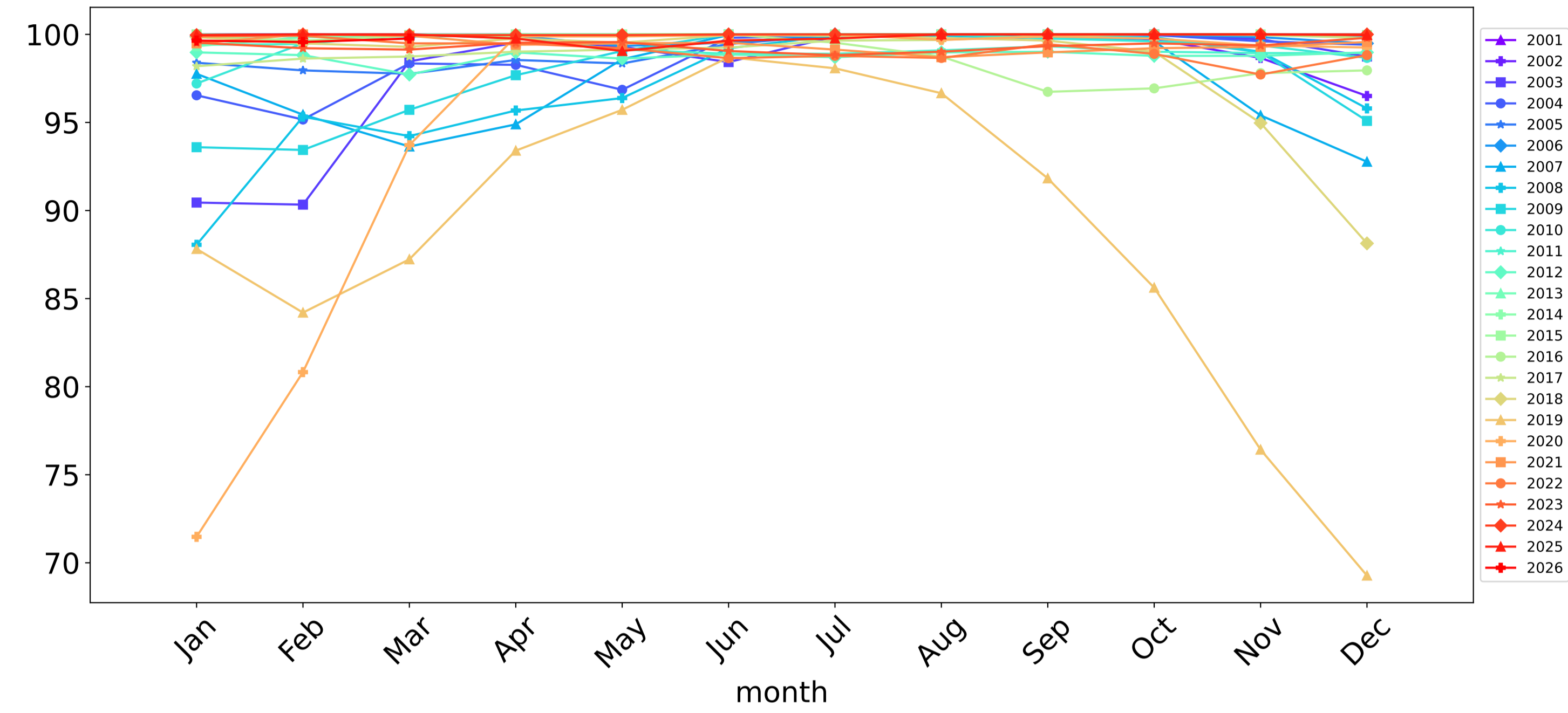


Grazing non forest timeseries

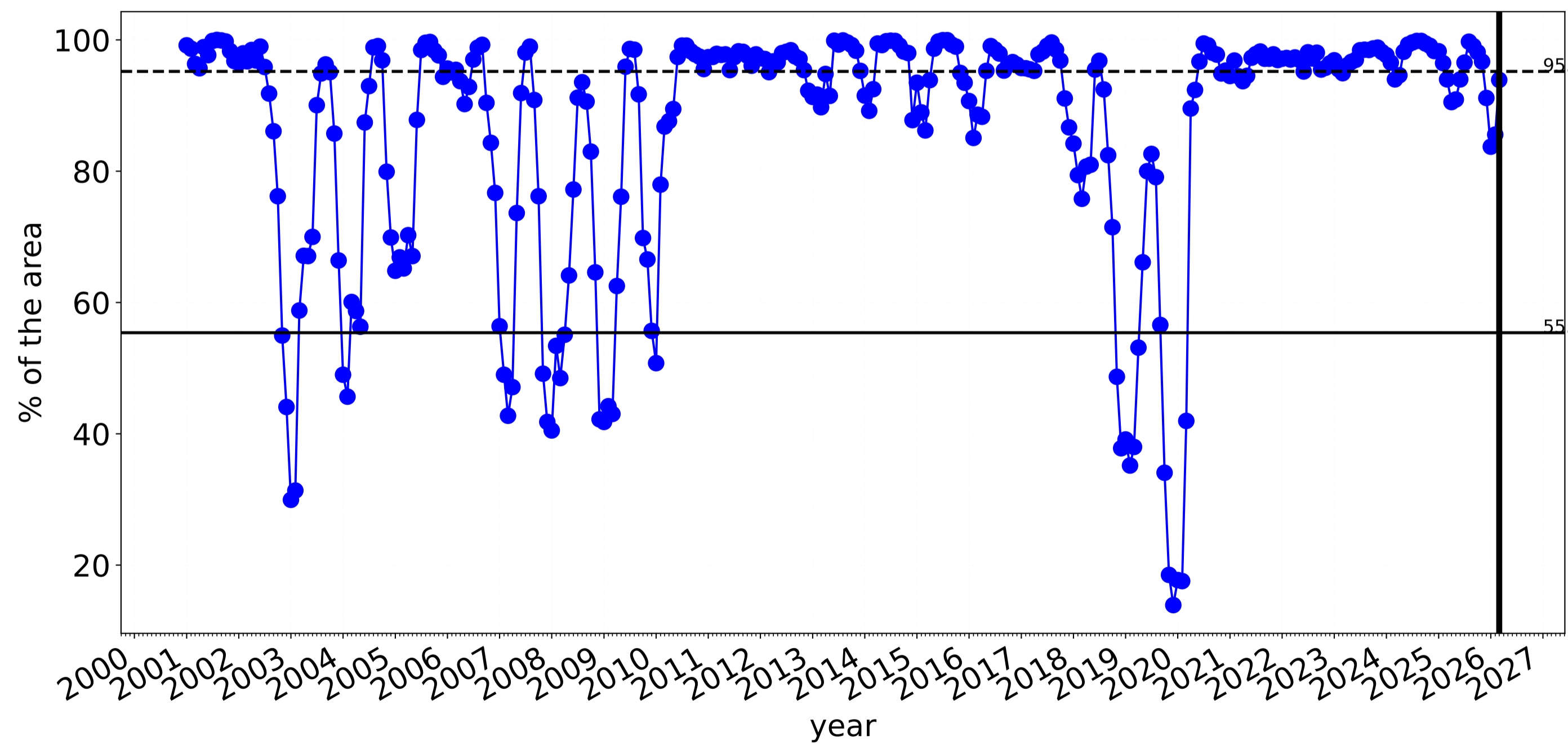
Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)



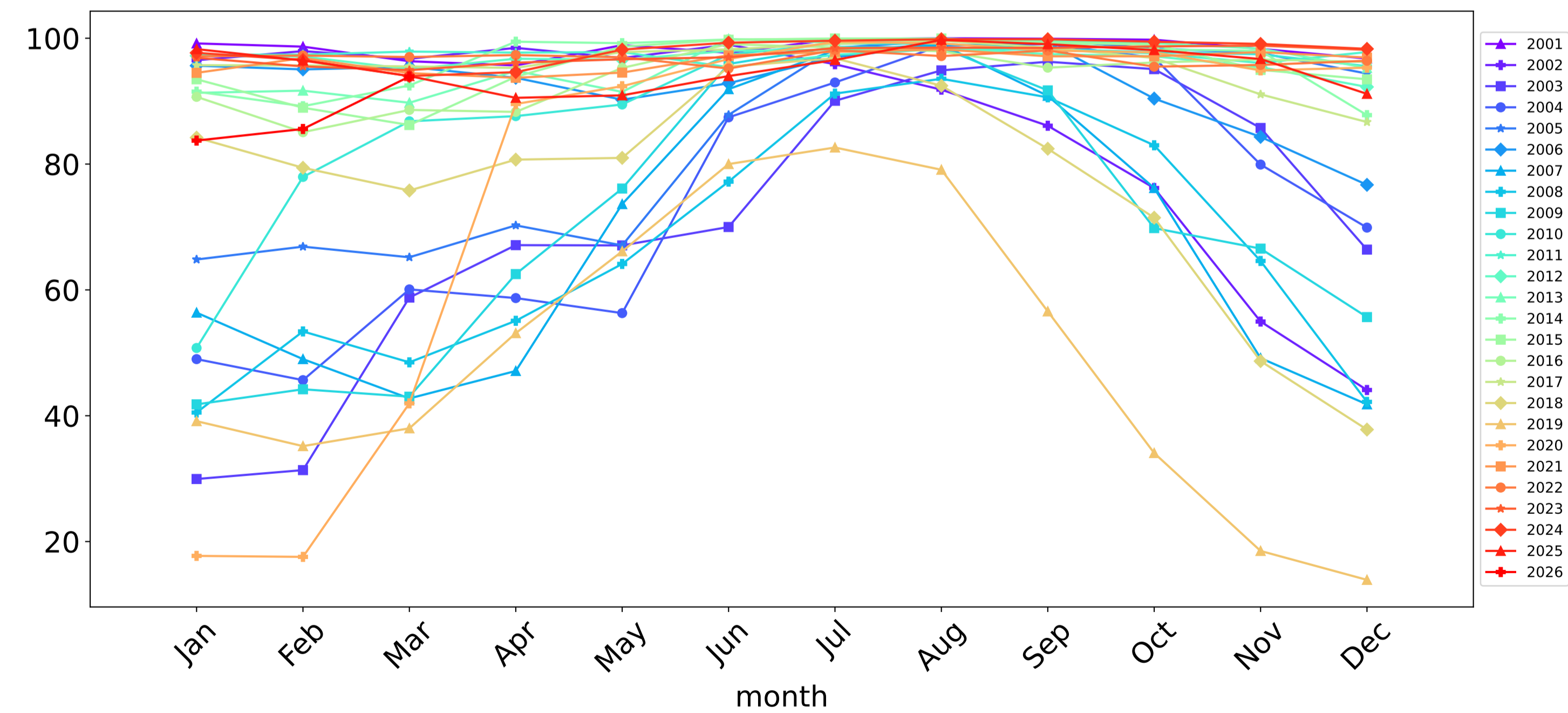
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



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



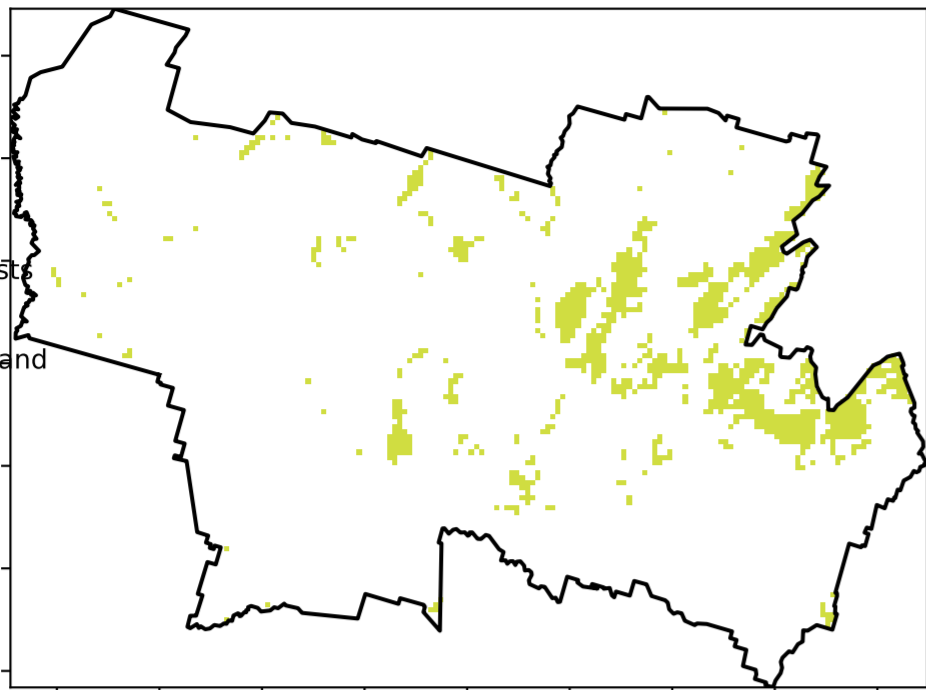
Water erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >70%)



Grazing Woodland forest

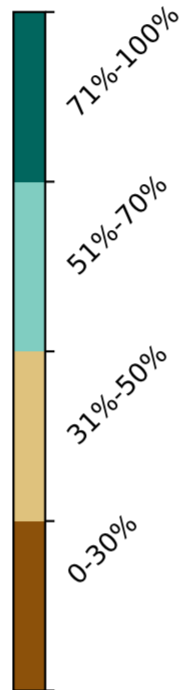
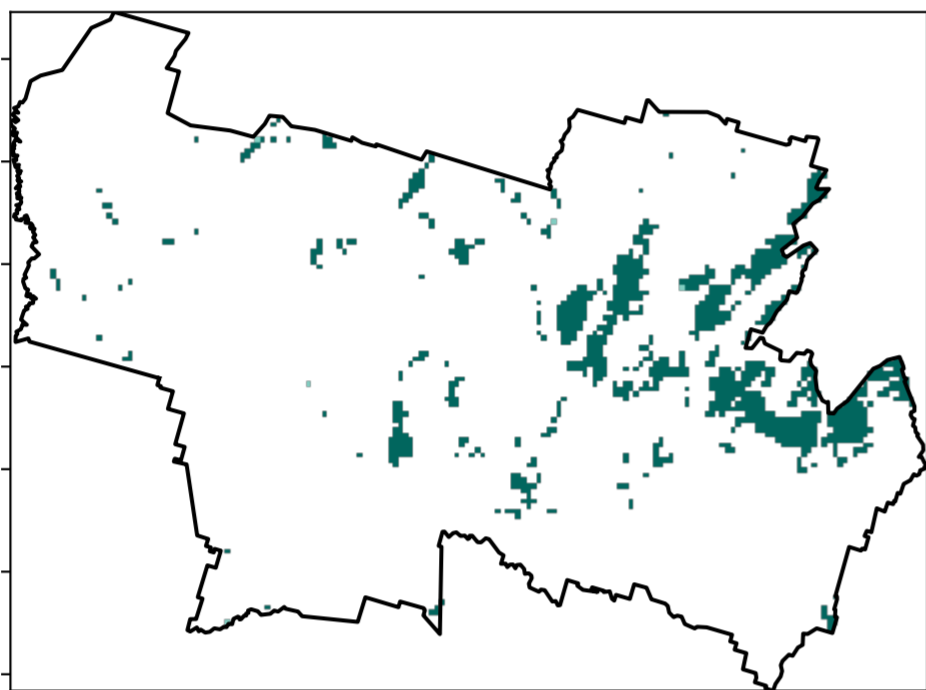
Land use and forest cover

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

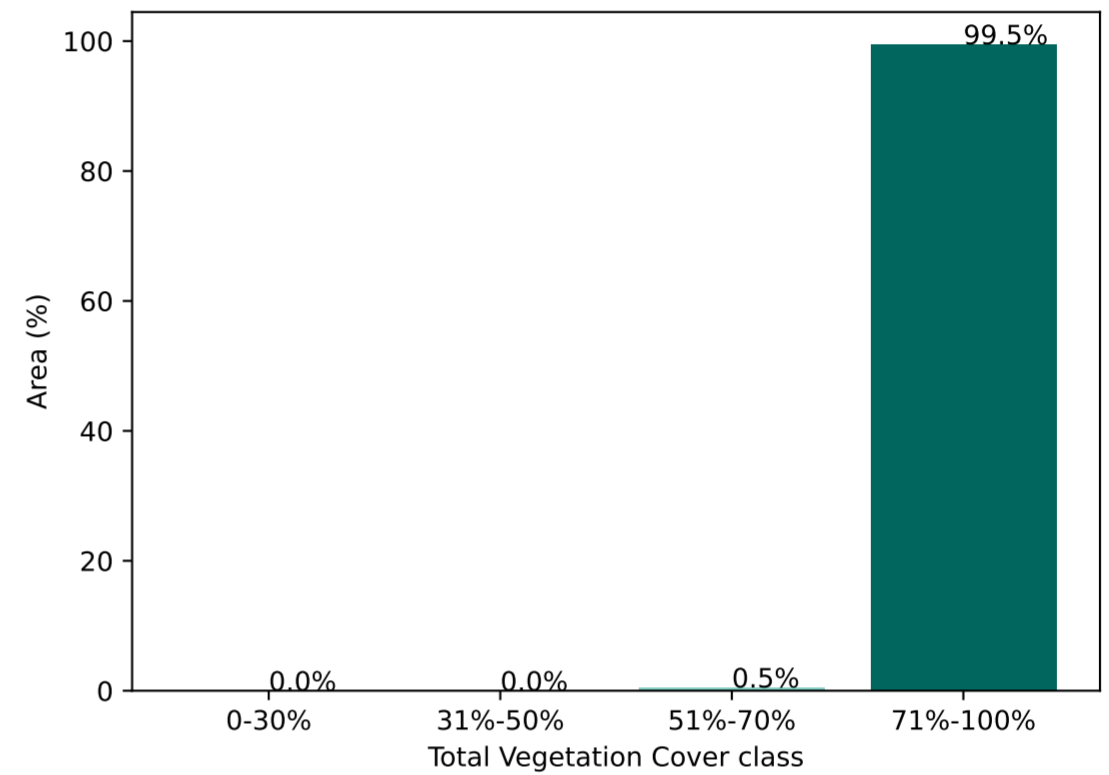


1 Agriculture - Grazing - Woodland forest

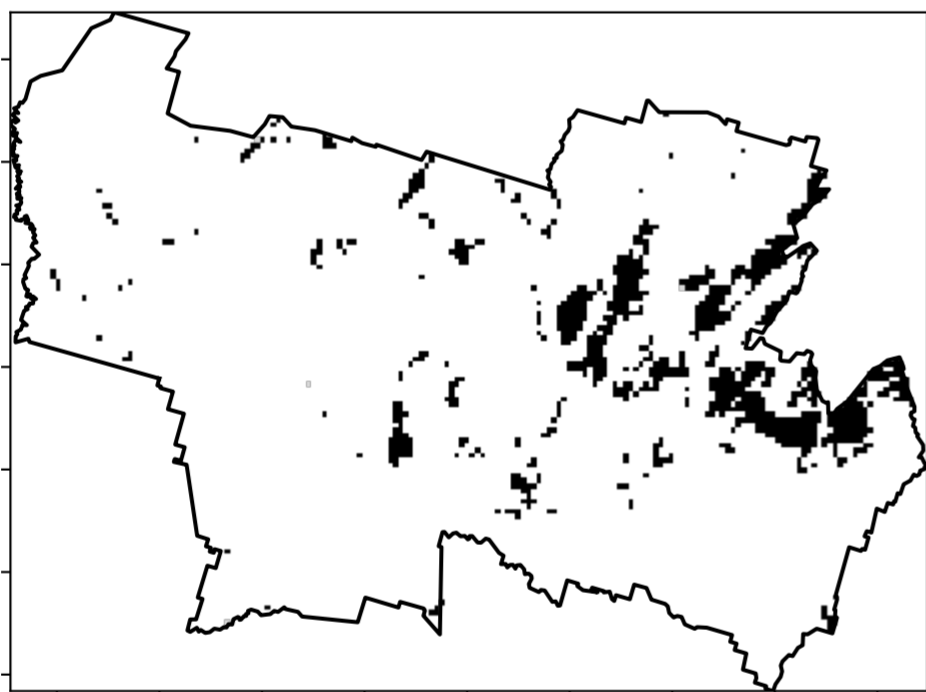
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



Proportion of vegetation cover class in area

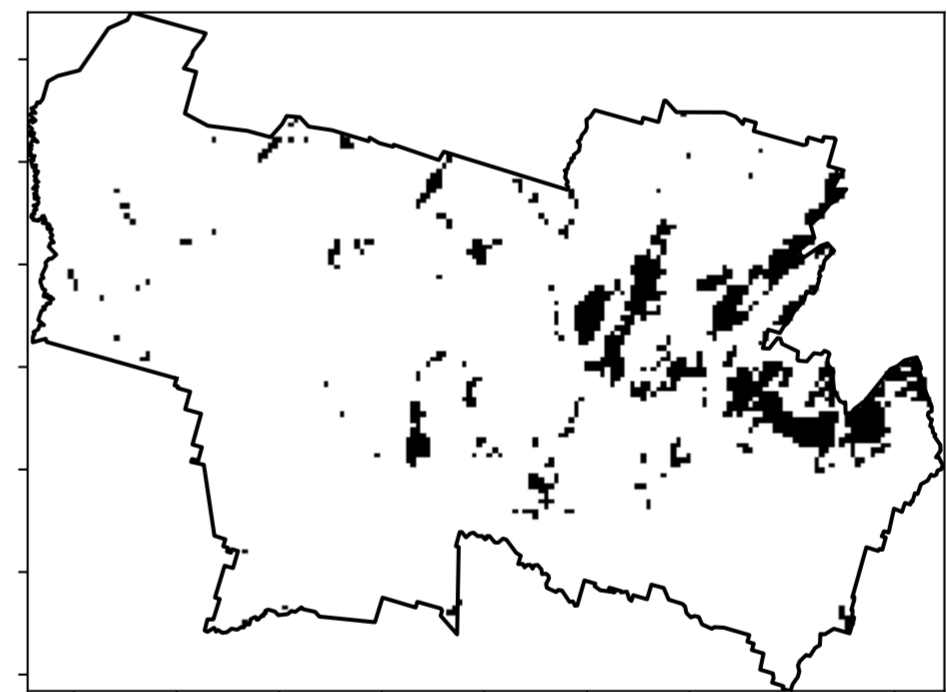


% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



Area not protected 0.5% of region (129 ha)
Area protected 99.5% of region (25,621 ha)

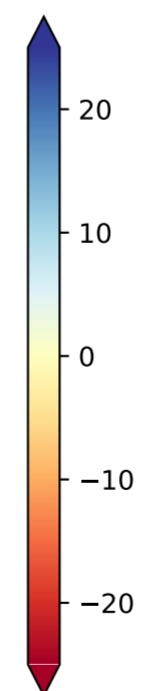
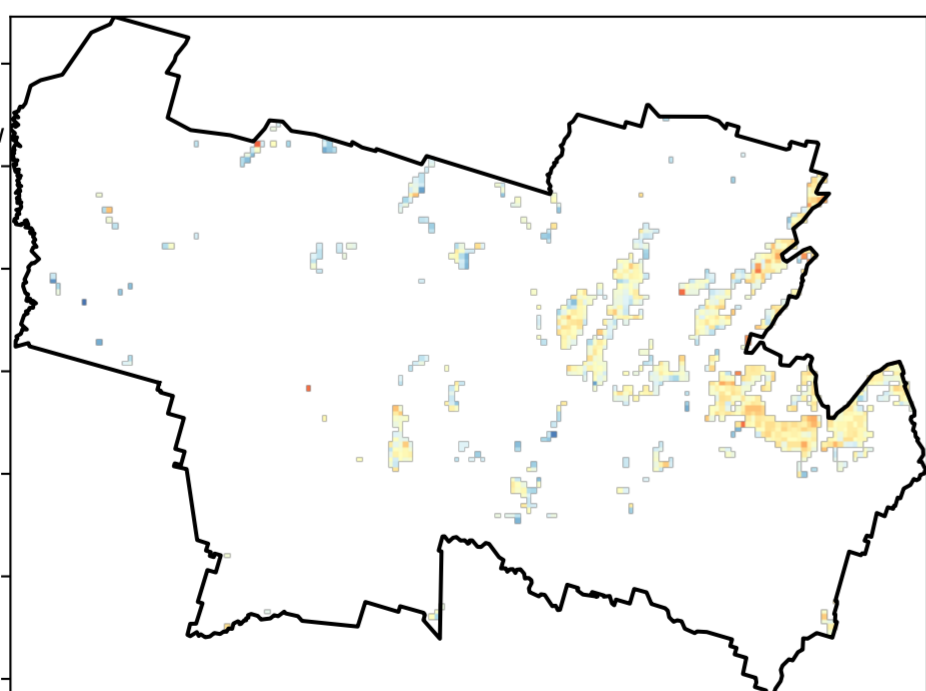
% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



Area protected 100.0% of region (25,750 ha)

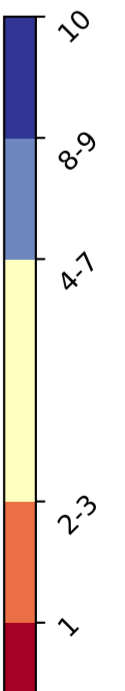
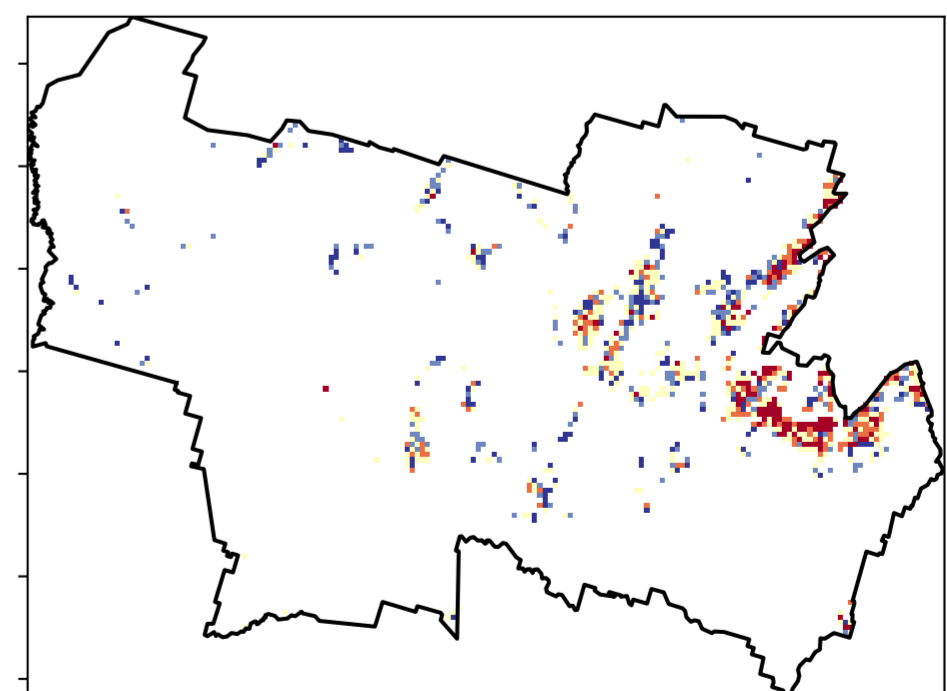
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

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.



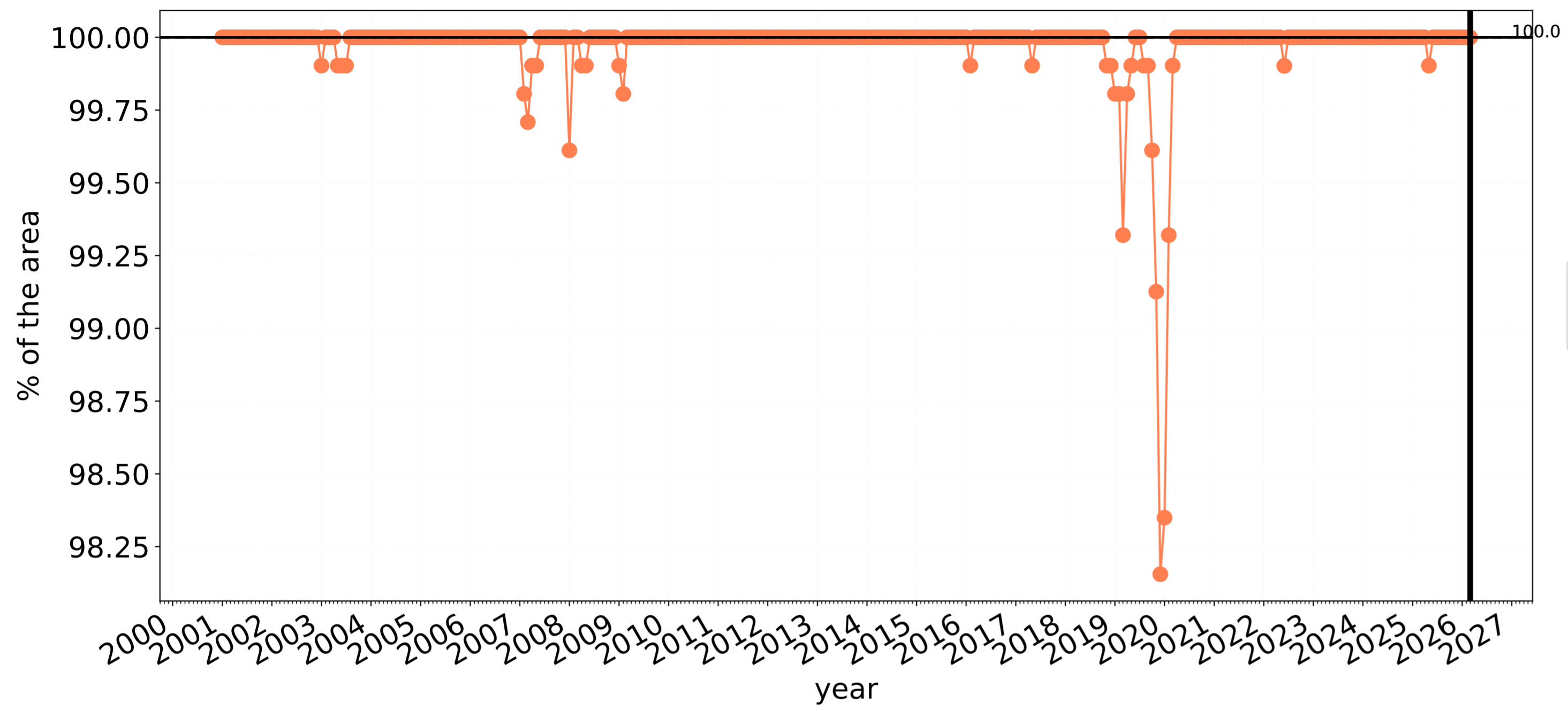
Deciles show where the pixel value lies in the record, from highest to lowest, for that month. That is, red pixels are in the lowest 10% of records for that month of the map using baseline from 2001 to 2019.

Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]

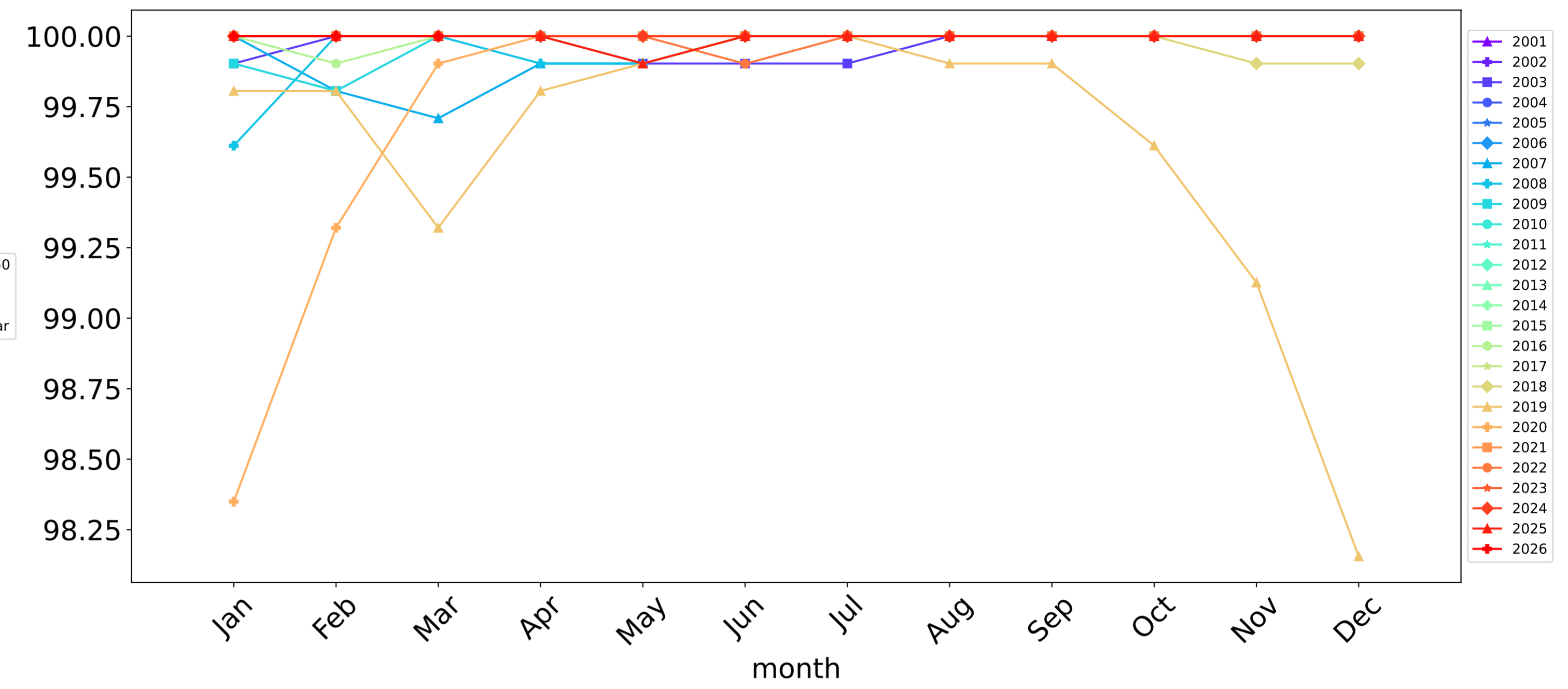


Grazing Woodland forest timeseries

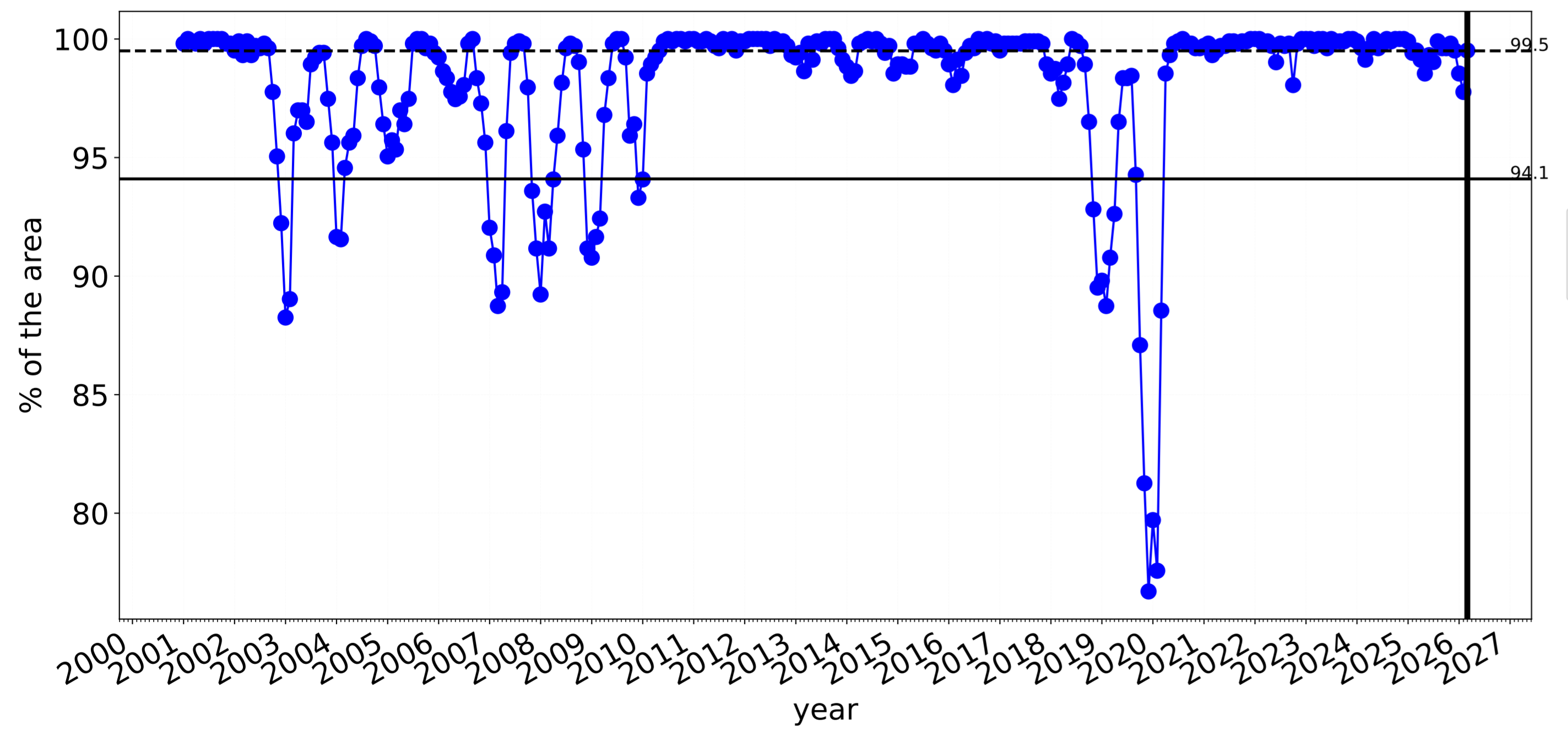
Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)



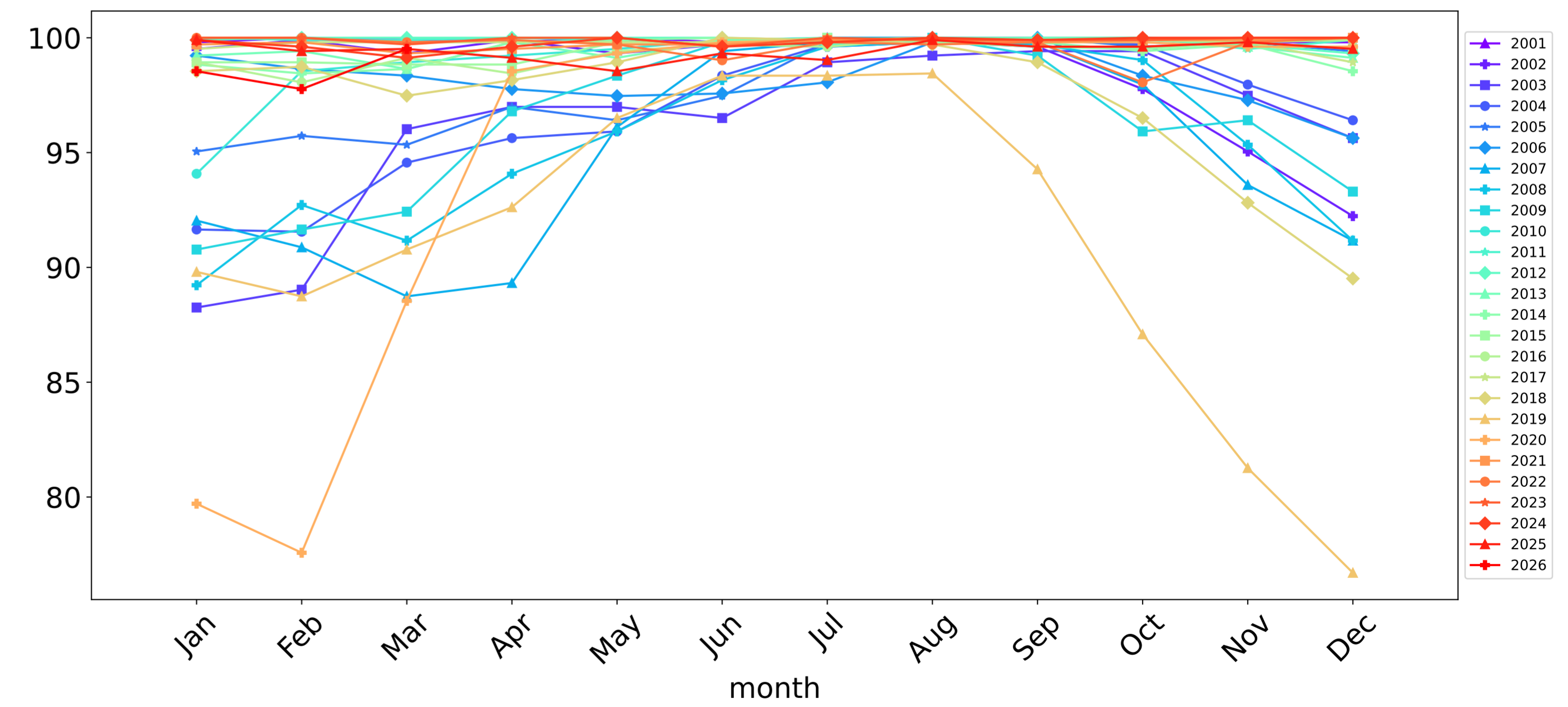
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



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



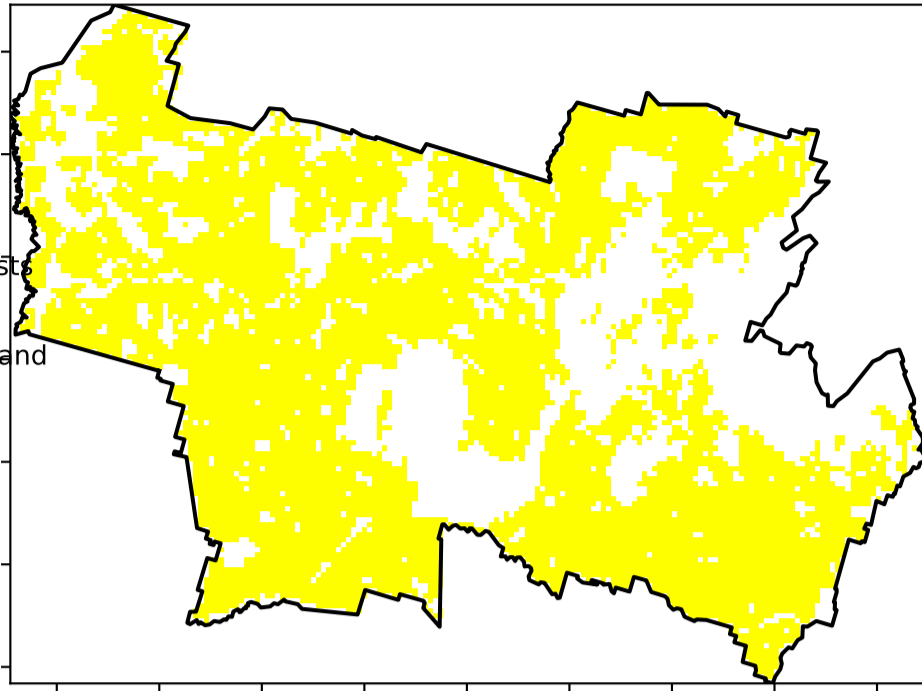
Water erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >70%)



Cropping

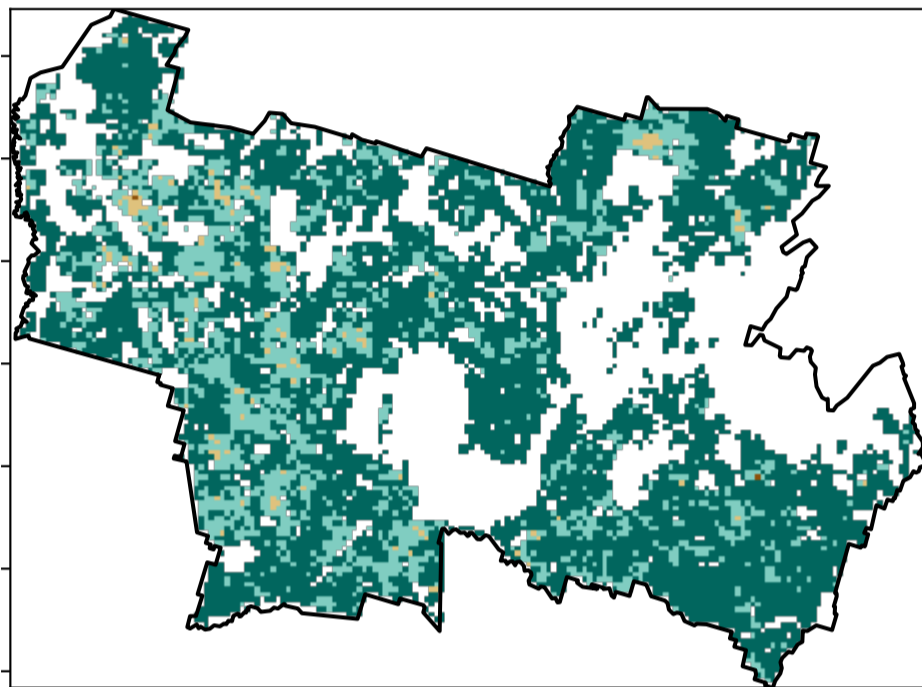
Land use and forest cover

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

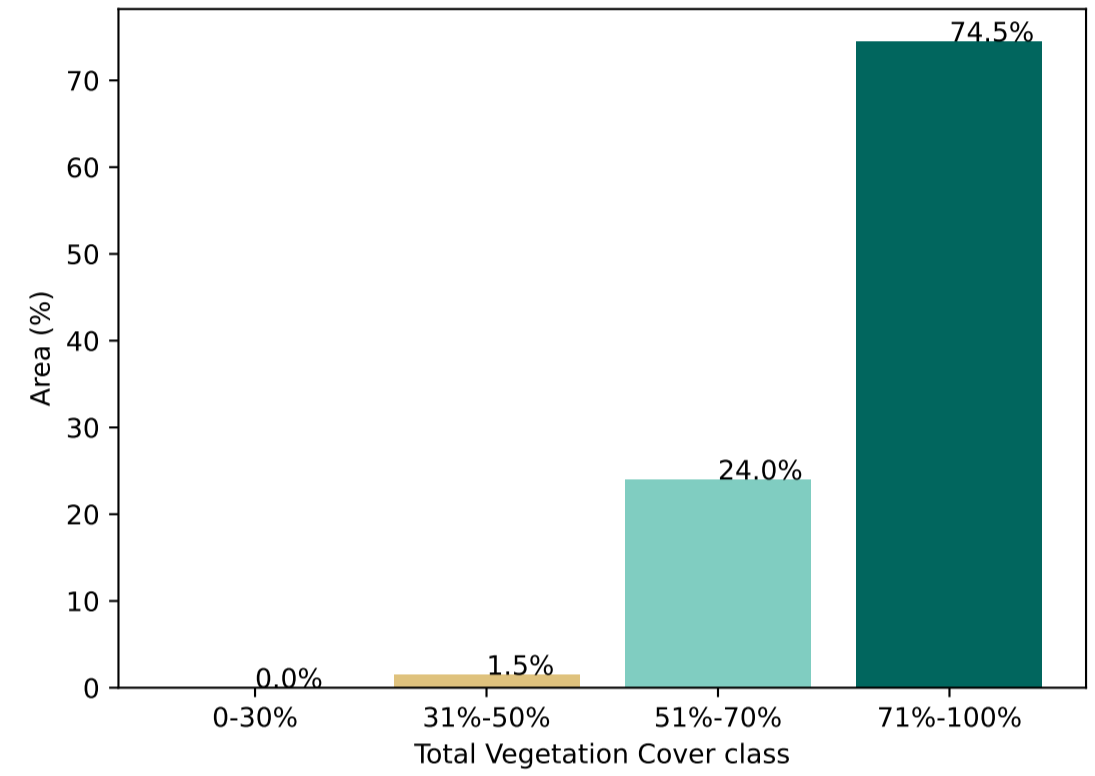


1 Agriculture - Cropping - Non-irrigated

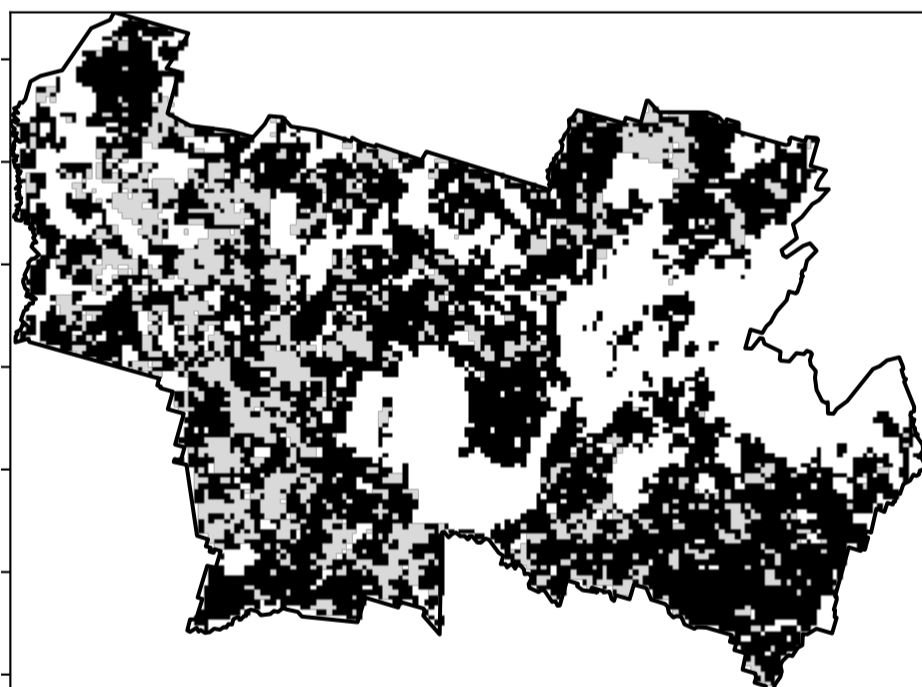
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



Proportion of vegetation cover class in area

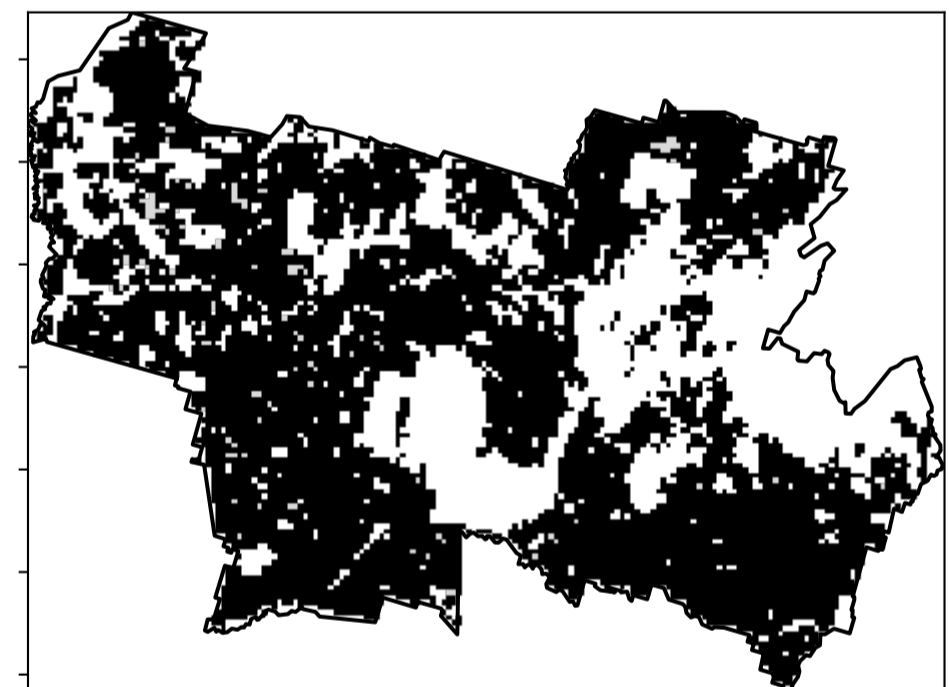


% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



Area not protected
25.5% of region
(57,560 ha)
Area protected
74.5% of region
(168,165 ha)

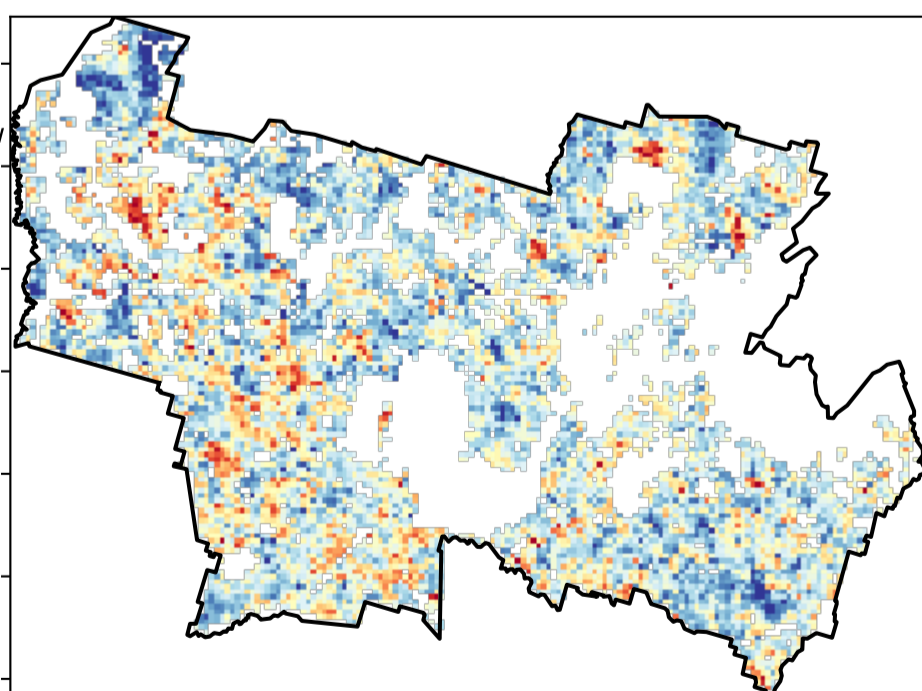
% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



Area not protected
2.0% of region
(4,514 ha)
Area protected
98.0% of region
(221,210 ha)

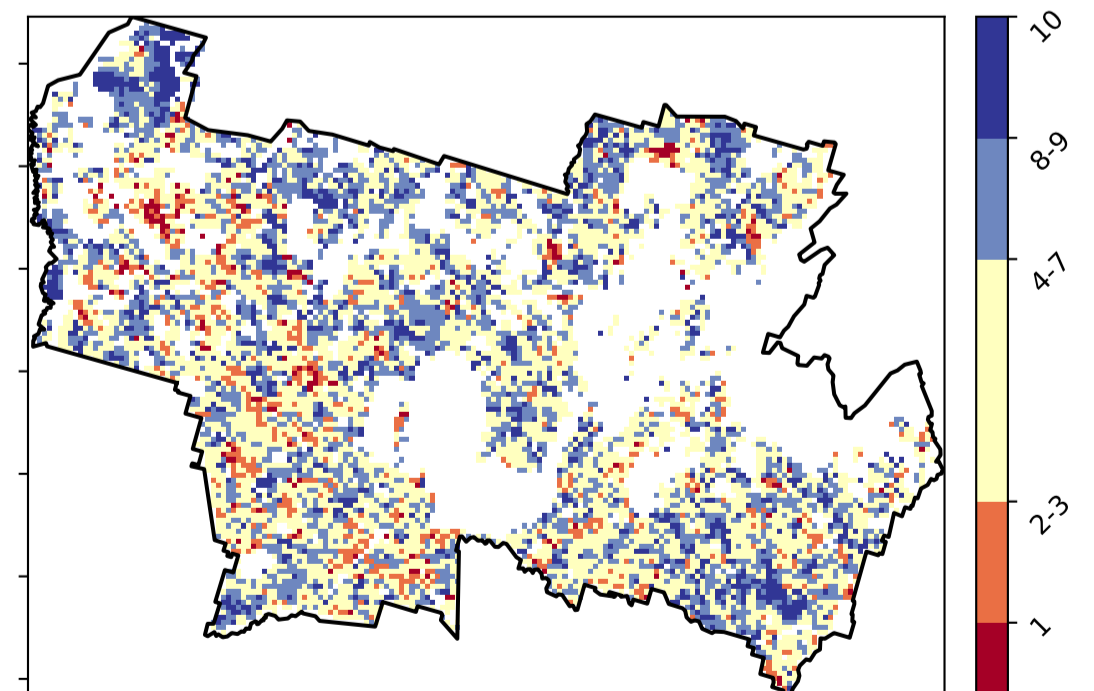
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

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.



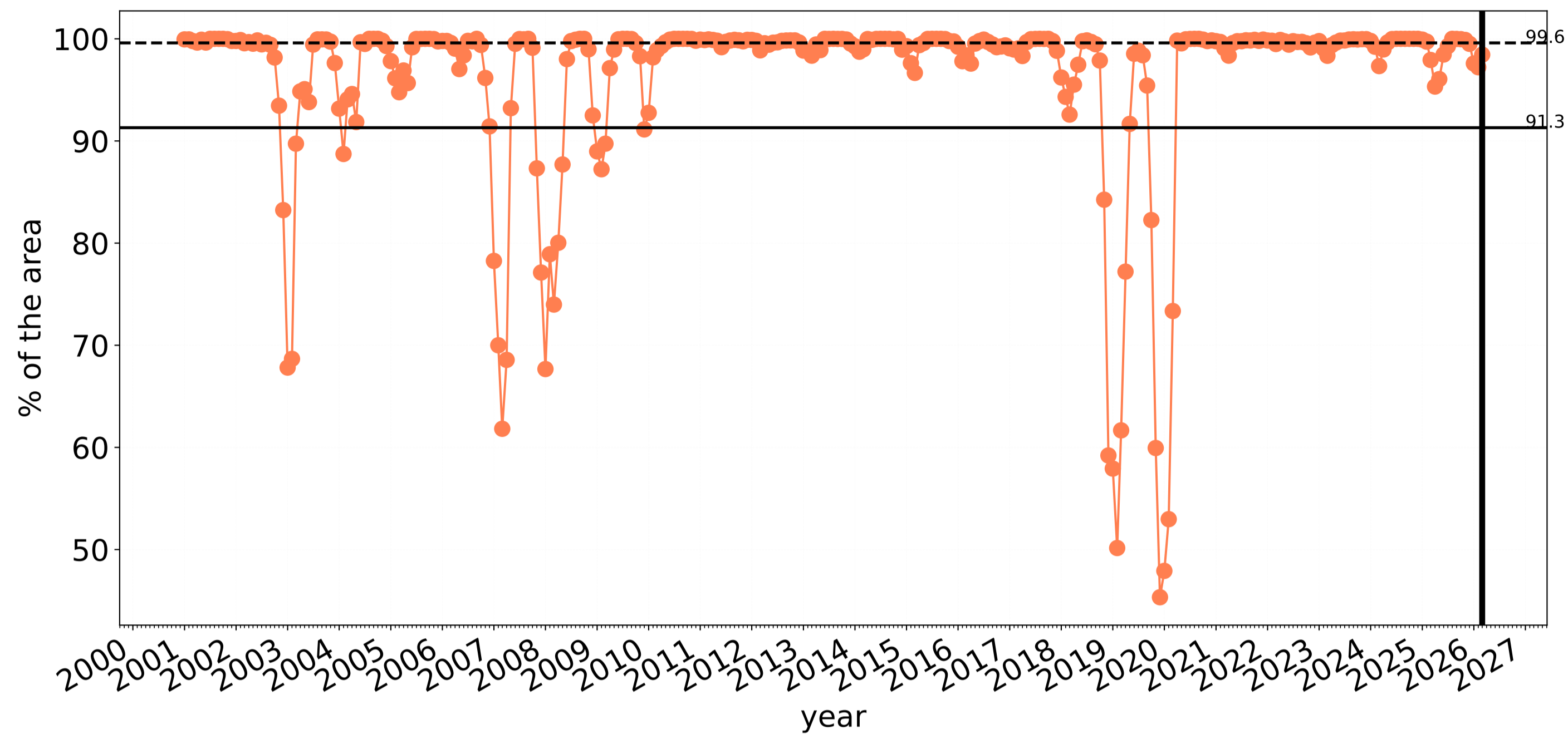
Deciles show where the pixel value lies in the record, from highest to lowest, for that month. That is, red pixels are in the lowest 10% of records for that month of the map using baseline from 2001 to 2019.

Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]

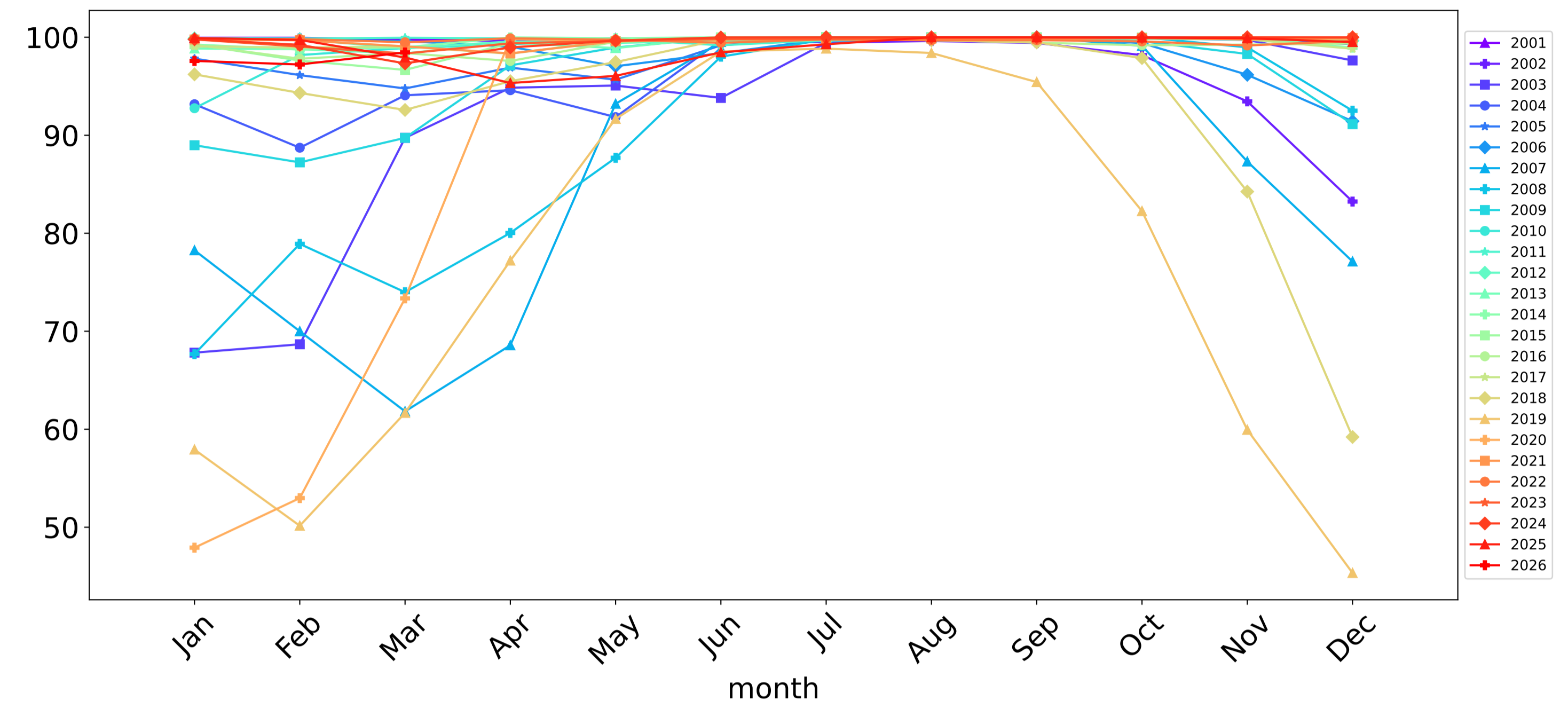


Cropping timeseries

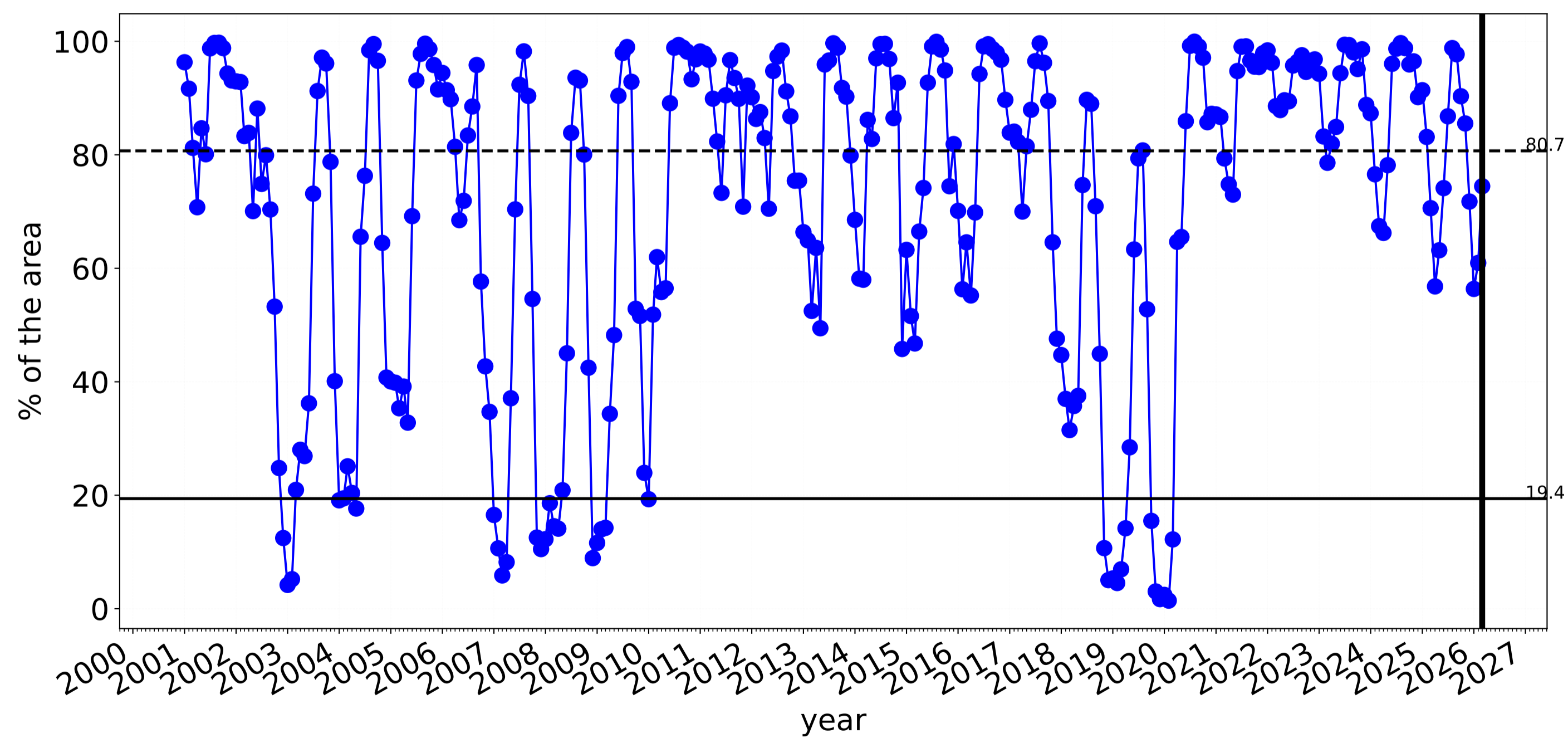
Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)



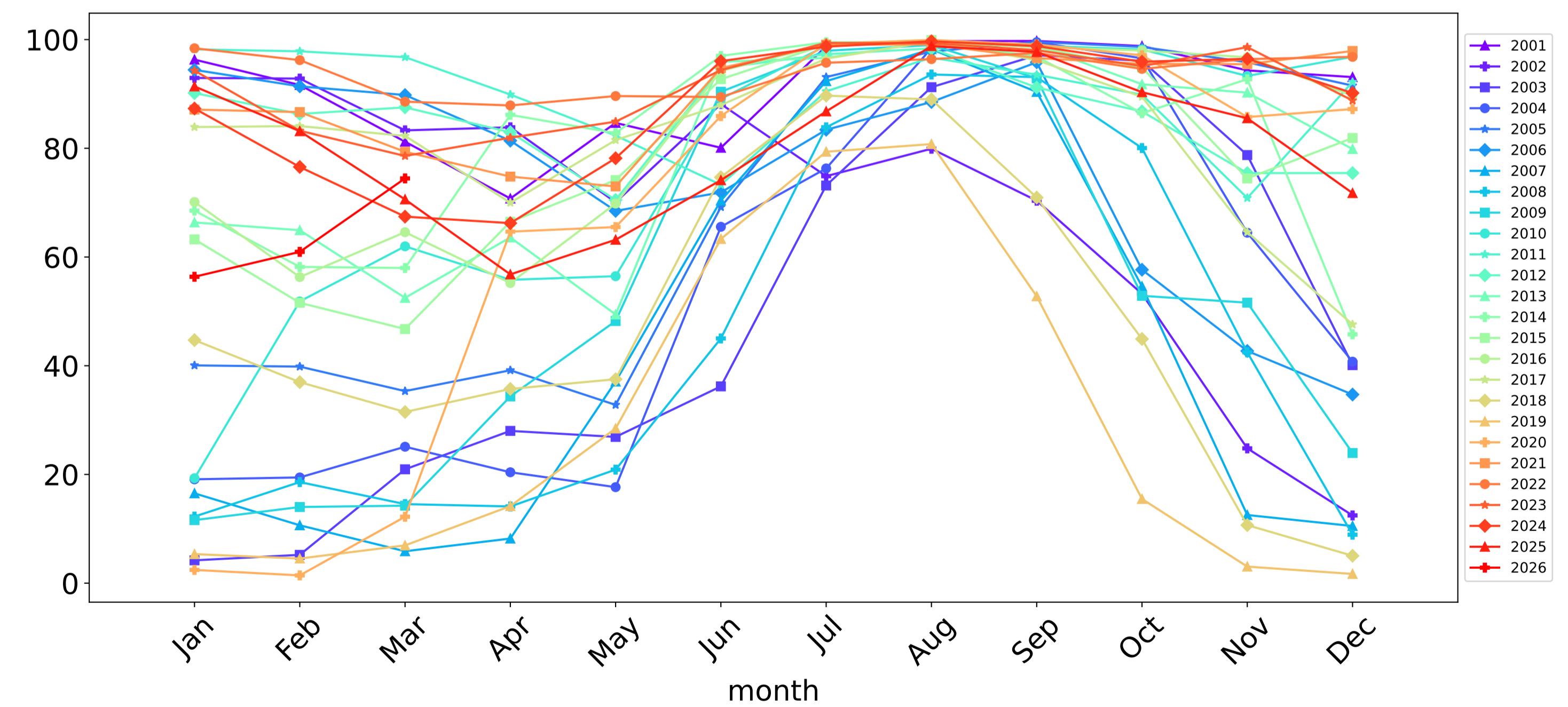
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



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



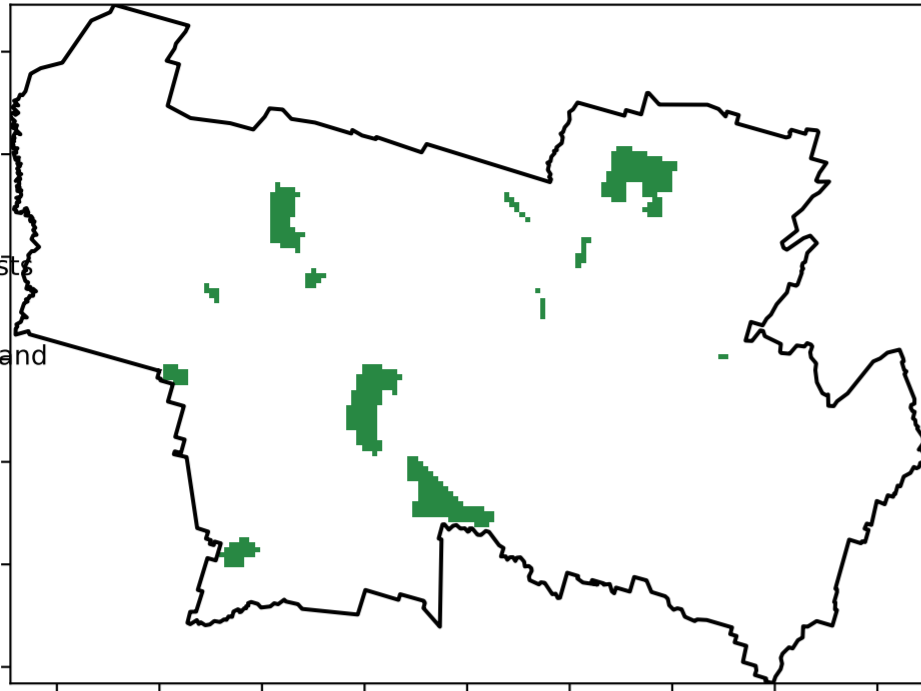
Water erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >70%)



Production native forests and plantation forests

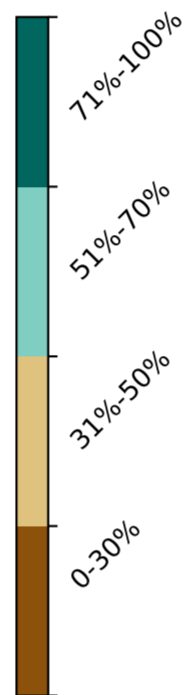
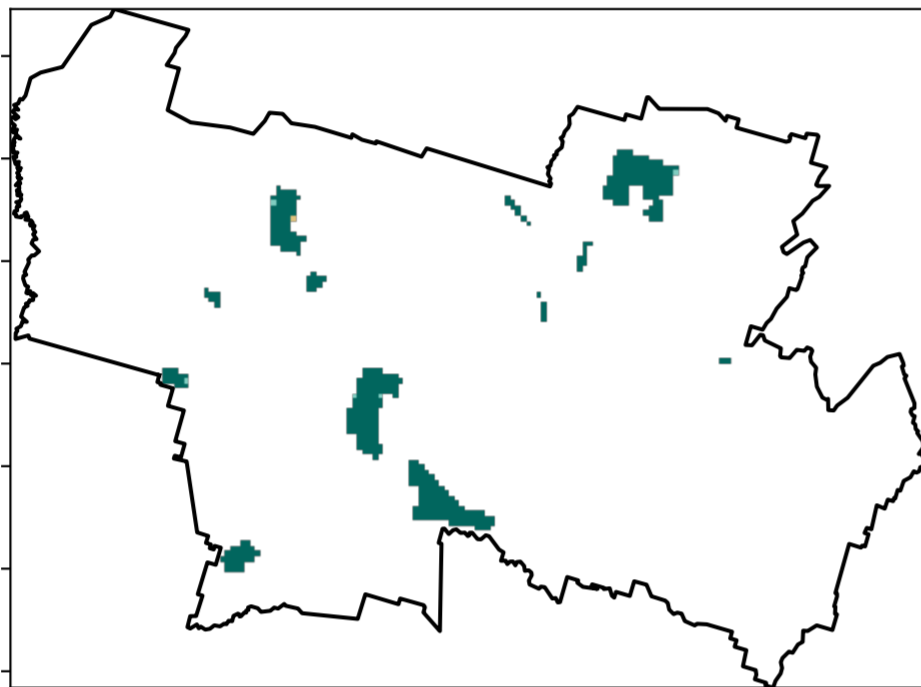
Land use and forest cover

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

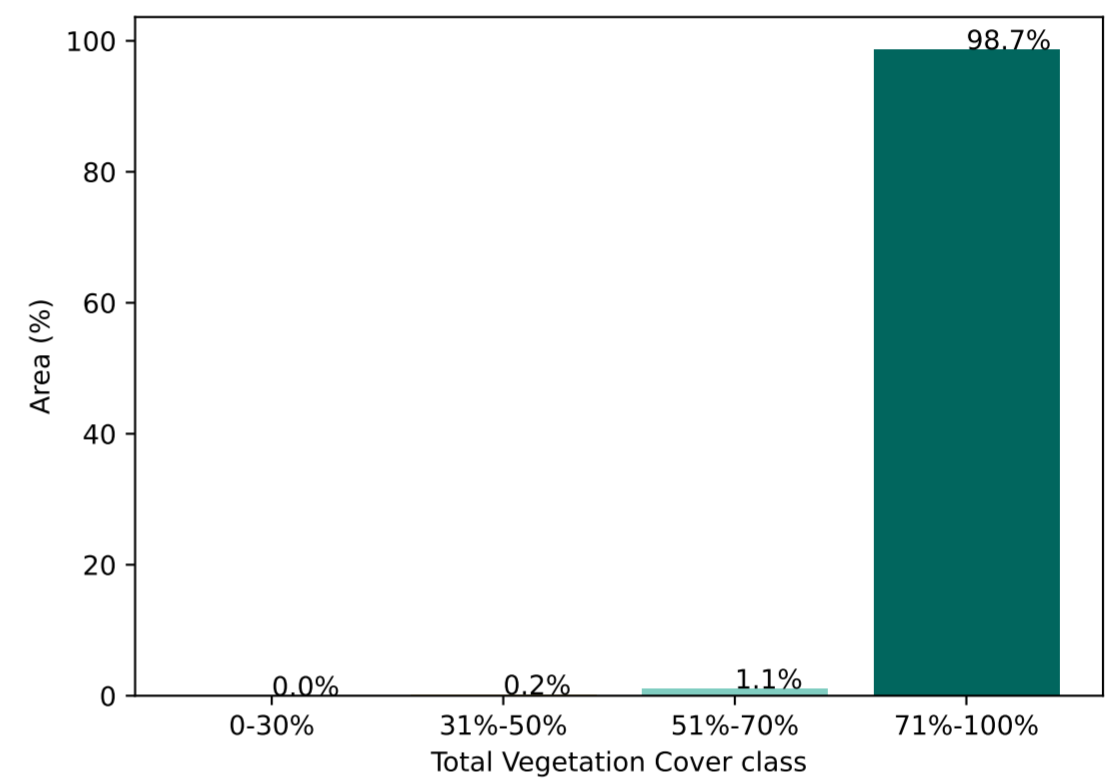


1 Production native forests and plantation forests

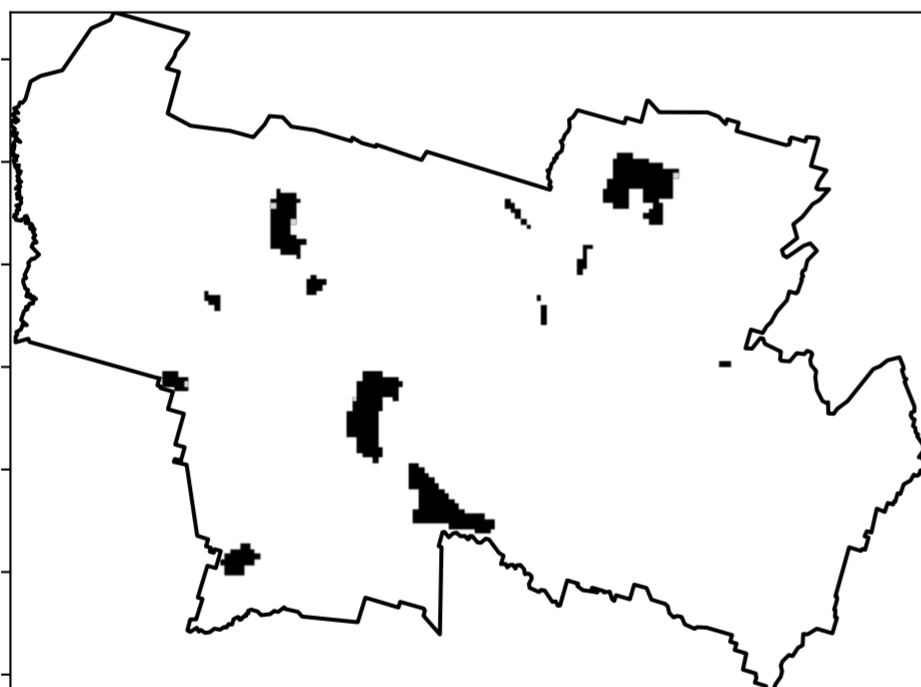
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



Proportion of vegetation cover class in area

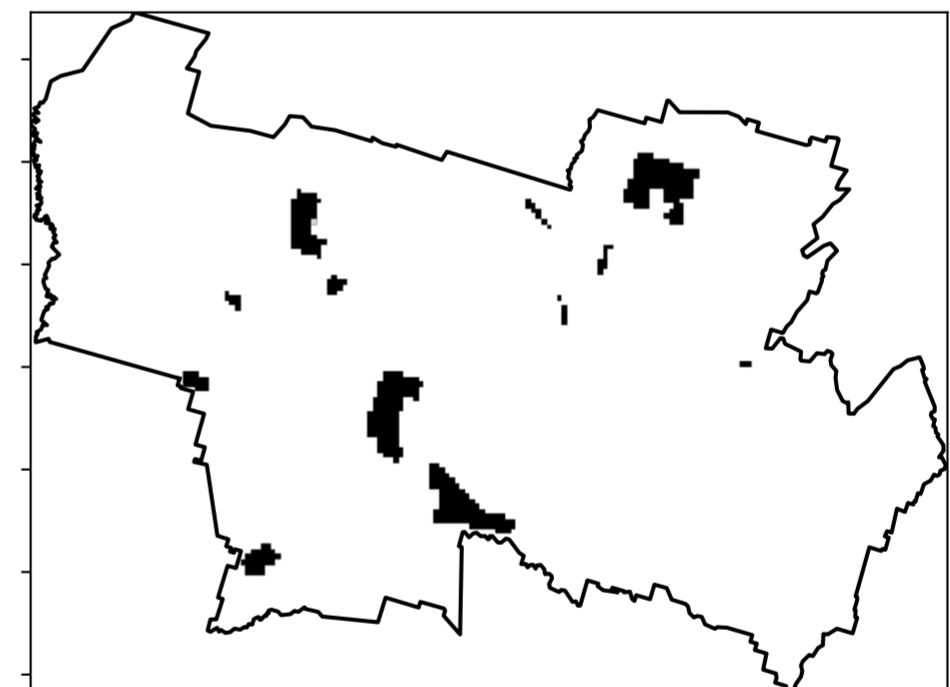


% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



Area not protected
1.3% of region
(151 ha)
Area protected
98.7% of region
(11,499 ha)

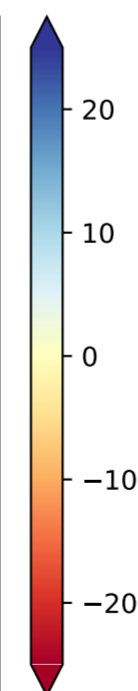
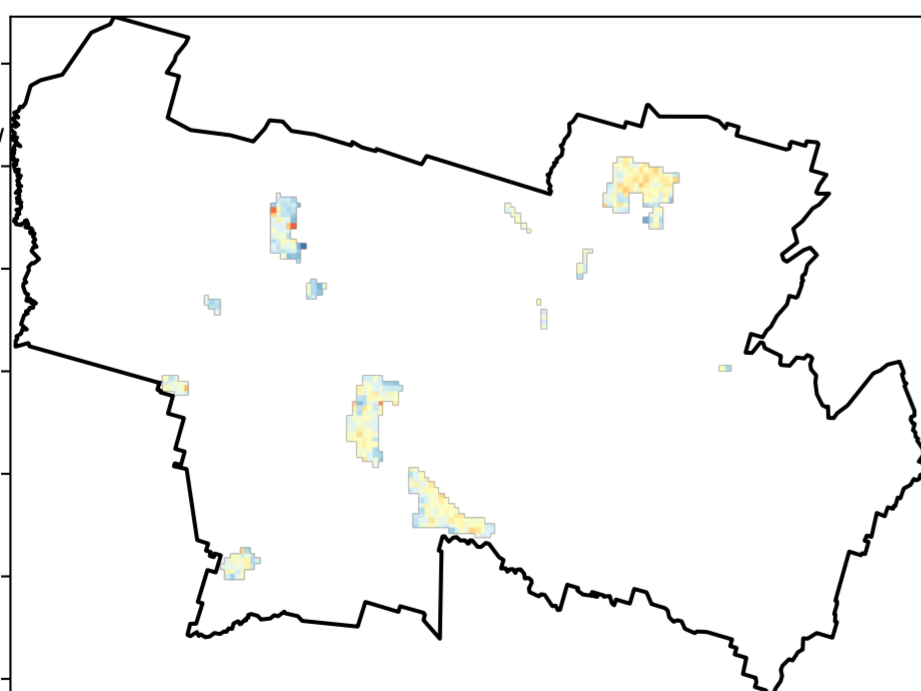
% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



Area not protected
0.0% of region
(0 ha)
Area protected
100.0% of region
(11,650 ha)

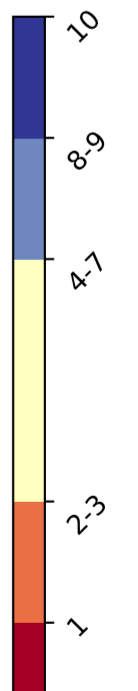
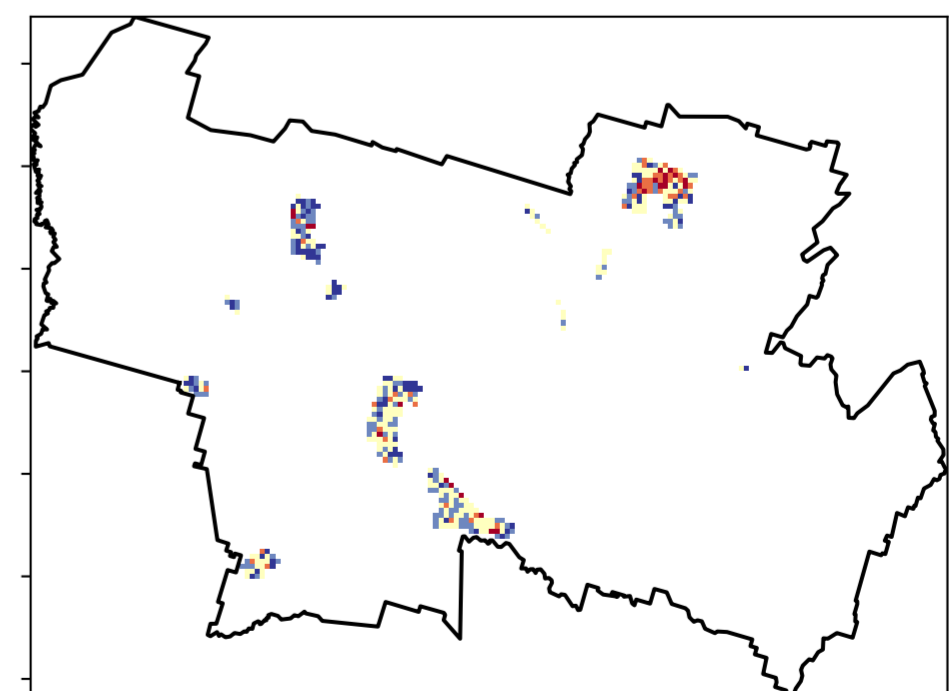
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

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.



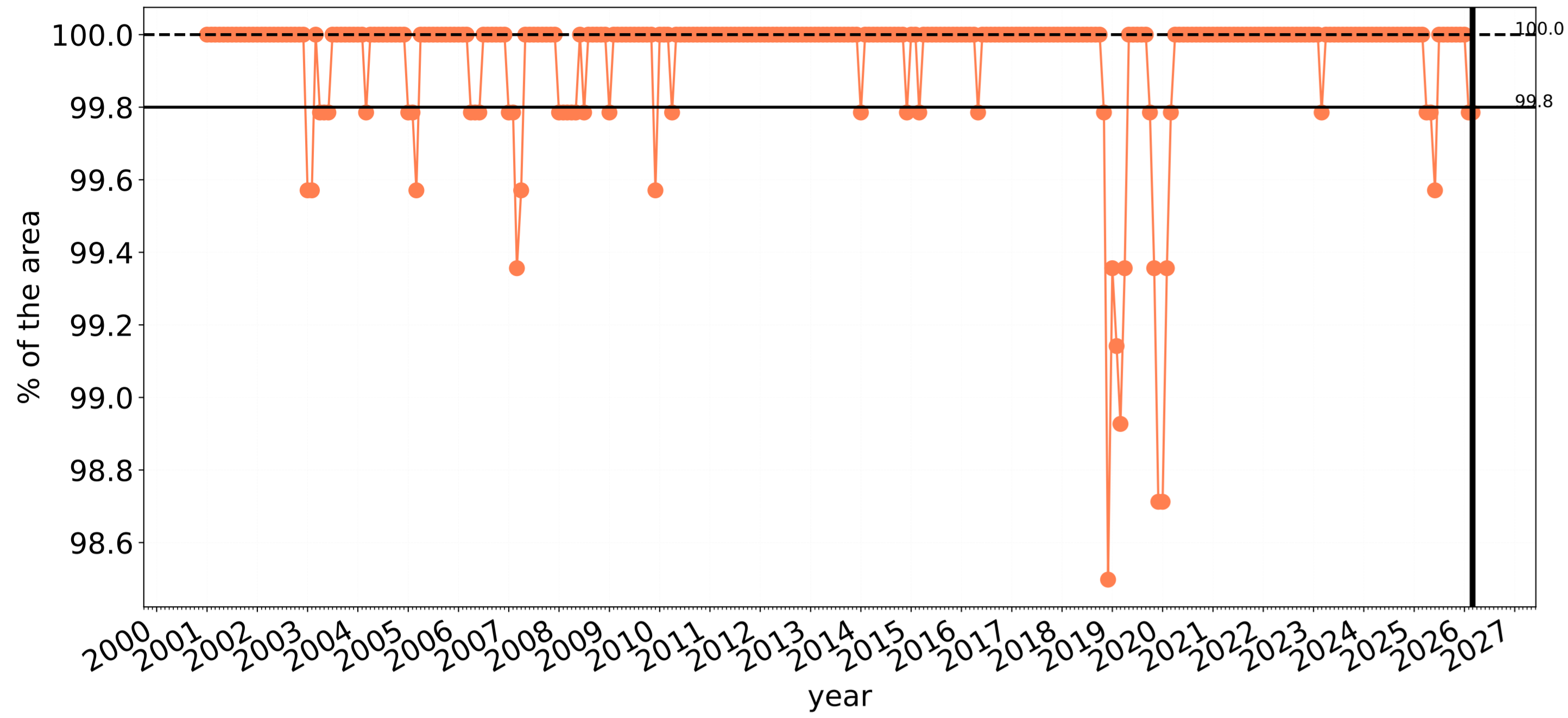
Deciles show where the pixel value lies in the record, from highest to lowest, for that month. That is, red pixels are in the lowest 10% of records for that month of the map using baseline from 2001 to 2019.

Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]

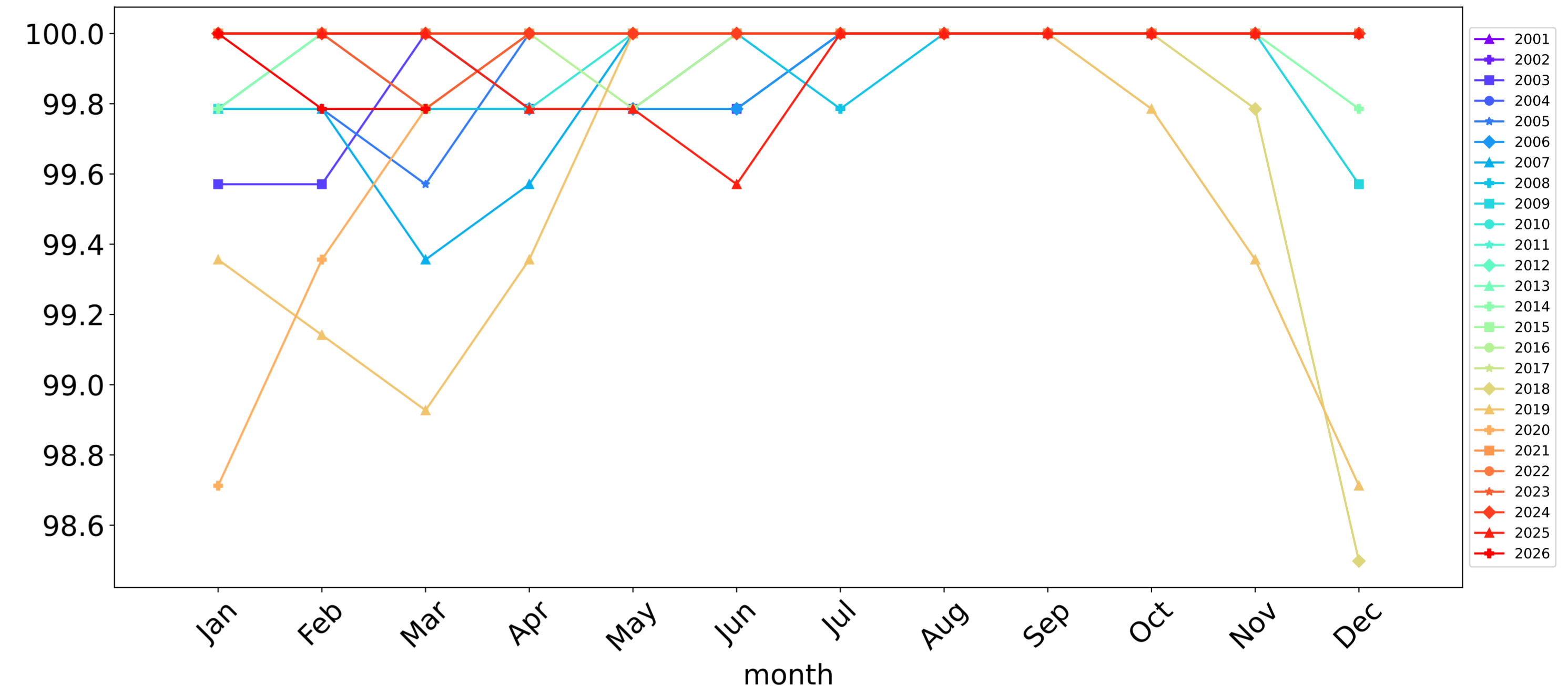


Production native forests and plantation forests timeseries

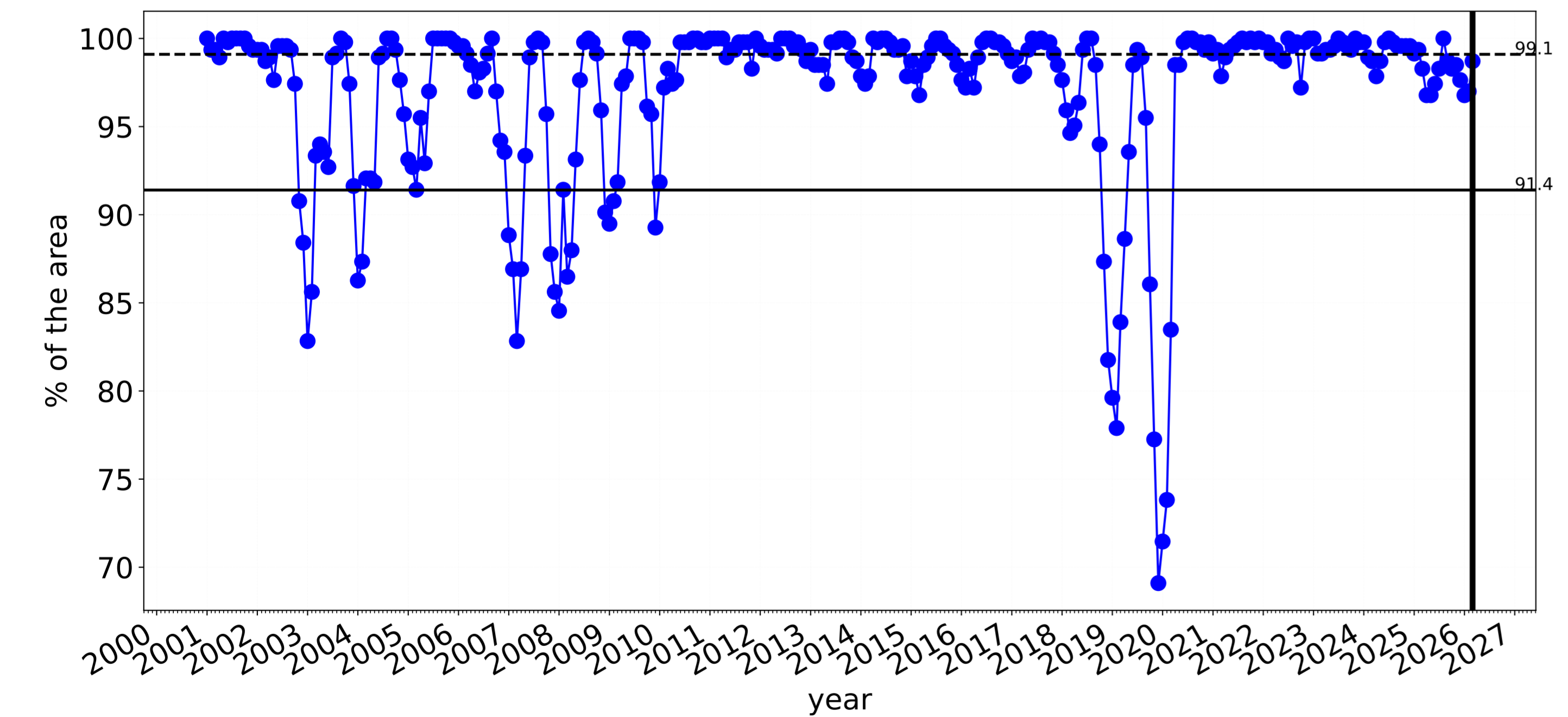
Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)



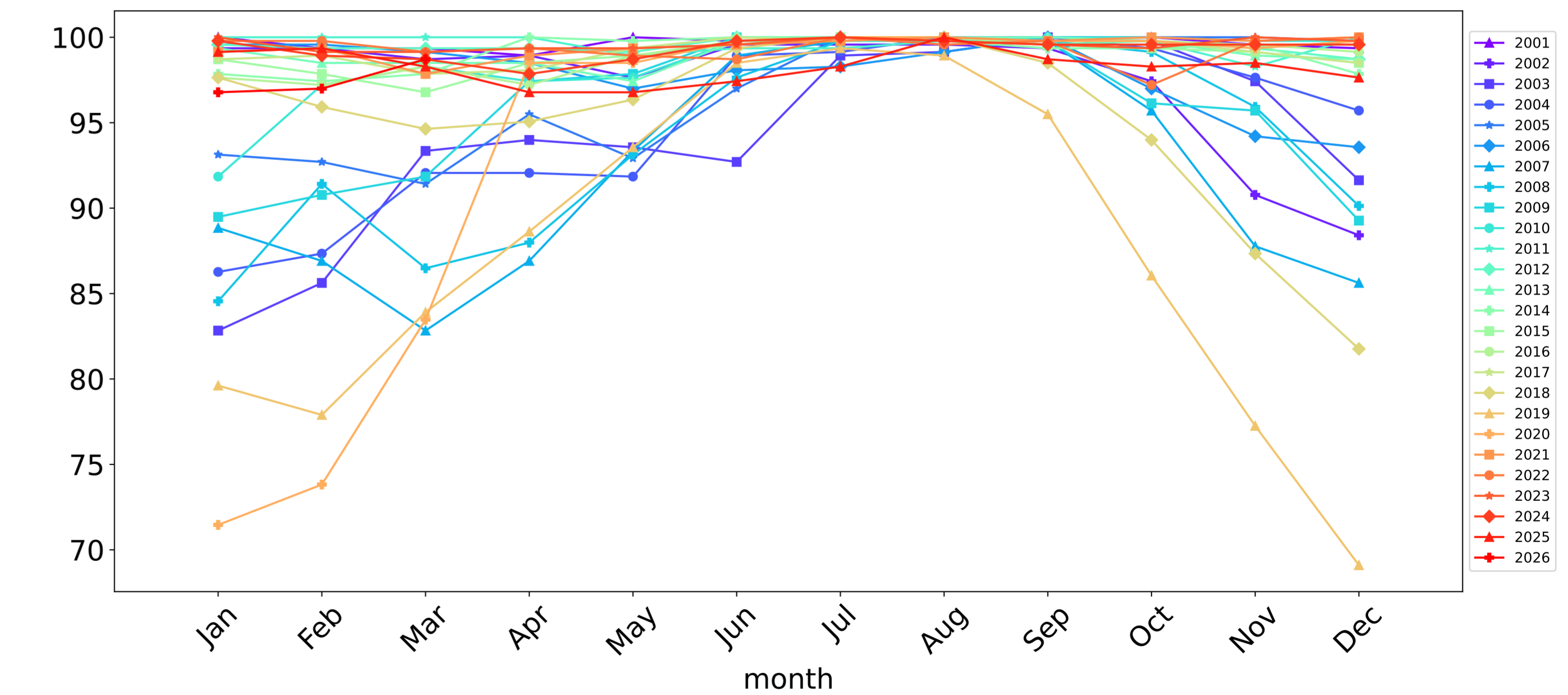
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



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



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



**Weddin_(A) (total 341,525 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	341,525	100.0% 341,450	98.9% 337,850	81.8% 279,500	55.3% 188,950	13.8% 47,000	2.8% 9,675
Conservation and natural environments	11,625	100.0% 11,625	100.0% 11,625	99.8% 11,600	95.7% 11,125	18.7% 2,175	0.9% 100
Conservation and natural environments Woodland forest	11,375	100.0% 11,375	100.0% 11,375	99.8% 11,350	95.6% 10,875	18.9% 2,150	0.9% 100
Agriculture	316,675	100.0% 316,600	98.8% 313,025	80.5% 255,025	52.5% 166,375	12.8% 40,500	2.8% 8,875
Grazing	90,200	100.0% 90,175	99.8% 90,050	95.6% 86,200	80.1% 72,250	25.1% 22,650	5.3% 4,775
Grazing non forest	63,625	100.0% 63,600	99.8% 63,475	93.9% 59,750	74.9% 47,650	23.0% 14,650	5.3% 3,375
Grazing Woodland forest	25,750	100.0% 25,750	100.0% 25,750	99.5% 25,625	92.9% 23,925	30.2% 7,775	5.2% 1,350
Cropping	225,725	100.0% 225,675	98.4% 222,225	74.5% 168,075	41.5% 93,575	7.8% 17,525	1.8% 4,025
Production native forests and plantation forests	11,650	100.0% 11,650	99.8% 11,625	98.7% 11,500	91.6% 10,675	36.3% 4,225	5.8% 675



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Ecosystem Research Infrastructure



**National
Landcare
Programme**

