

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

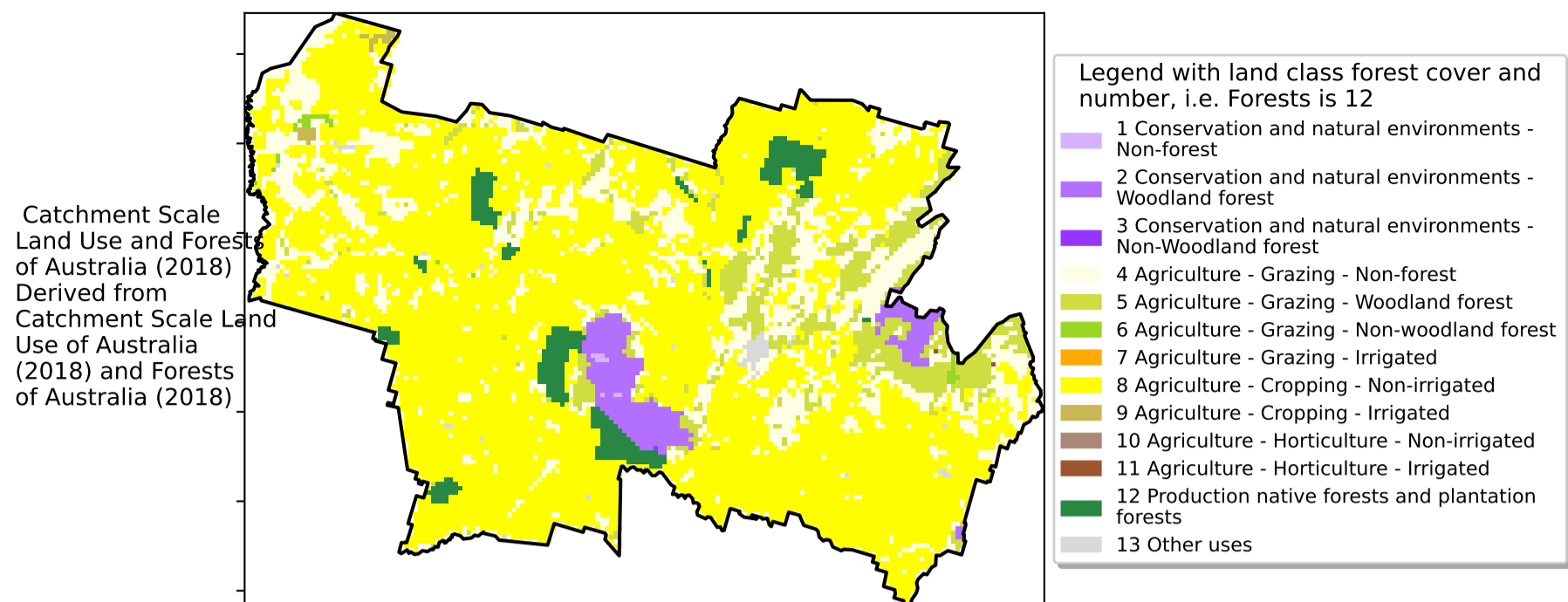


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Programme**

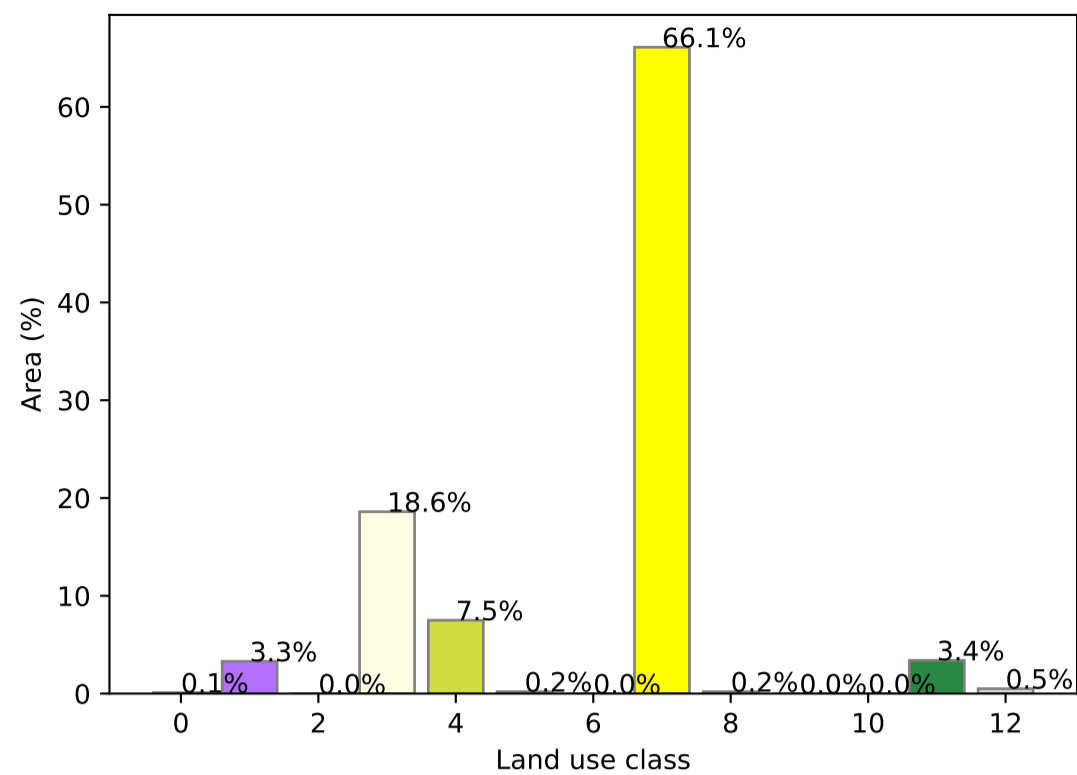


Vegetation Cover Apr 2026

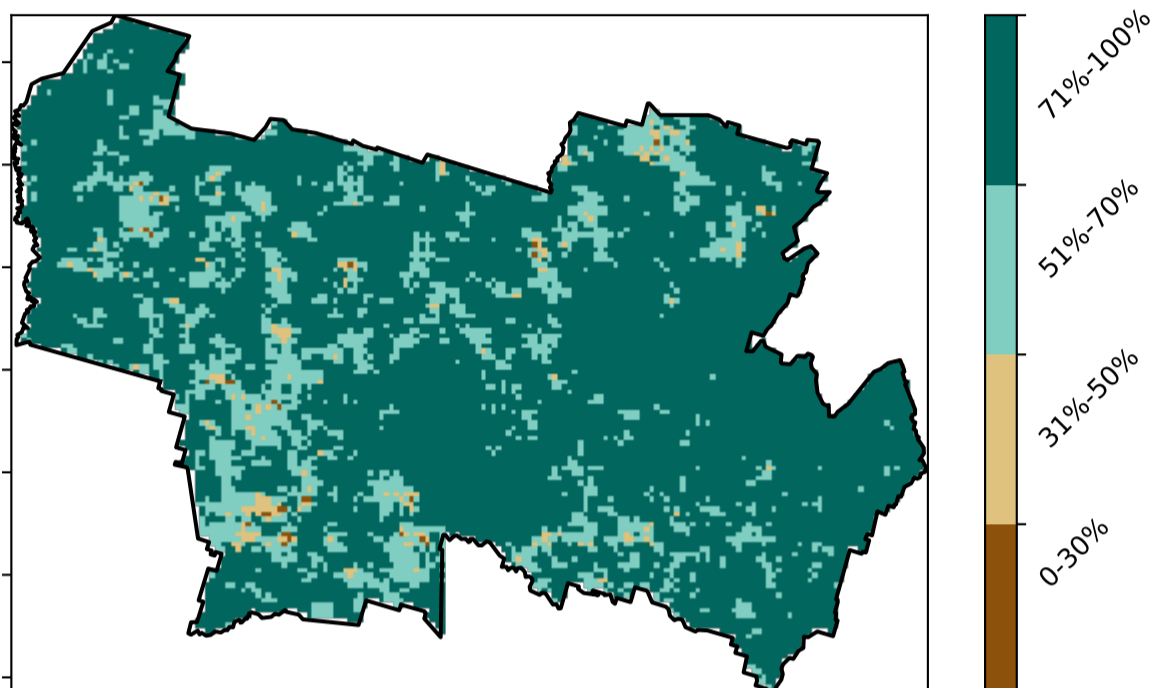
Land use and forest cover



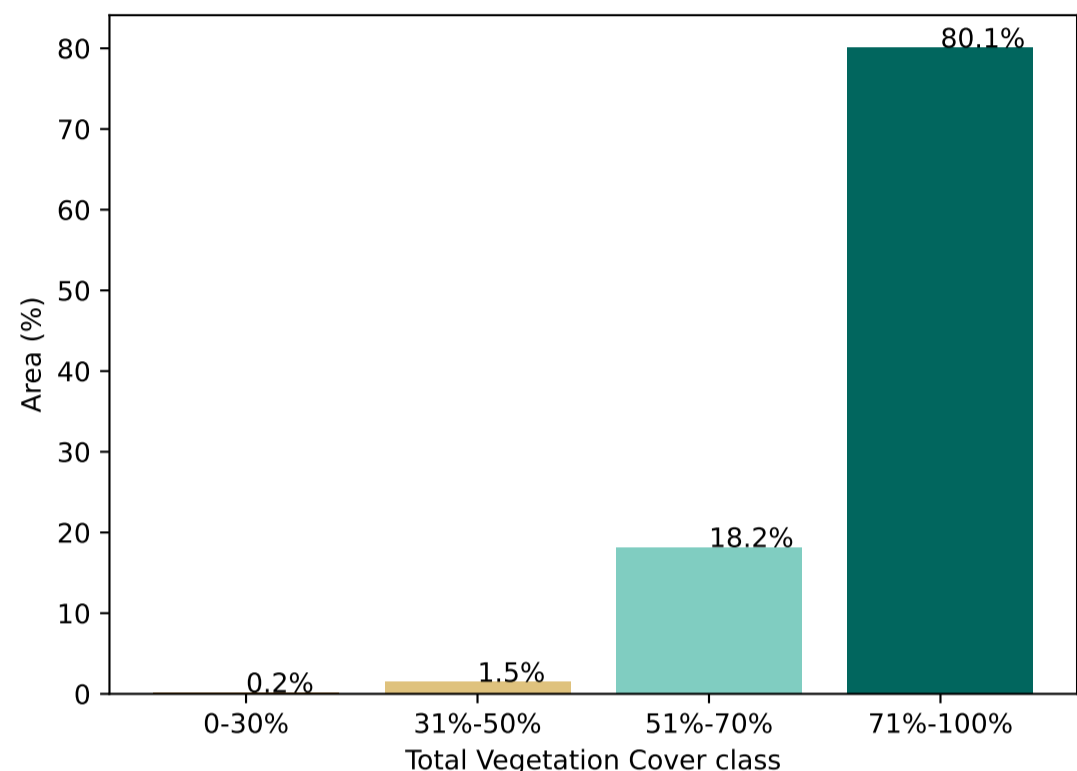
Proportion of each land class in area



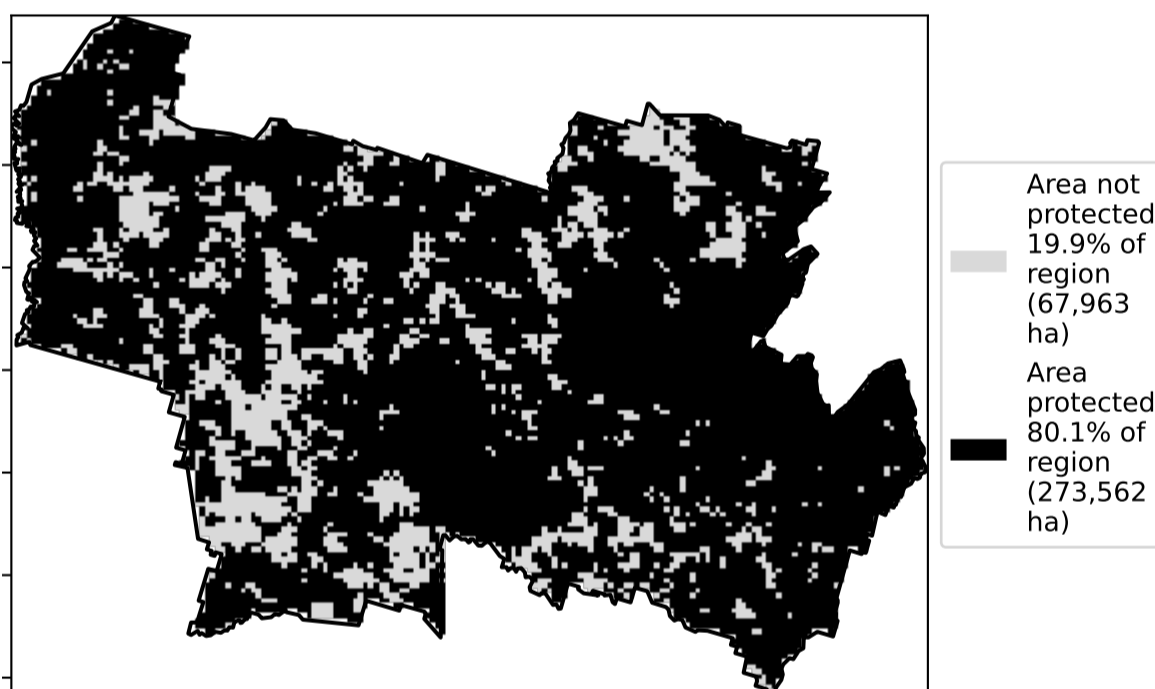
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



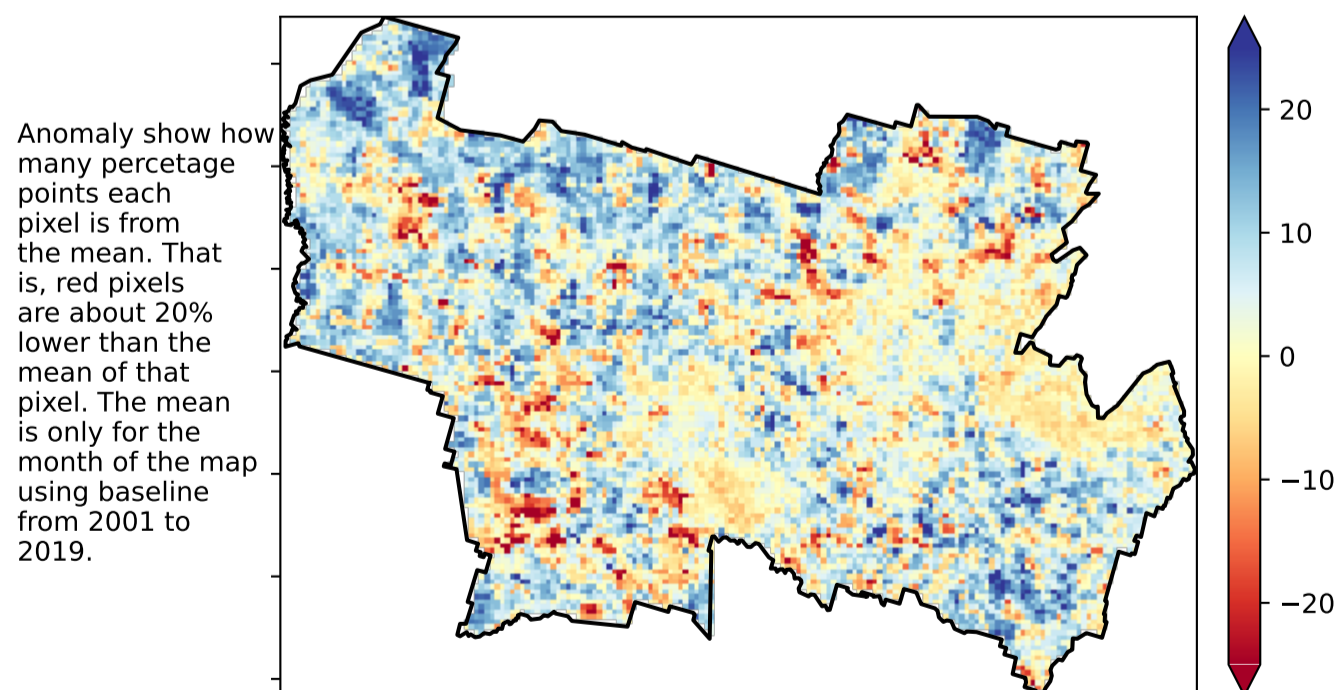
% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)

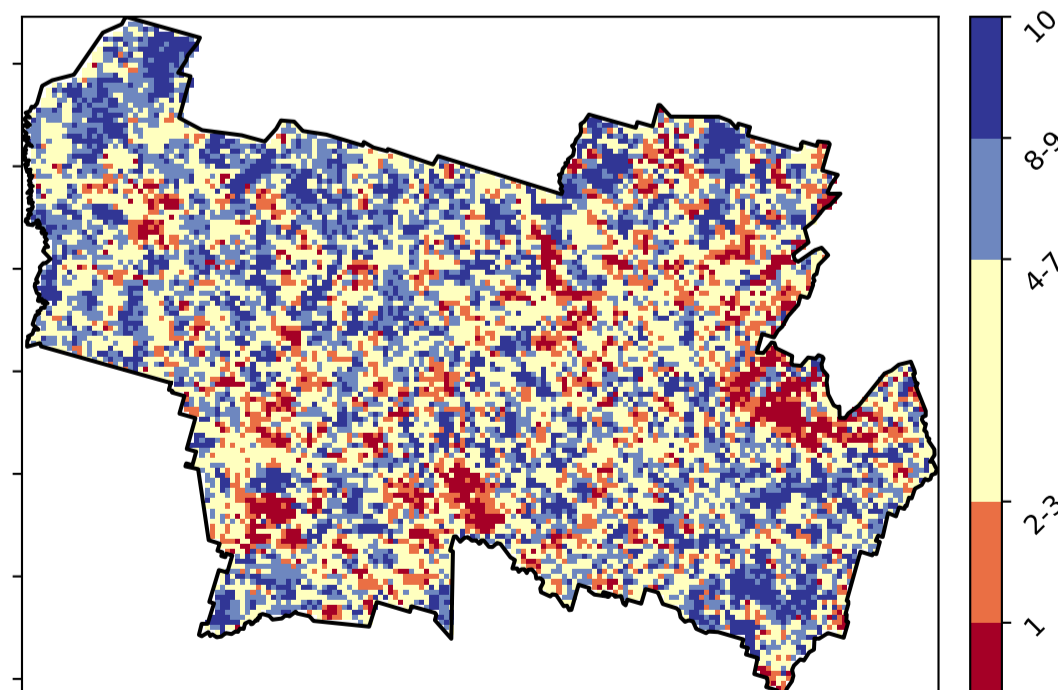


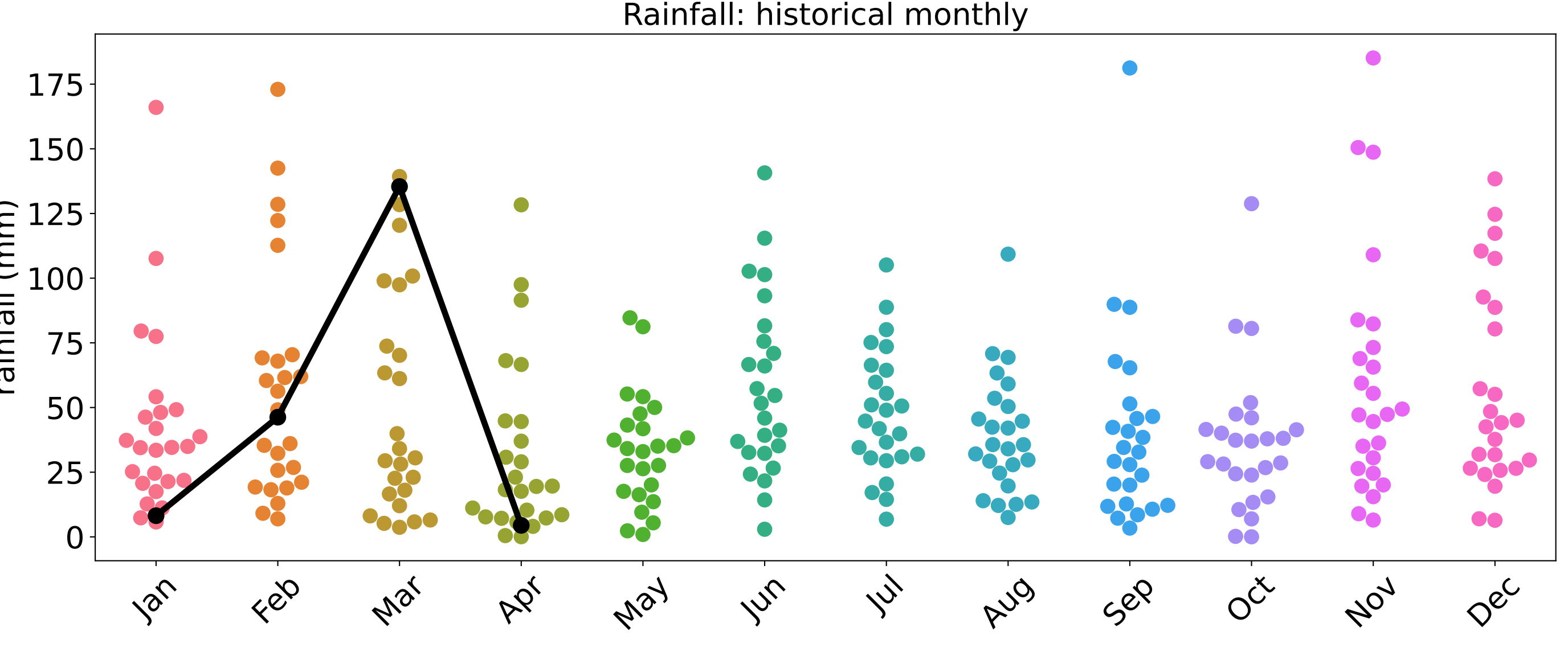
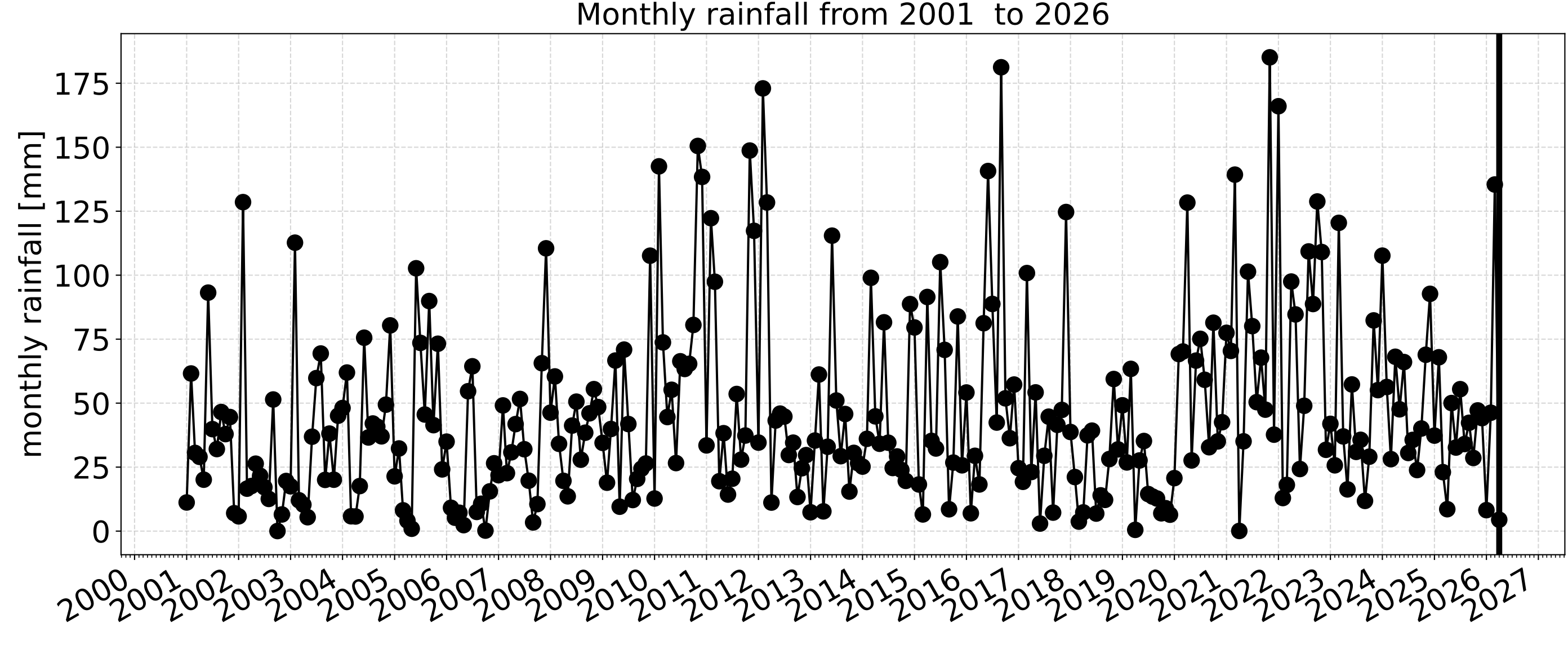
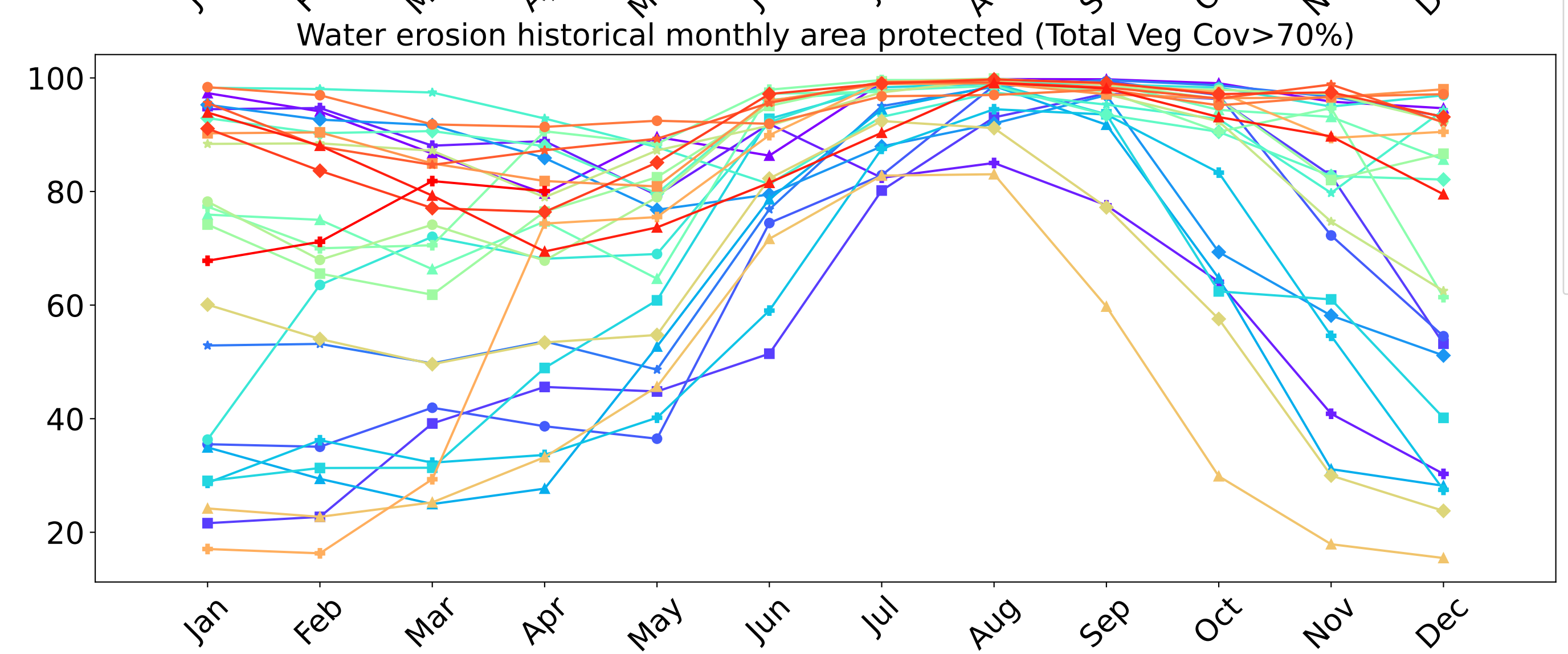
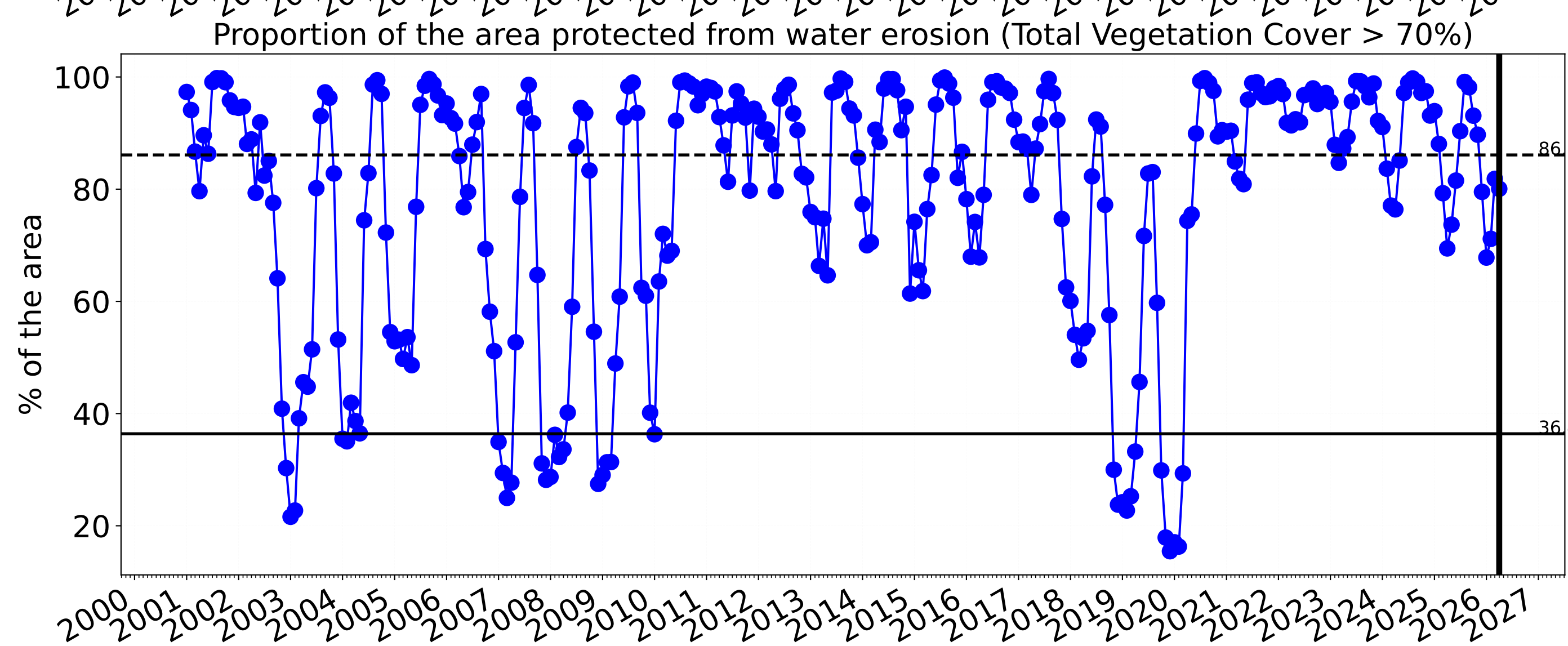
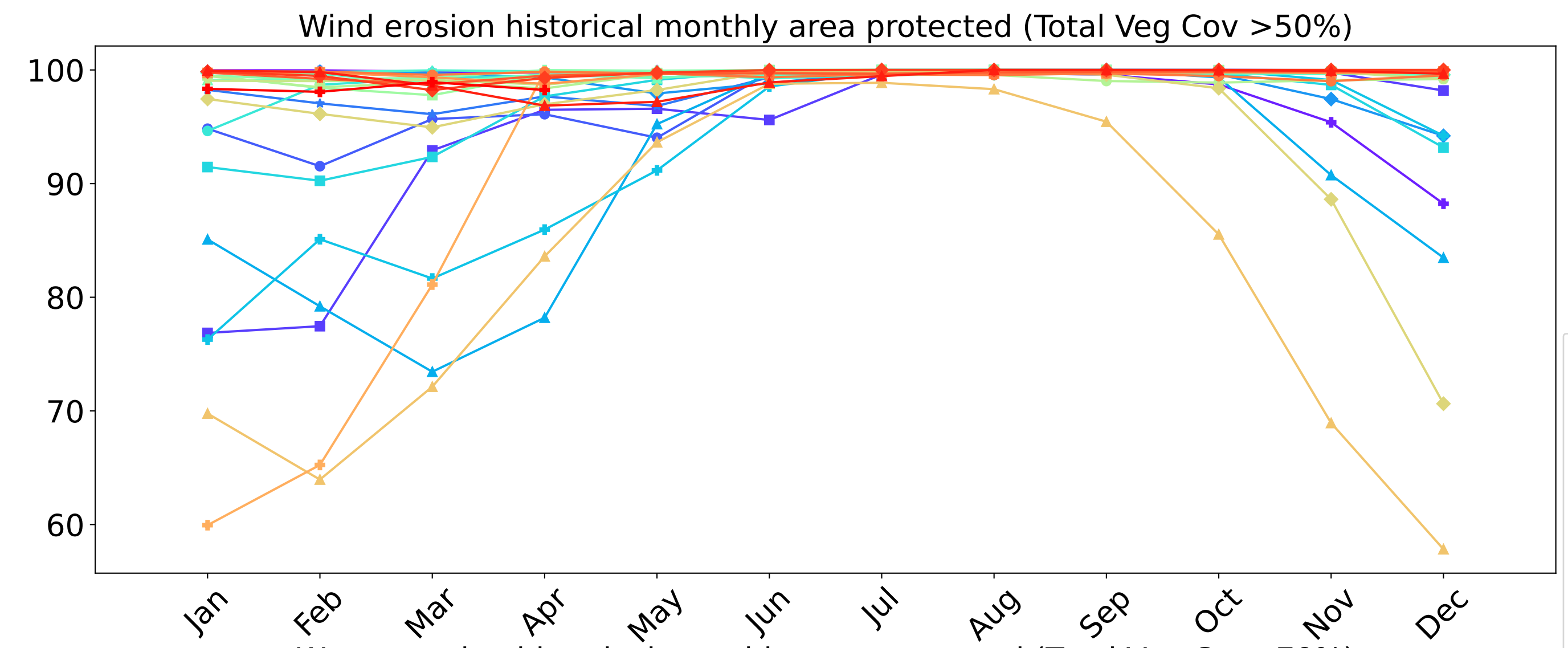
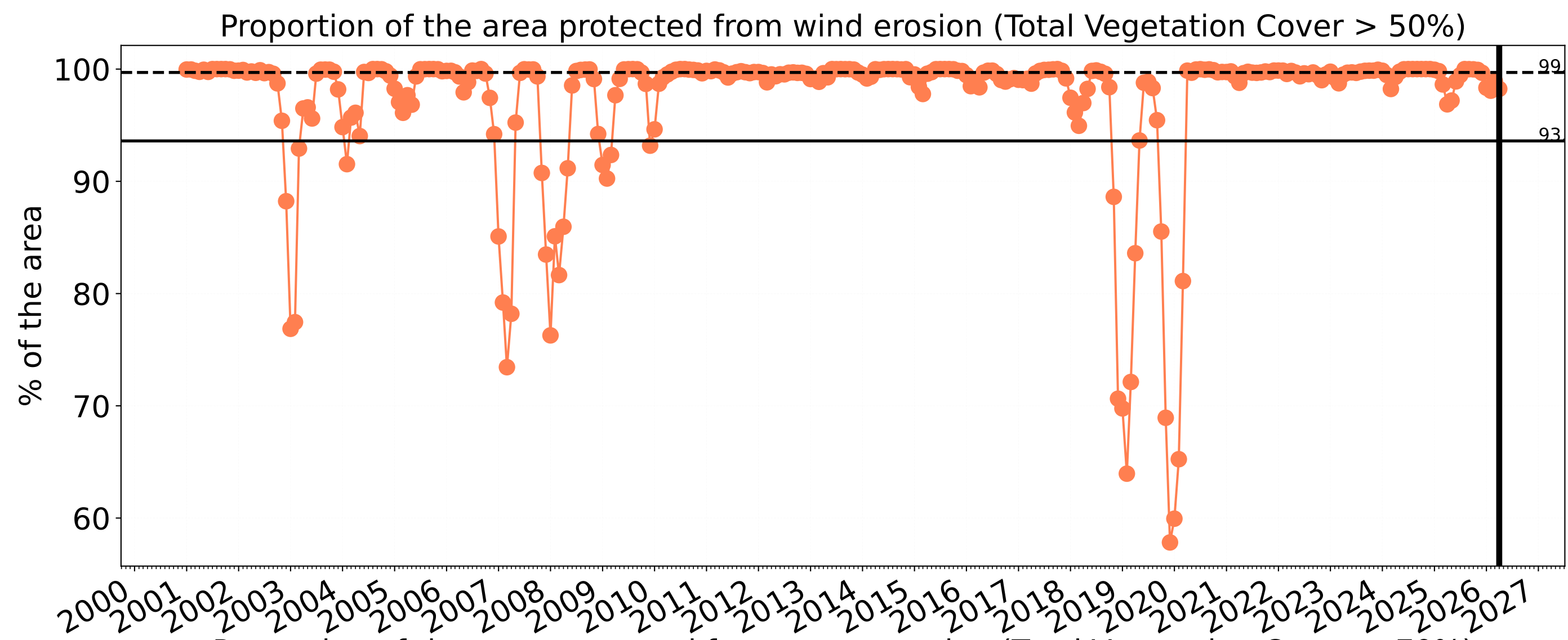
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]



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 [%]

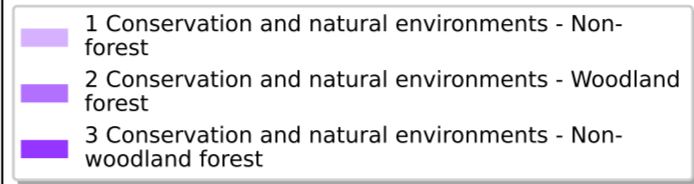
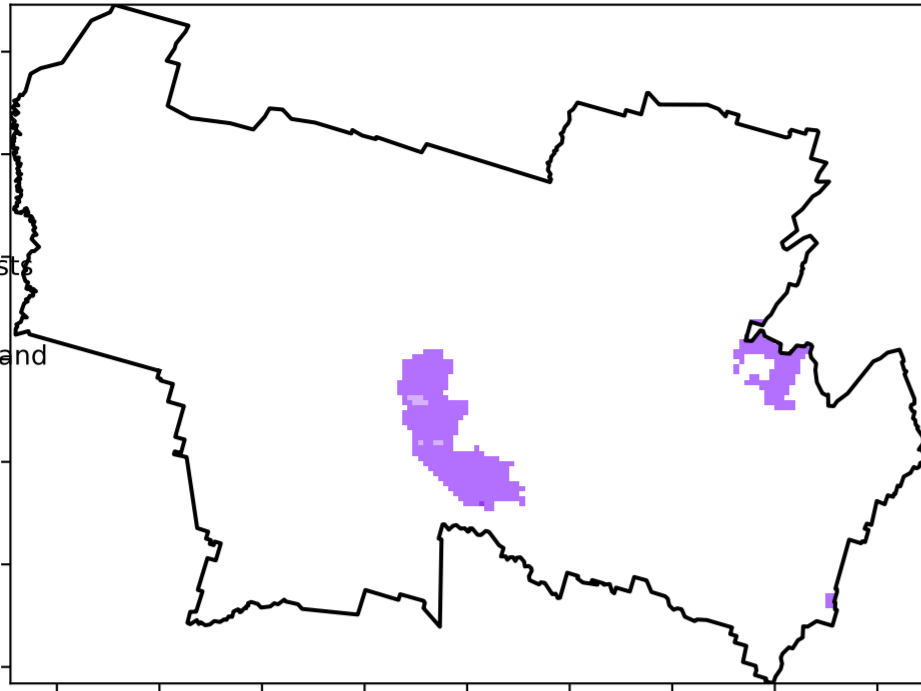




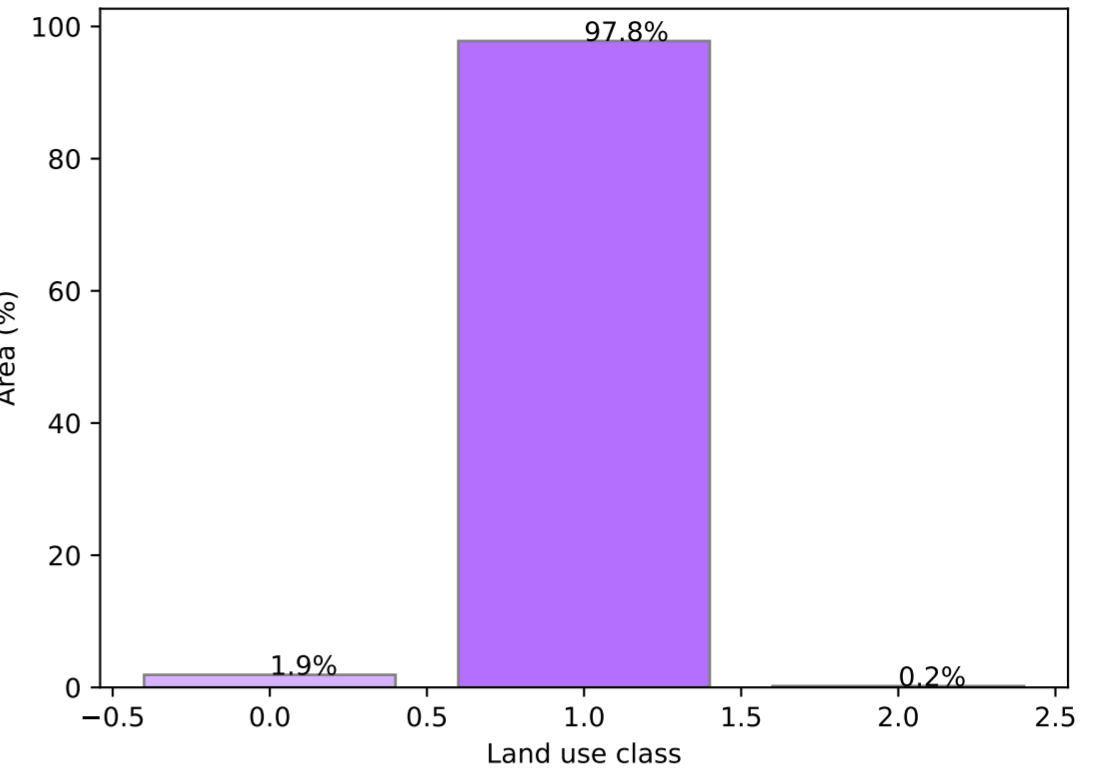
Conservation and natural environments

Land use and forest cover

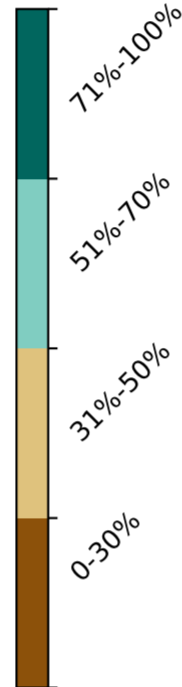
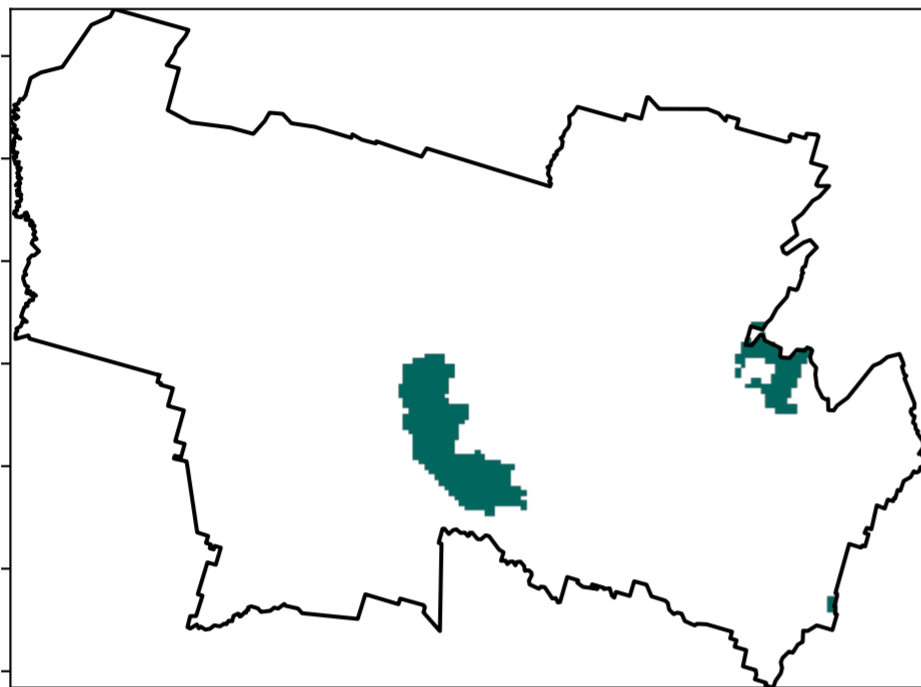
Catchment Scale Land Use and Forest of Australia (2018) Derived from Catchment Scale Land Use of Australia (2018) and Forests of Australia (2018)



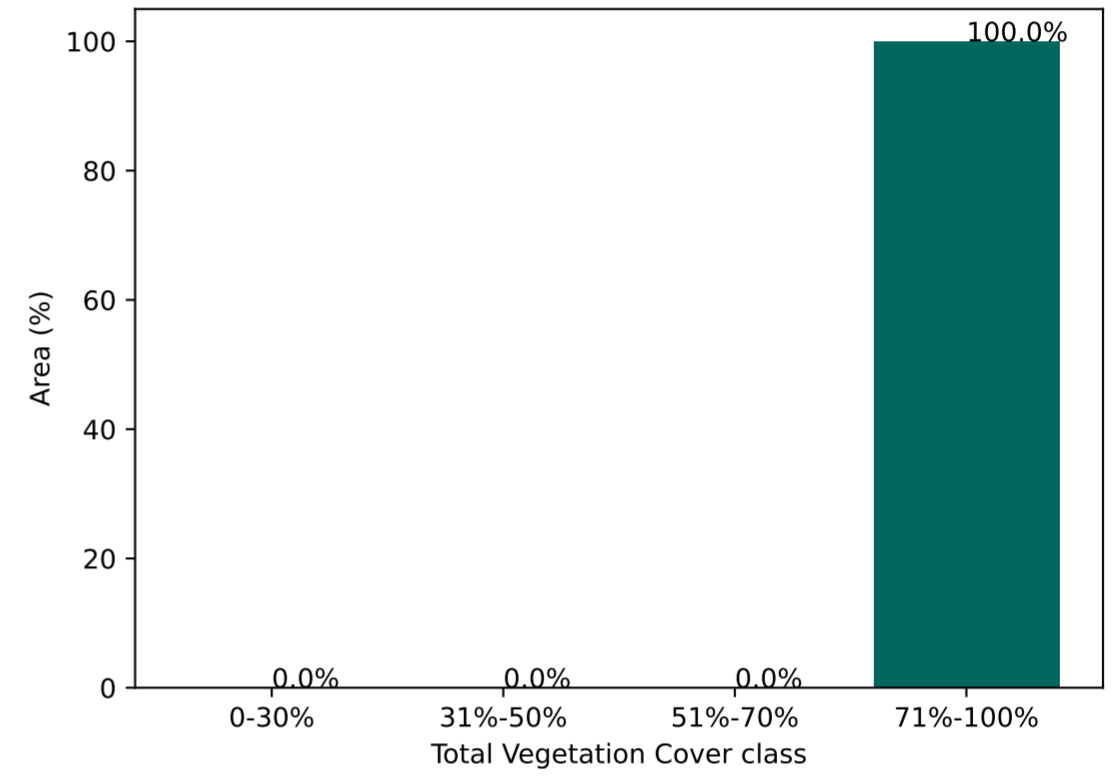
Proportion of each land class in area



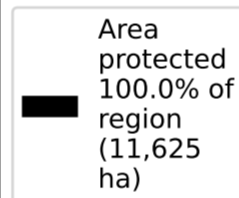
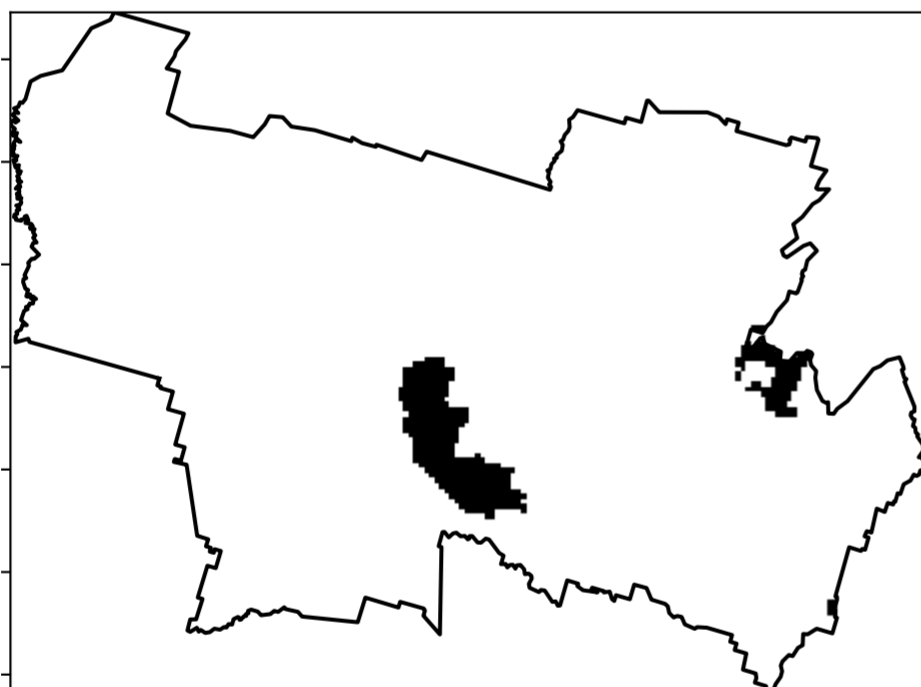
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



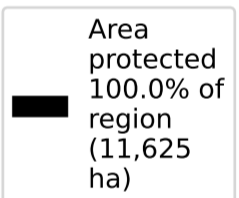
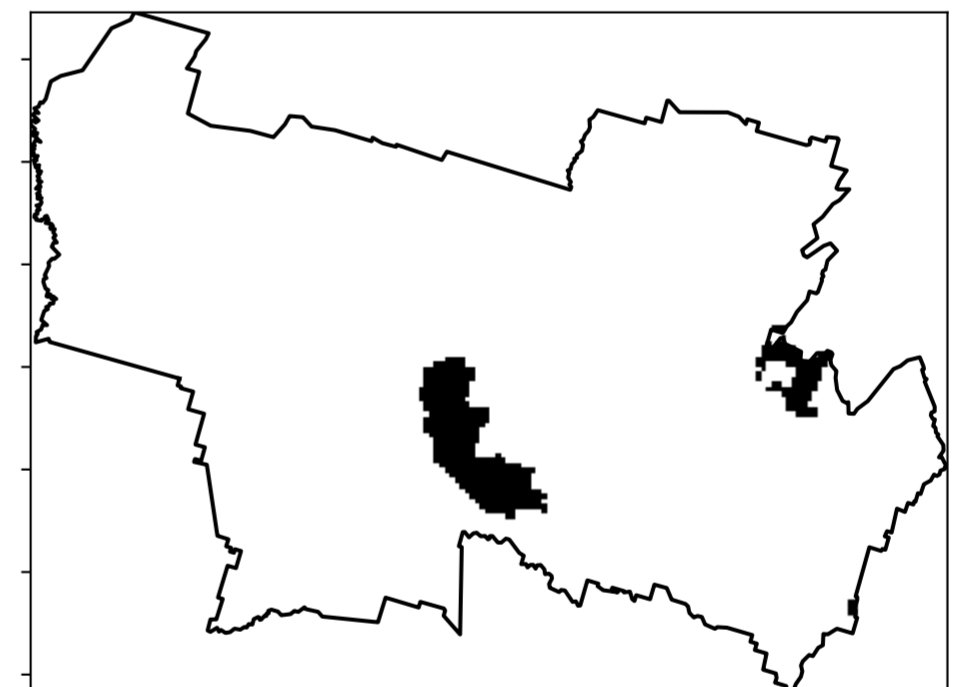
Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)

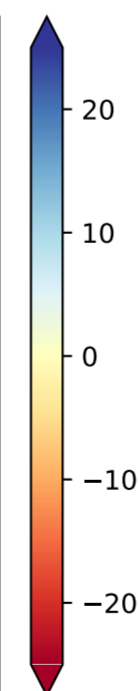
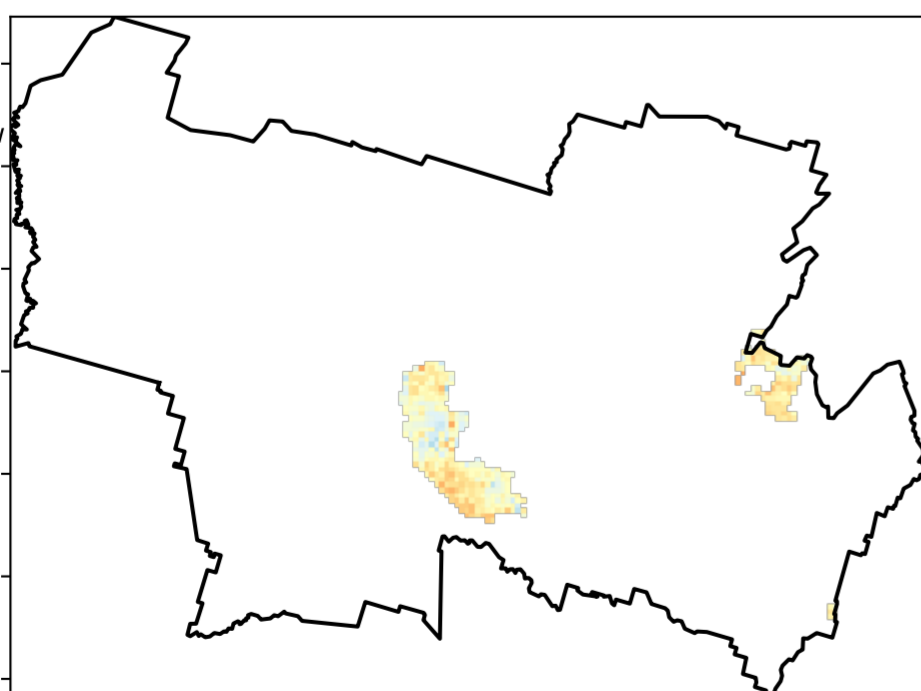


% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



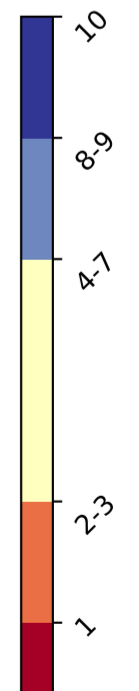
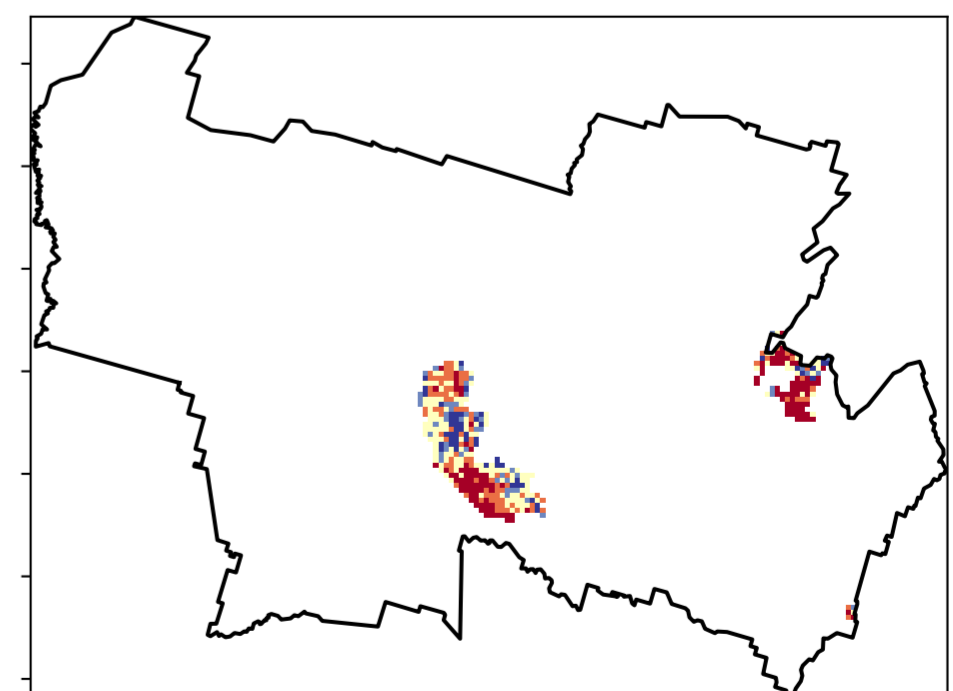
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

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.



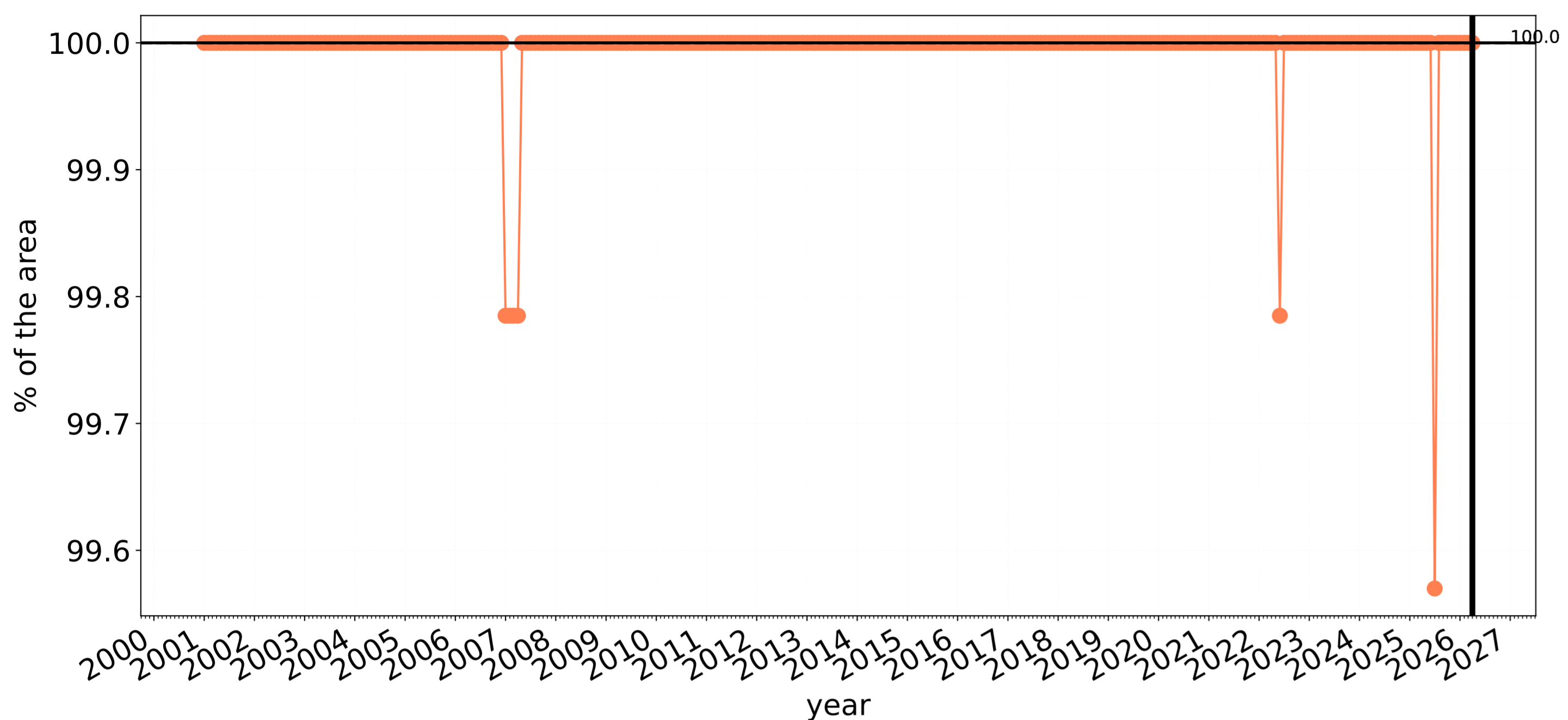
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Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]

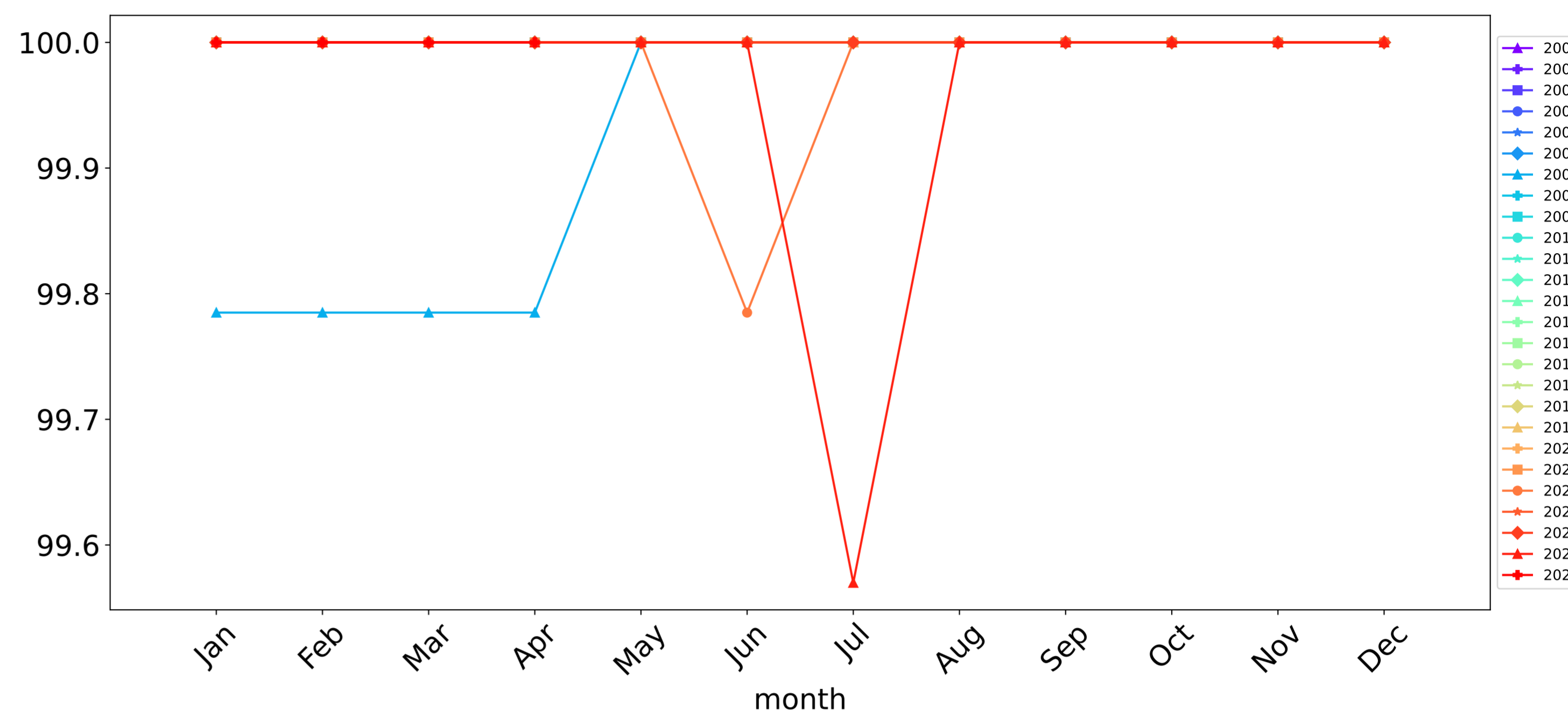


Conservation and natural environments timeseries

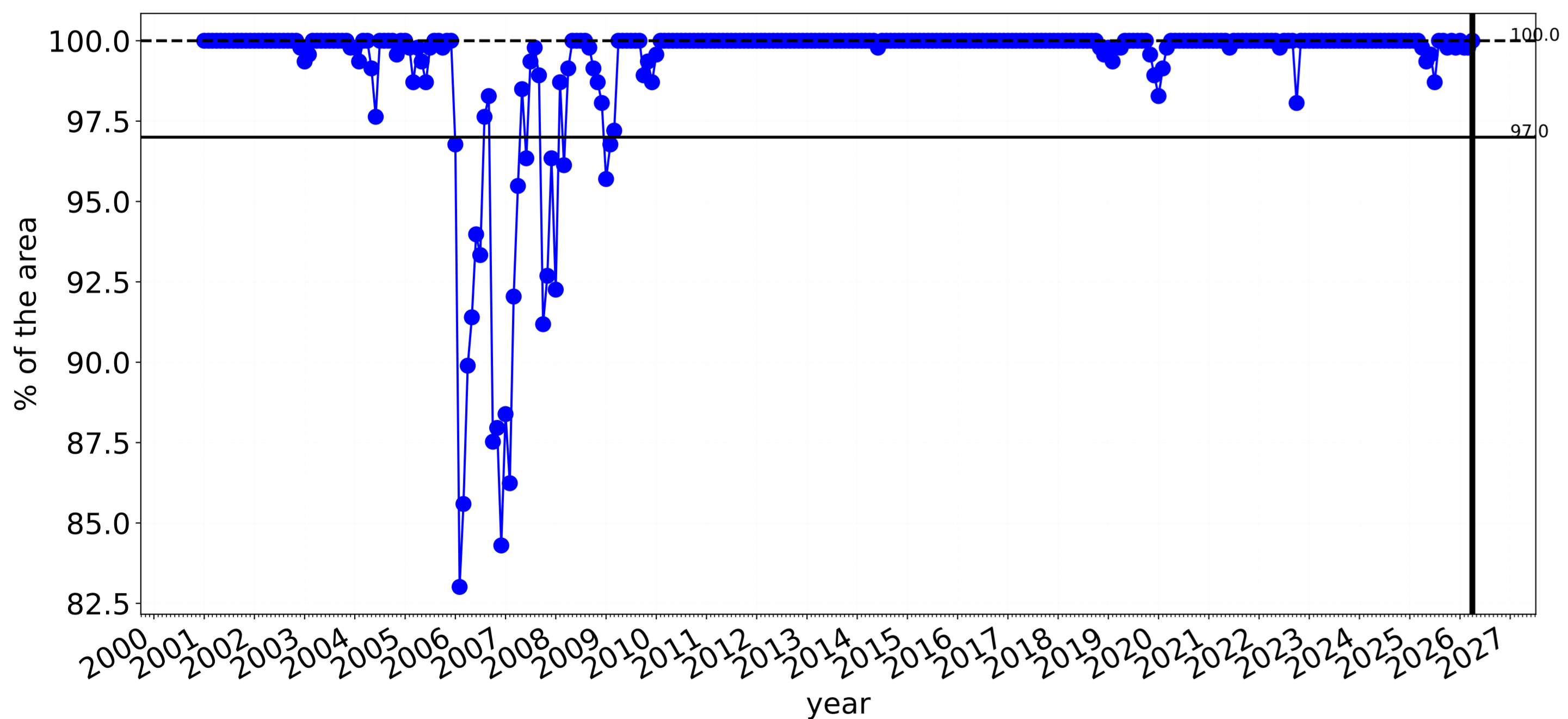
Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)



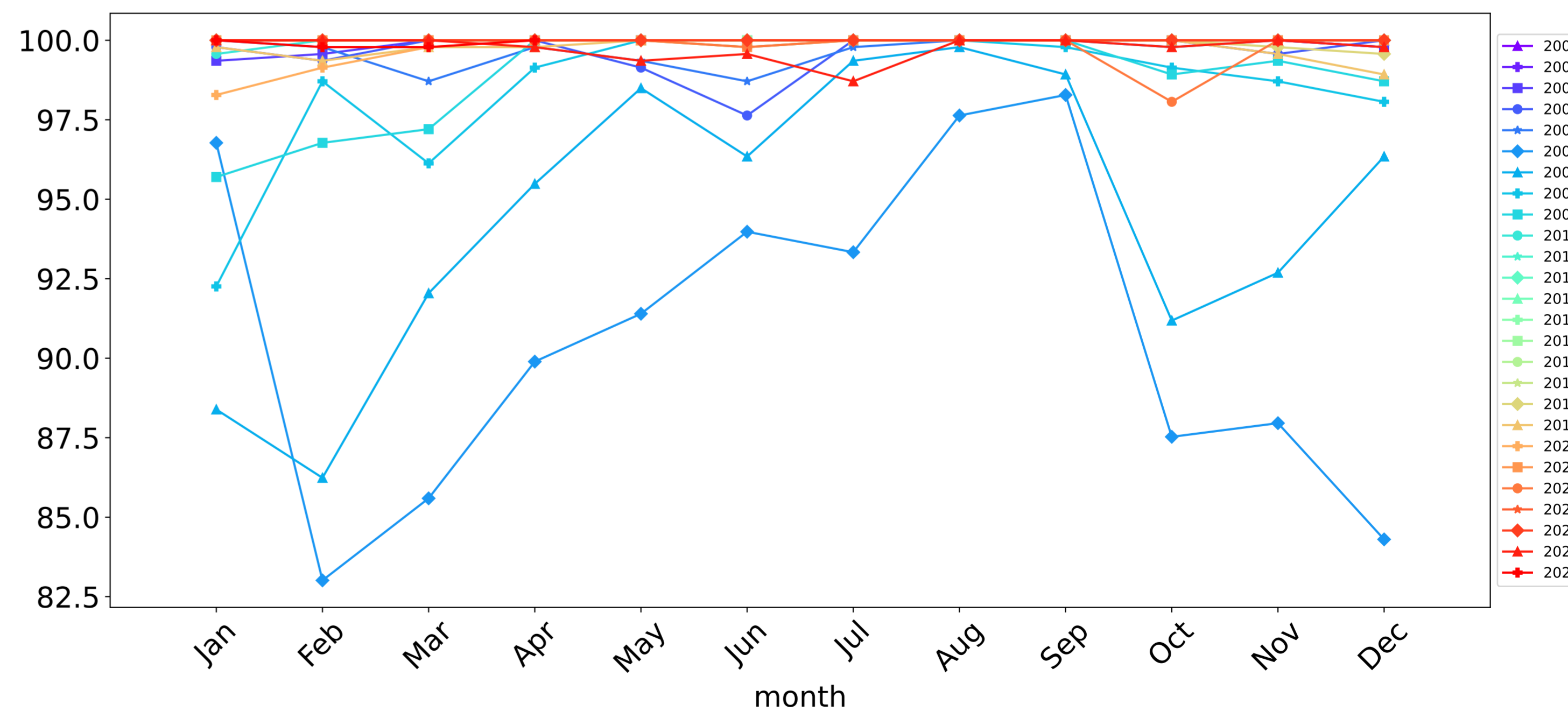
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



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



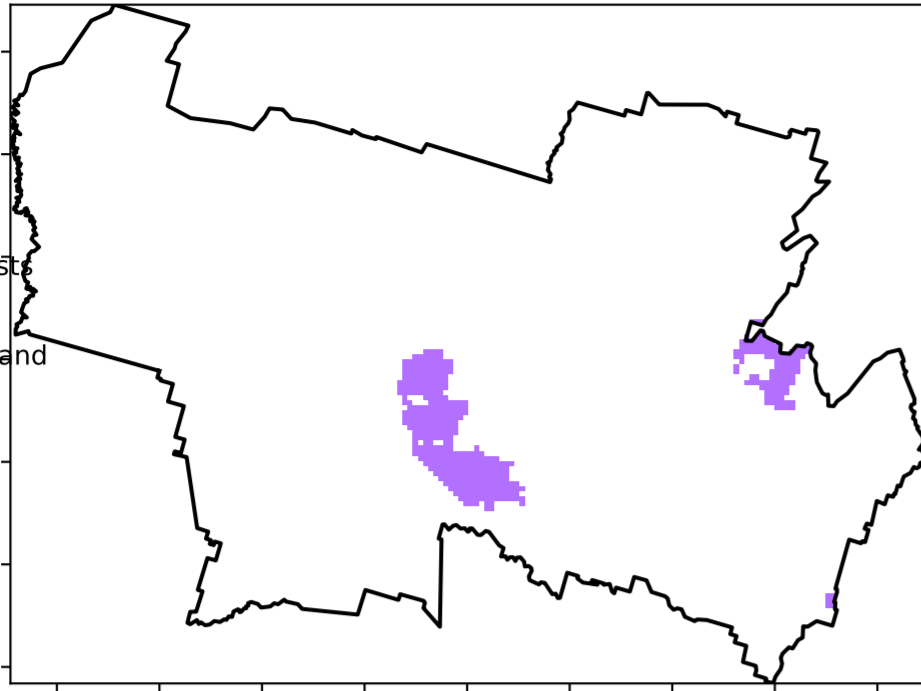
Water erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >70%)



Conservation and natural environments Woodland forest

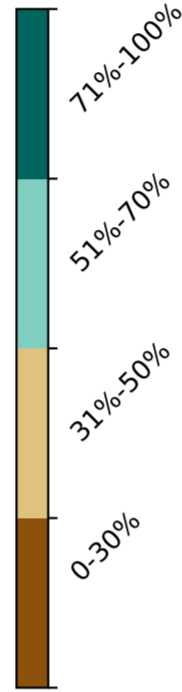
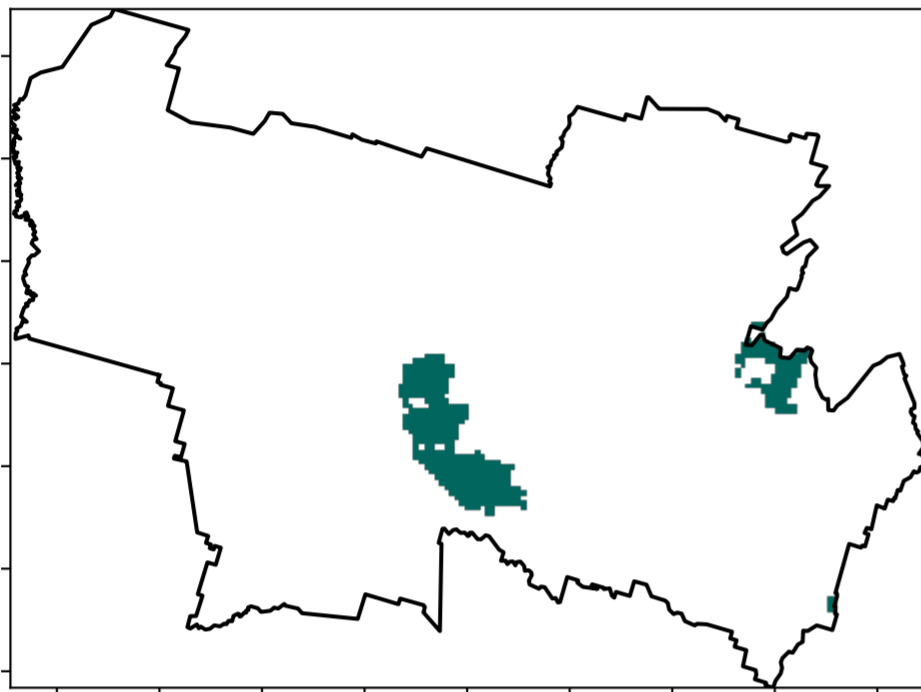
Land use and forest cover

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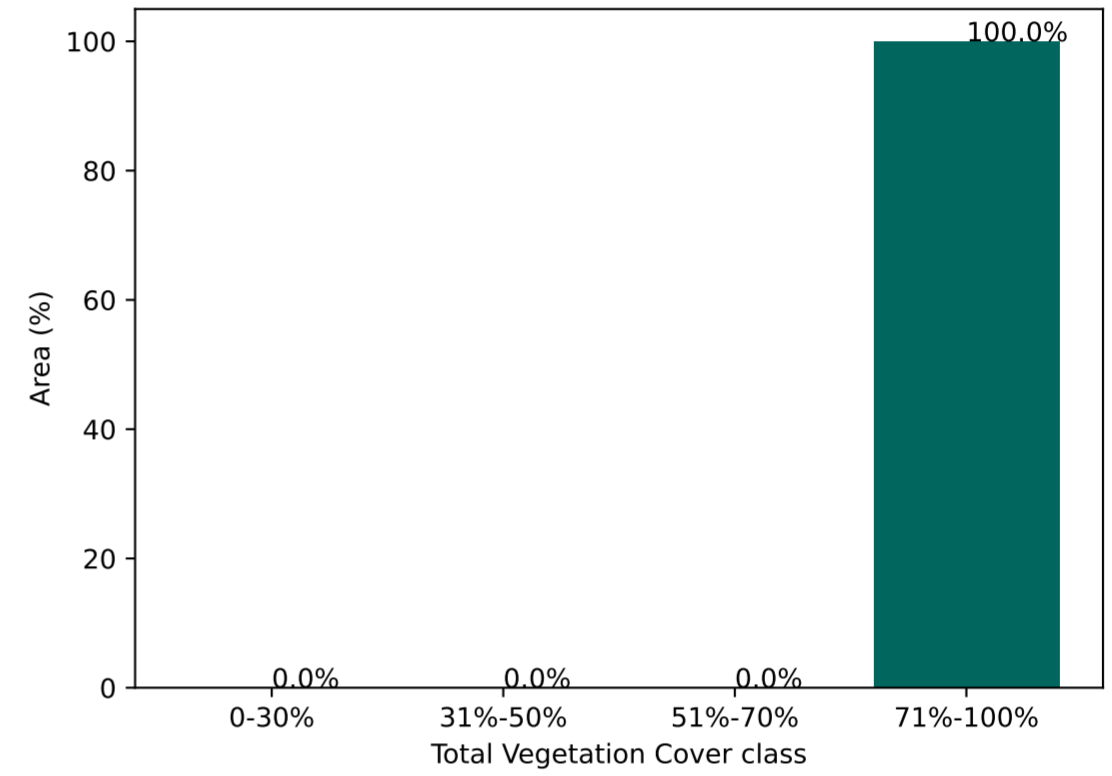


1 Conservation and natural environments - Woodland forest

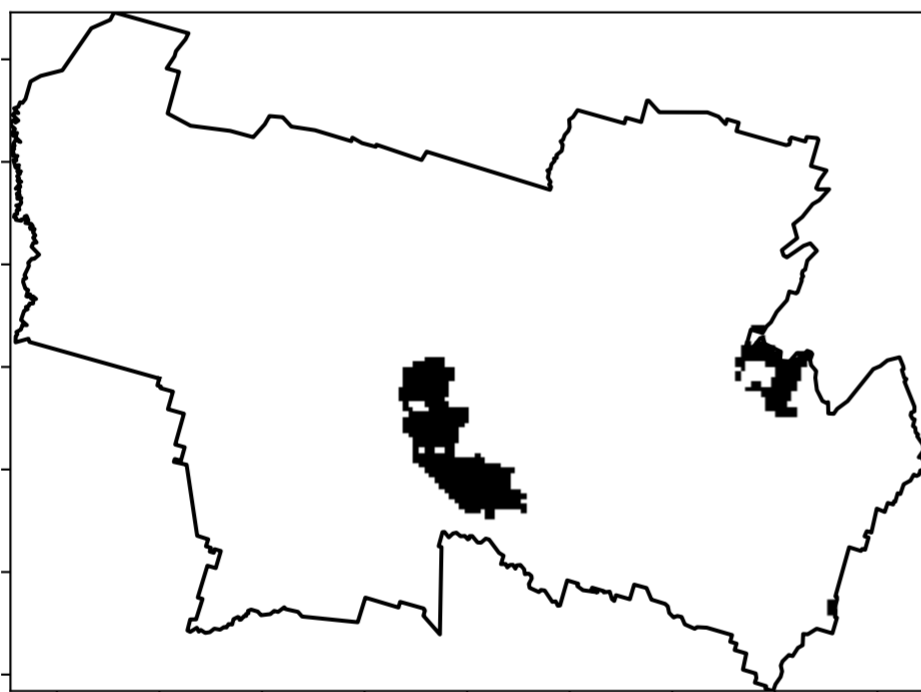
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



Proportion of vegetation cover class in area

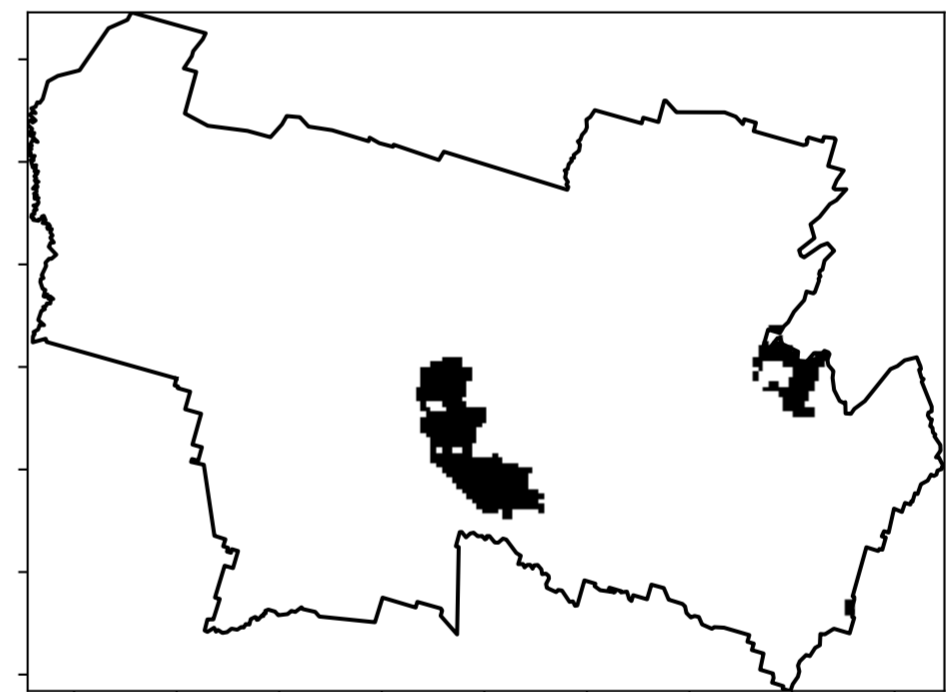


% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



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

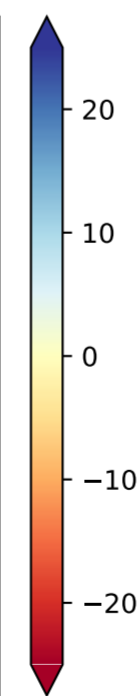
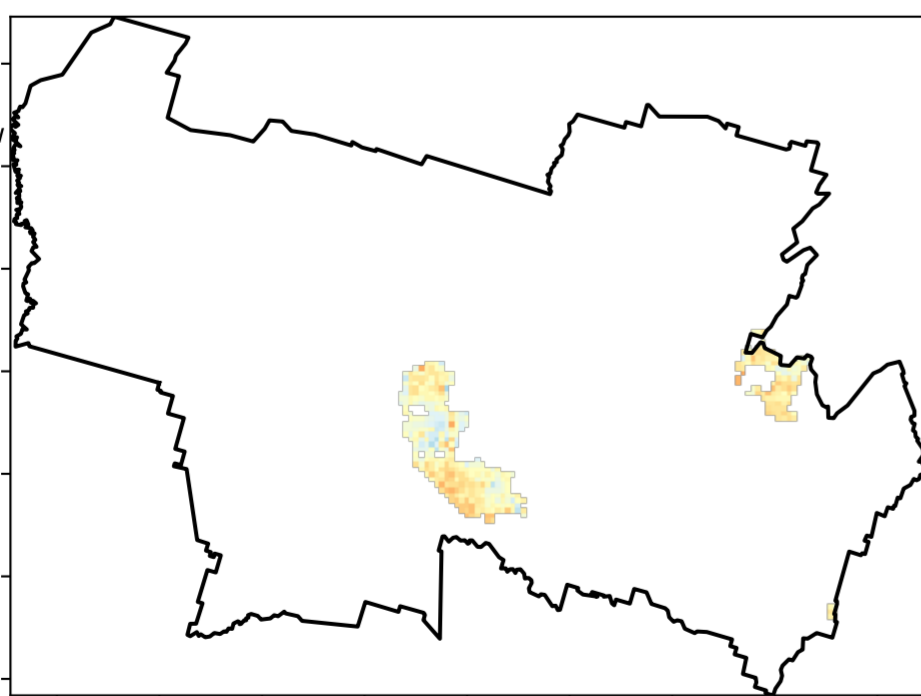
% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



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

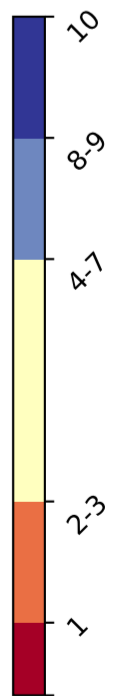
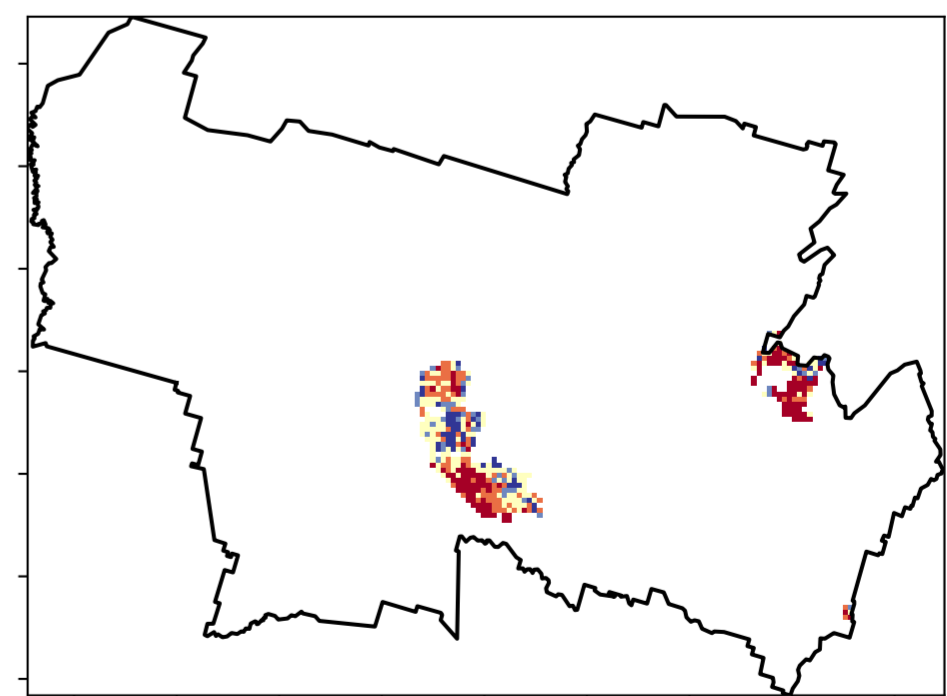
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

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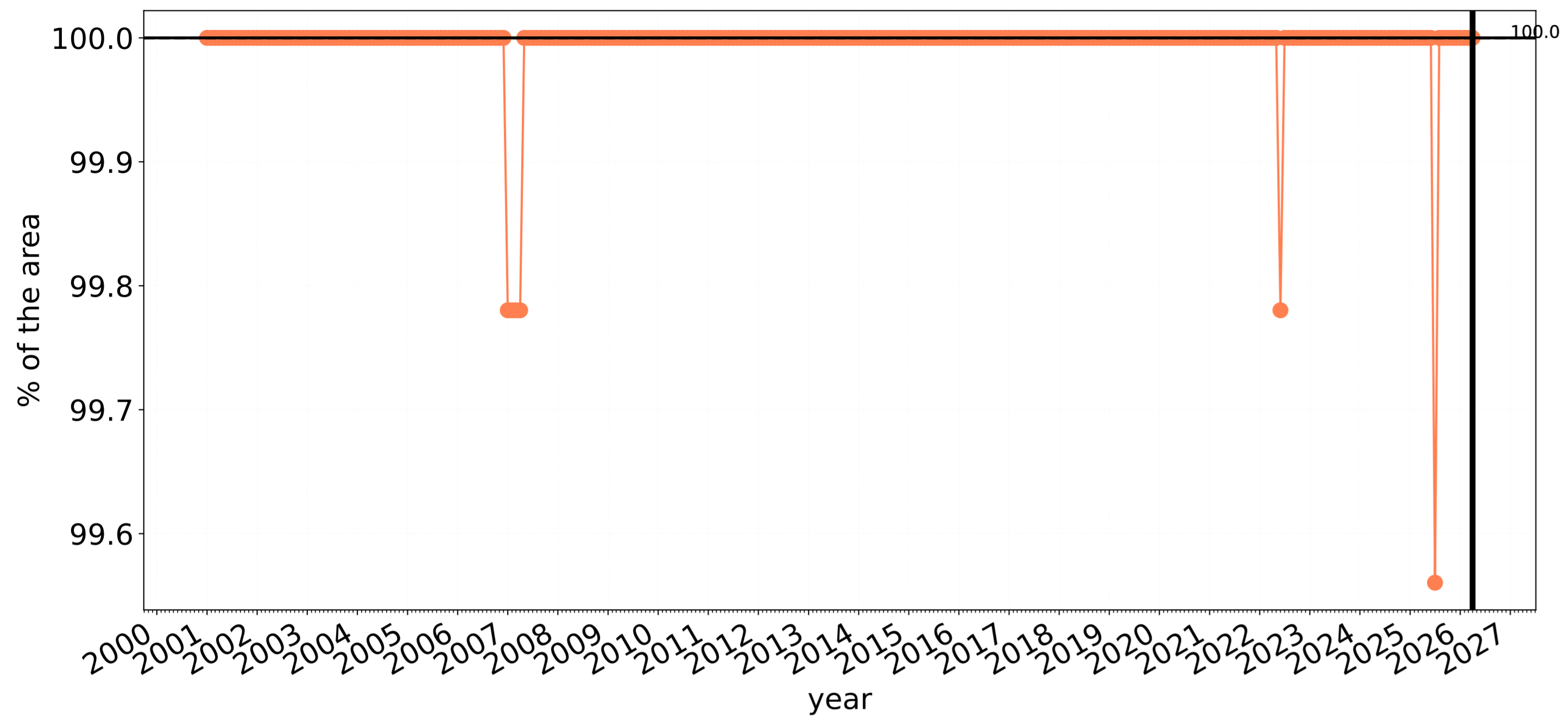
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Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]

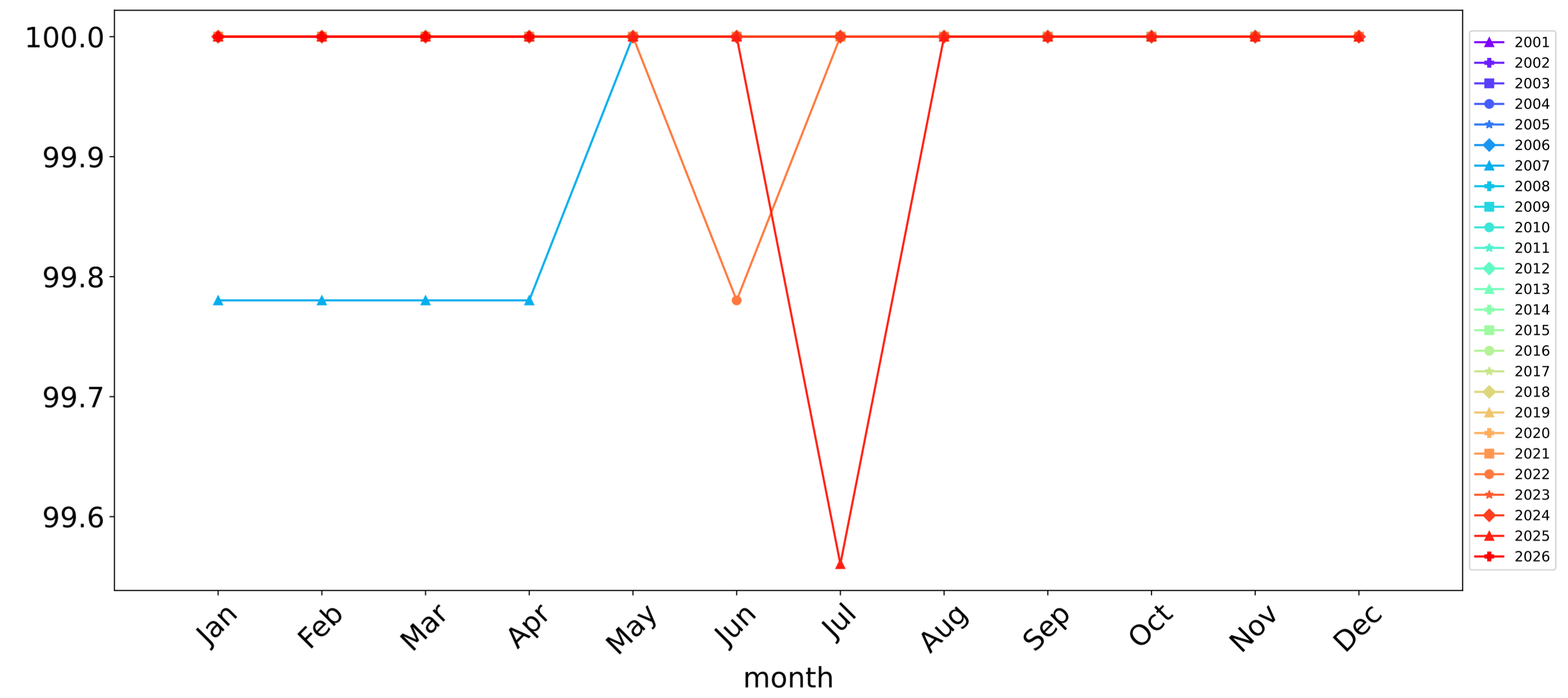


Conservation and natural environments Woodland forest timeseries

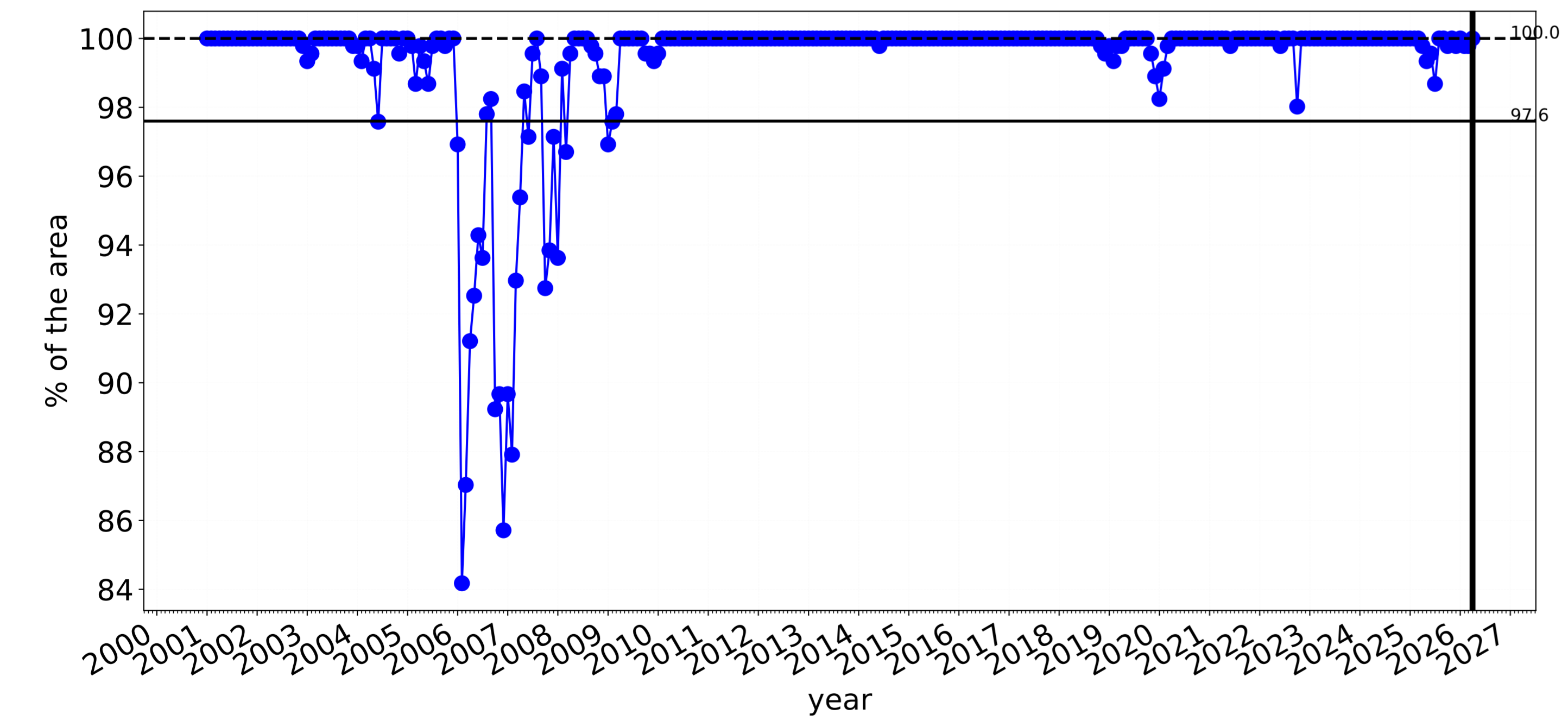
Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)



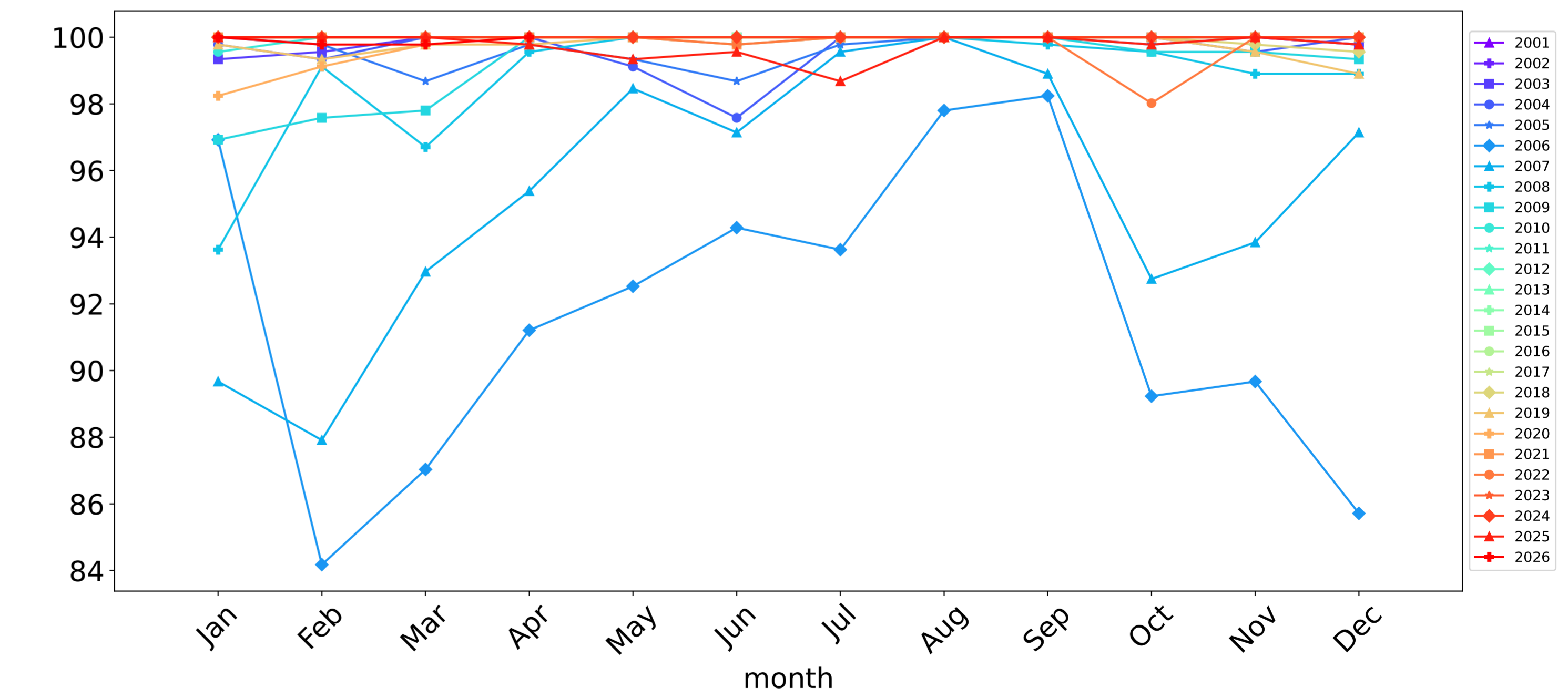
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



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



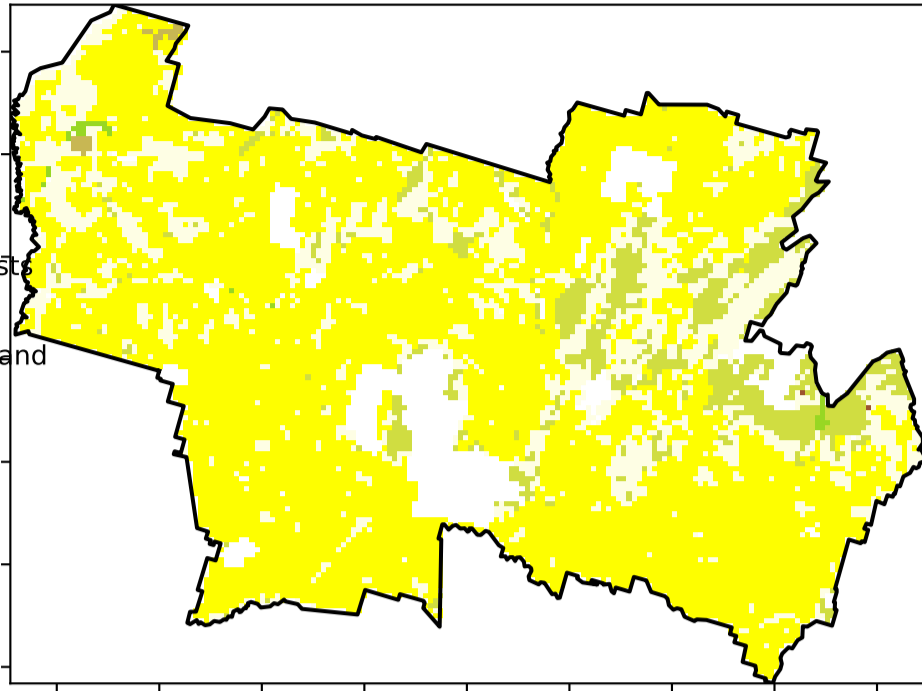
Water erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >70%)



Agriculture

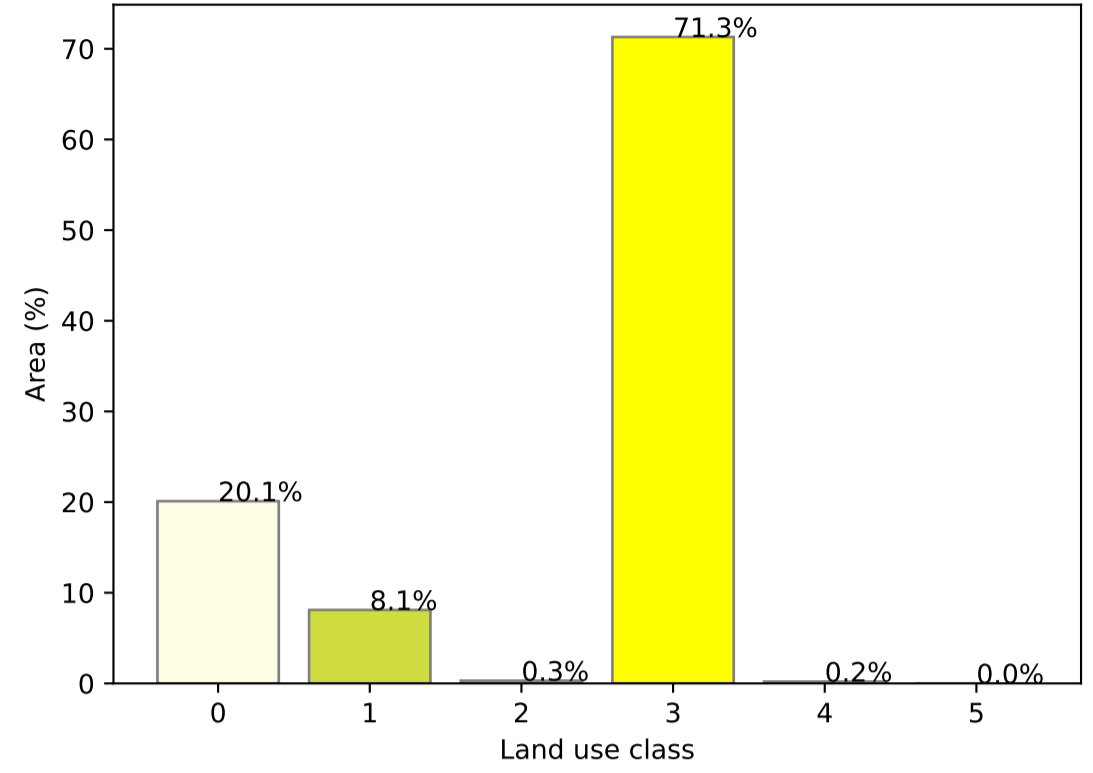
Land use and forest cover

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

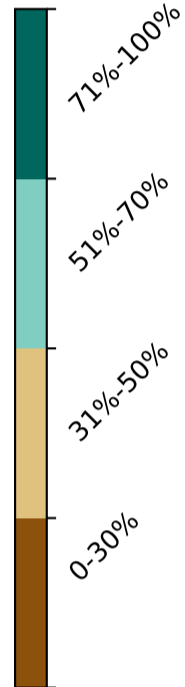
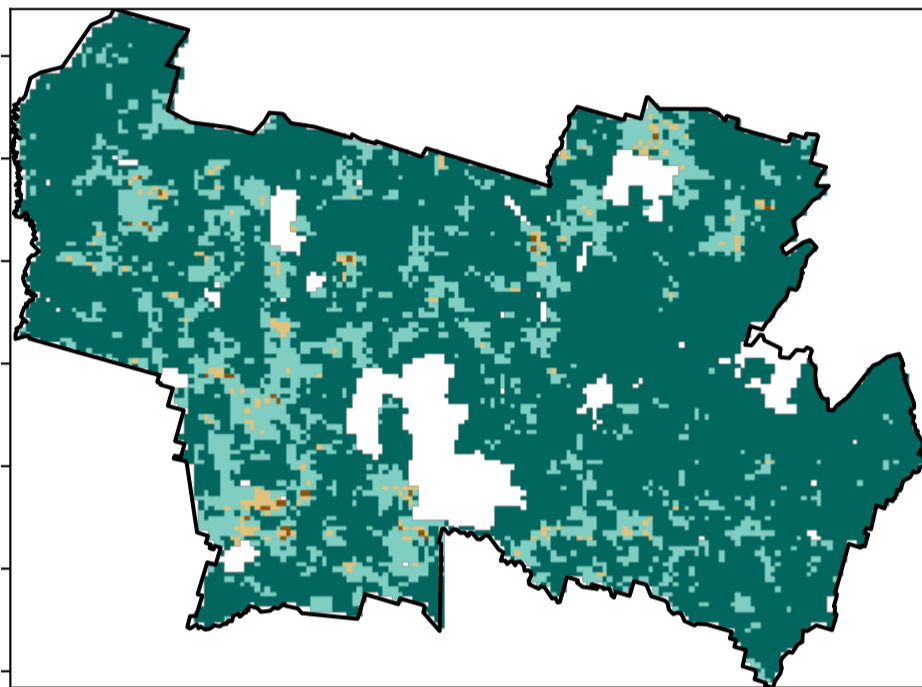


- 1 Agriculture - Grazing - Non forest
- 2 Agriculture - Grazing - Woodland forest
- 3 Agriculture - Grazing - Non-woodland forest
- 4 Agriculture - Cropping - Non-irrigated
- 5 Agriculture - Cropping - Irrigated
- 6 Agriculture - Horticulture - Irrigated

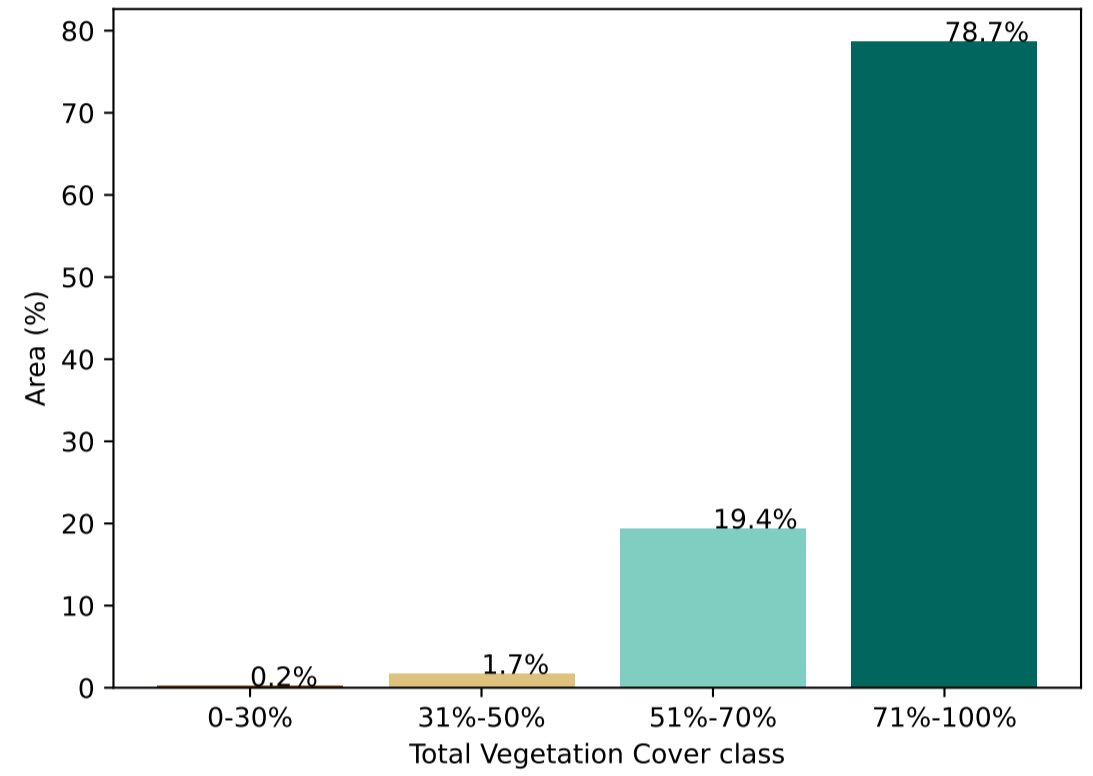
Proportion of each land class in area



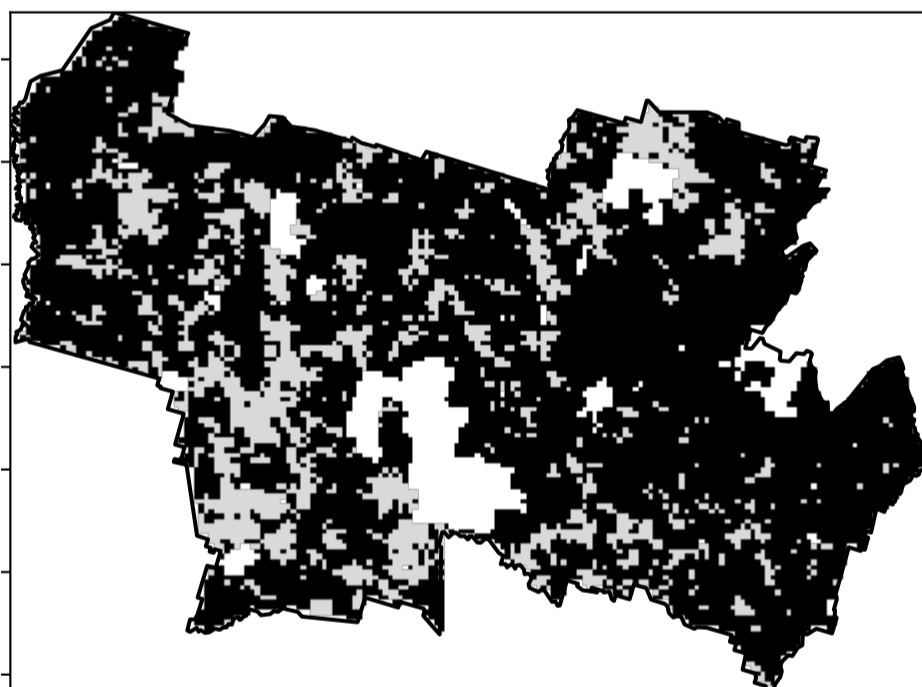
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



- Area not protected 21.3% of region (67,452 ha)
- Area protected 78.7% of region (249,223 ha)

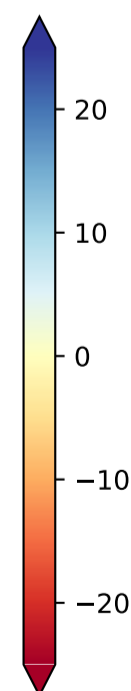
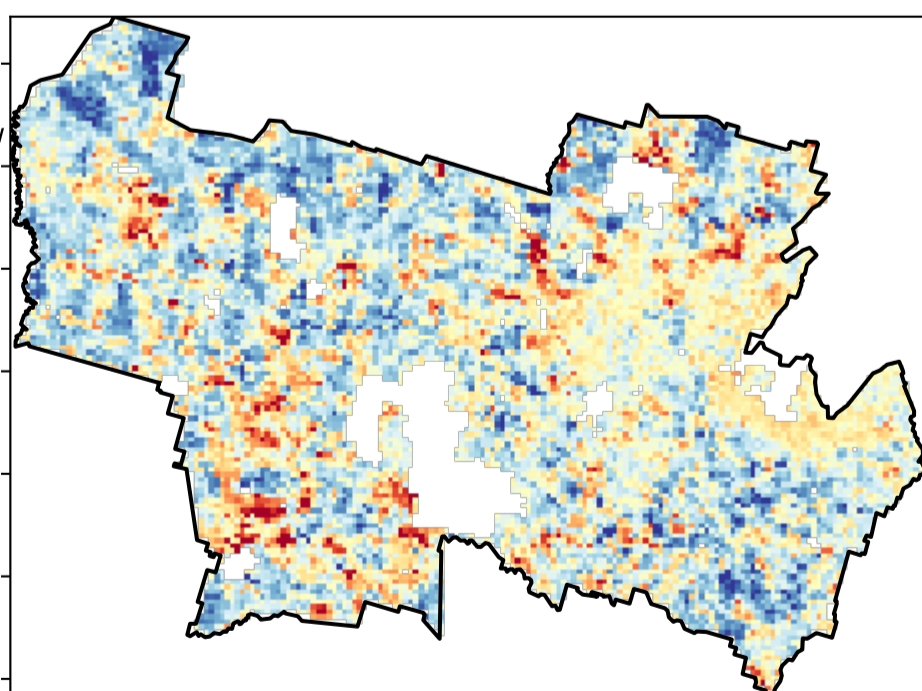
% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



- Area not protected 2.0% of region (6,334 ha)
- Area protected 98.0% of region (310,342 ha)

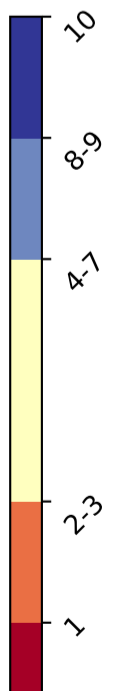
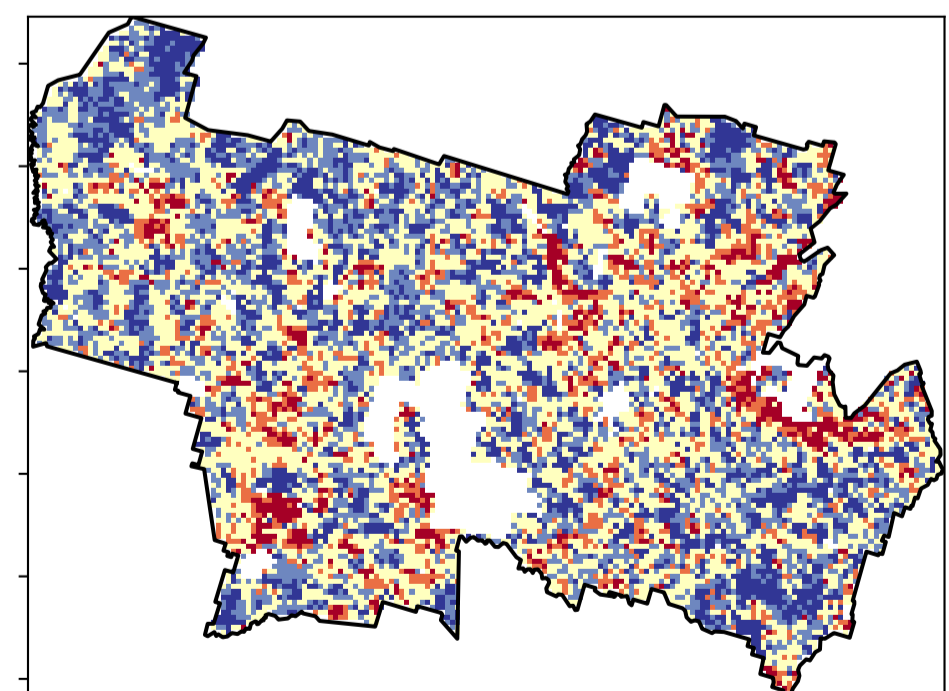
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

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.



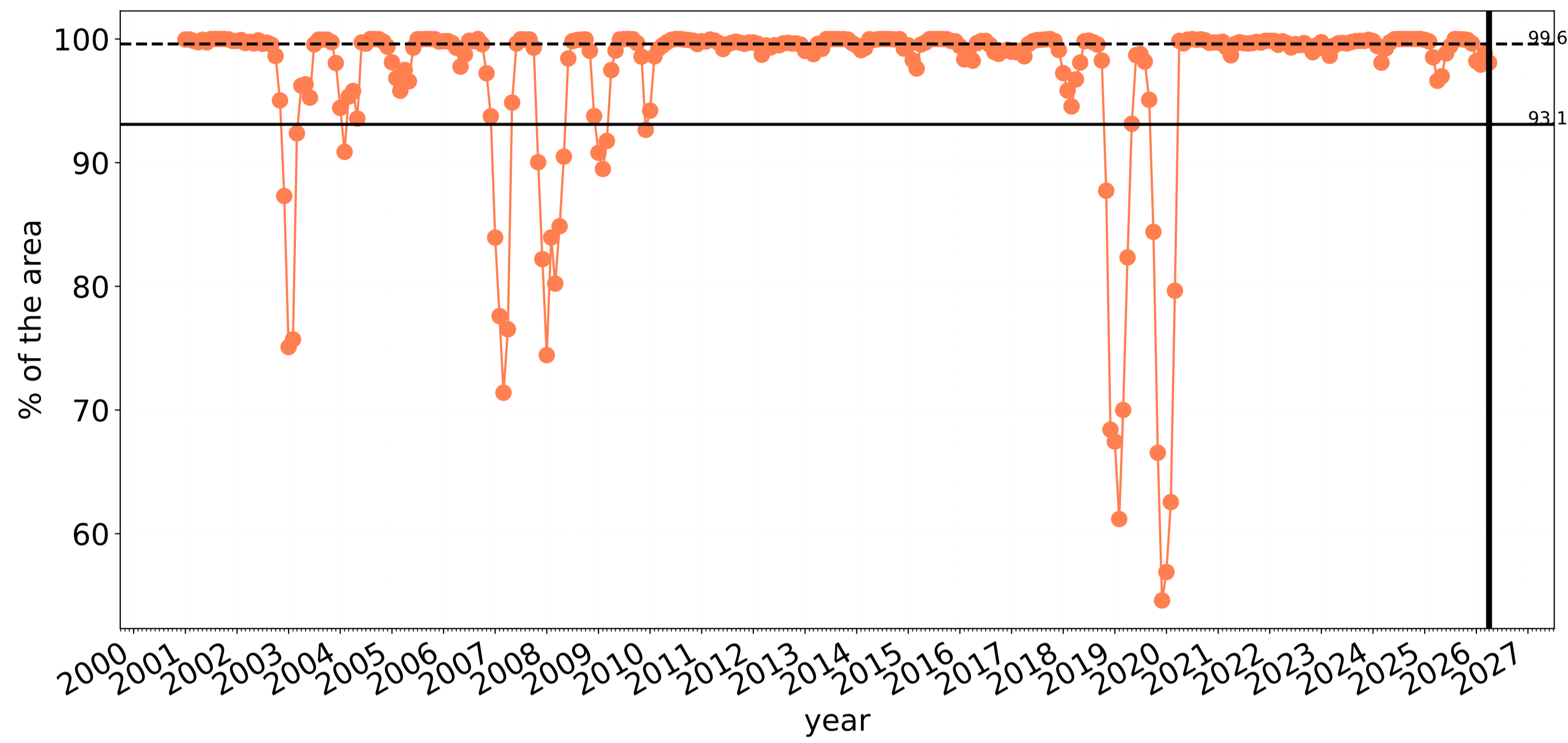
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Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]

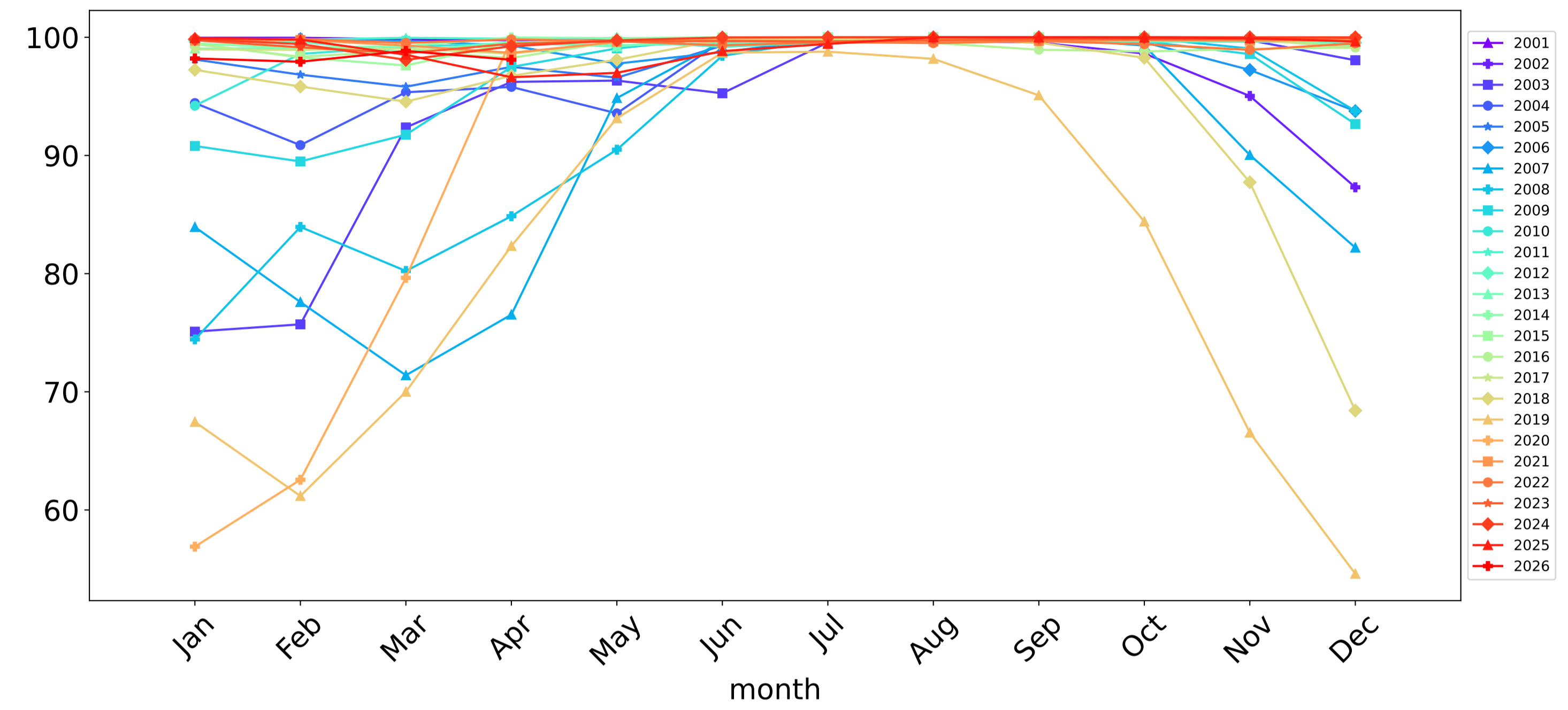


Agriculture timeseries

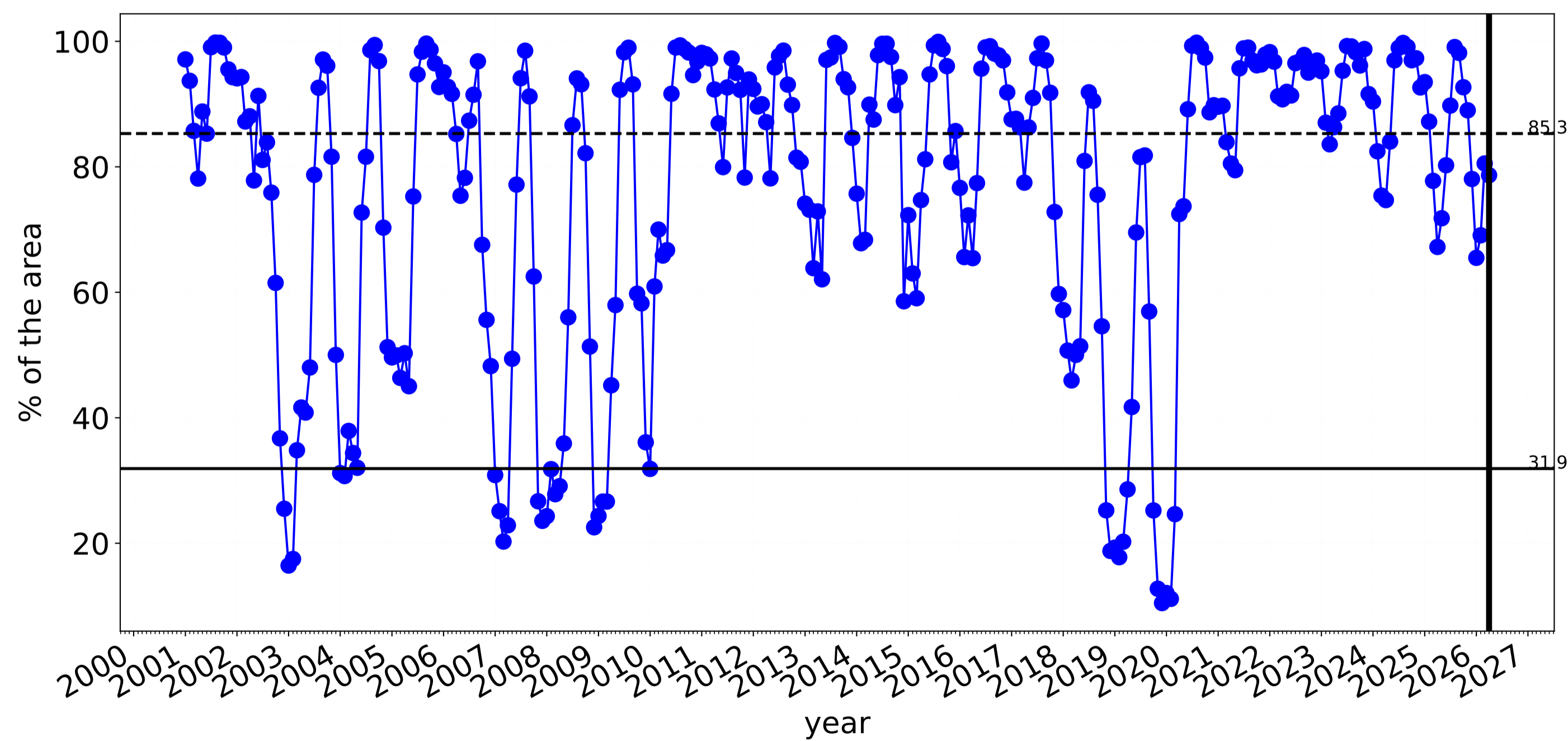
Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)



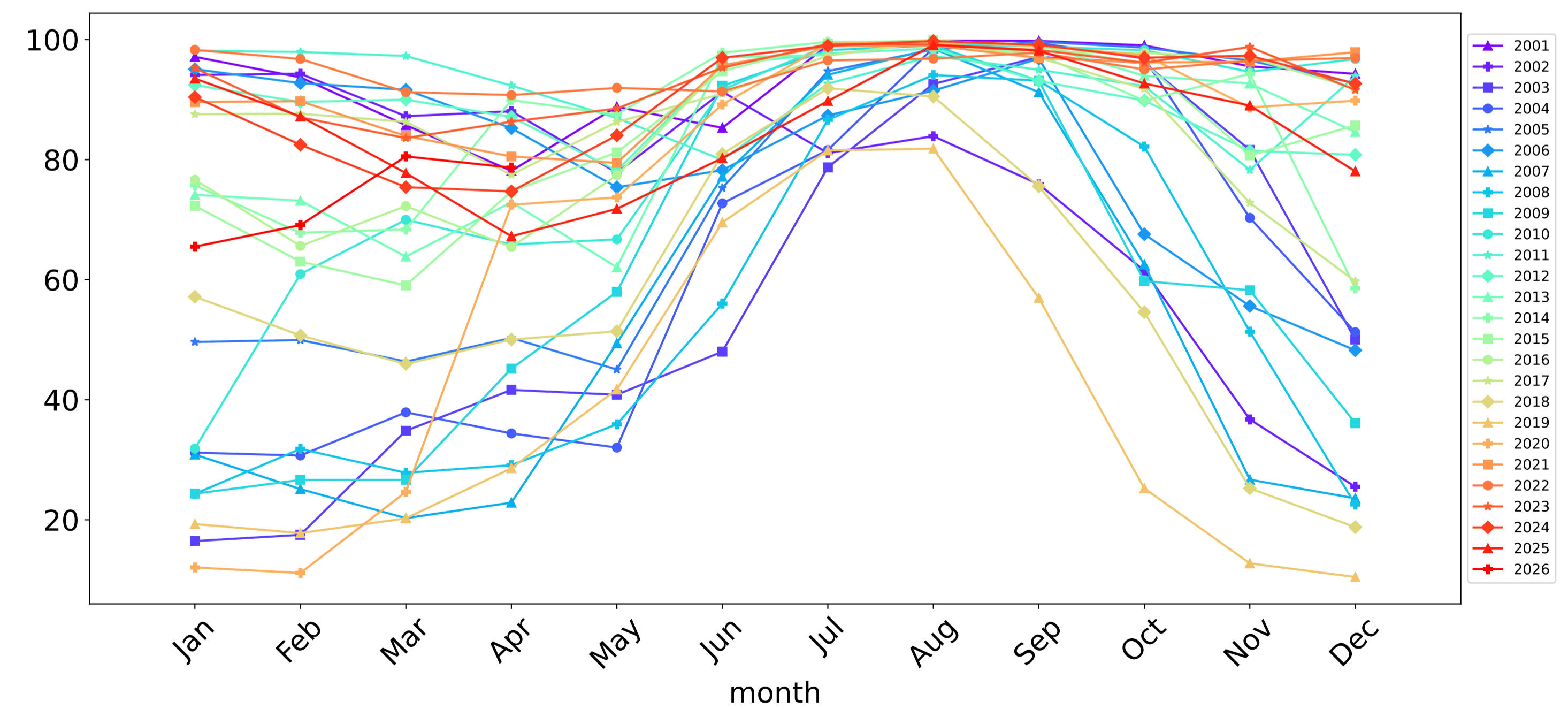
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



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



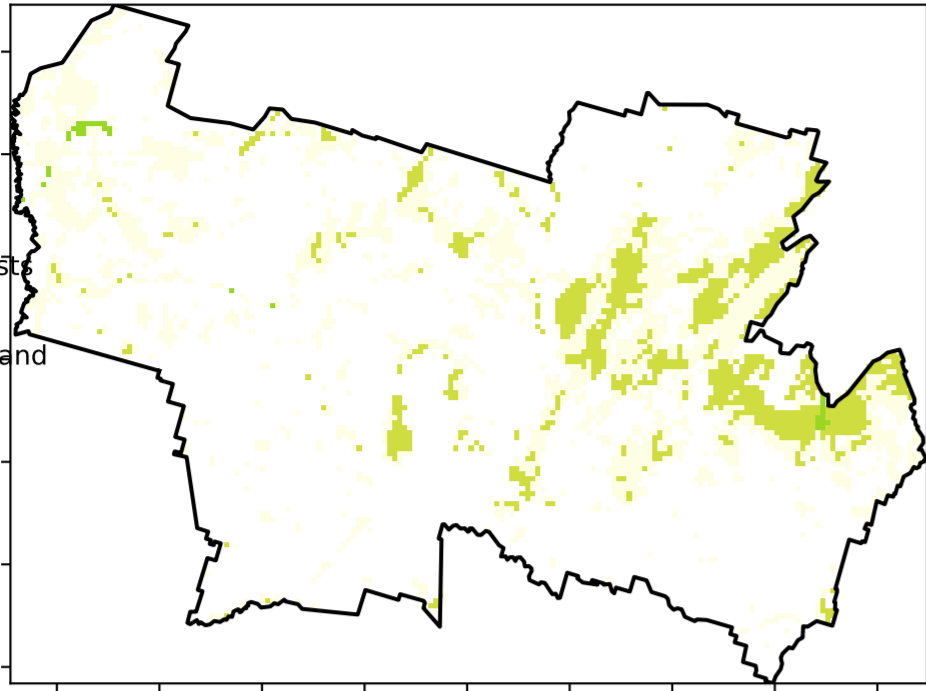
Water erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >70%)



Grazing

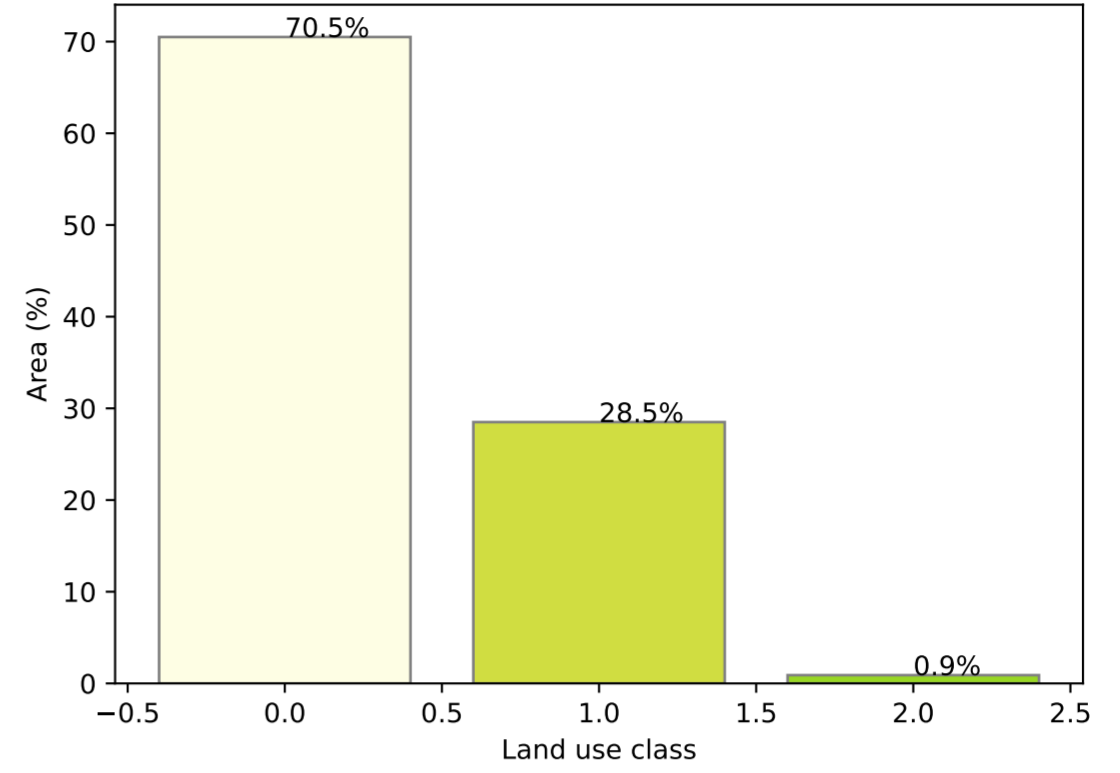
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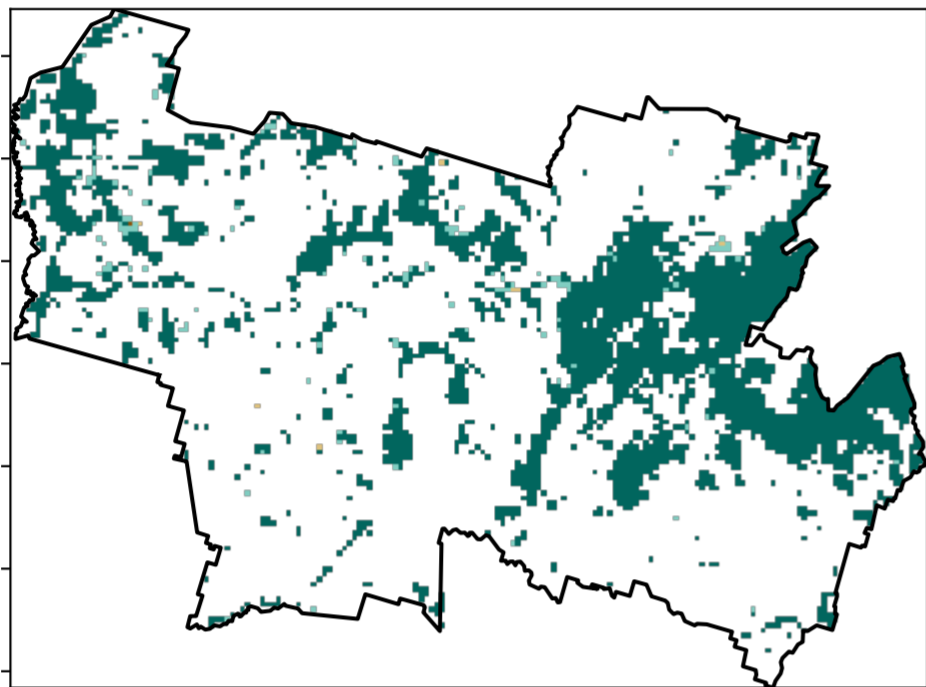


- 1 Agriculture - Grazing - Non forest
- 2 Agriculture - Grazing - Woodland forest
- 3 Agriculture - Grazing - Non-woodland forest

Proportion of each land class in area

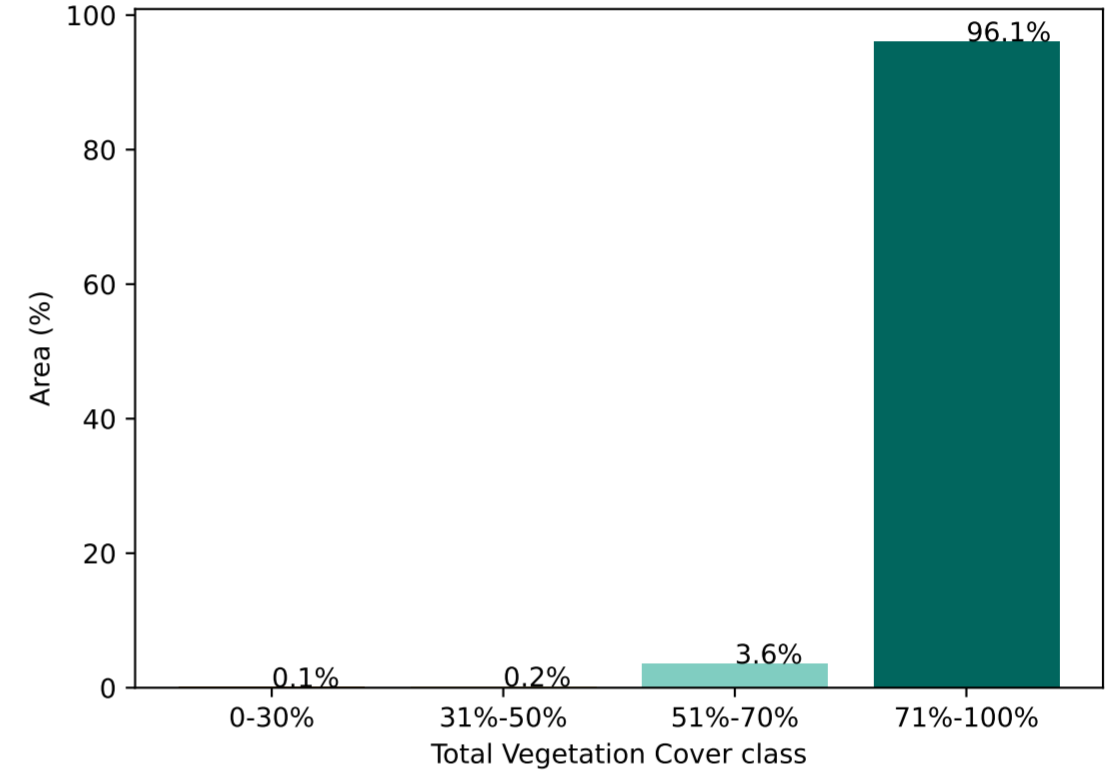


Total Vegetation Cover [%]

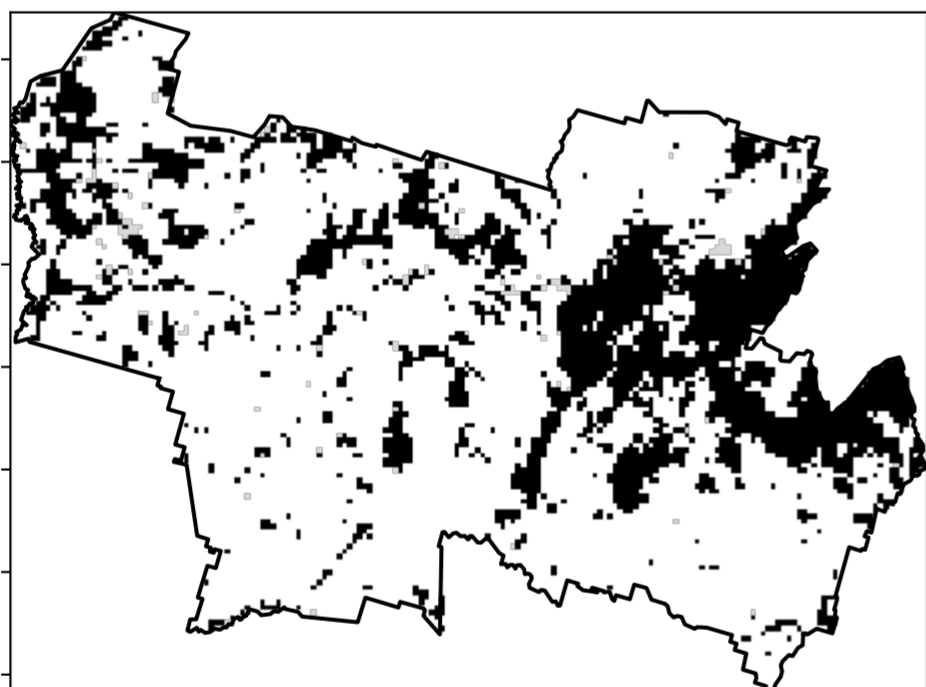


- 71%-100%
- 51%-70%
- 31%-50%
- 0-30%

Proportion of vegetation cover class in area

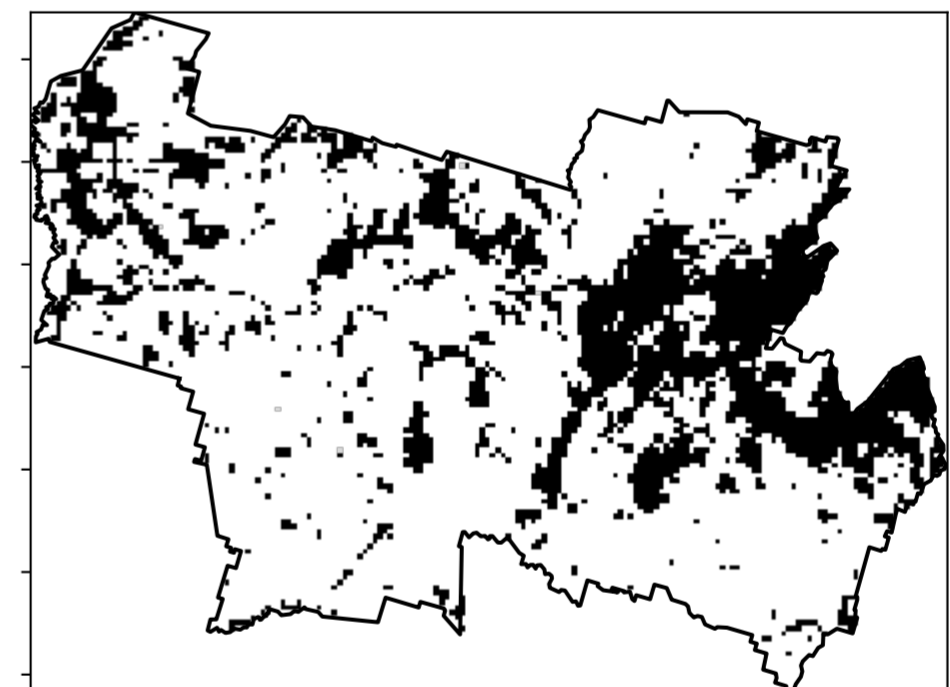


% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



- Area not protected 3.9% of region (3,518 ha)
- Area protected 96.1% of region (86,682 ha)

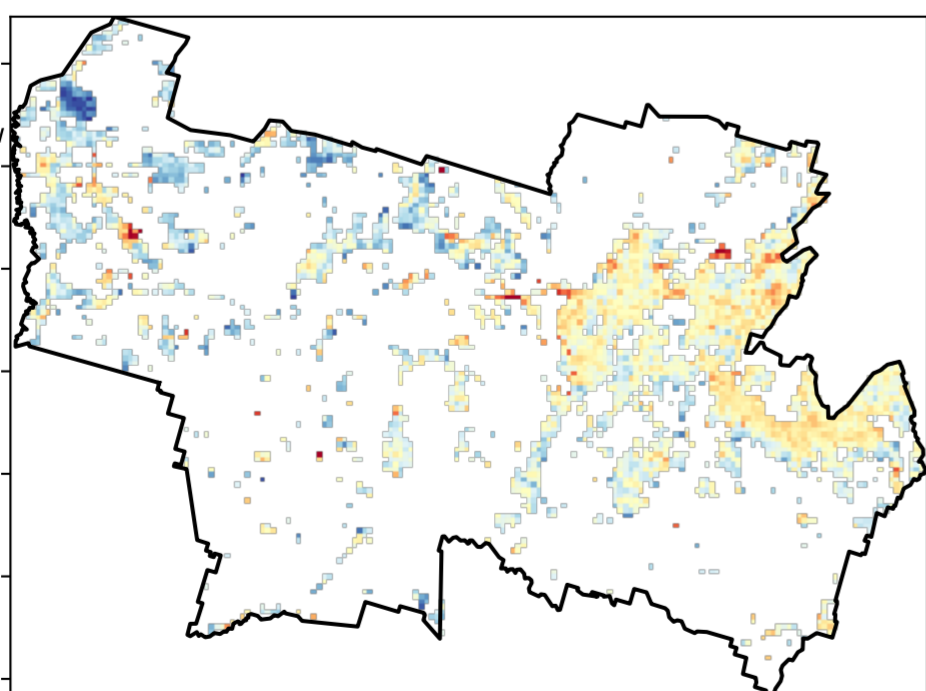
% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



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

Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

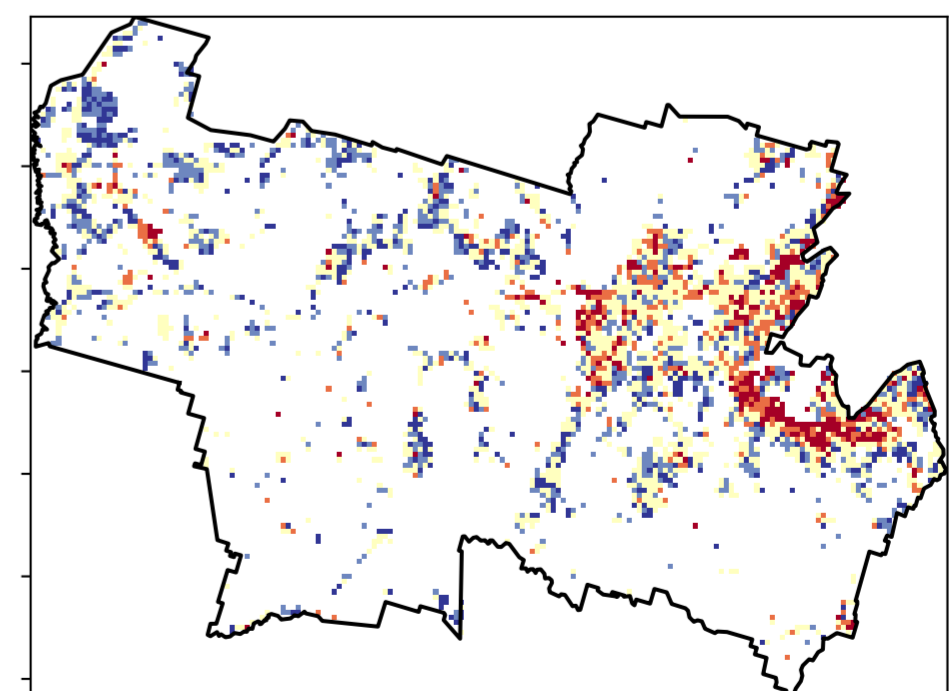
Anomaly show how many percentage points each pixel is from the mean. That is, red pixels are about 20% lower than the mean of that pixel. The mean is only for the month of the map using baseline from 2001 to 2019.



- 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 [%]

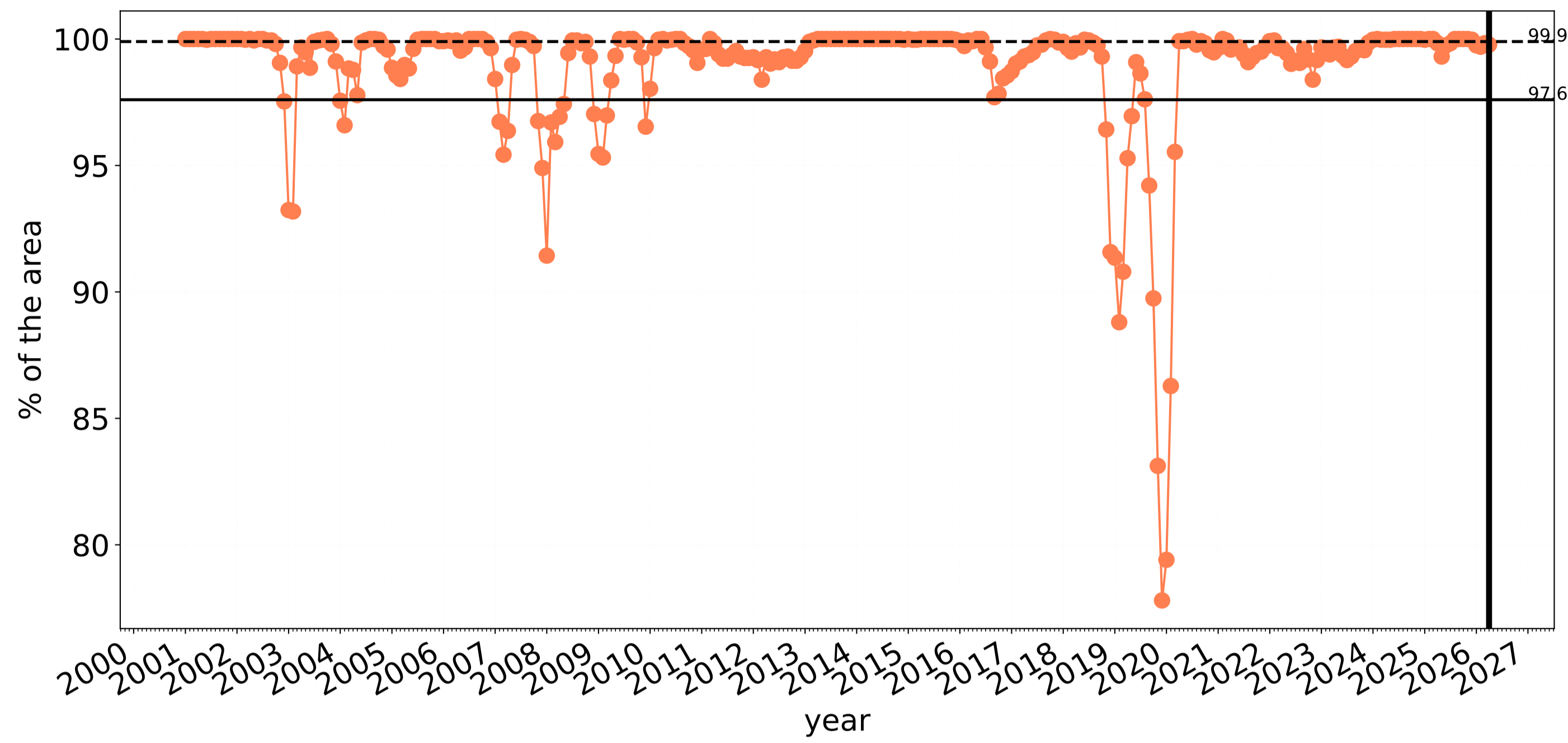


- 10
- 8,9
- 7,8
- 6,7
- 5,6
- 4,5
- 3,4
- 2,3
- 1

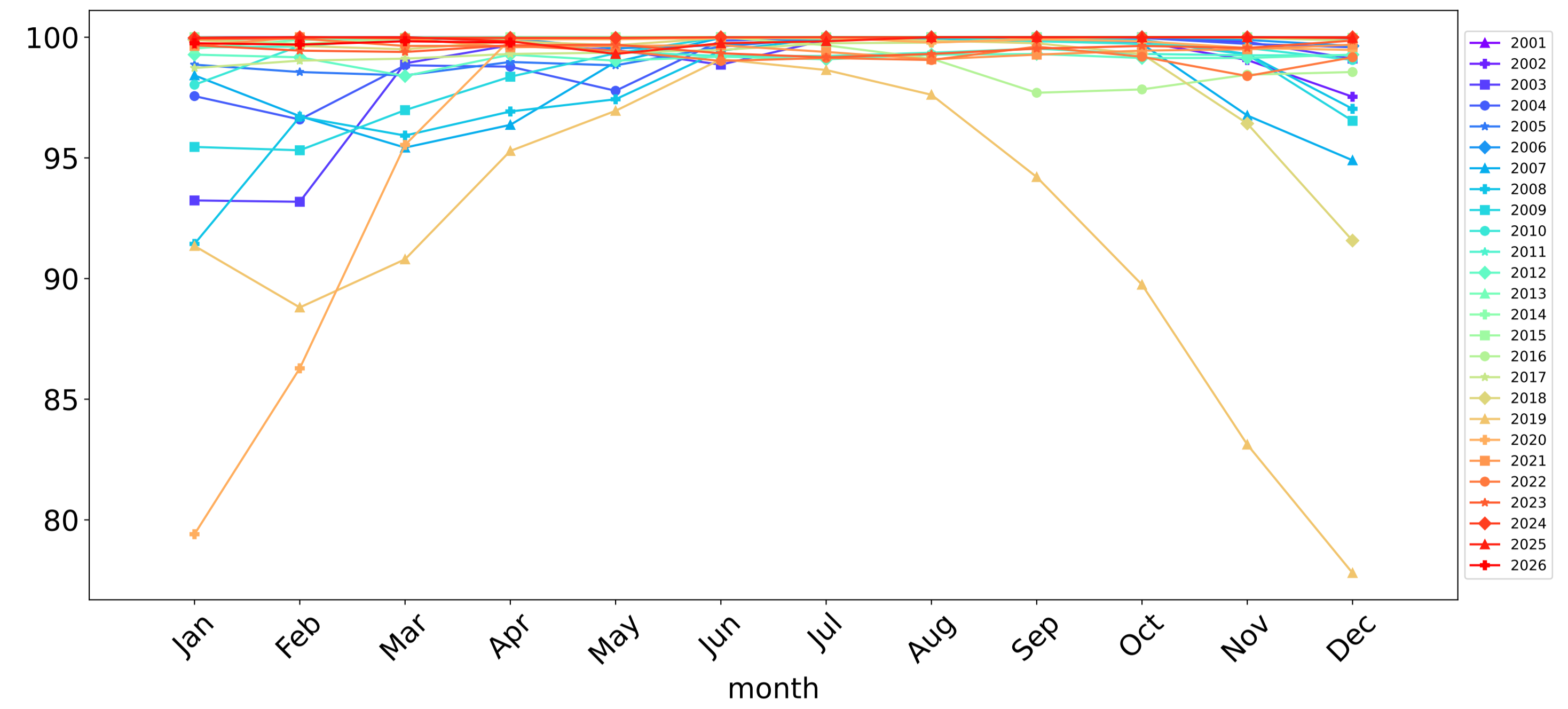


Grazing timeseries

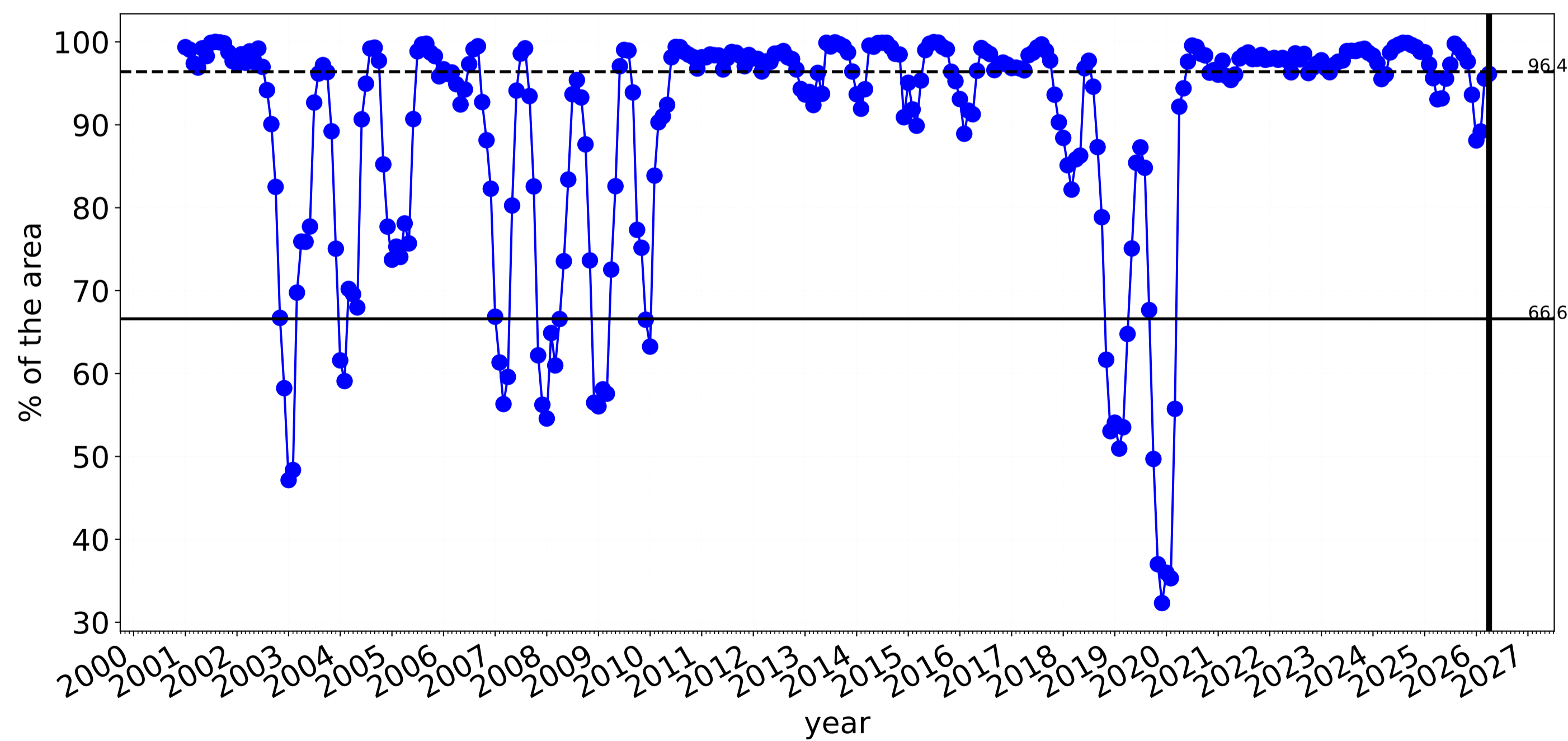
Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)



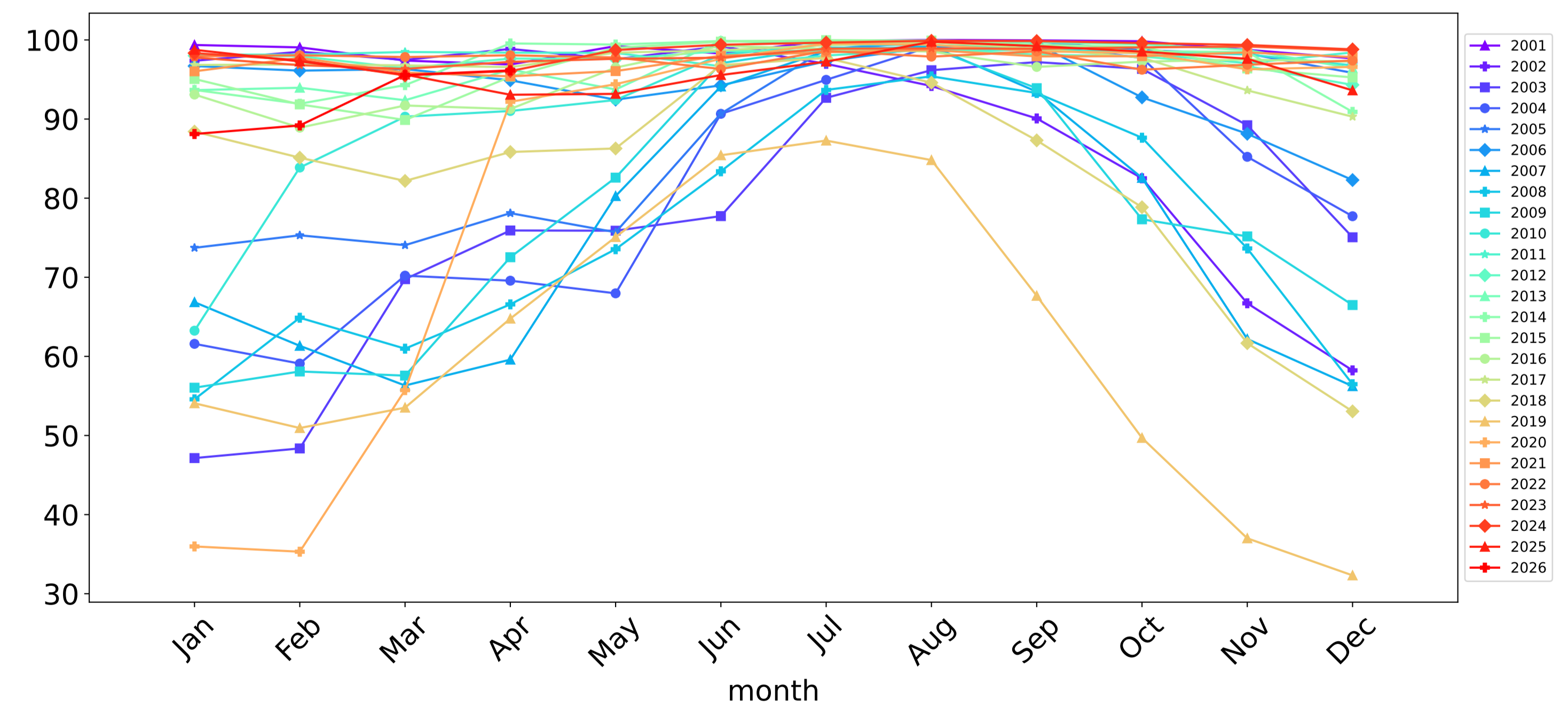
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



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



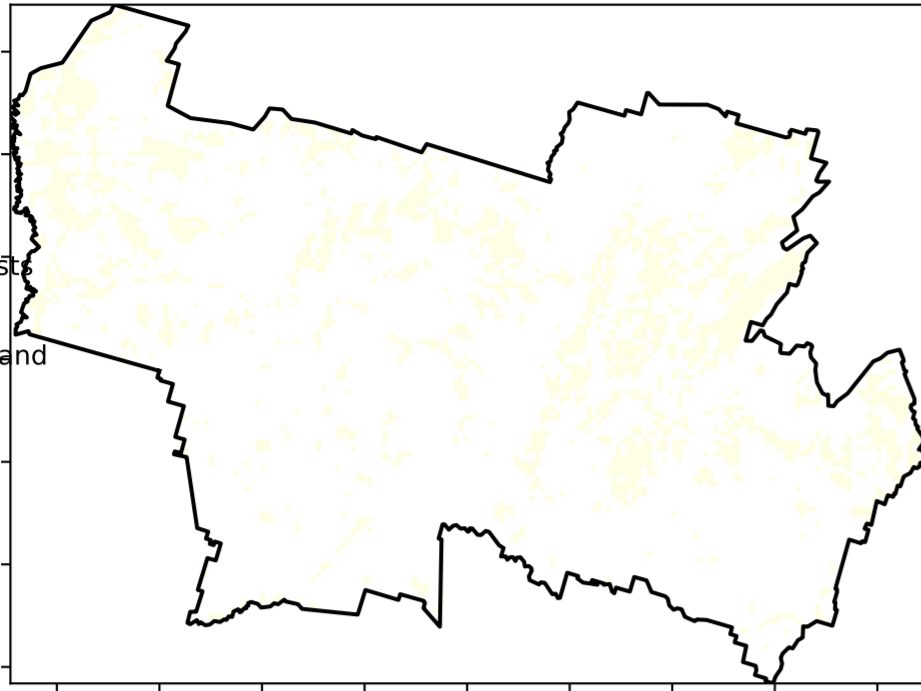
Water erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >70%)



Grazing non forest

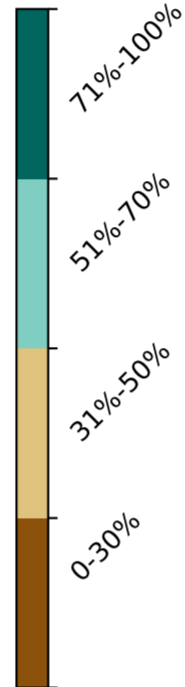
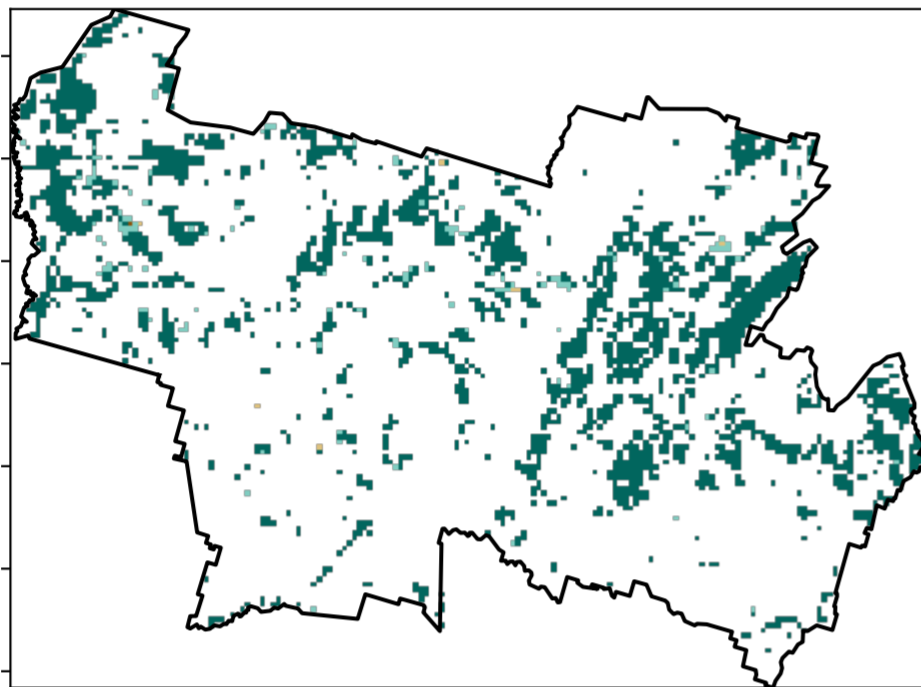
Land use and forest cover

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

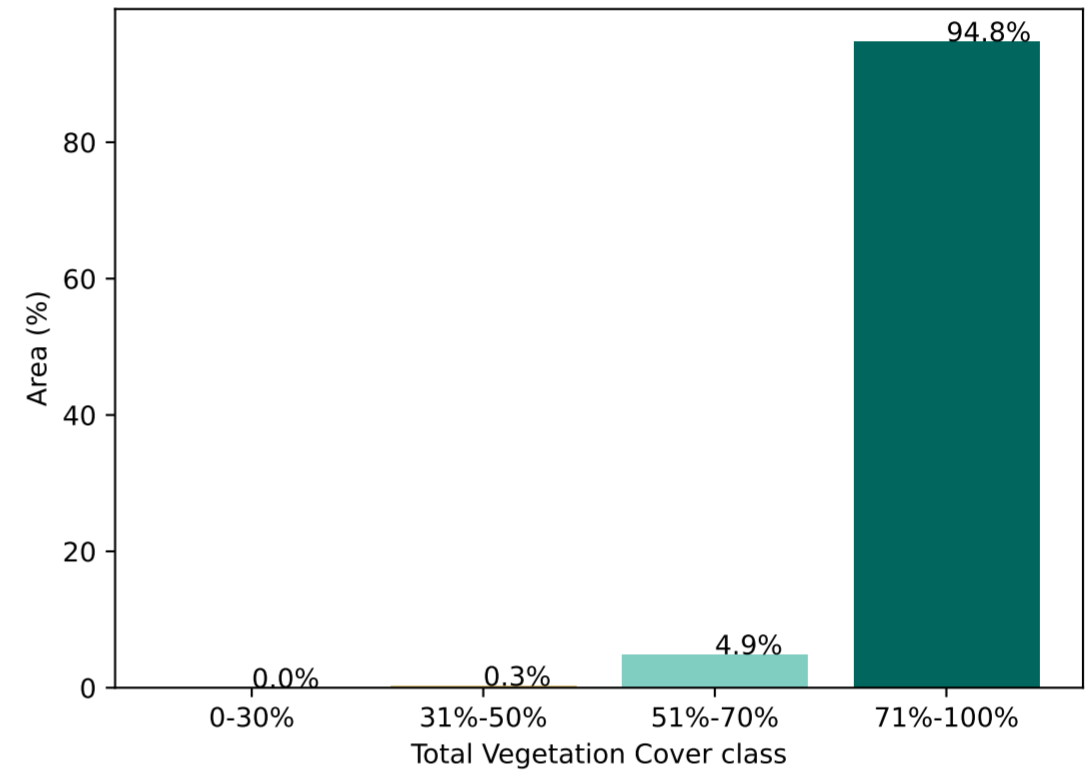


1 Agriculture - Grazing - Non forest

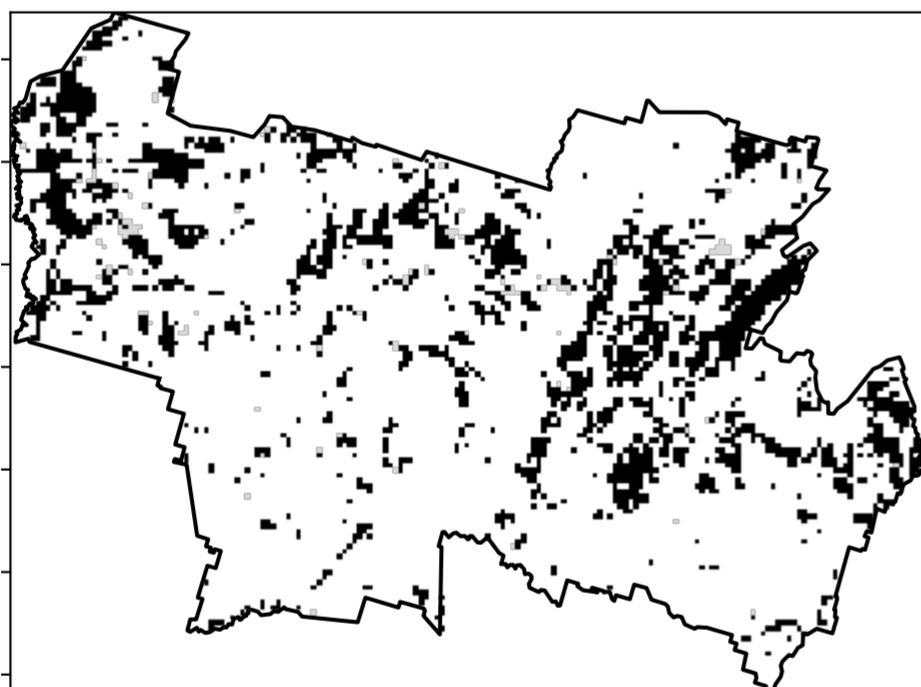
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



Proportion of vegetation cover class in area

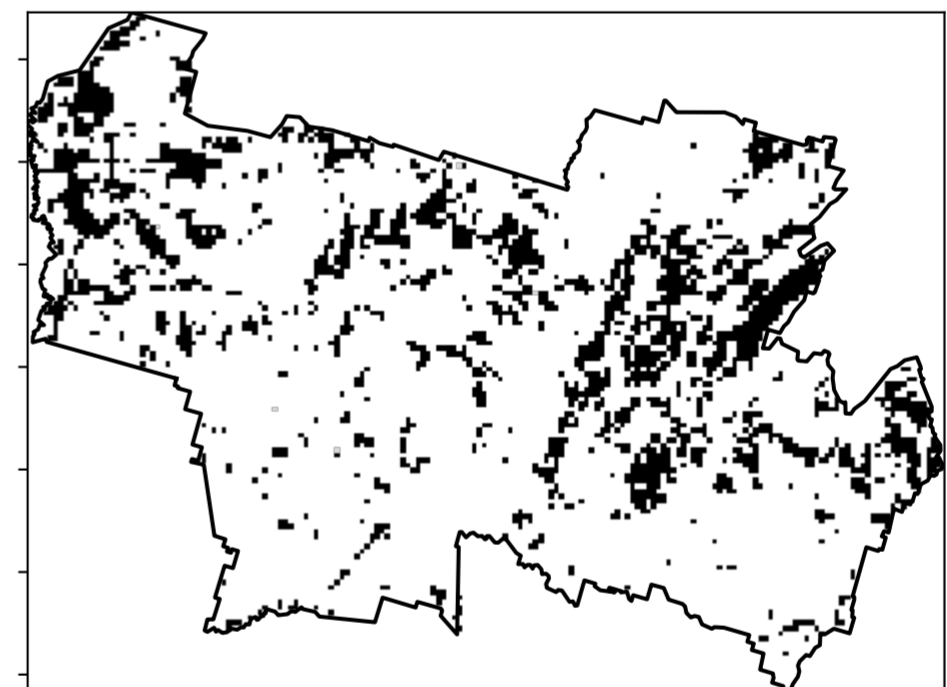


% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



Area not protected 5.2% of region (3,309 ha)
Area protected 94.8% of region (60,316 ha)

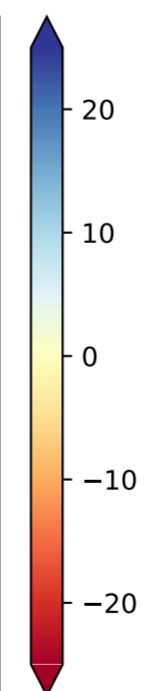
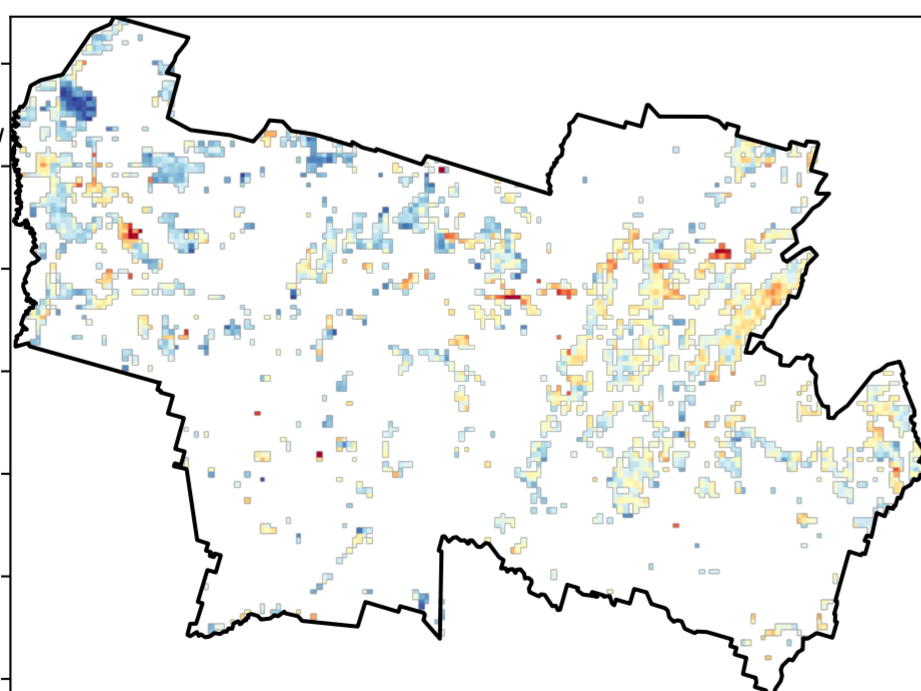
% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



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

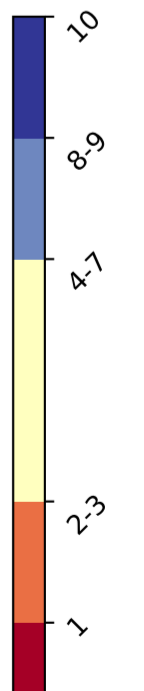
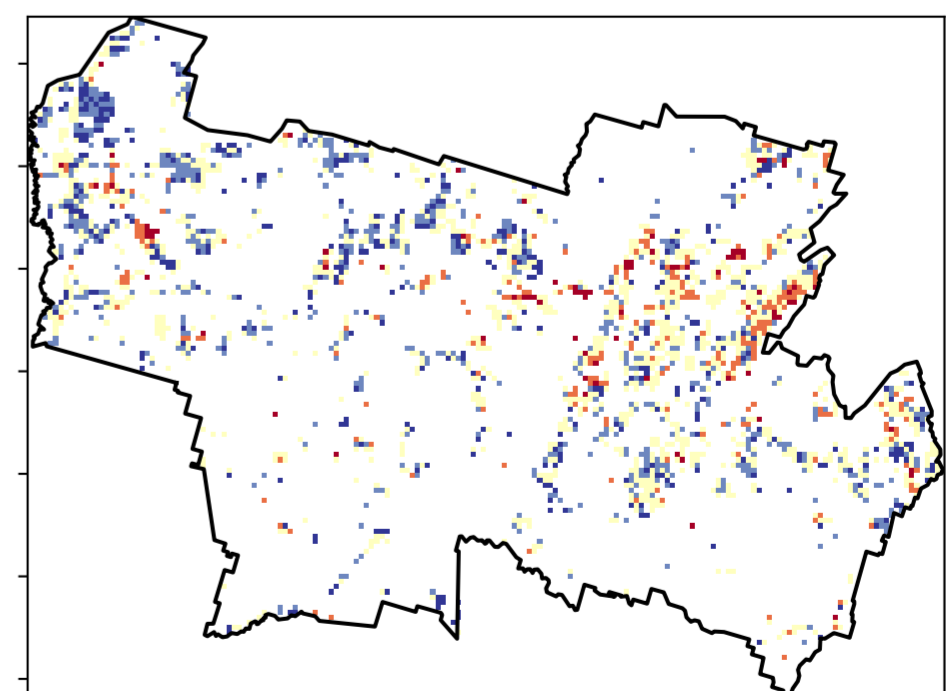
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

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.



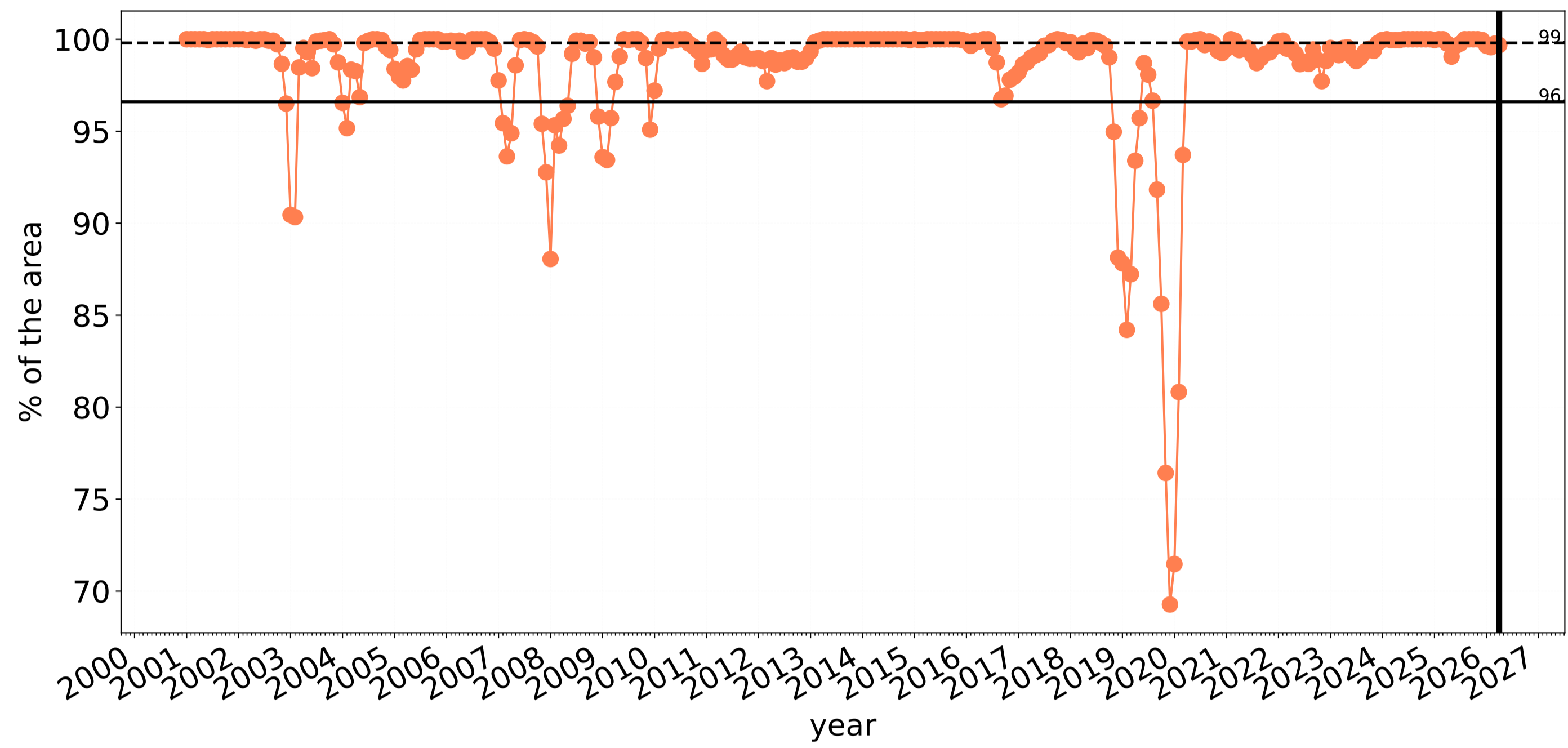
Deciles show where the pixel value lies in the record, from highest to lowest, for that month. That is, red pixels are in the lowest 10% of records for that month of the map using baseline from 2001 to 2019.

Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]

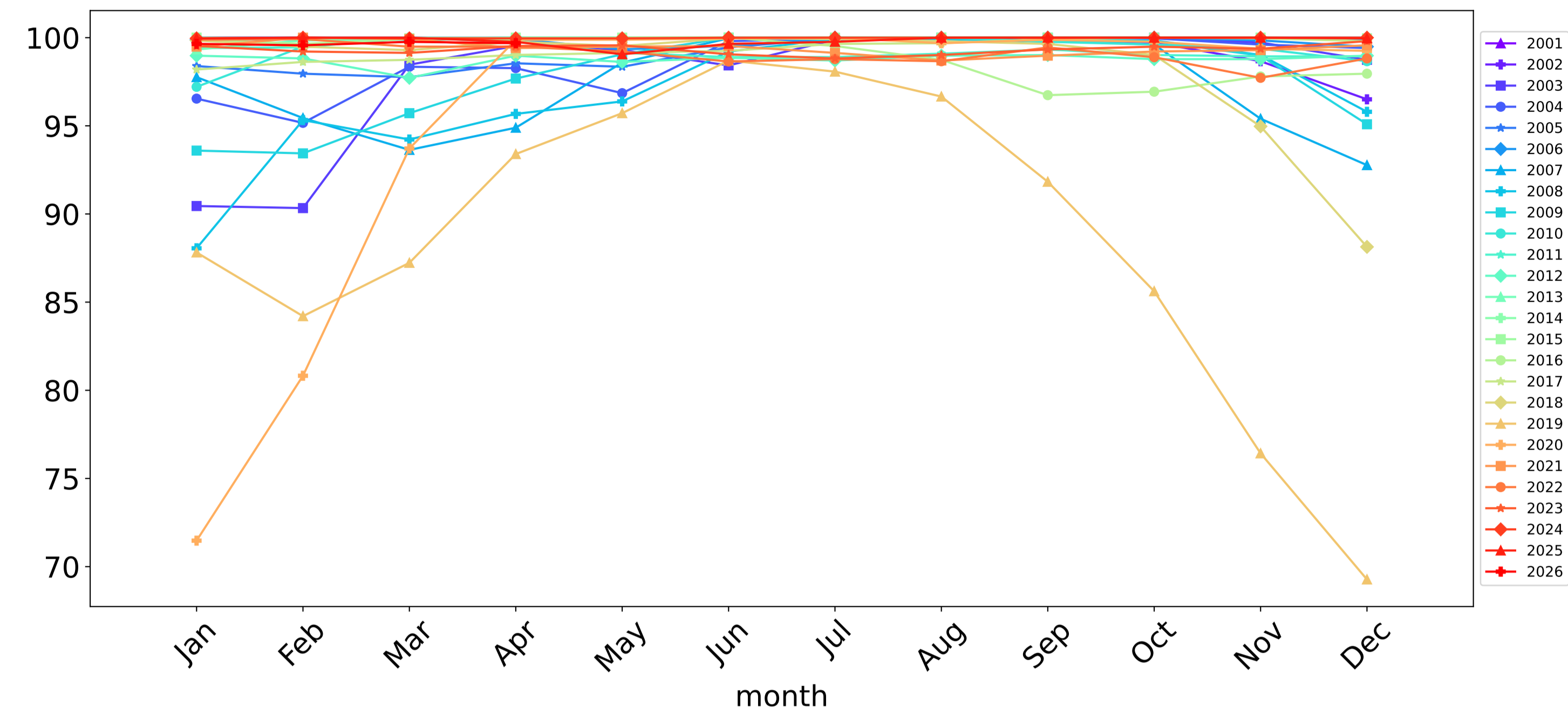


Grazing non forest timeseries

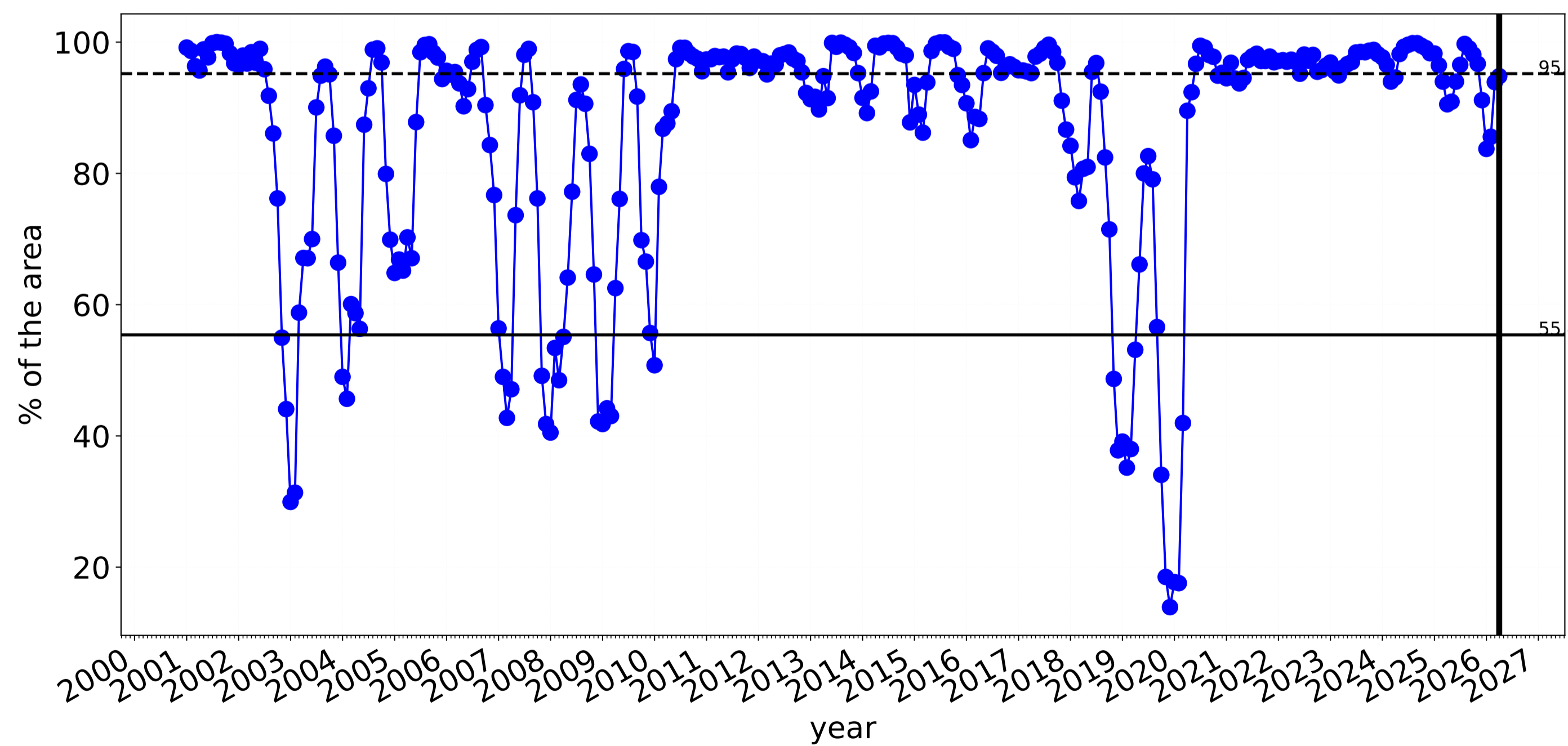
Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)



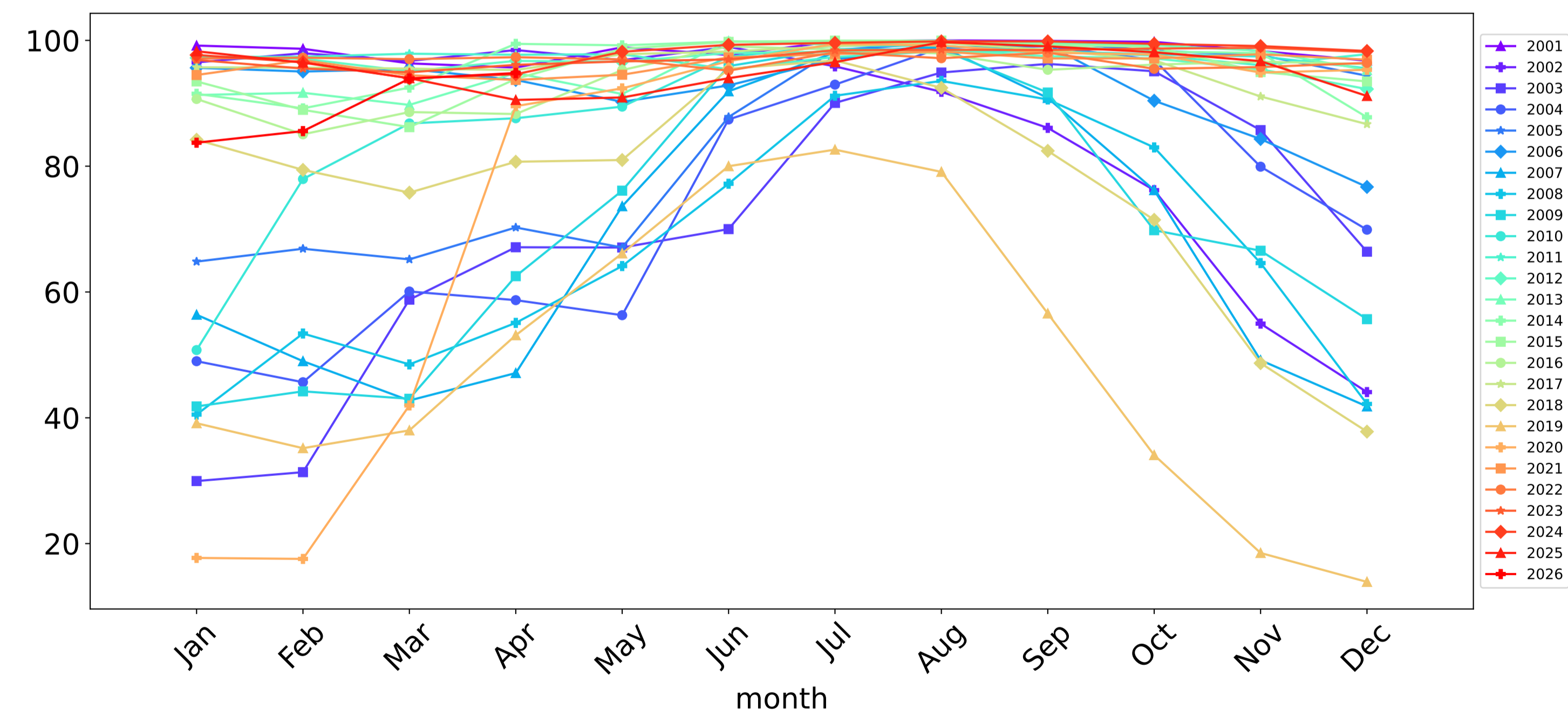
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



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



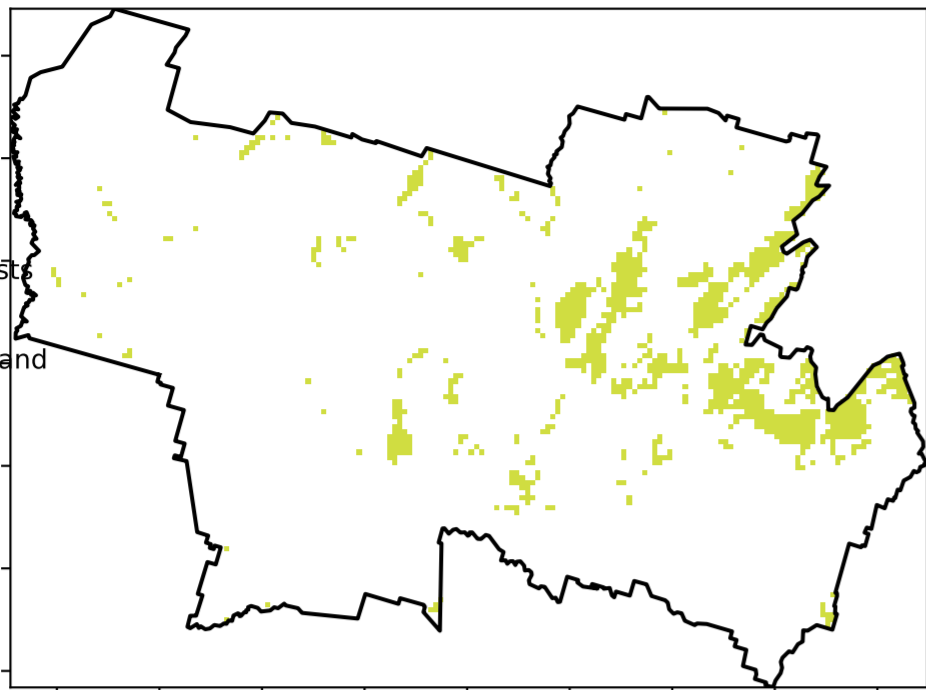
Water erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >70%)



Grazing Woodland forest

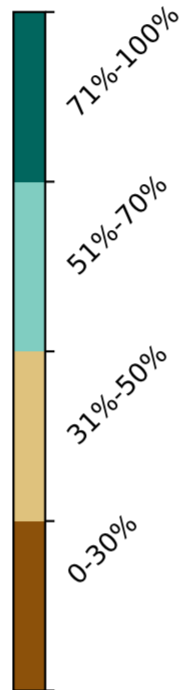
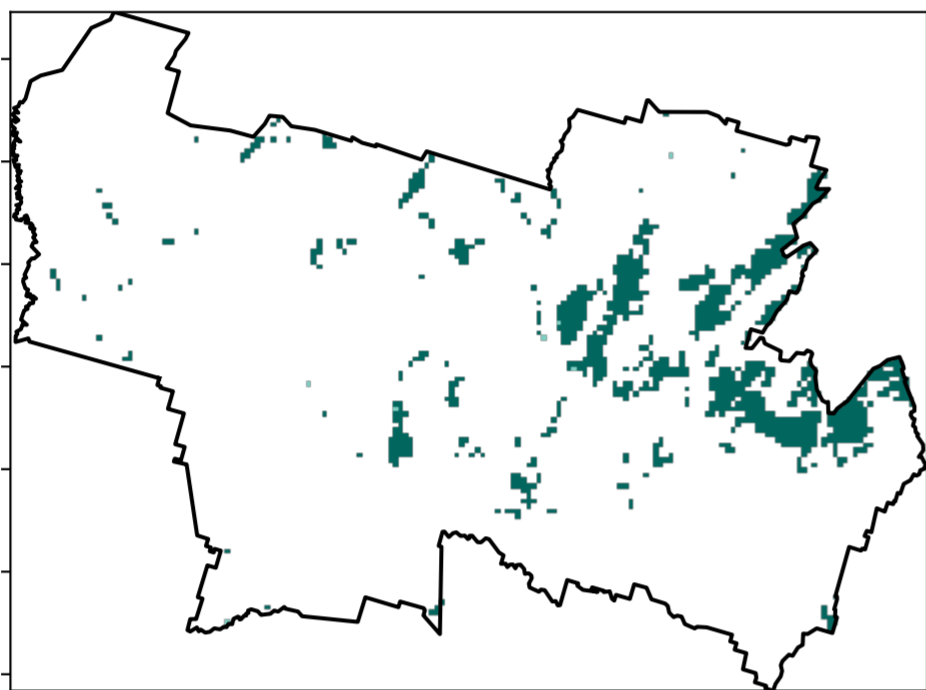
Land use and forest cover

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

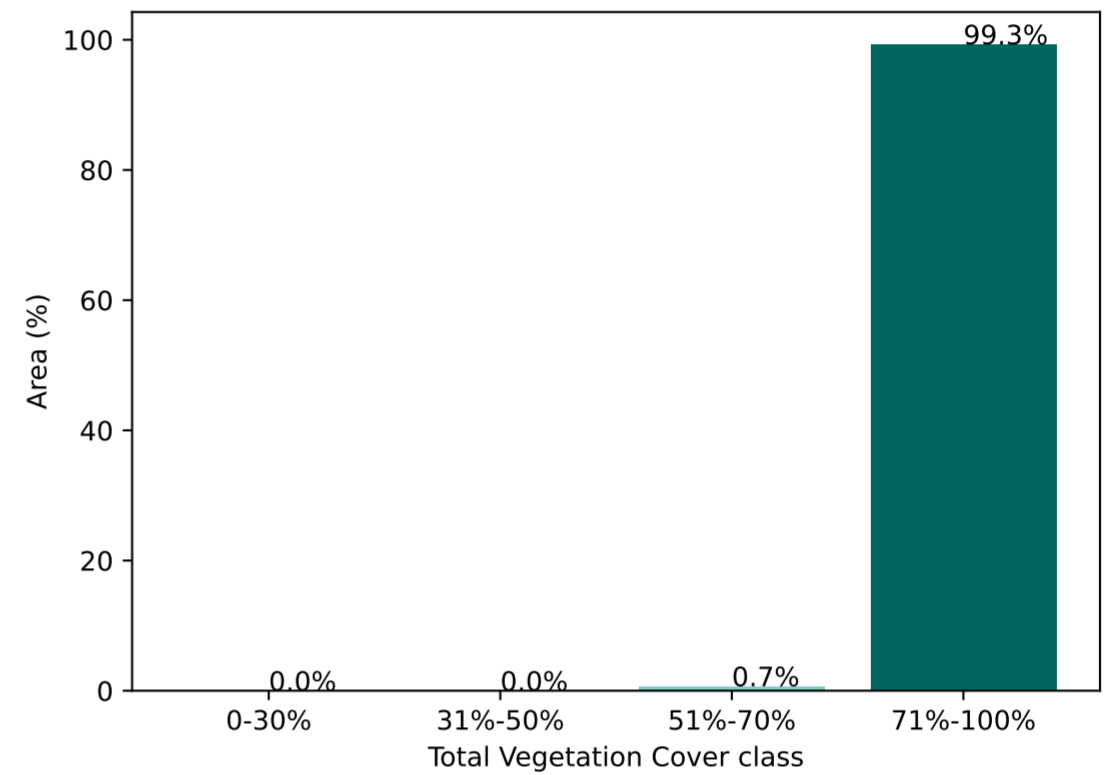


1 Agriculture - Grazing - Woodland forest

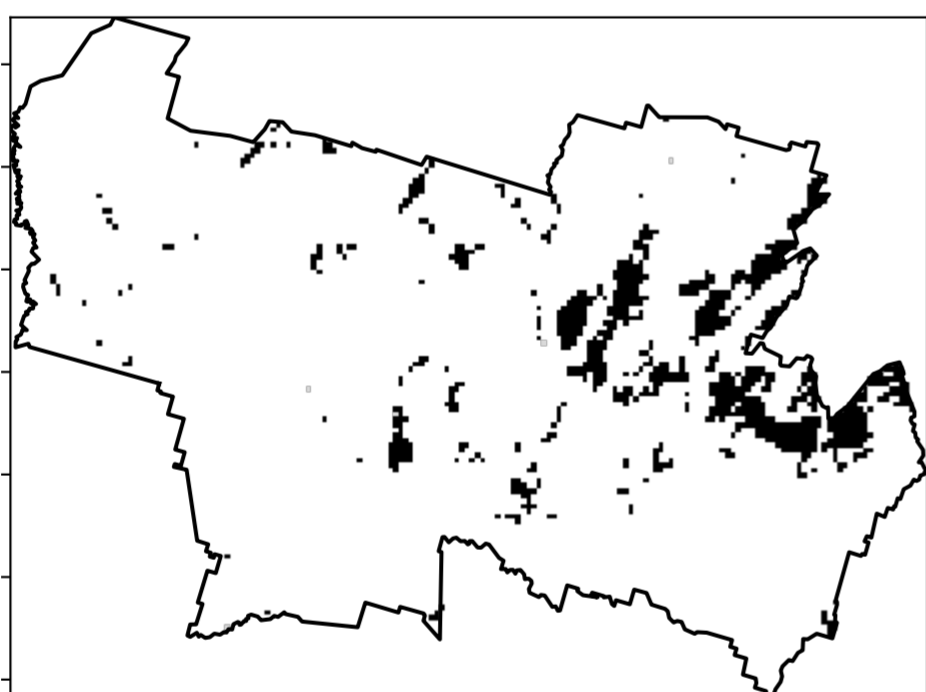
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



Proportion of vegetation cover class in area

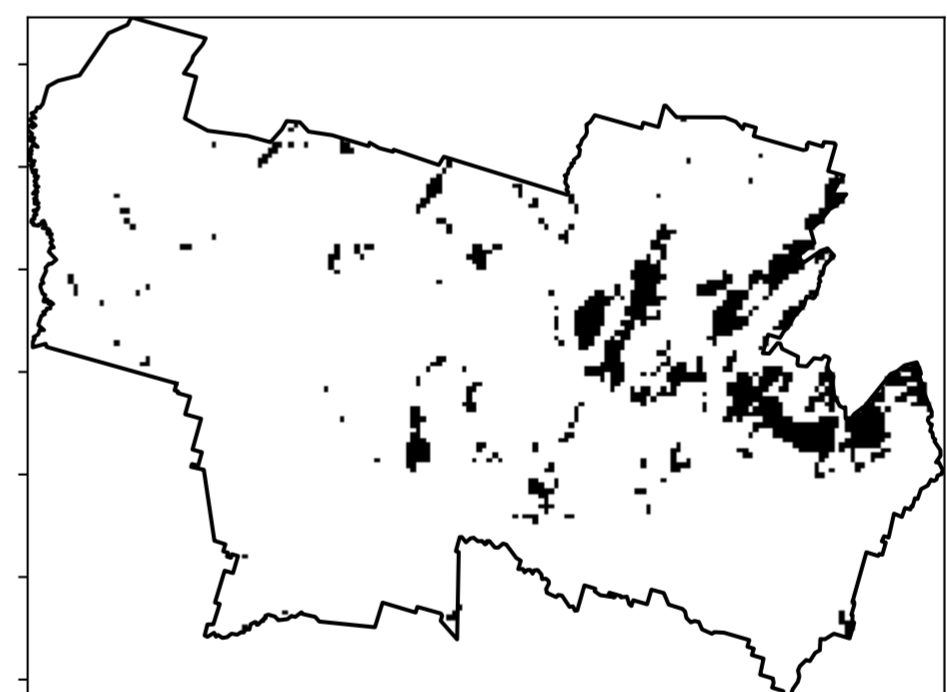


% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



Area not protected
0.7% of region
(180 ha)
Area protected
99.3% of region
(25,570 ha)

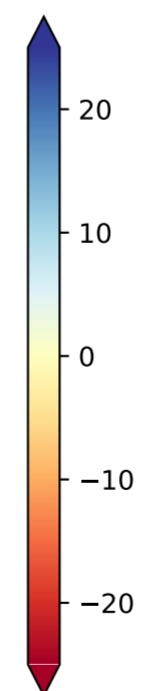
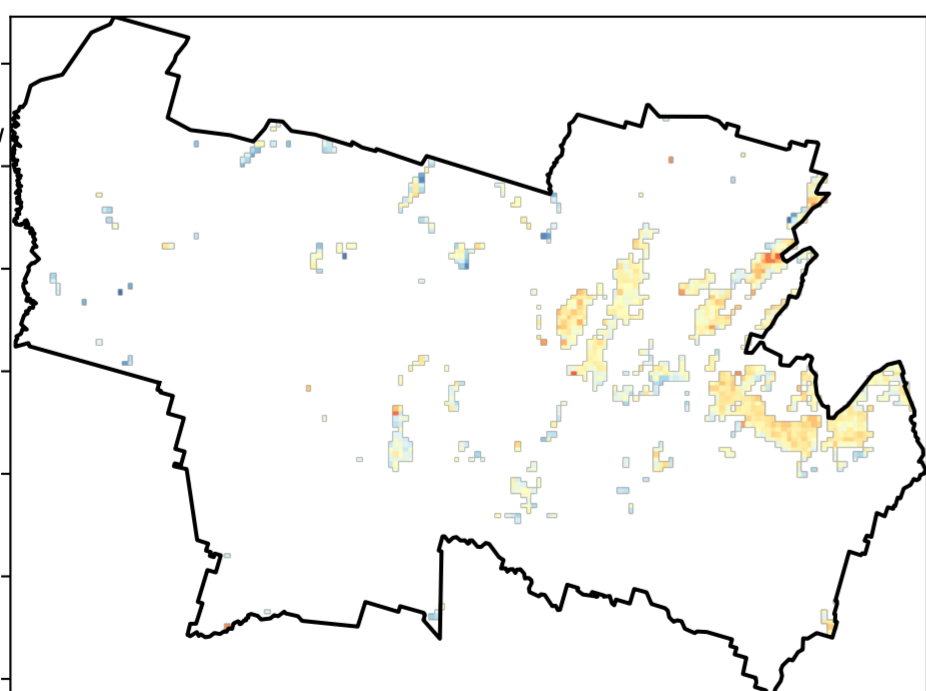
% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



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

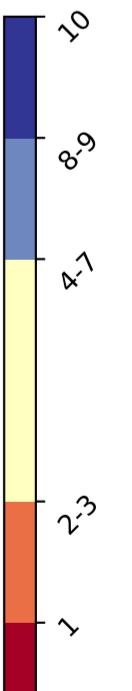
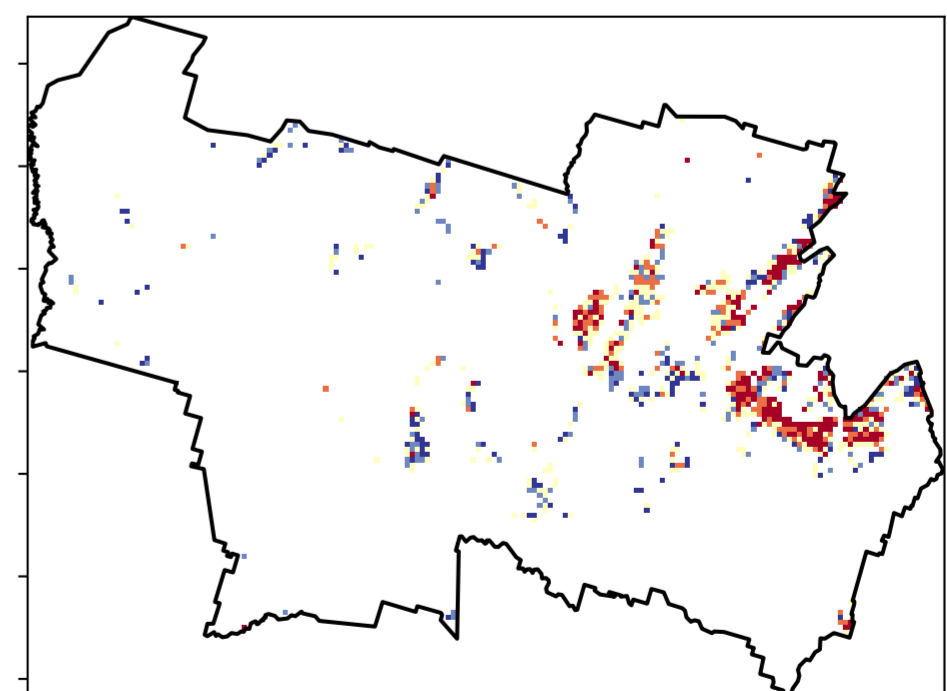
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

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.



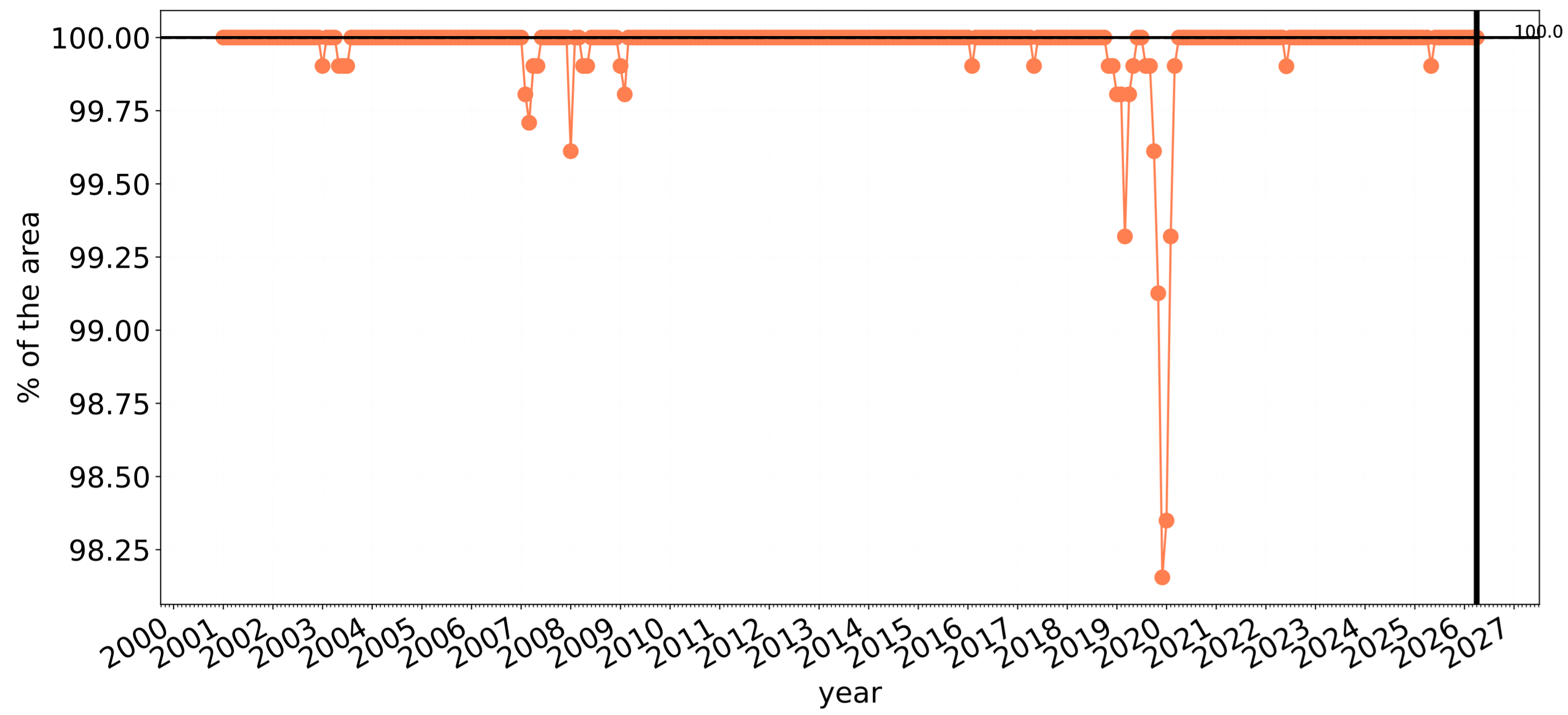
Deciles show where the pixel value lies in the record, from highest to lowest, for that month. That is, red pixels are in the lowest 10% of records for that month of the map using baseline from 2001 to 2019.

Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]

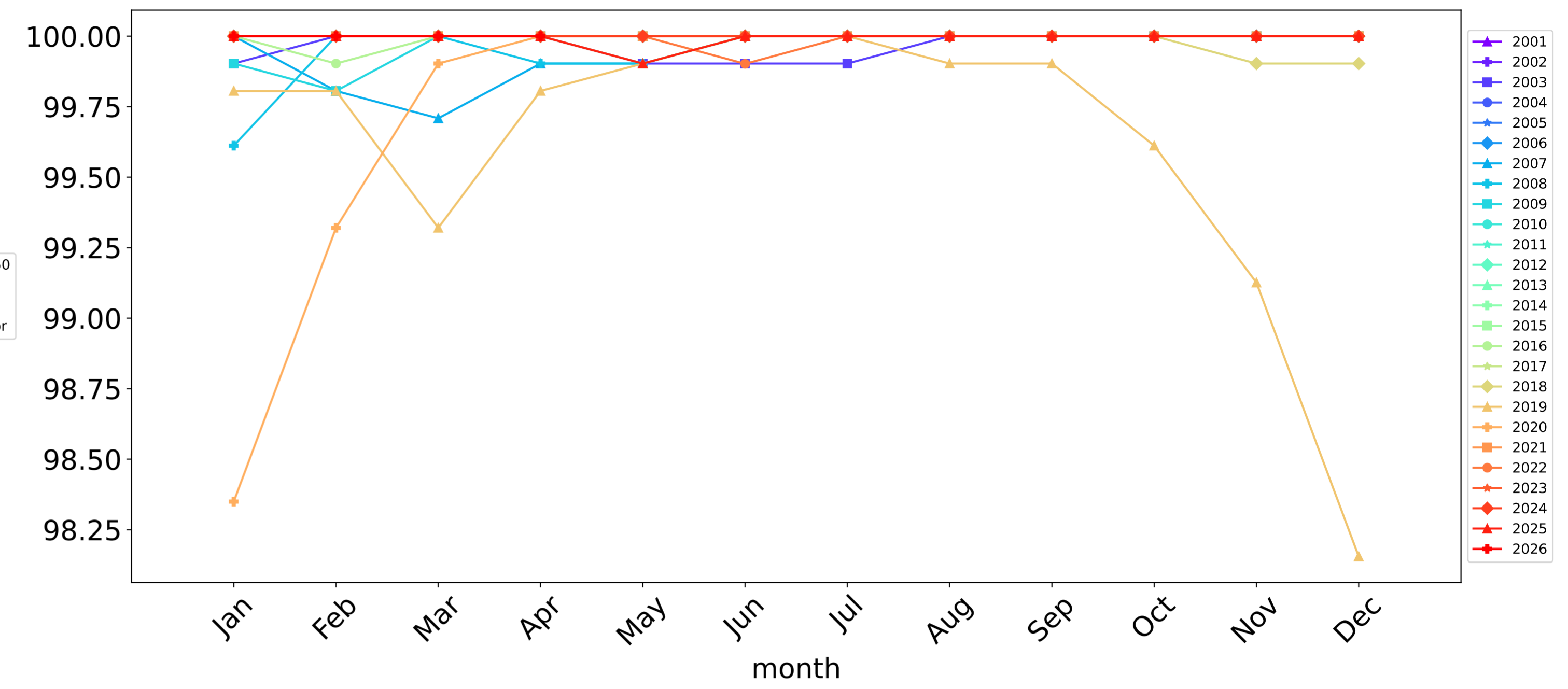


Grazing Woodland forest timeseries

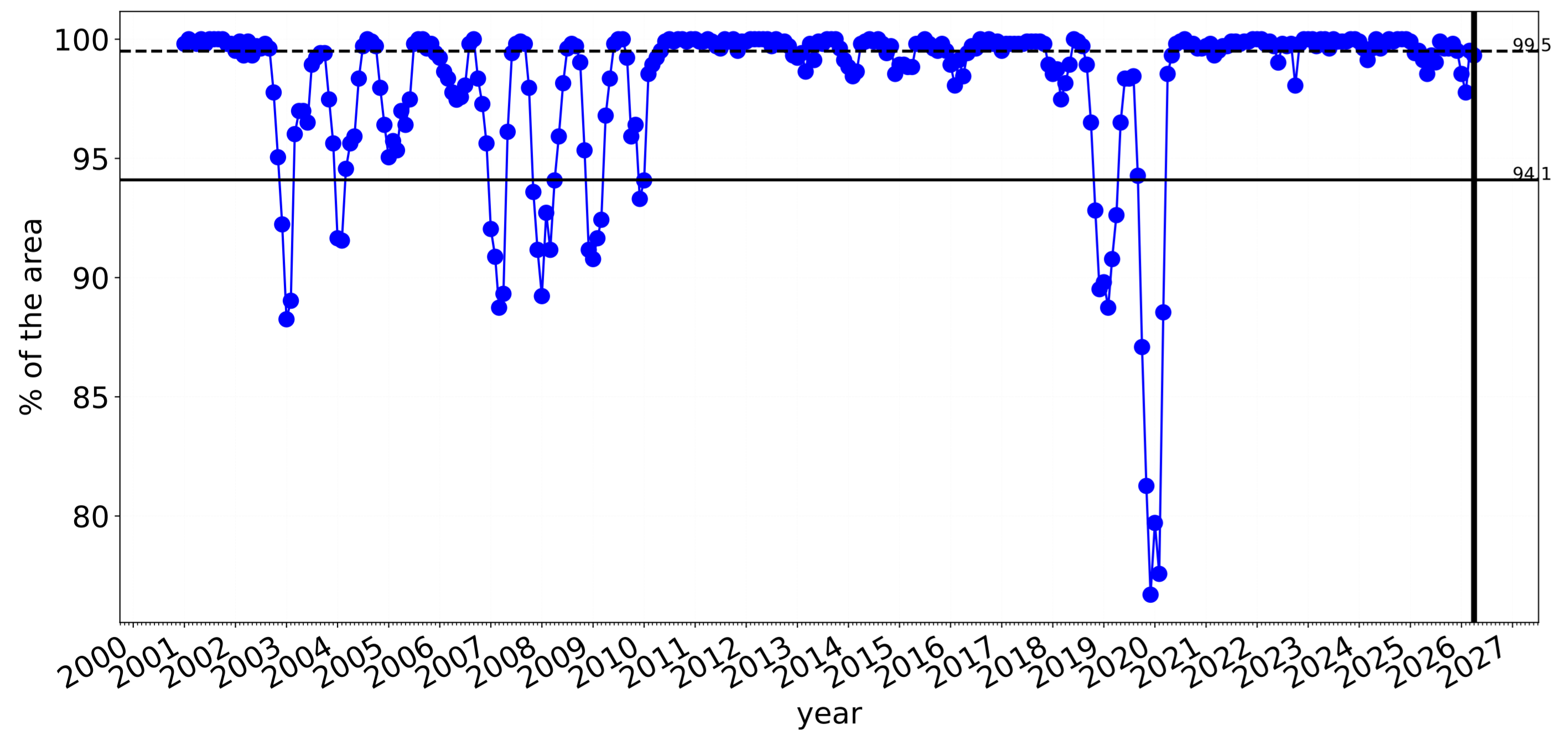
Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)



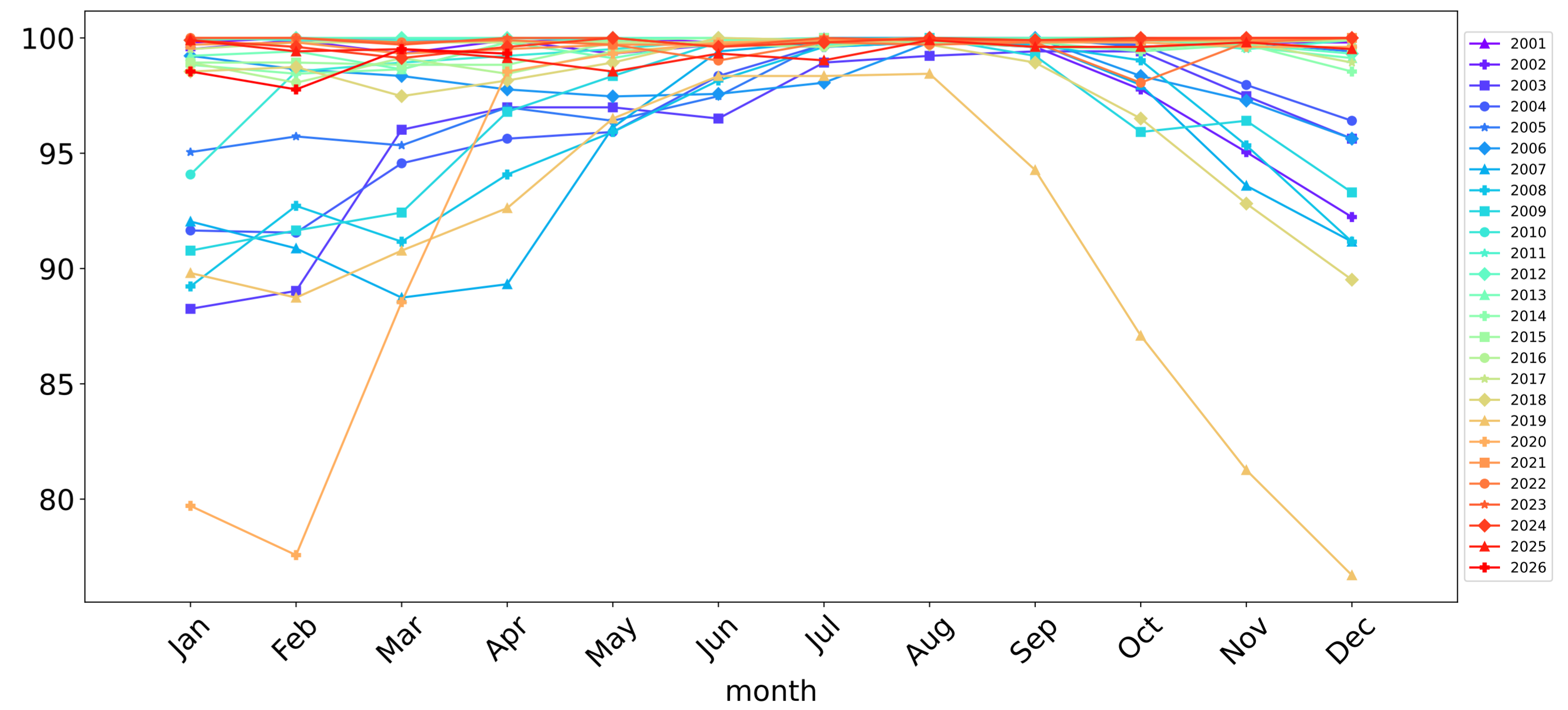
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



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



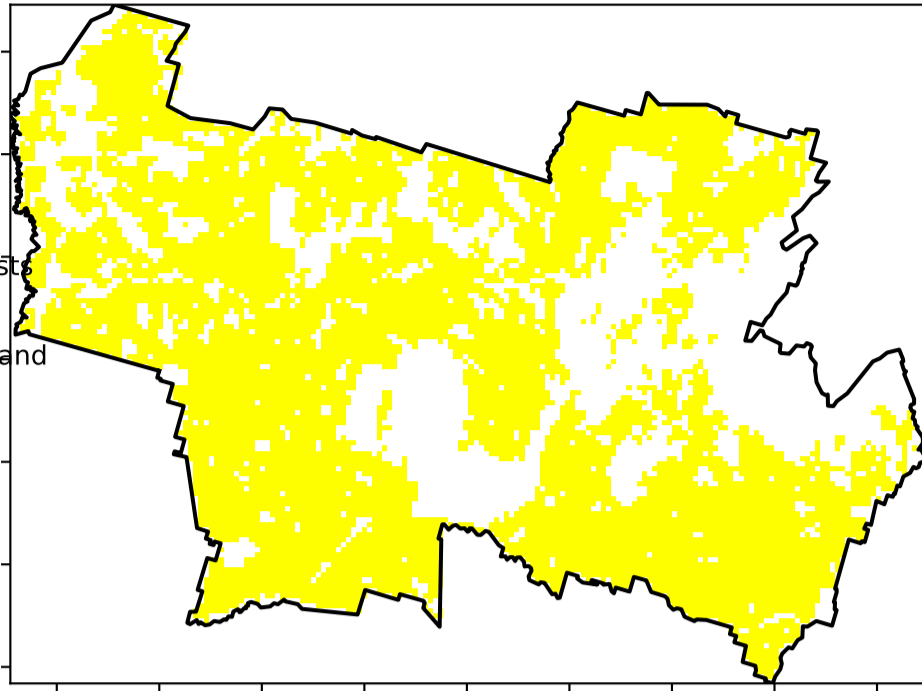
Water erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >70%)



Cropping

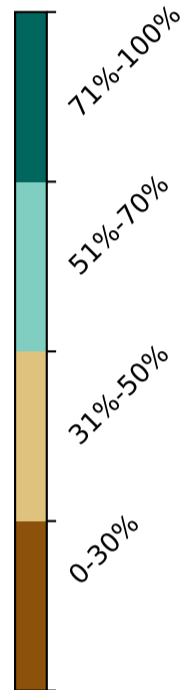
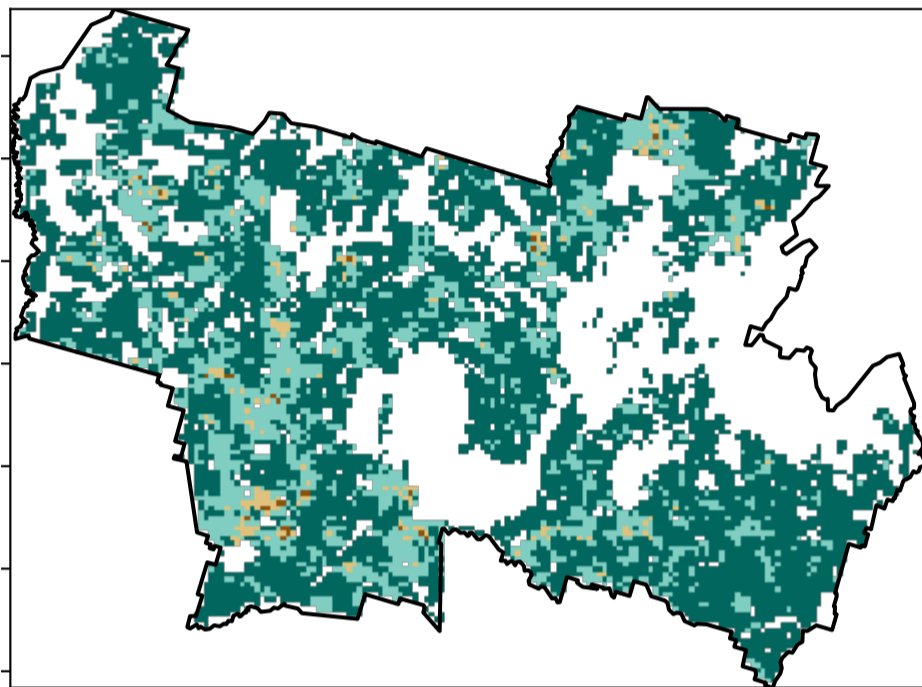
Land use and forest cover

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

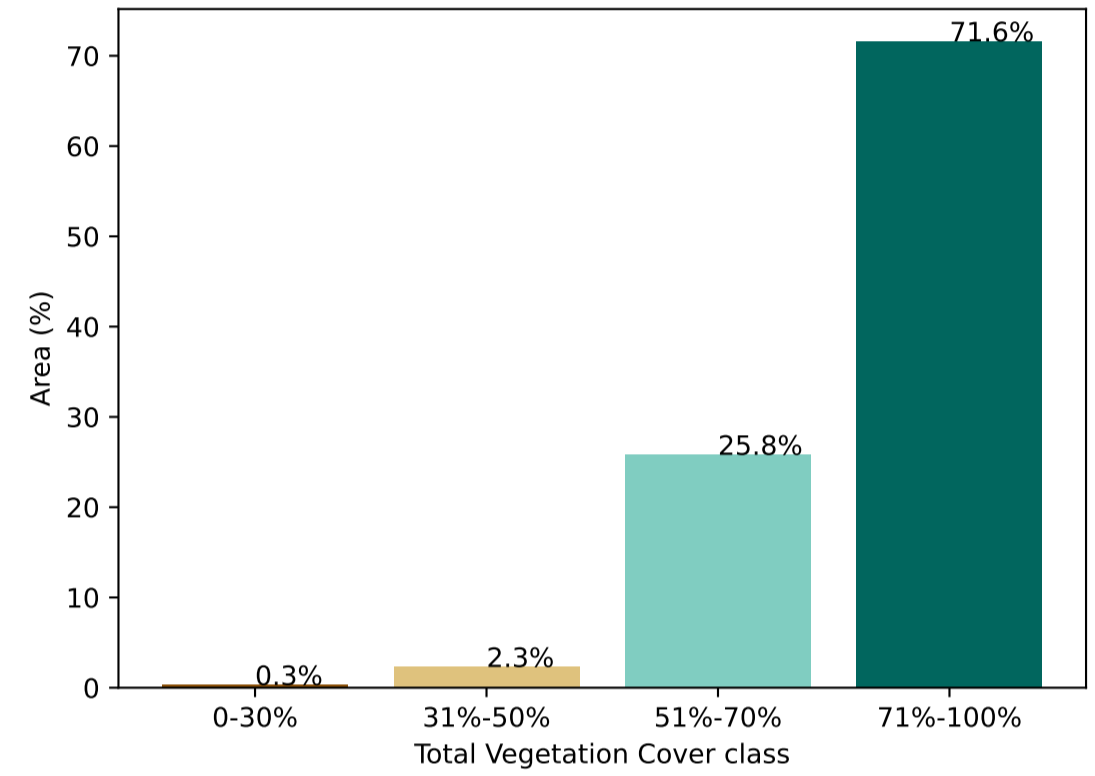


1 Agriculture - Cropping - Non-irrigated

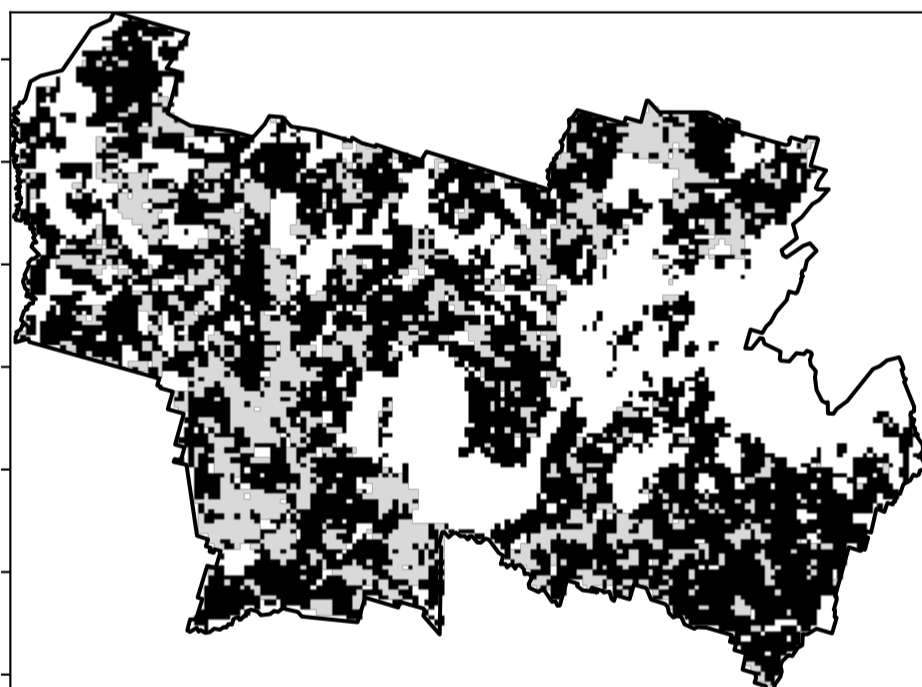
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



Proportion of vegetation cover class in area

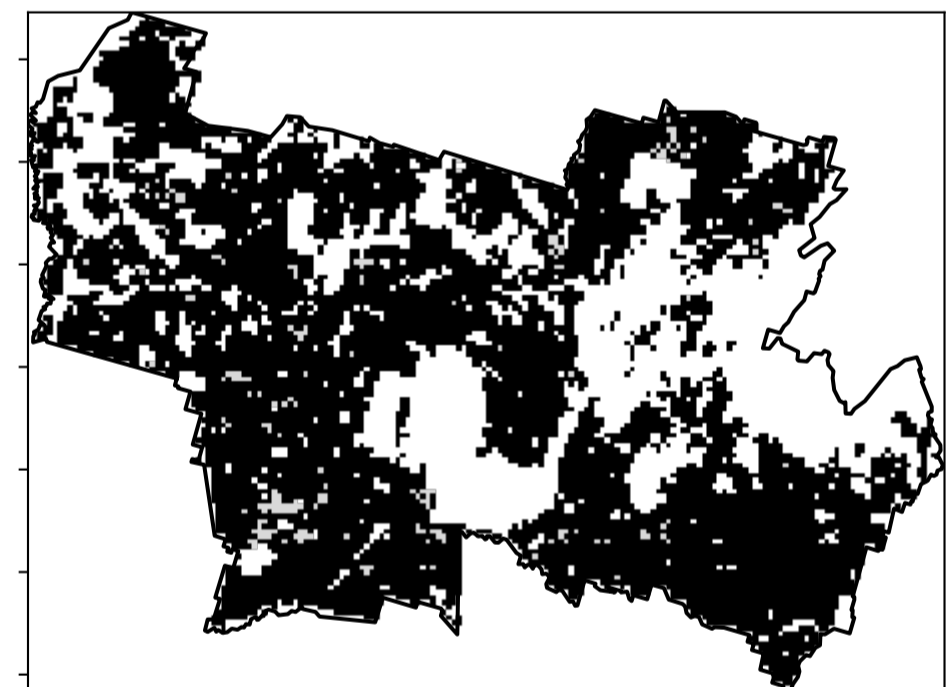


% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



Area not protected
28.4% of region
(64,106 ha)
Area protected
71.6% of region
(161,619 ha)

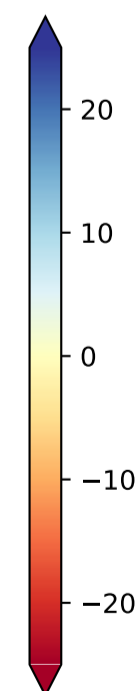
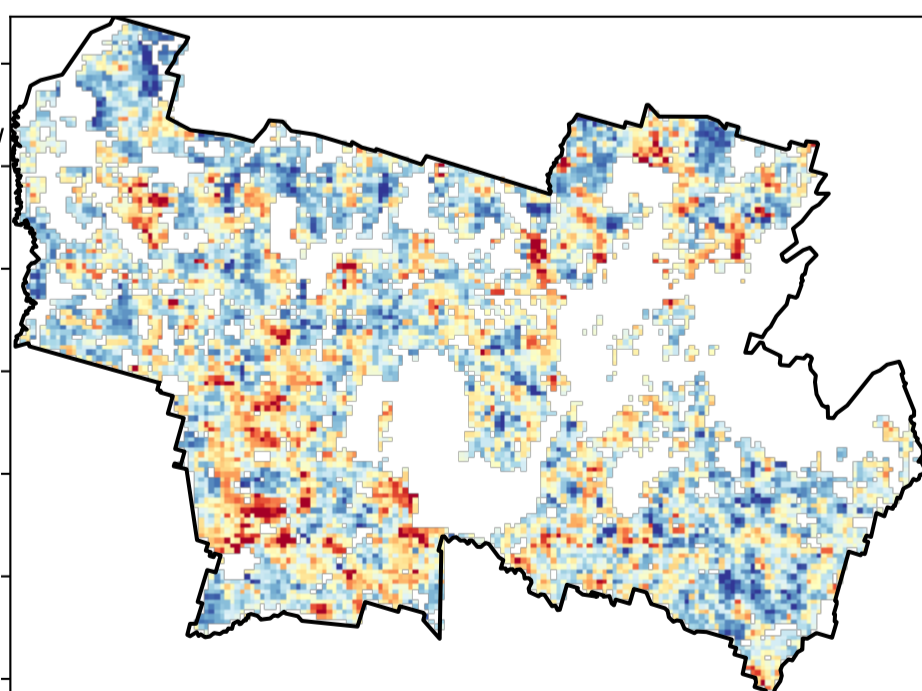
% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



Area not protected
3.0% of region
(6,772 ha)
Area protected
97.0% of region
(218,953 ha)

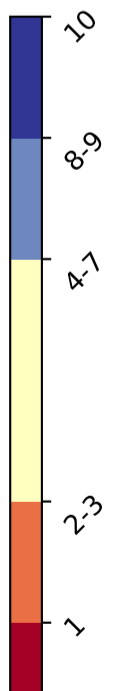
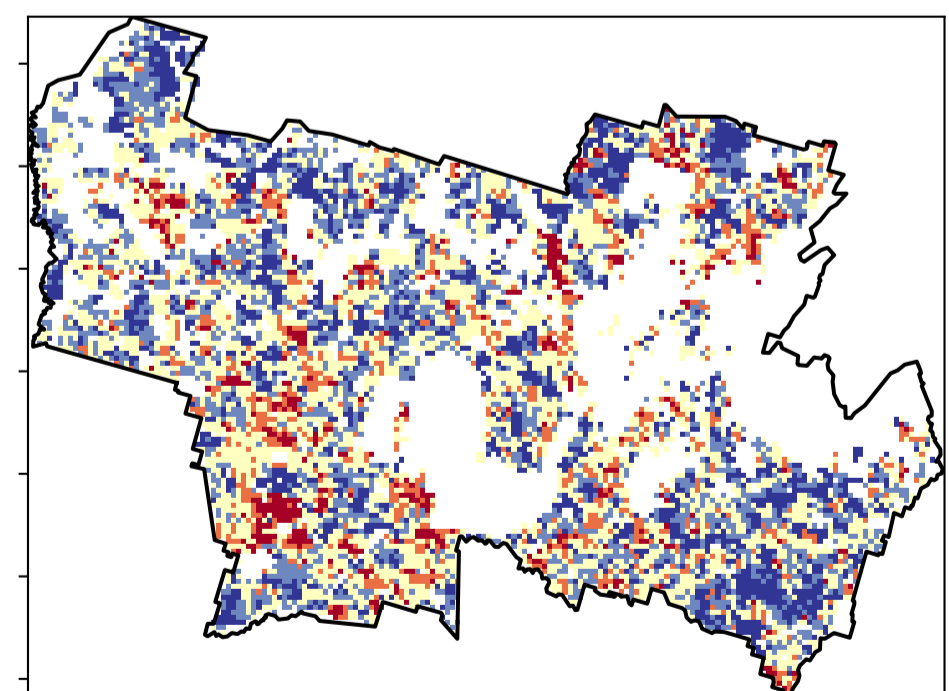
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

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.



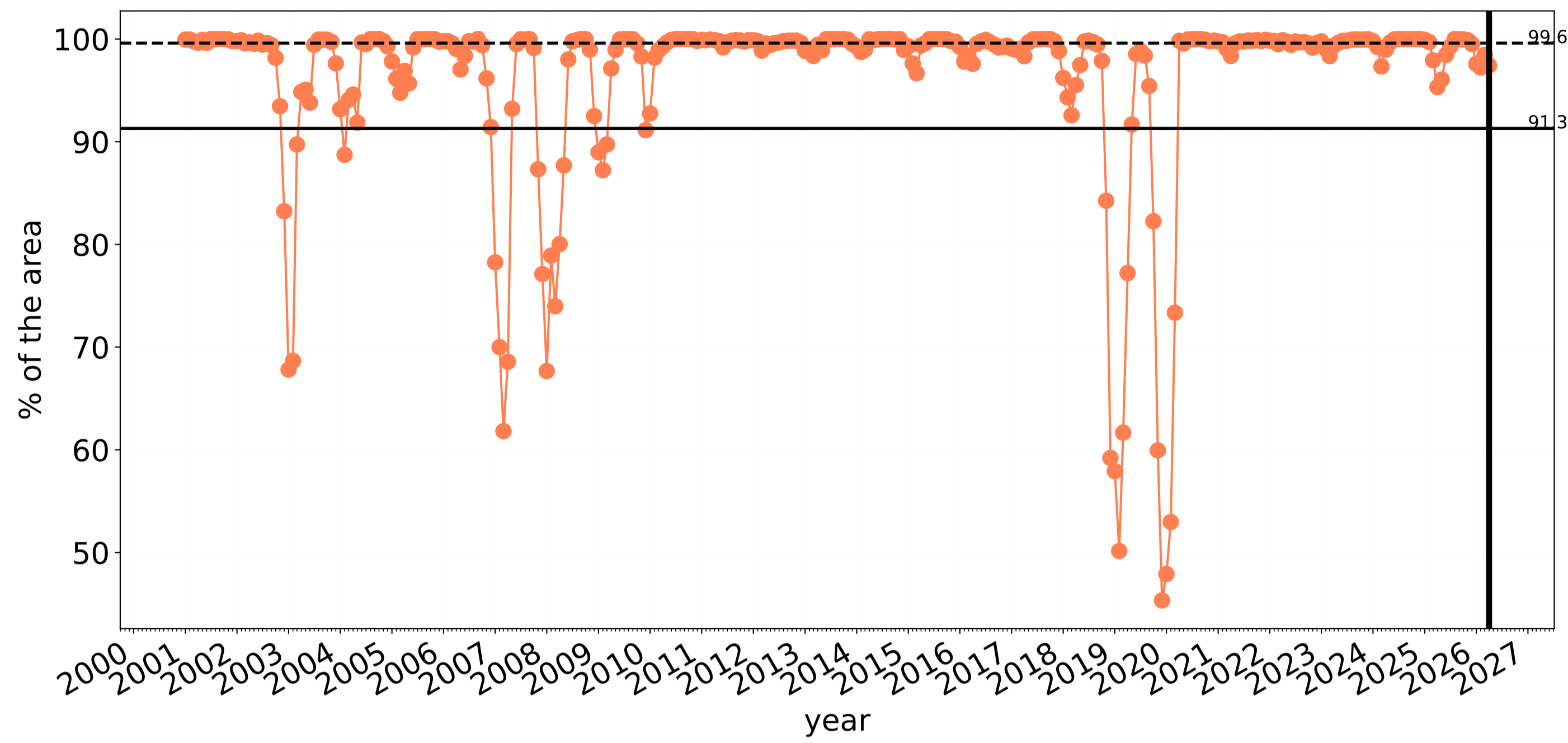
Deciles show where the pixel value lies in the record, from highest to lowest, for that month. That is, red pixels are in the lowest 10% of records for that month of the map using baseline from 2001 to 2019.

Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]

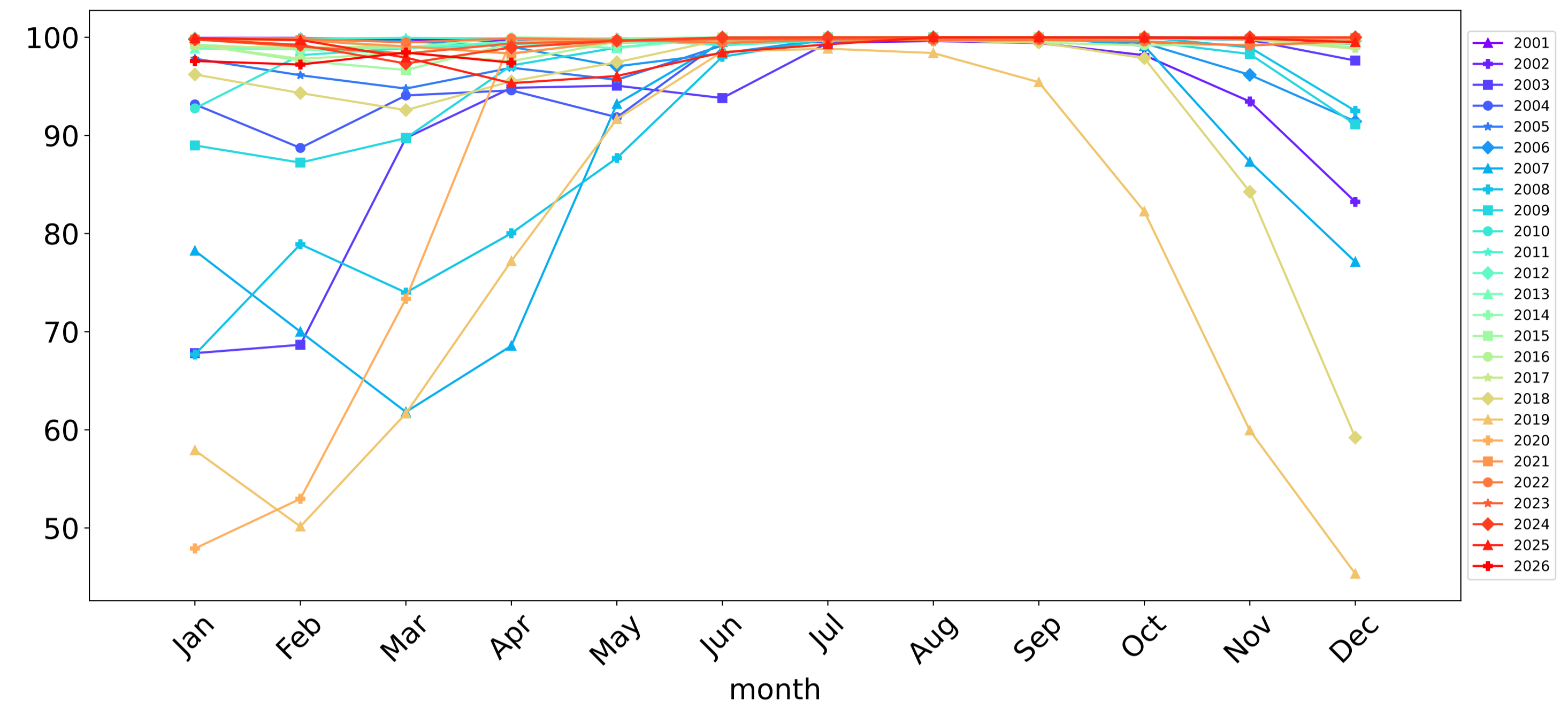


Cropping timeseries

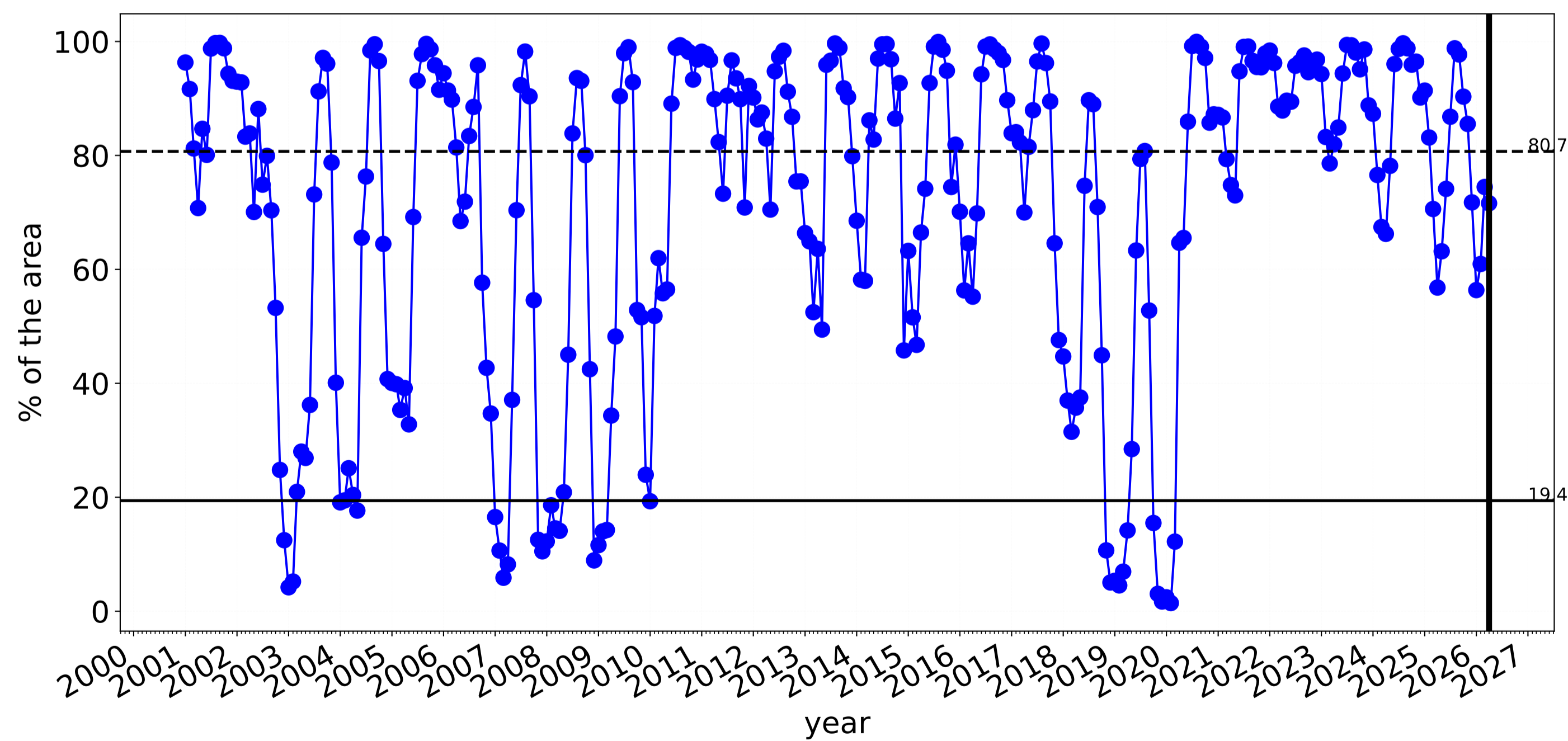
Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)



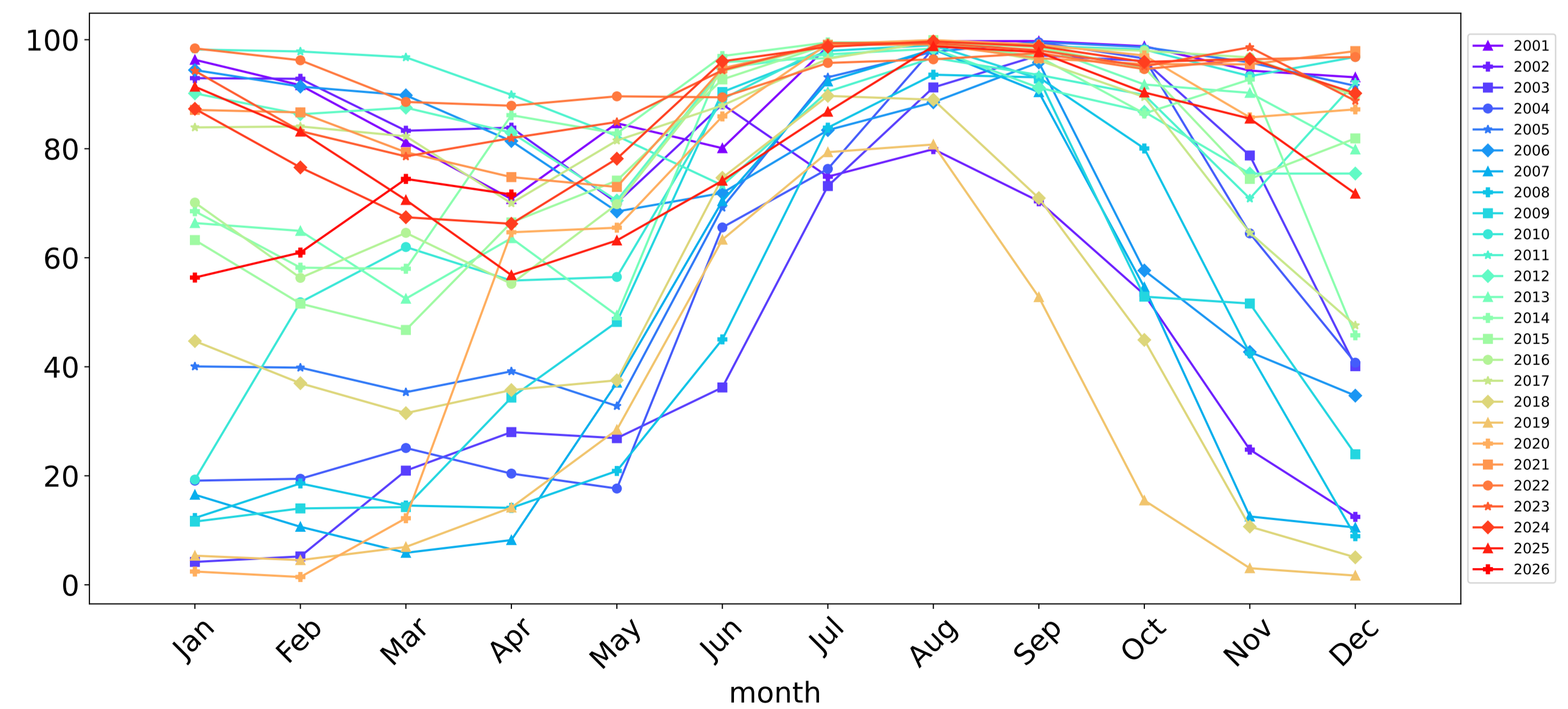
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



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



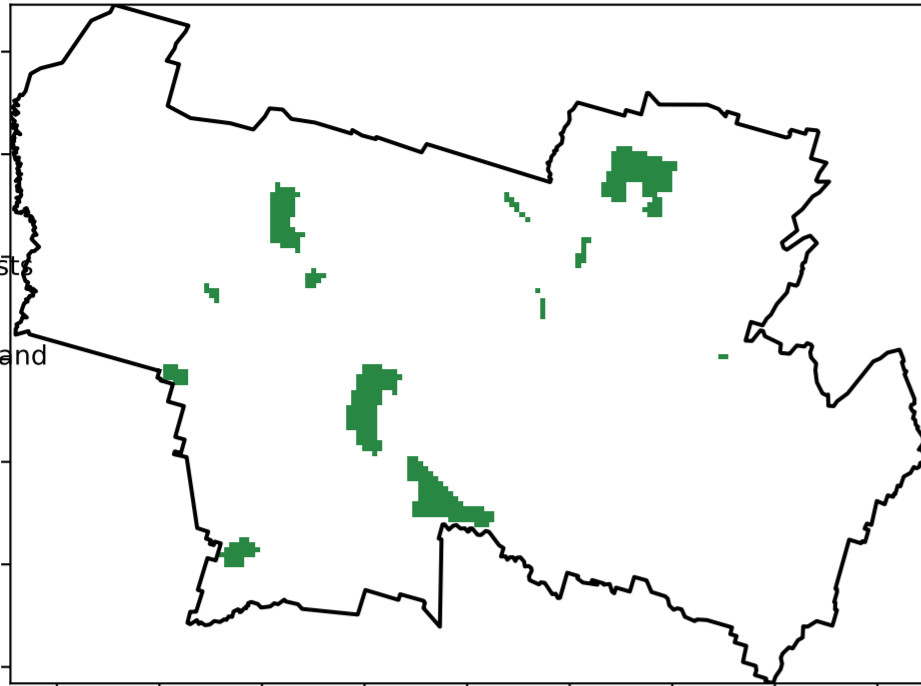
Water erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >70%)



Production native forests and plantation forests

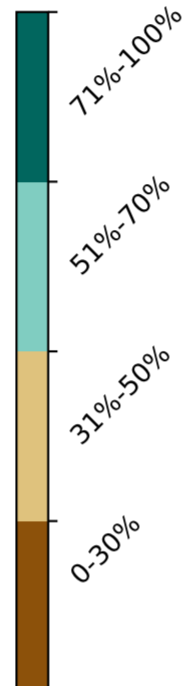
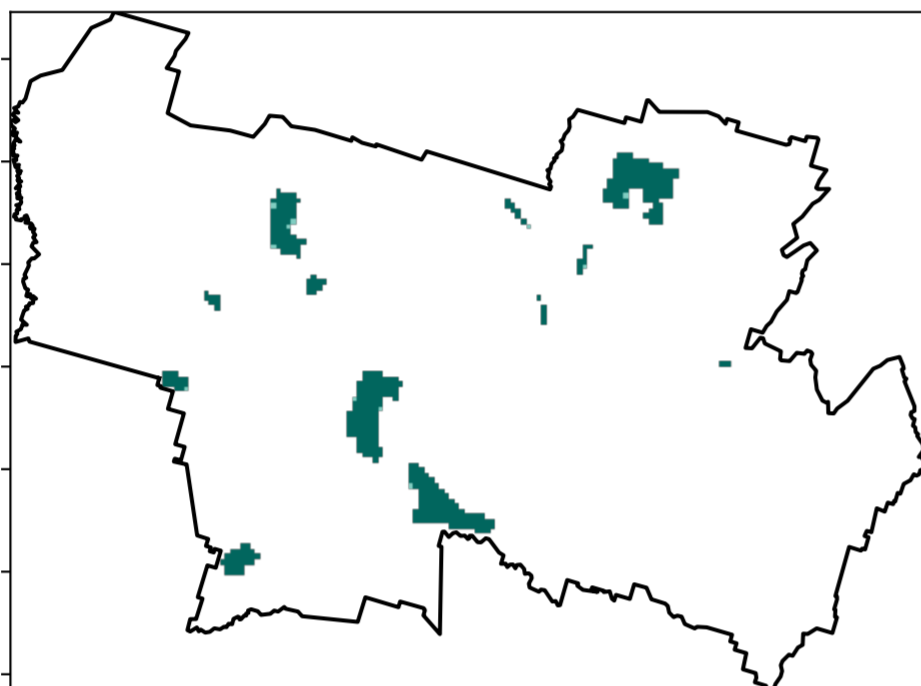
Land use and forest cover

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

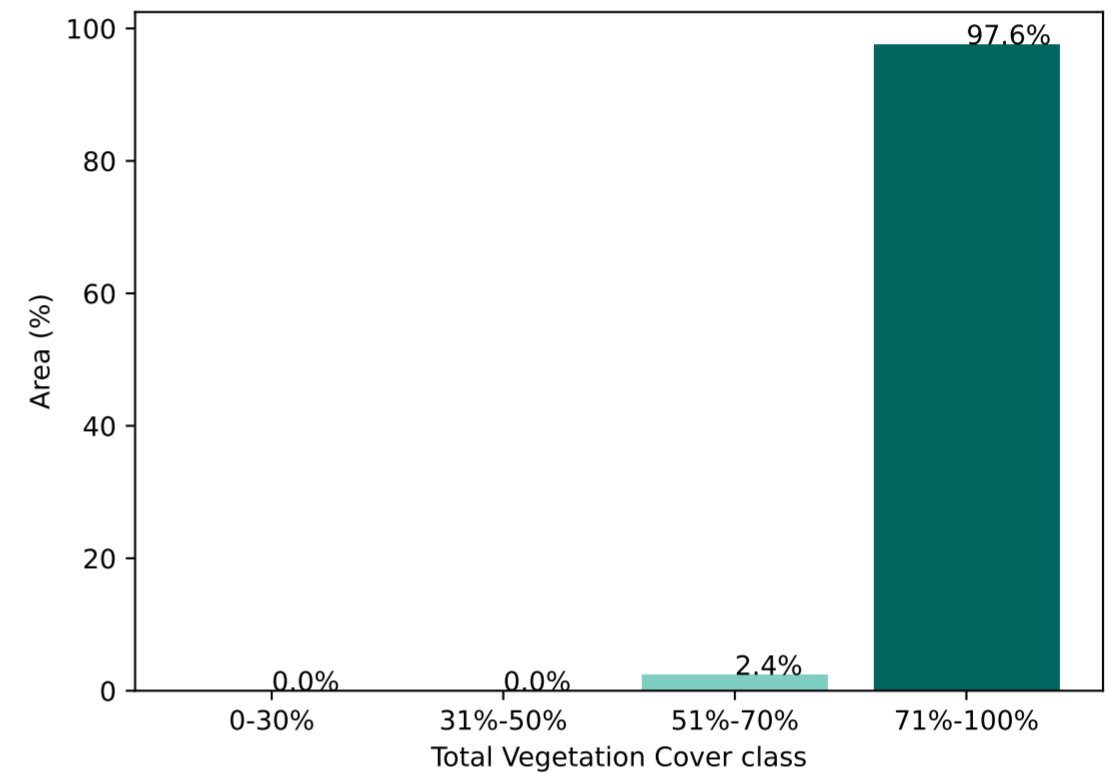


1 Production native forests and plantation forests

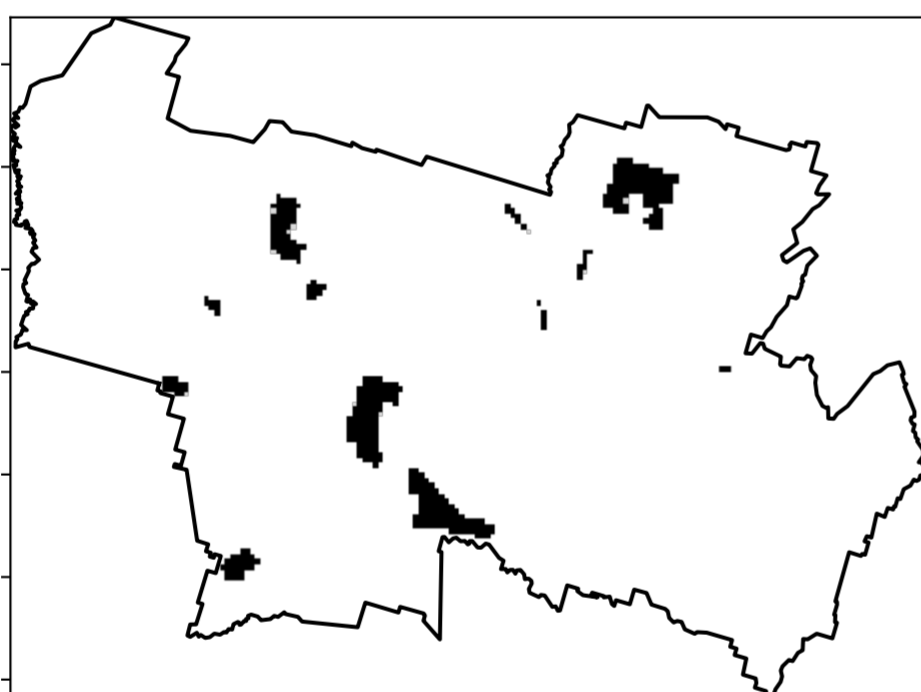
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



Proportion of vegetation cover class in area

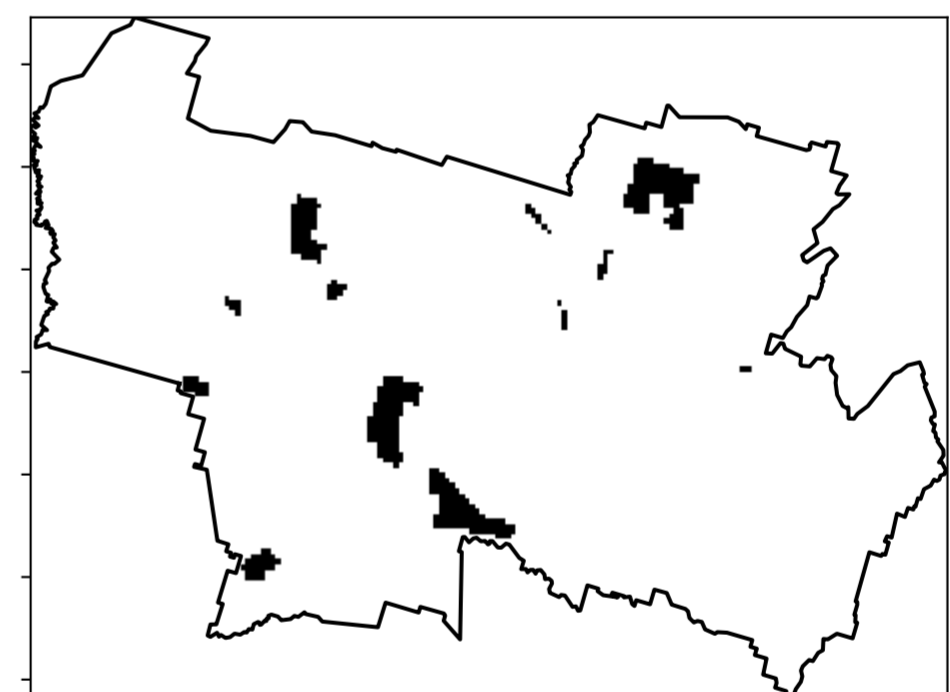


% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



Area not protected 2.4% of region (280 ha)
Area protected 97.6% of region (11,370 ha)

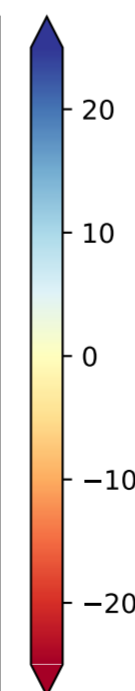
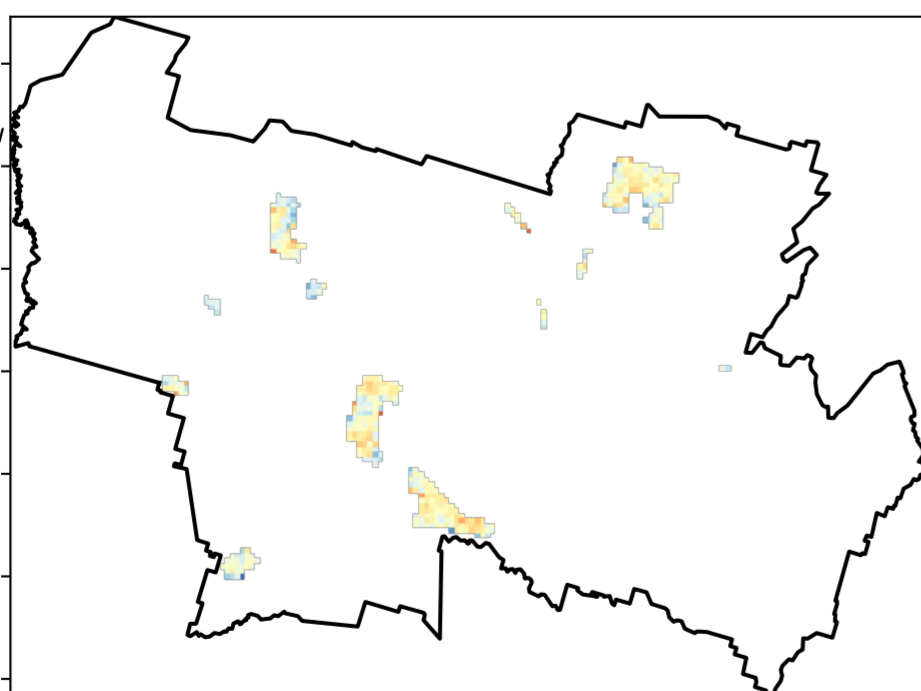
% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



Area protected 100.0% of region (11,650 ha)

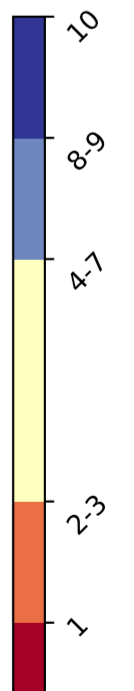
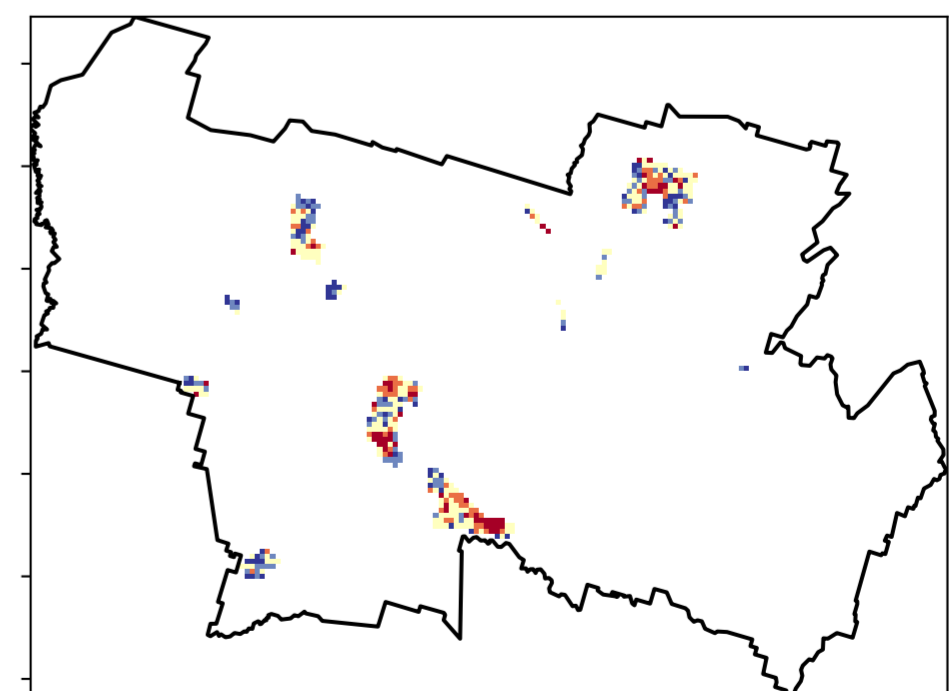
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

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.



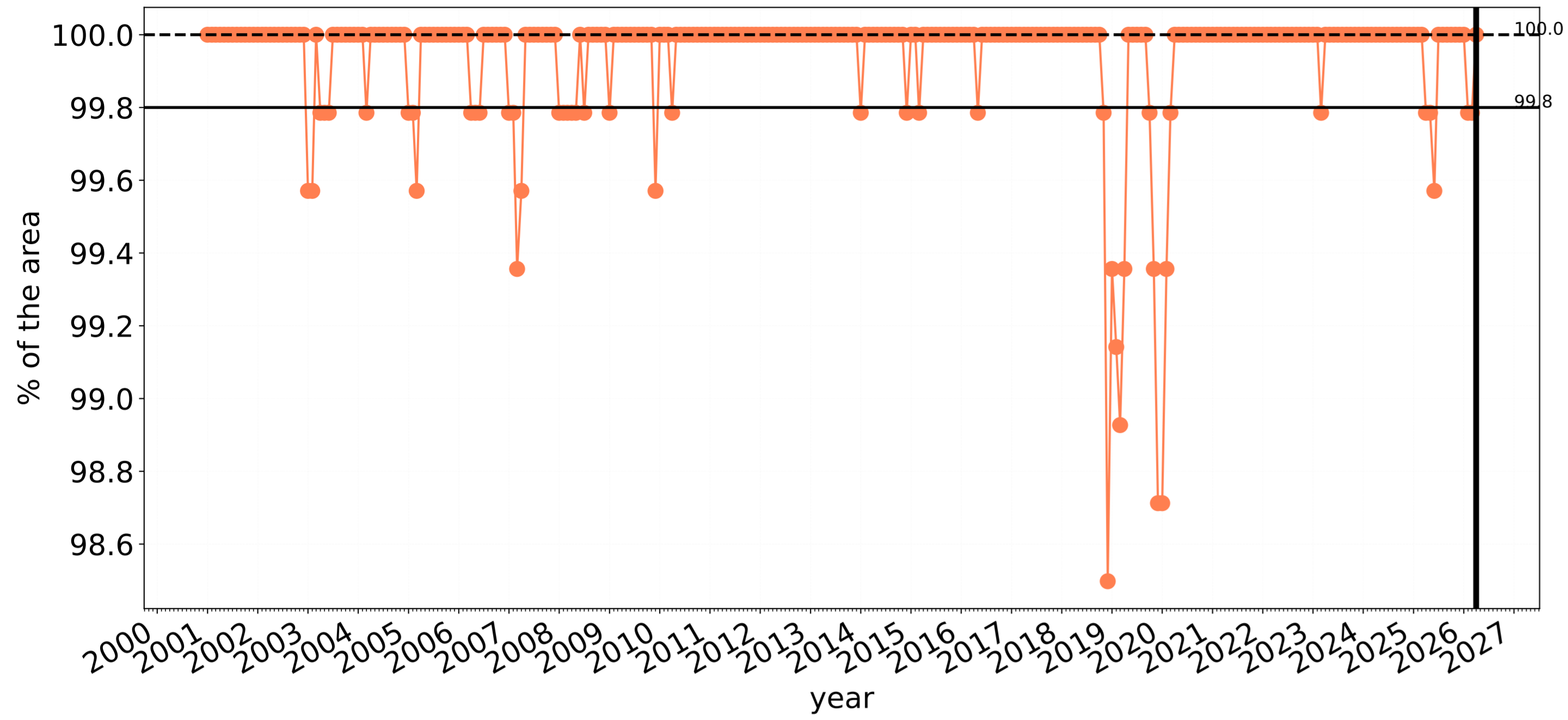
Deciles show where the pixel value lies in the record, from highest to lowest, for that month. That is, red pixels are in the lowest 10% of records for that month of the map using baseline from 2001 to 2019.

Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]

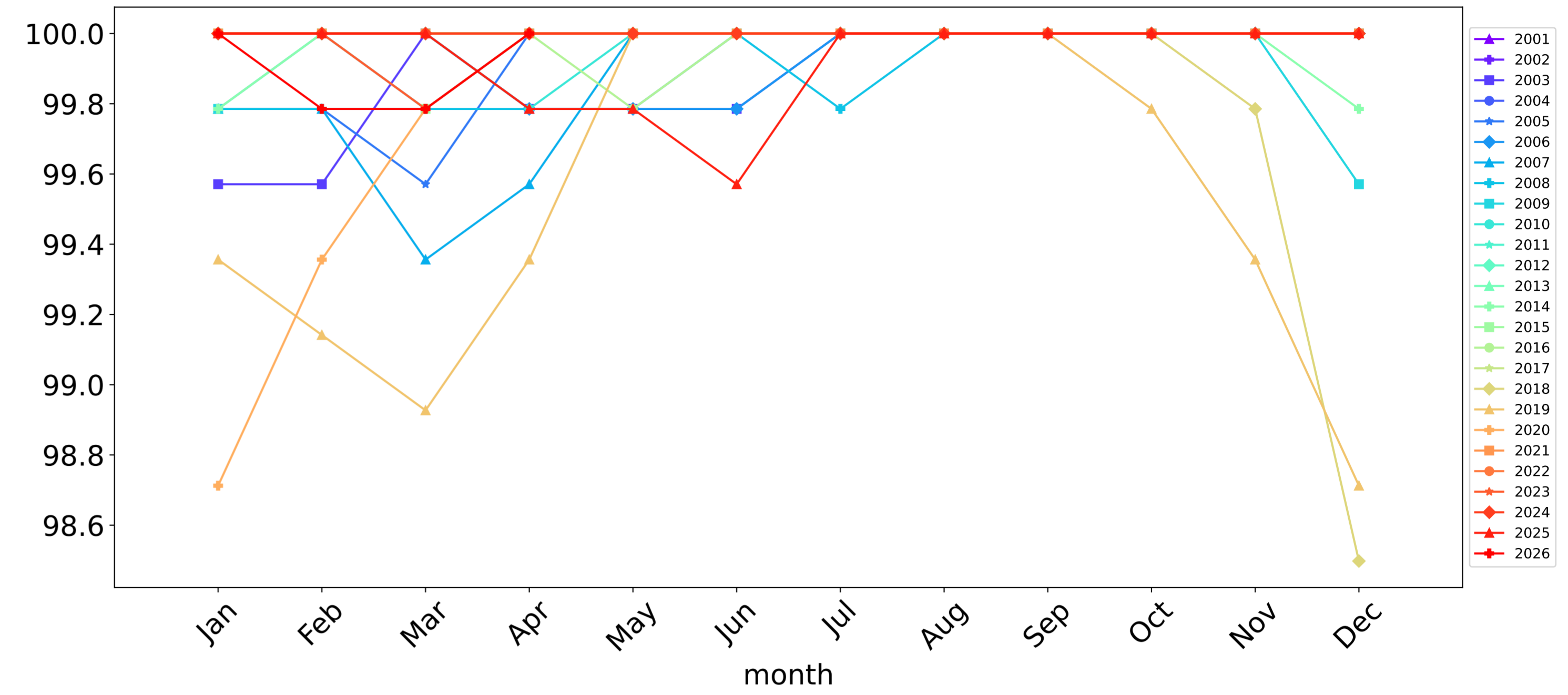


Production native forests and plantation forests timeseries

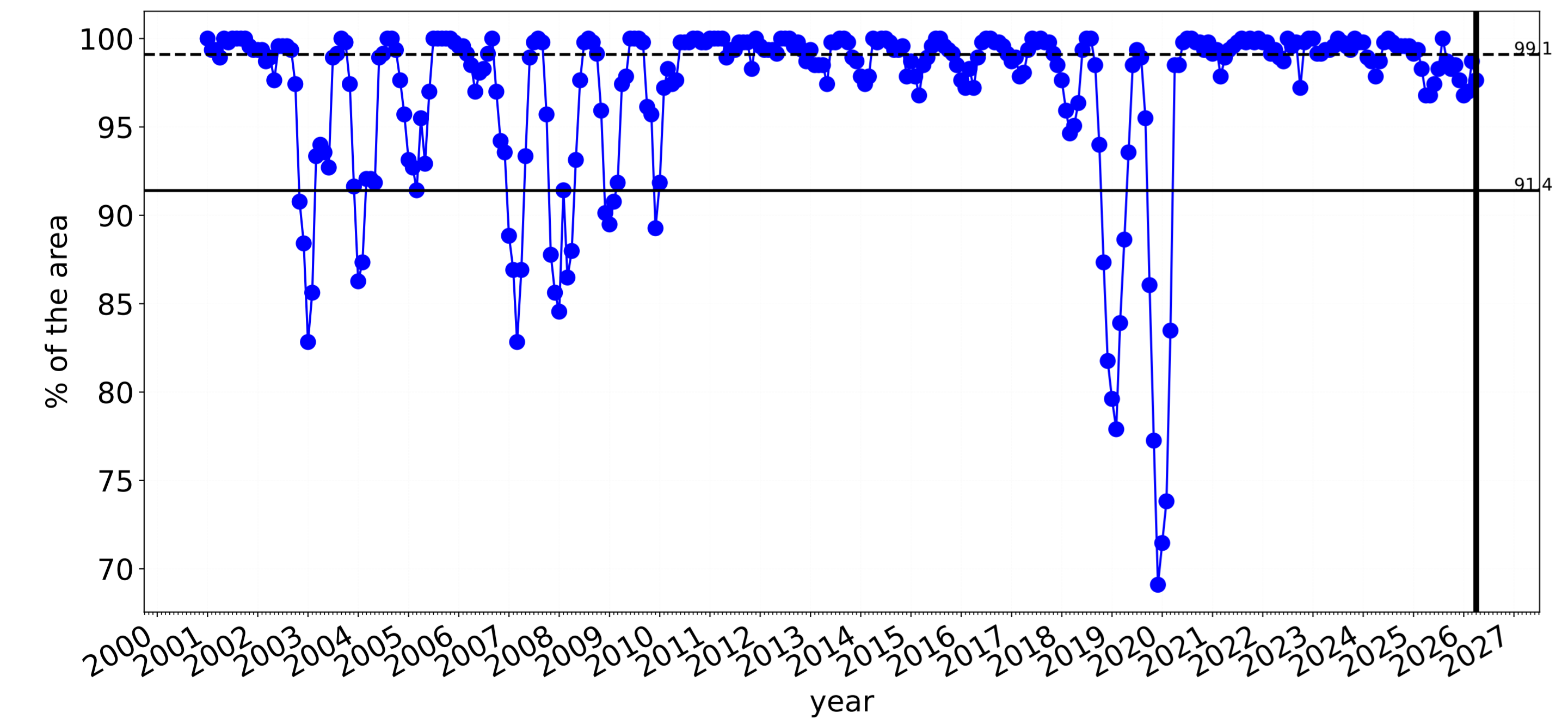
Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)



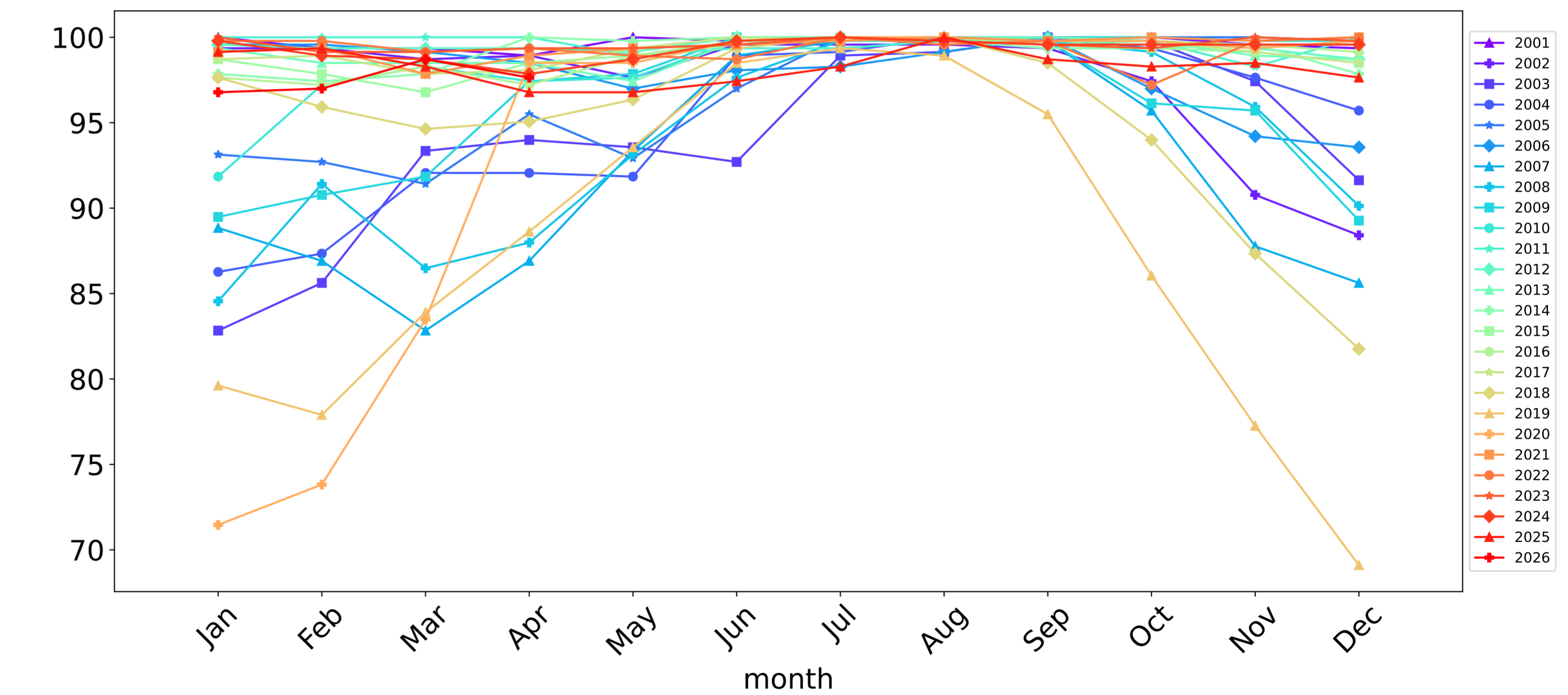
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



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	99.8% 340,775	98.2% 335,500	80.1% 273,450	56.2% 191,900	16.3% 55,525	3.7% 12,475
Conservation and natural environments	11,625	100.0% 11,625	100.0% 11,625	100.0% 11,625	97.0% 11,275	29.0% 3,375	2.6% 300
Conservation and natural environments Woodland forest	11,375	100.0% 11,375	100.0% 11,375	100.0% 11,375	96.9% 11,025	29.2% 3,325	2.6% 300
Agriculture	316,675	99.8% 315,925	98.1% 310,650	78.7% 249,100	53.4% 169,125	15.4% 48,850	3.7% 11,775
Grazing	90,200	100.0% 90,175	99.8% 90,000	96.1% 86,725	83.2% 75,075	27.1% 24,450	5.3% 4,800
Grazing non forest	63,625	100.0% 63,600	99.7% 63,425	94.8% 60,325	78.4% 49,900	25.6% 16,300	6.1% 3,875
Grazing Woodland forest	25,750	100.0% 25,750	100.0% 25,750	99.3% 25,575	94.9% 24,425	30.3% 7,800	3.4% 875
Cropping	225,725	99.7% 225,000	97.4% 219,900	71.6% 161,625	41.4% 93,375	10.8% 24,275	3.1% 6,950
Production native forests and plantation forests	11,650	100.0% 11,650	100.0% 11,650	97.6% 11,375	90.6% 10,550	27.3% 3,175	3.2% 375



tern

Ecosystem Research Infrastructure



National Landcare Programme

