Total vegetation cover soil protection
Region:NRM Central West NSW   Date: May 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.
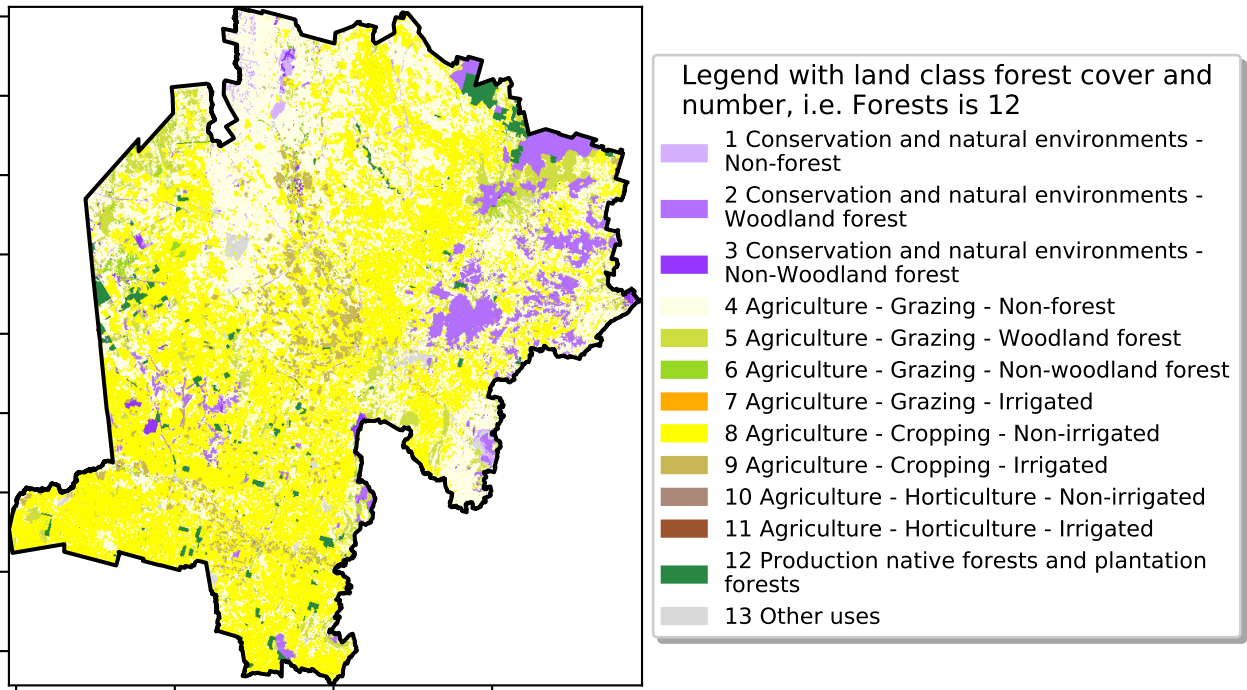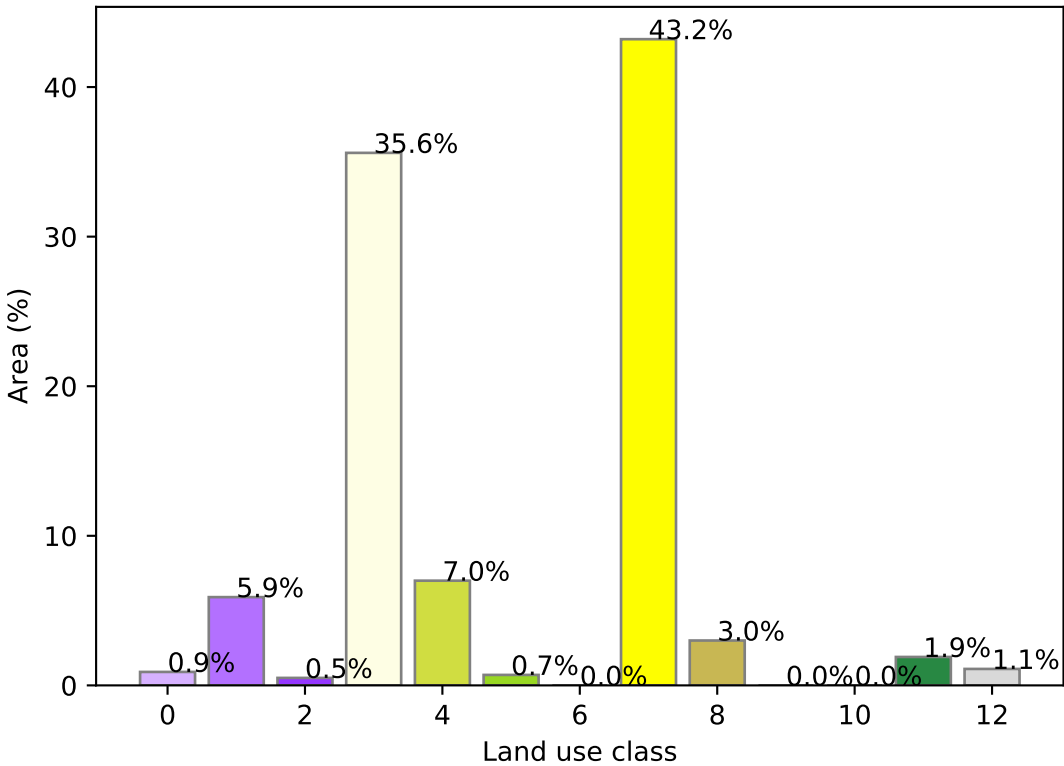
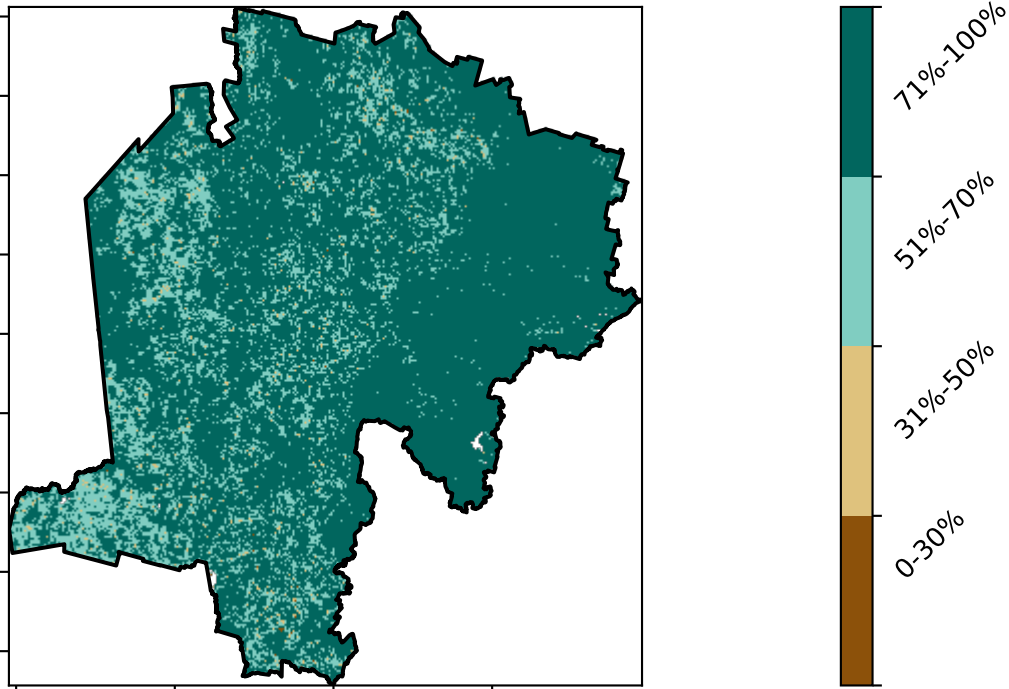# Vegetation Cover May 2025

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)
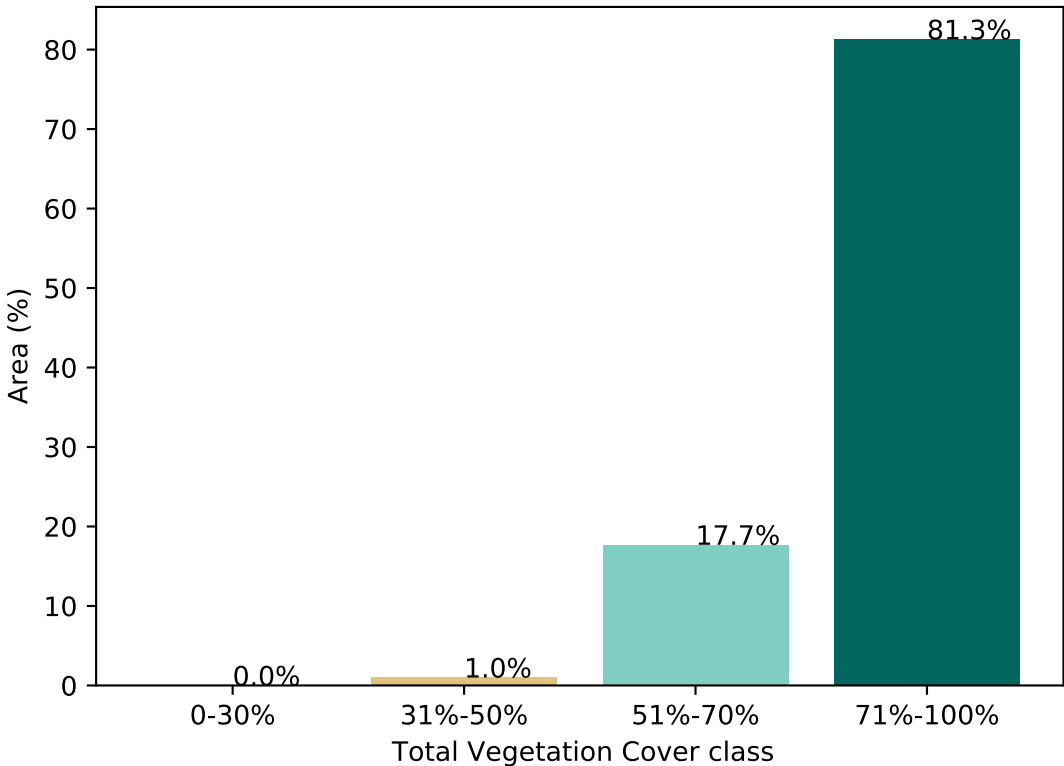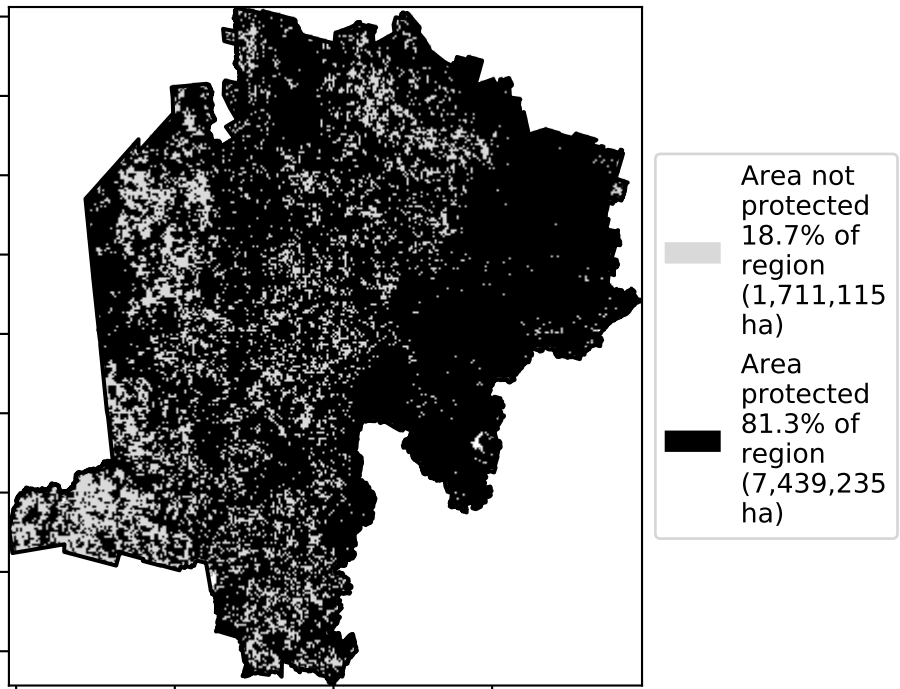
Legend with land class forest cover and number, i.e. Forests is 12

- 1 Conservation and natural environments - Non-forest
- 2 Conservation and natural environments - Woodland forest
- 3 Conservation and natural environments - Non-Woodland forest
- 4 Agriculture - Grazing - Non-forest
- 5 Agriculture - Grazing - Woodland forest
- 6 Agriculture - Grazing - Non-woodland forest
- 7 Agriculture - Grazing - Irrigated
- 8 Agriculture - Cropping - Non-irrigated
- 9 Agriculture - Cropping - Irrigated
- 10 Agriculture - Horticulture - Non-irrigated
- 11 Agriculture - Horticulture - Irrigated
- 12 Production native forests and plantation forests
- 13 Other uses

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 18.7% of region (1,711,115 ha)

Area protected 81.3% of region (7,439,235 ha)

% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)

Area not protected 1.0% of region (91,504 ha)

Area protected 99.0% of region (9,058,846 ha)

Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

Anomaly show how many percetage 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.
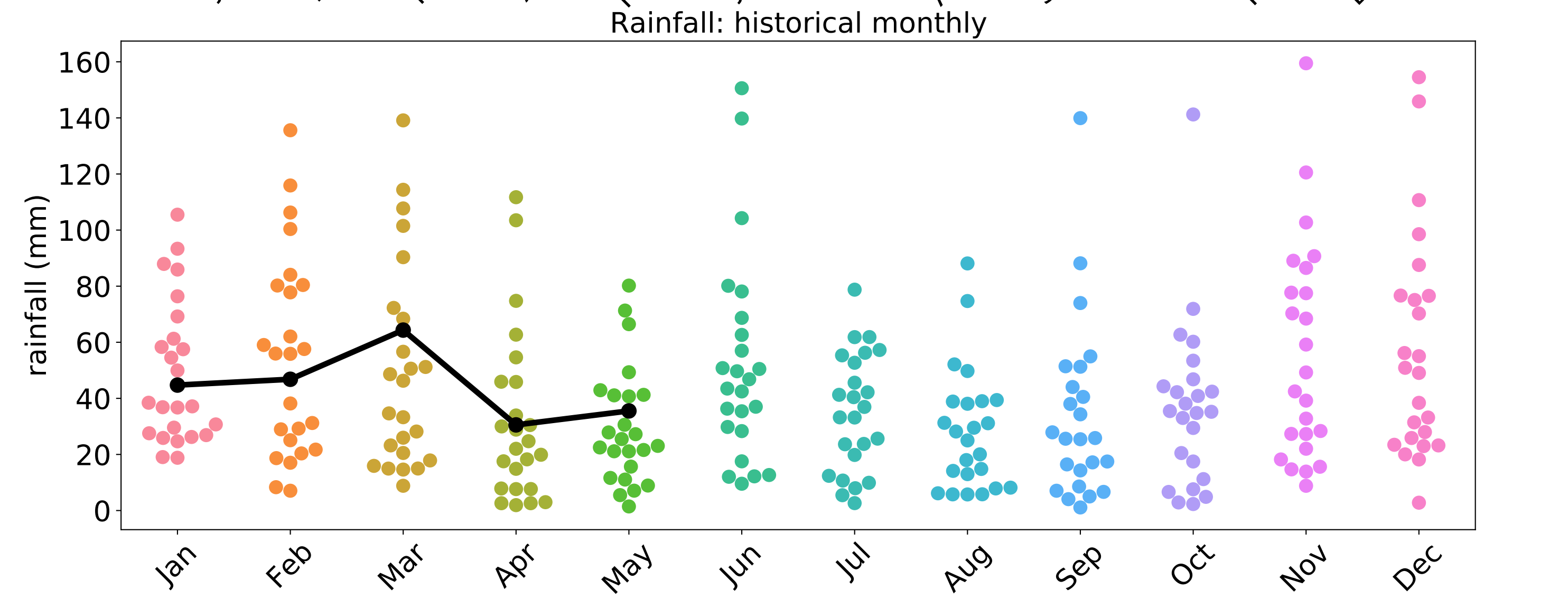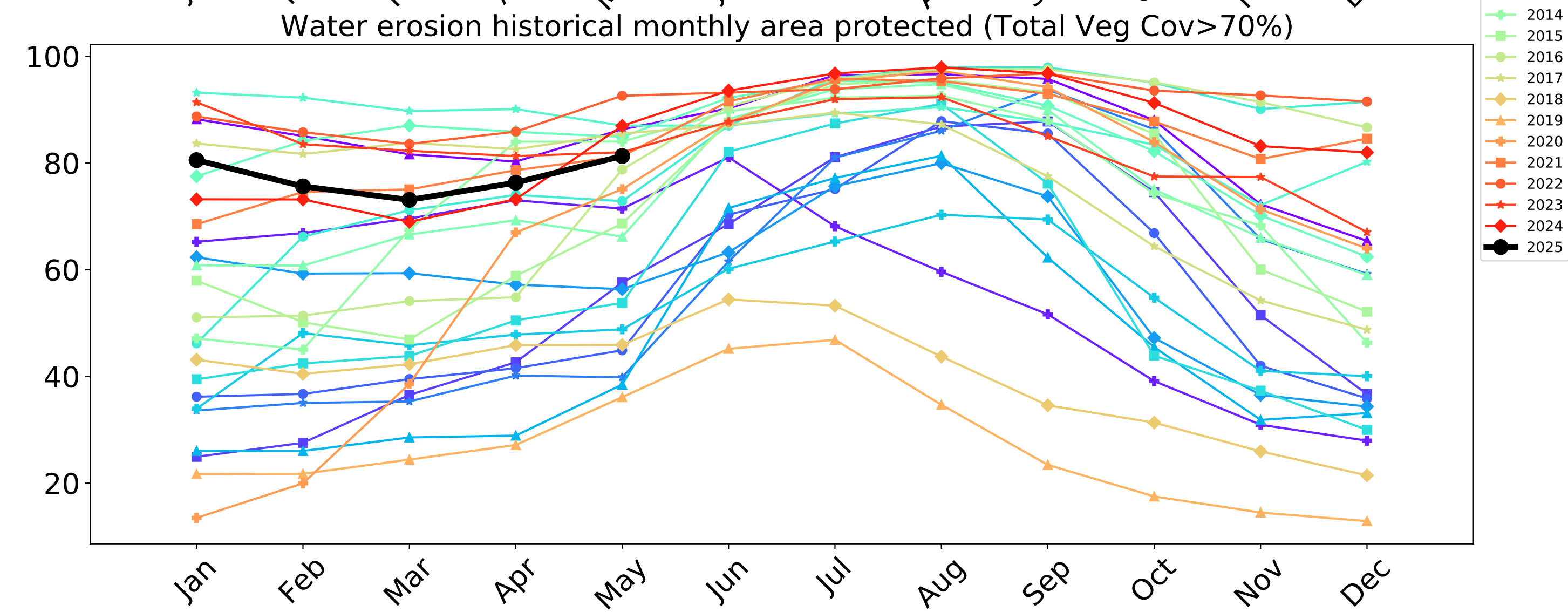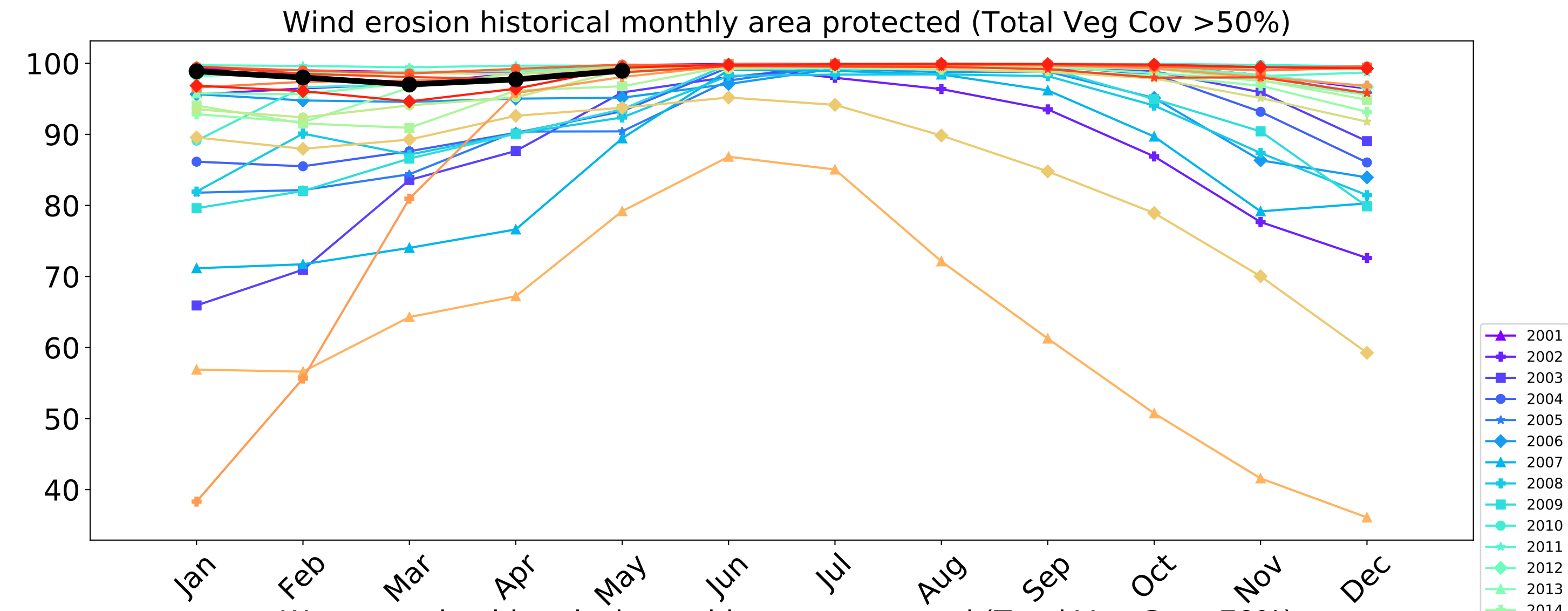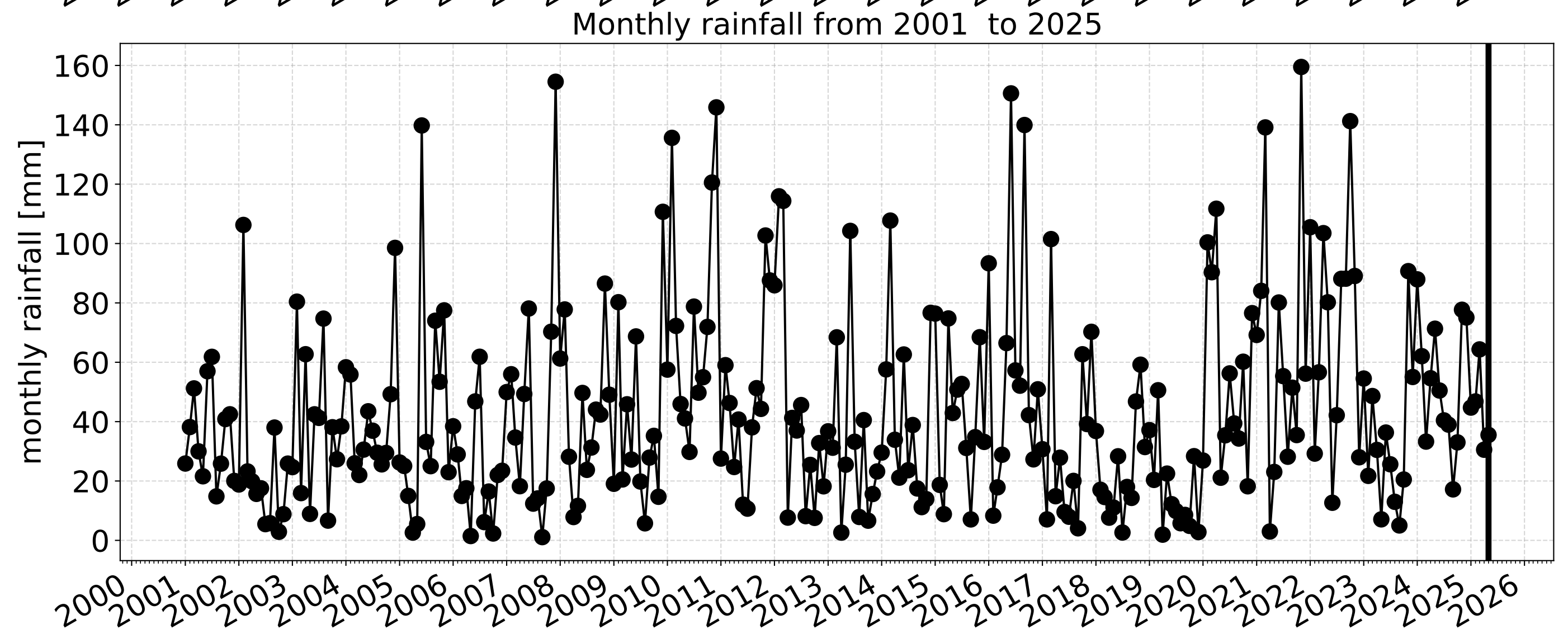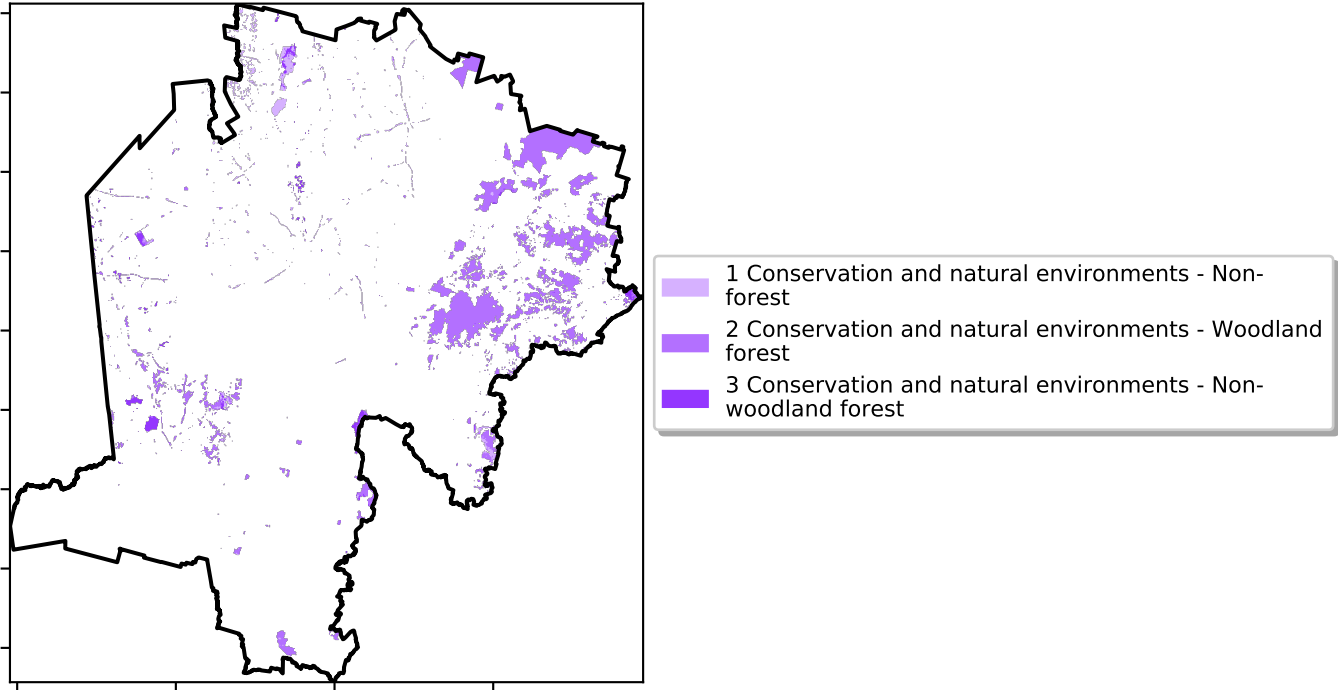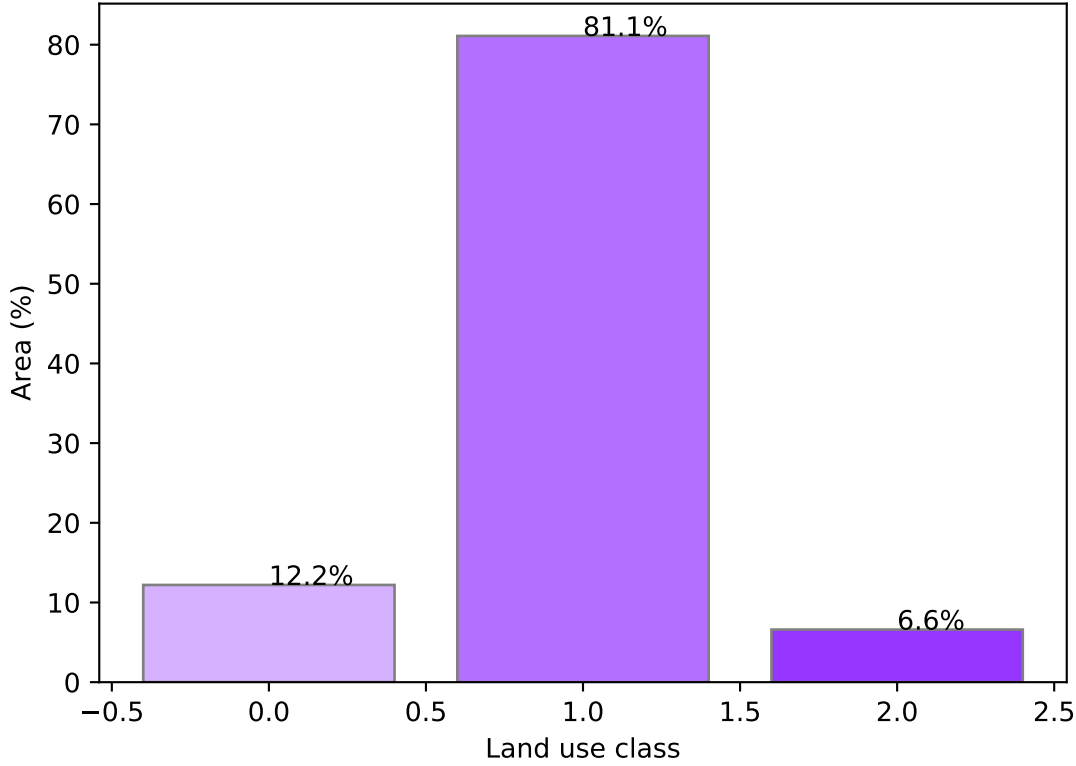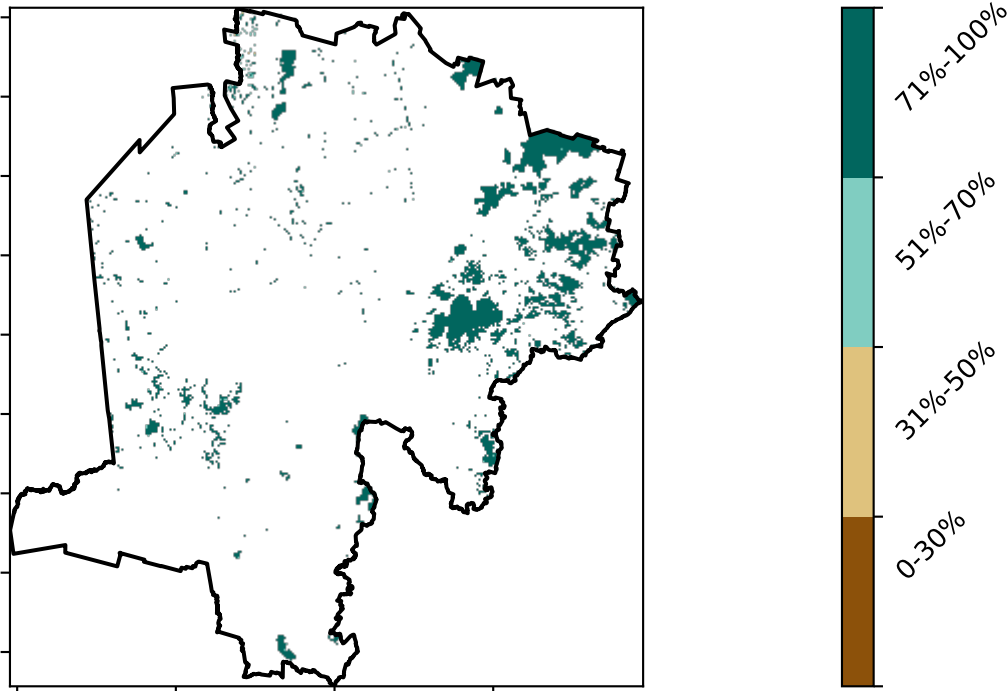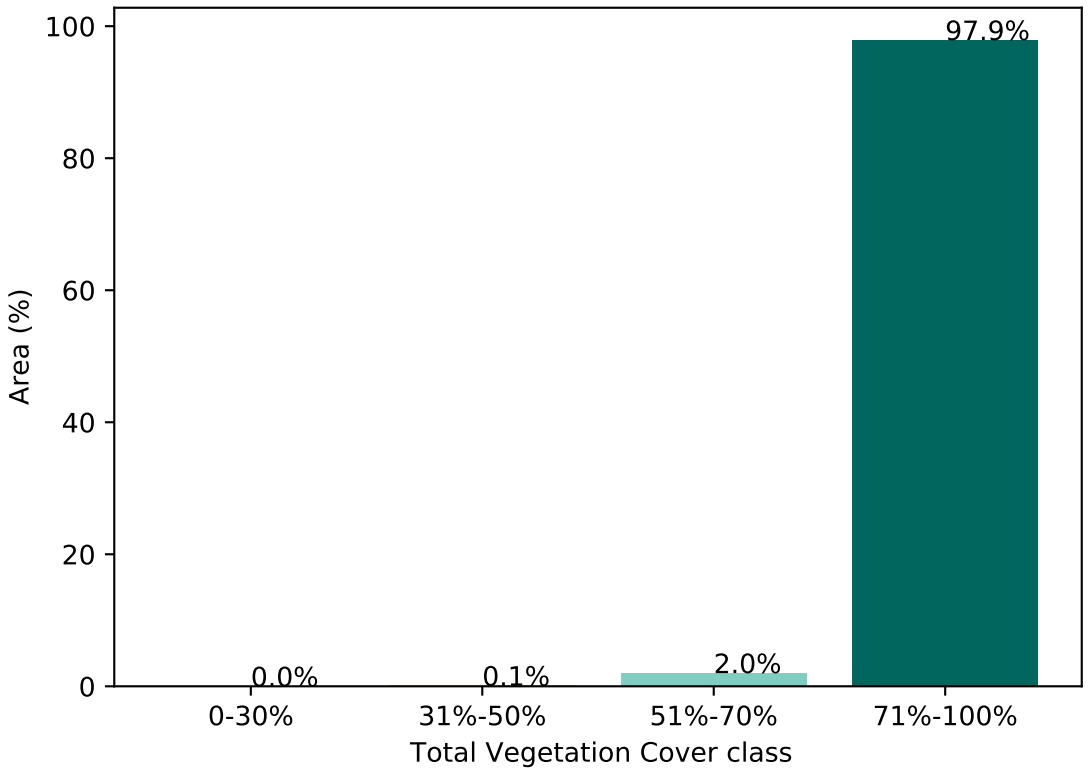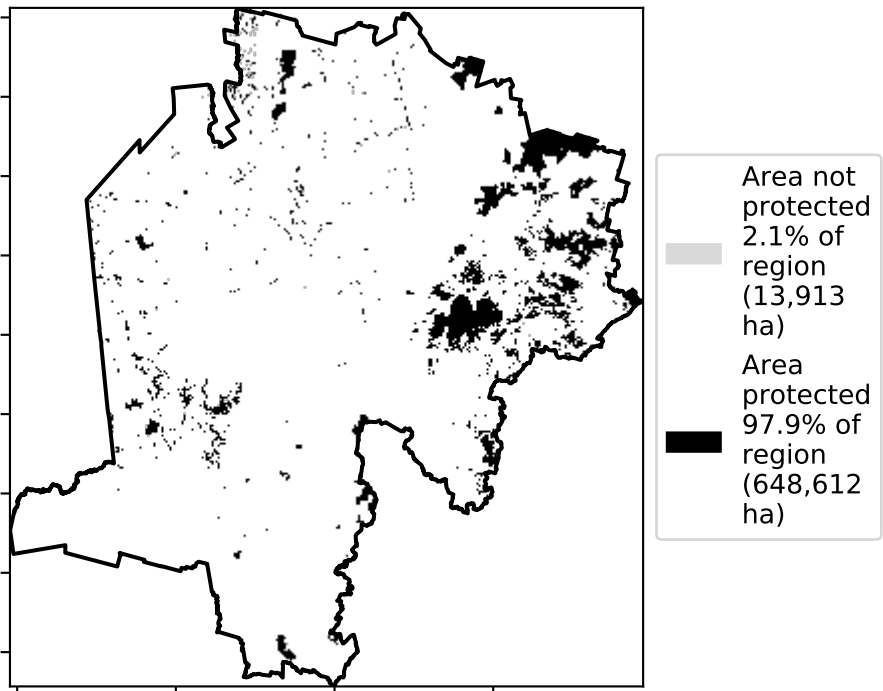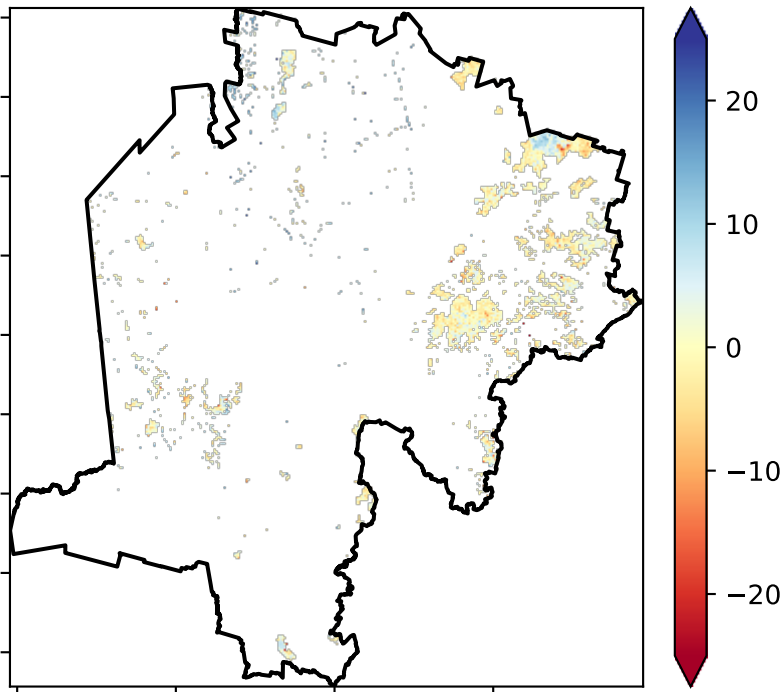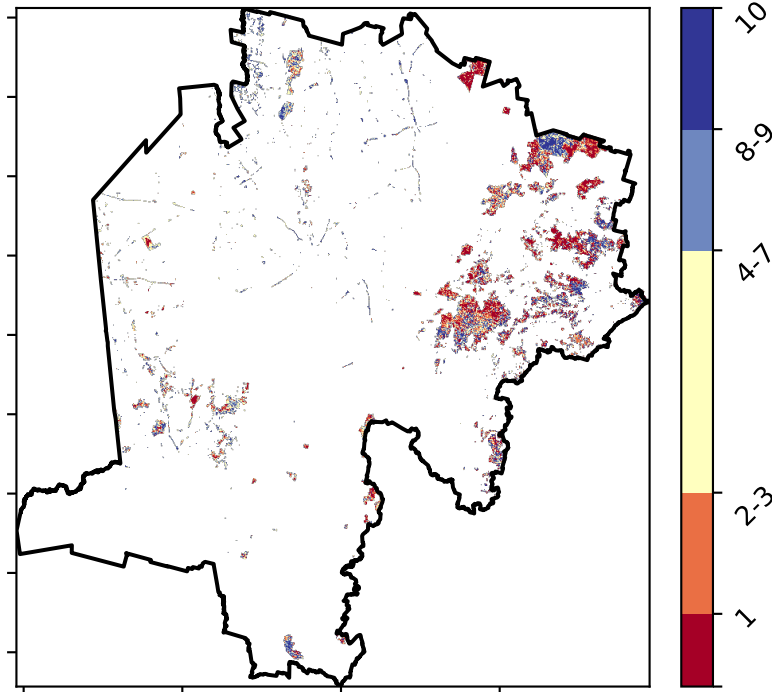
Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)

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%)

Monthly rainfall from 2001 to 2025

Rainfall: historical monthly

3

Conservation and natural environments

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 - Non-forest
2 Conservation and natural environments - Woodland forest
3 Conservation and natural environments - Non-woodland forest

Proportion of each land class in area

81.1%

12.2%

6.6%

Area (%)

Land use class

Total Vegetation Cover [%]

71%-100%

51%-70%

31%-50%

0-30%

Proportion of vegetation cover class in area

97.9%

0.0%   0.1%   2.0%

Area (%)

Total Vegetation Cover class

% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)

Area not
protected
2.1% of
region
(13,913
ha)

Area
protected
97.9% of
region
(648,612
ha)

% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)

Area not
protected
0.0% of
region (0
ha)

Area
protected
100.0% of
region
(662,525
ha)

Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

Anomaly show how
many percetage
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
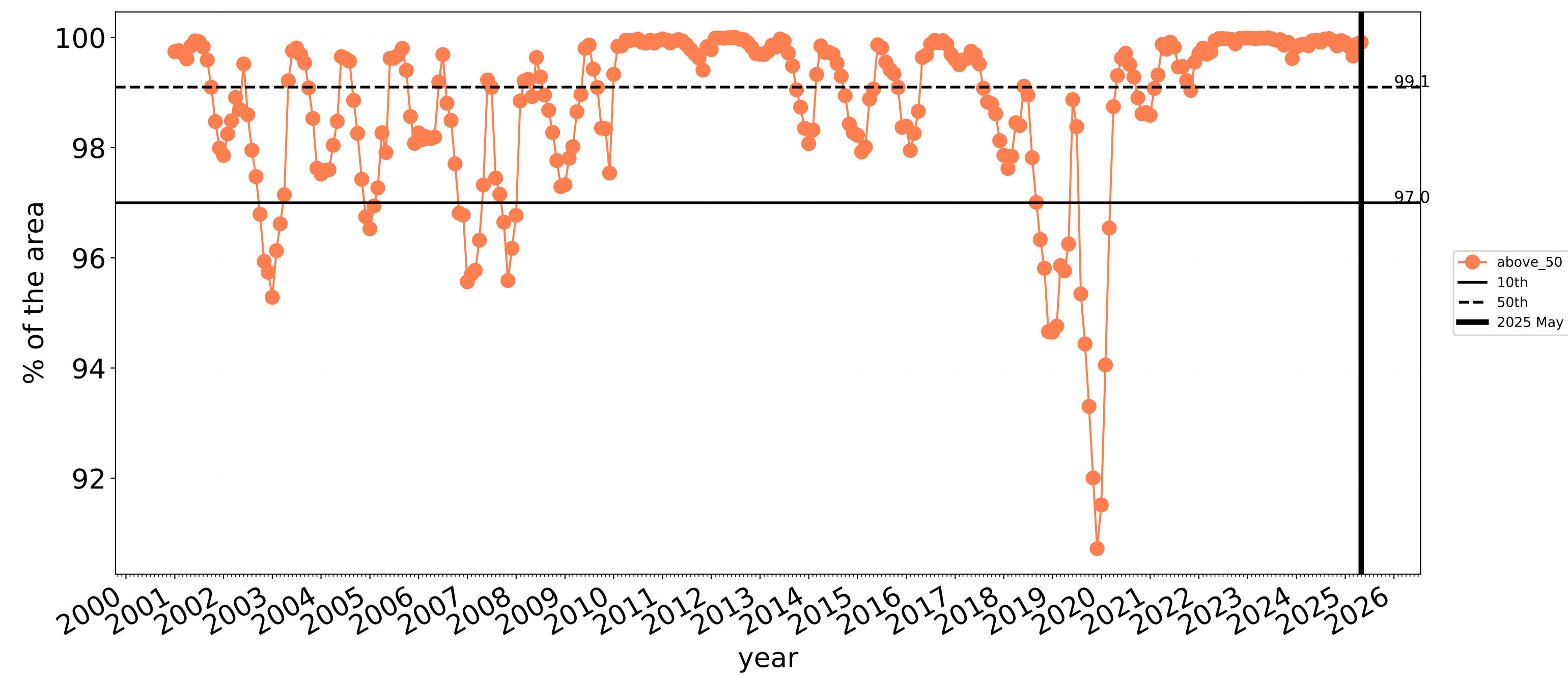records for that month of
the map using baseline
from 2001 to 2019.
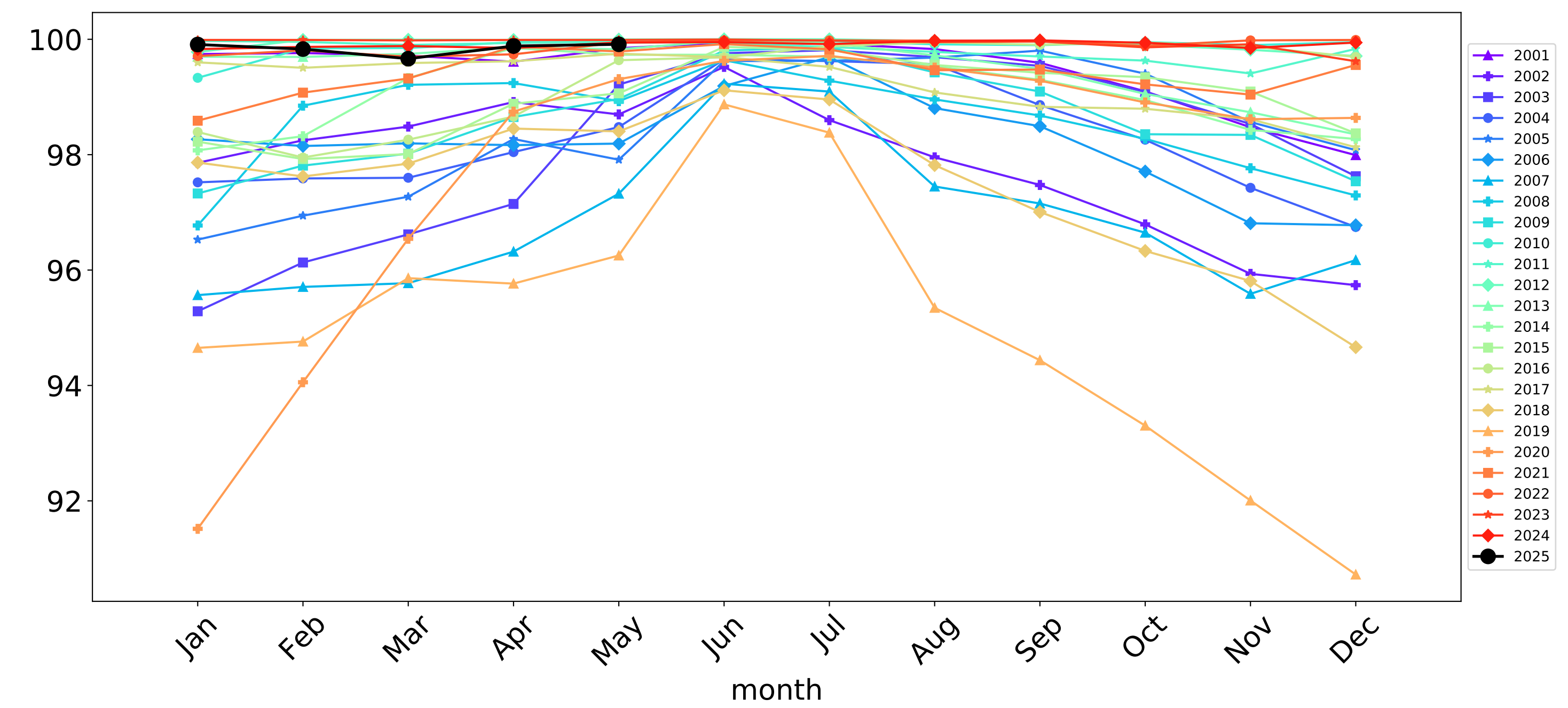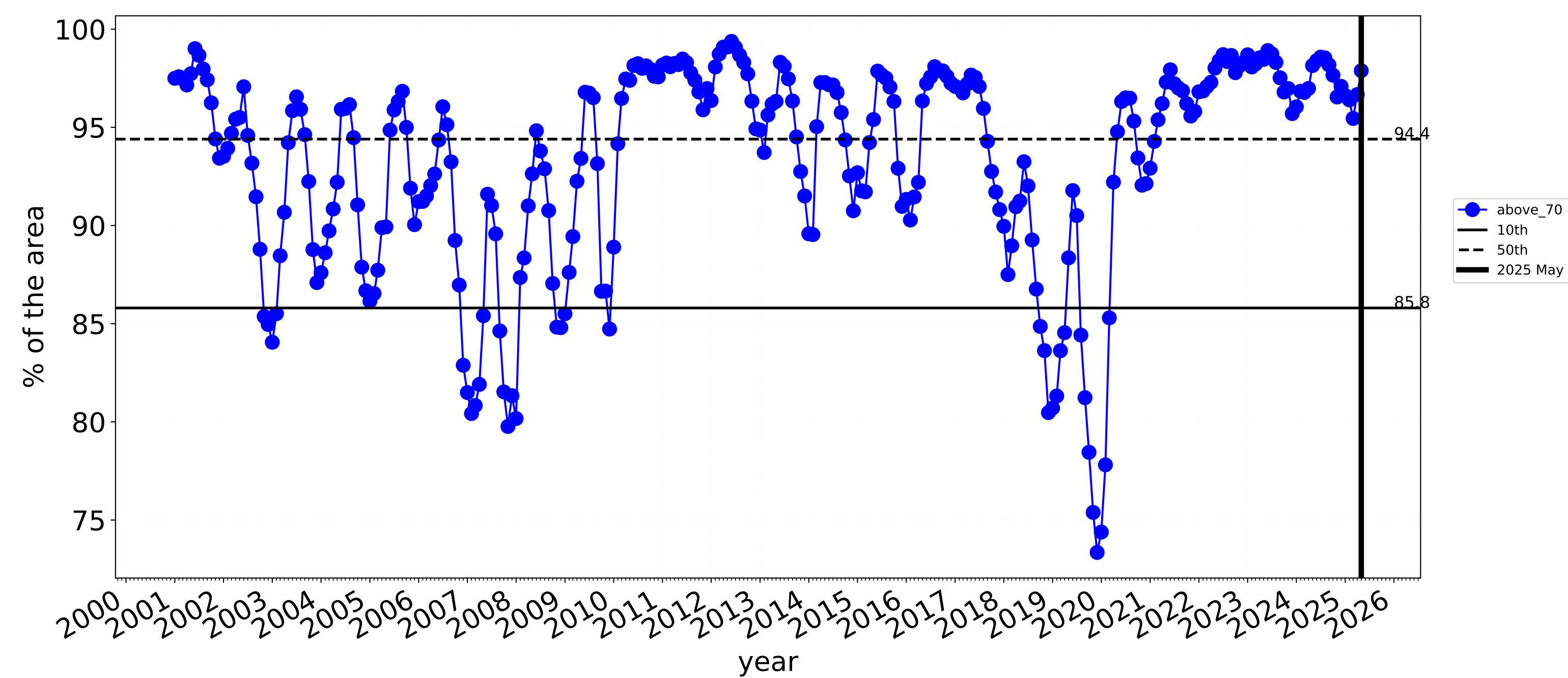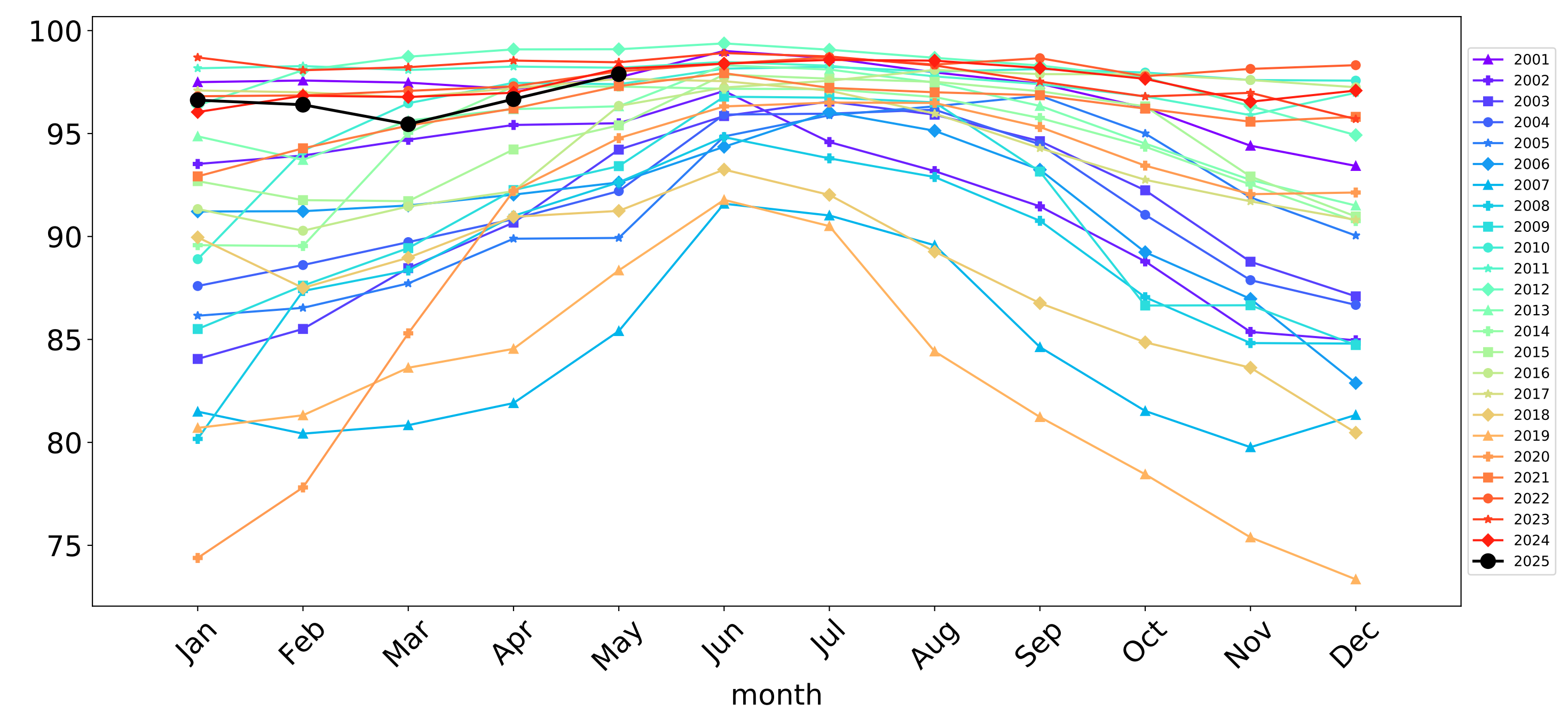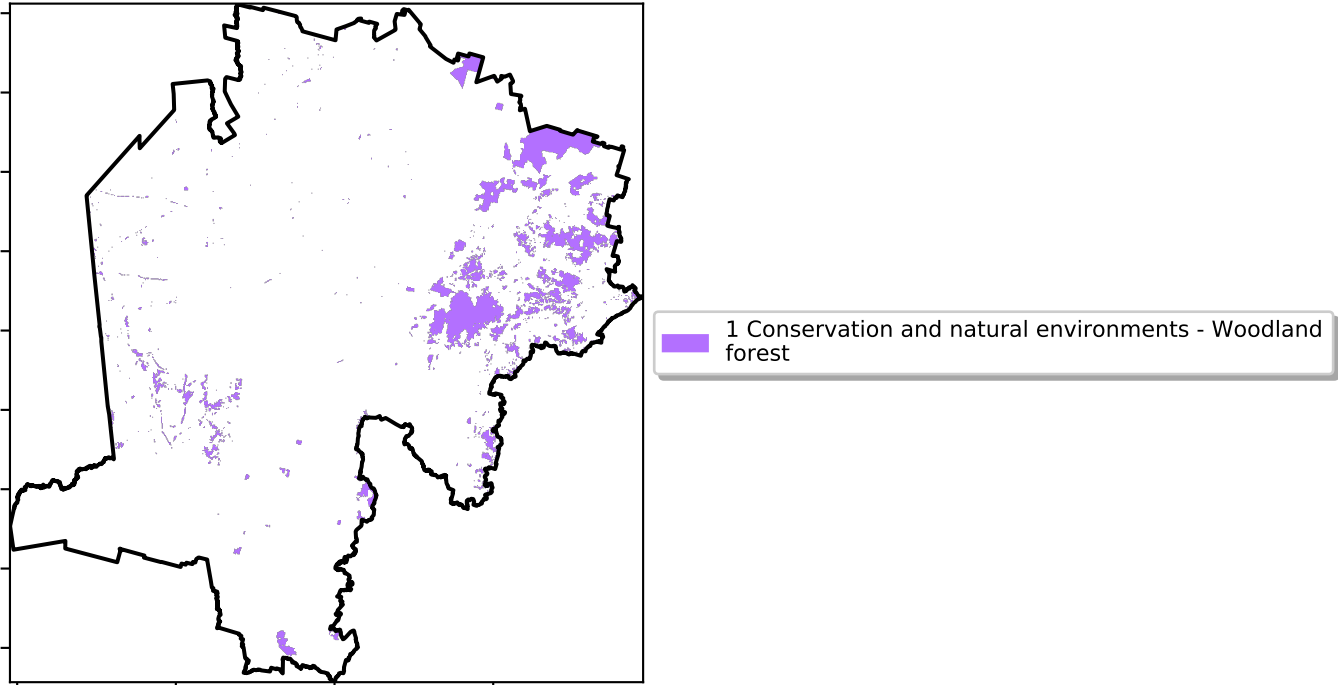
10
8-9
4-7
2-3
1

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%)

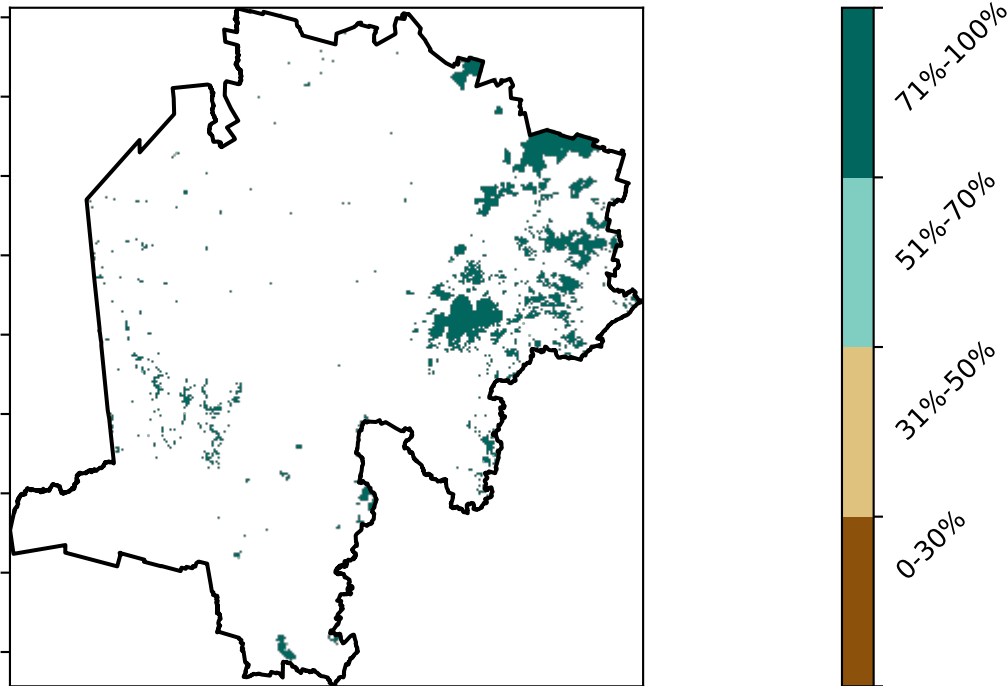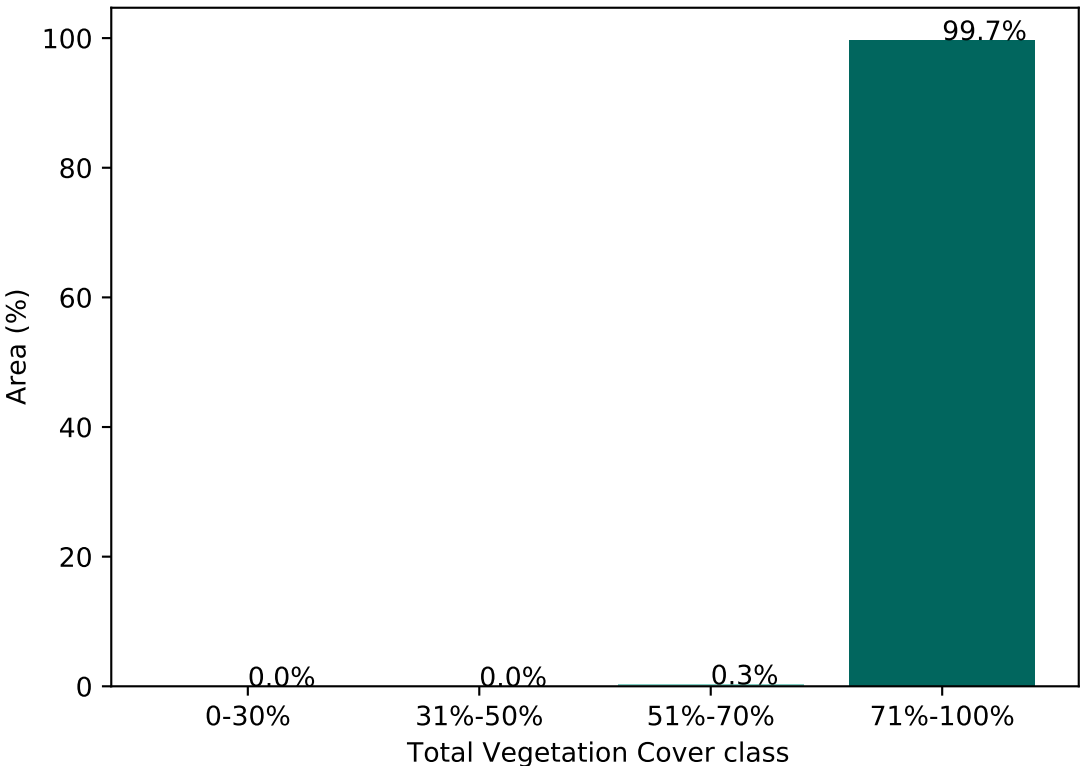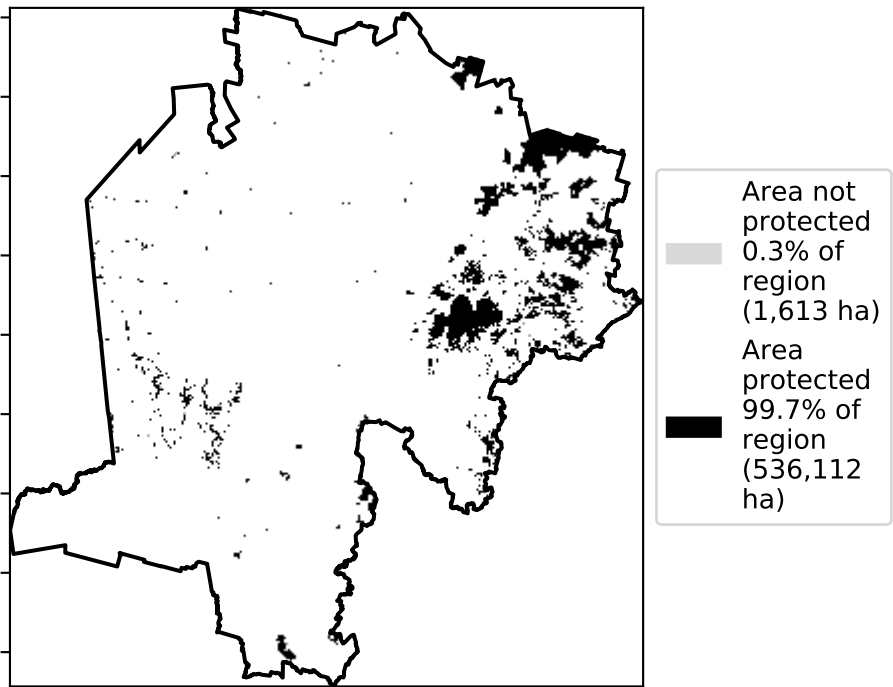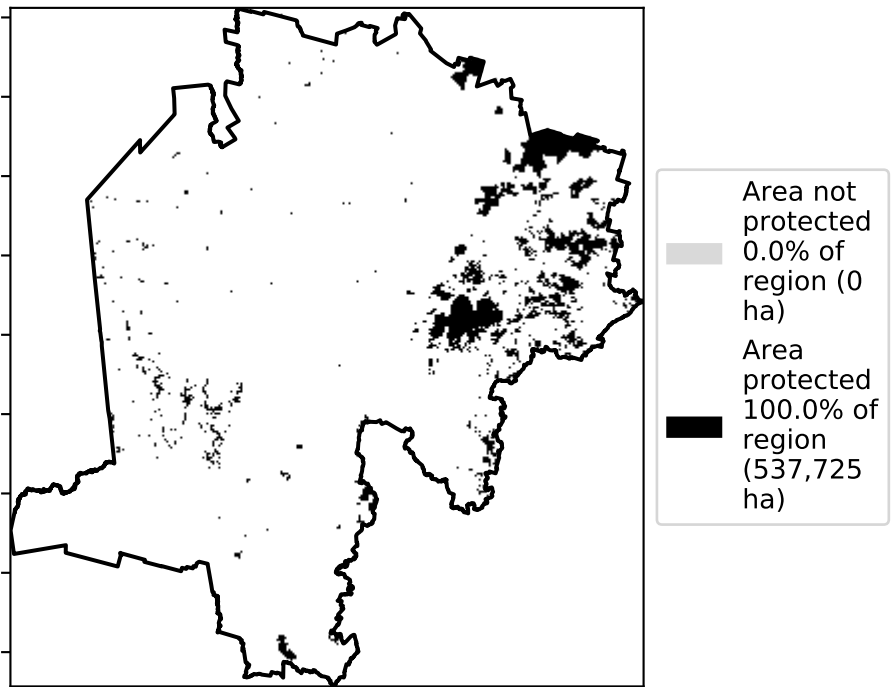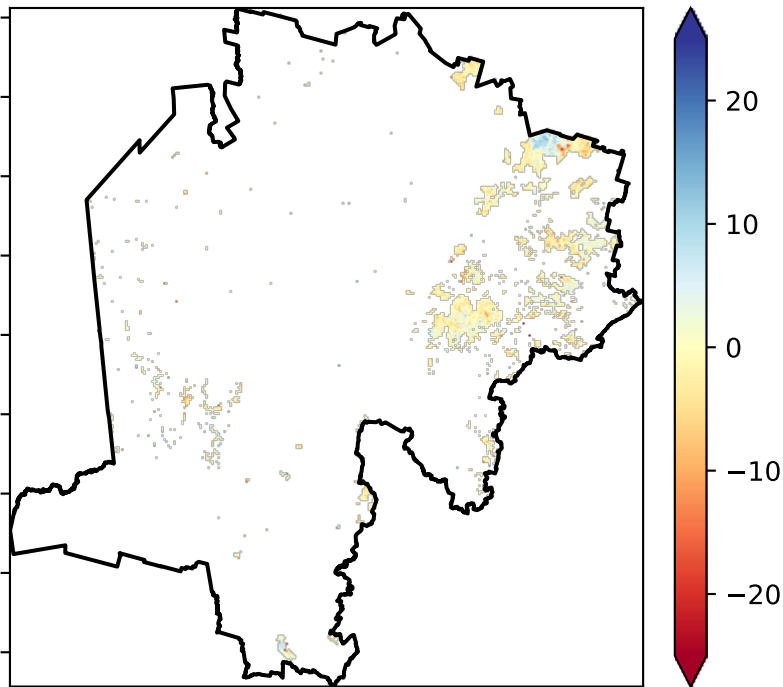Water erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov>70%)

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 [%]

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

Proportion of vegetation cover class in area

% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)

Area not protected 0.3% of region (1,613 ha)

Area protected 99.7% of region (536,112 ha)

% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)

Area not protected 0.0% of region (0 ha)

Area protected 100.0% of region (537,725 ha)

Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

Anomaly show how many percetage 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 [%]

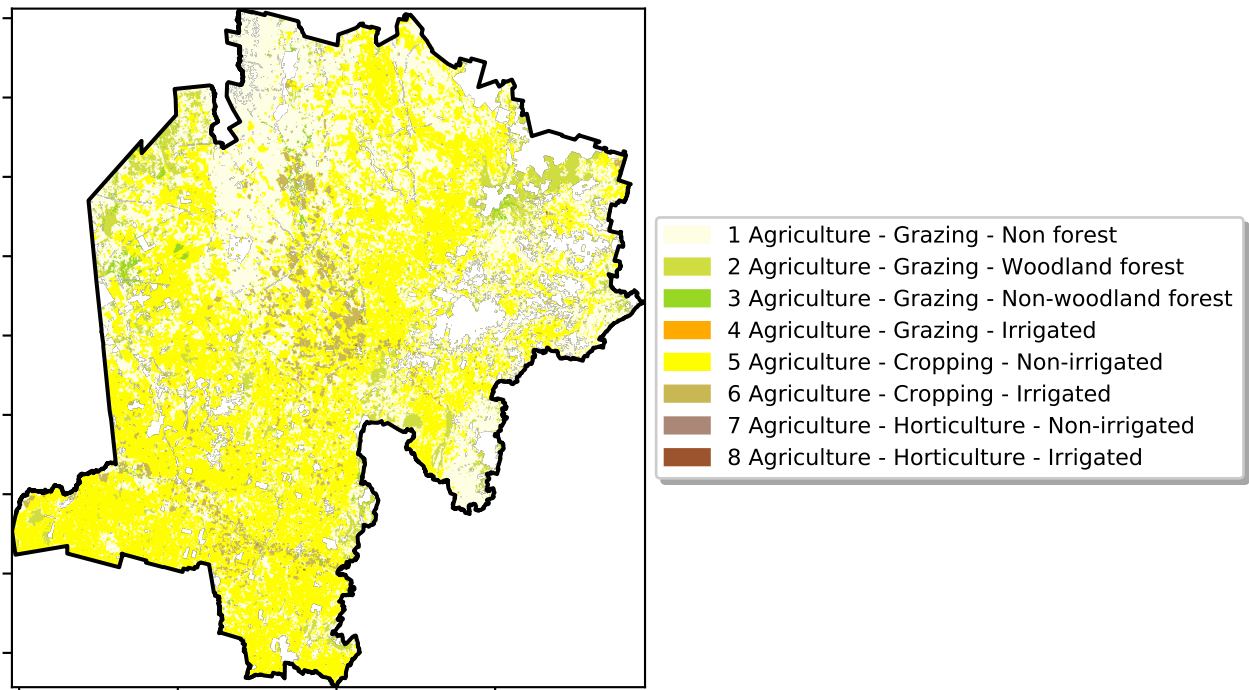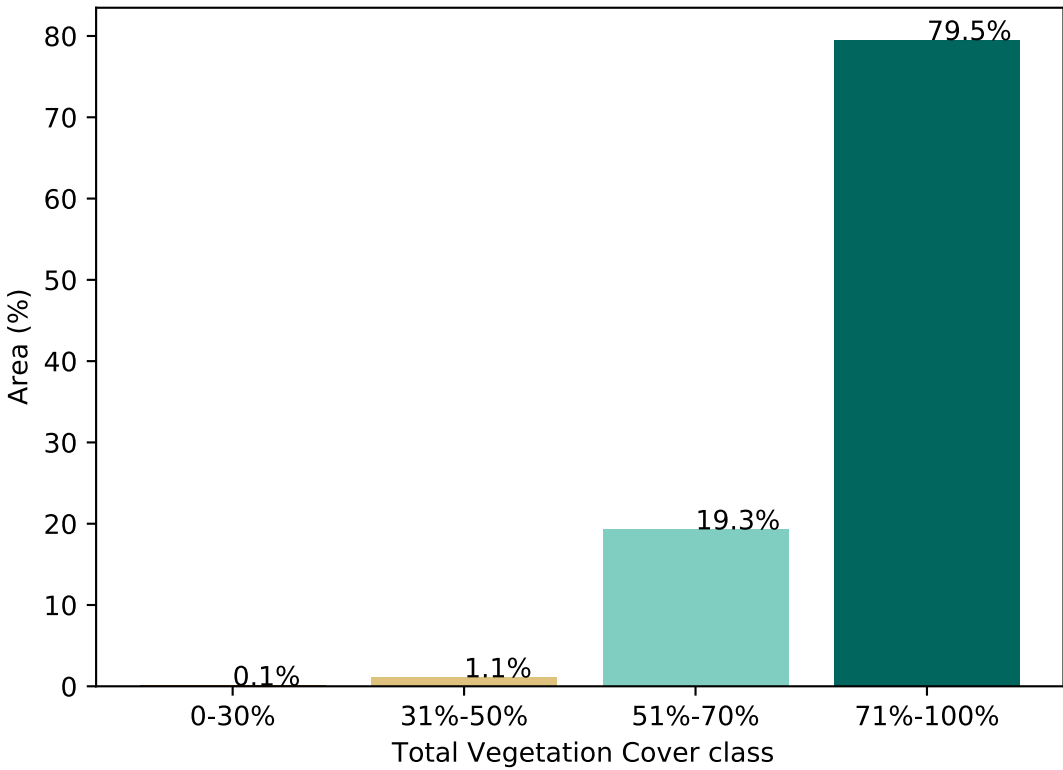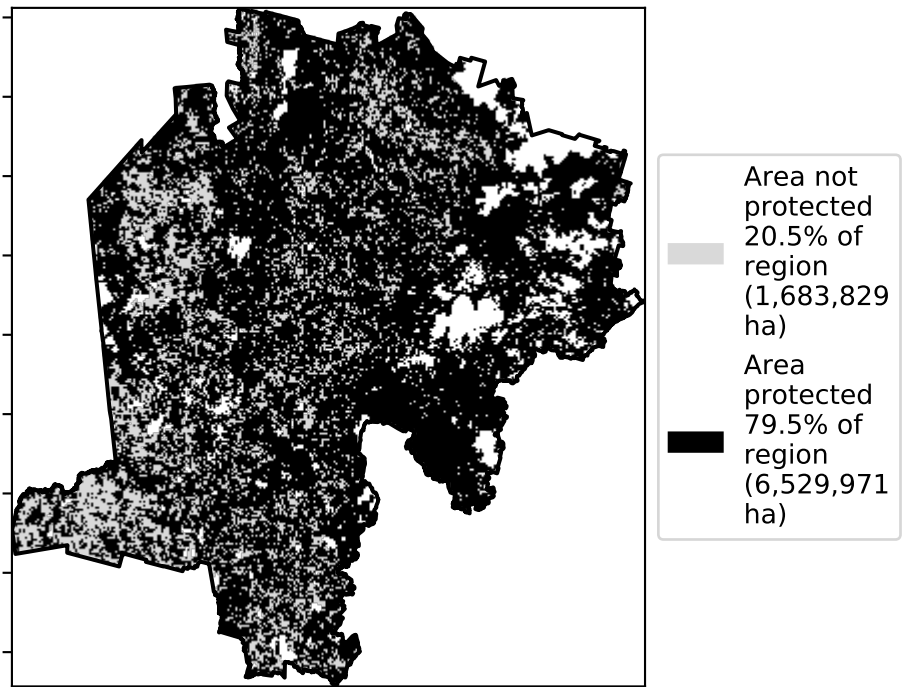Deciles show where the pixel value lies in the record, from highest to lowest, for that month. That is, red pixels are in the lowest 10% of records for that month of the map using baseline from 2001 to 2019.

10
8-9
4-7
2-3
1

Conservation and natural environments Woodland forest timeseries

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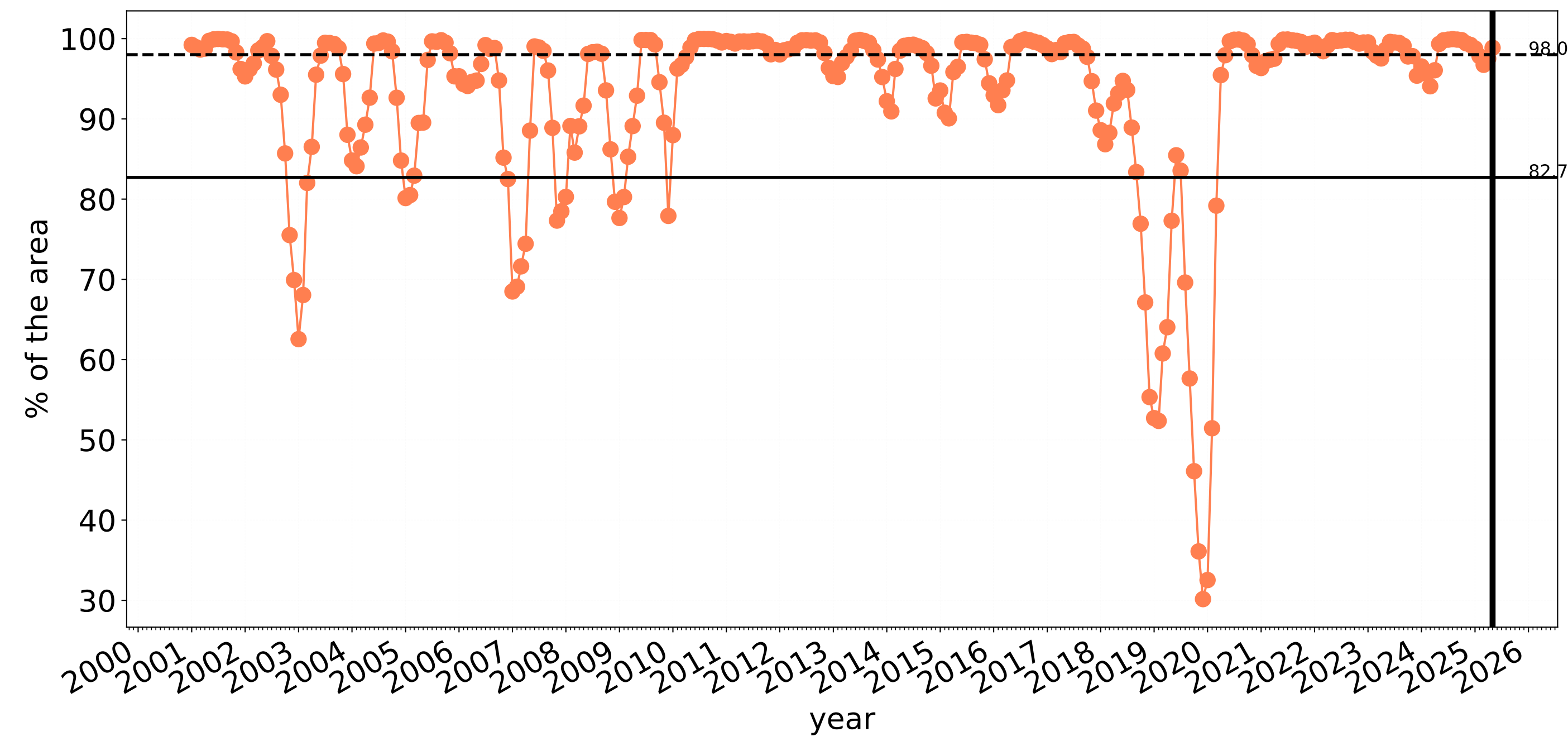

Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)

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

Legend:
- 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 [%]

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

Proportion of vegetation cover class in area

% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)

Area not protected 20.5% of region (1,683,829 ha)

Area protected 79.5% of region (6,529,971 ha)

% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)

Area not protected 1.0% of region (82,138 ha)

Area protected 99.0% of region (8,131,662 ha)

Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

Anomaly show how many percetage 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.
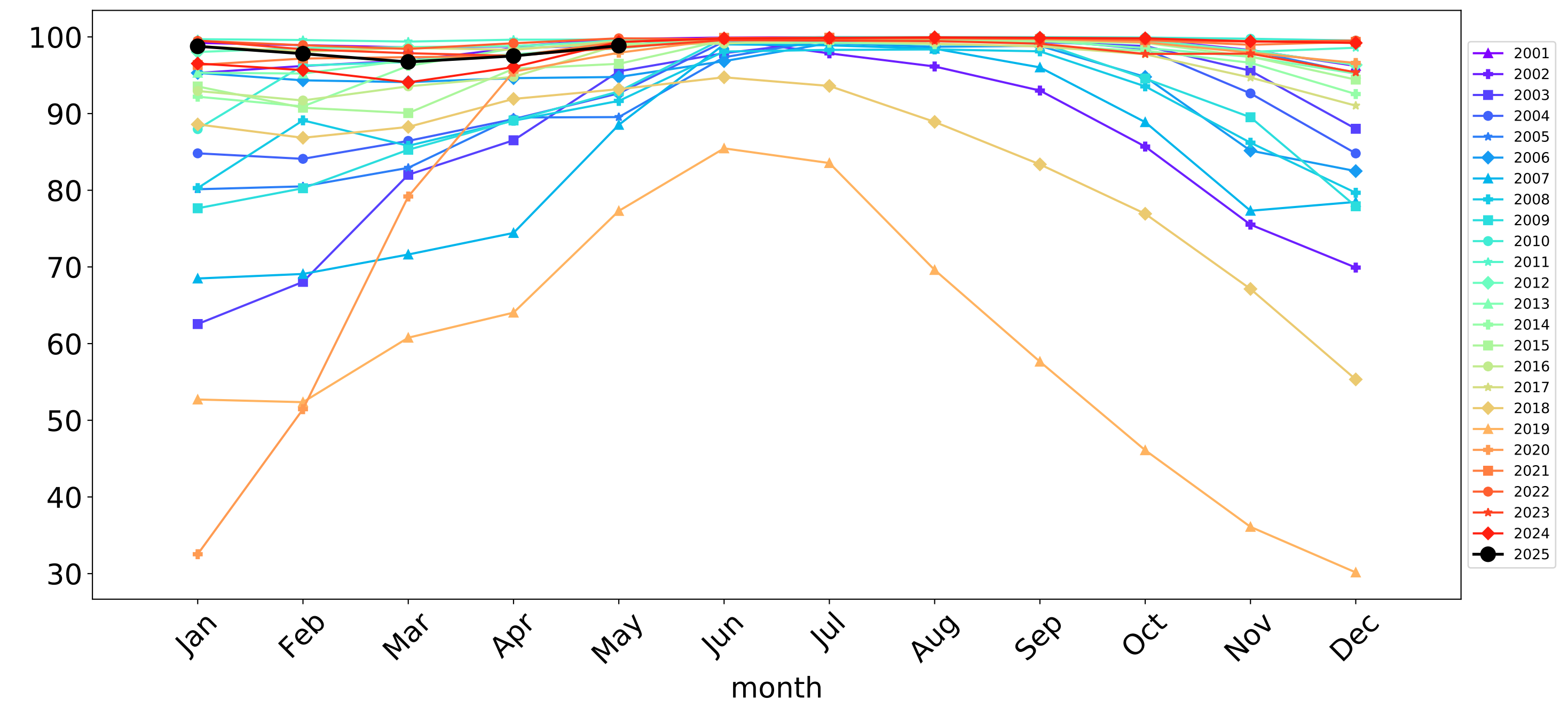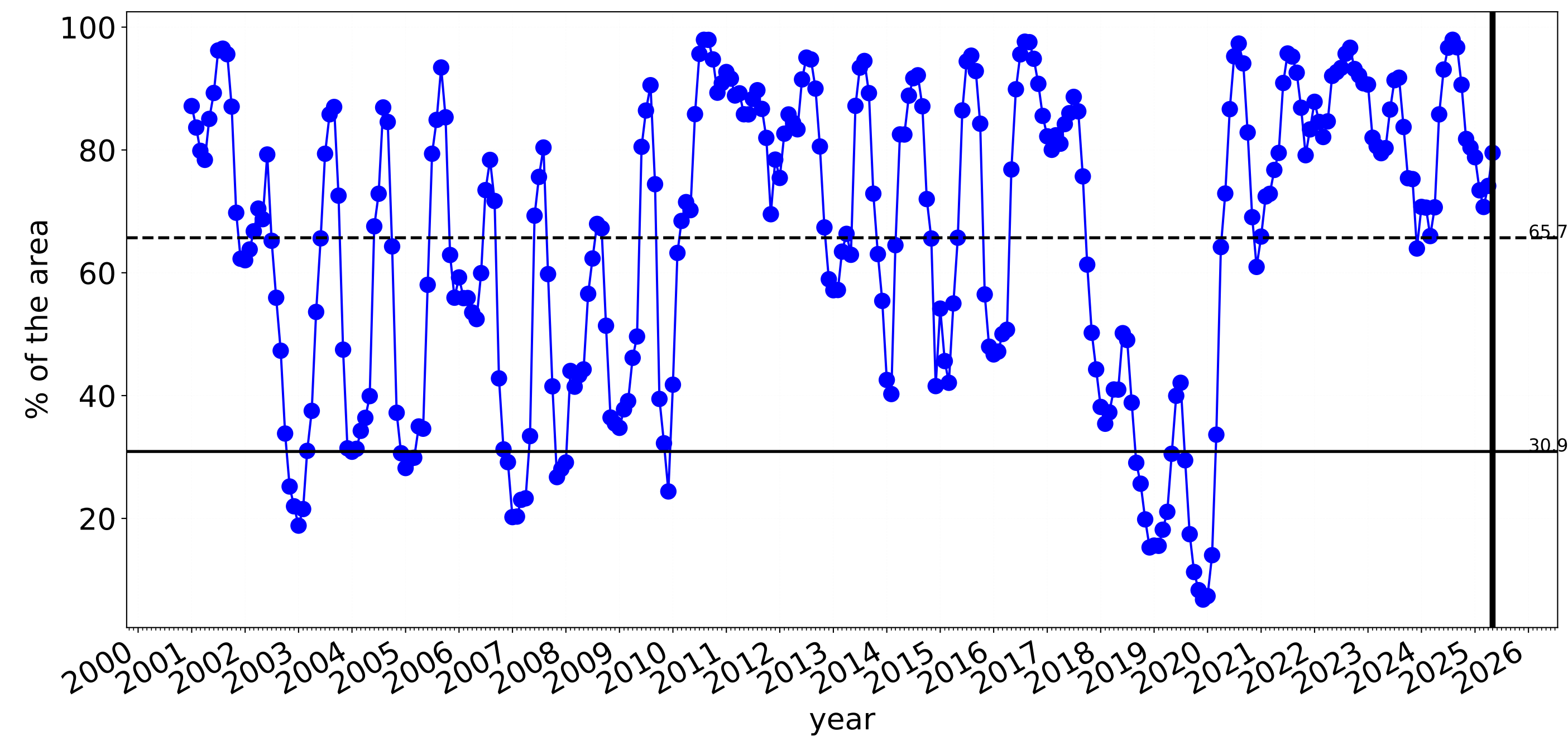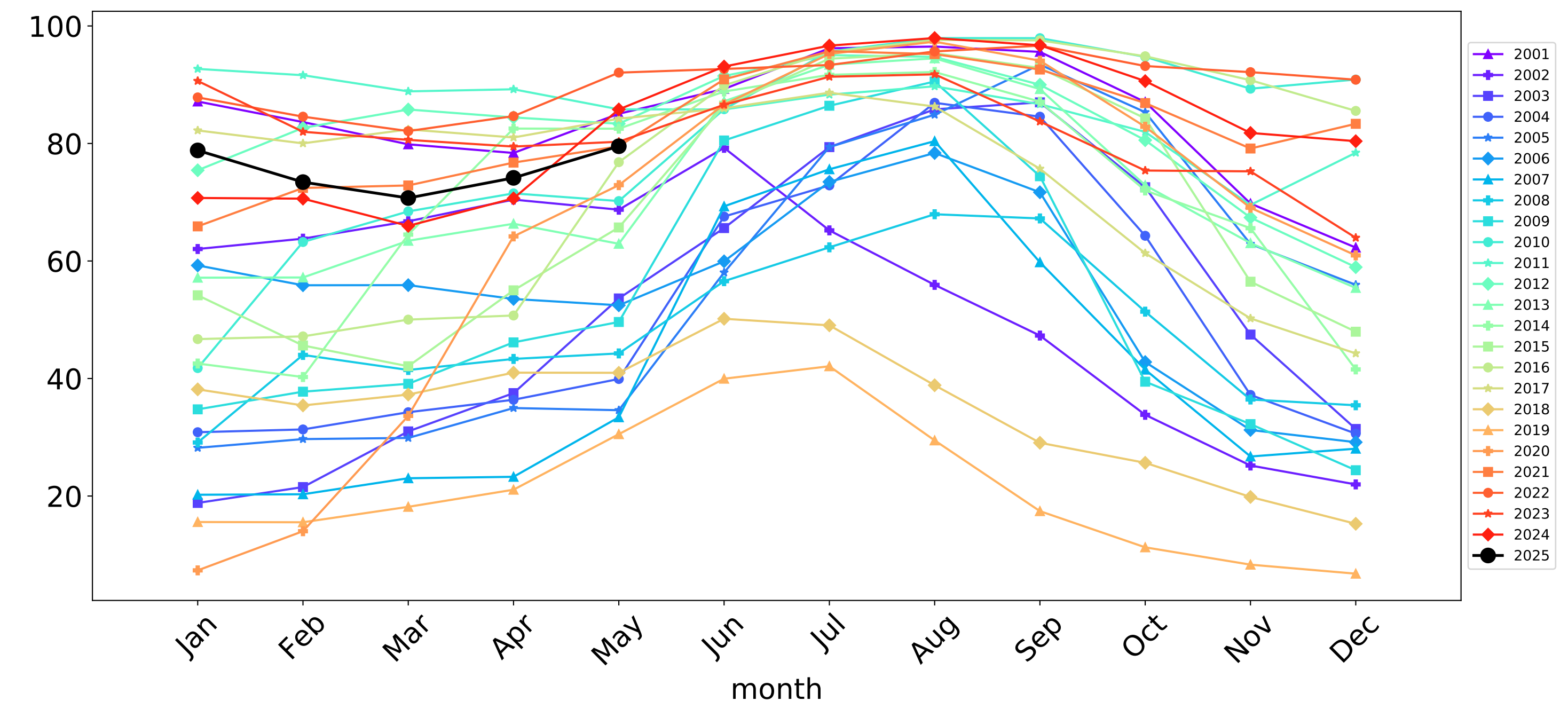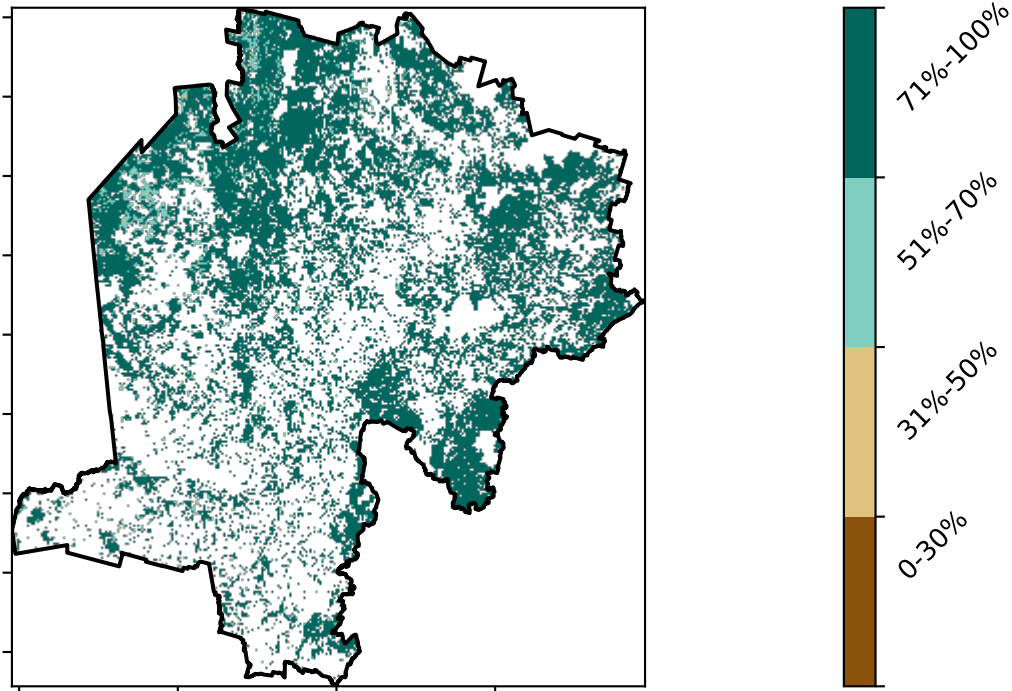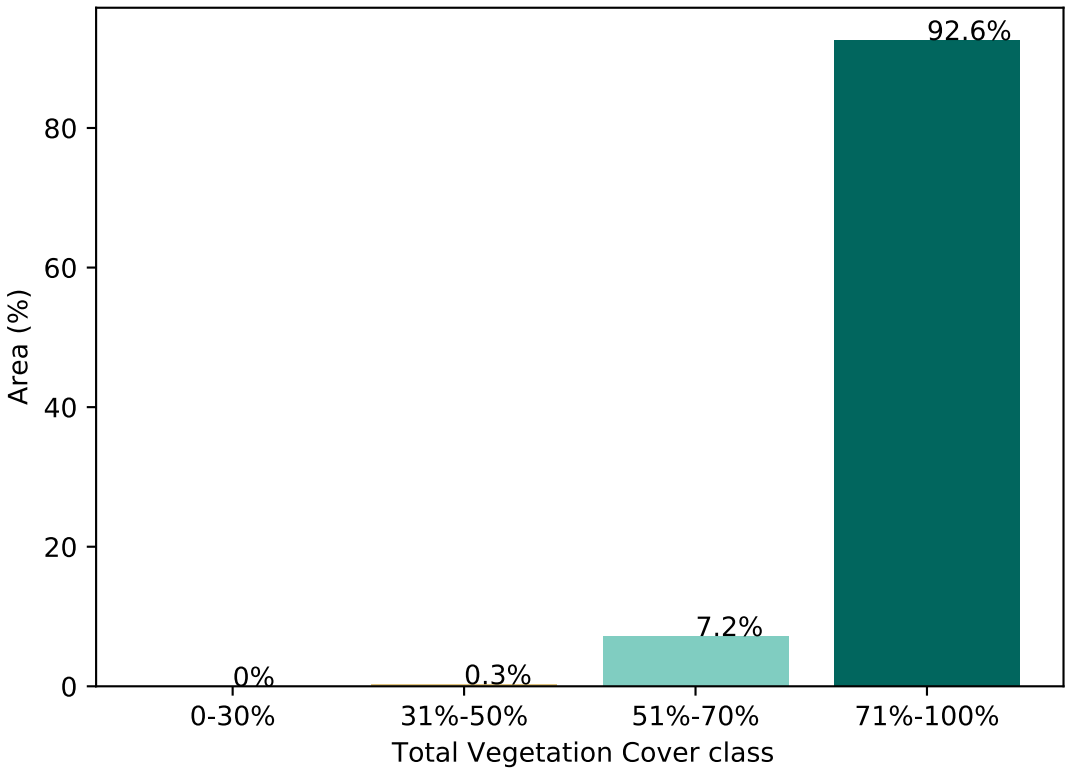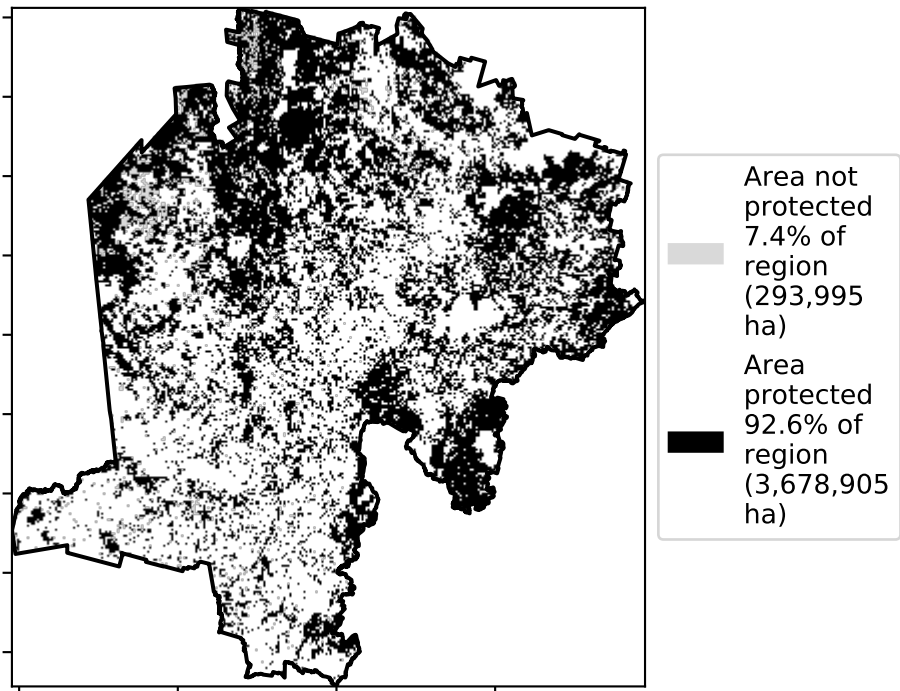
Agriculture timeseries

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
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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
7.4% of
region
(293,995
ha)

Area
protected
92.6% of
region
(3,678,905
ha)

% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)

Area not
protected
0.0% of
region (0
ha)

Area
protected
100.0% of
region
(3,972,900
ha)

Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

Anomaly show how
many percetage
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
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That is, red pixels are
in the lowest 10% of
records for that month of
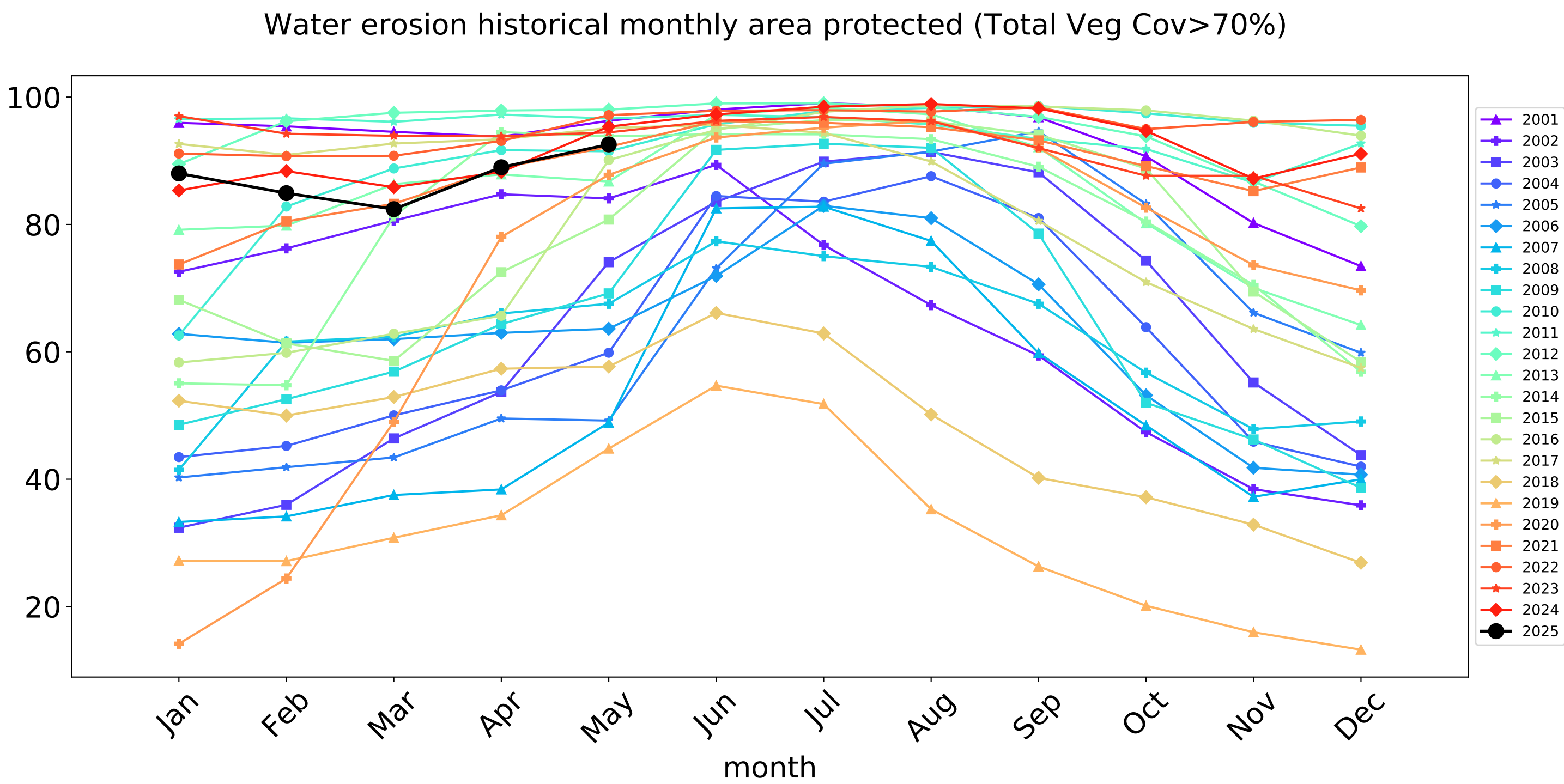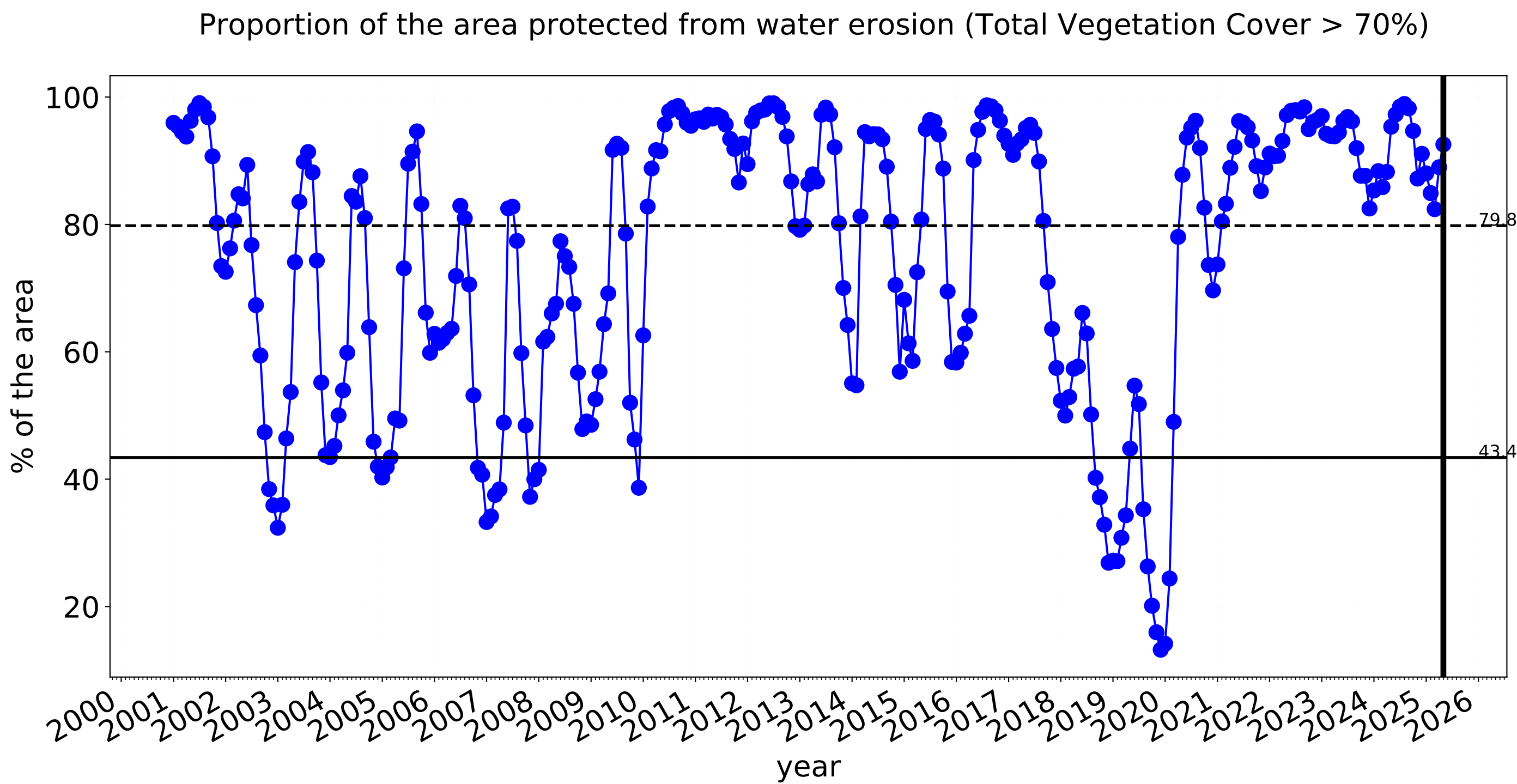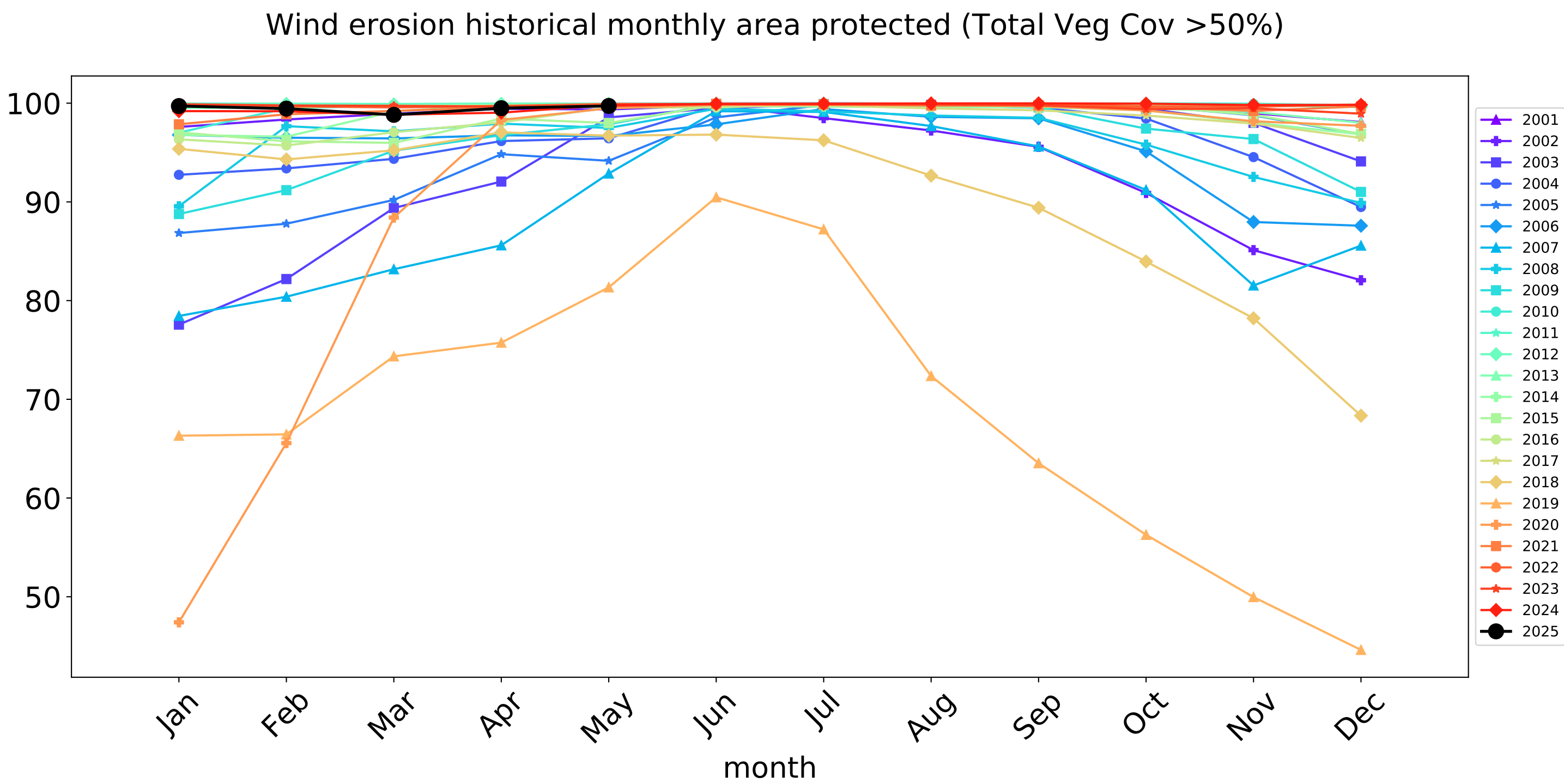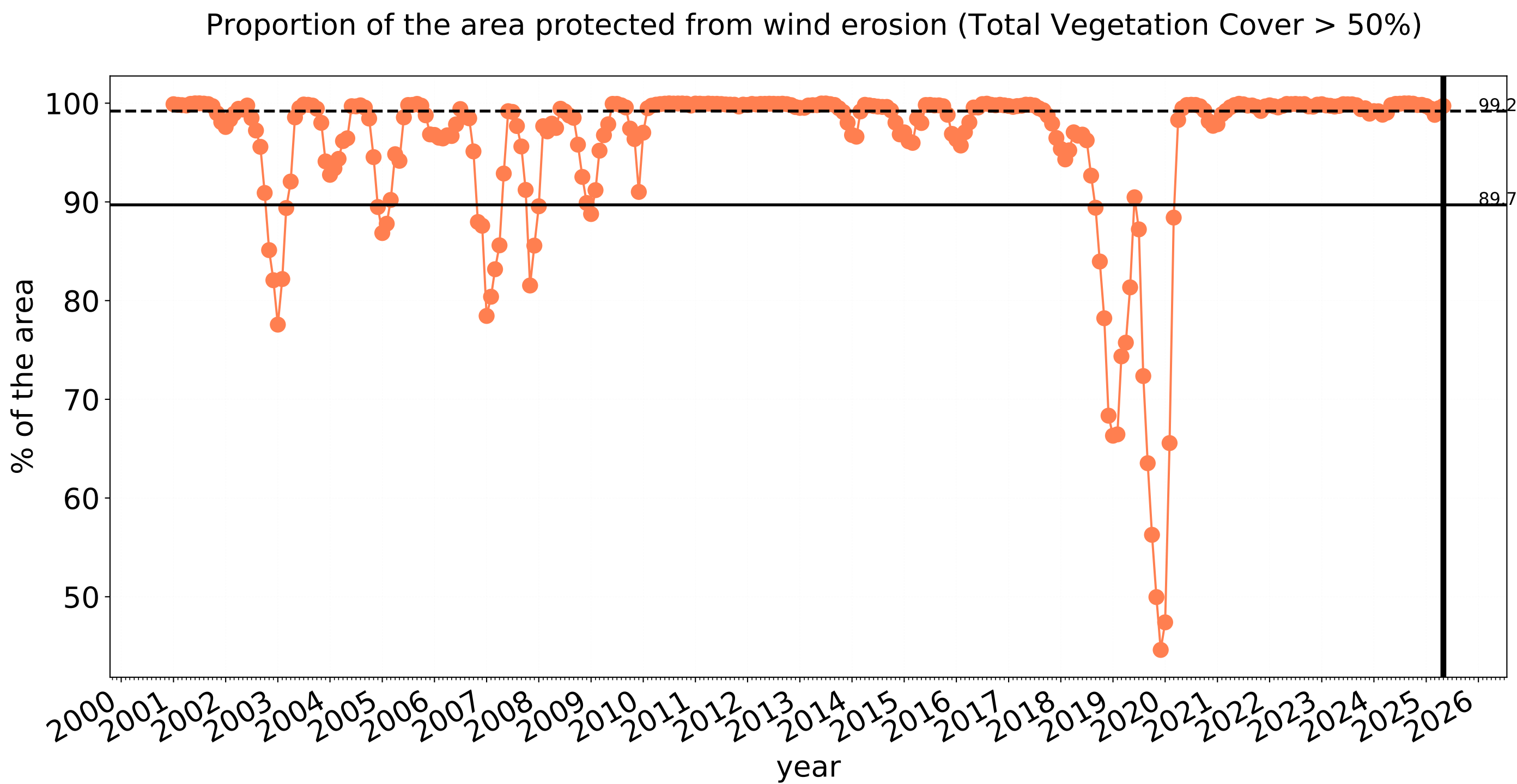the map using baseline
from 2001 to 2019.

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%)

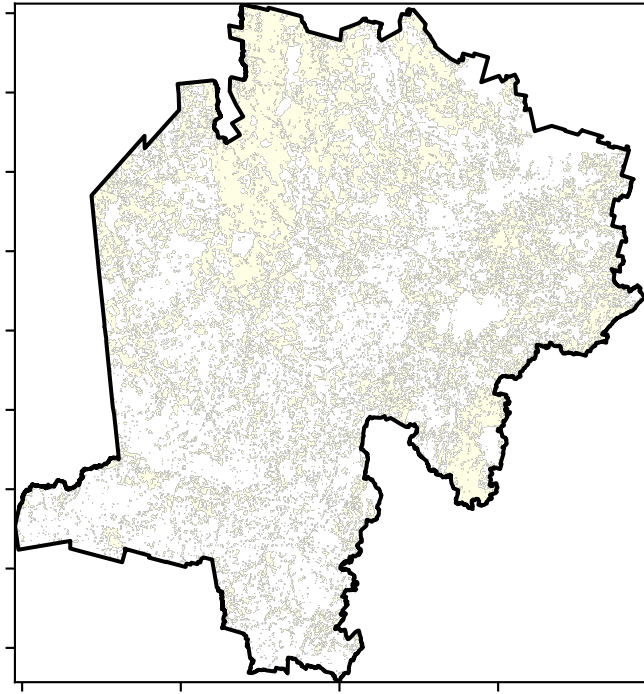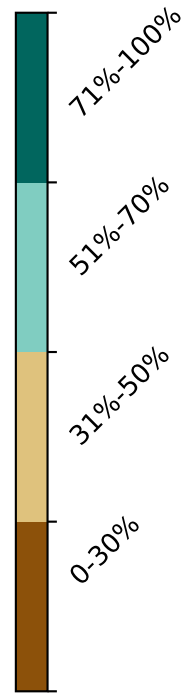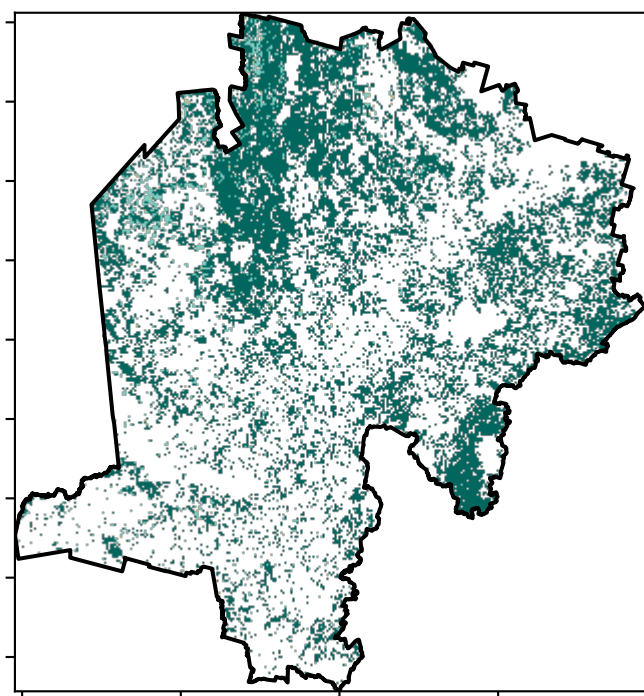Water erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov>70%)

13

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 [%]

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

Proportion of vegetation cover class in area

Area (%)

0-30%: 0.0%
31%-50%: 0.3%
51%-70%: 8.1%
71%-100%: 91.6%

Total Vegetation Cover class
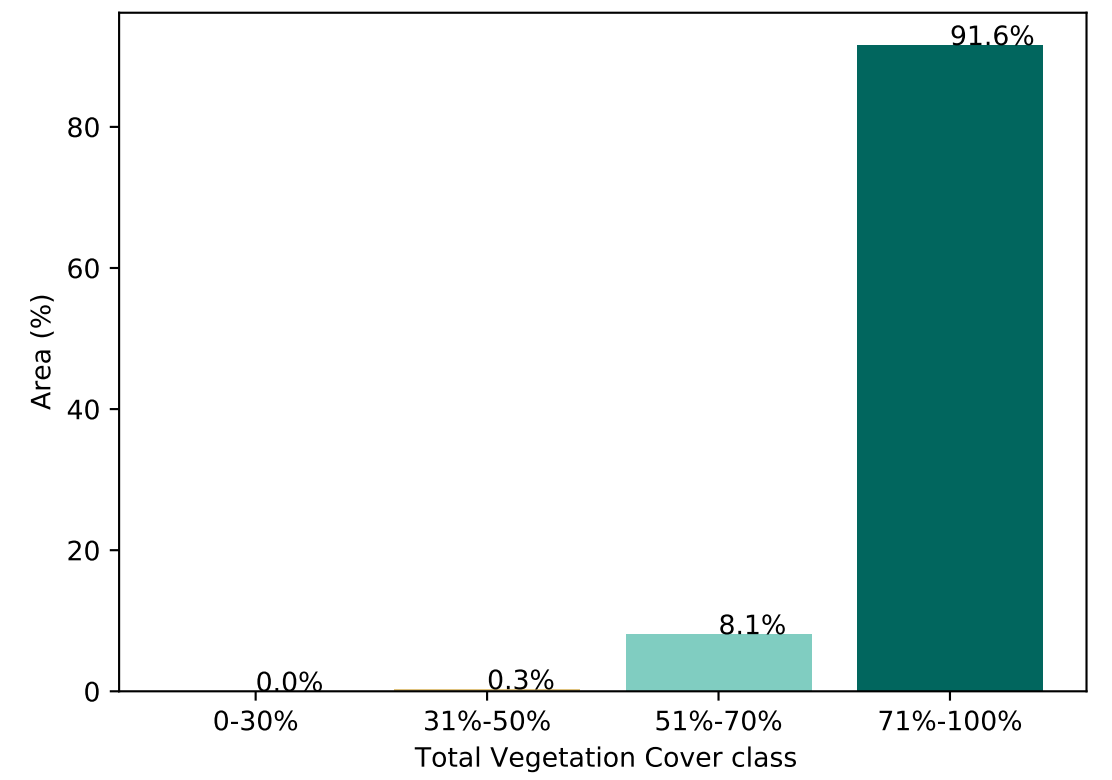
% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)
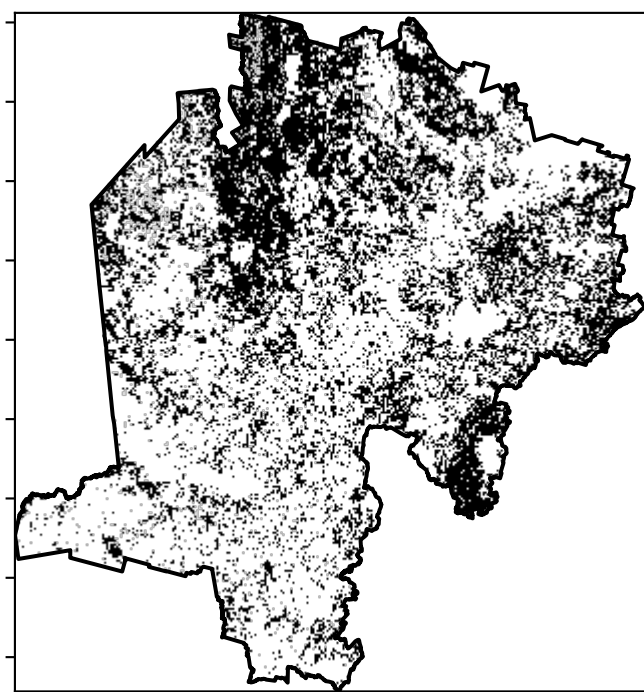
Area not protected 8.4% of region (274,067 ha)

Area protected 91.6% of region (2,988,633 ha)

% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)
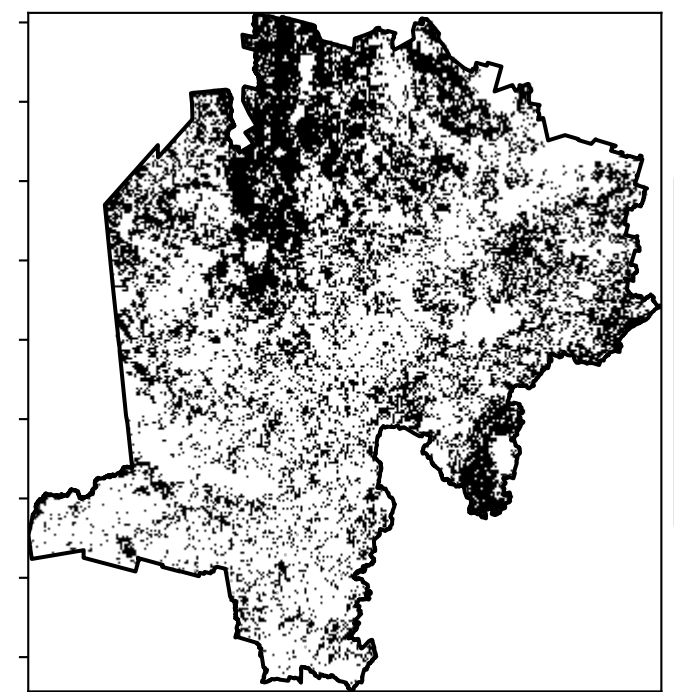
Area not protected 0.0% of region (0 ha)

Area protected 100.0% of region (3,262,700 ha)

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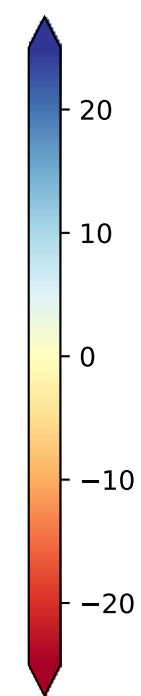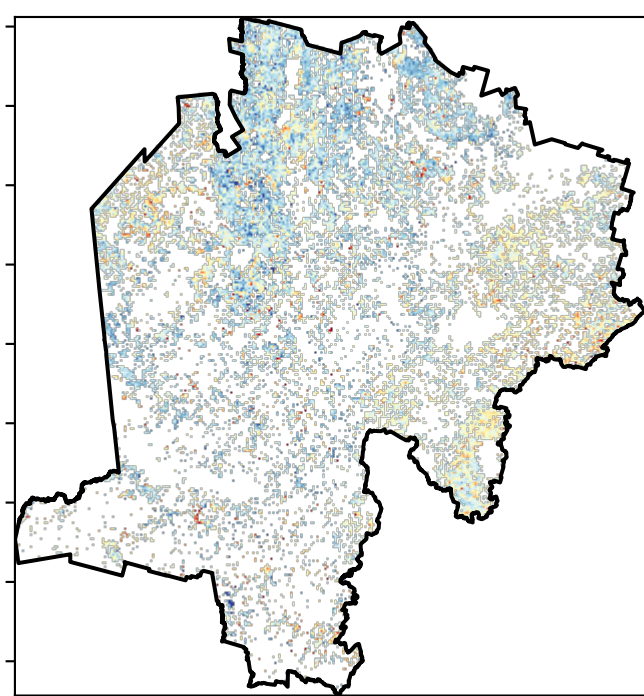
Anomaly show how many percetage points each pixel is from the mean. That is, red pixels are about 20% lower than the mean of that pixel. The mean is only for the month of the map using baseline from 2001 to 2019.

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.

10
8-9
4-7
2-3
1

CSIRO
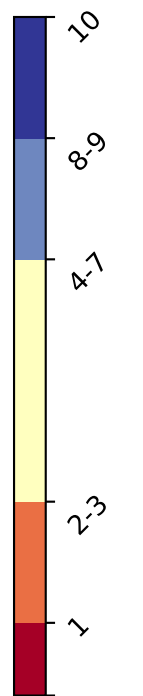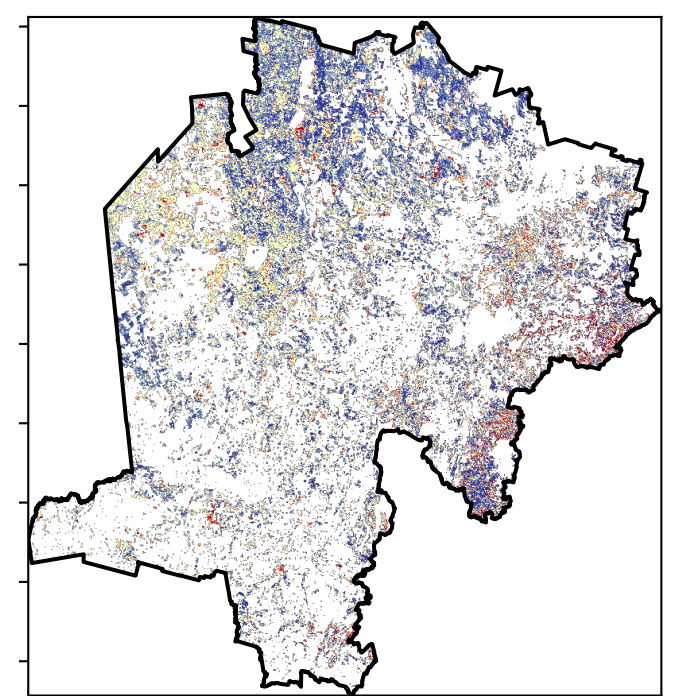
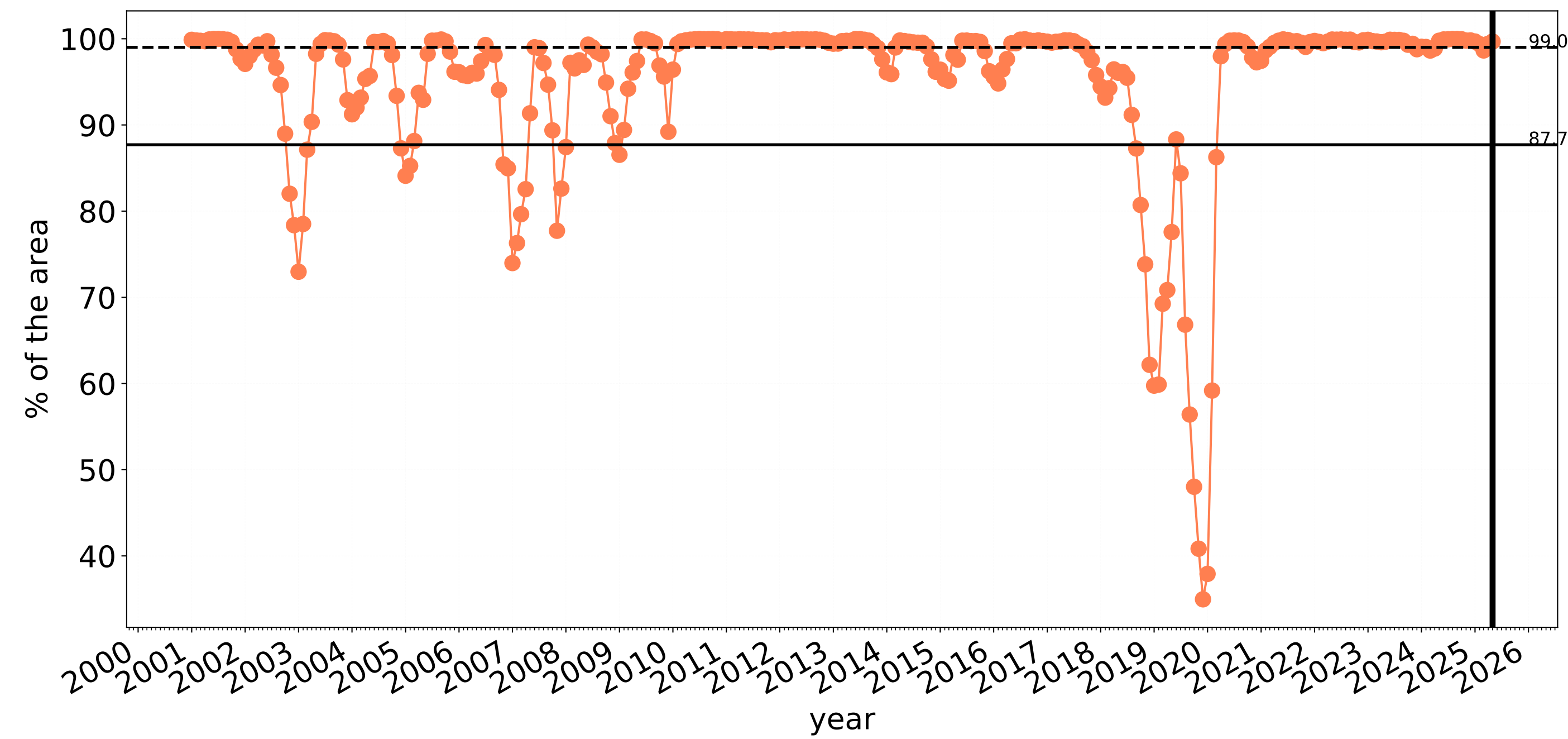tern
Ecosystem Research Infrastructure

Australian Government
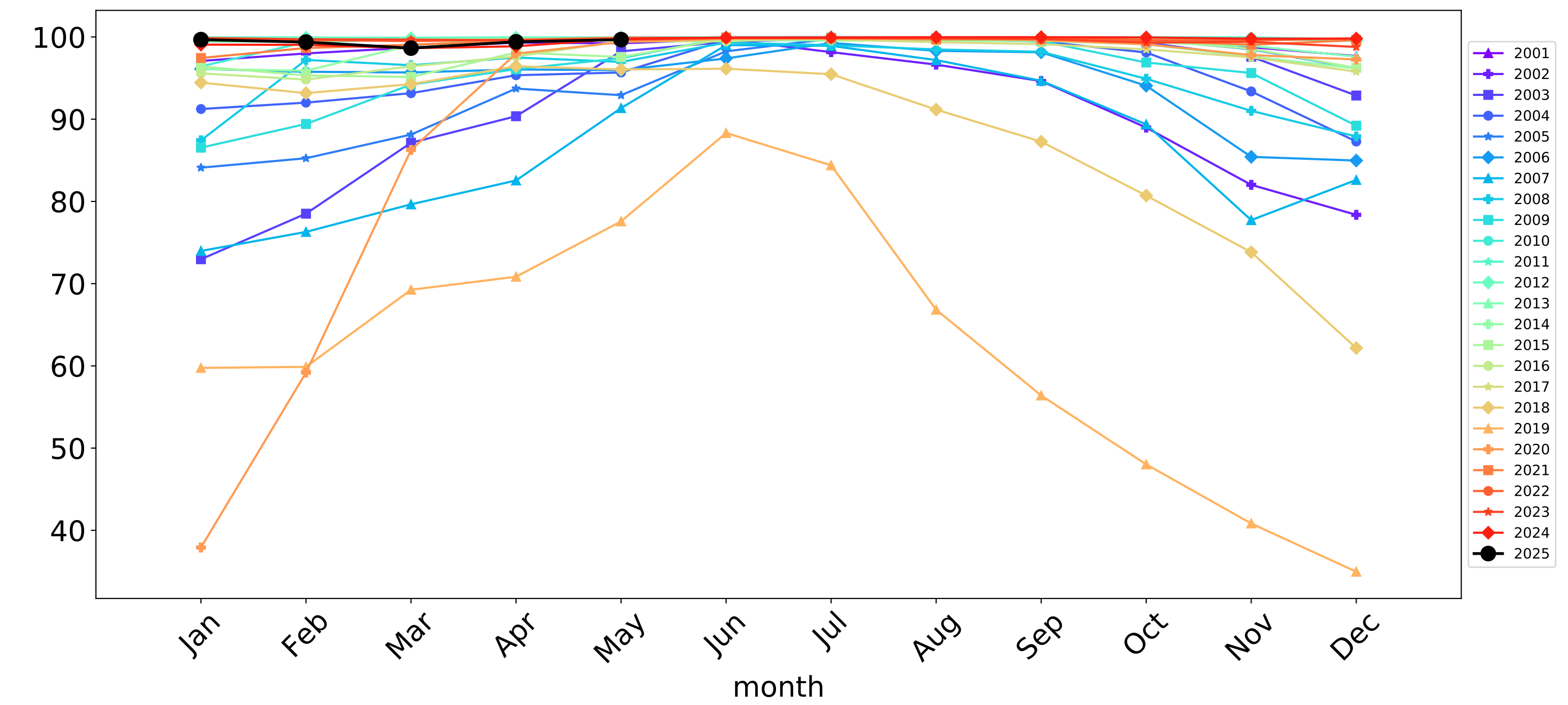
National Landcare Programme
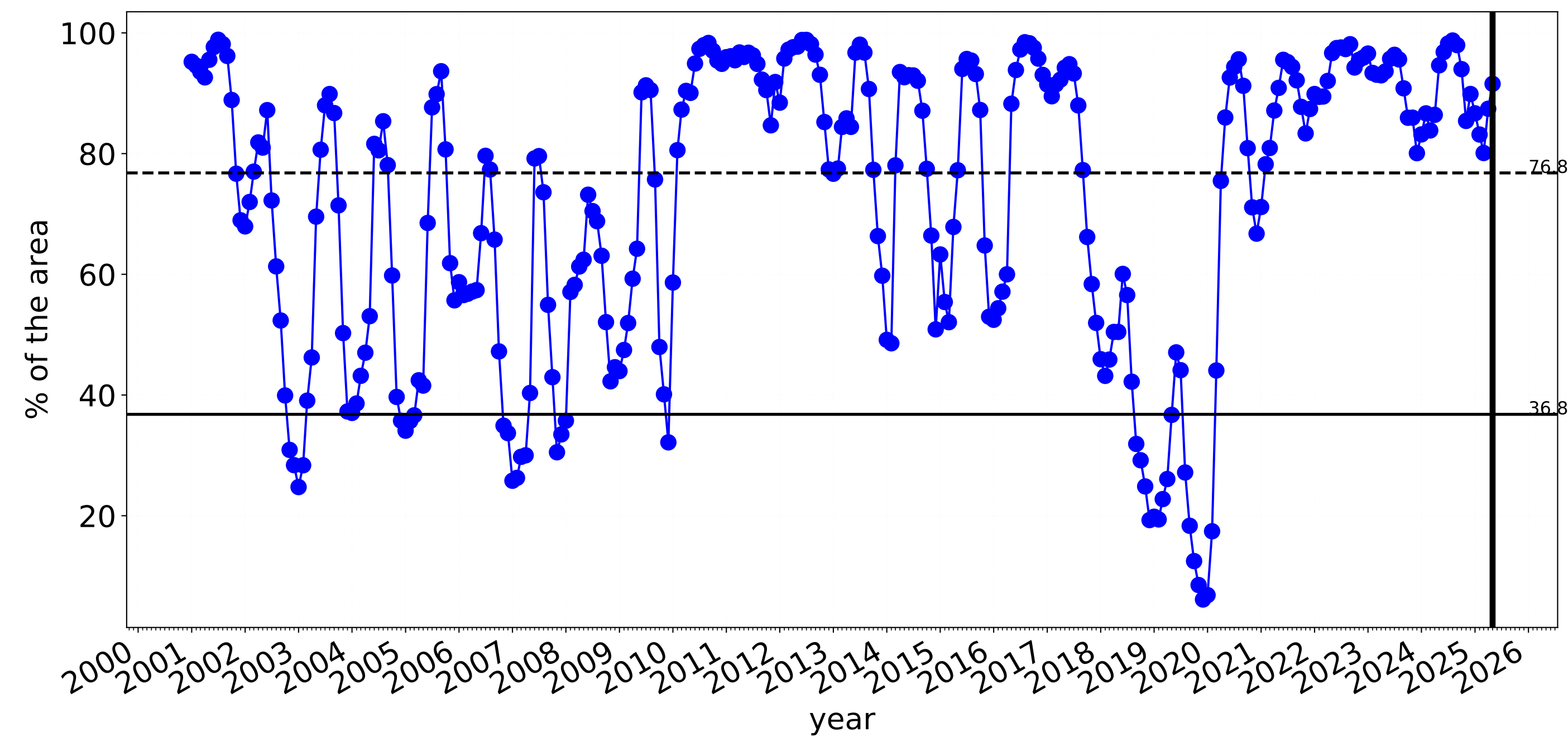
NSW GOVERNMENT

Grazing non forest timeseries

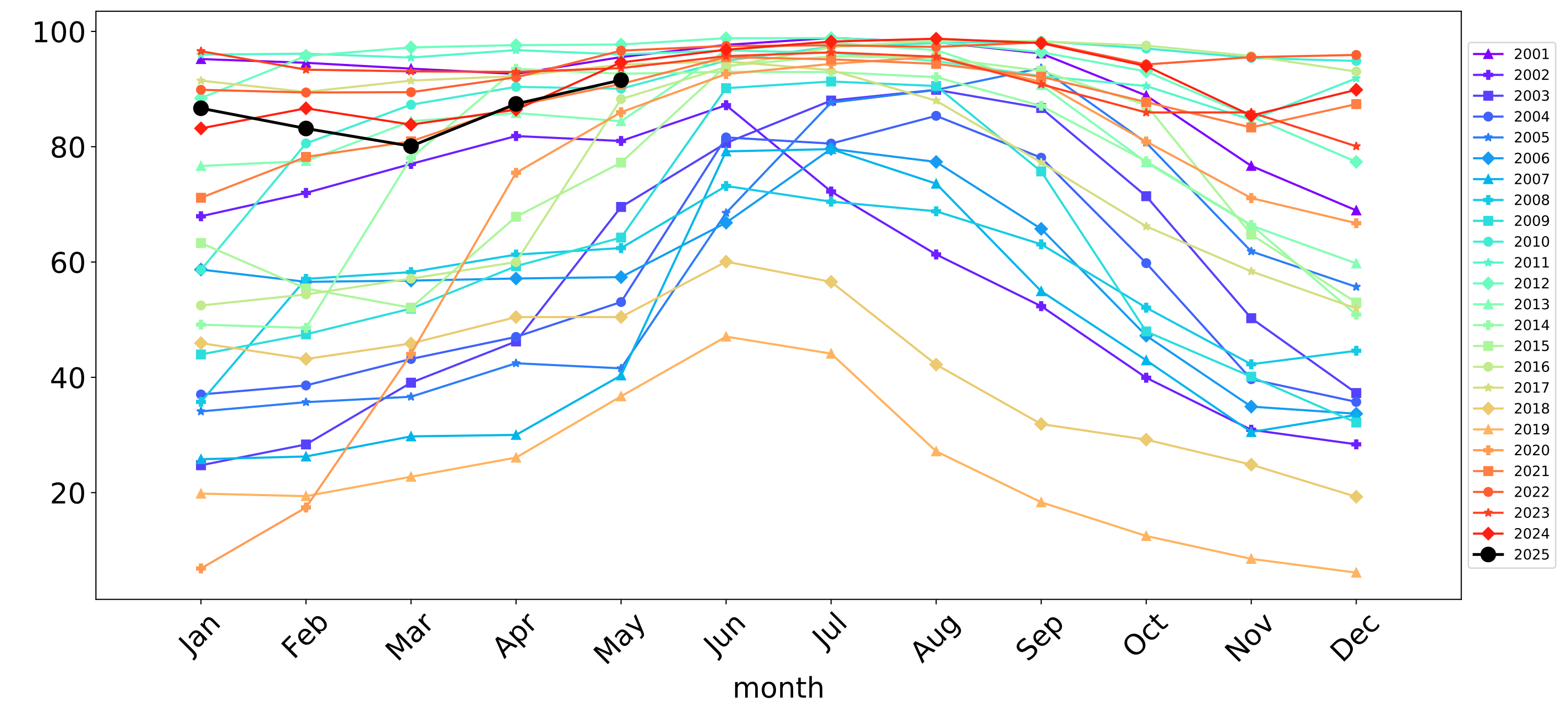Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)

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

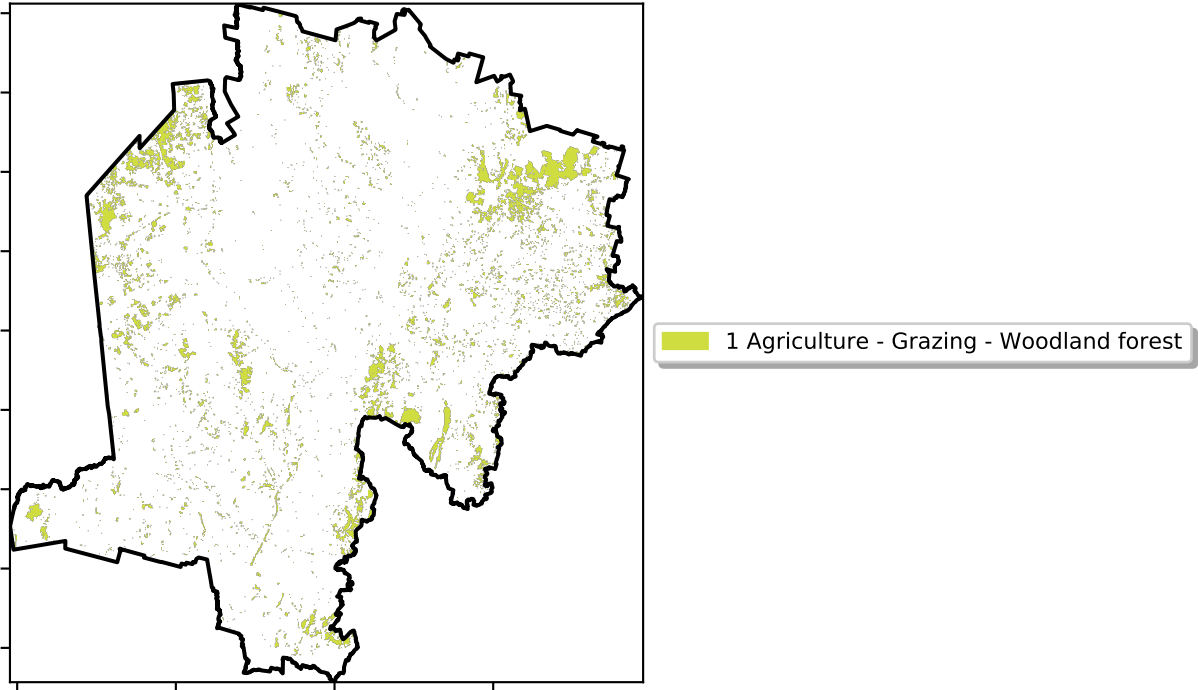Proportion of the area protected from water erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 70%)

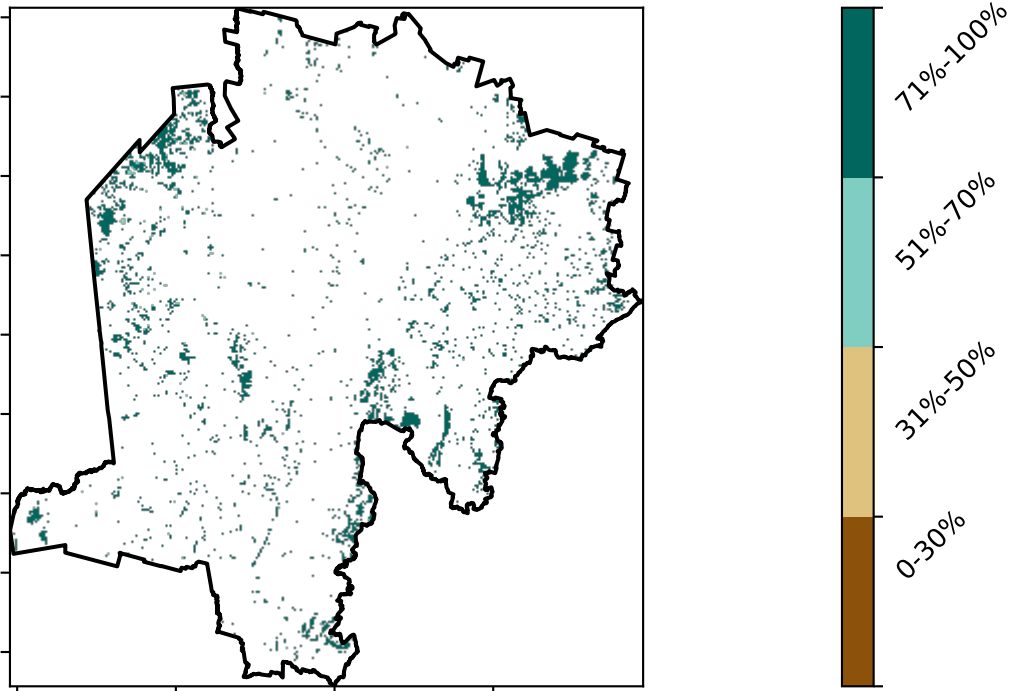Water erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov>70%)

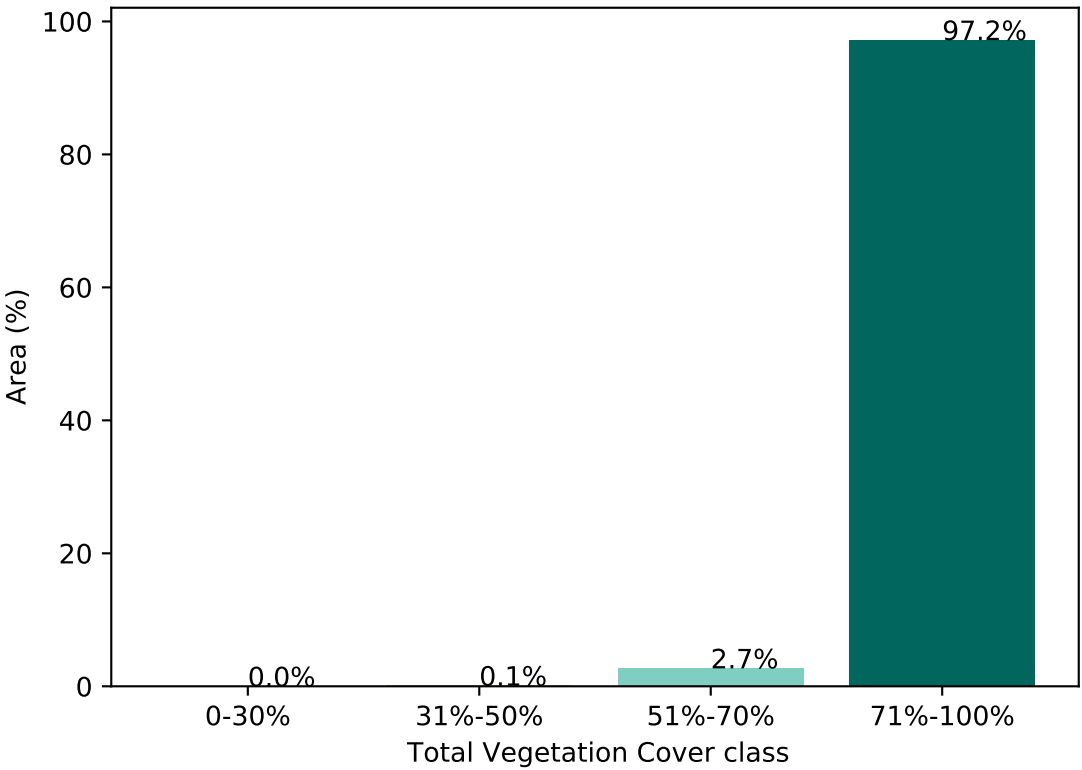# Grazing Woodland forest

Land use and forest cover

1 Agriculture - Grazing - Woodland forest

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 2.8% of region (18,023 ha)

Area protected 97.2% of region (625,652 ha)

% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)

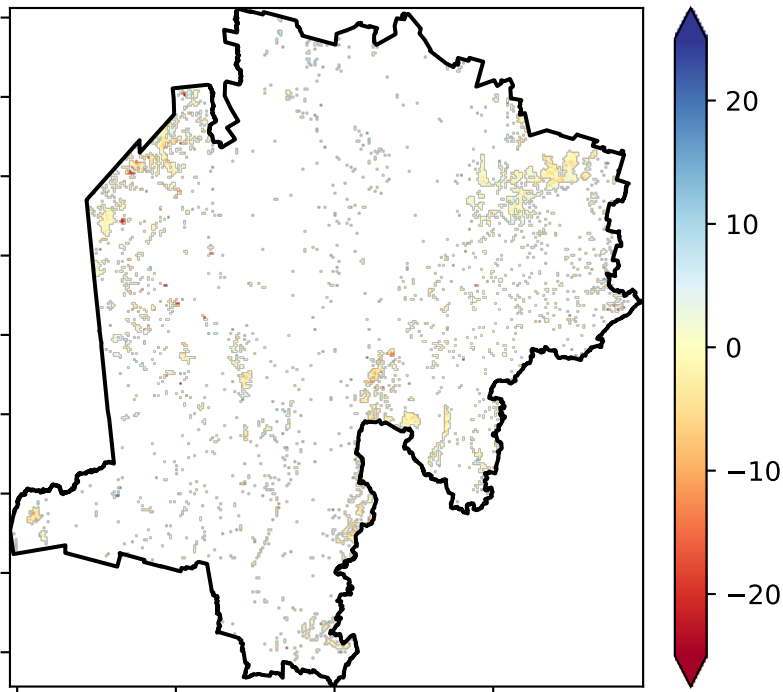Area not protected 0.0% of region (0 ha)
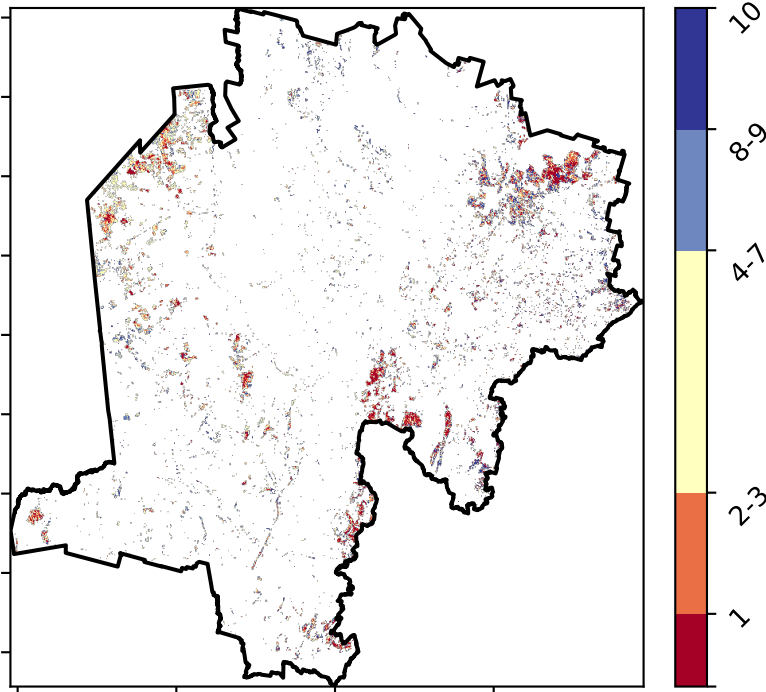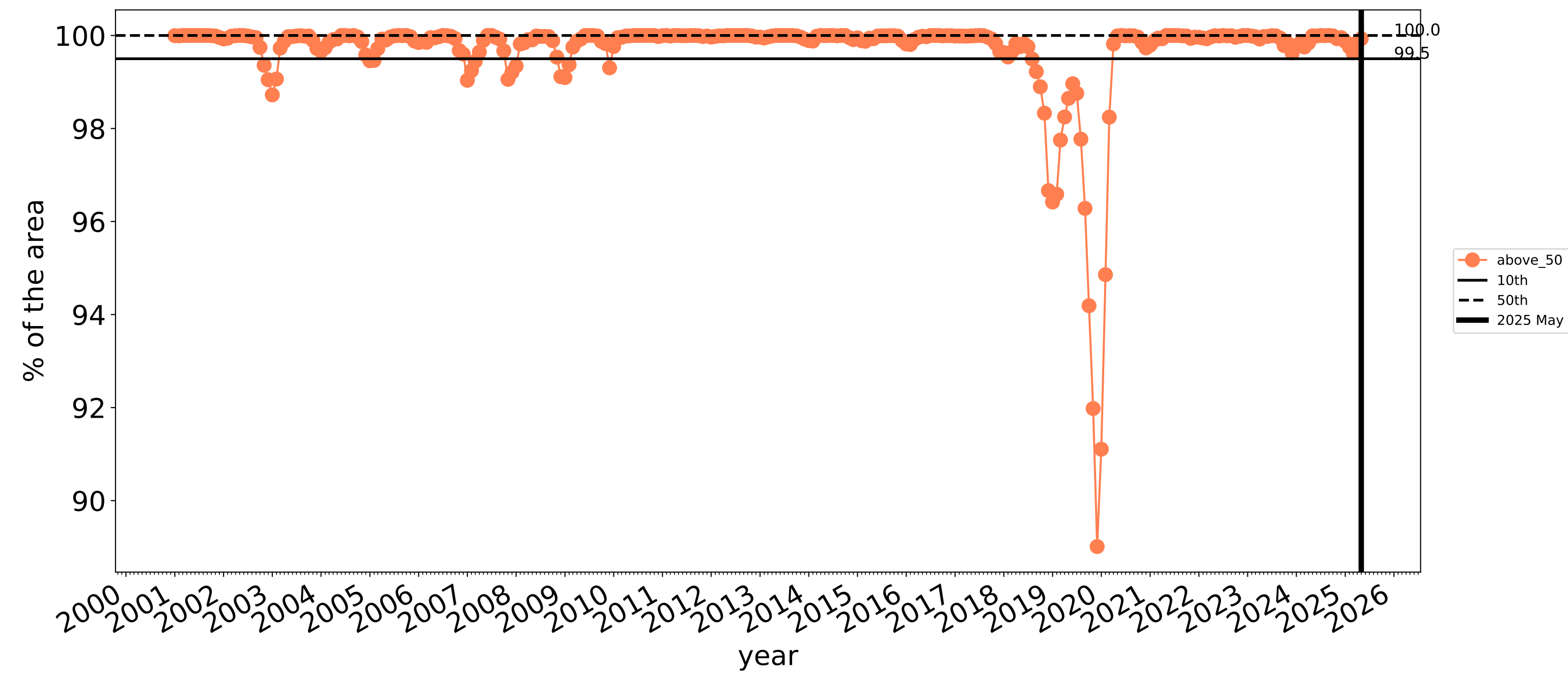
Area protected 100.0% of region (643,675 ha)

Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

Anomaly show how many percetage 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.
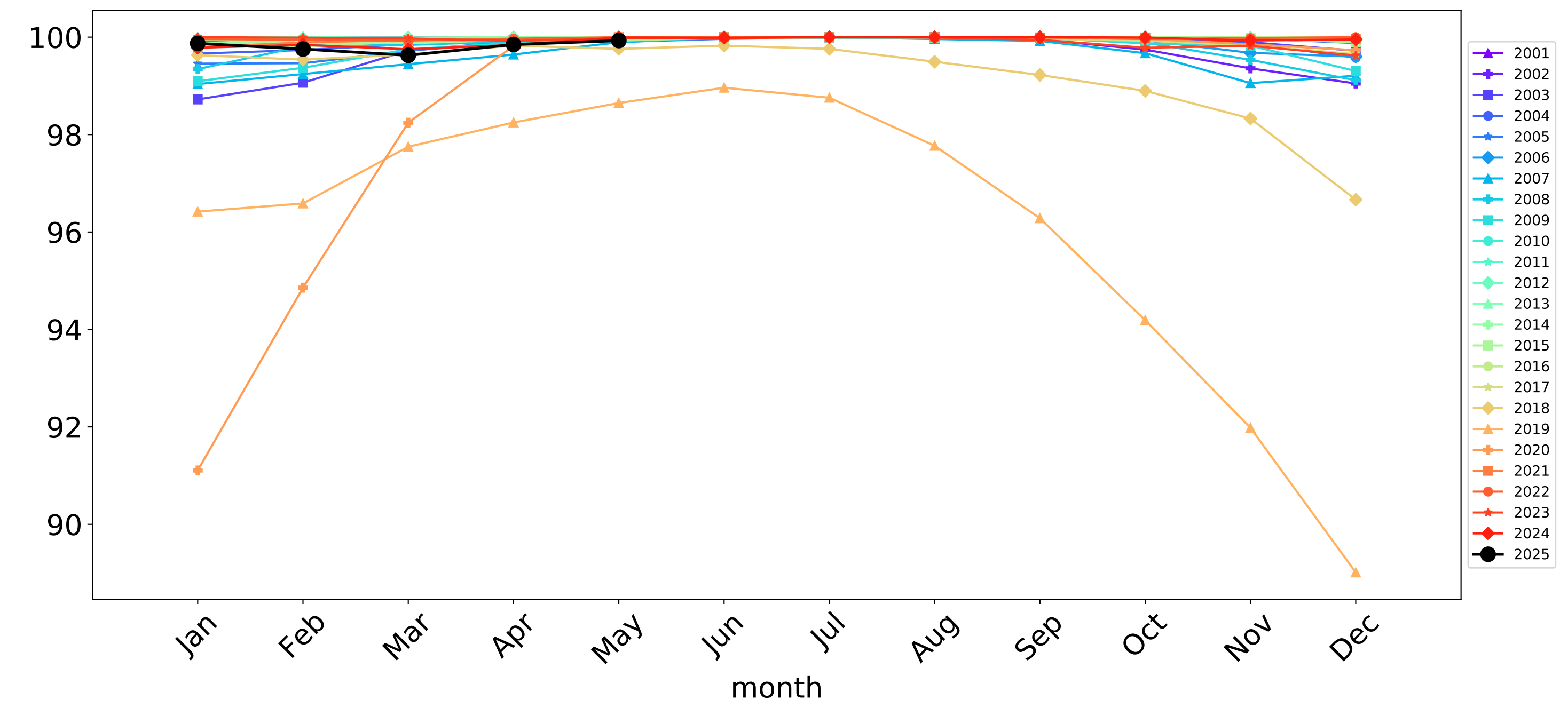

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8-9
4-7
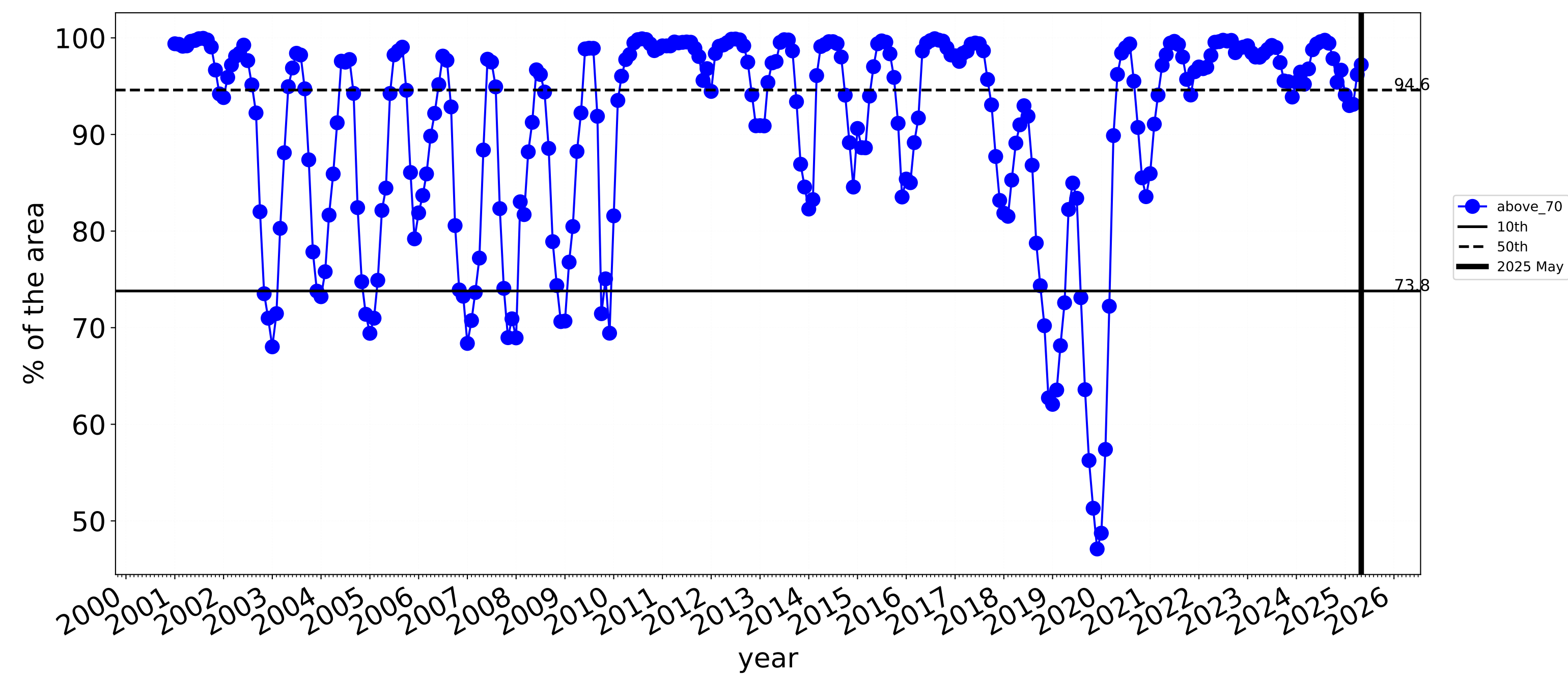2-3
1

Grazing Woodland forest timeseries

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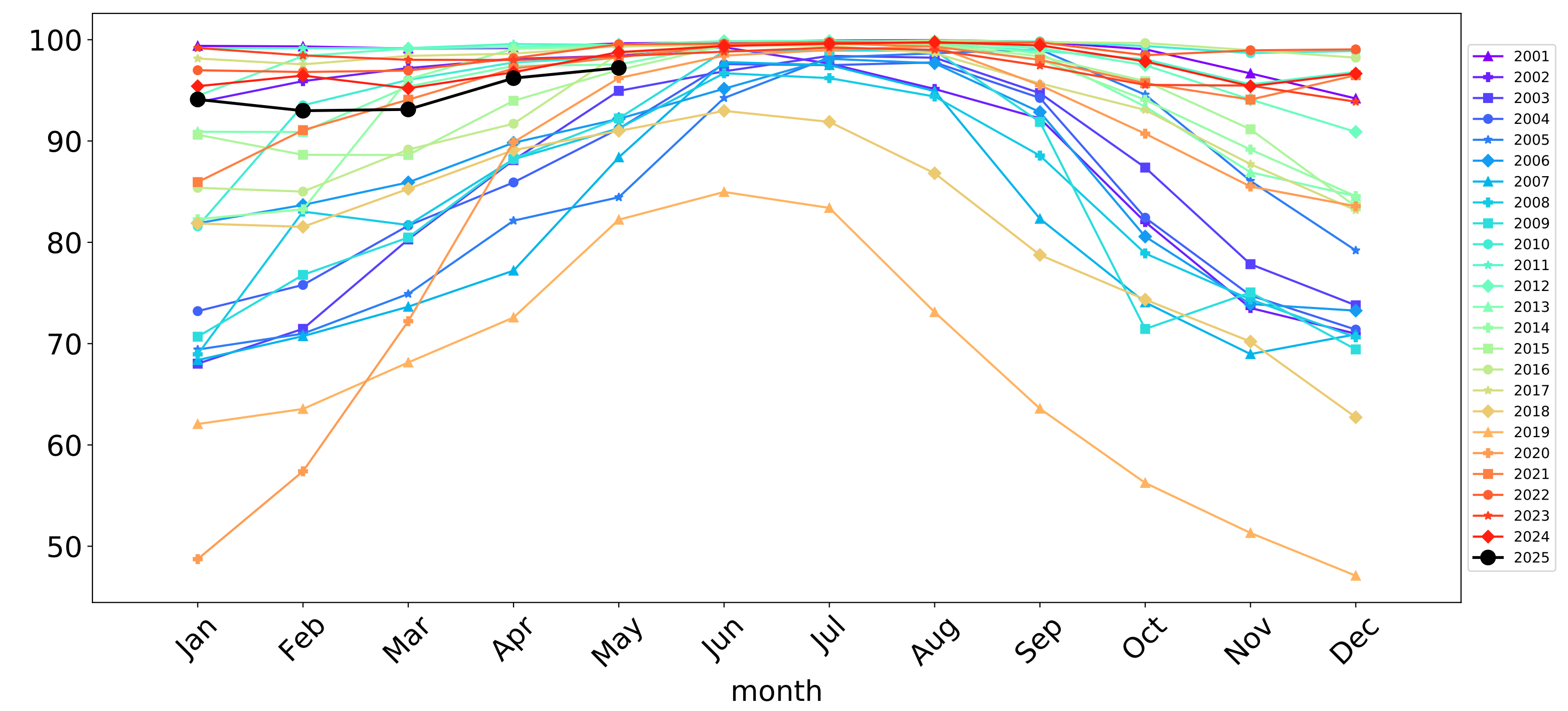

Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)

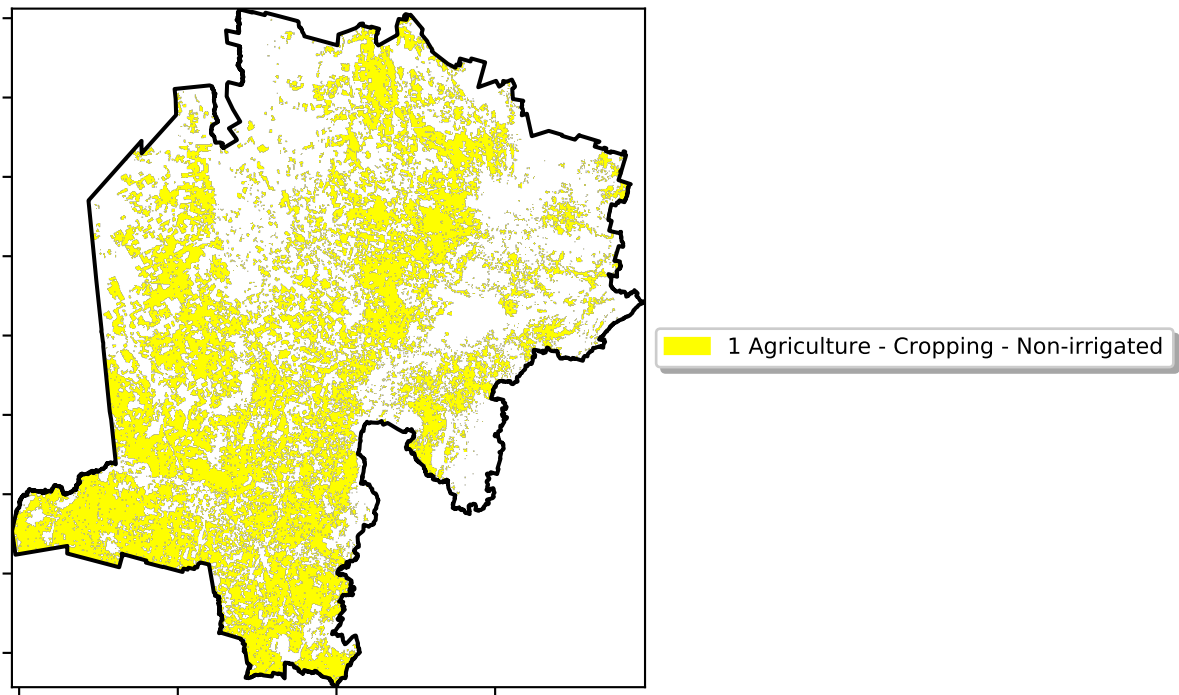Proportion of the area protected from water erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 70%)

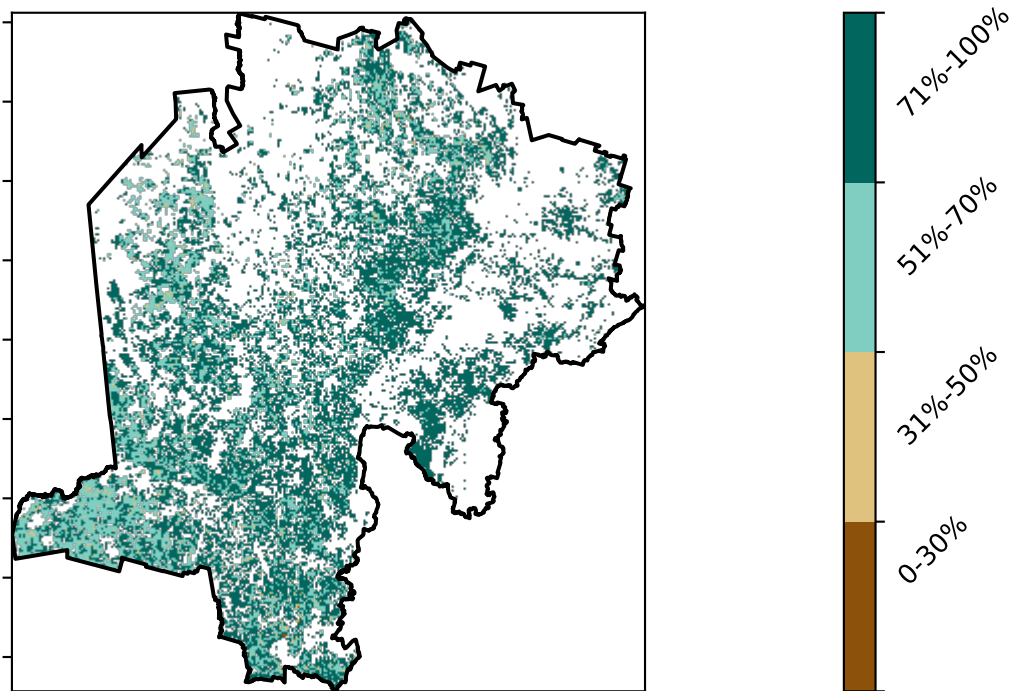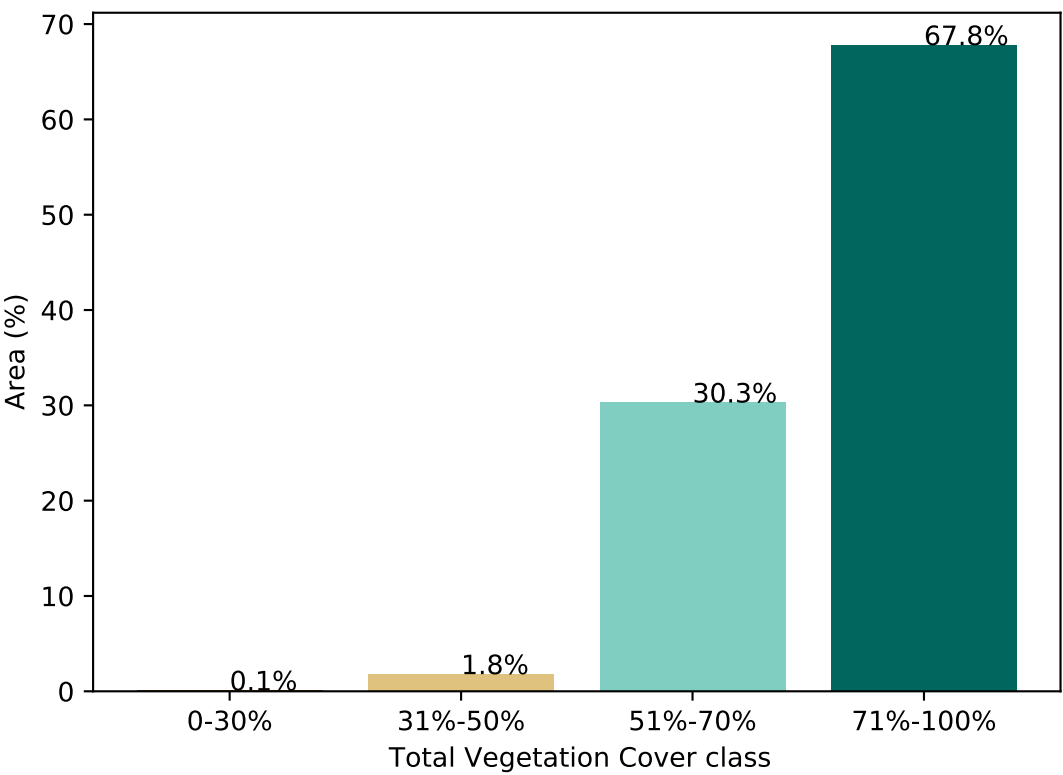Water erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov>70%)
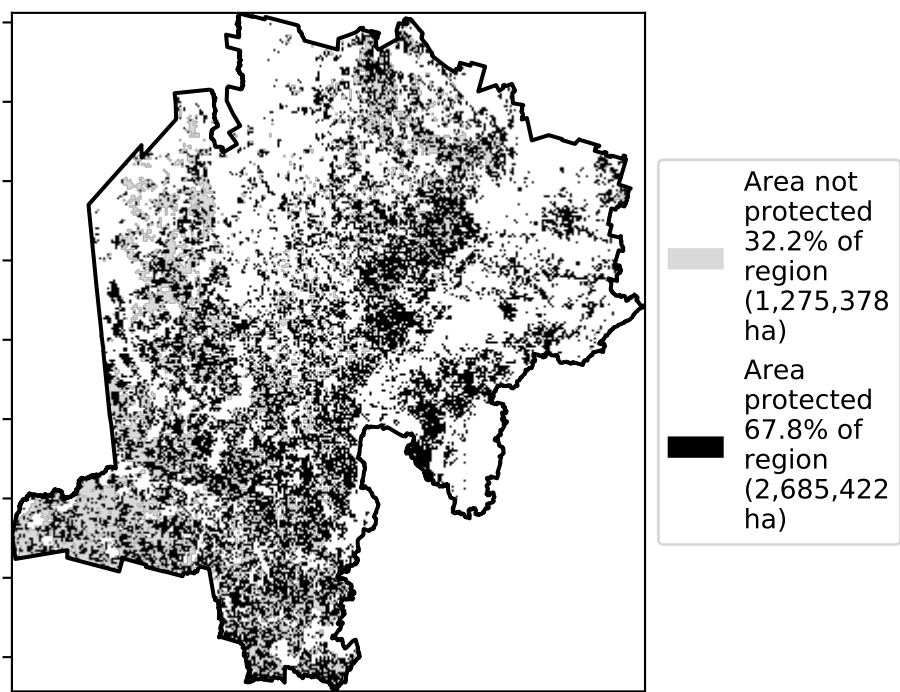
Cropping

Land use and forest cover

Catchment Scale Land Use and Forests 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 [%]

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

Proportion of vegetation cover class in area

% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)

Area not protected 32.2% of region (1,275,378 ha)

Area protected 67.8% of region (2,685,422 ha)

% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)

Area not protected 2.0% of region (79,216 ha)
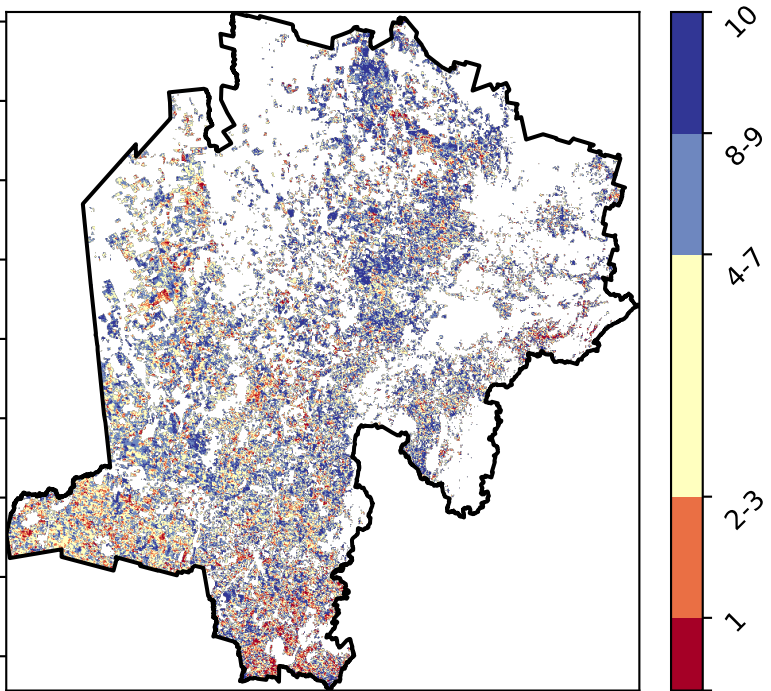
Area protected 98.0% of region (3,881,584 ha)

Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

Anomaly show how many percetage 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.

10
8-9
4-7
2-3
1

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%)

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)

Legend:
- 1 Agriculture - Grazing - Irrigated
- 2 Agriculture - Cropping - Irrigated
- 3 Agriculture - Horticulture - Irrigated

Proportion of each land class in area

98.1%

1.5%
0.4%

Total Vegetation Cover [%]

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

Proportion of vegetation cover class in area

0.3%
2.6%
37.0%
60.1%

% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)

Area not
protected
39.9% of
region
(111,511
ha)

Area
protected
60.1% of
region
(167,964
ha)

% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)

Area not
protected
3.0% of
region
(8,384 ha)

Area
protected
97.0% of
region
(271,091
ha)

Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

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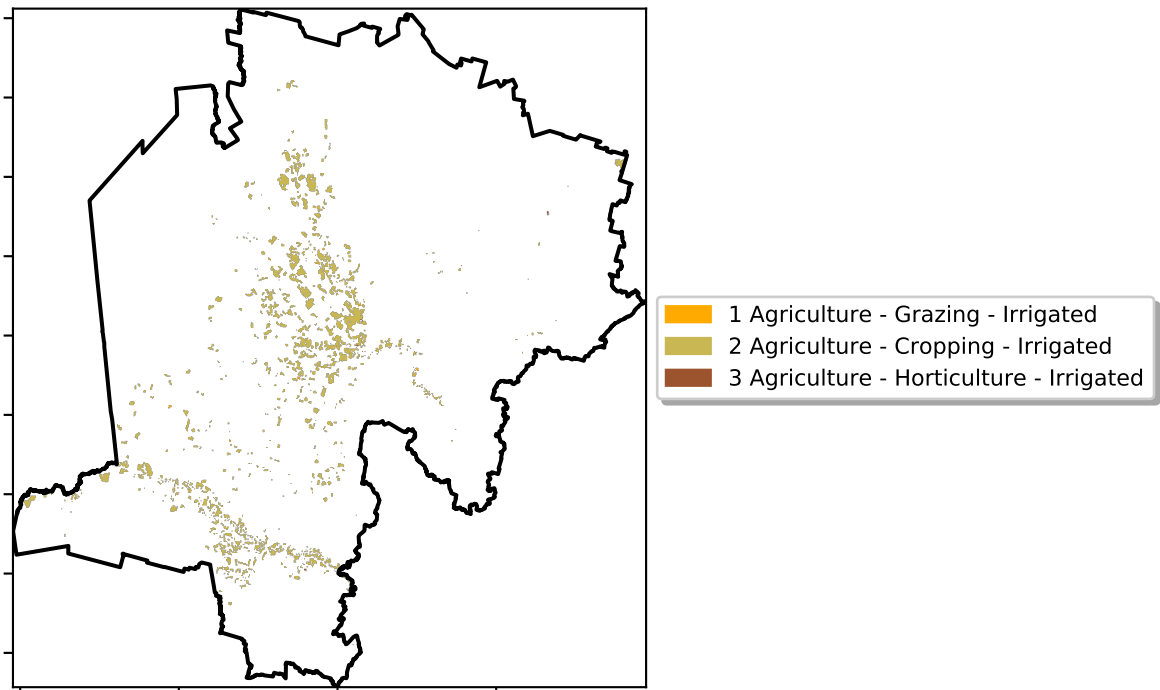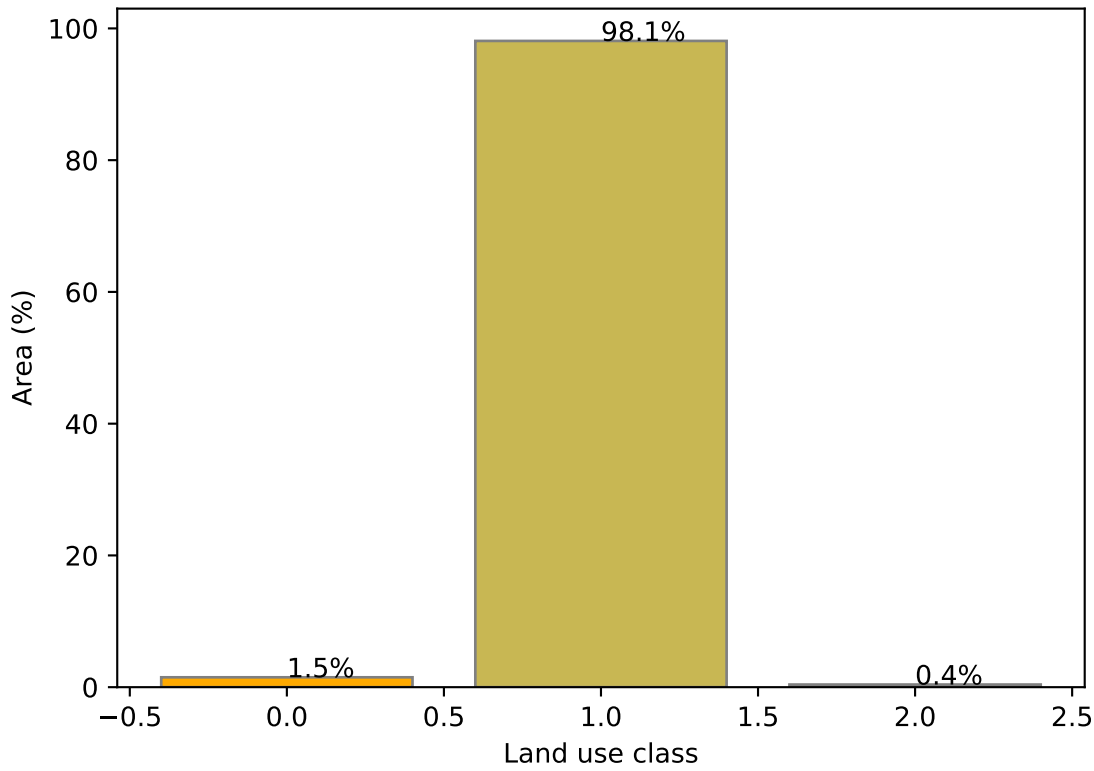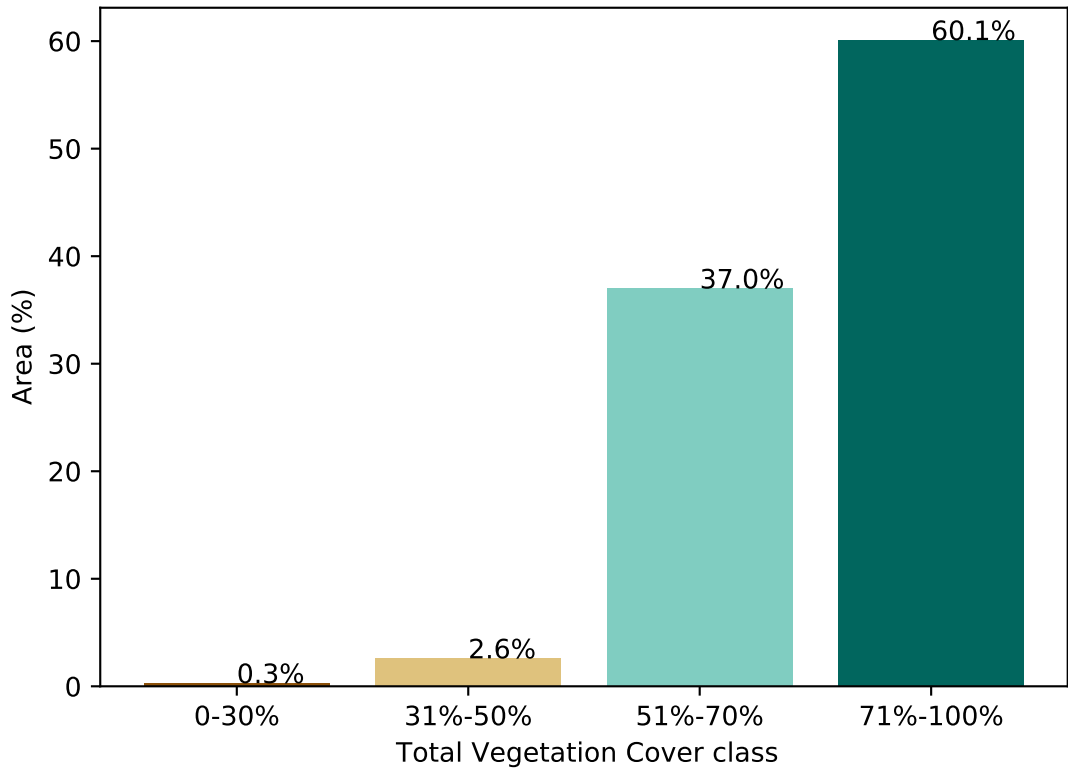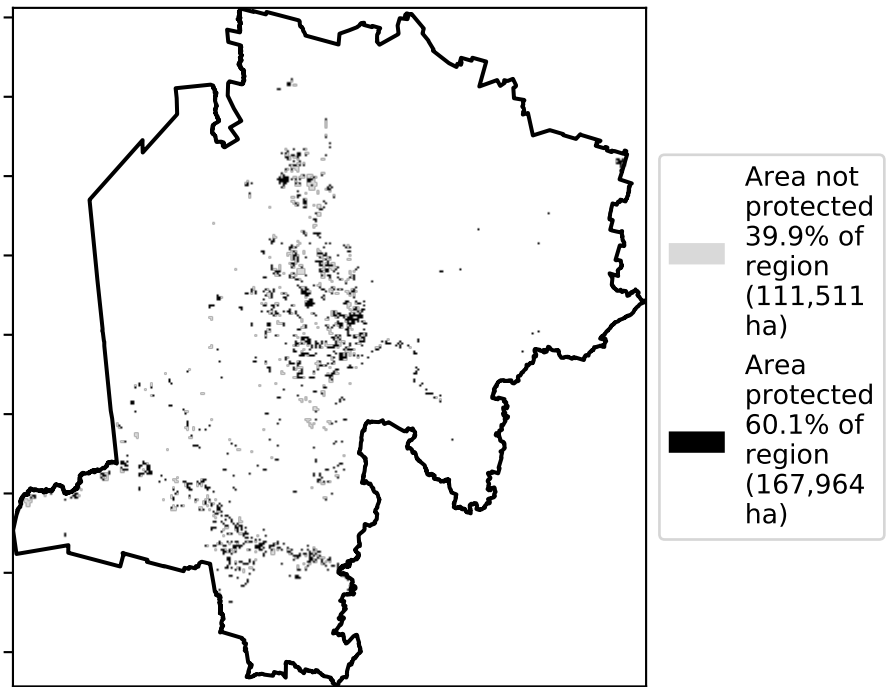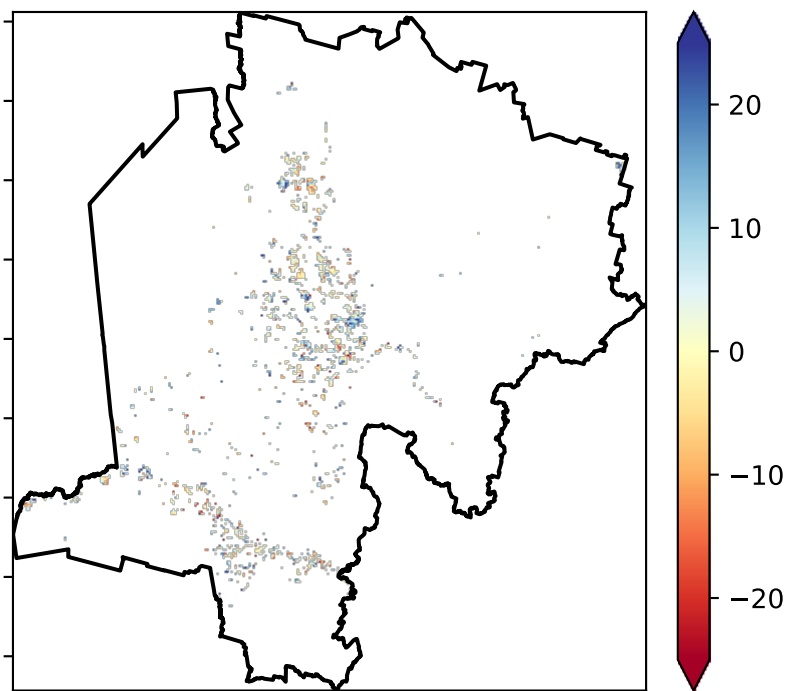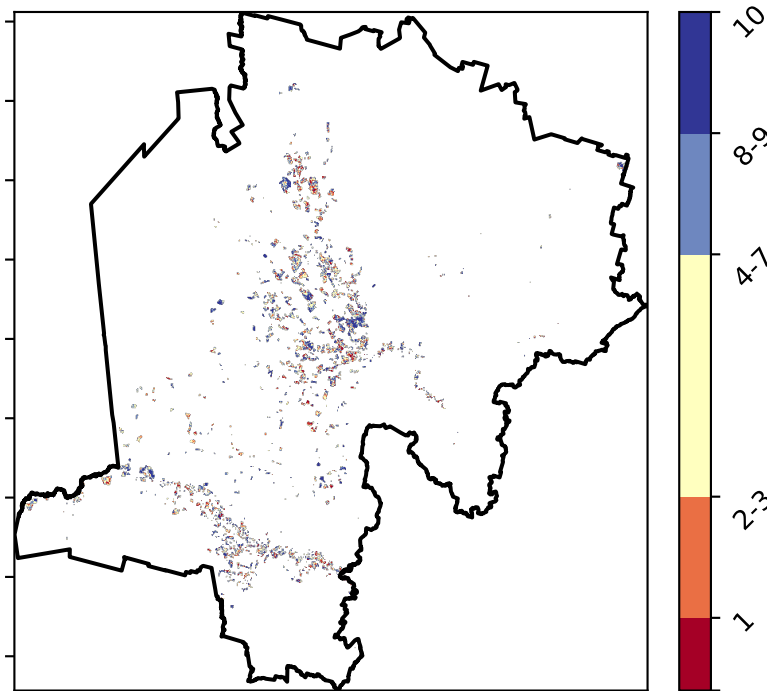pixel value lies in the
record, from highest to
lowest, for that month.
That is, red pixels are
in the lowest 10% of
records for that month of
the map using baseline
from 2001 to 2019.

- 10
- 8-9
- 4-7
- 2-3
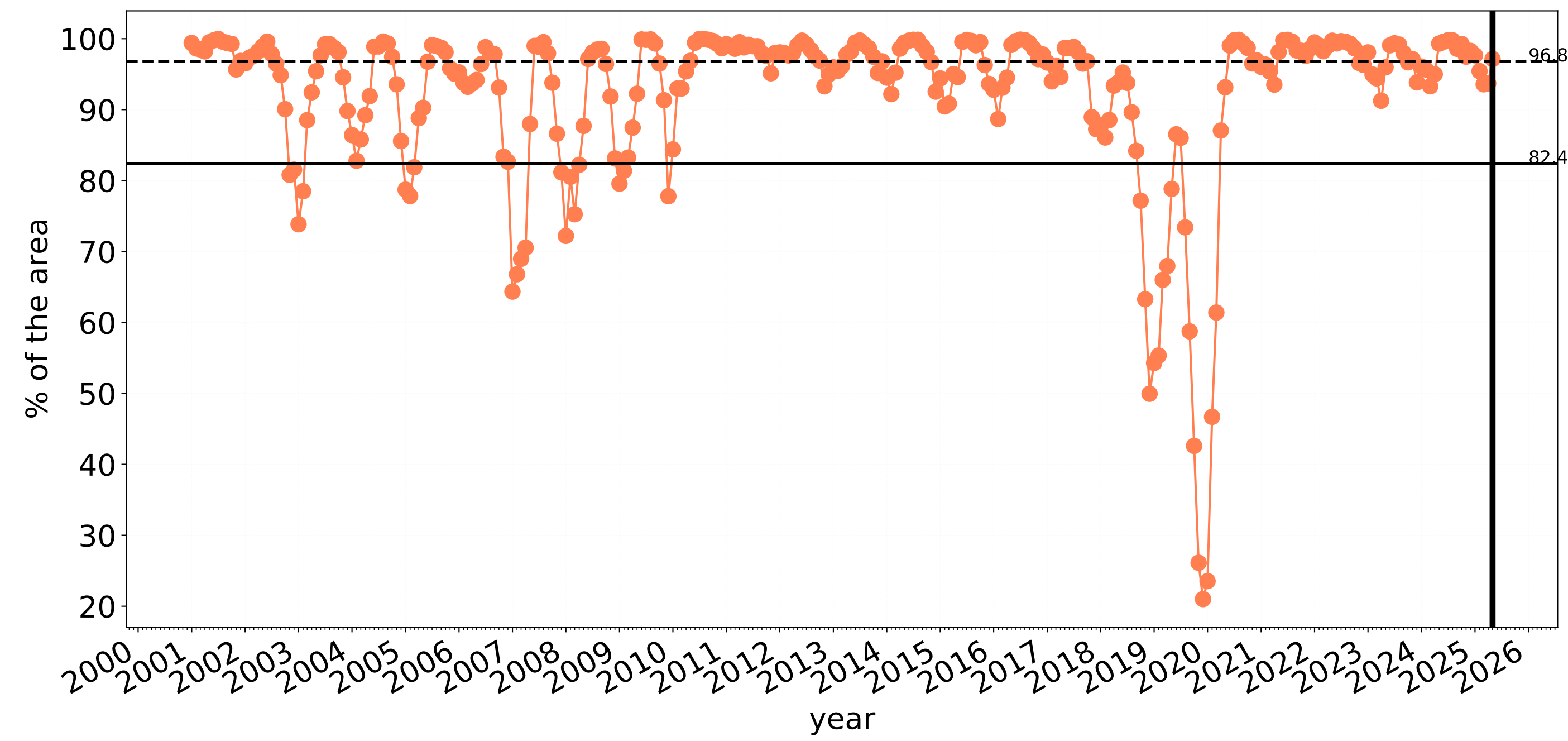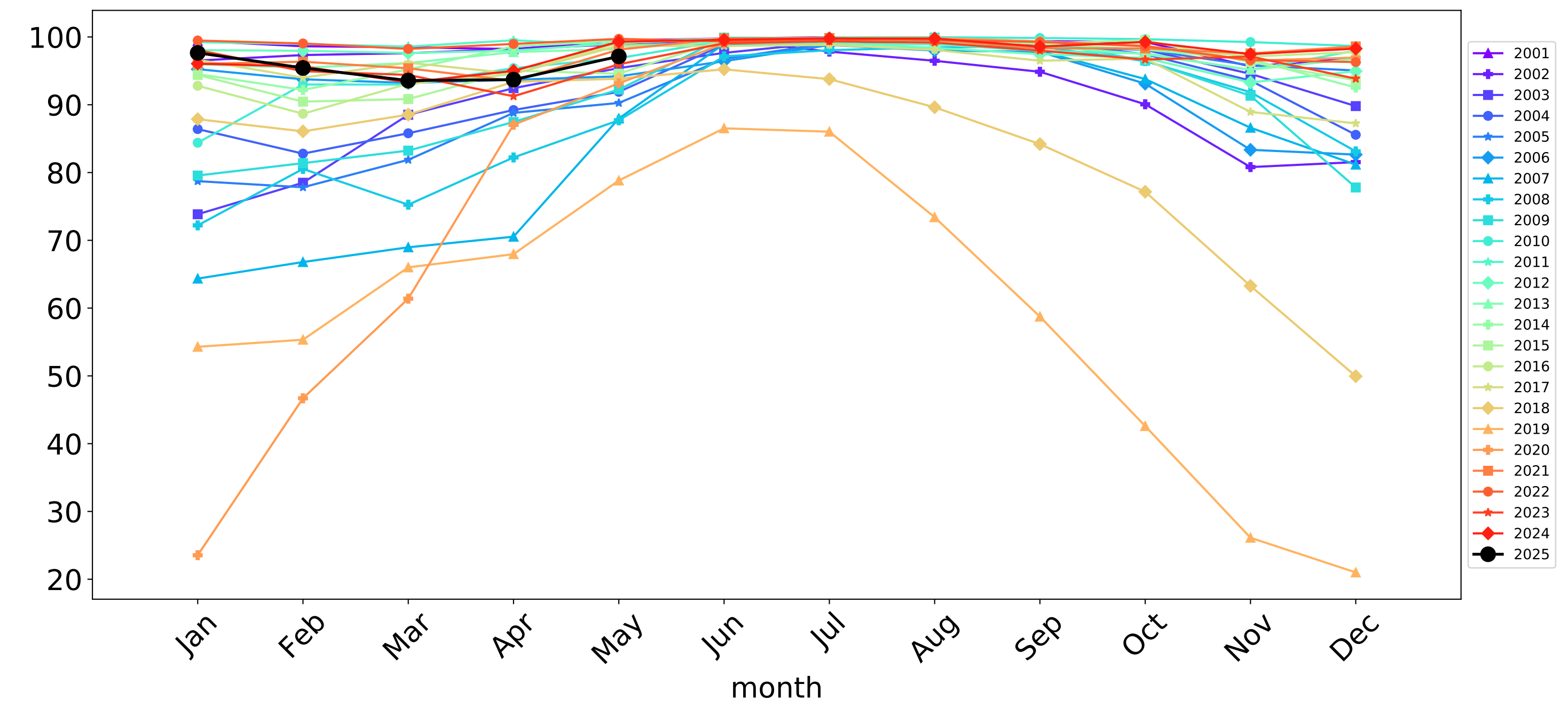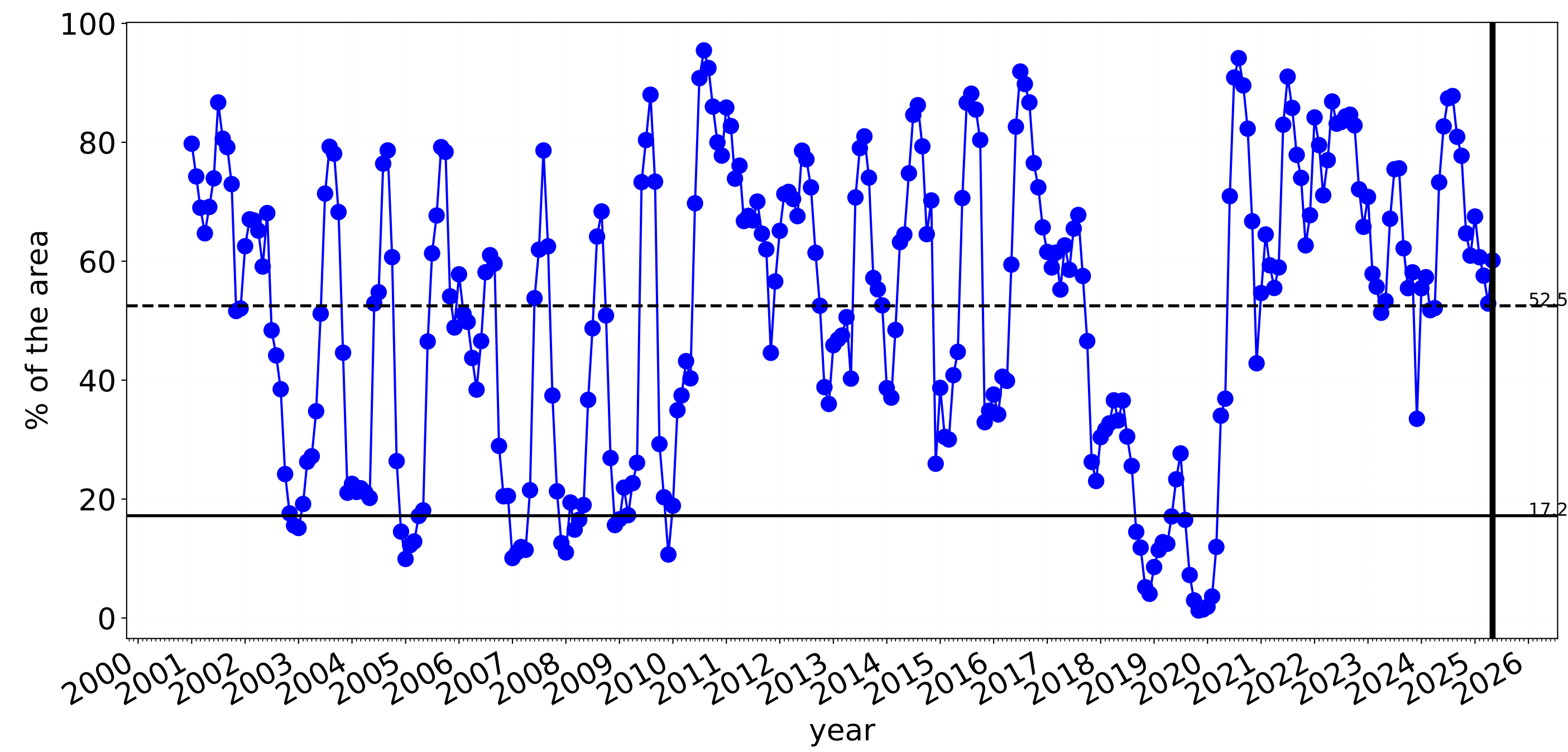- 1

Irrigation timeseries

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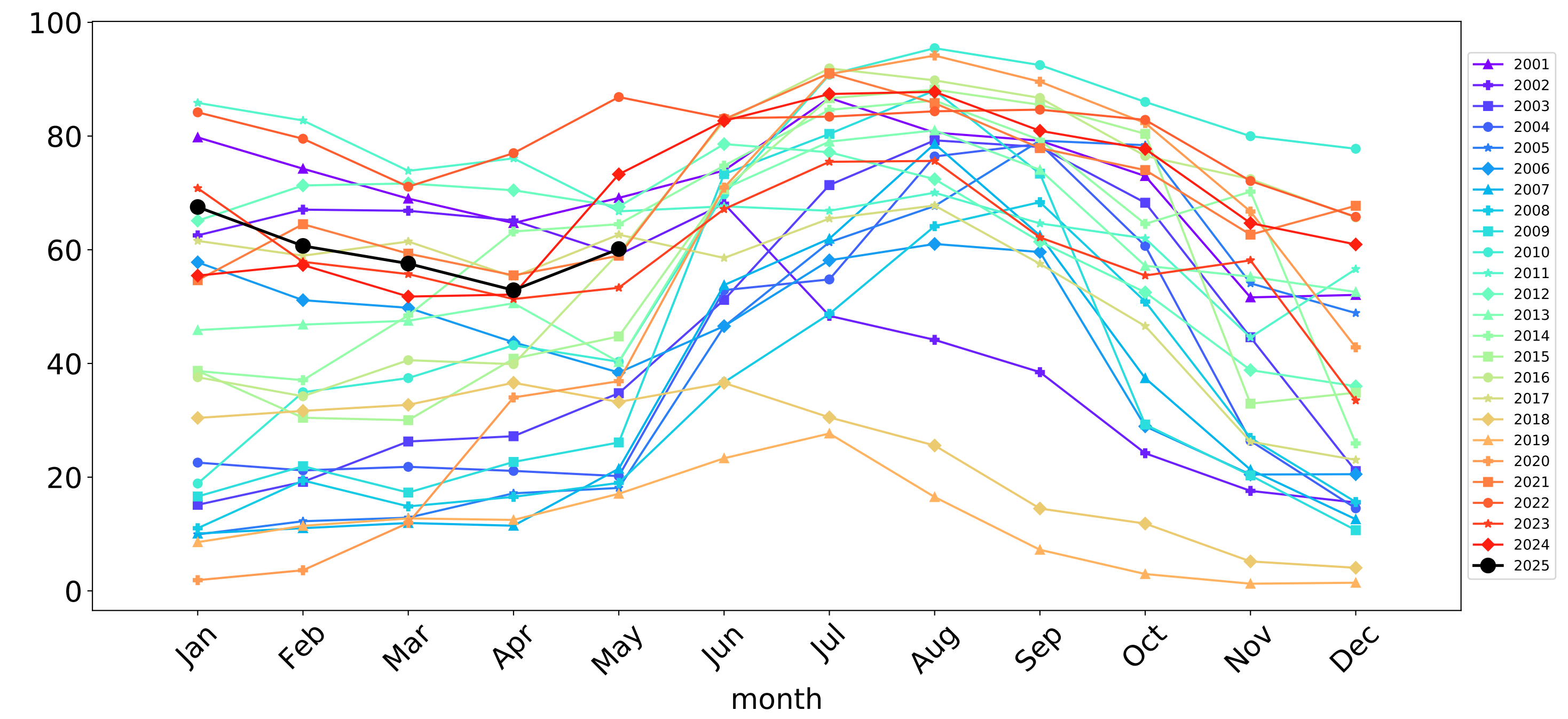

Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)

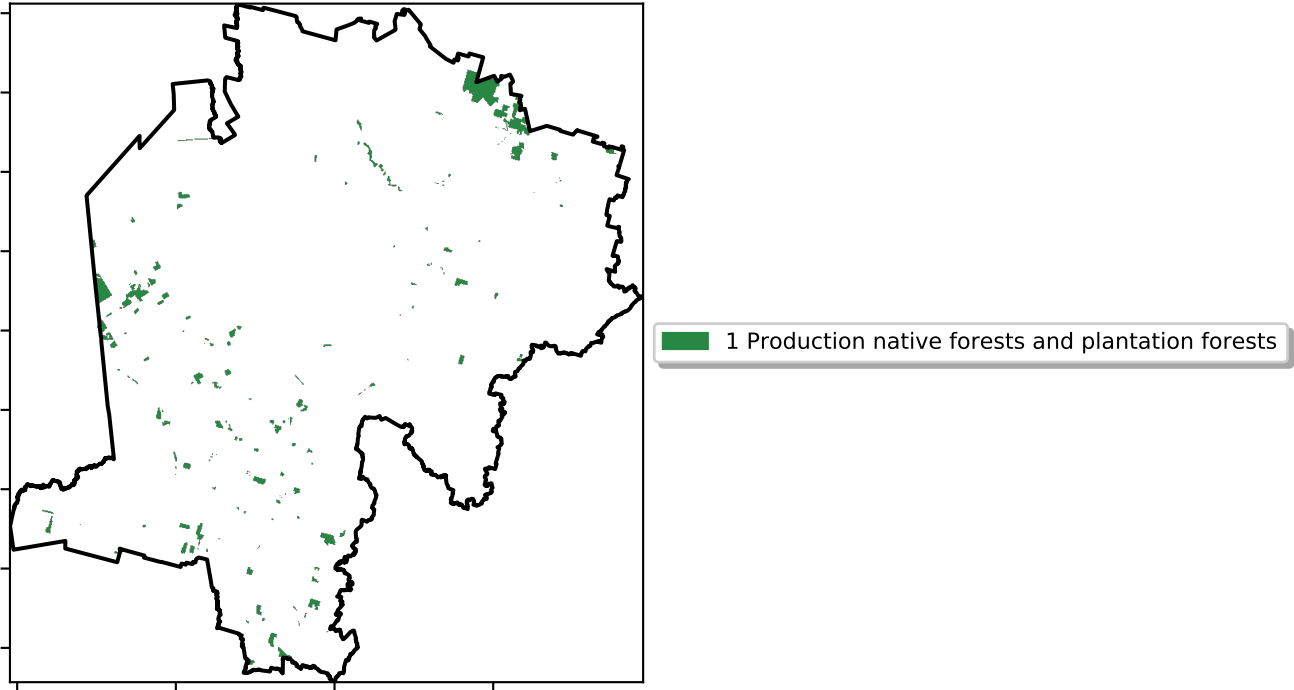### Proportion of the area protected from water erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 70%)

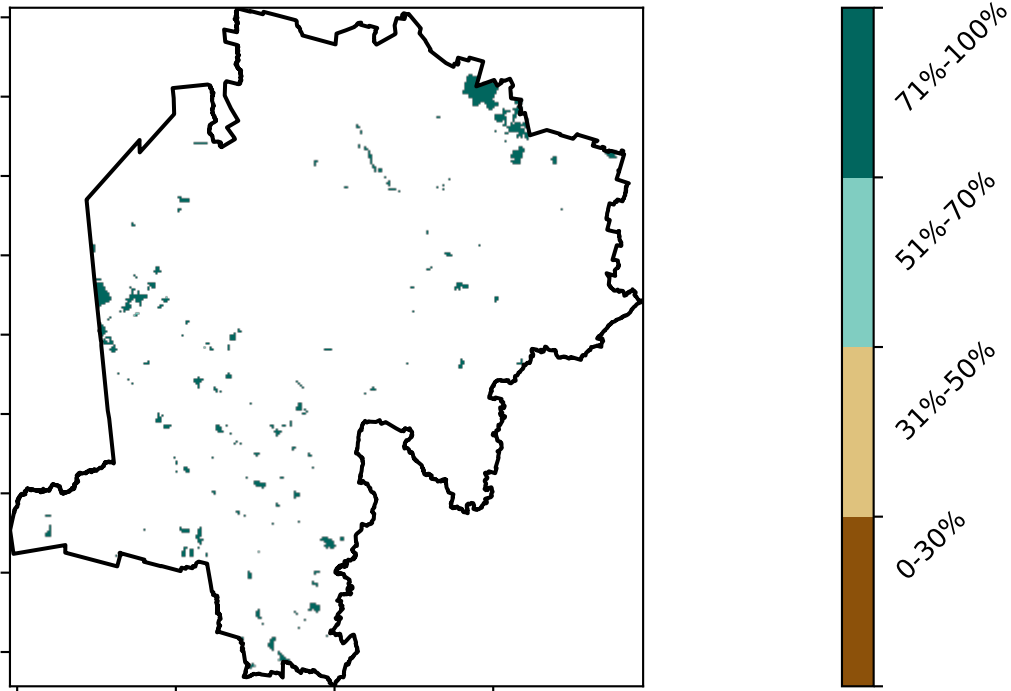### Water erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov>70%)

Production native forests and plantation forests

Land use and forest cover
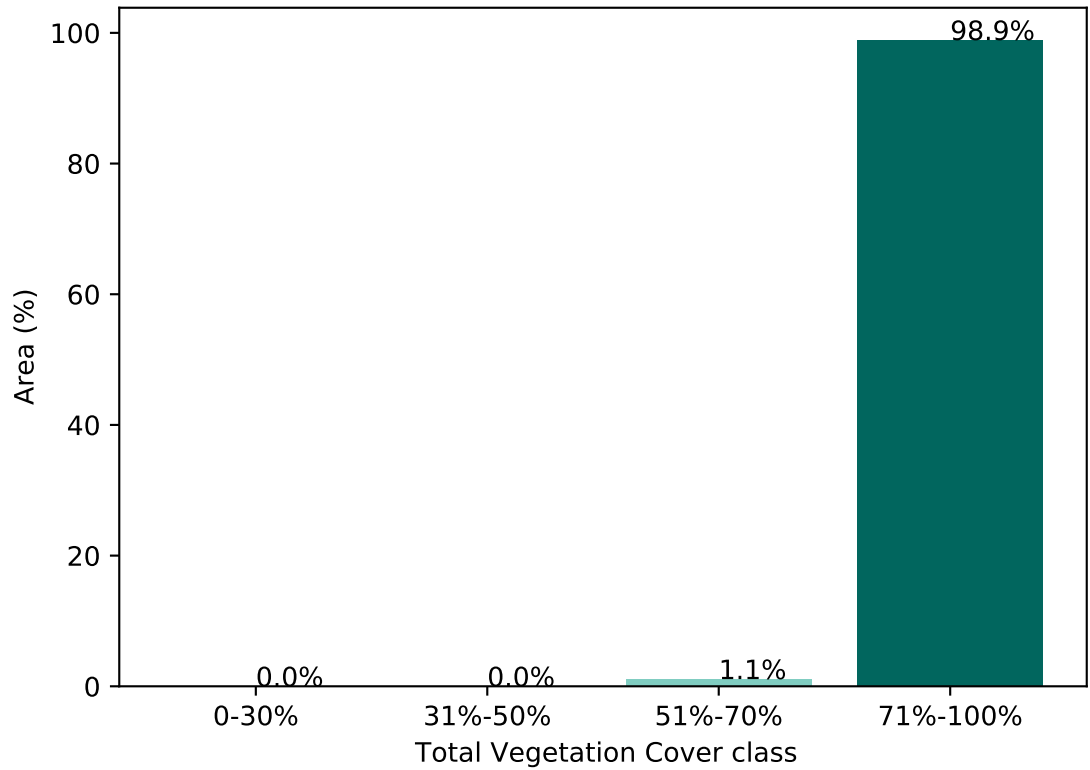

Catchment Scale Land Use and Forests of Australia (2018) Derived from Catchment Scale Land Use of Australia (2018) and Forests of Australia (2018)
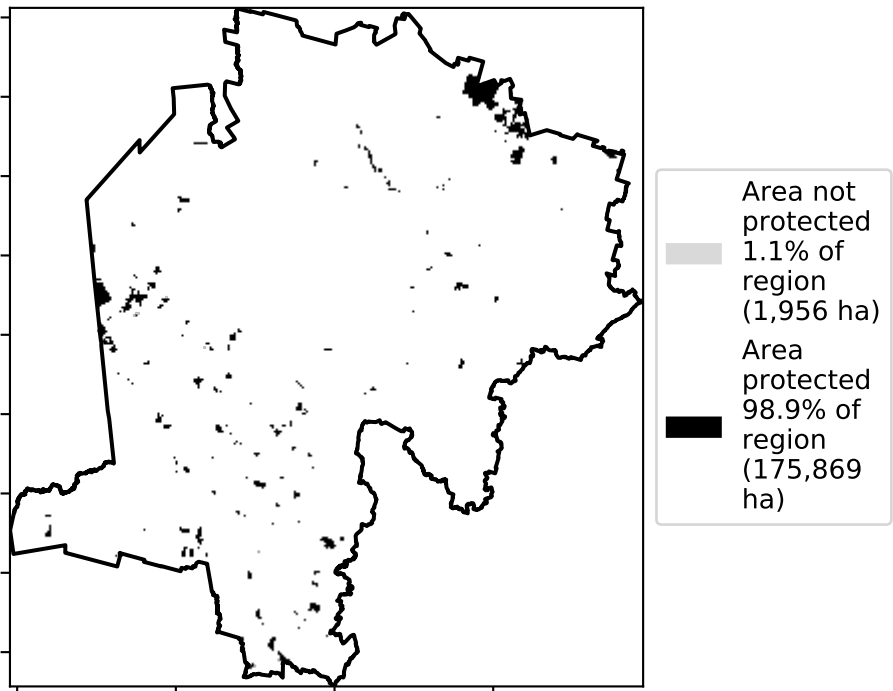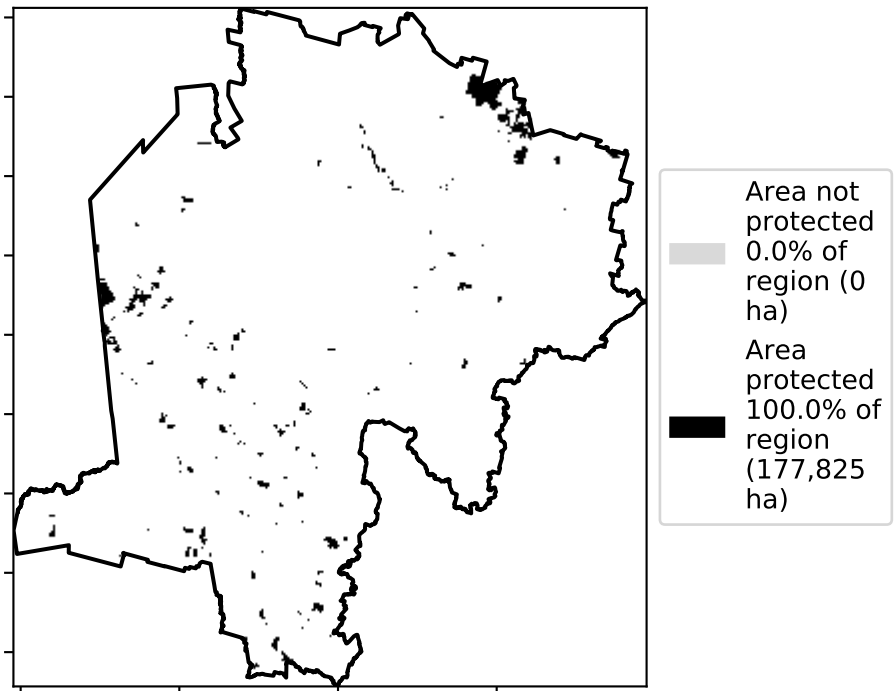
■ 1 Production native forests and plantation forests

Total Vegetation Cover [%]

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

Proportion of vegetation cover class in area

% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)

Area not protected 1.1% of region (1,956 ha)

Area protected 98.9% of region (175,869 ha)

% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)

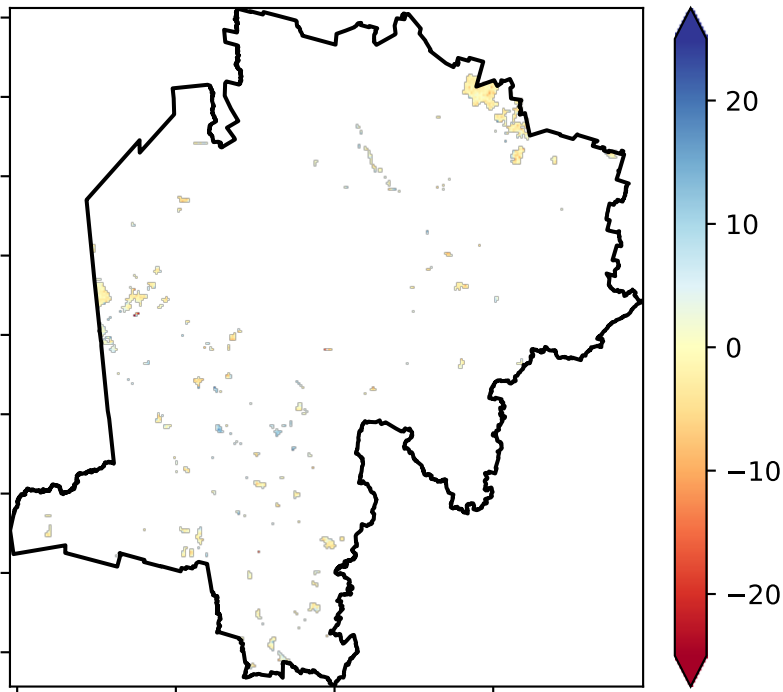Area not protected 0.0% of region (0 ha)

Area protected 100.0% of region (177,825 ha)

Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

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Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]

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10
8-9
4-7
2-3
1

Production native forests and plantation forests timeseries

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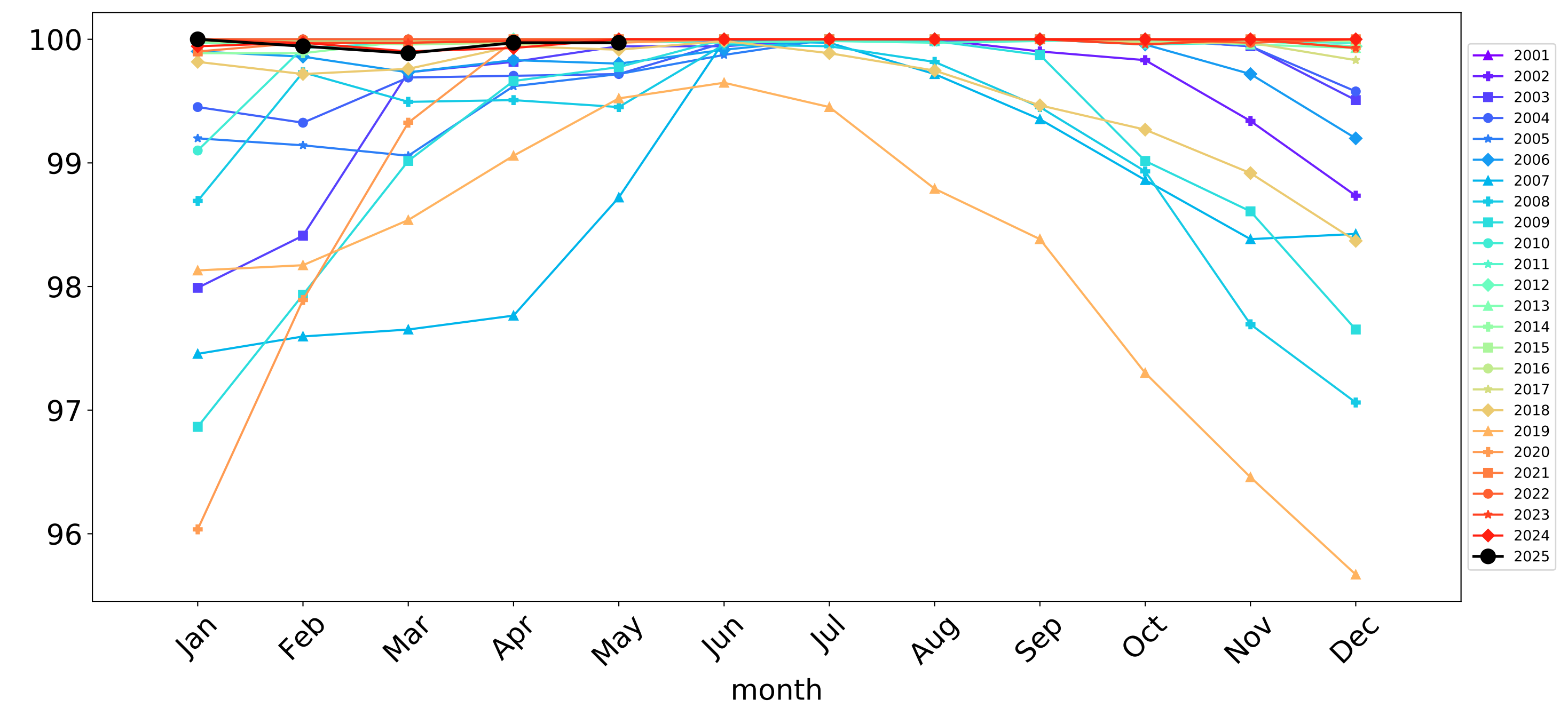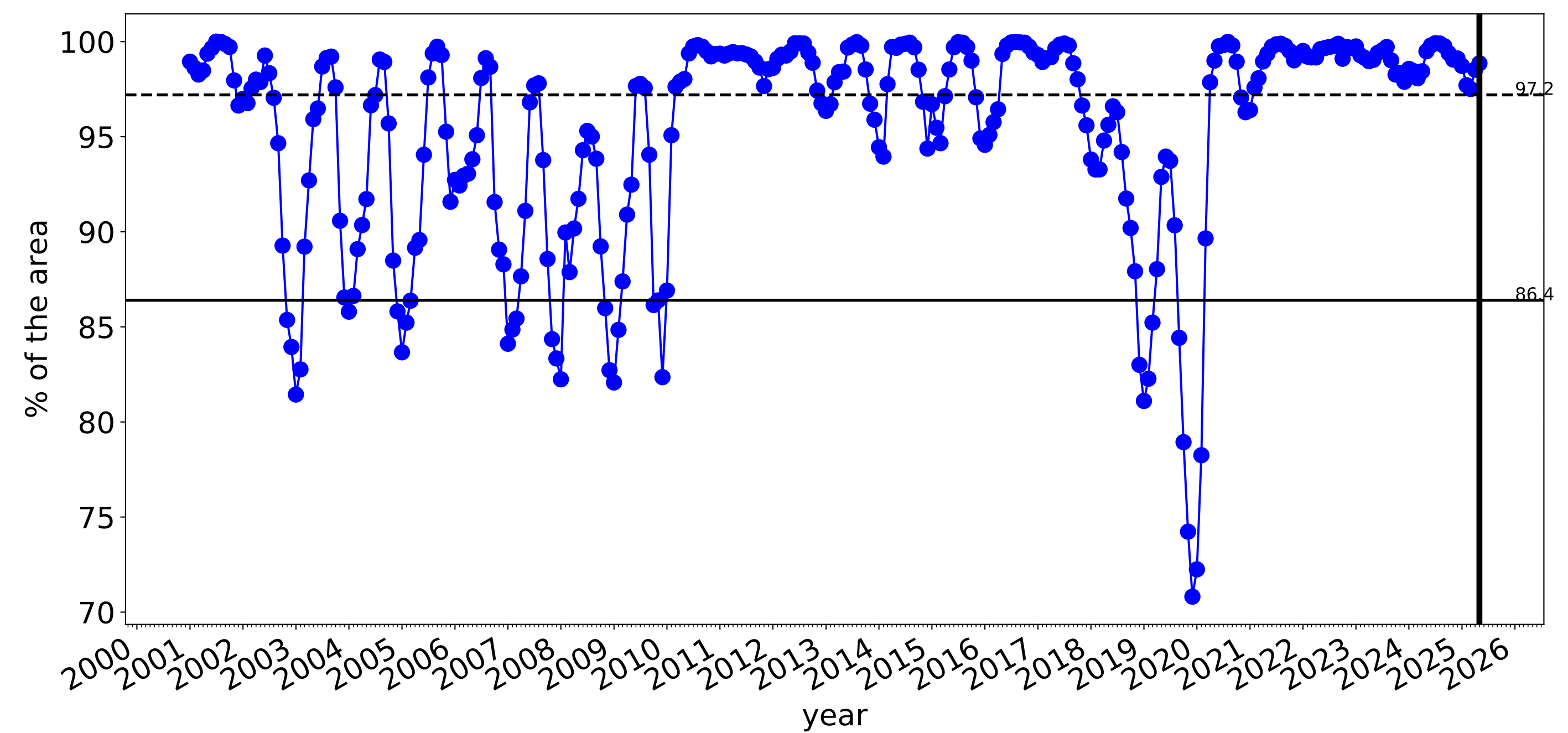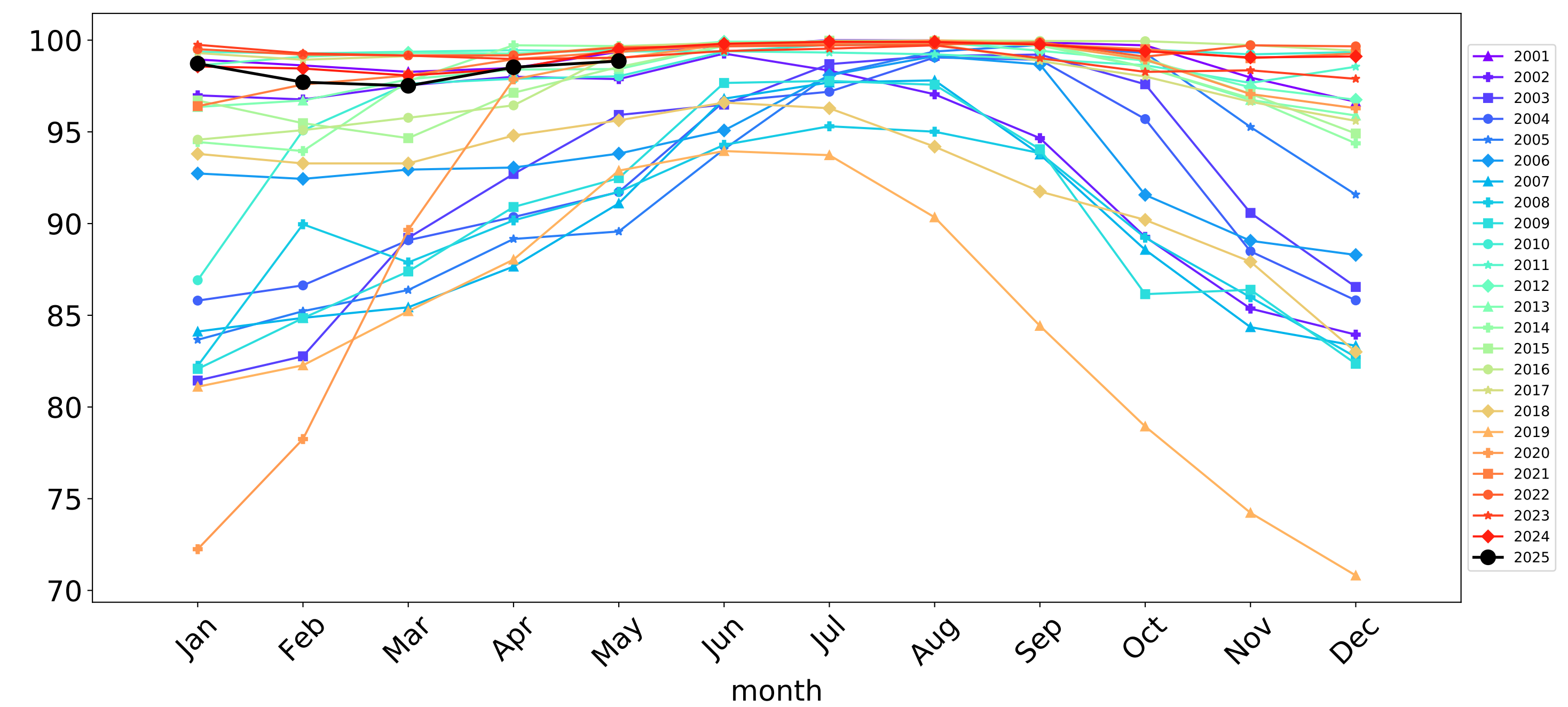

Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)

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

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

Central West (9,150,350 ha and no data 11,543 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	9,150,350	100.0% 9,145,975	99.0% 9,054,375	81.3% 7,438,525	57.7% 5,281,350	18.2% 1,662,625	4.7% 433,825
Conservation and natural environments	662,525	100.0% 662,525	99.9% 661,950	97.9% 648,500	91.8% 608,125	43.6% 288,750	11.0% 72,750
Conservation and natural environments Woodland forest	537,725	100.0% 537,725	100.0% 537,700	99.7% 535,850	96.1% 516,550	47.7% 256,675	11.5% 62,075
Agriculture	8,213,800	100.0% 8,210,000	98.9% 8,119,950	79.5% 6,532,400	54.2% 4,450,900	16.2% 1,330,250	4.3% 355,675
Grazing	3,972,900	100.0% 3,972,475	99.7% 3,961,825	92.6% 3,677,300	72.1% 2,863,350	24.2% 960,575	6.6% 260,925
Grazing non forest	3,262,700	100.0% 3,262,275	99.7% 3,252,125	91.6% 2,987,400	69.6% 2,270,750	23.6% 770,200	6.9% 224,900
Grazing Woodland forest	643,675	100.0% 643,675	99.9% 643,225	97.2% 625,775	83.6% 537,800	27.6% 177,700	5.1% 33,050
Cropping	3,960,800	99.9% 3,958,075	98.1% 3,886,025	67.8% 2,686,525	38.2% 1,512,025	9.0% 356,250	2.3% 90,825
Irrigation	279,475	99.8% 278,825	97.1% 271,475	60.1% 168,050	26.9% 75,250	4.8% 13,425	1.4% 3,925
Production native forests and plantation forests	177,825	100.0% 177,825	100.0% 177,775	98.9% 175,800	93.5% 166,200	17.2% 30,625	1.5% 2,750