

# Total vegetation cover soil protection

## Region:NRM Murray 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.

### 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

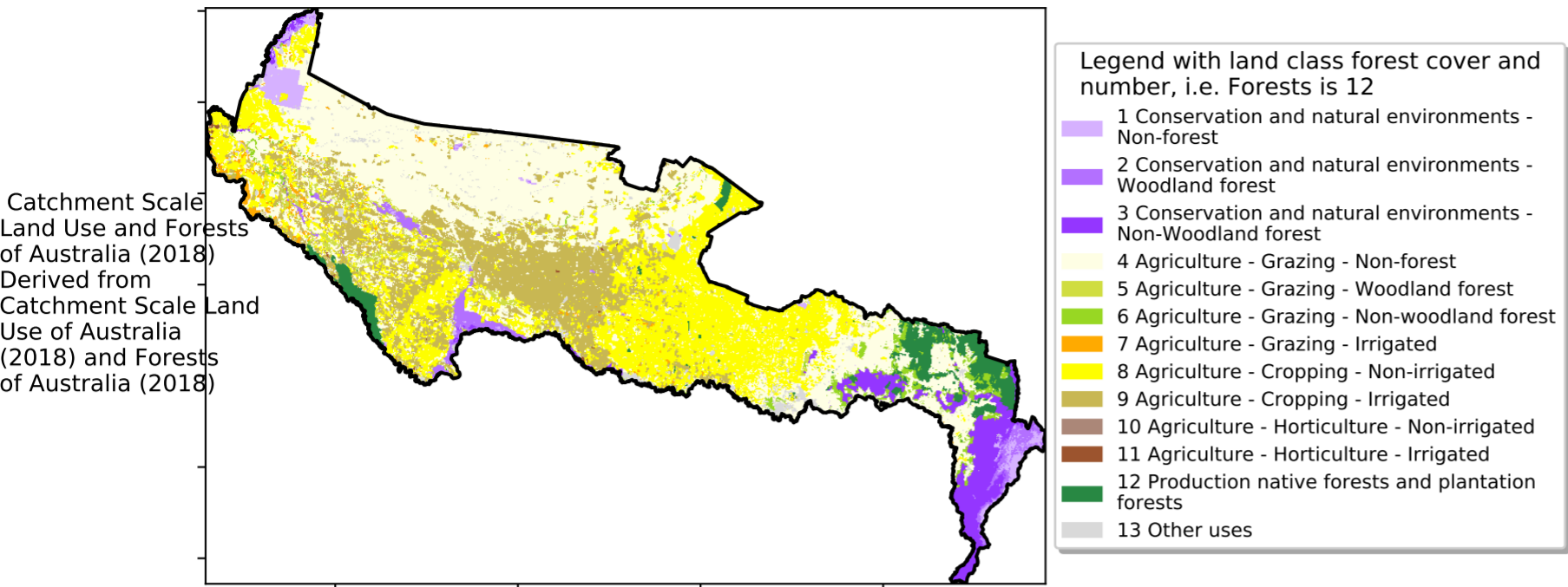


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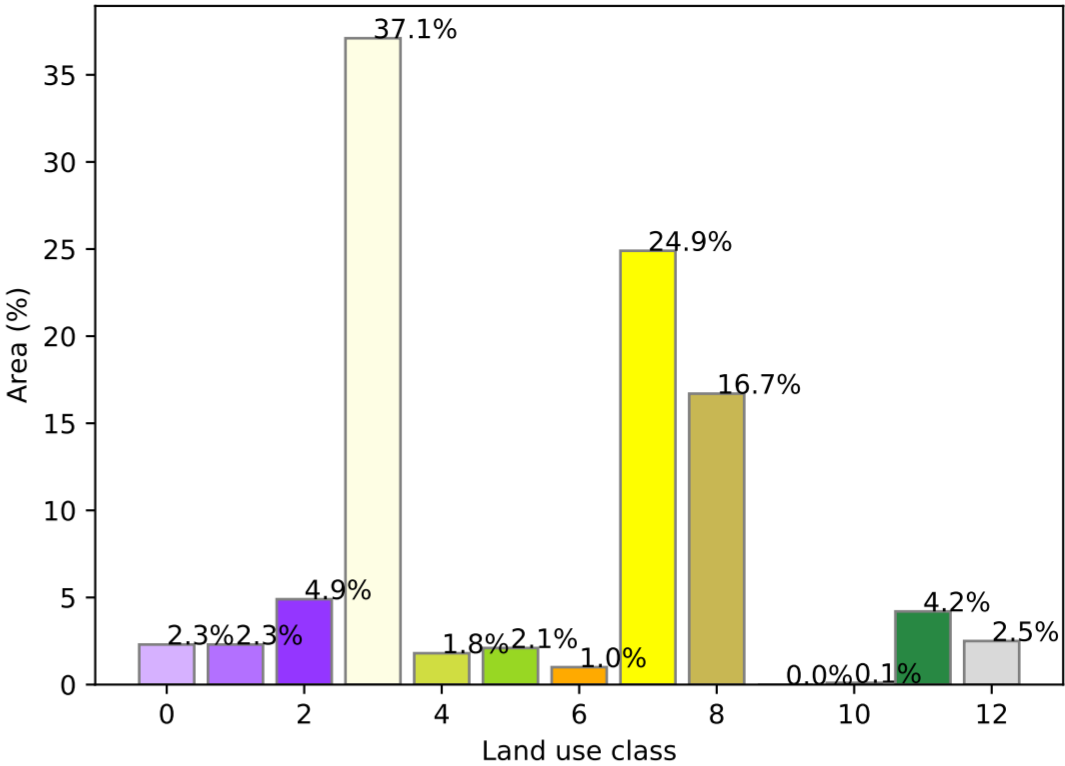


# Vegetation Cover May 2025

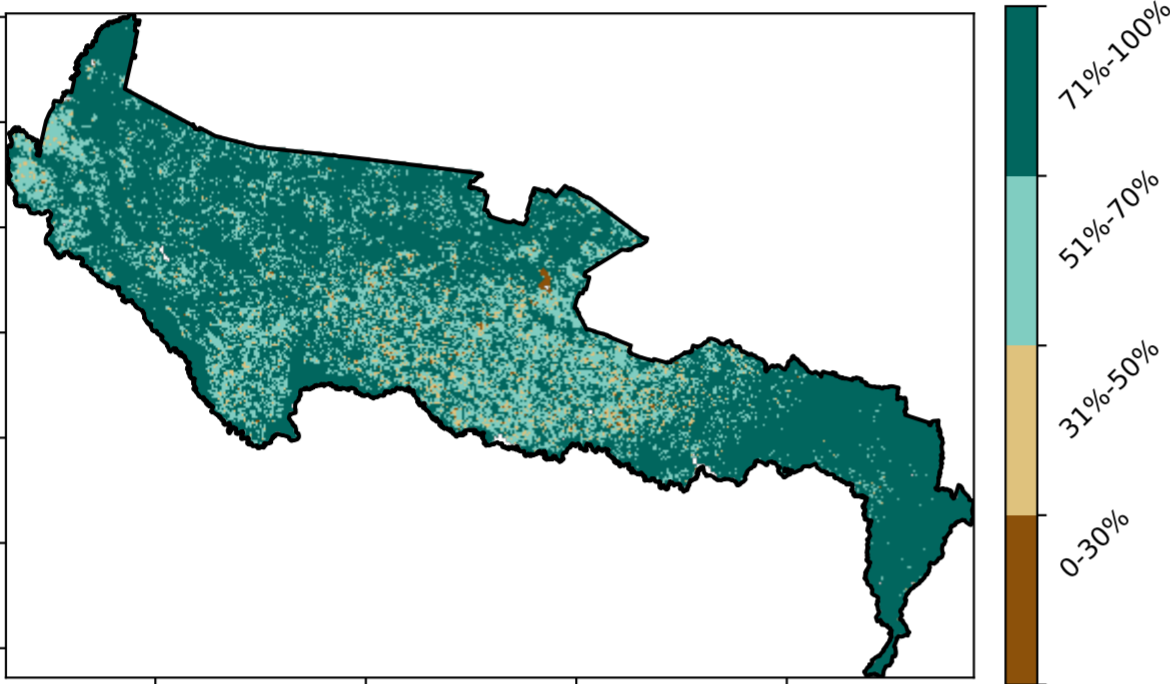
Land use and forest cover



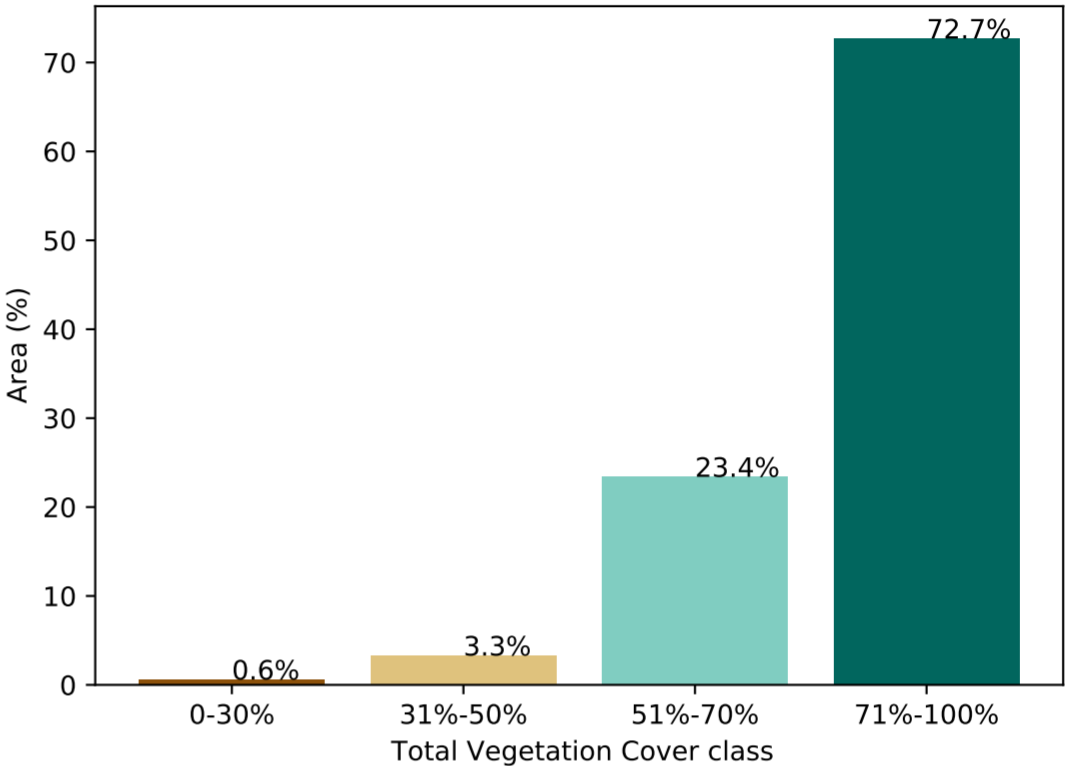
Proportion of each land class in area



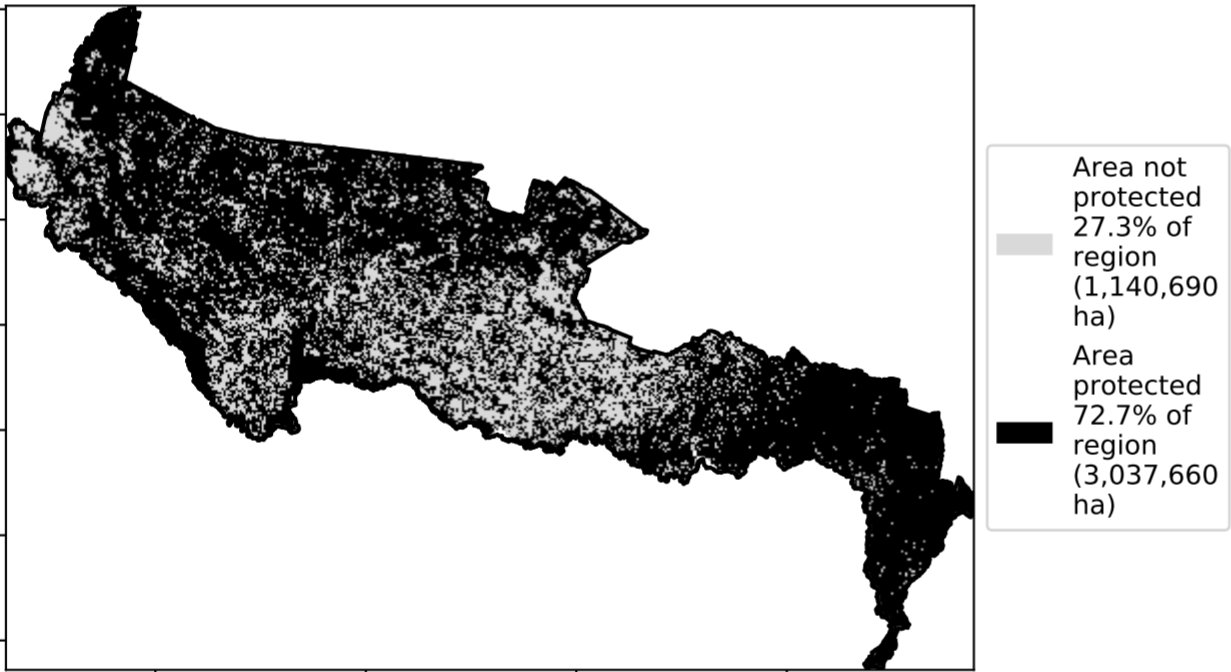
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



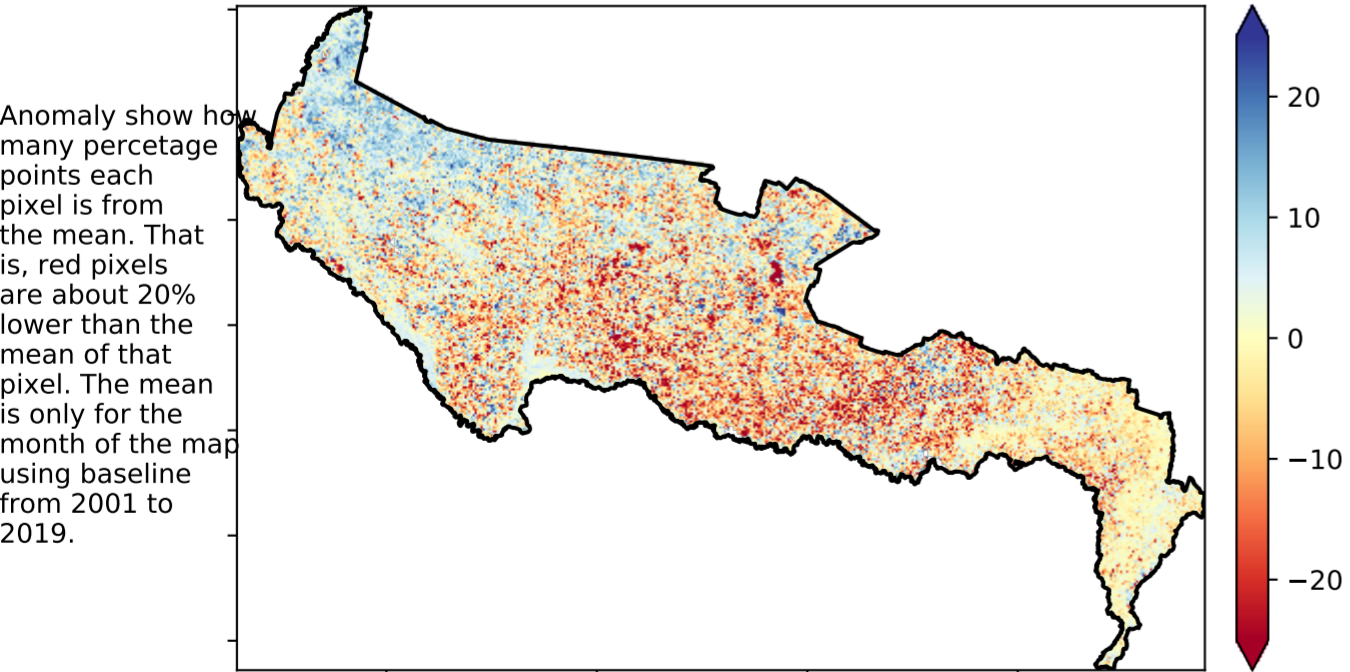
% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



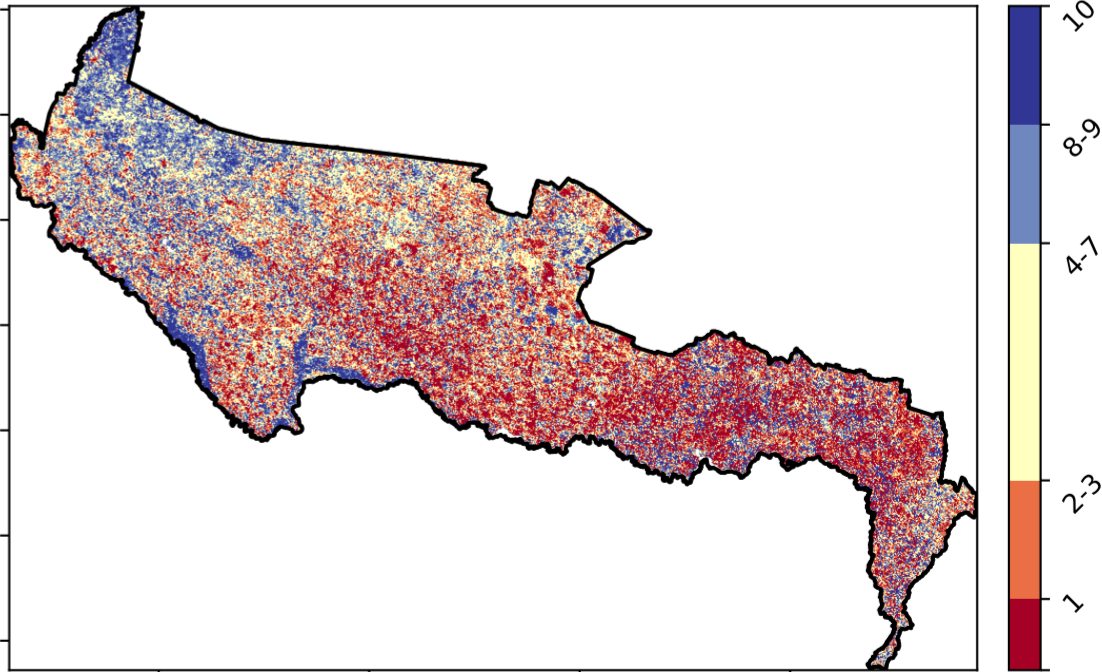
% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]



Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]



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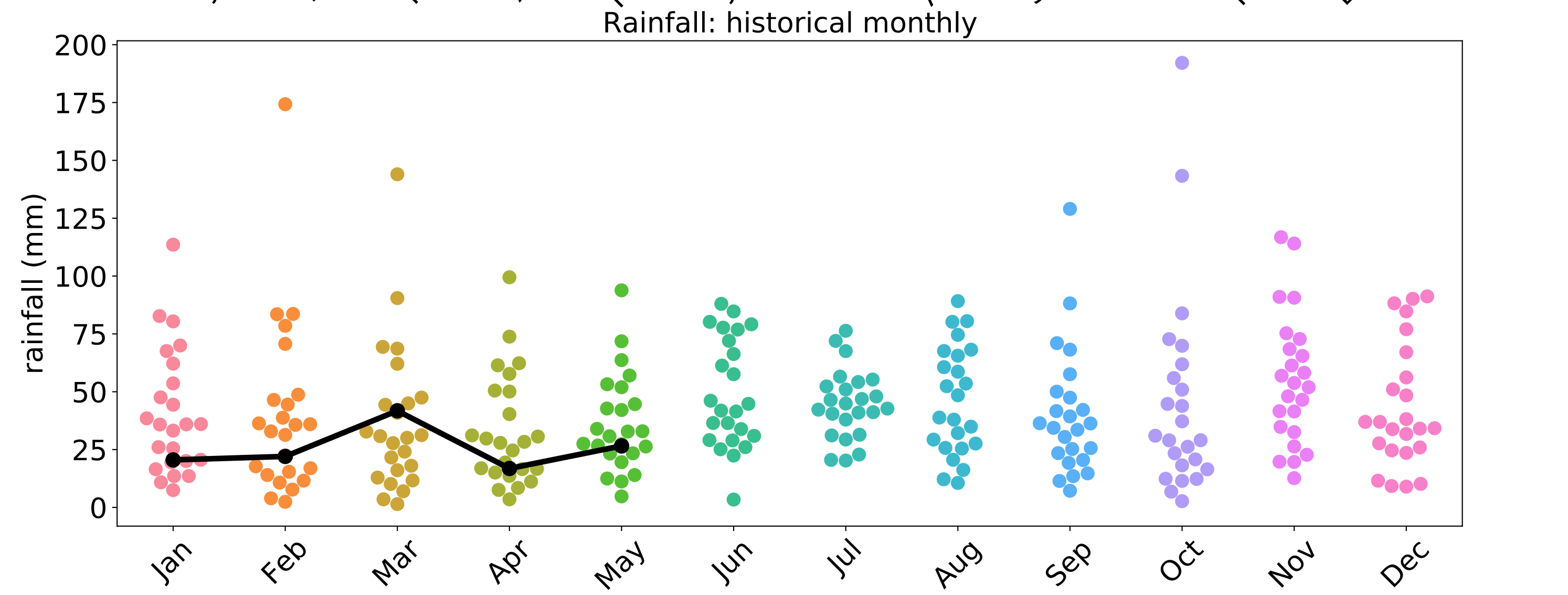
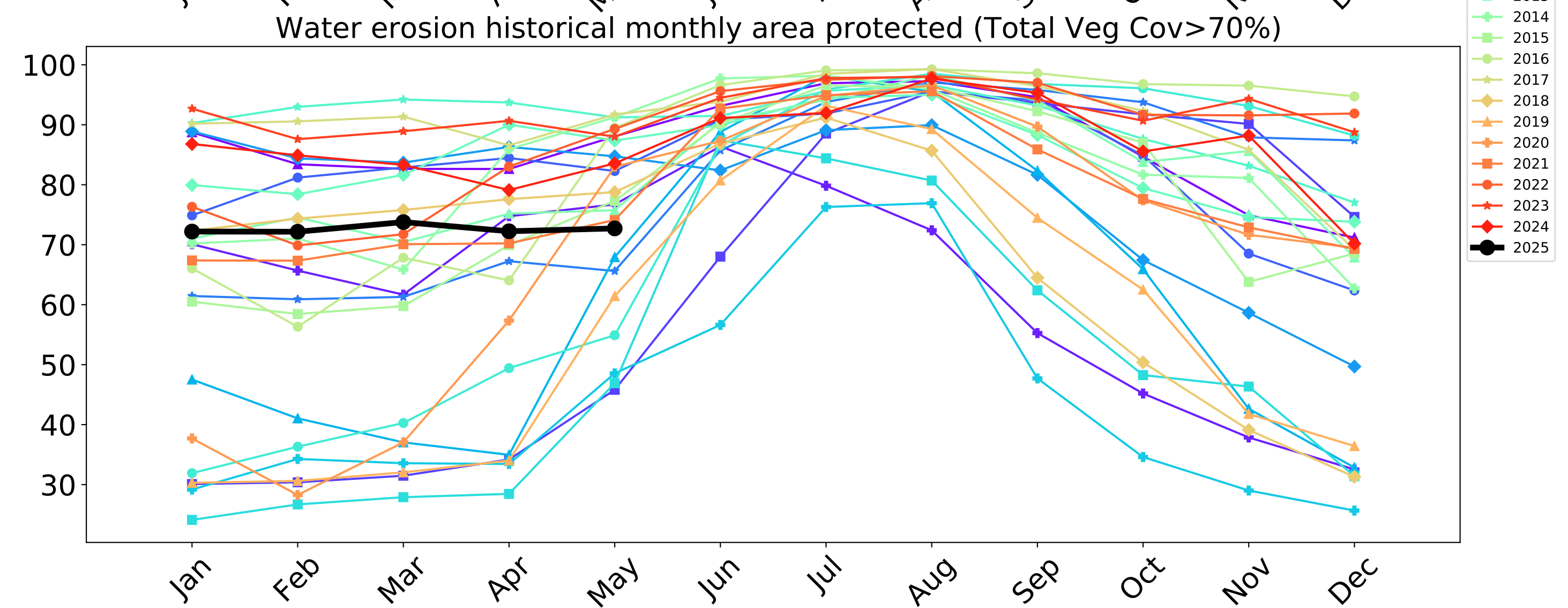
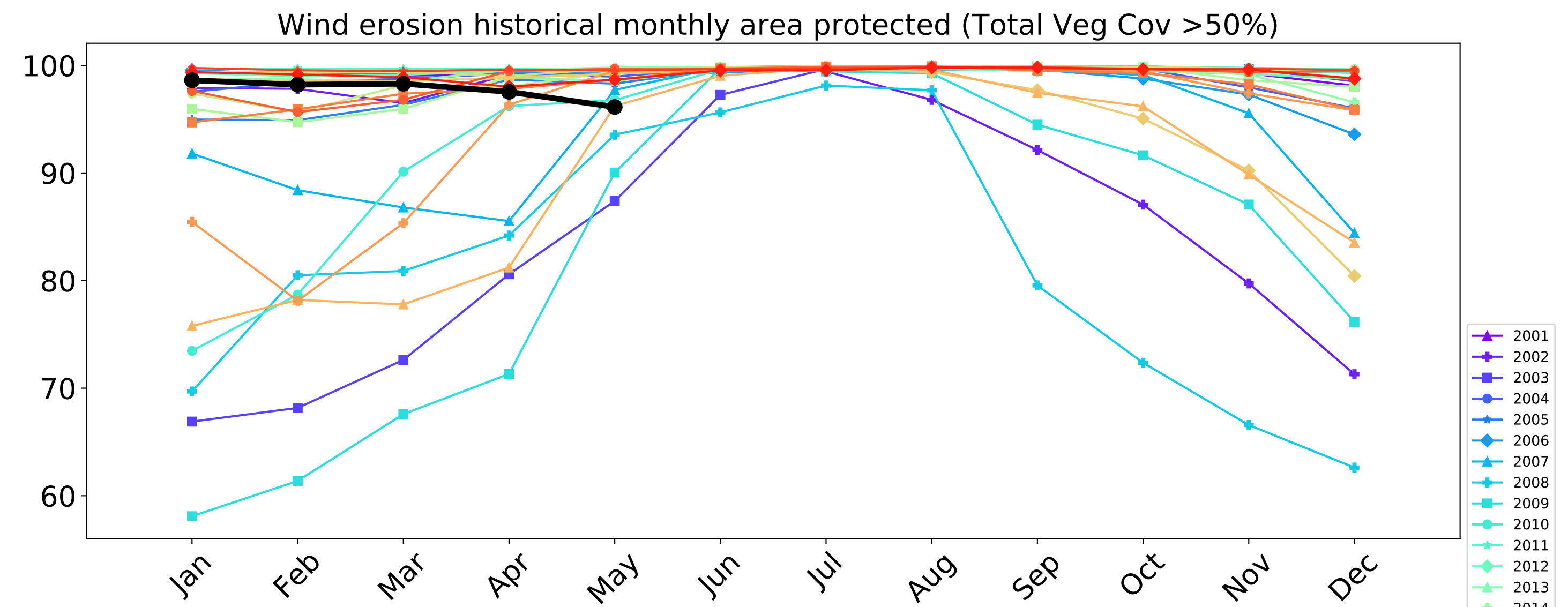
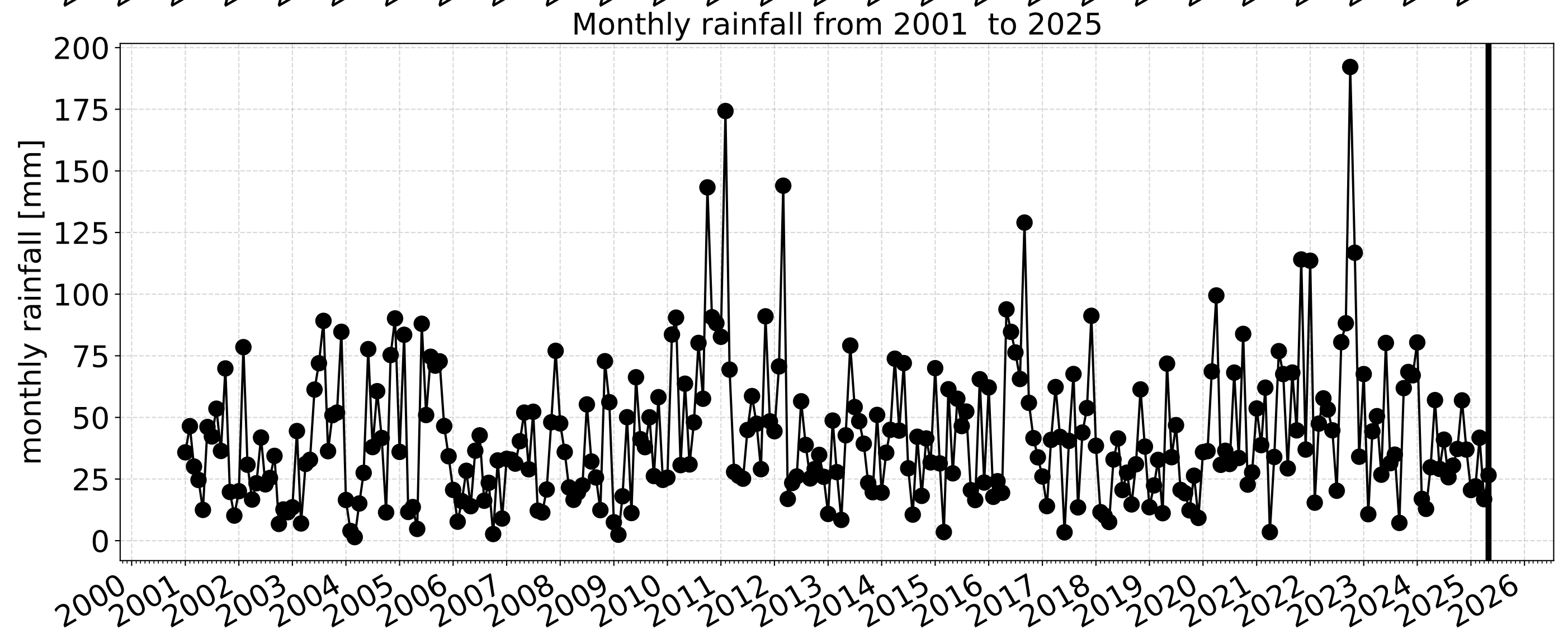
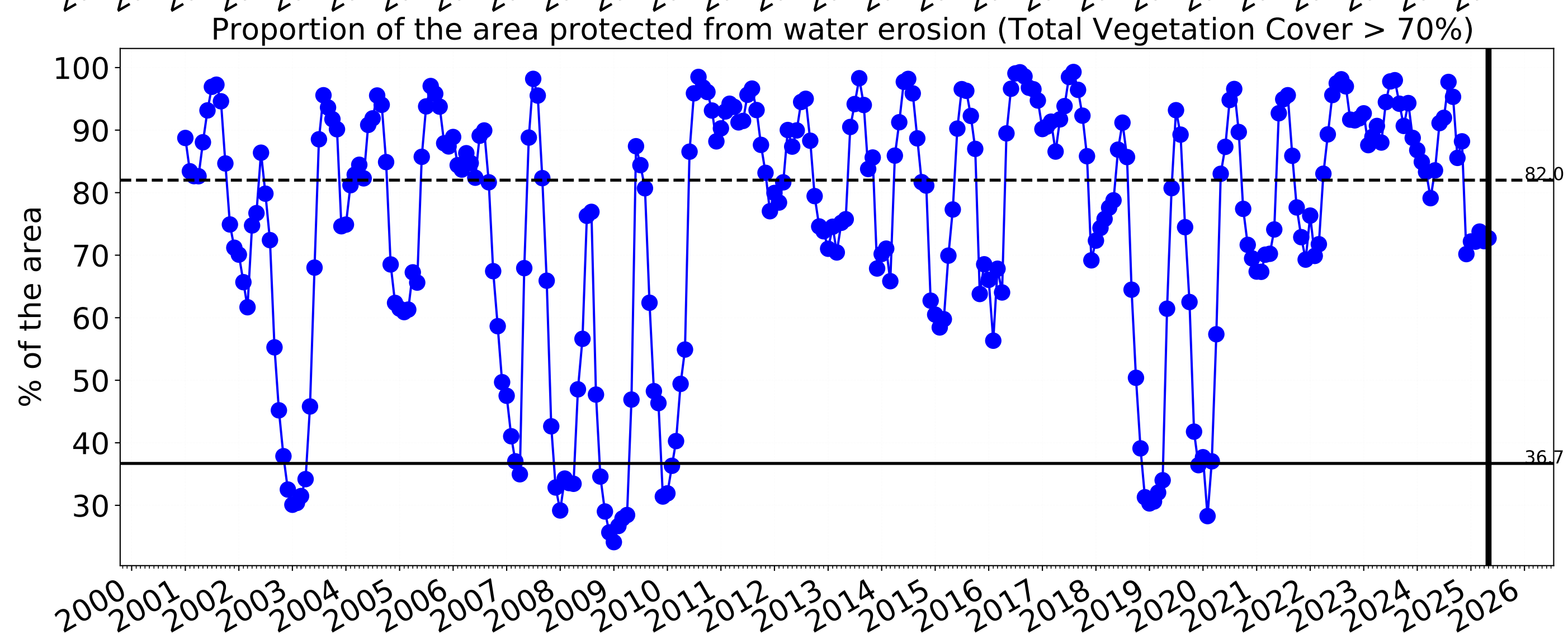
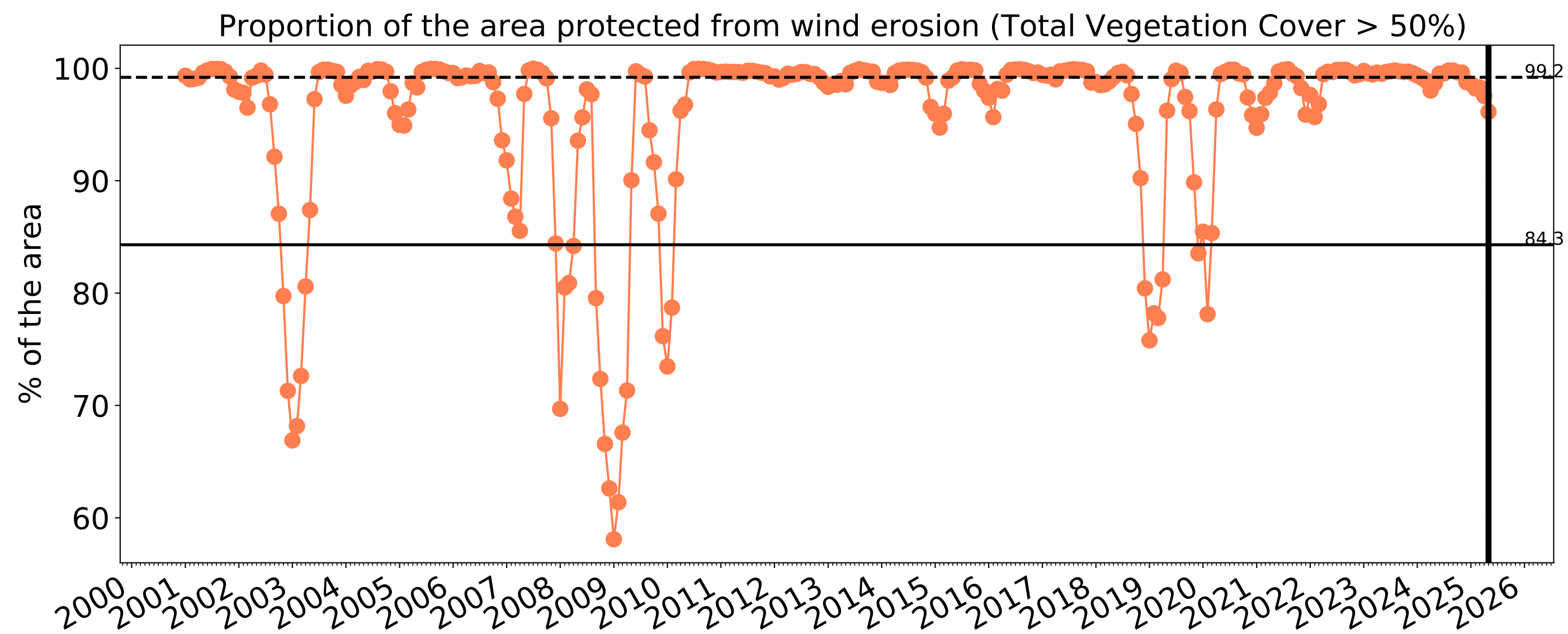
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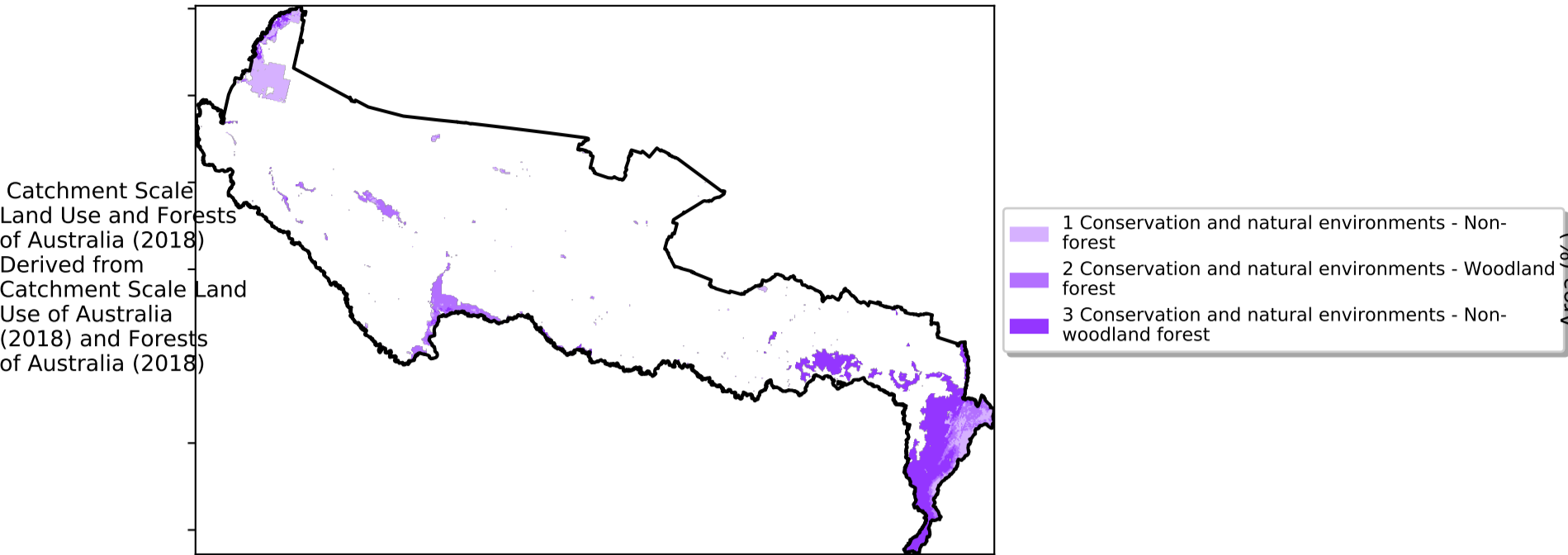
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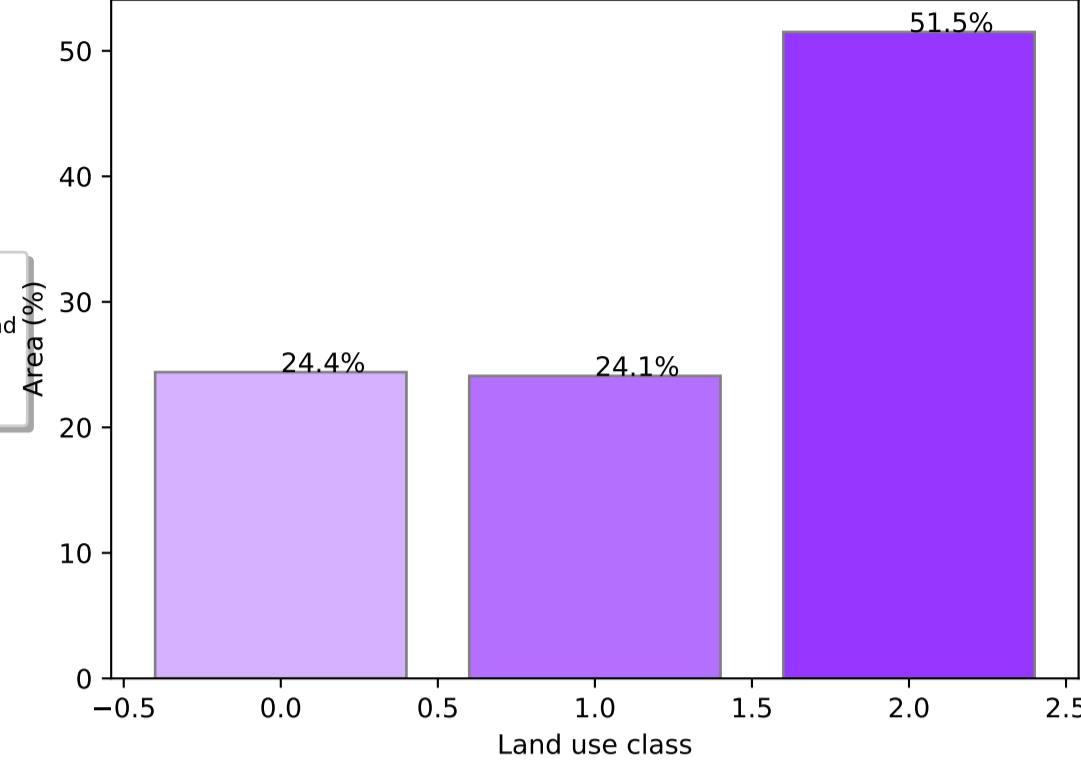


Conservation and natural environments

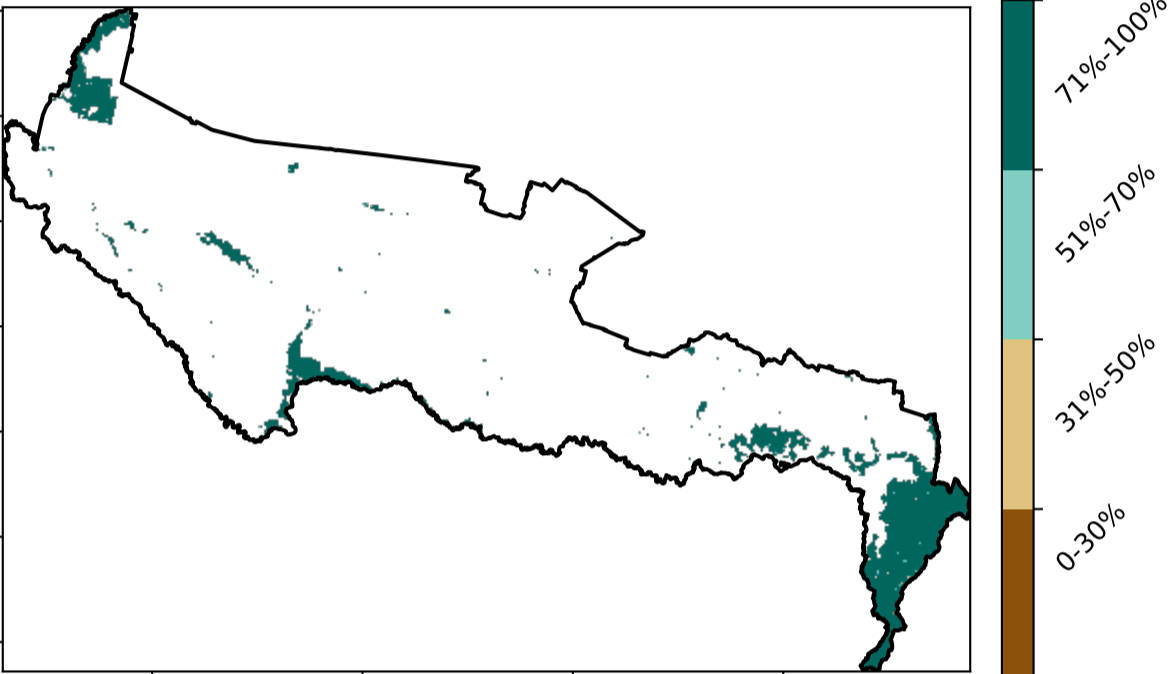
Land use and forest cover



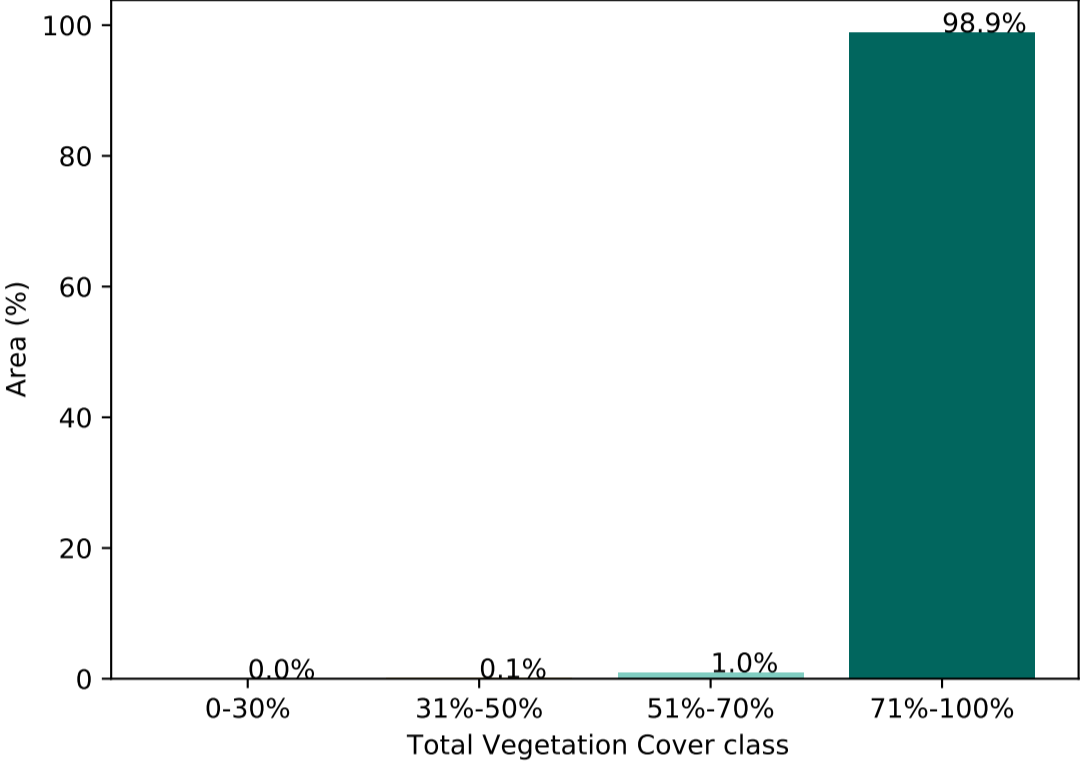
Proportion of each land class in area



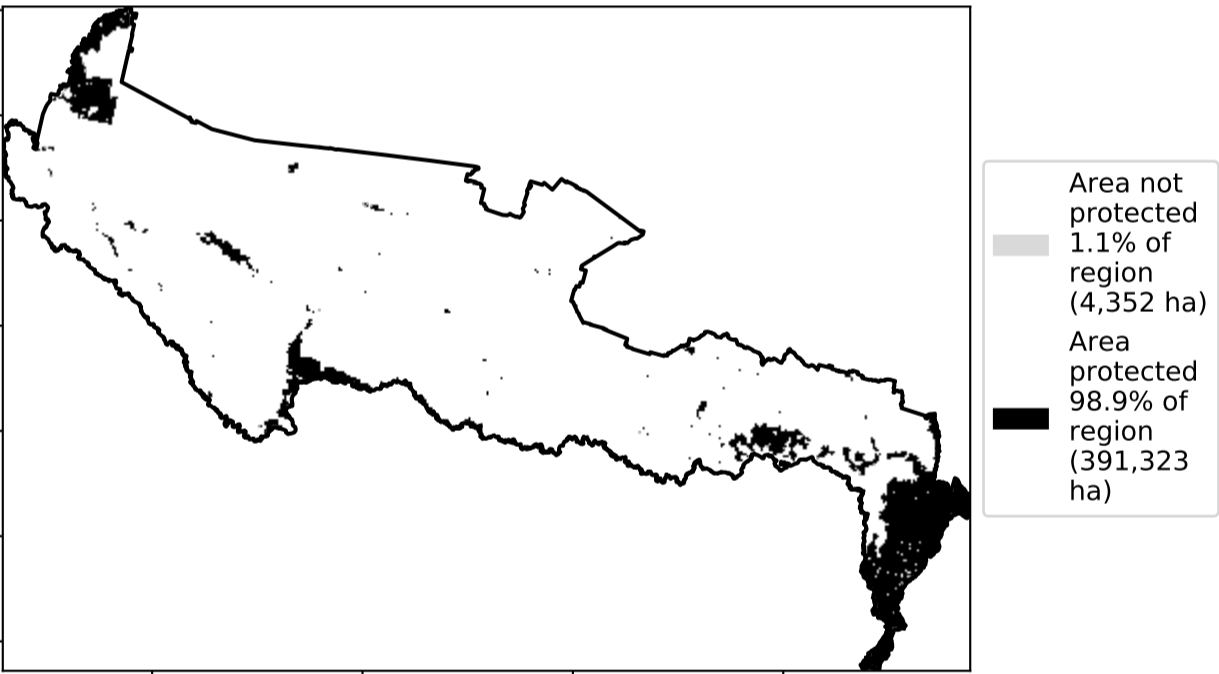
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



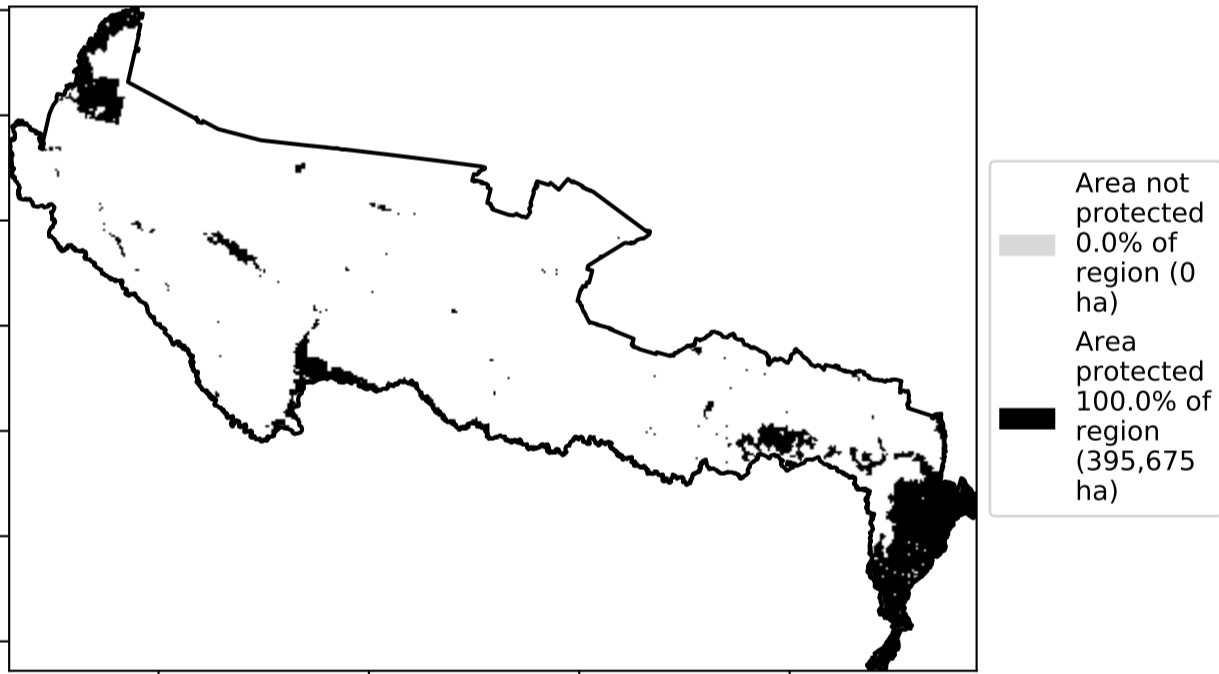
Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



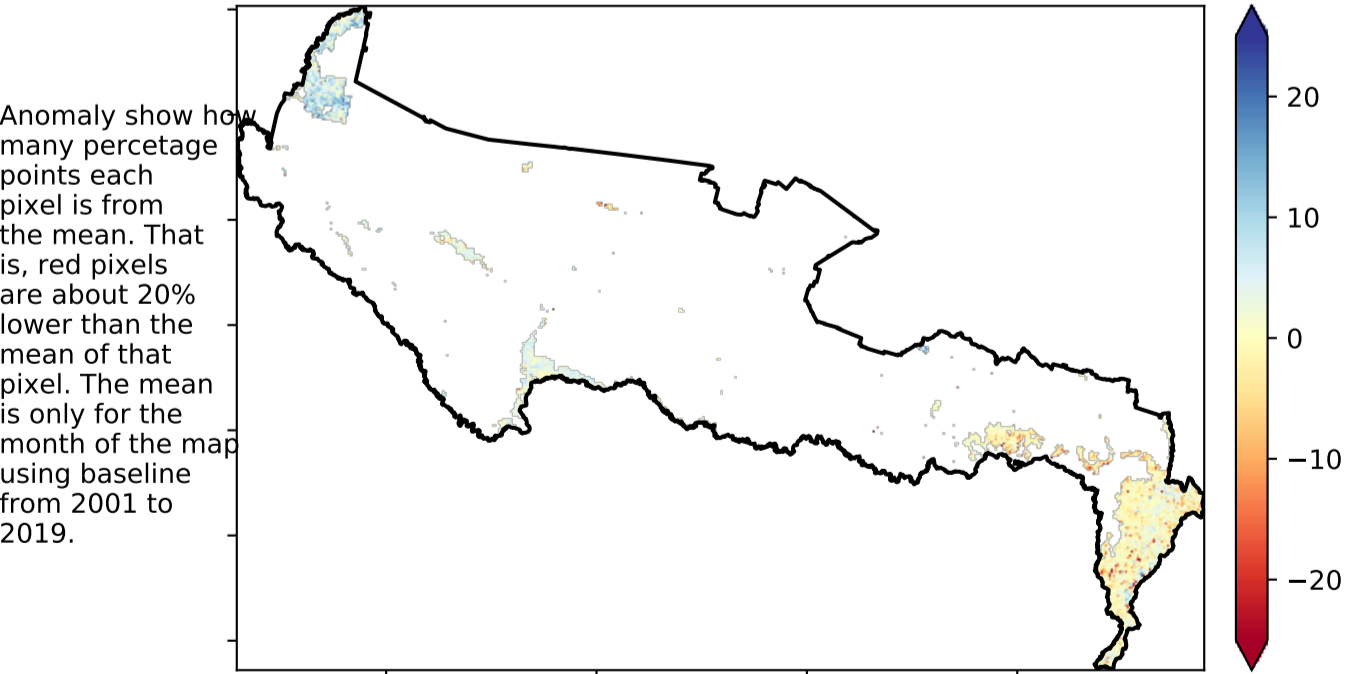
% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)

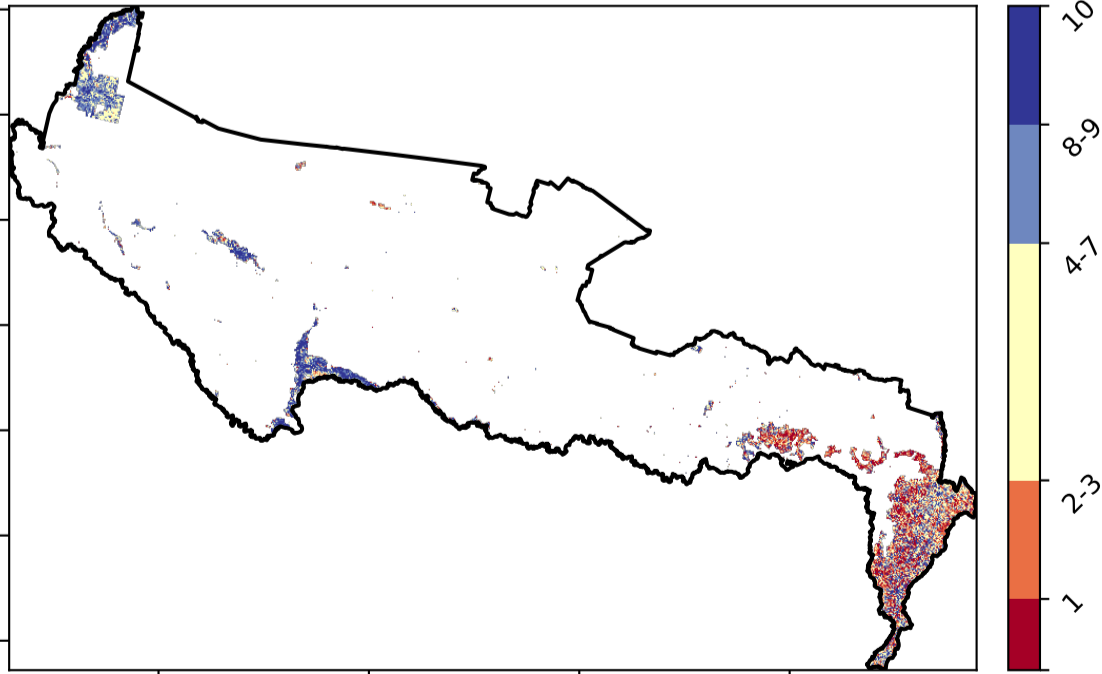


Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

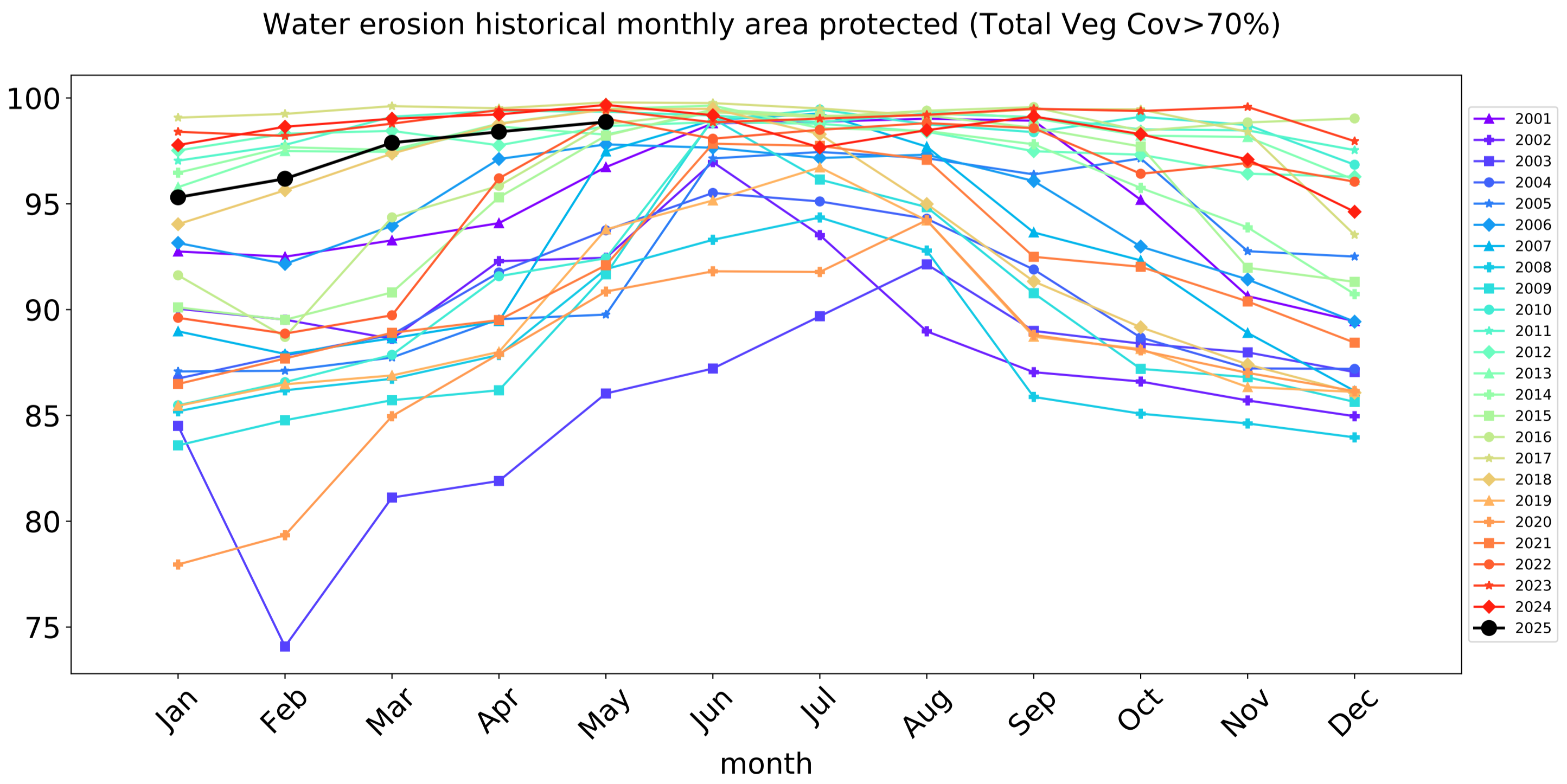
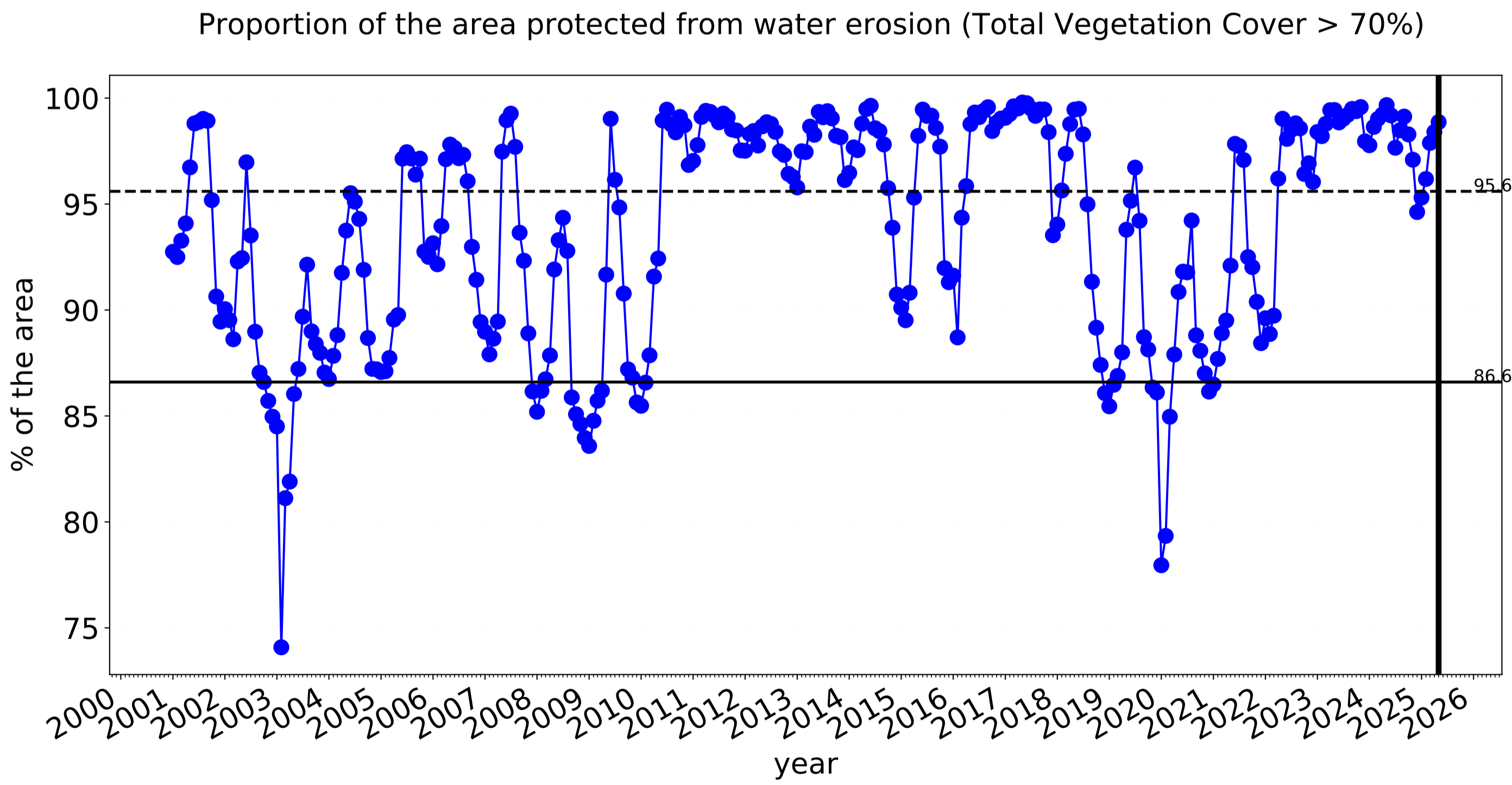
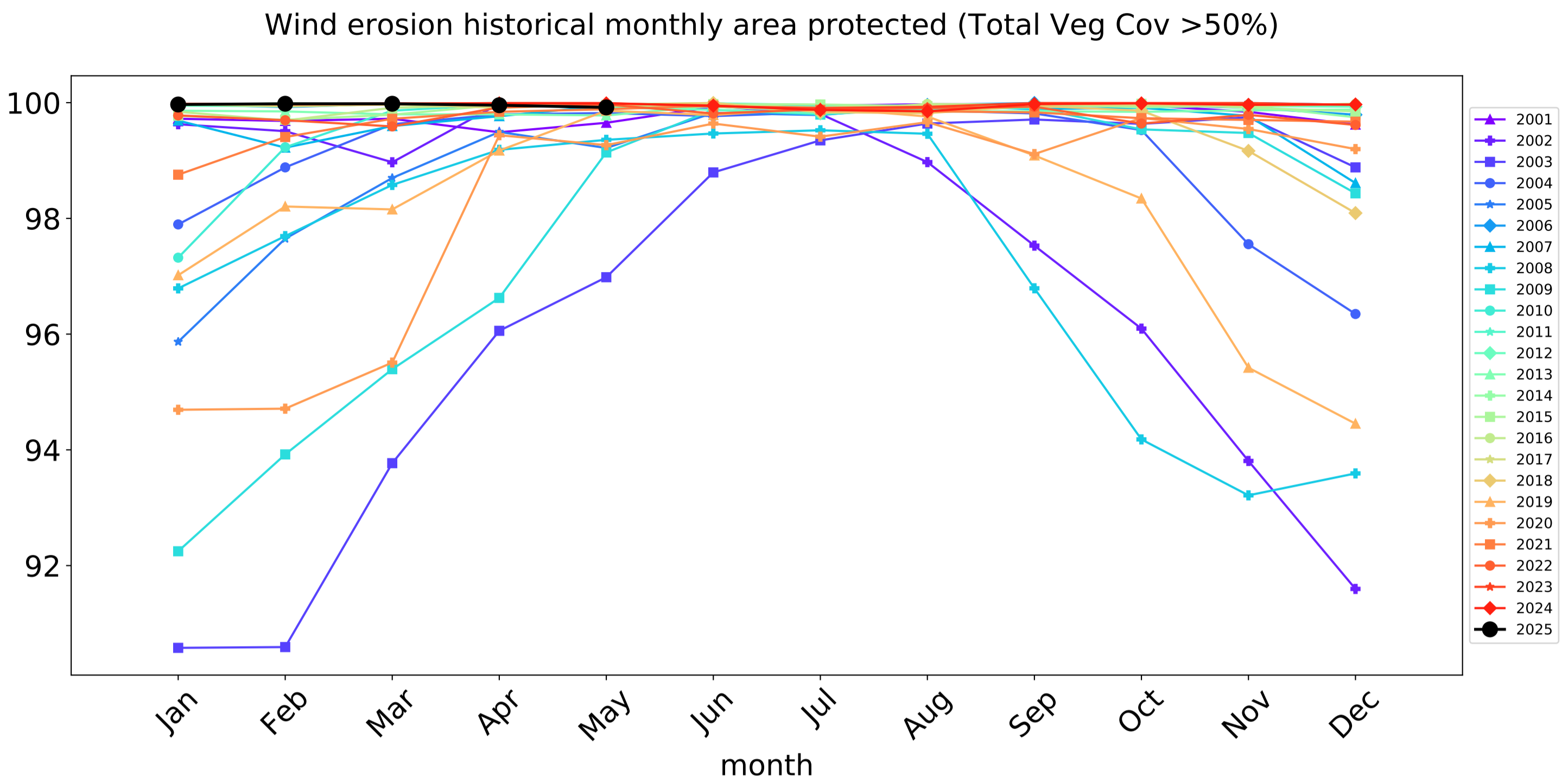
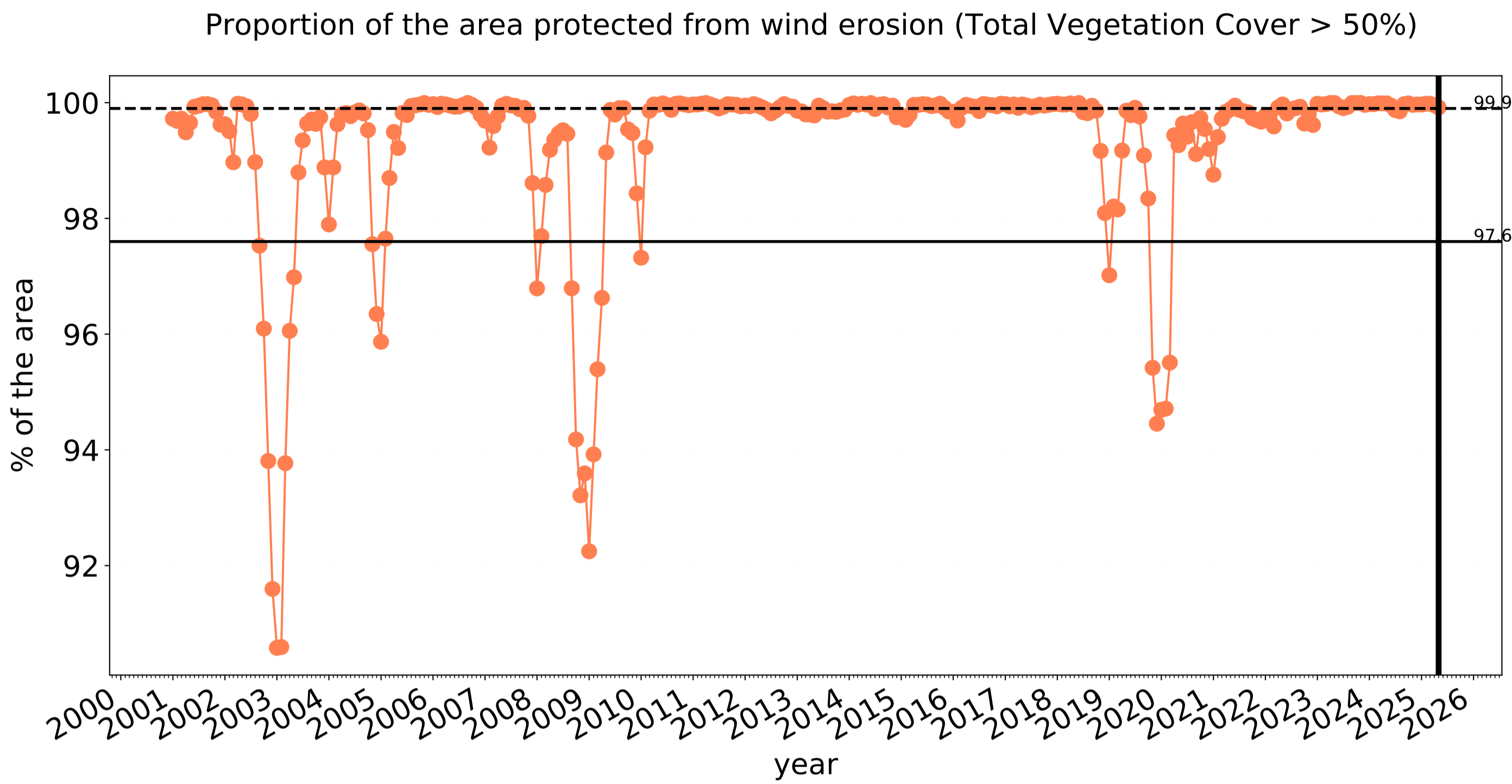


Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]

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.

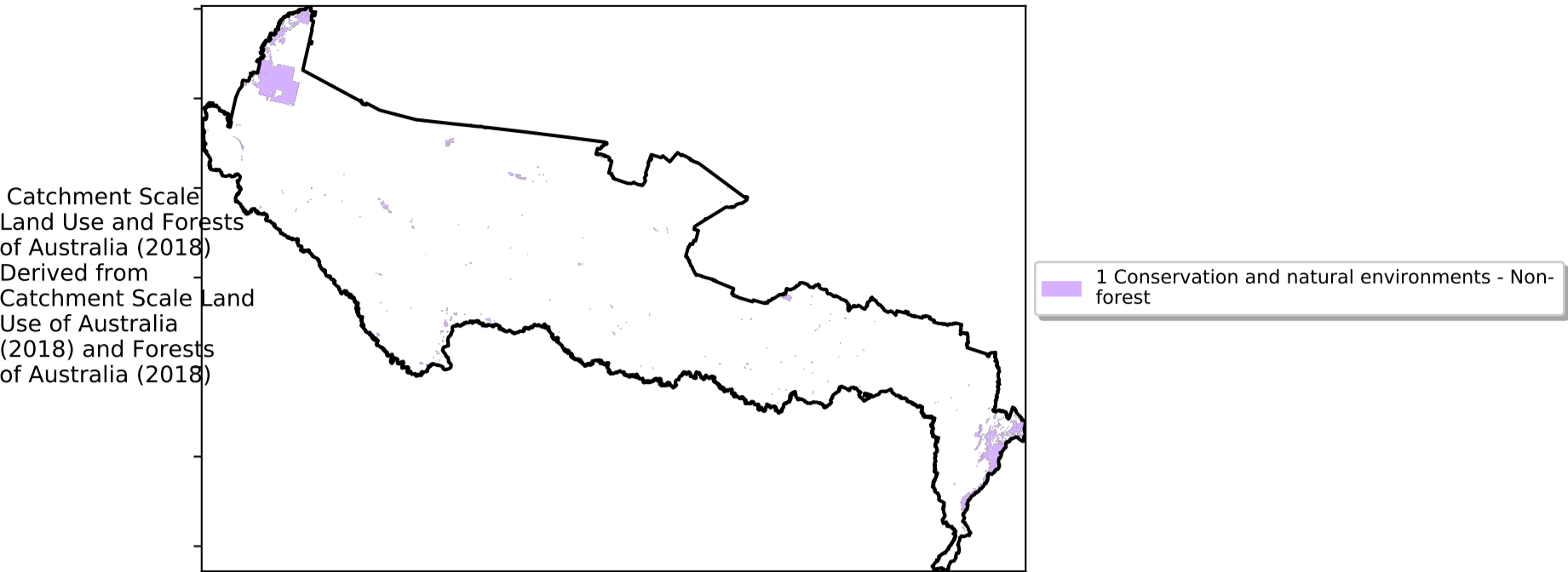


Conservation and natural environments timeseries

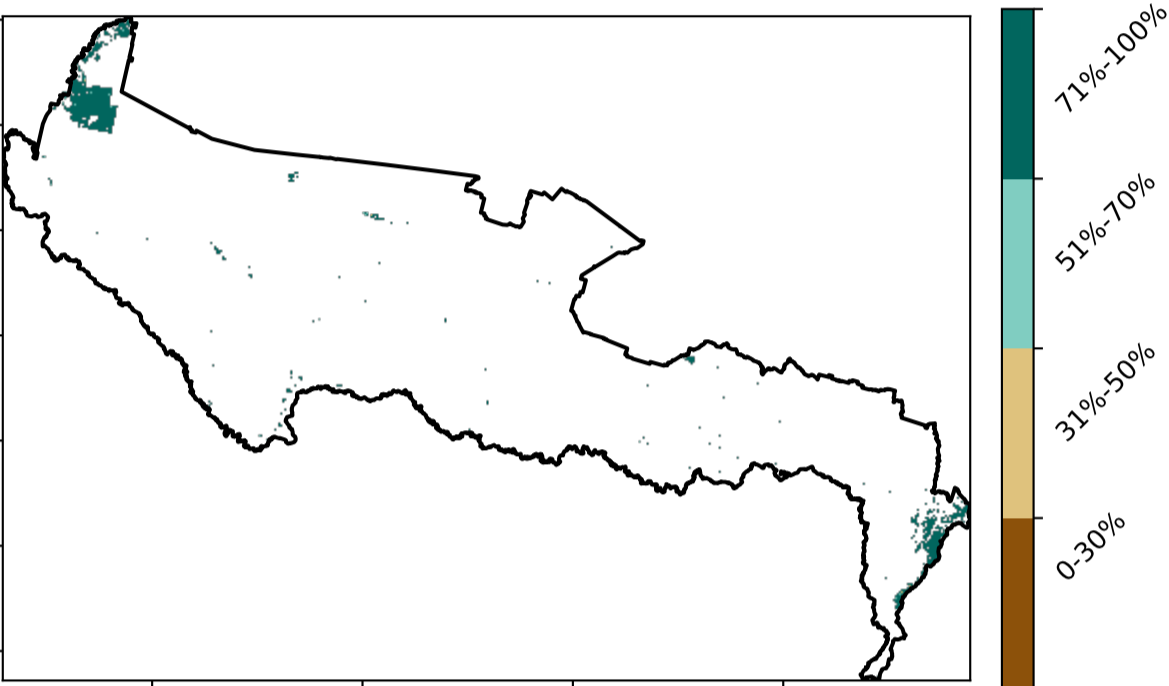


Conservation and natural environments non forest

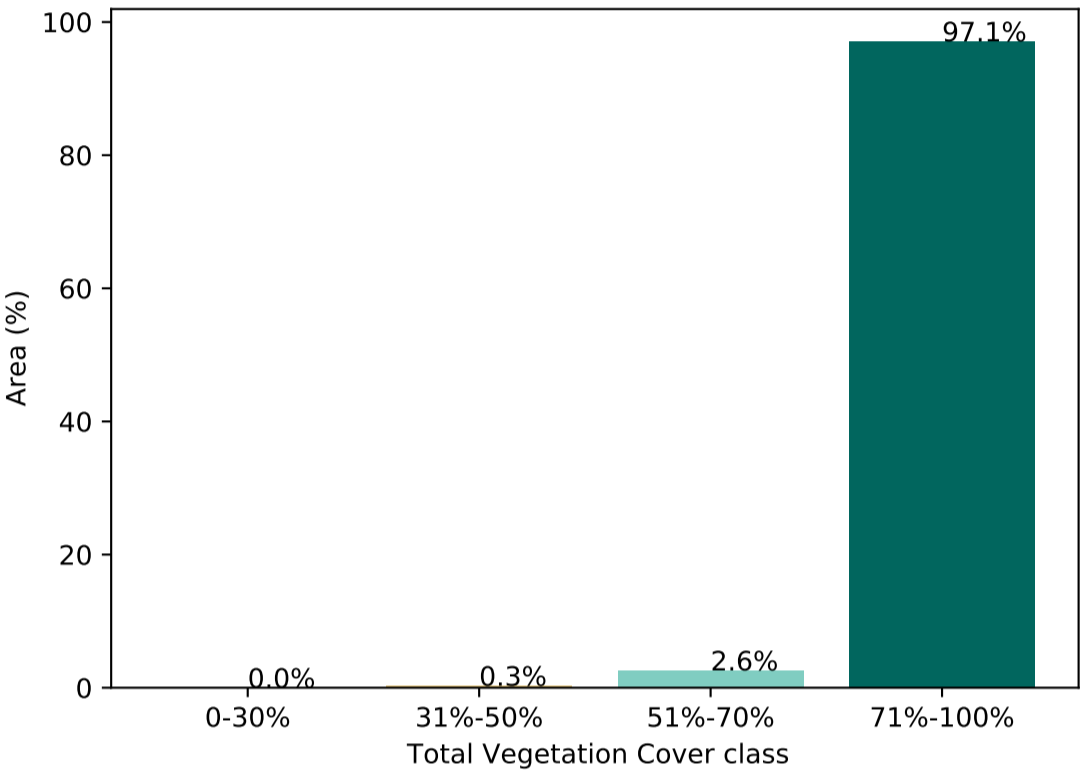
Land use and forest cover



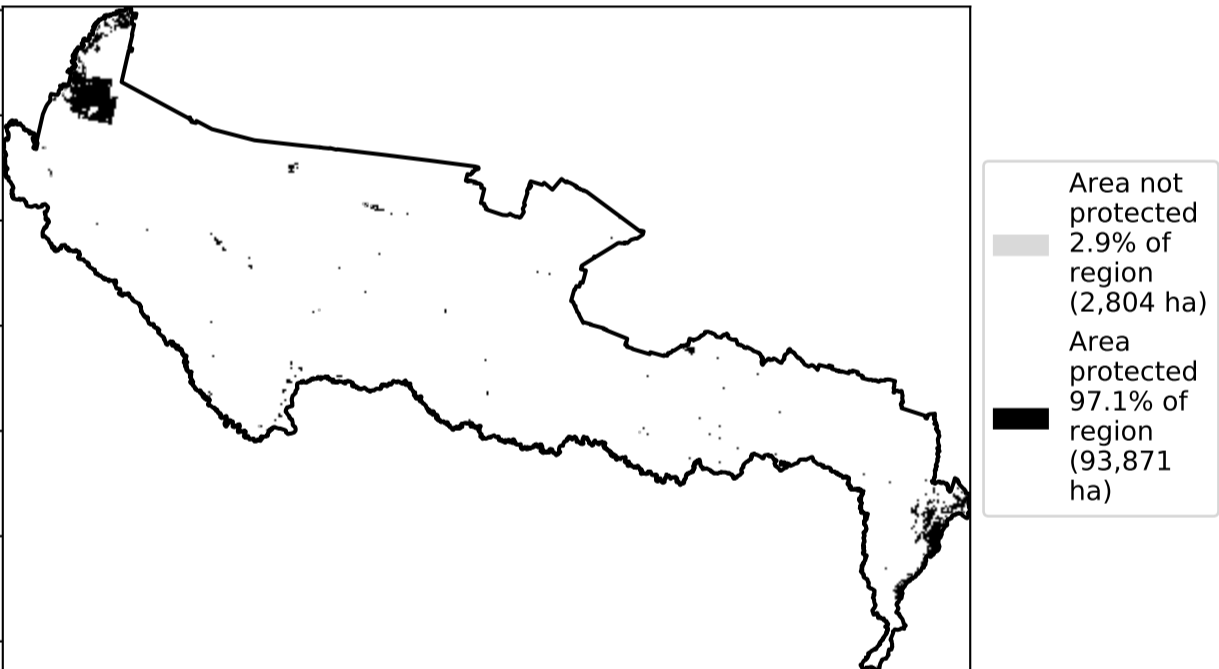
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



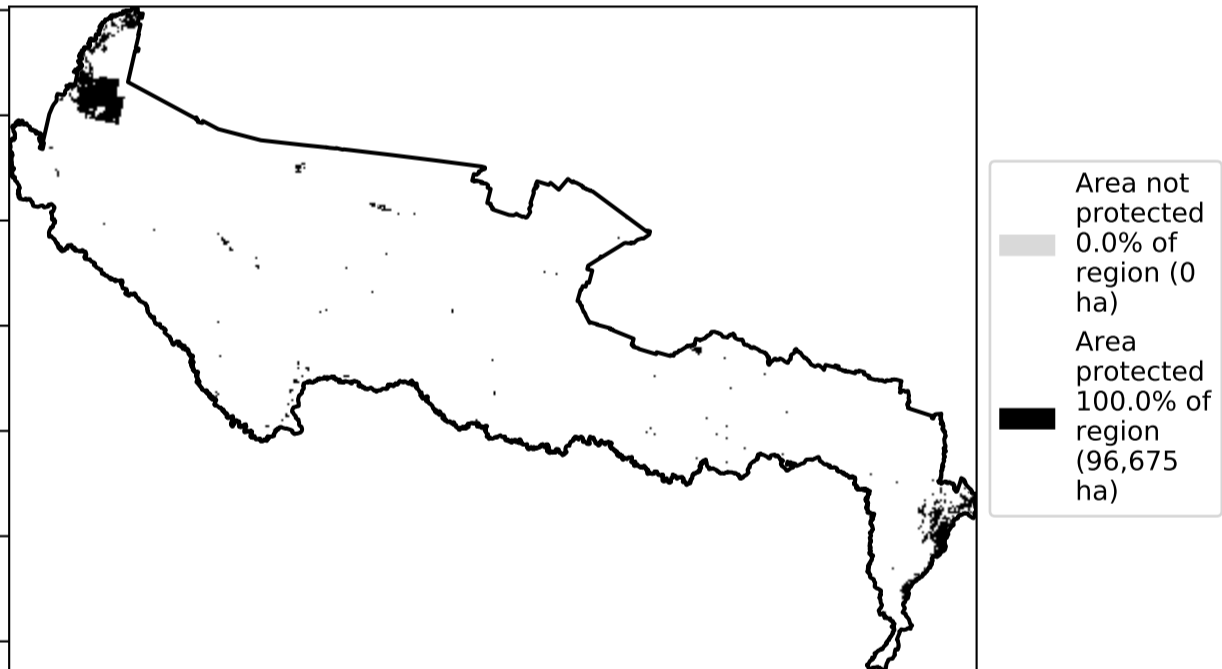
Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



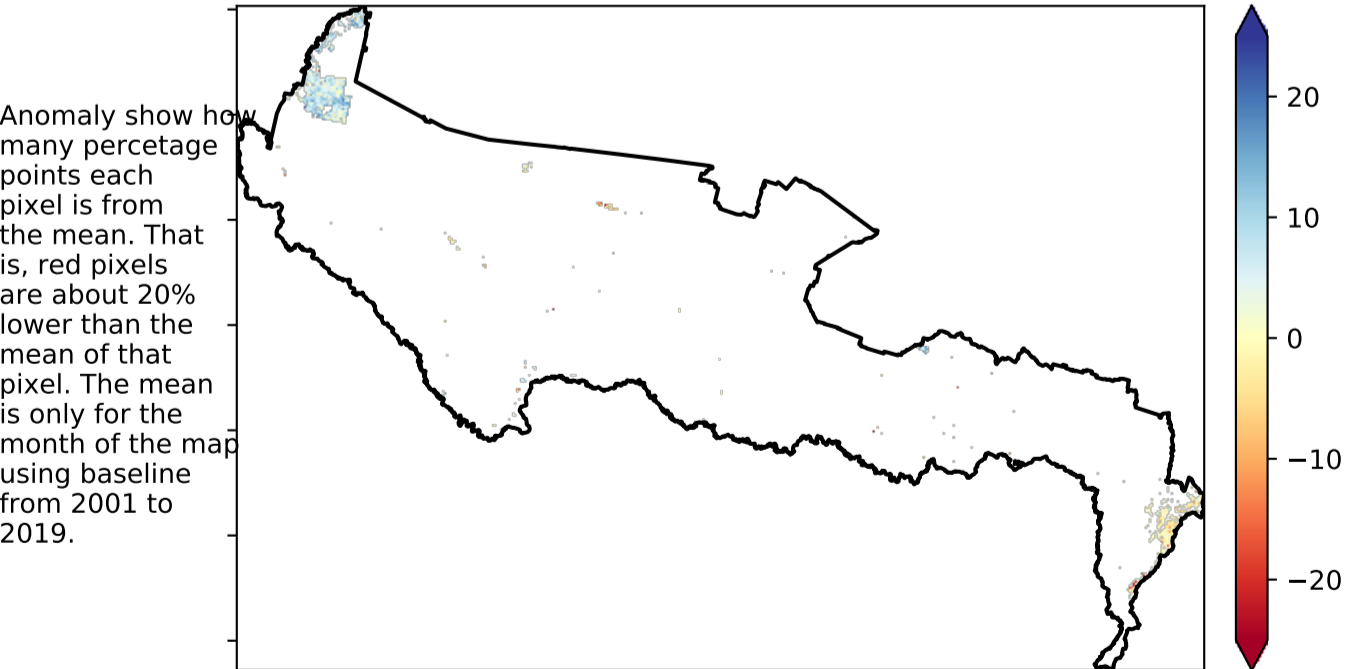
% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)

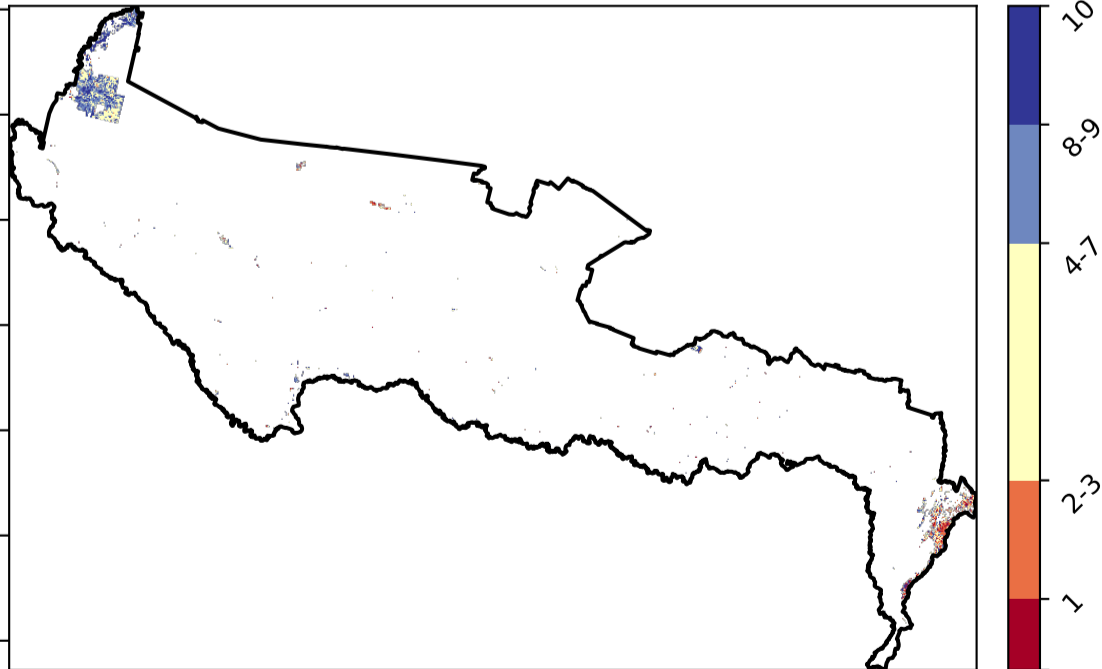


Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]



Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]

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



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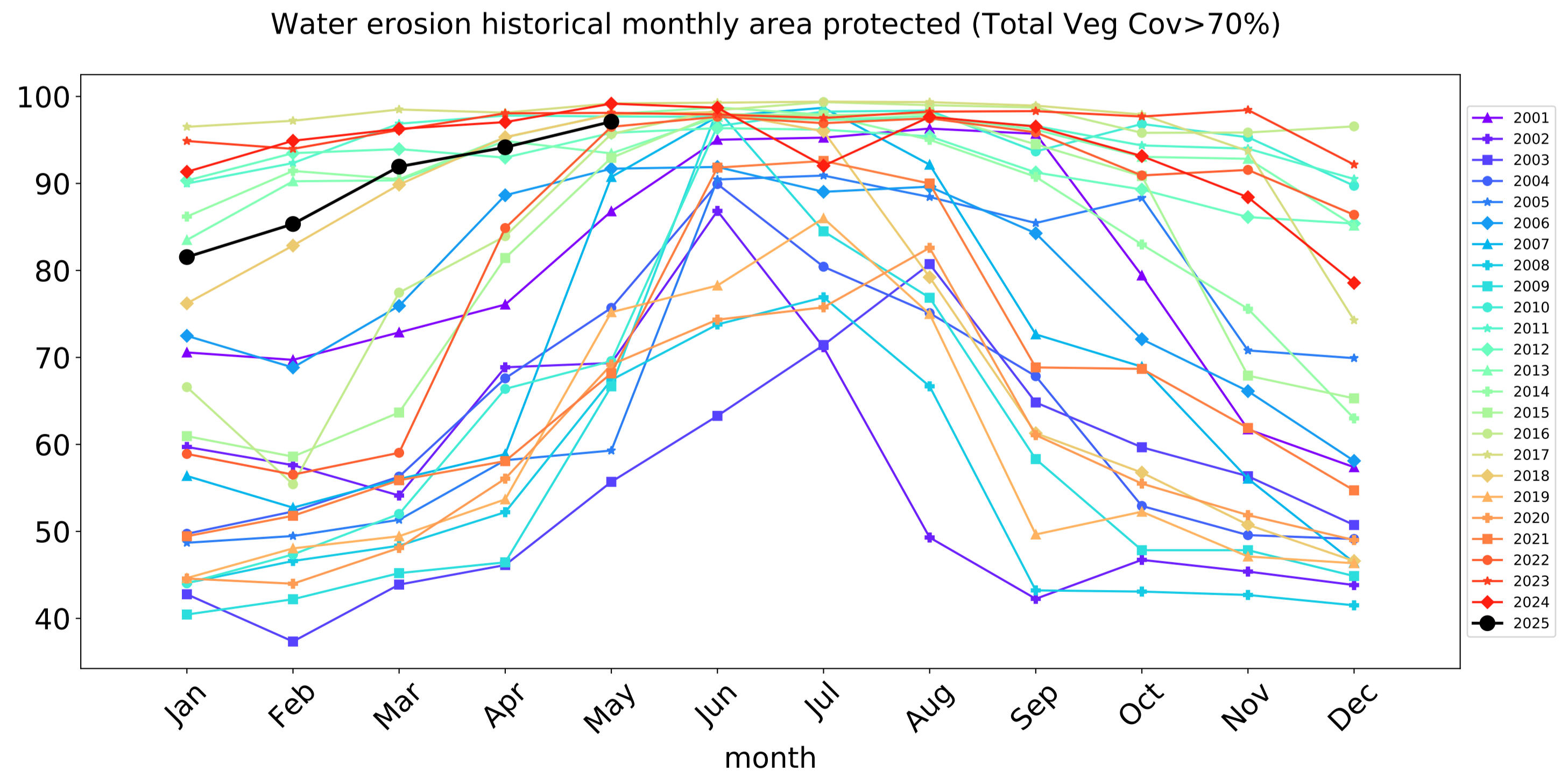
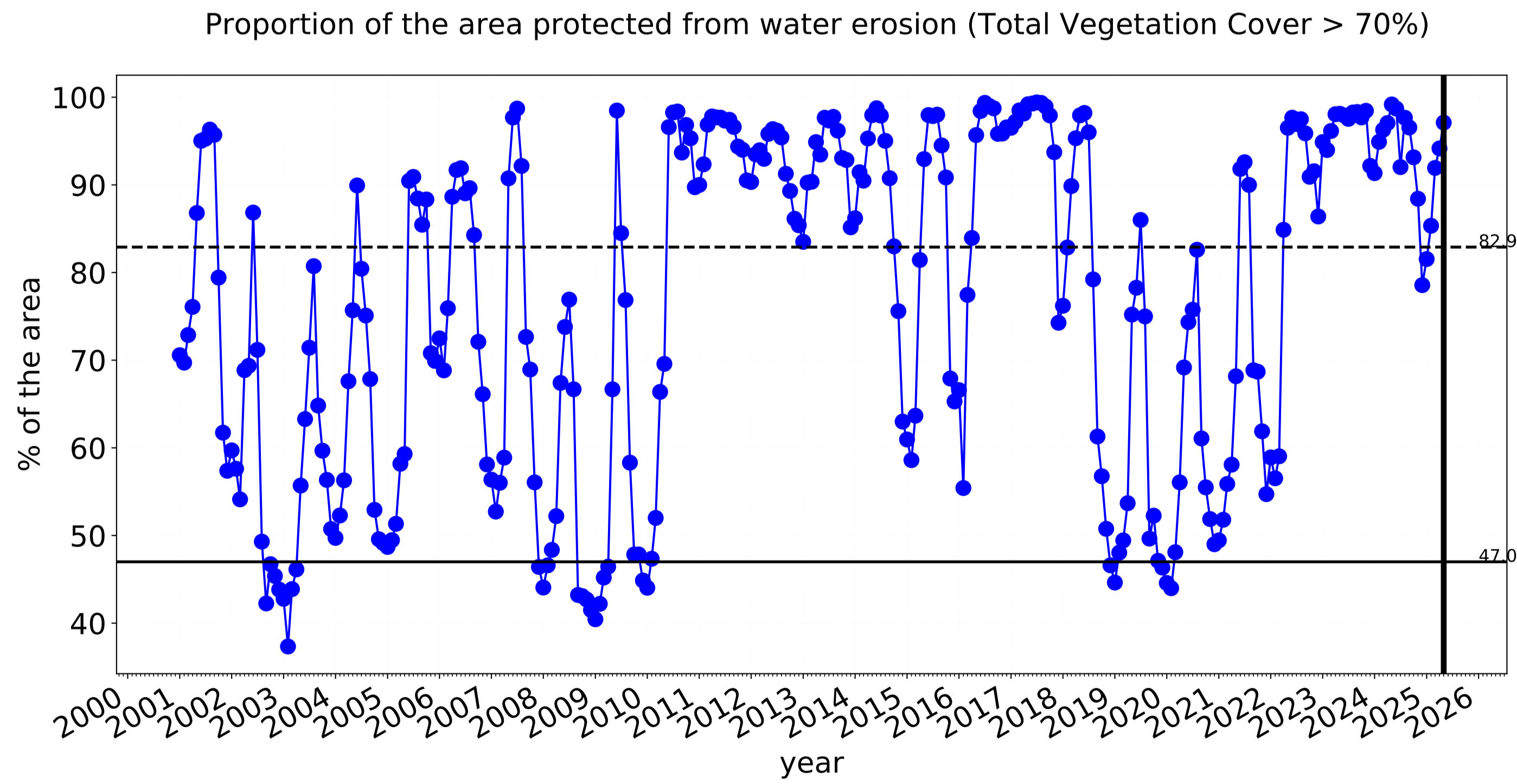
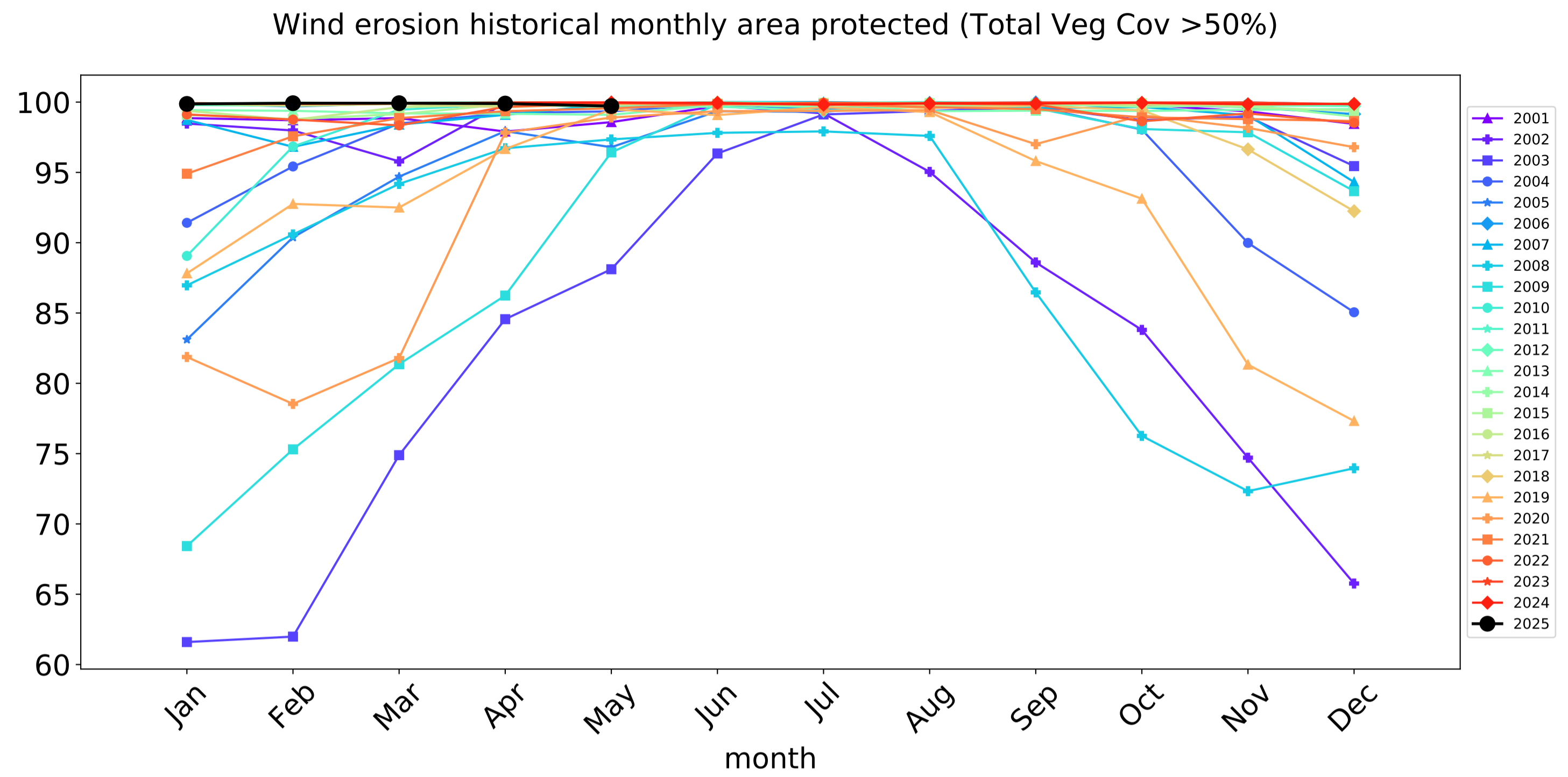
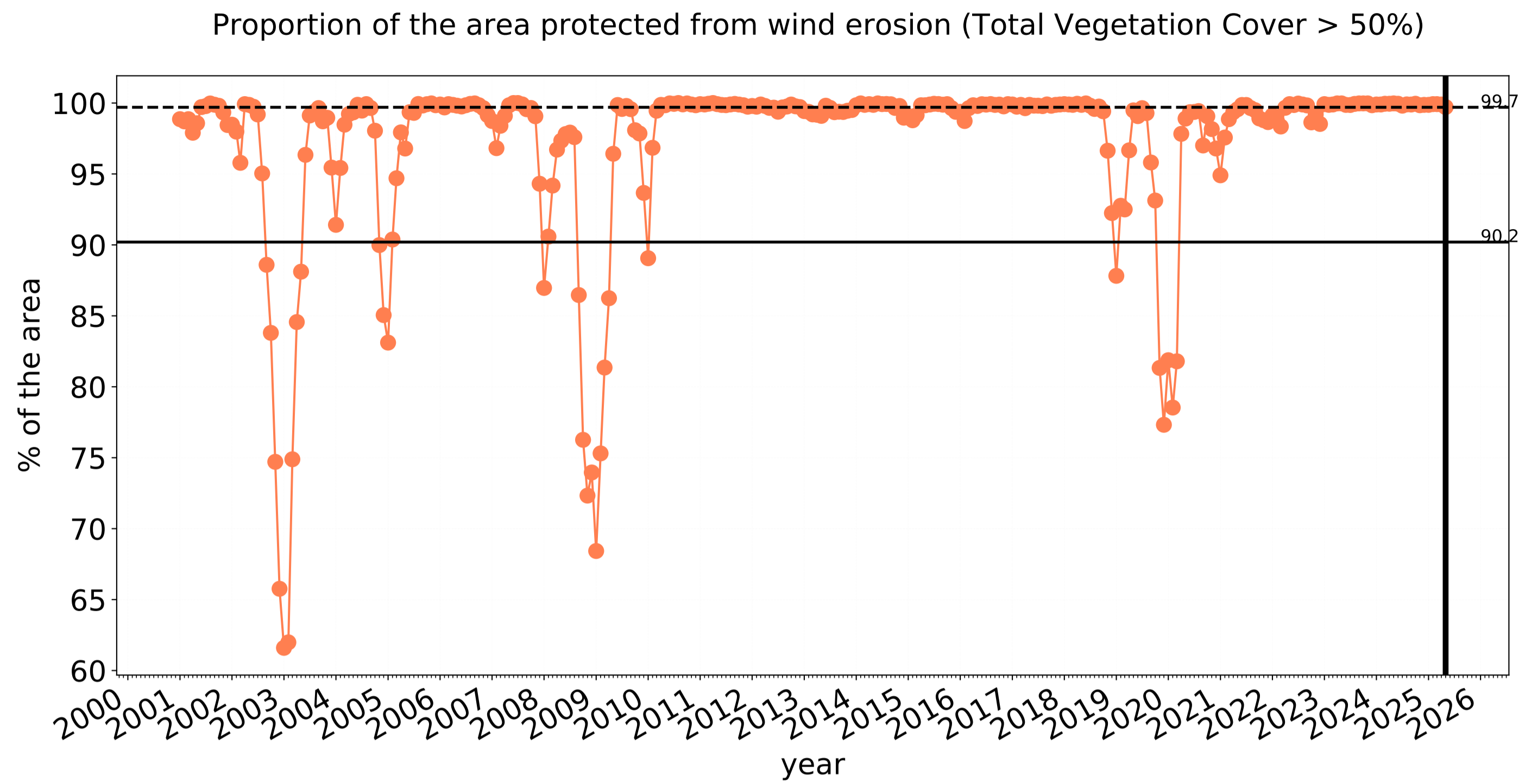


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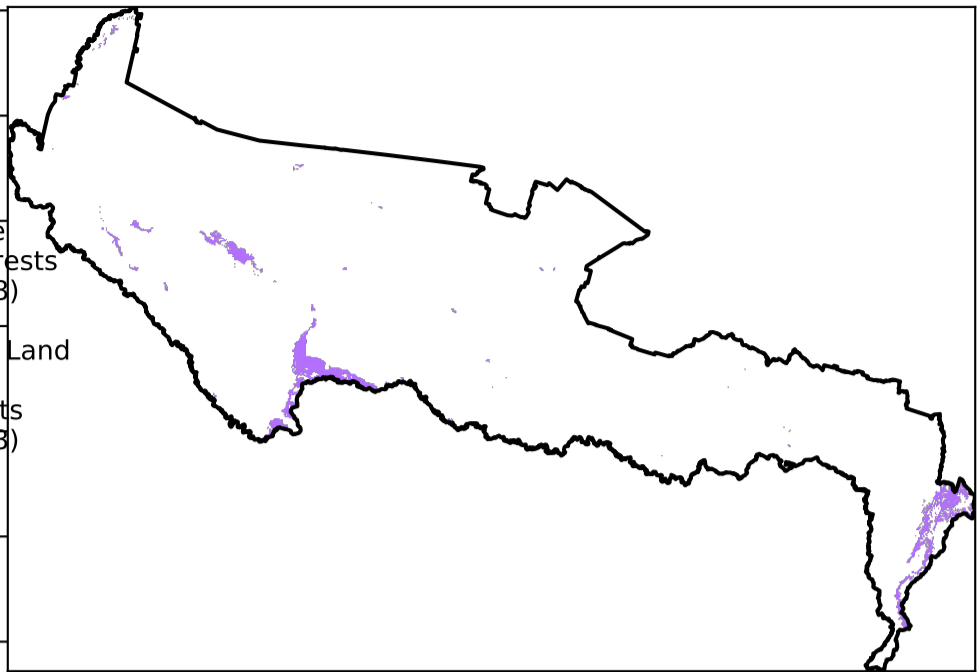
Conservation and natural environments non forest timeseries



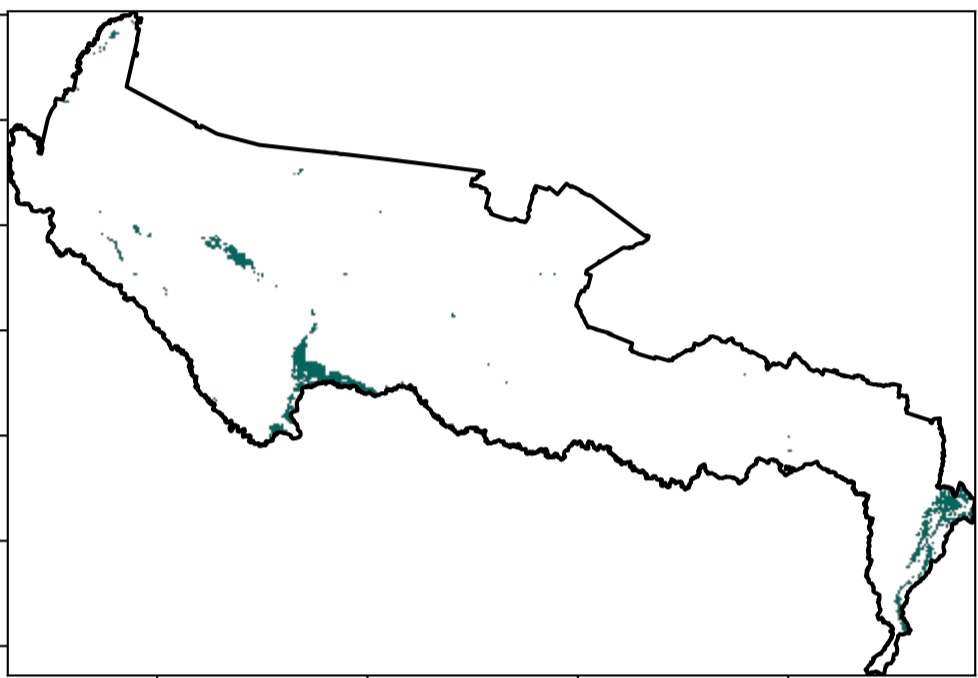
Conservation and natural environments Woodland forest

Land use and forest cover

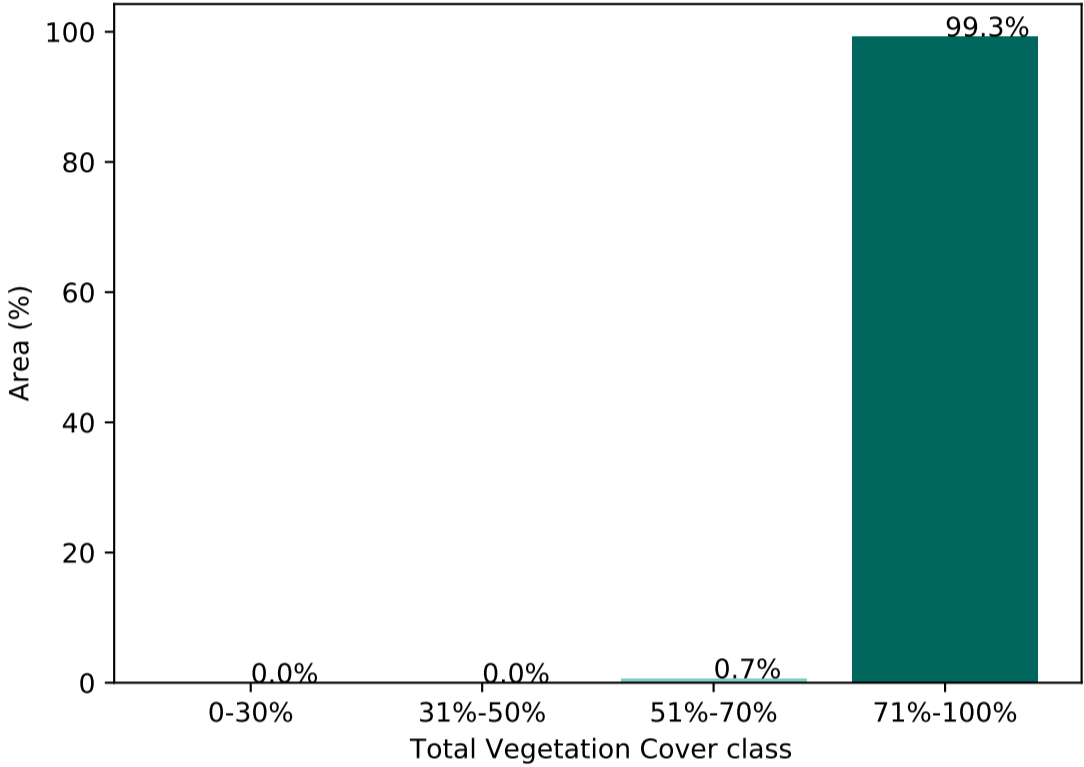
Catchment Scale  
Land Use and Forests  
of Australia (2018)  
Derived from  
Catchment Scale Land  
Use of Australia  
(2018) and Forests  
of Australia (2018)



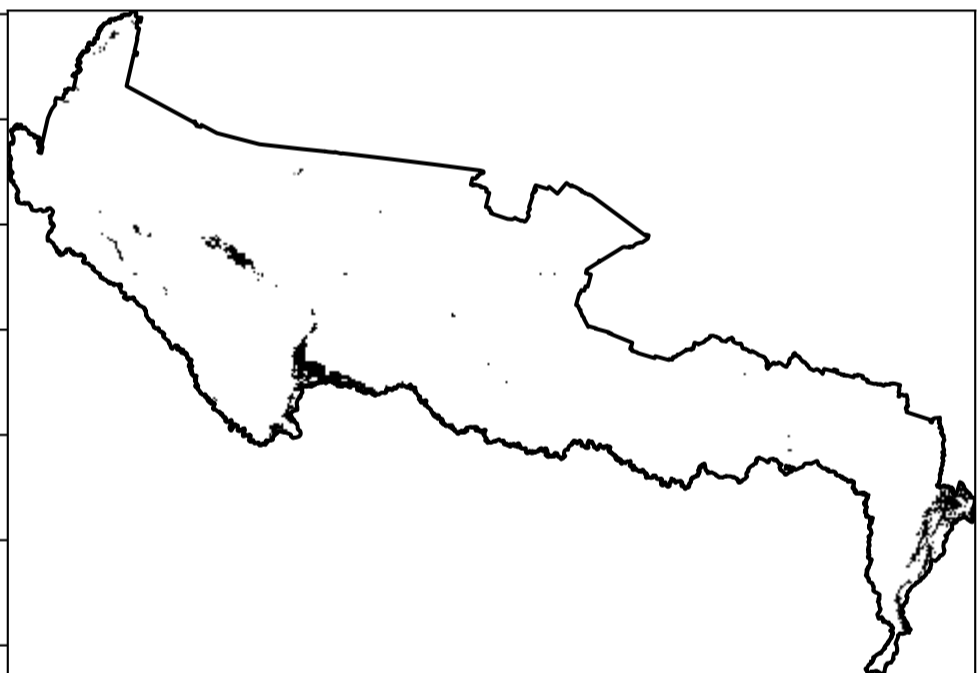
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



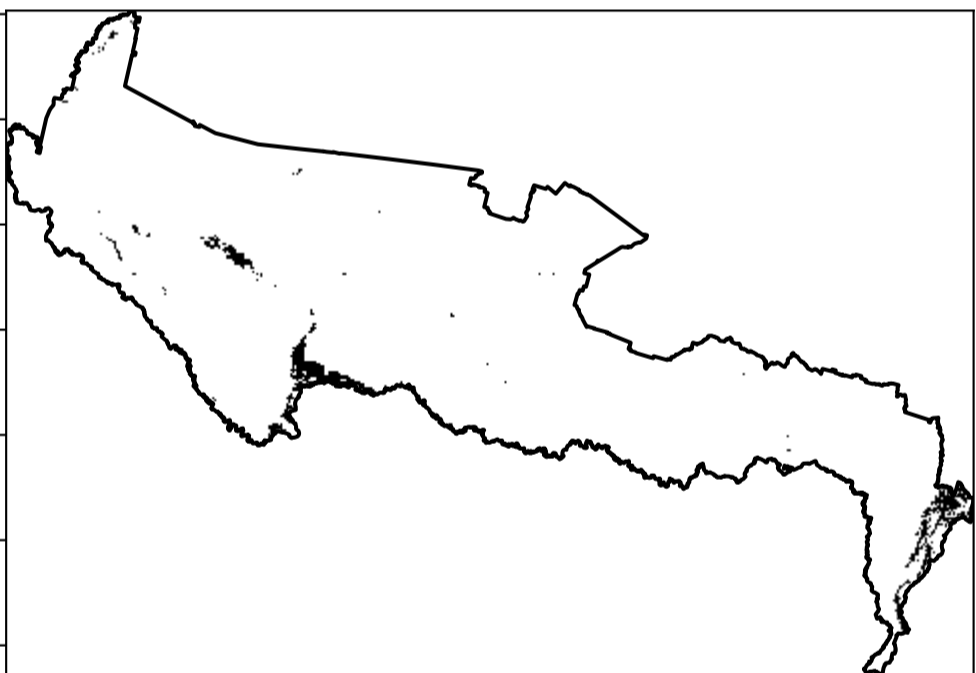
Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)

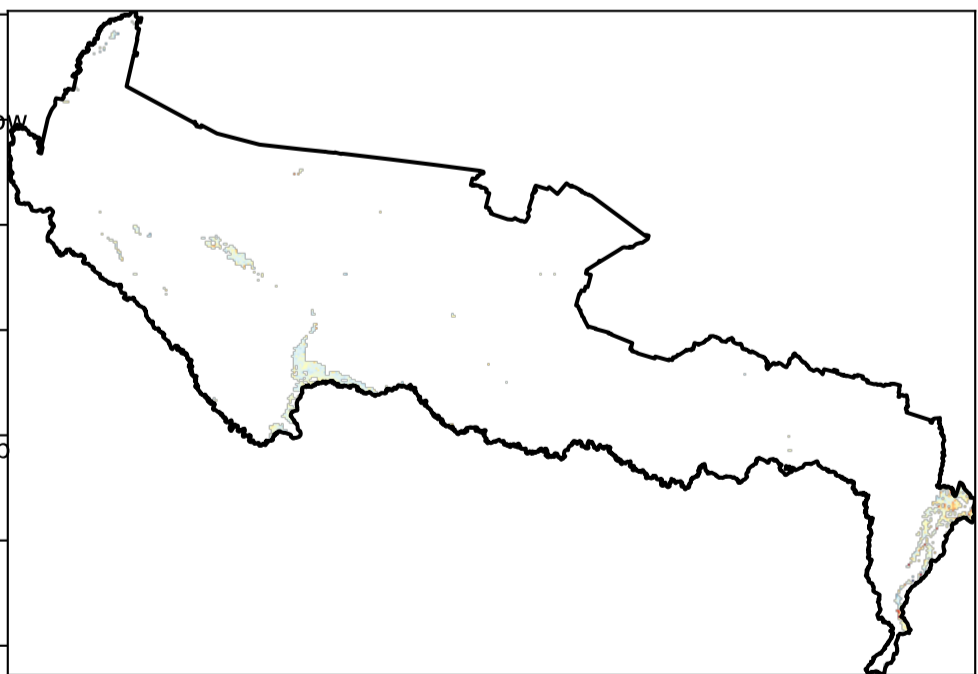


% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



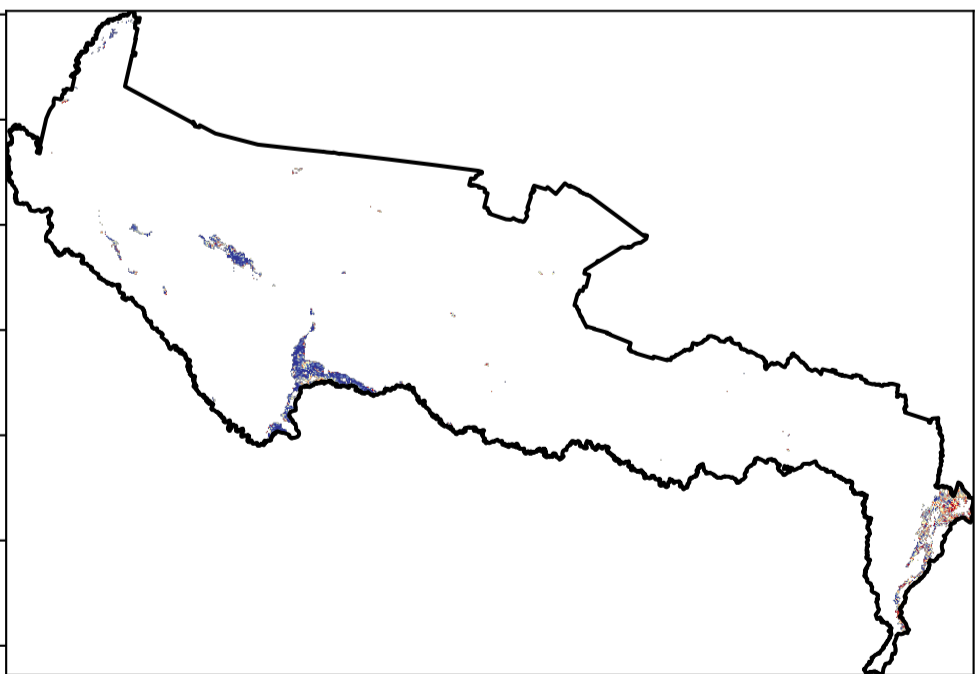
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

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.

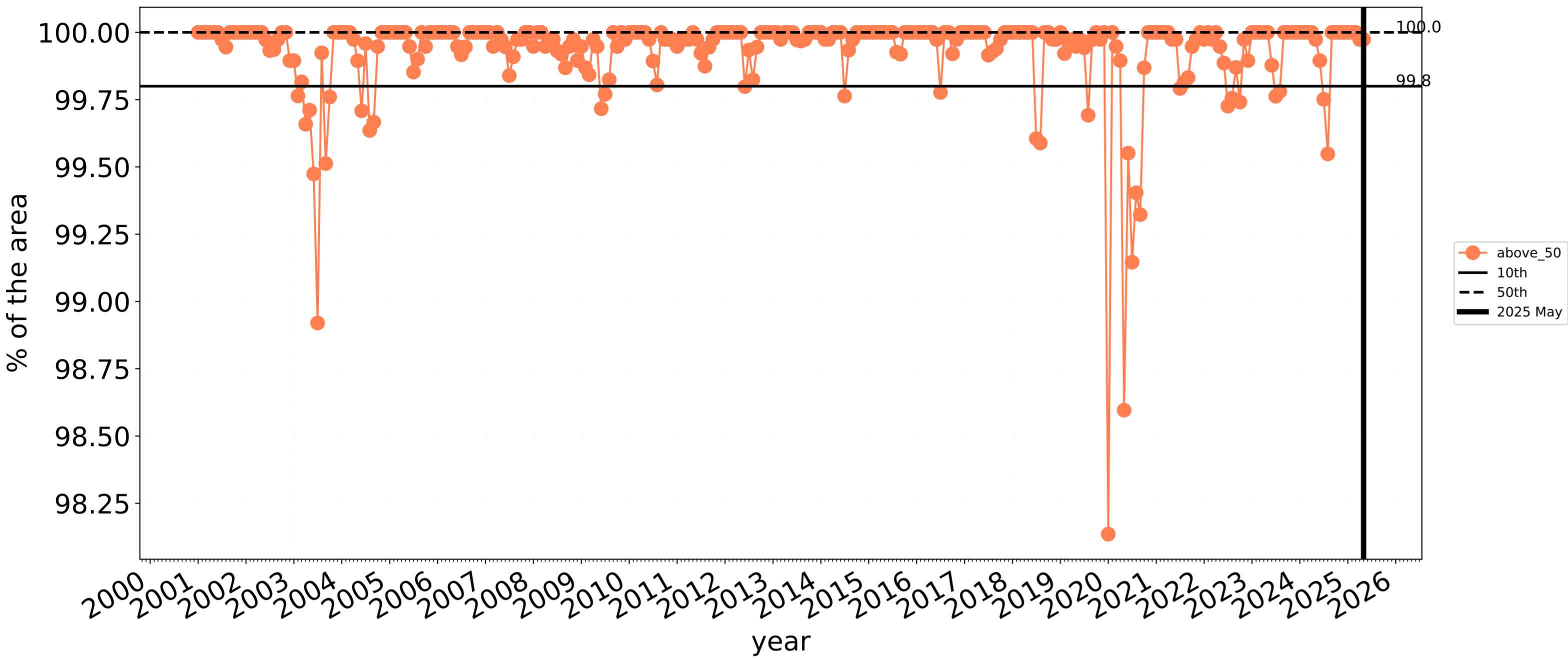


Deciles show where the pixel value lies in the record, from highest to lowest, for that month. That is, red pixels are in the lowest 10% of records for that month of the map using baseline from 2001 to 2019.

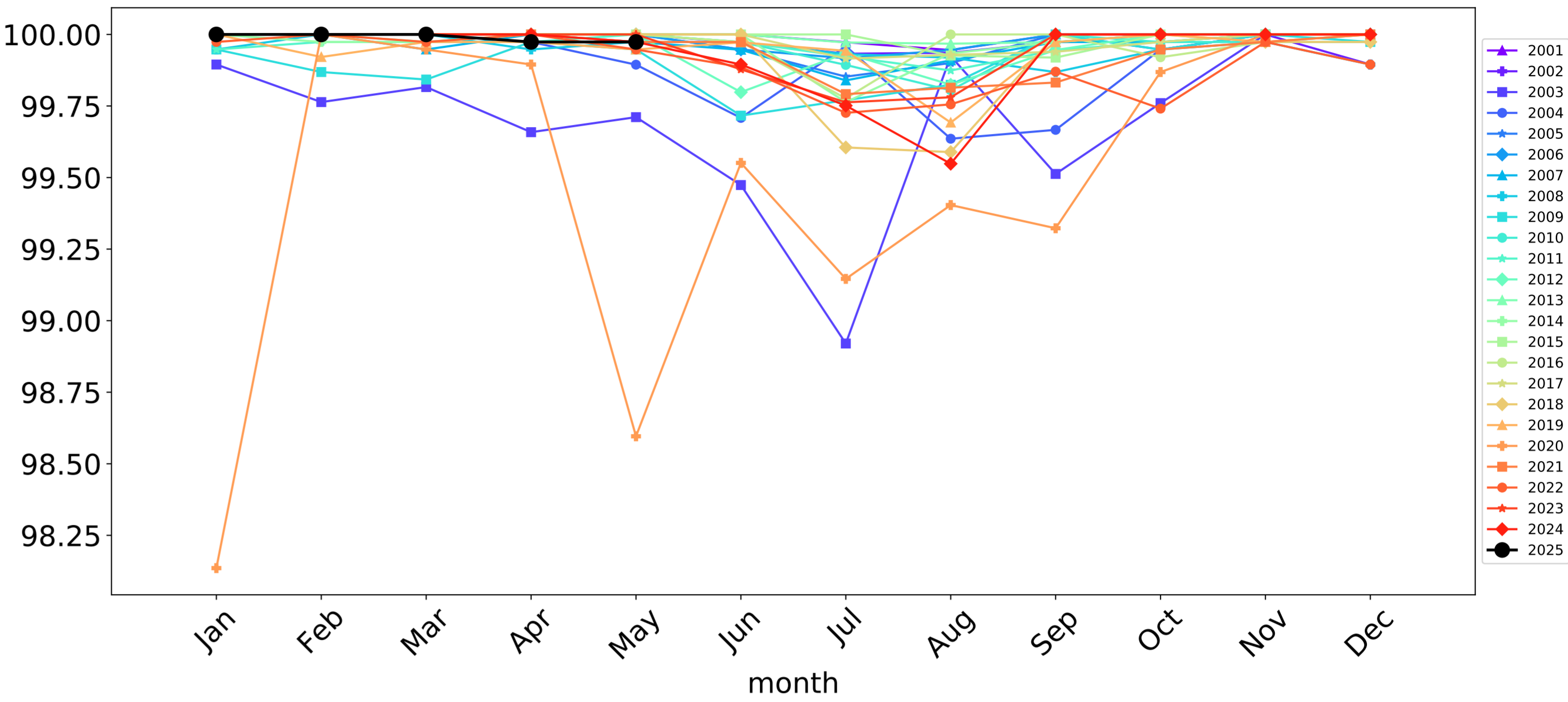
Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]



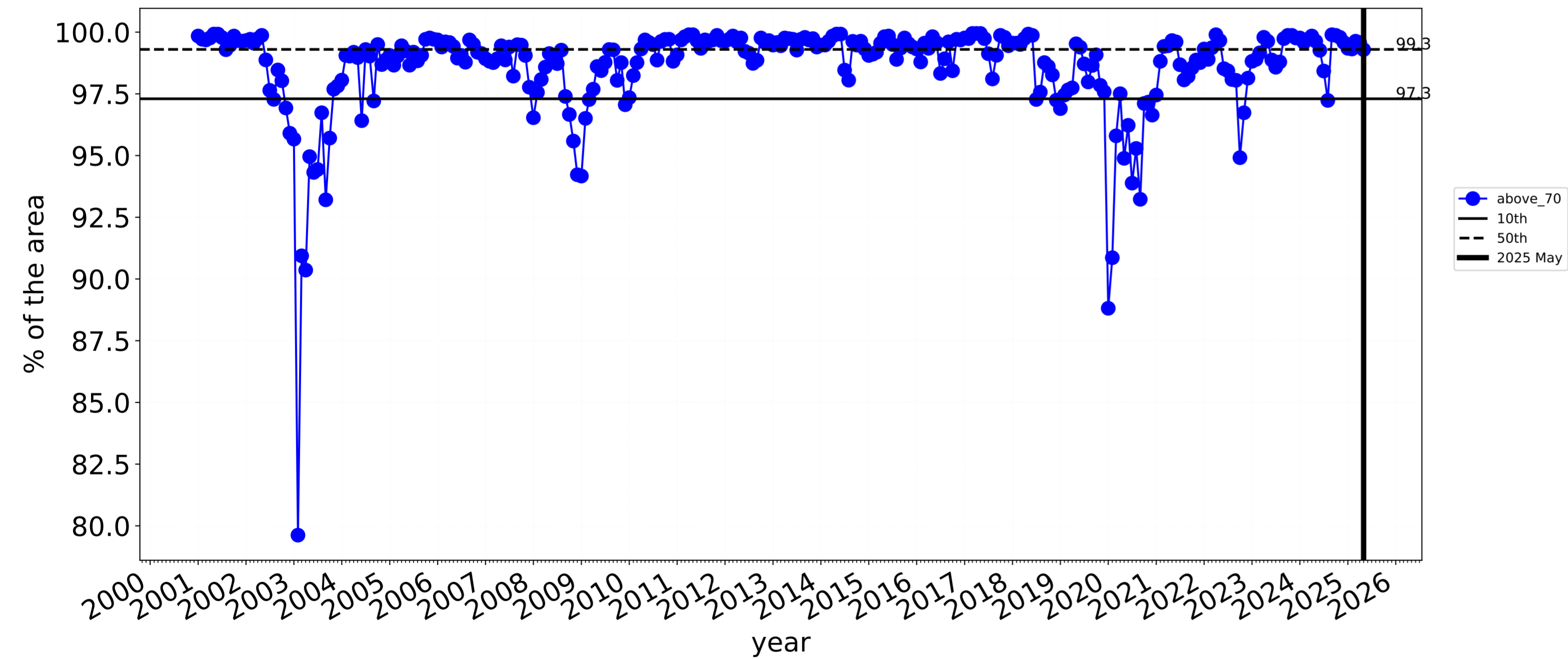
Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)



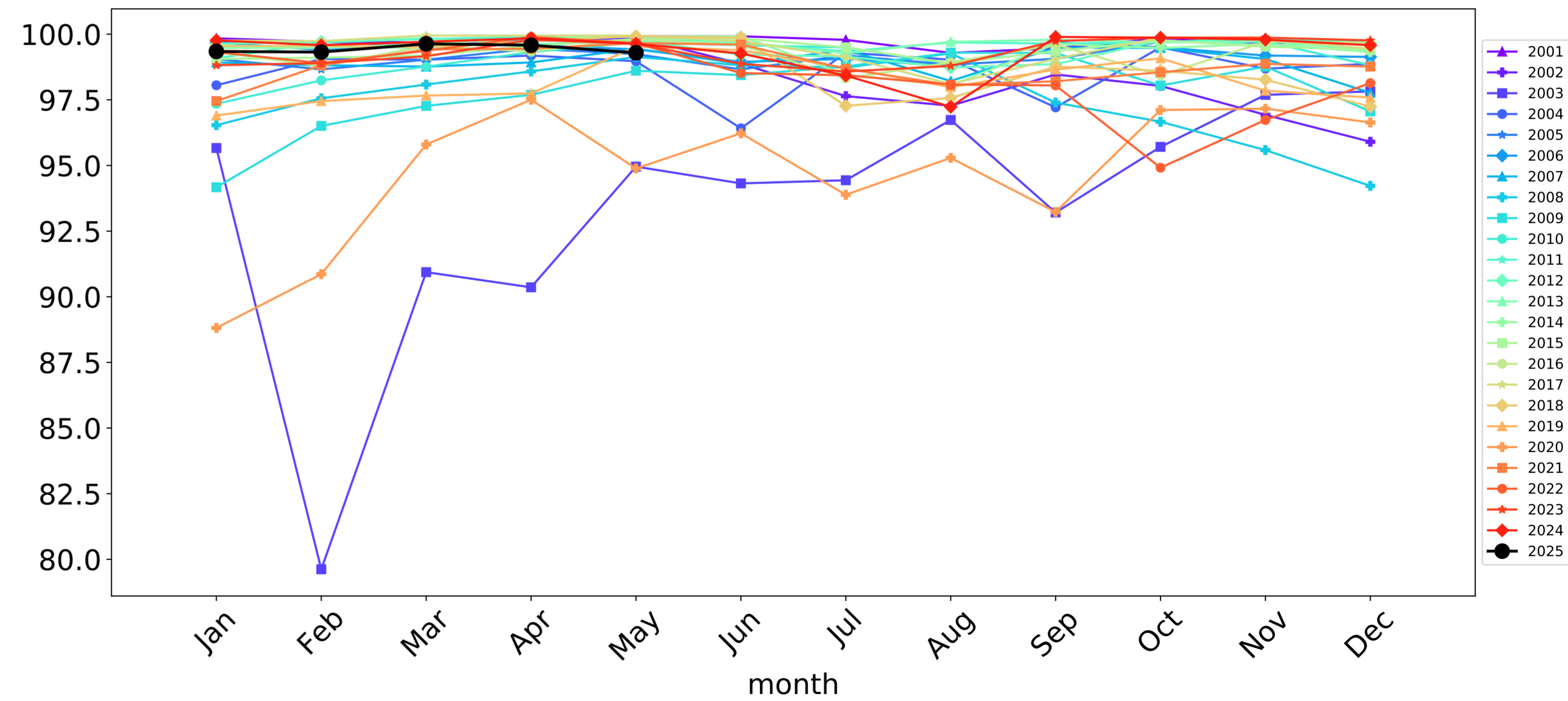
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



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

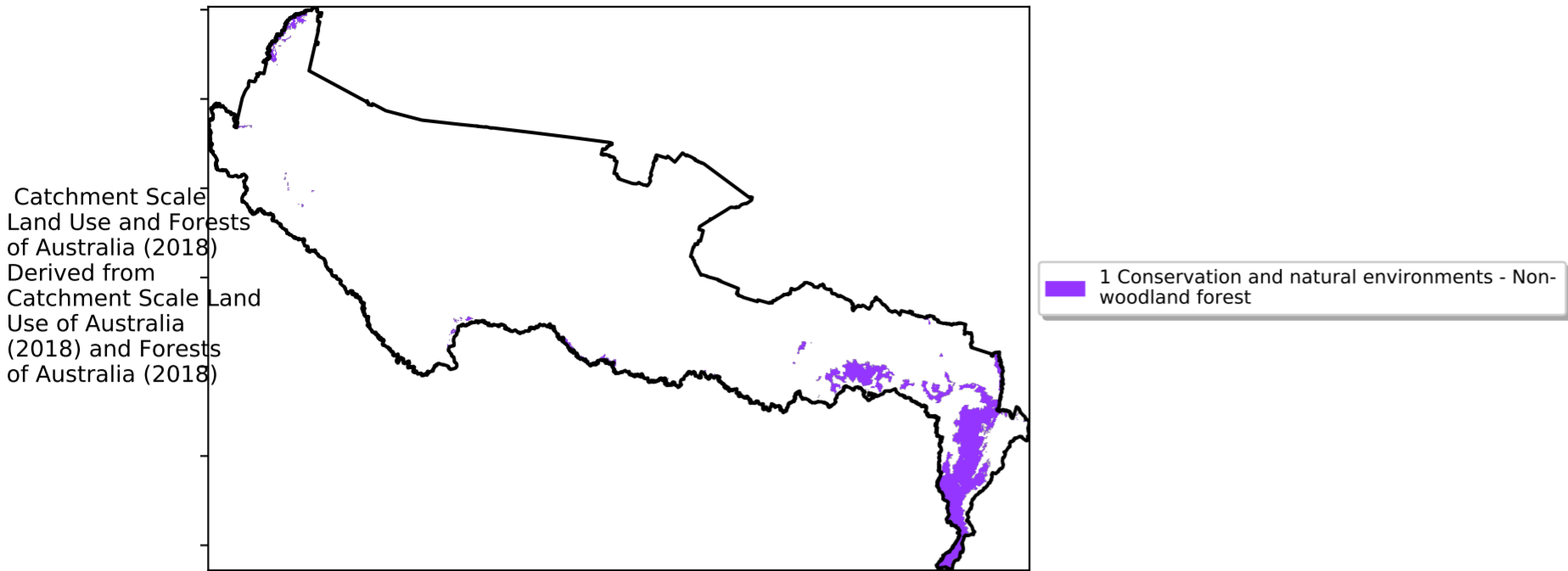


Water erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov>70%)

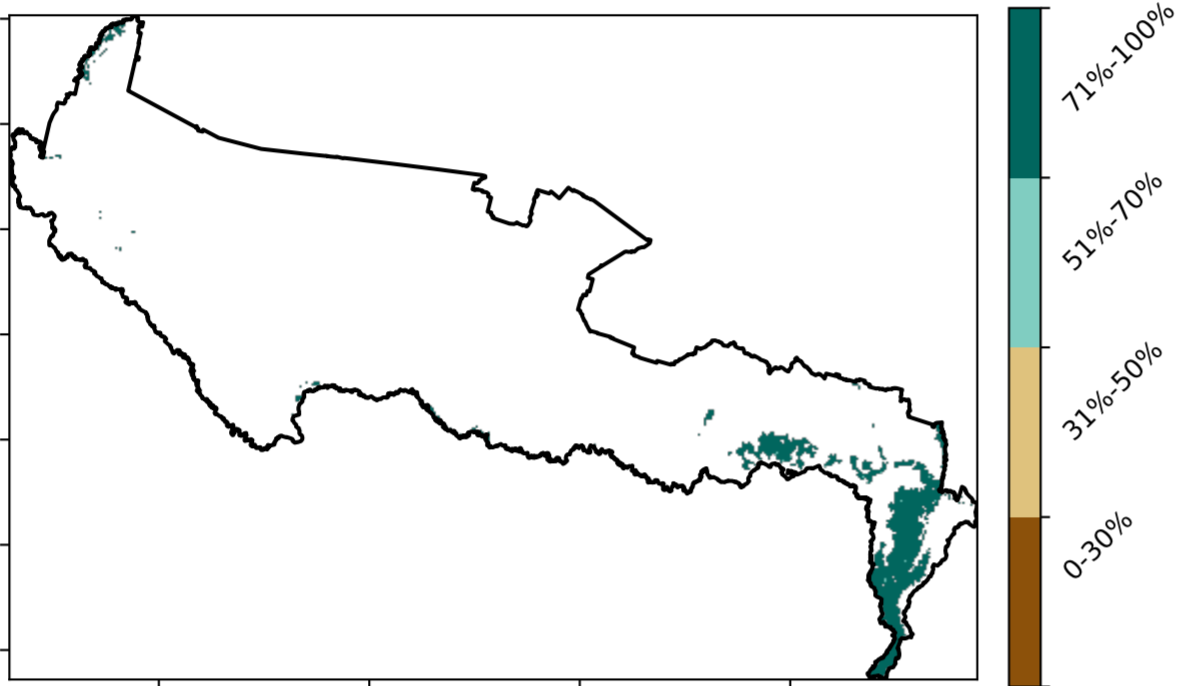


Conservation and natural environments Forest (non woodland)

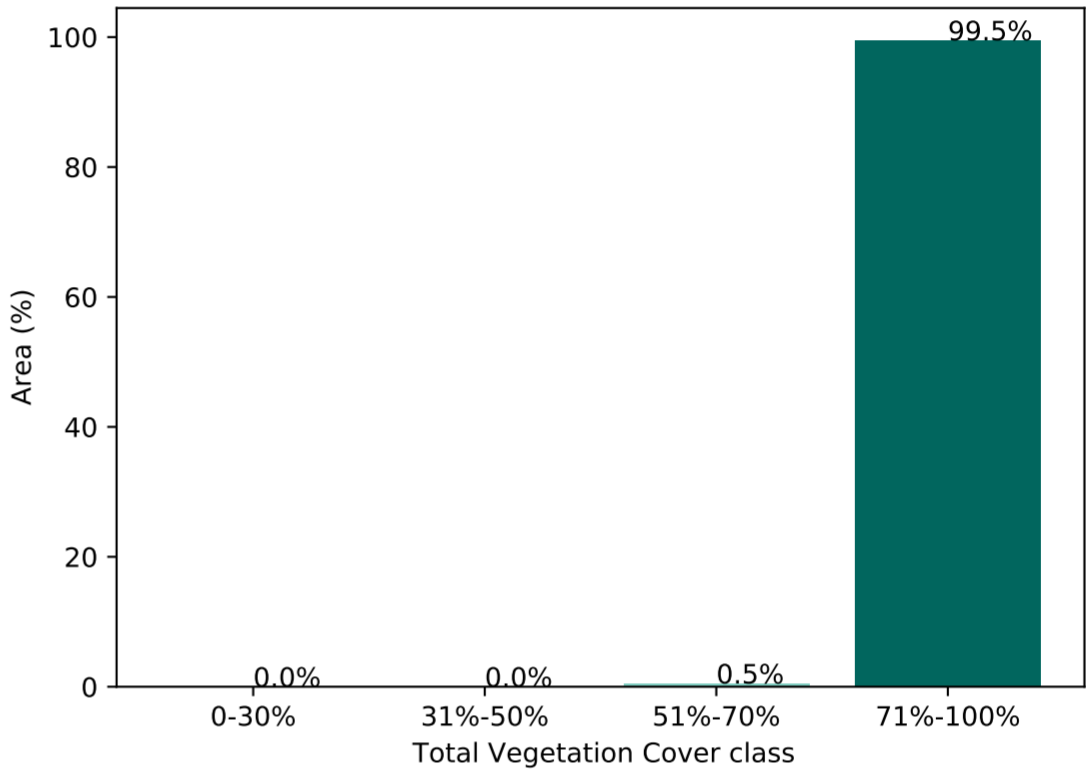
Land use and forest cover



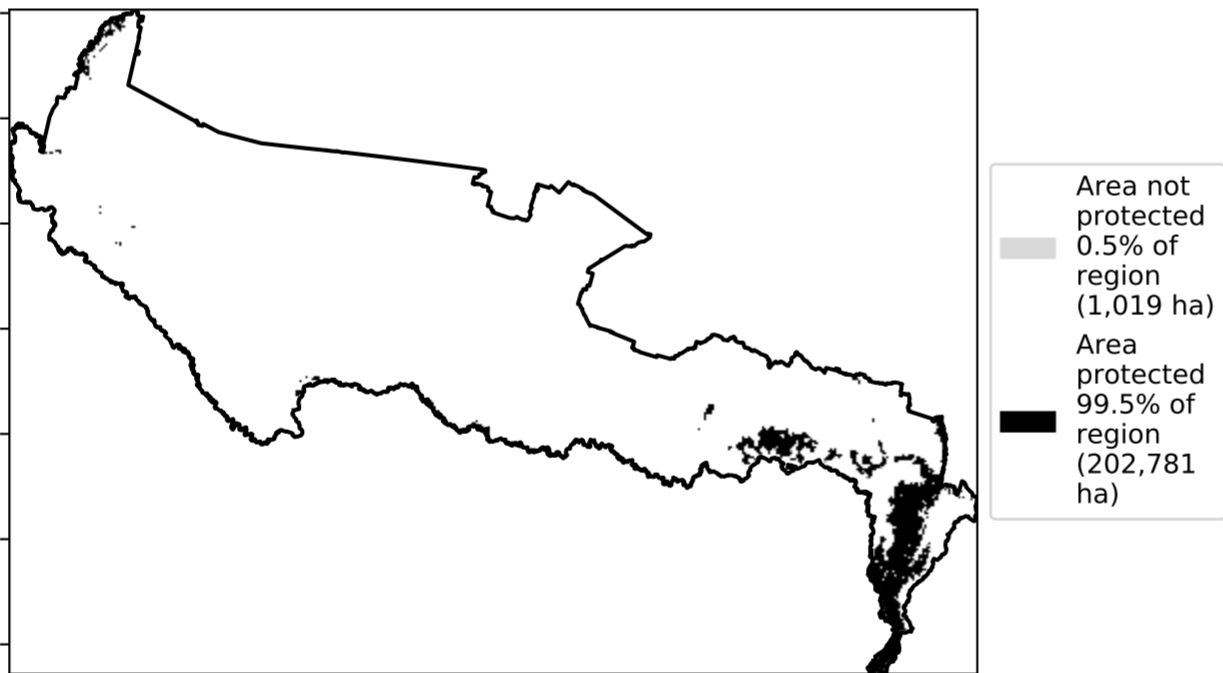
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



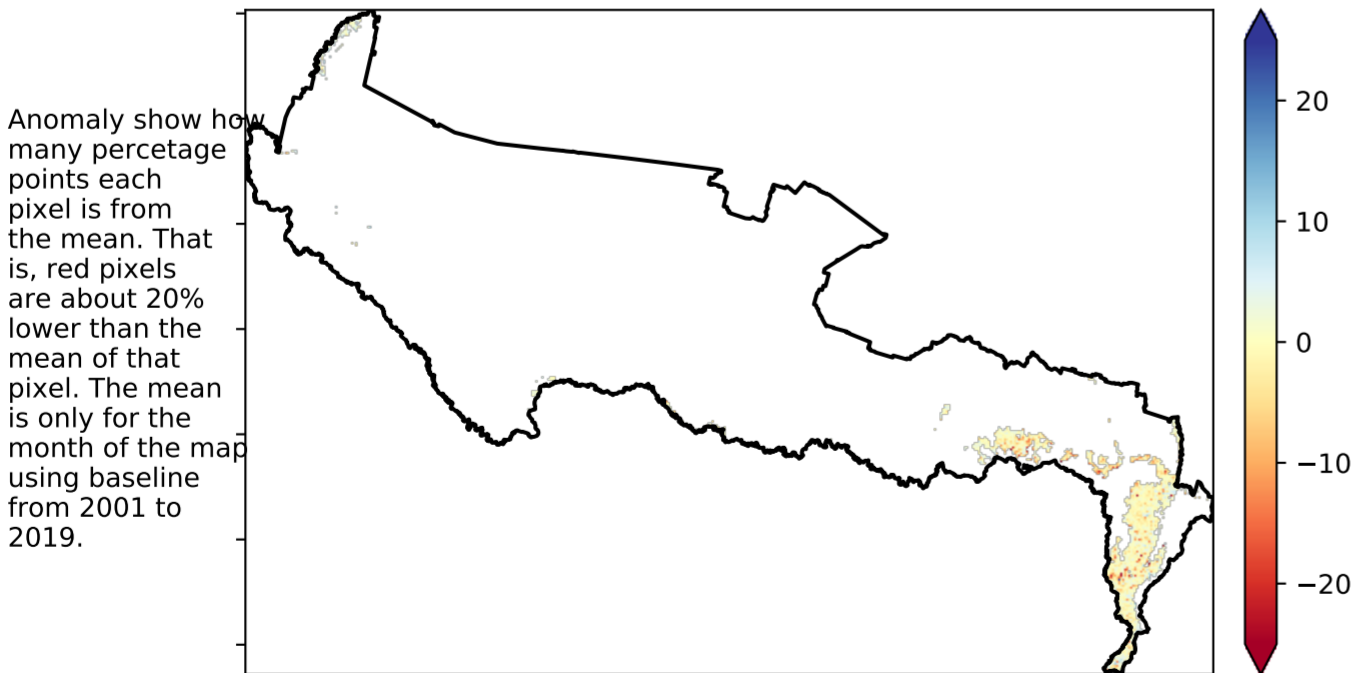
% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)

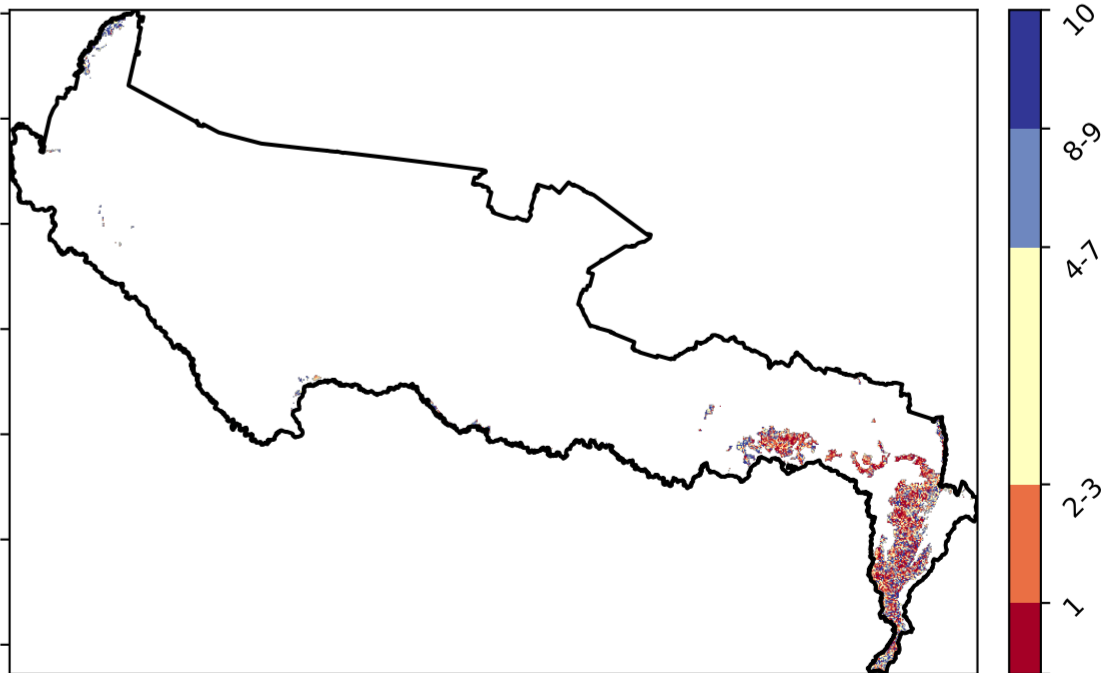


Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

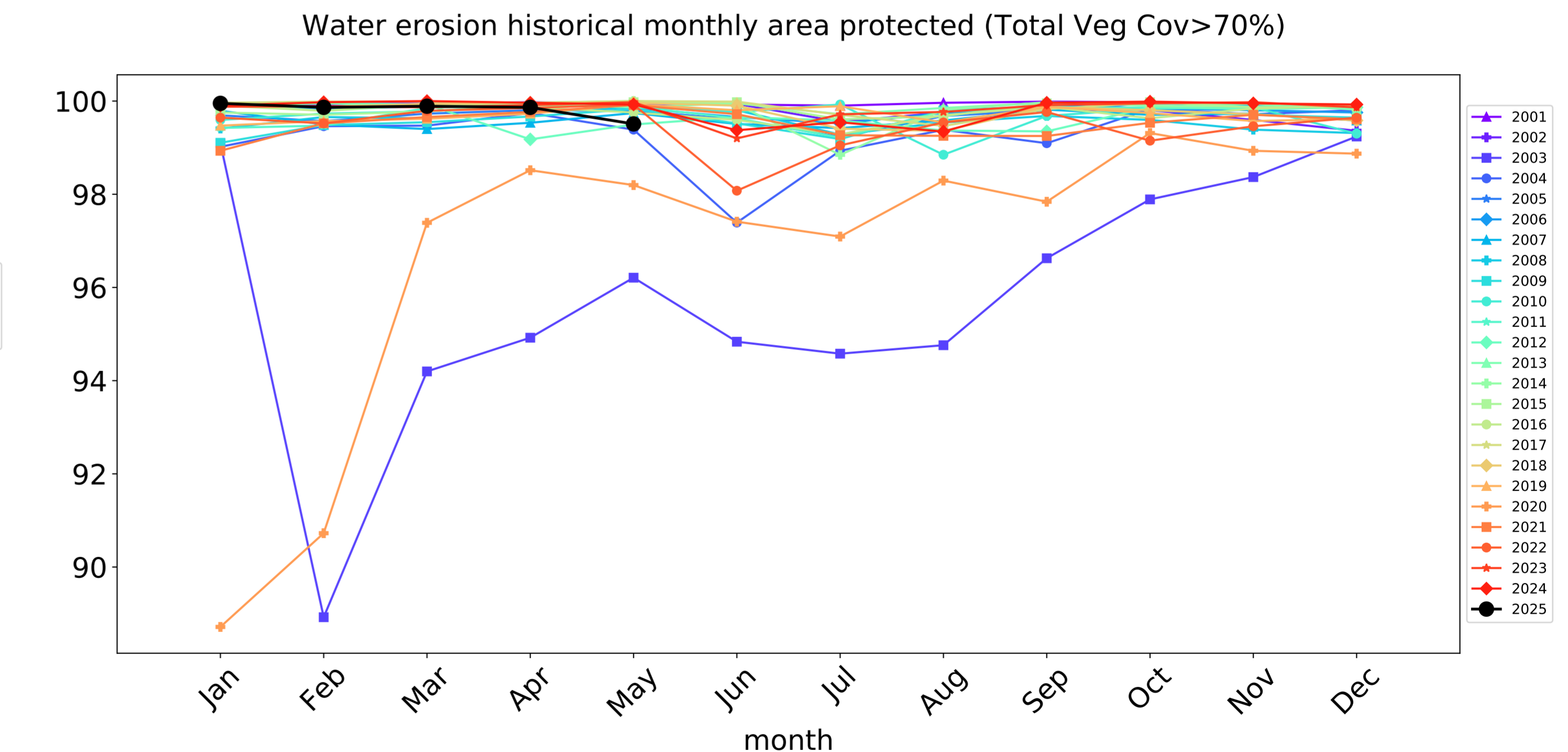
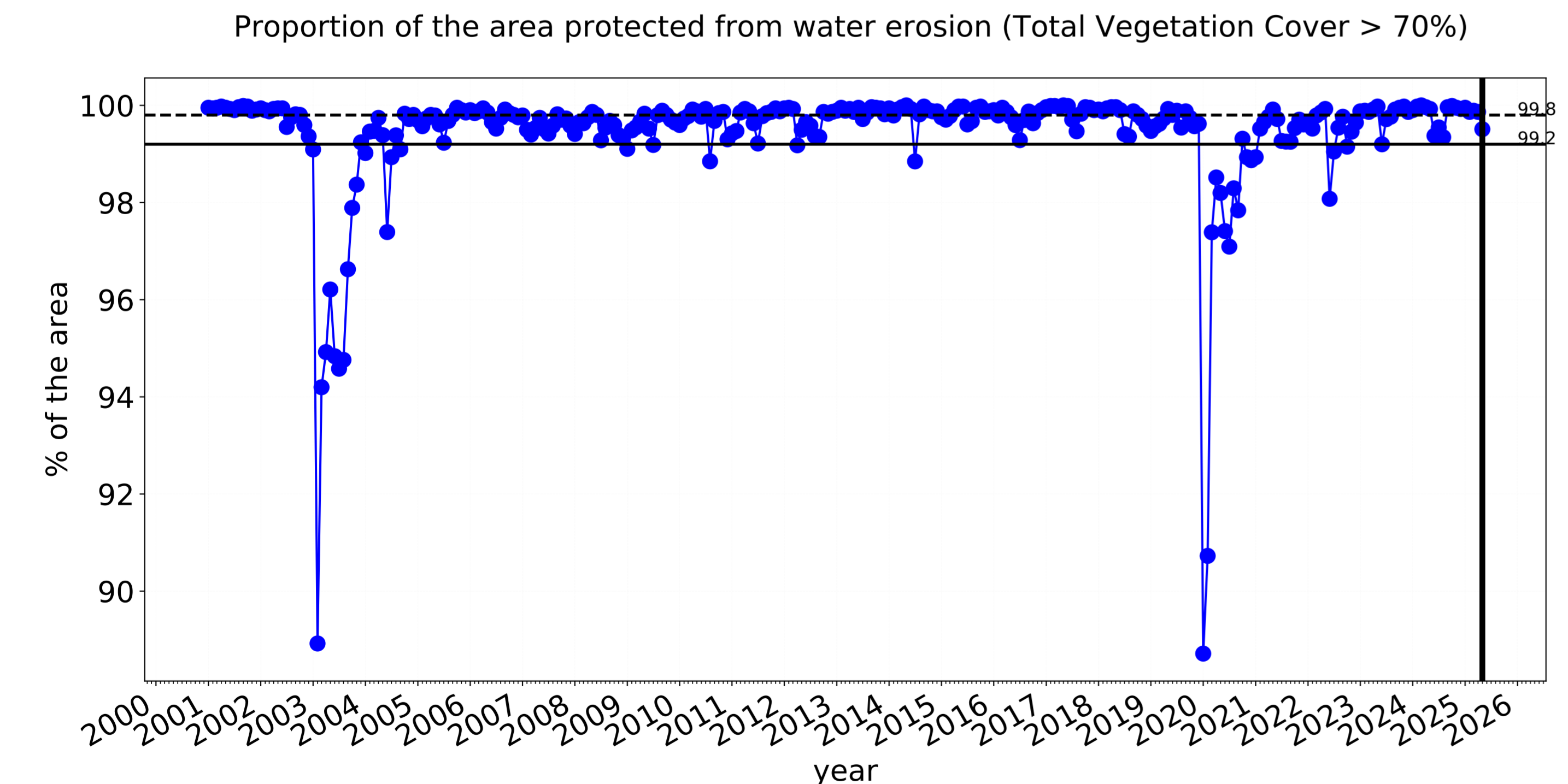
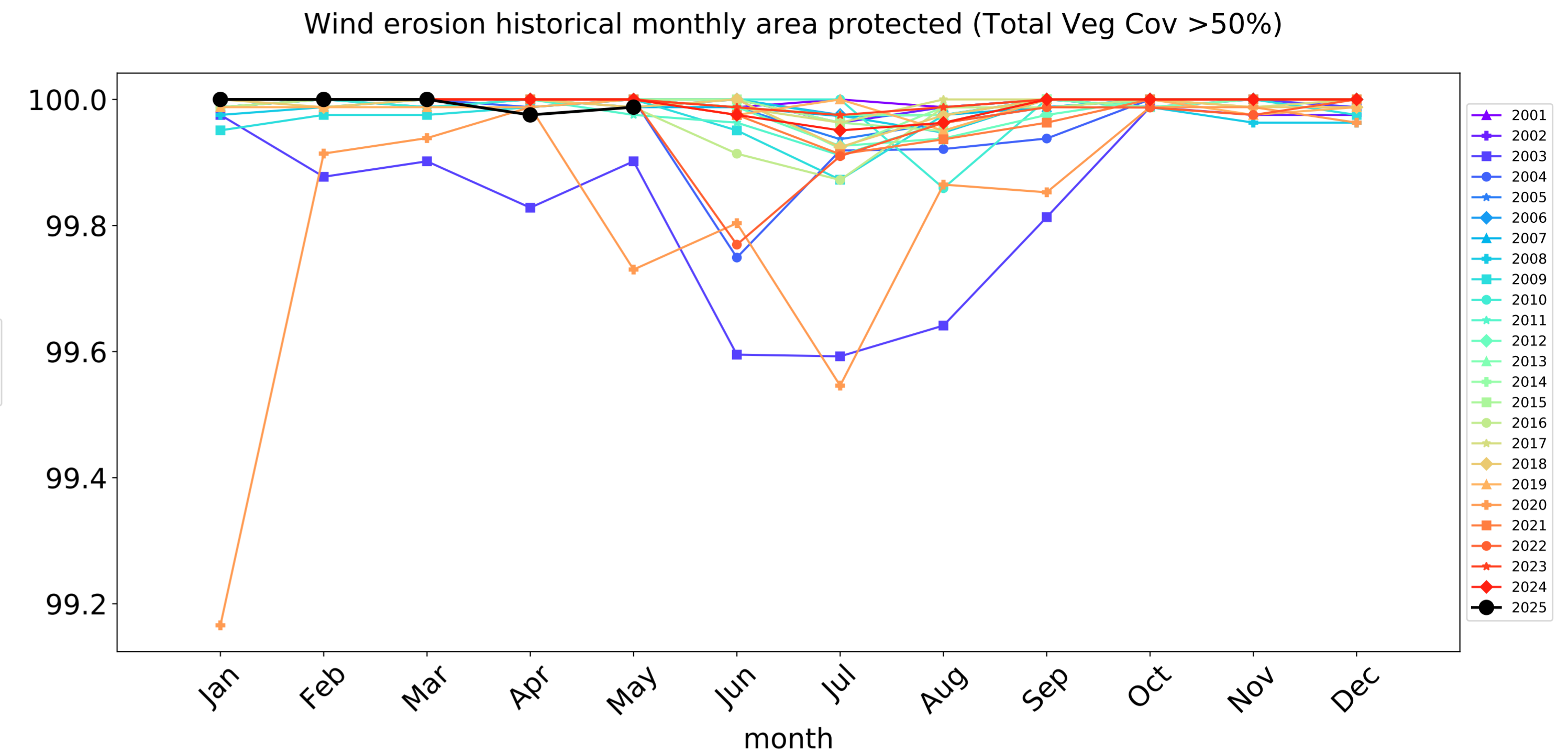
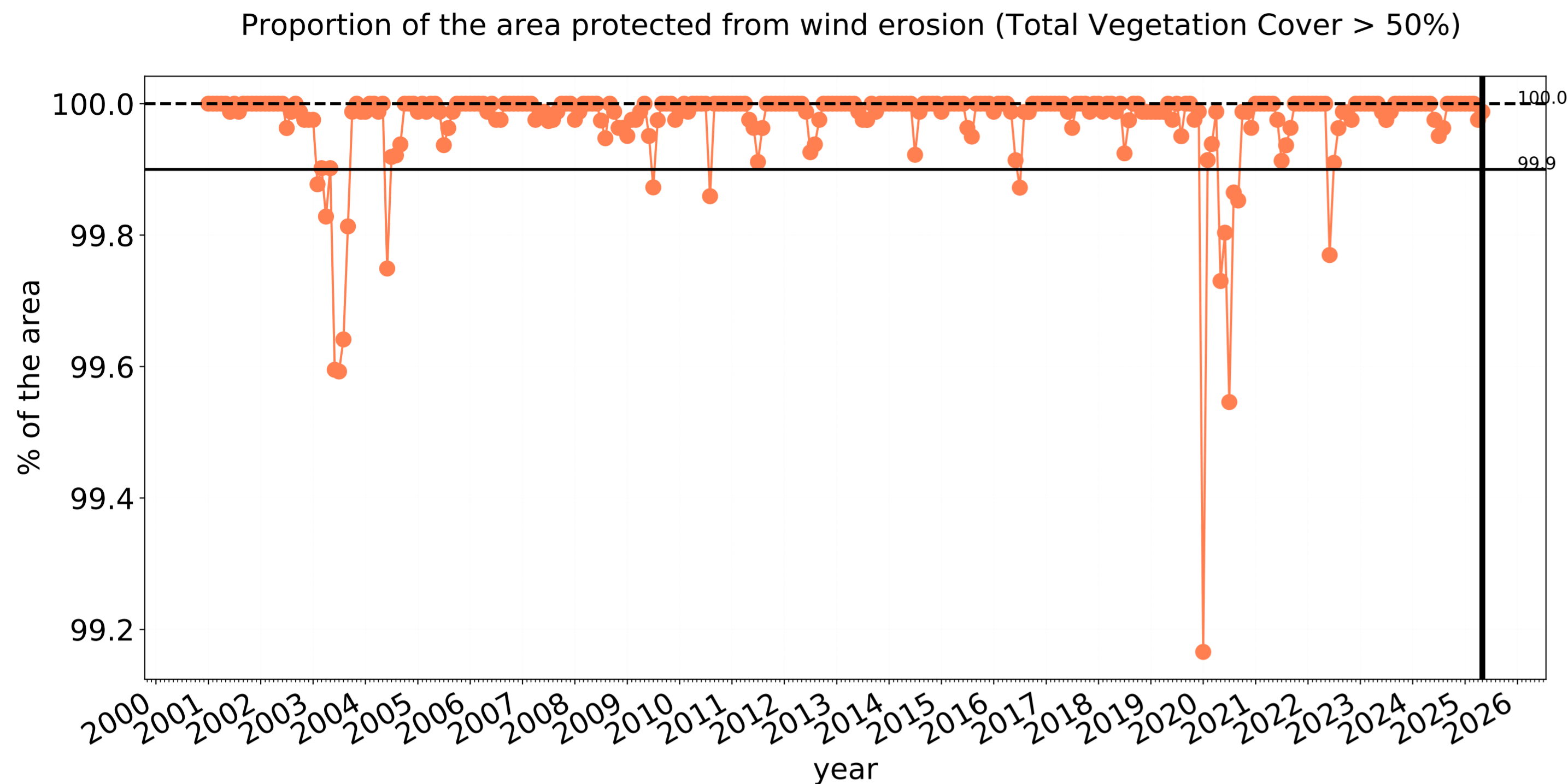


Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]

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

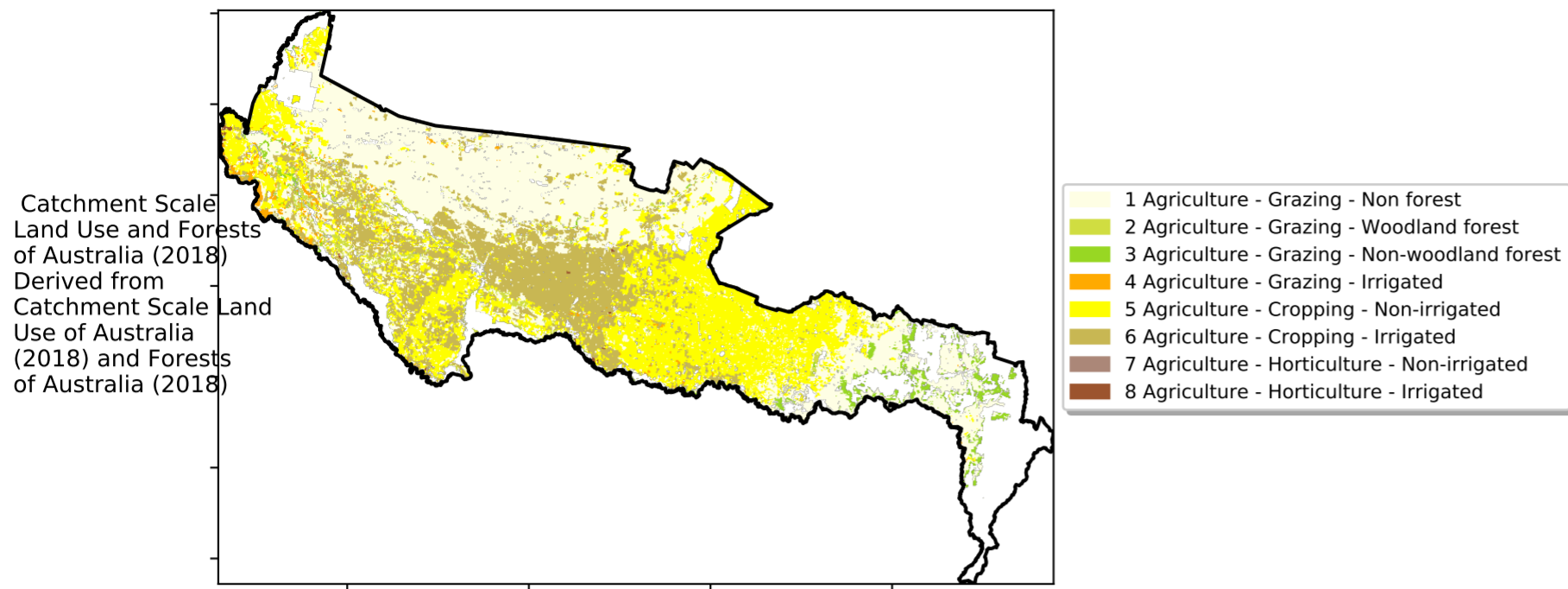


Conservation and natural environments Forest (non woodland) timeseries

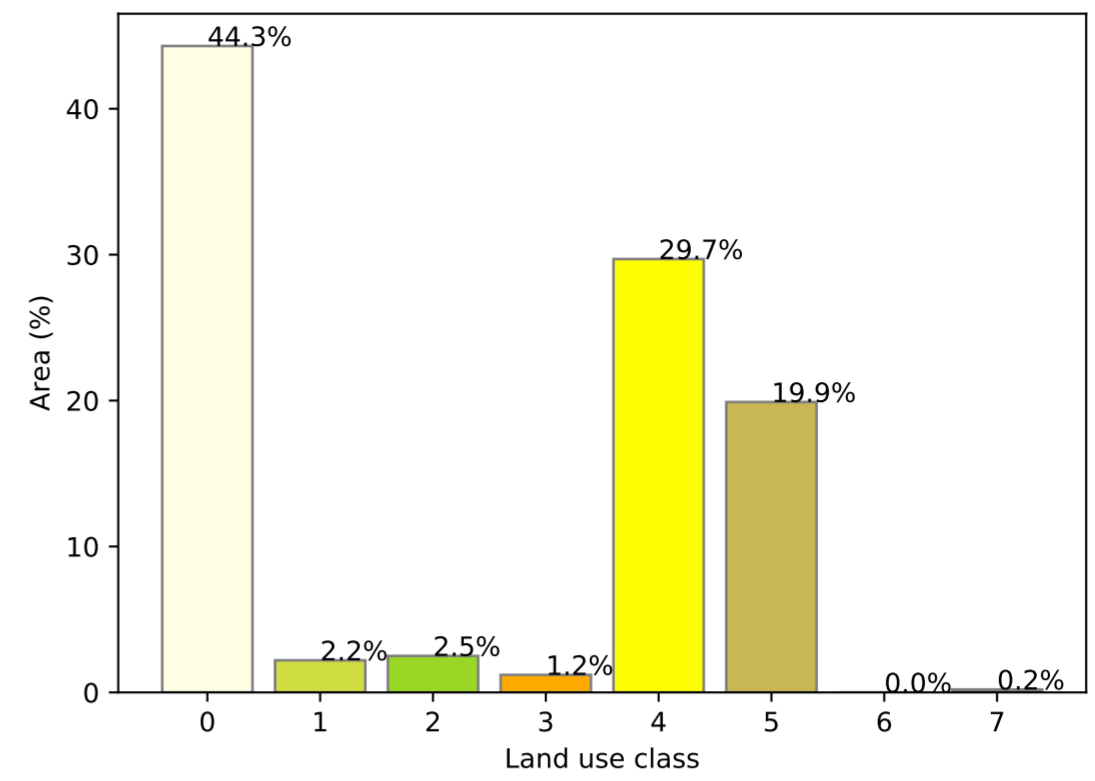


# Agriculture

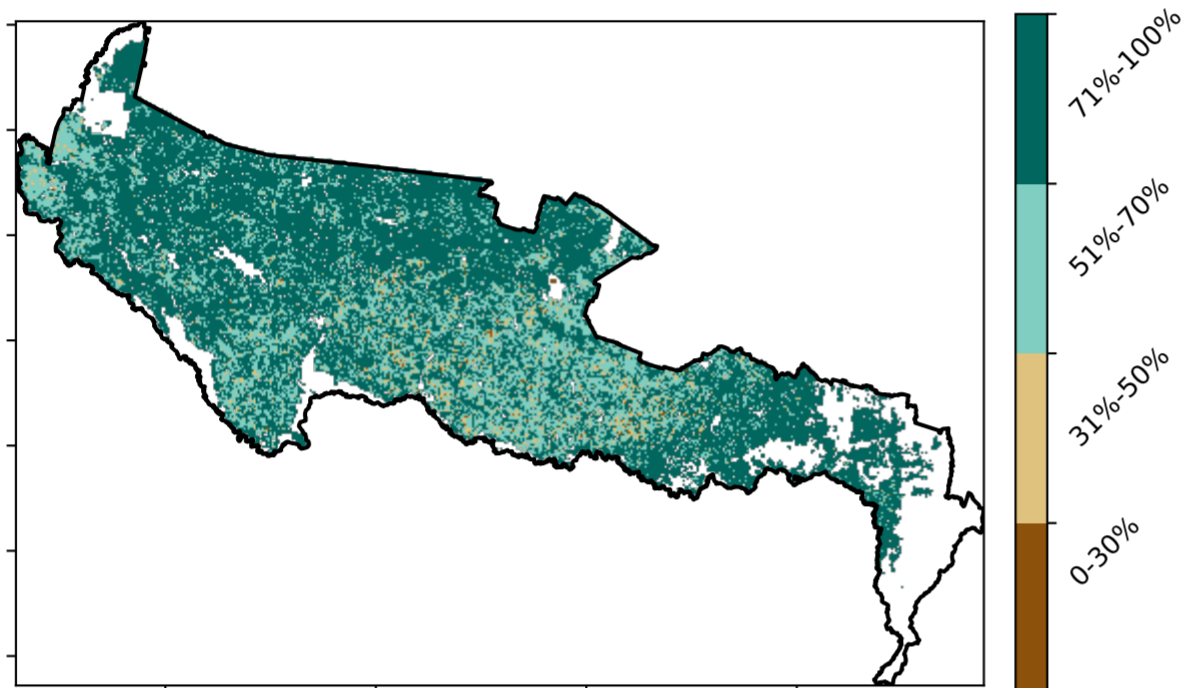
Land use and forest cover



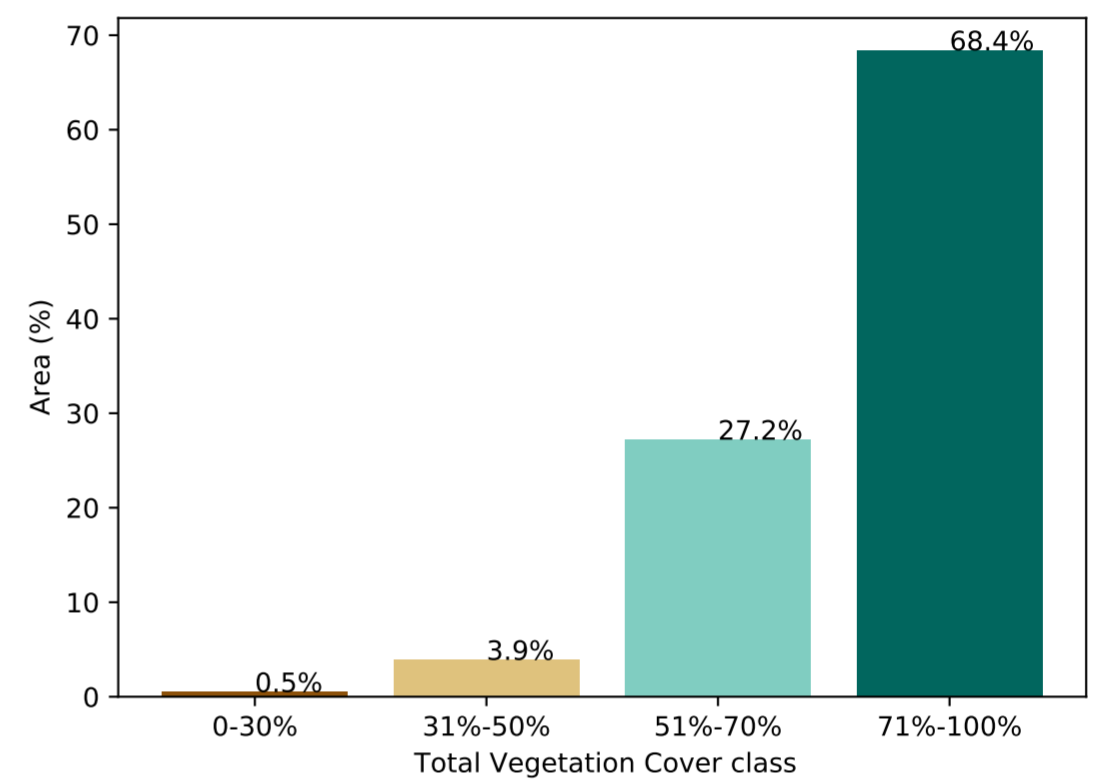
Proportion of each land class in area



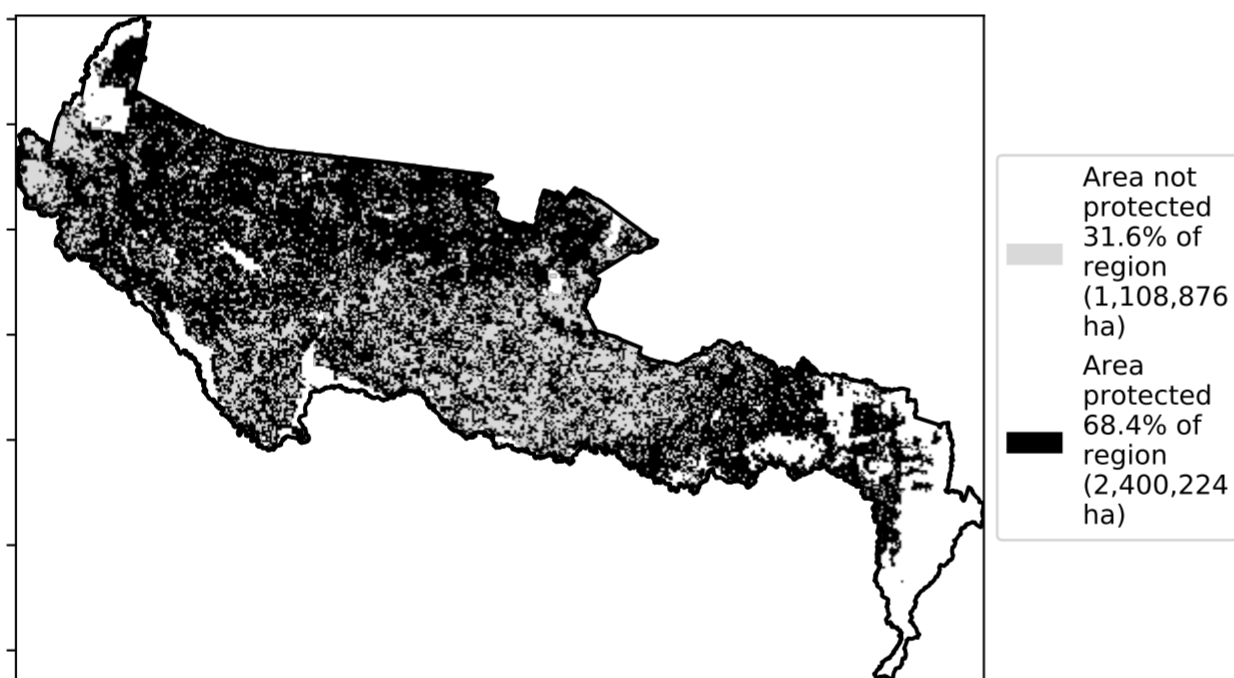
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



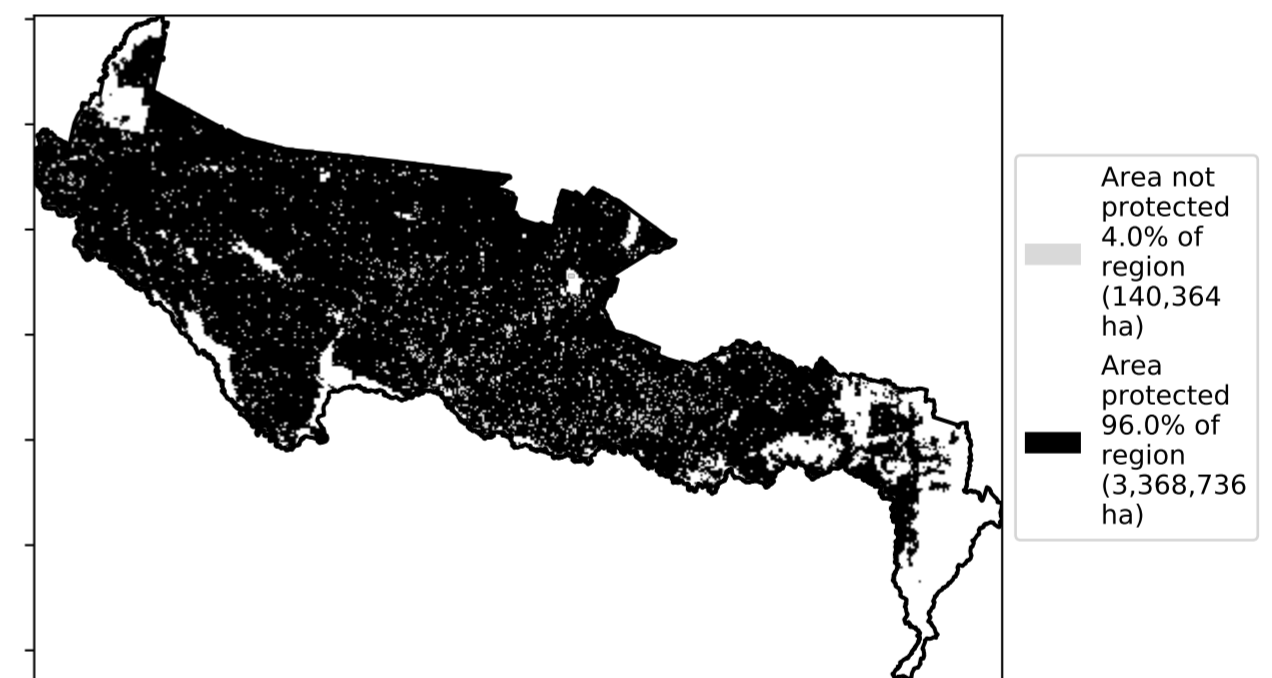
Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



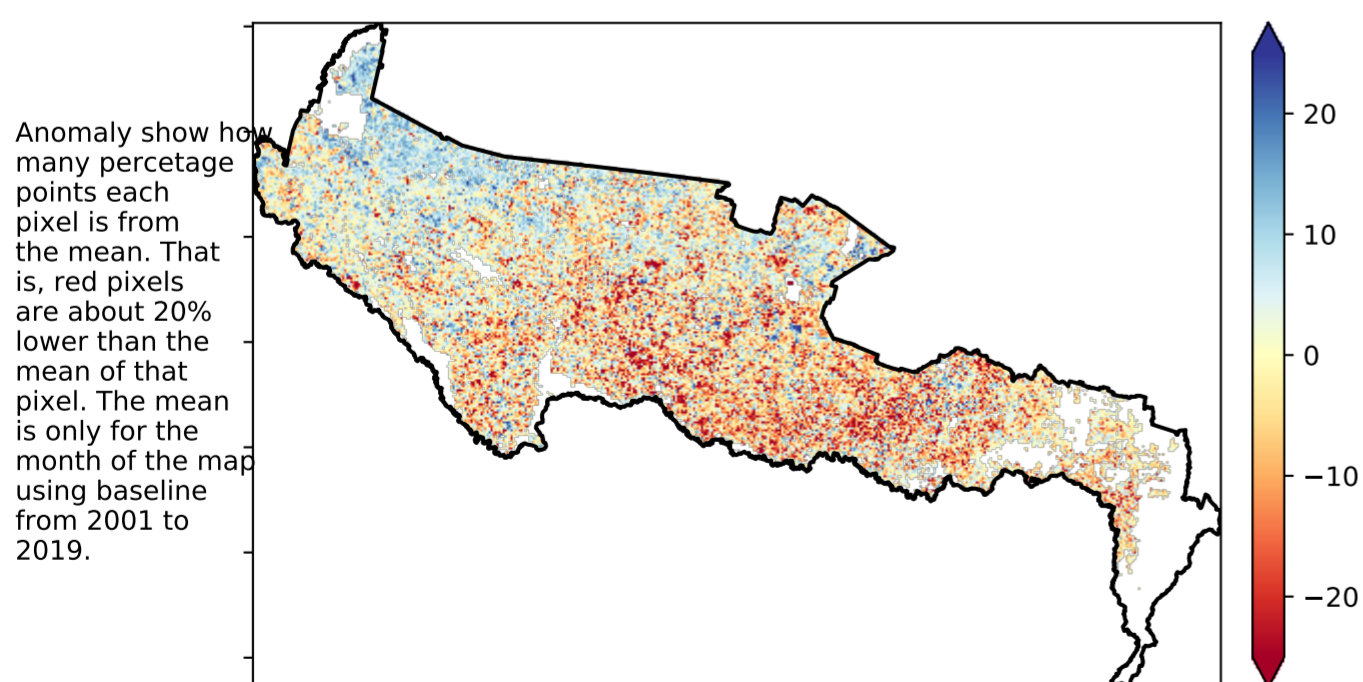
% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



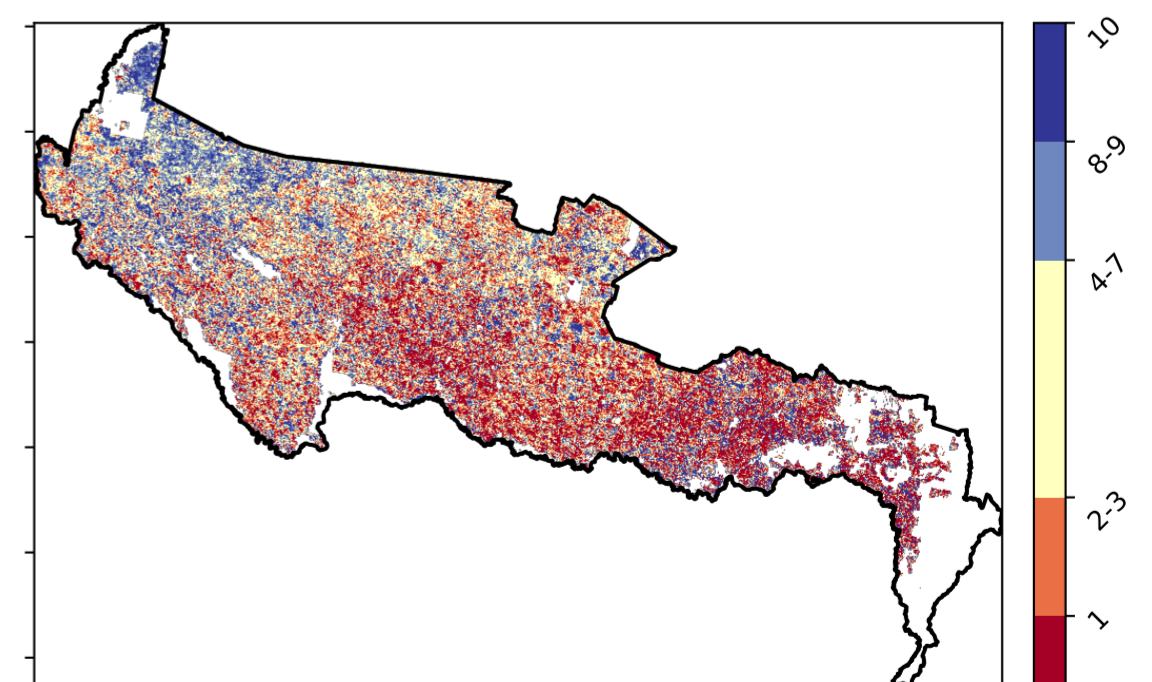
% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

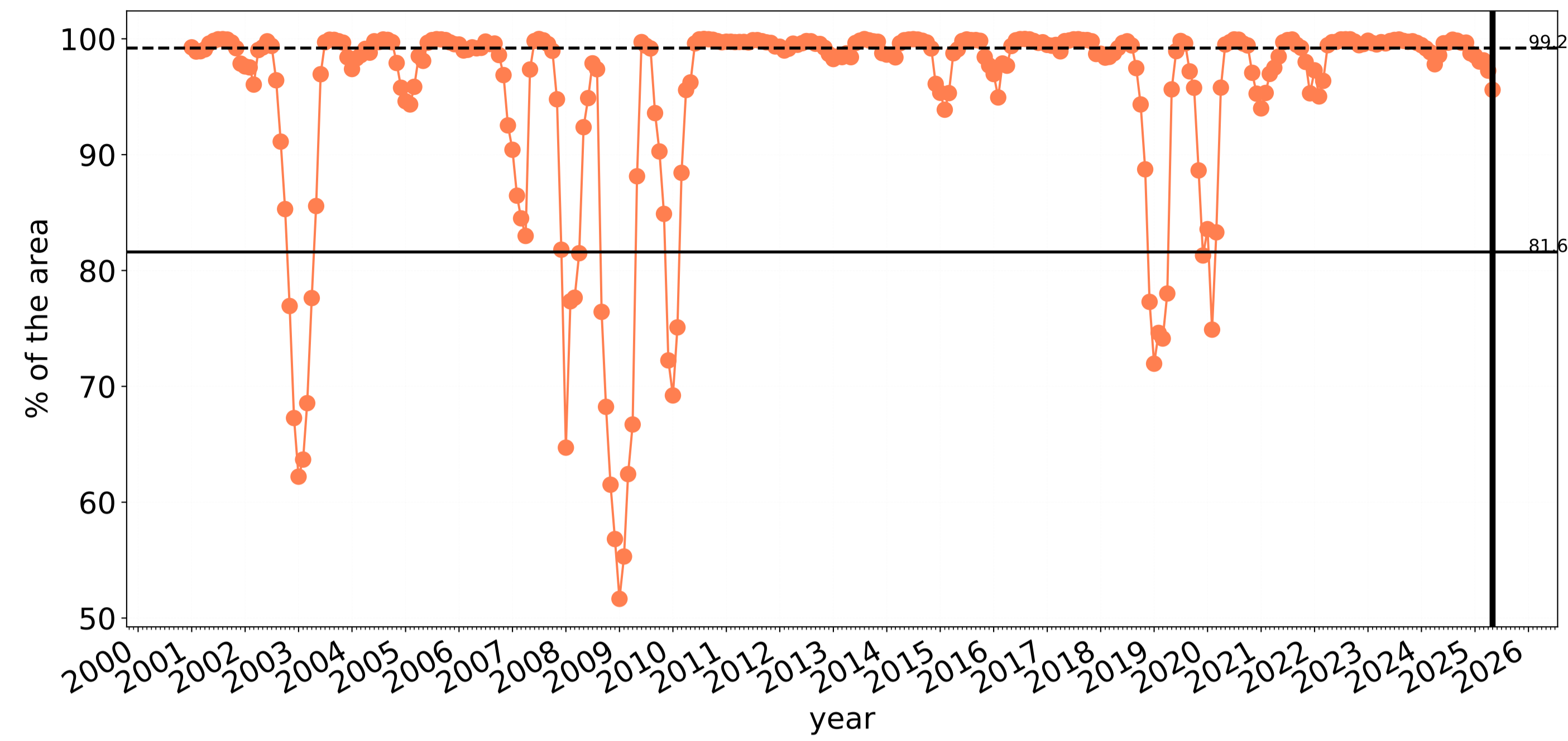


Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]

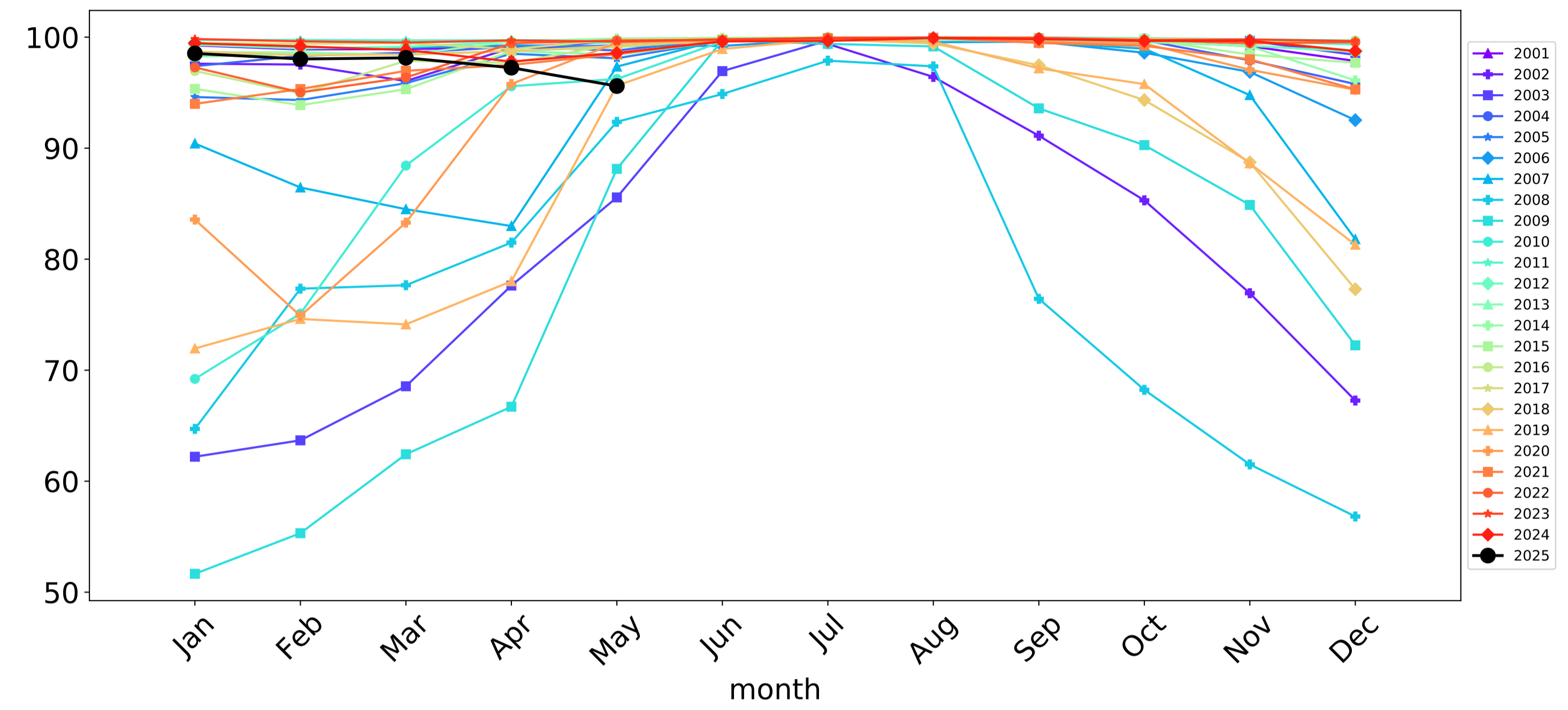


# Agriculture timeseries

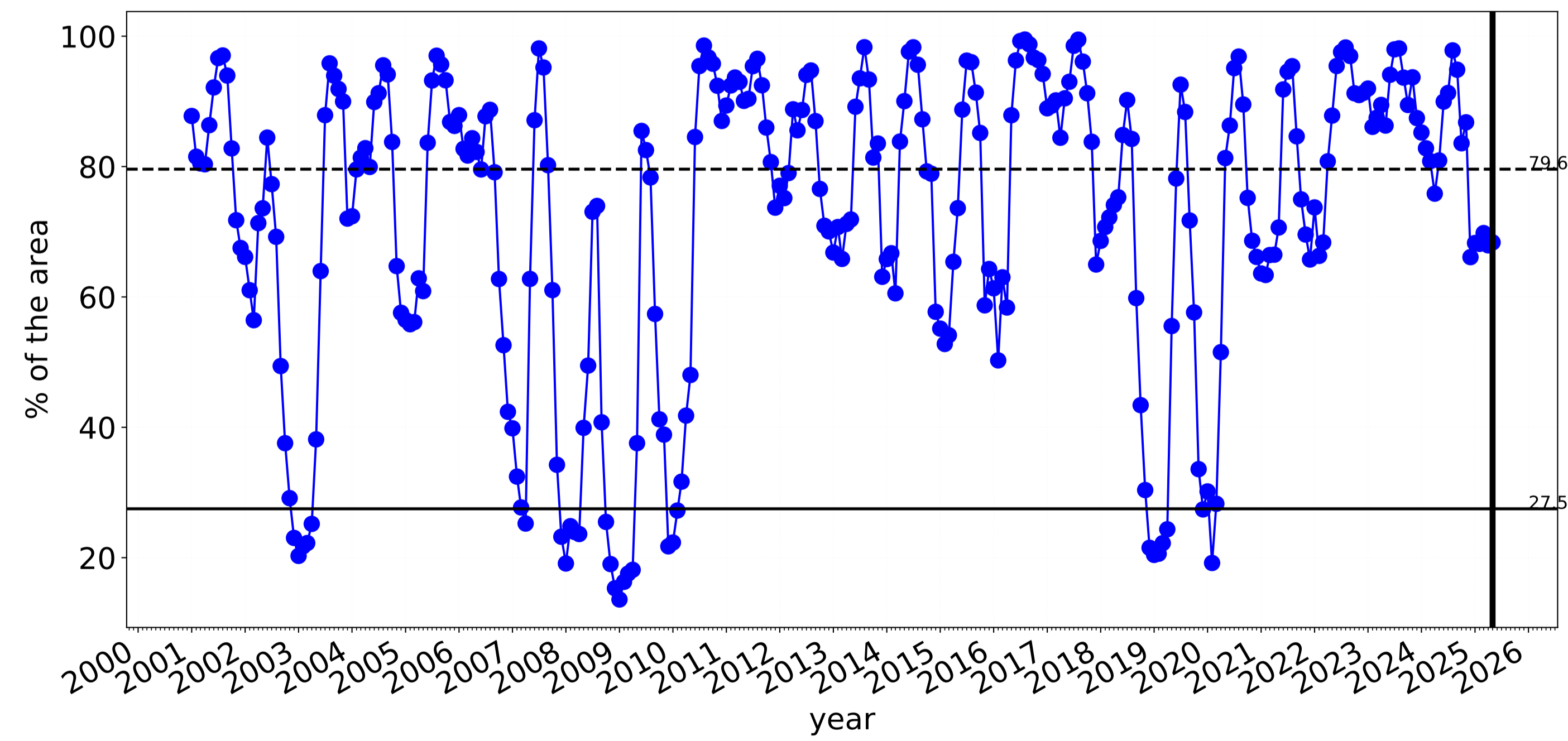
Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)



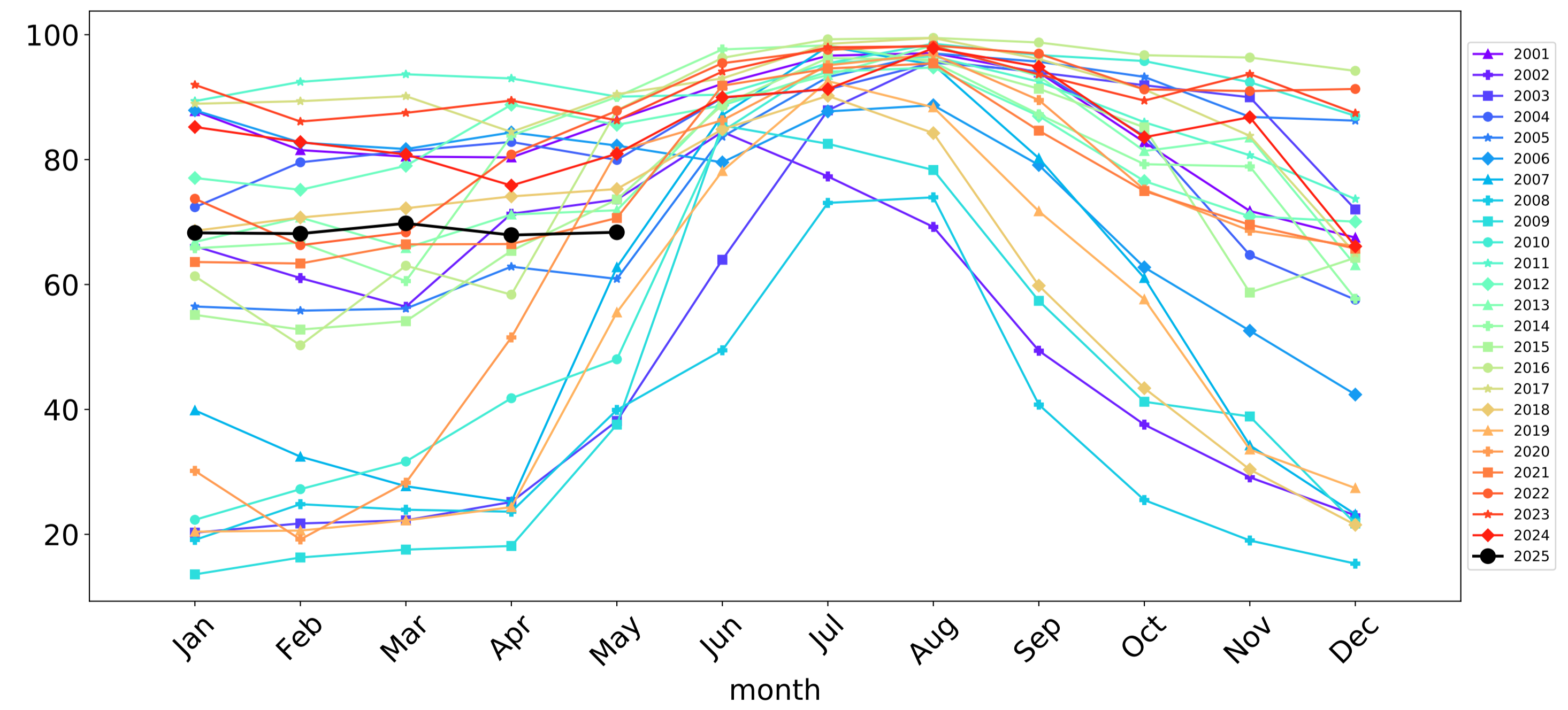
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



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

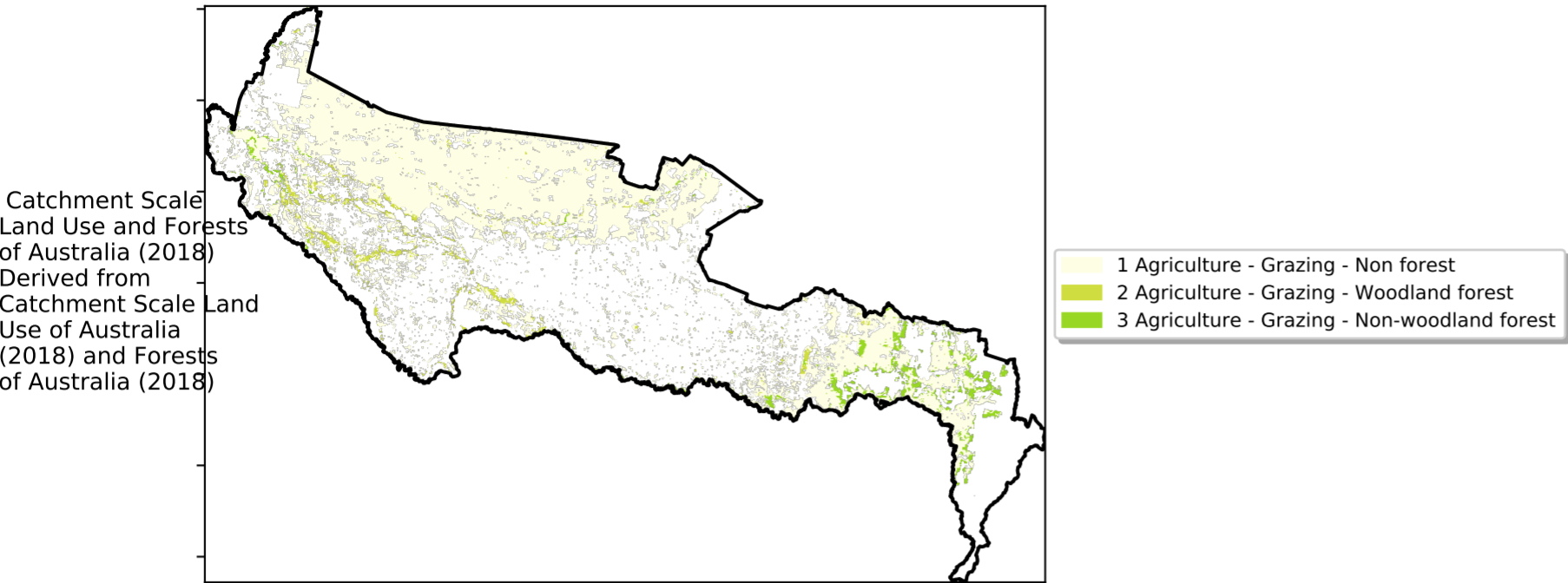


Water erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov>70%)

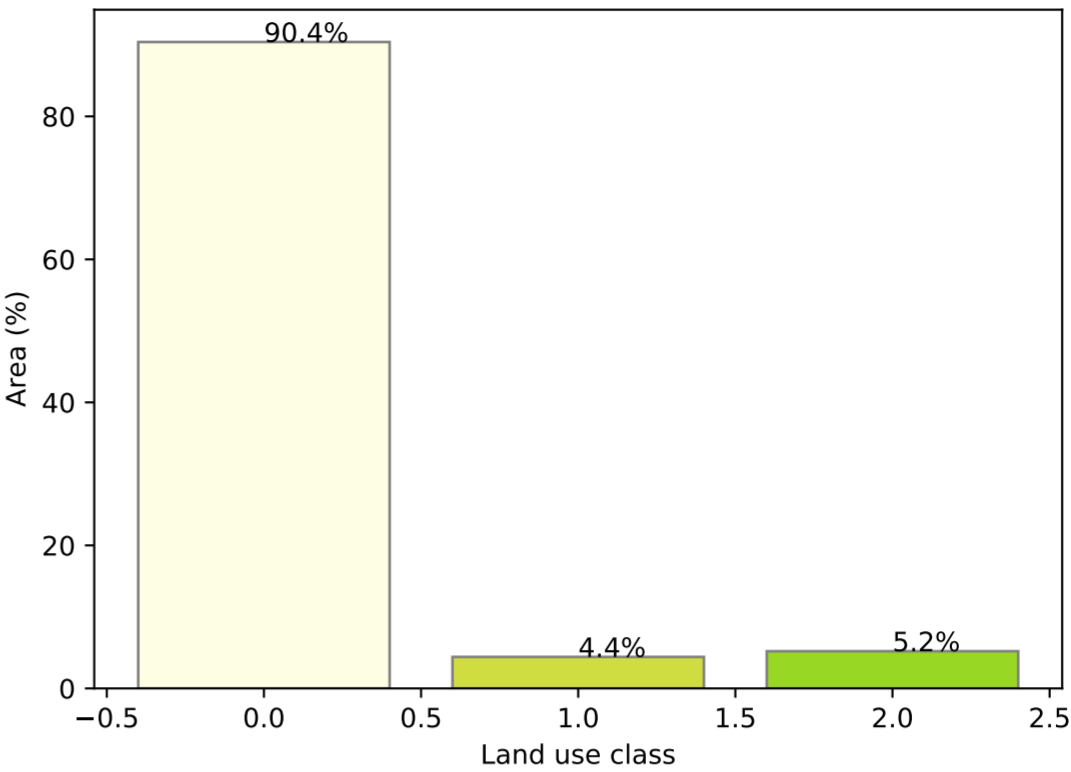


Grazing

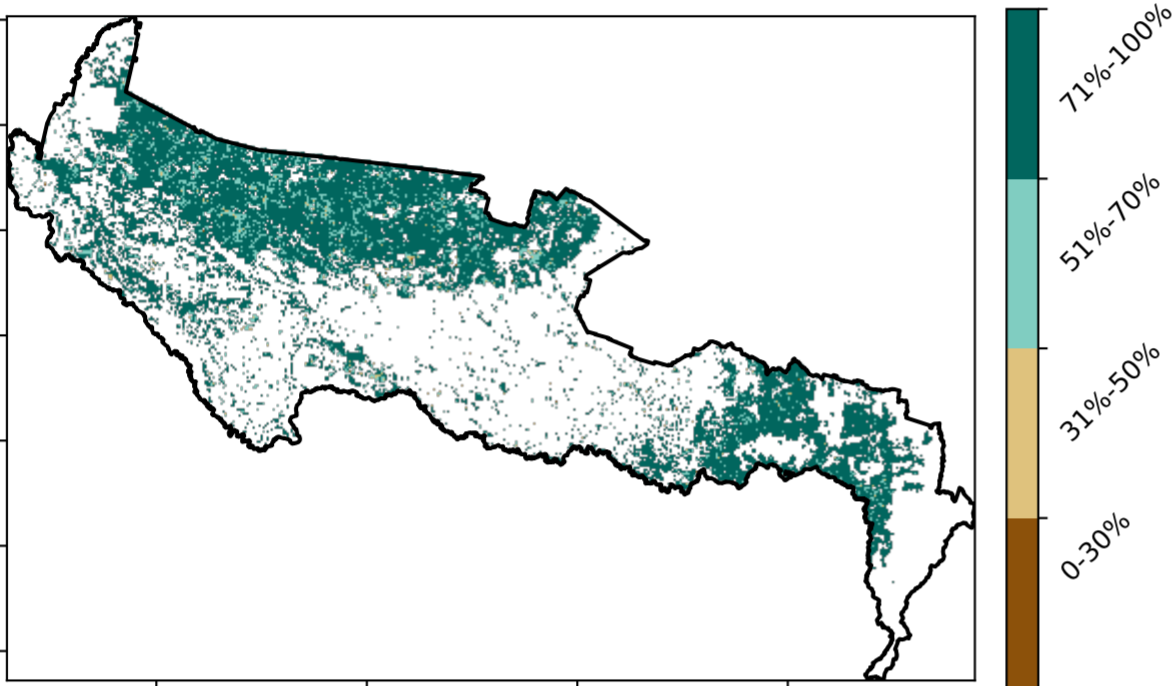
Land use and forest cover



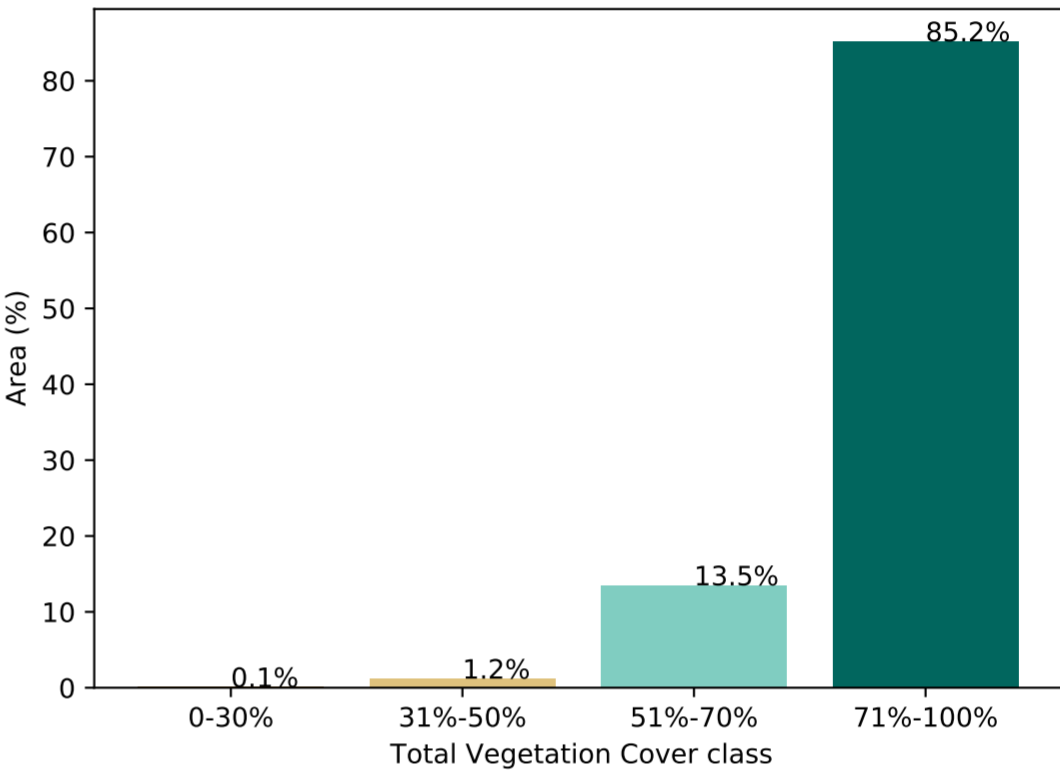
Proportion of each land class in area



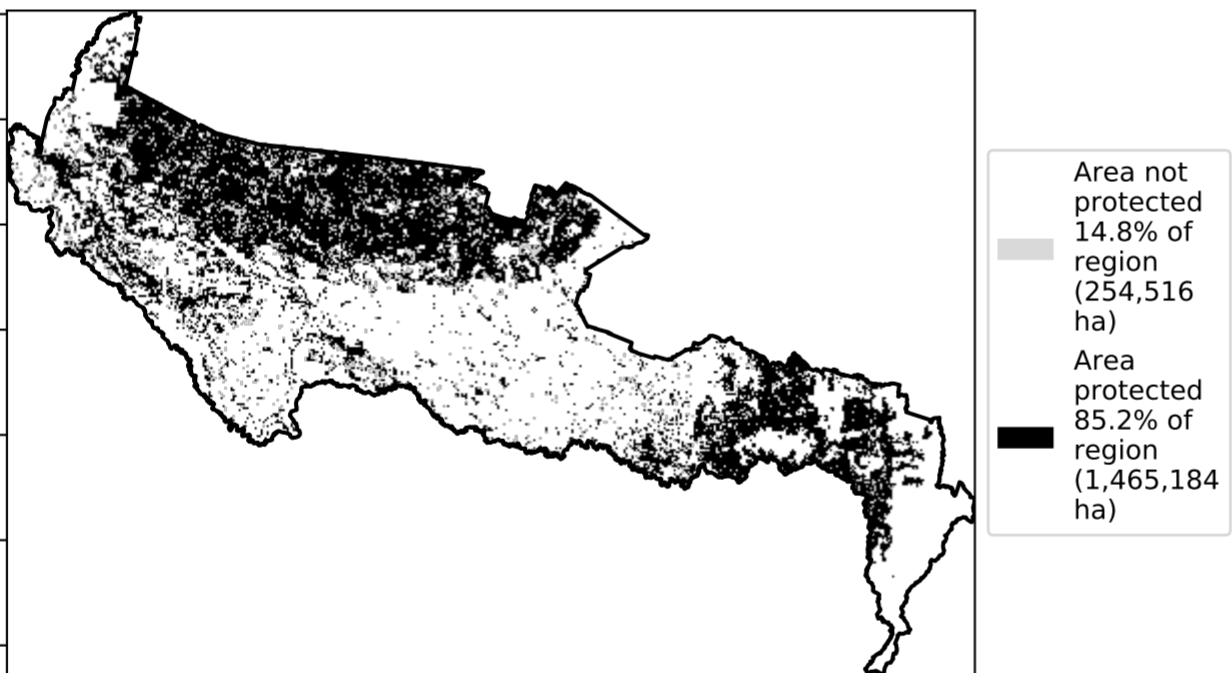
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



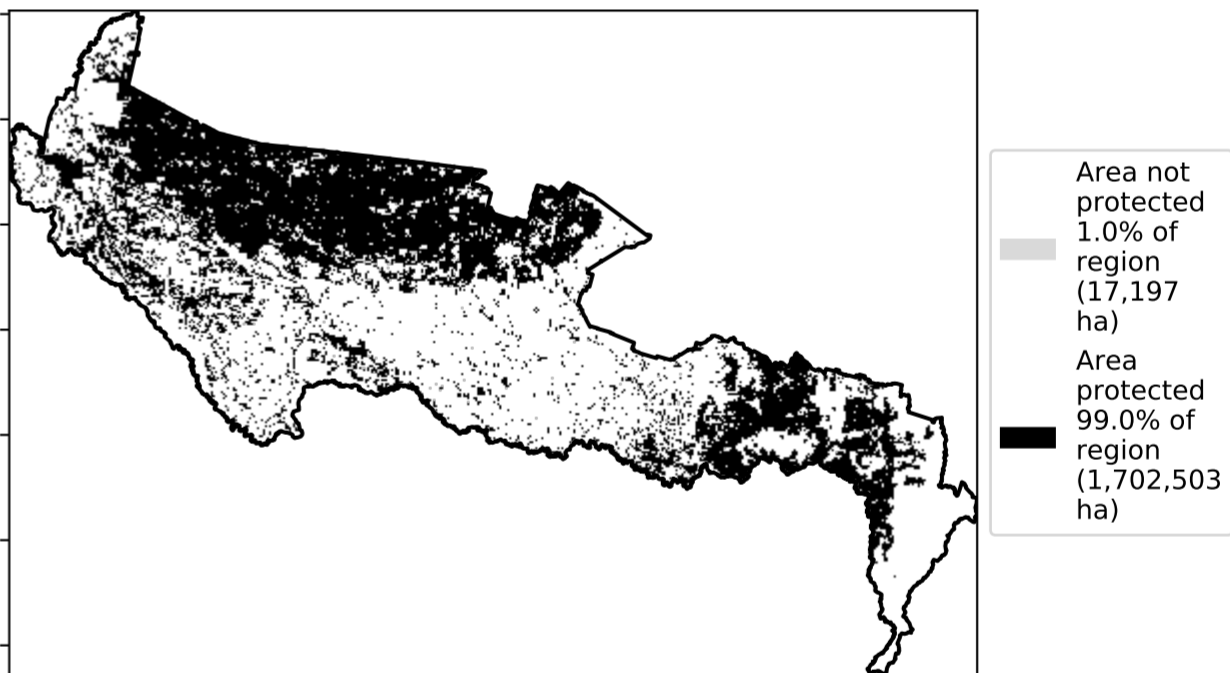
Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



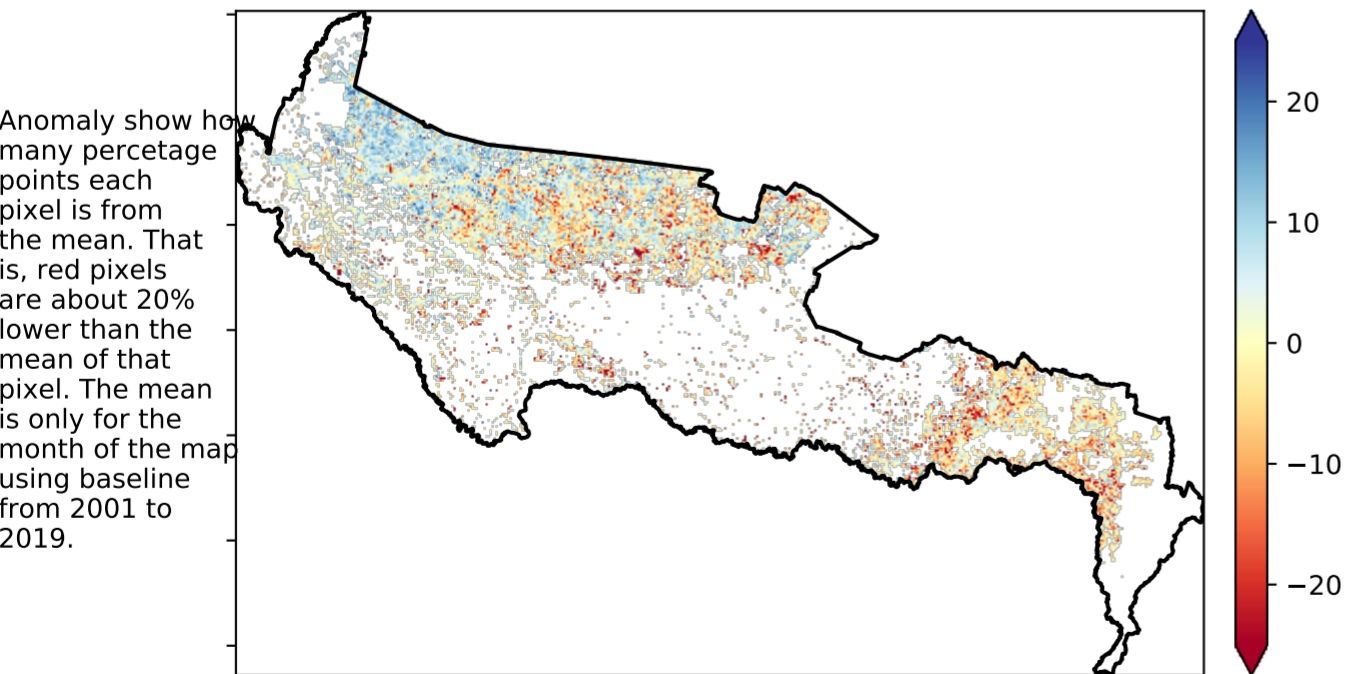
% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)

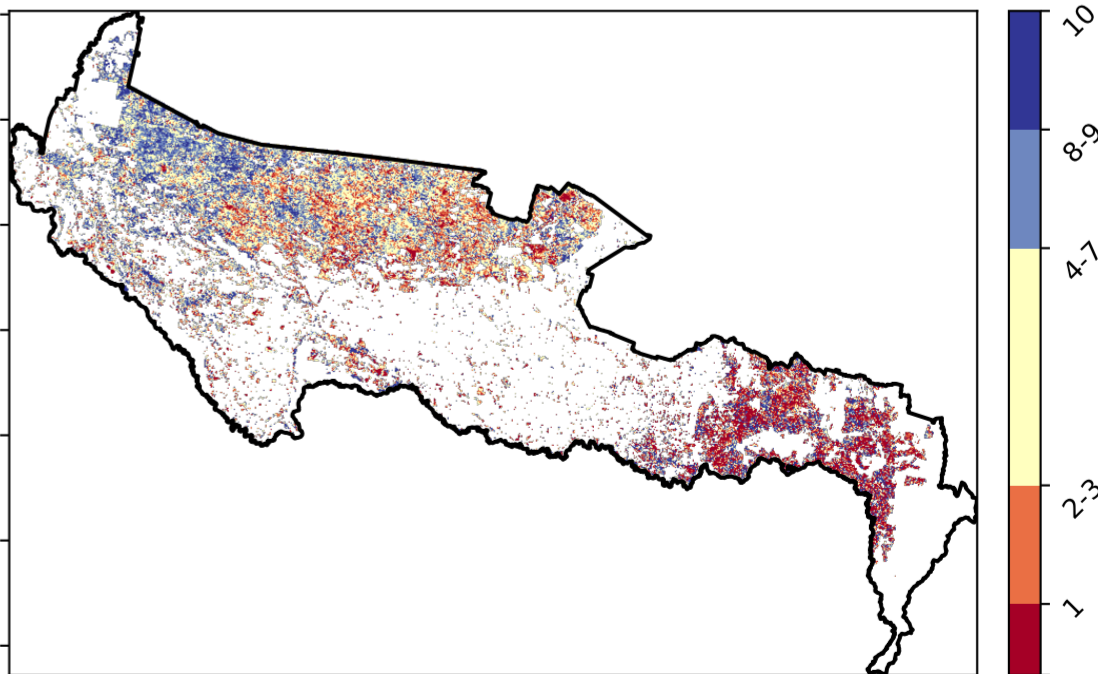


Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]



Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]

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



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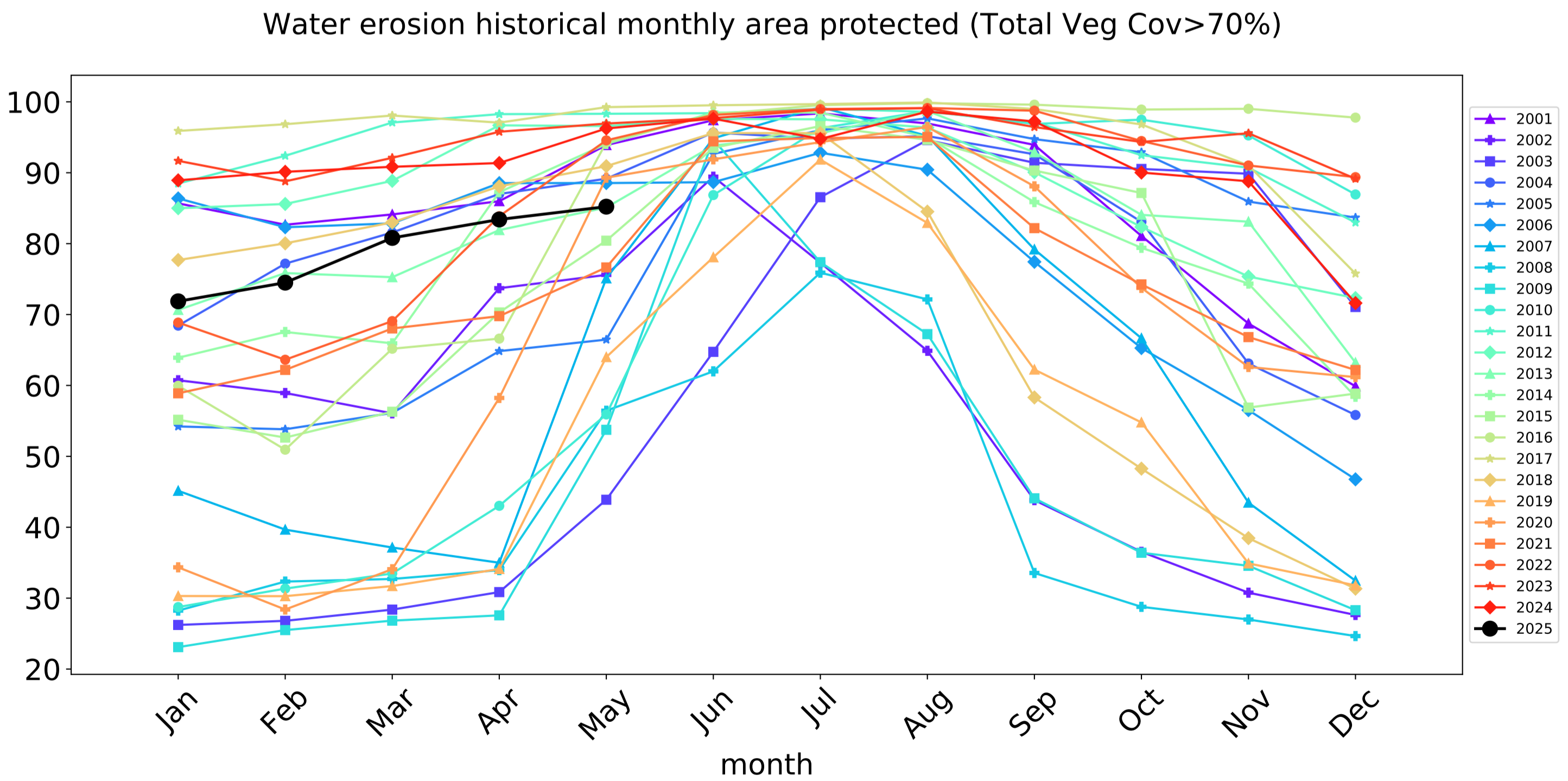
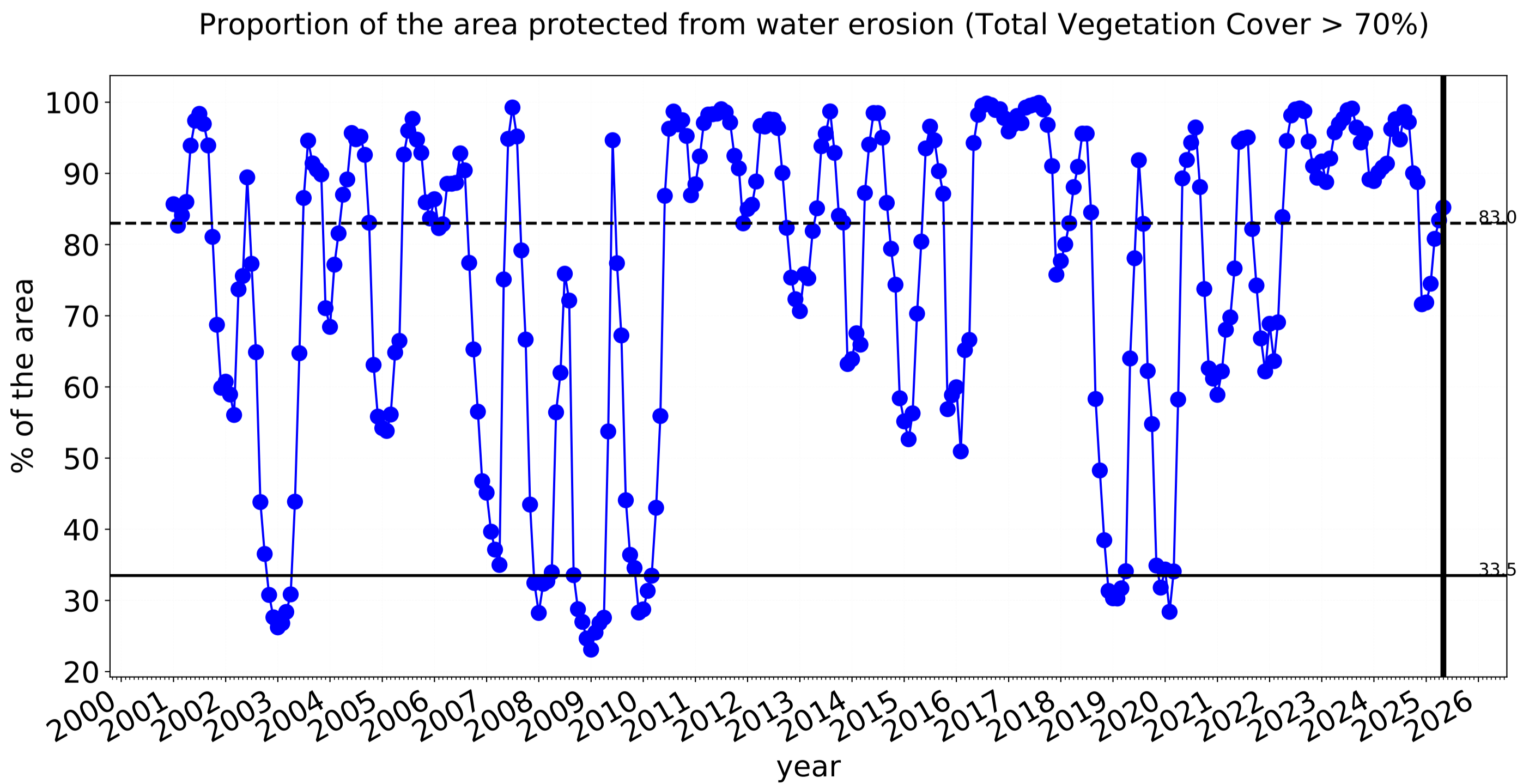
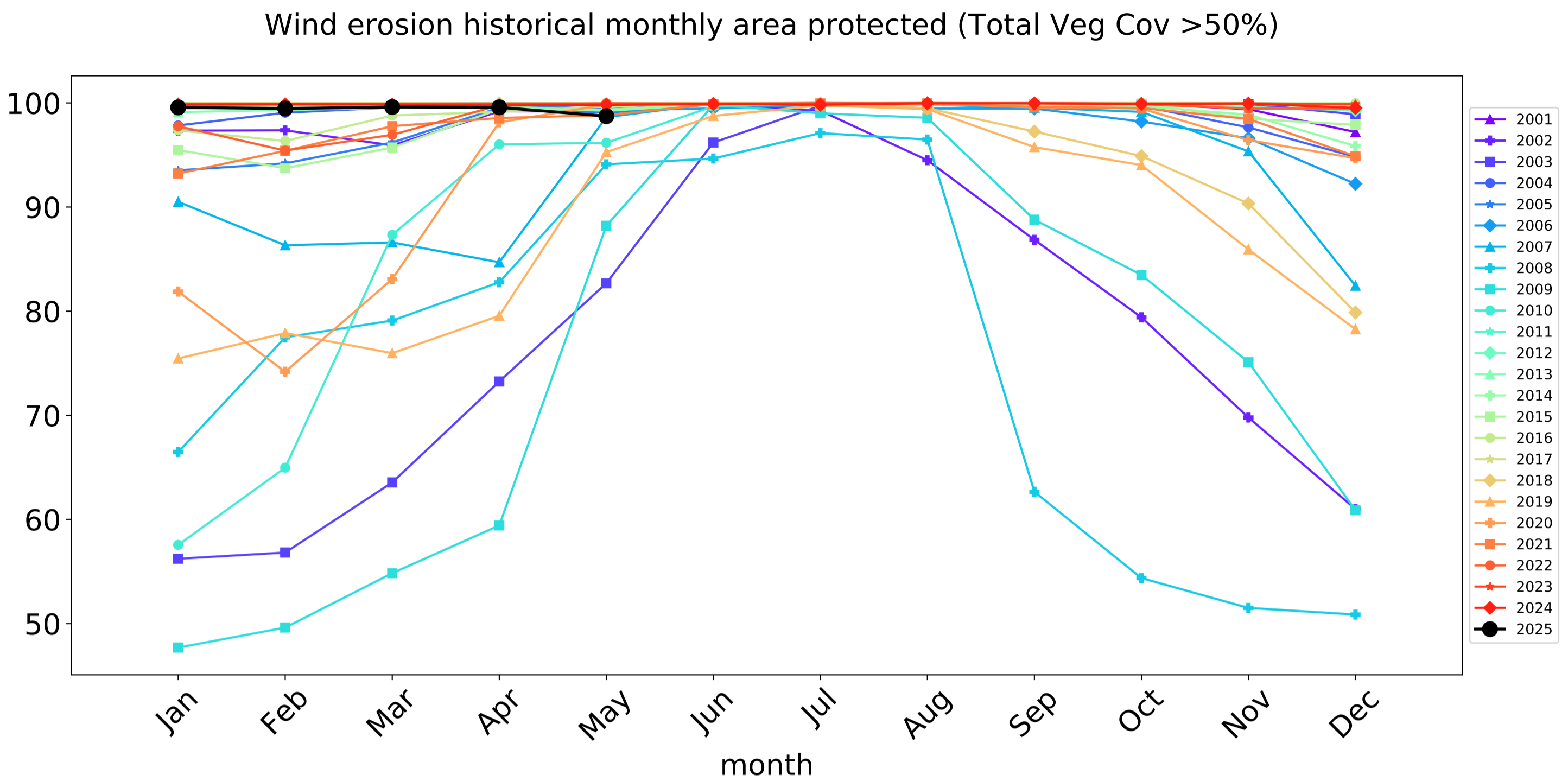
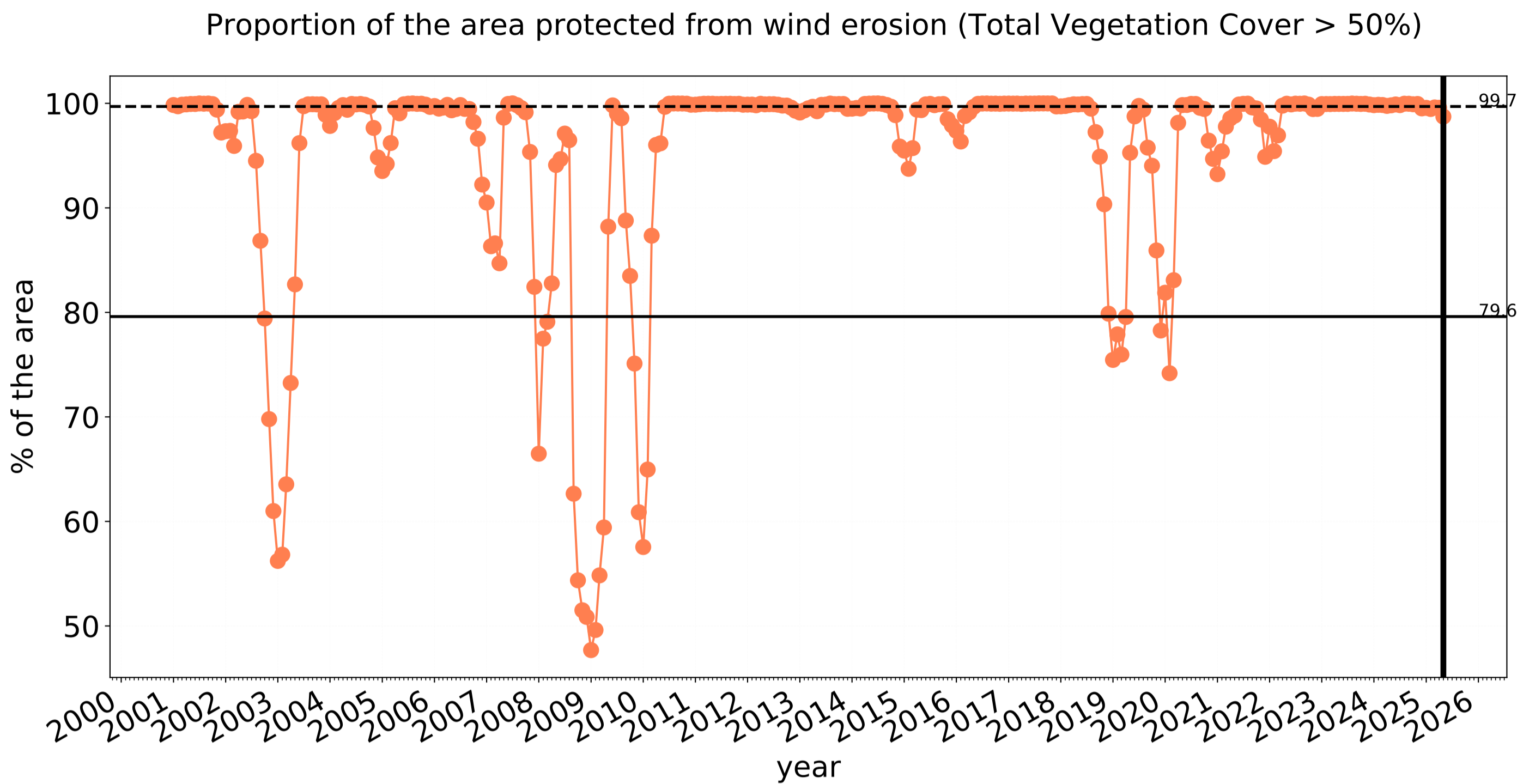
Ecosystem Research Infrastructure



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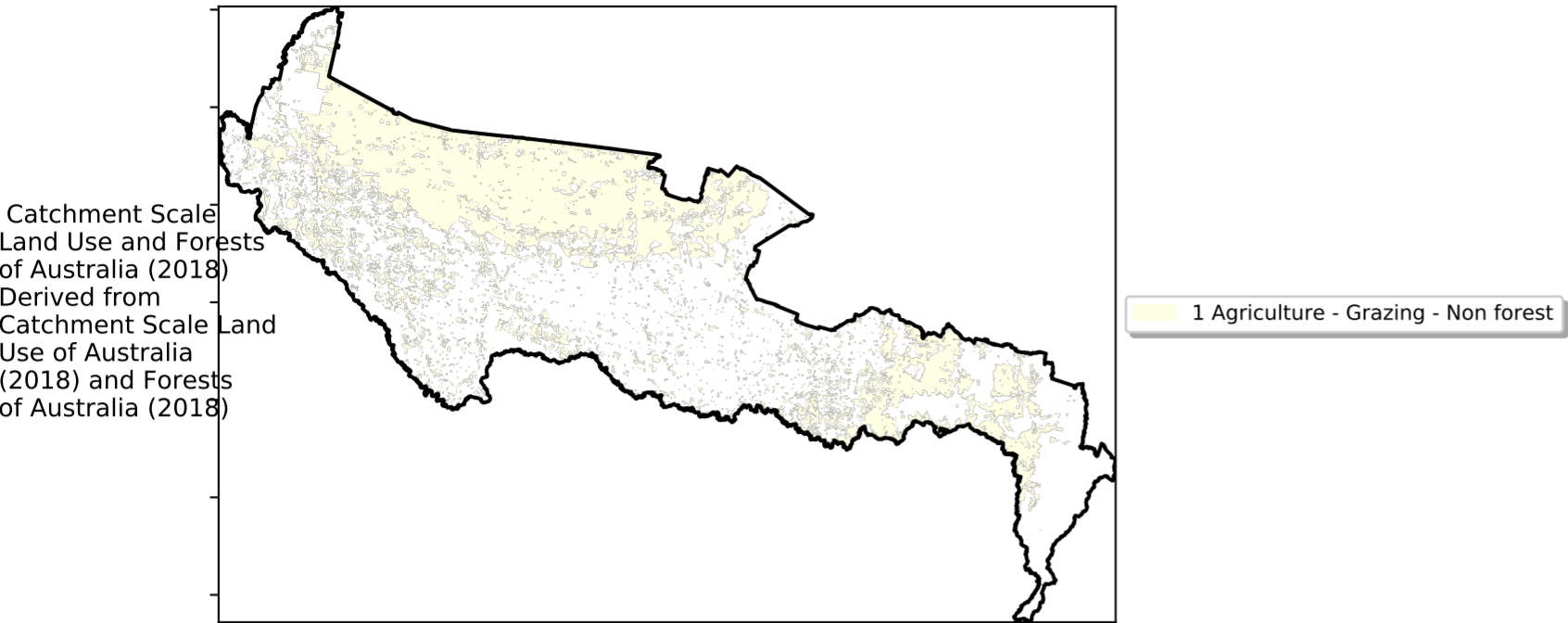


Grazing timeseries

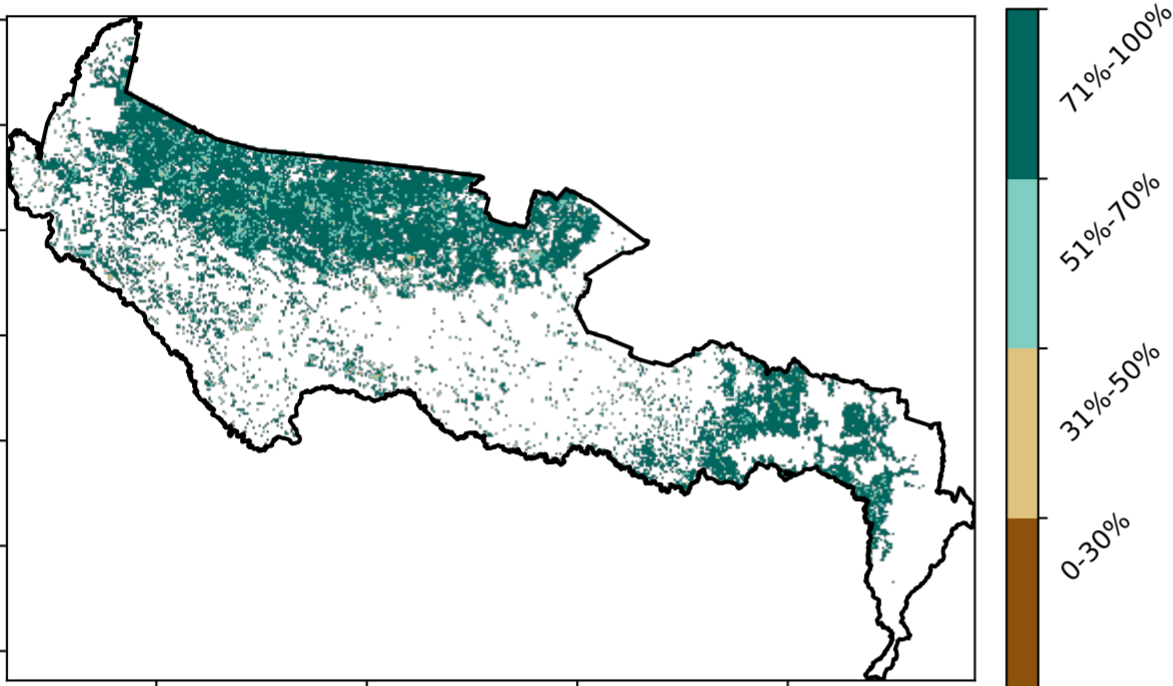


Grazing non forest

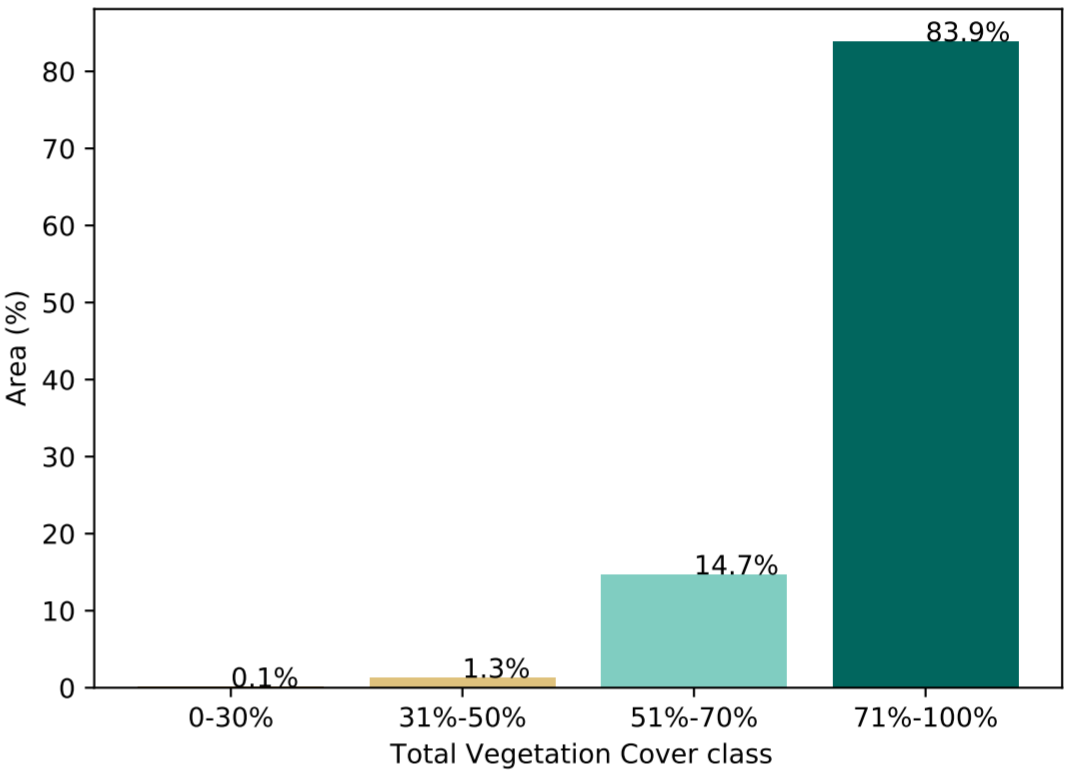
Land use and forest cover



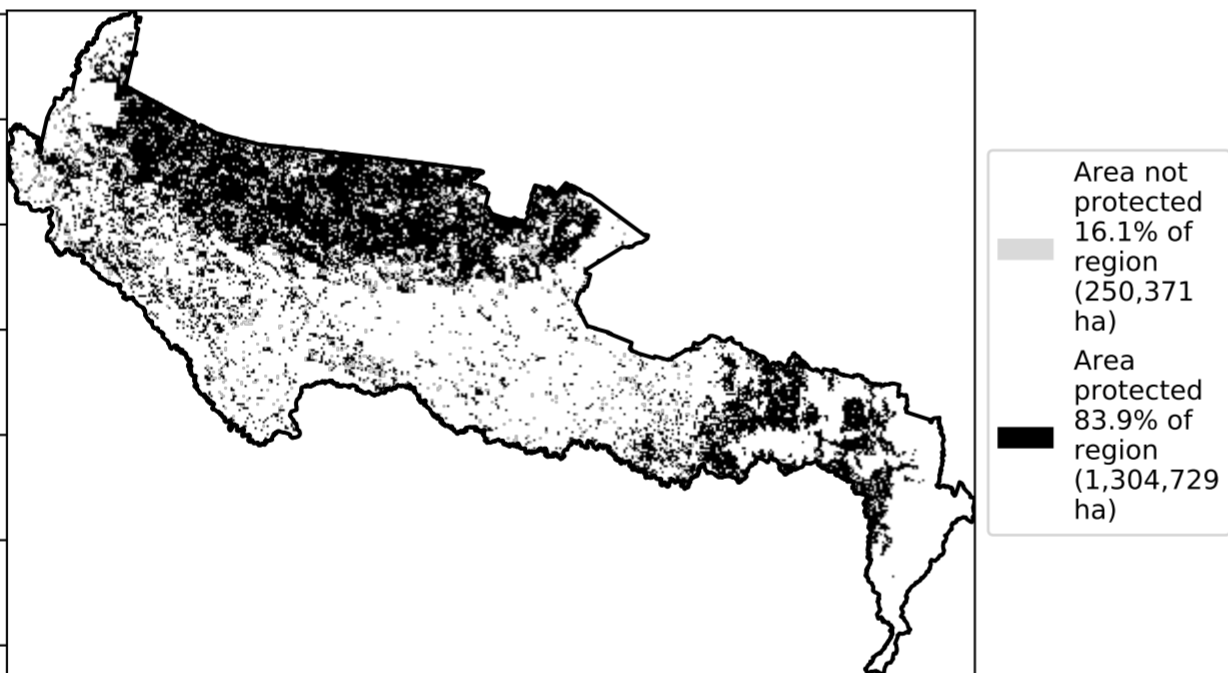
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



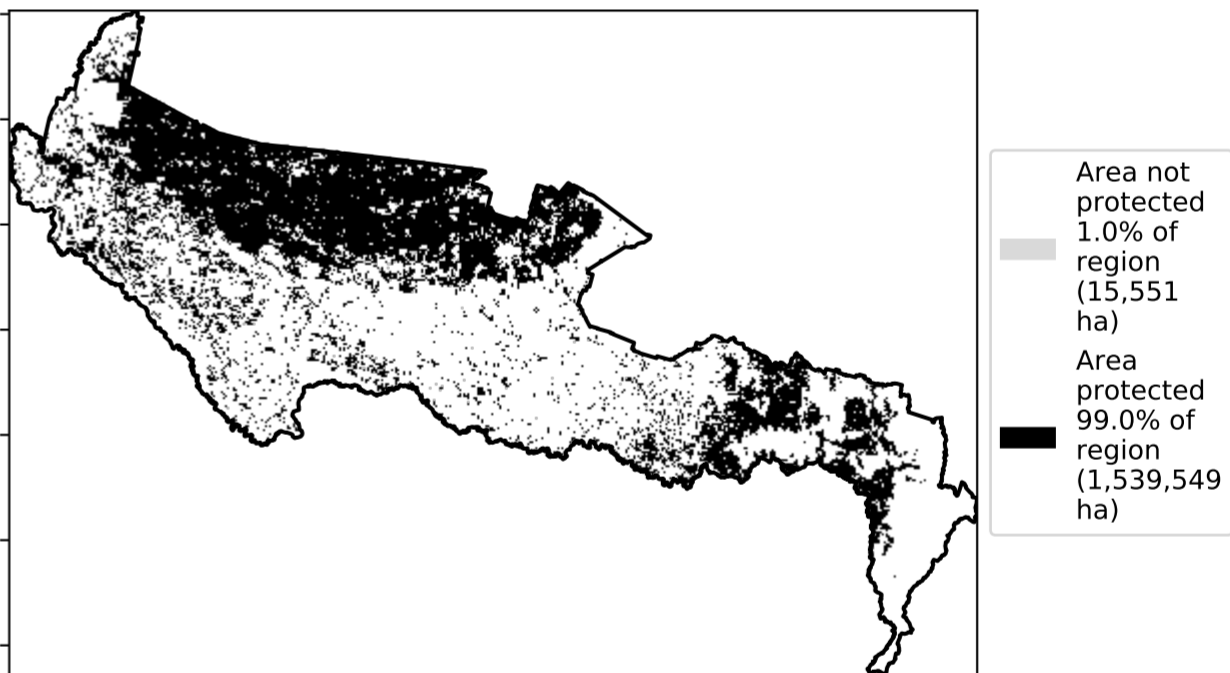
Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



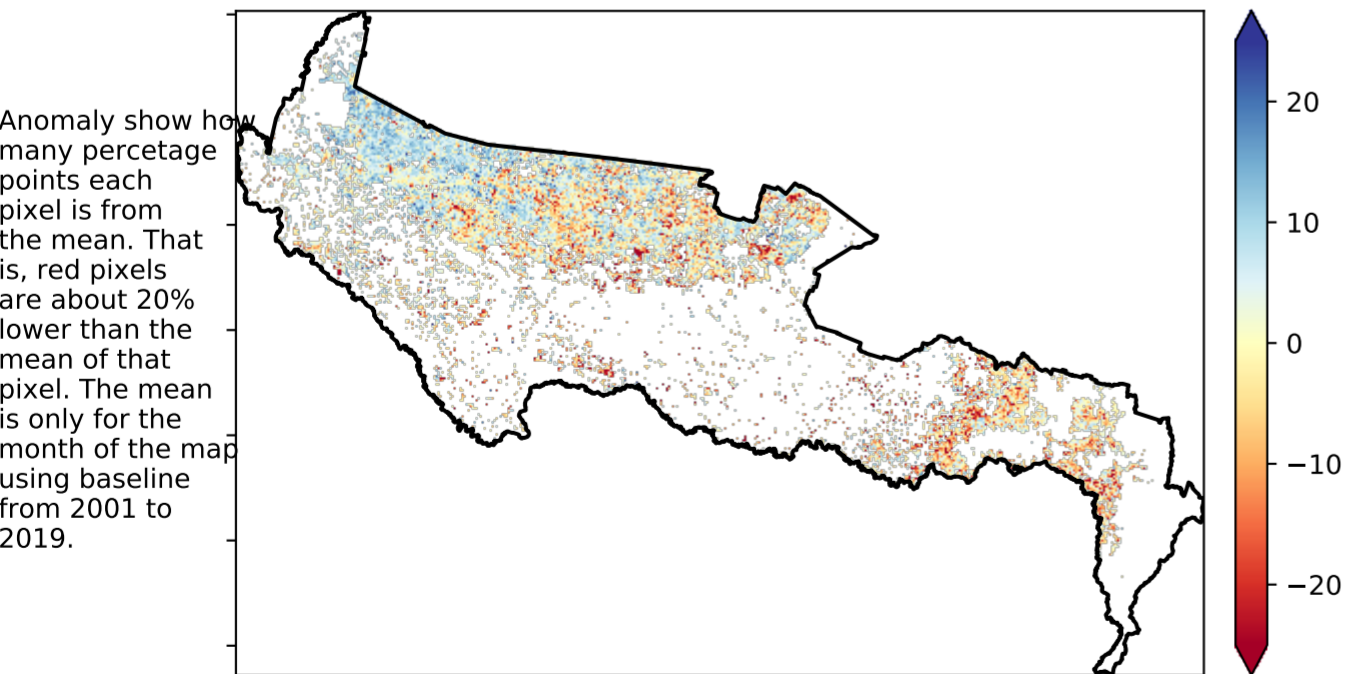
% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)

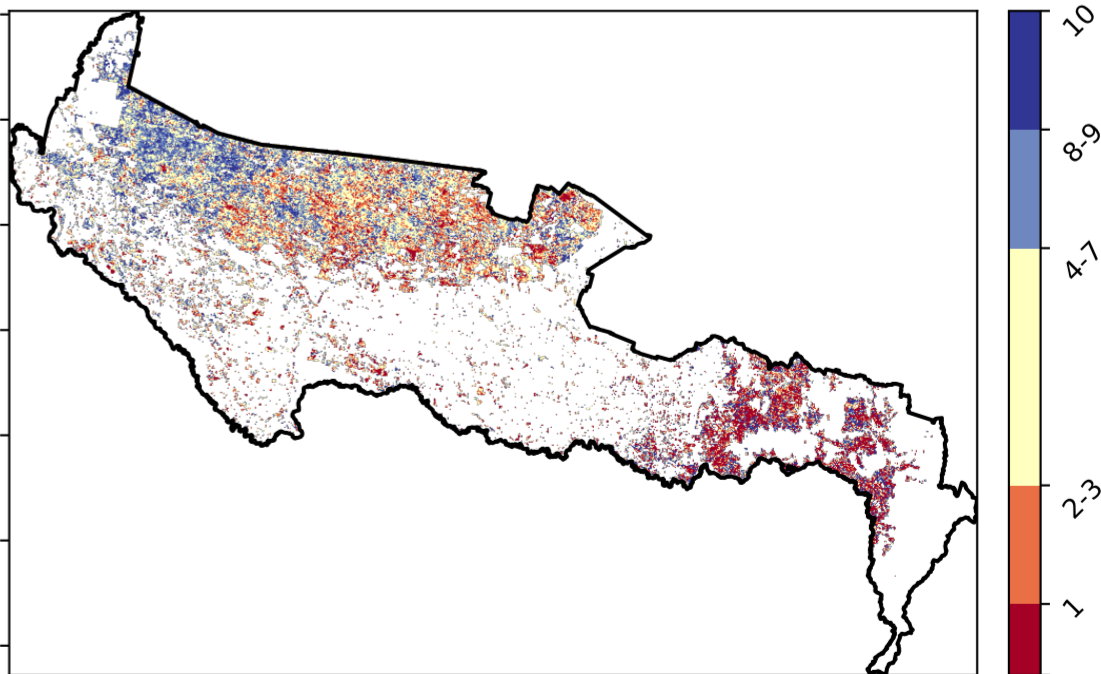


Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]



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 [%]



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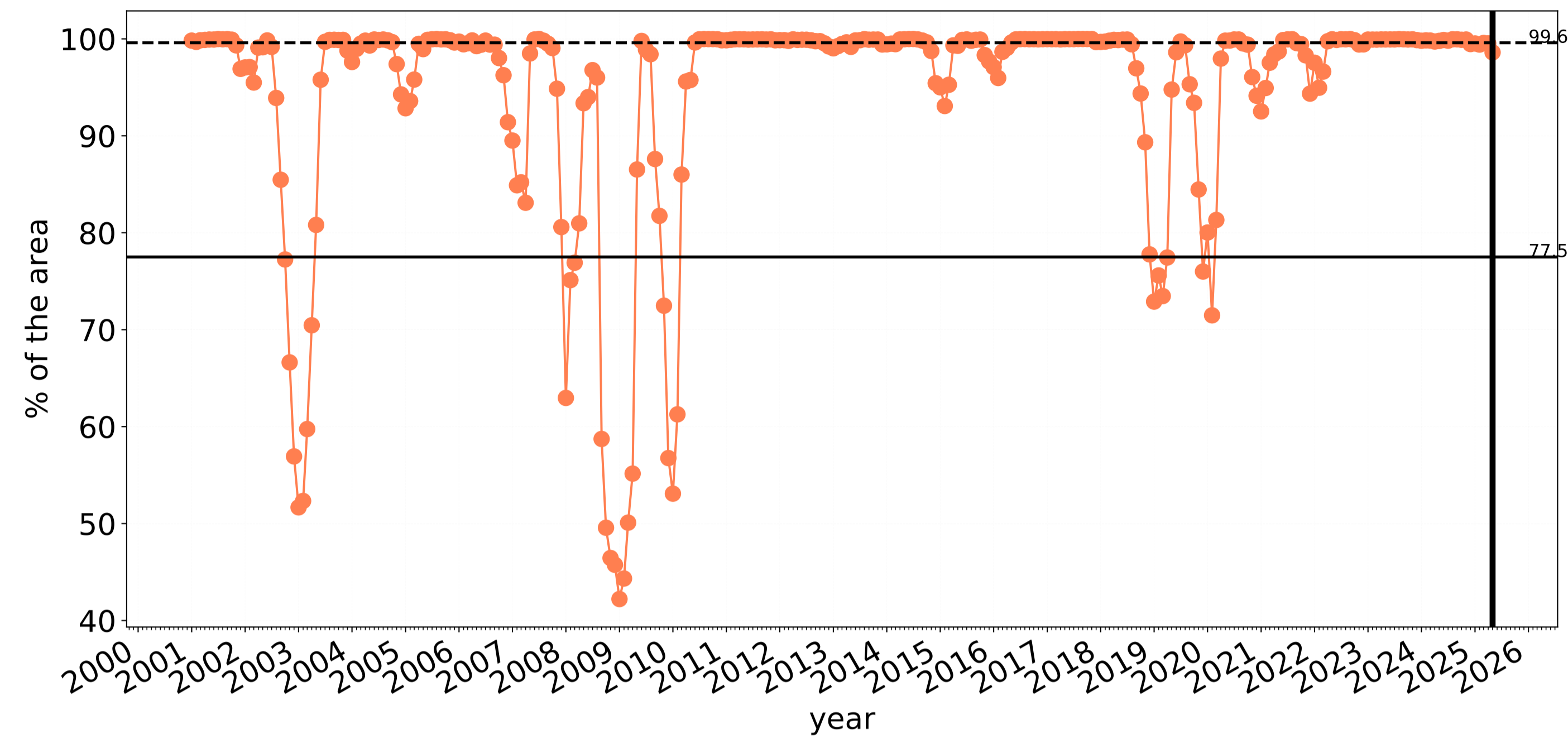
Australian Government

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Landcare  
Programme

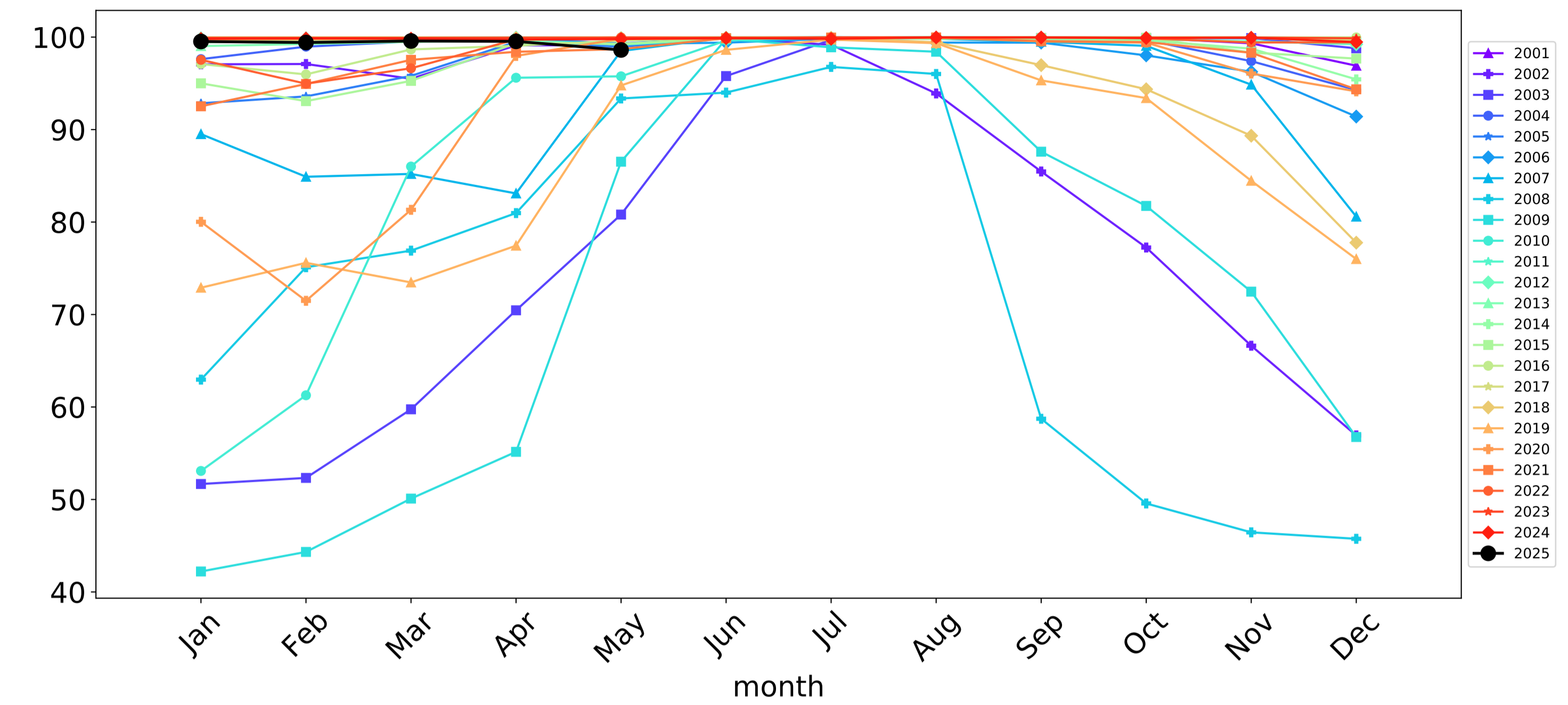


# Grazing non forest timeseries

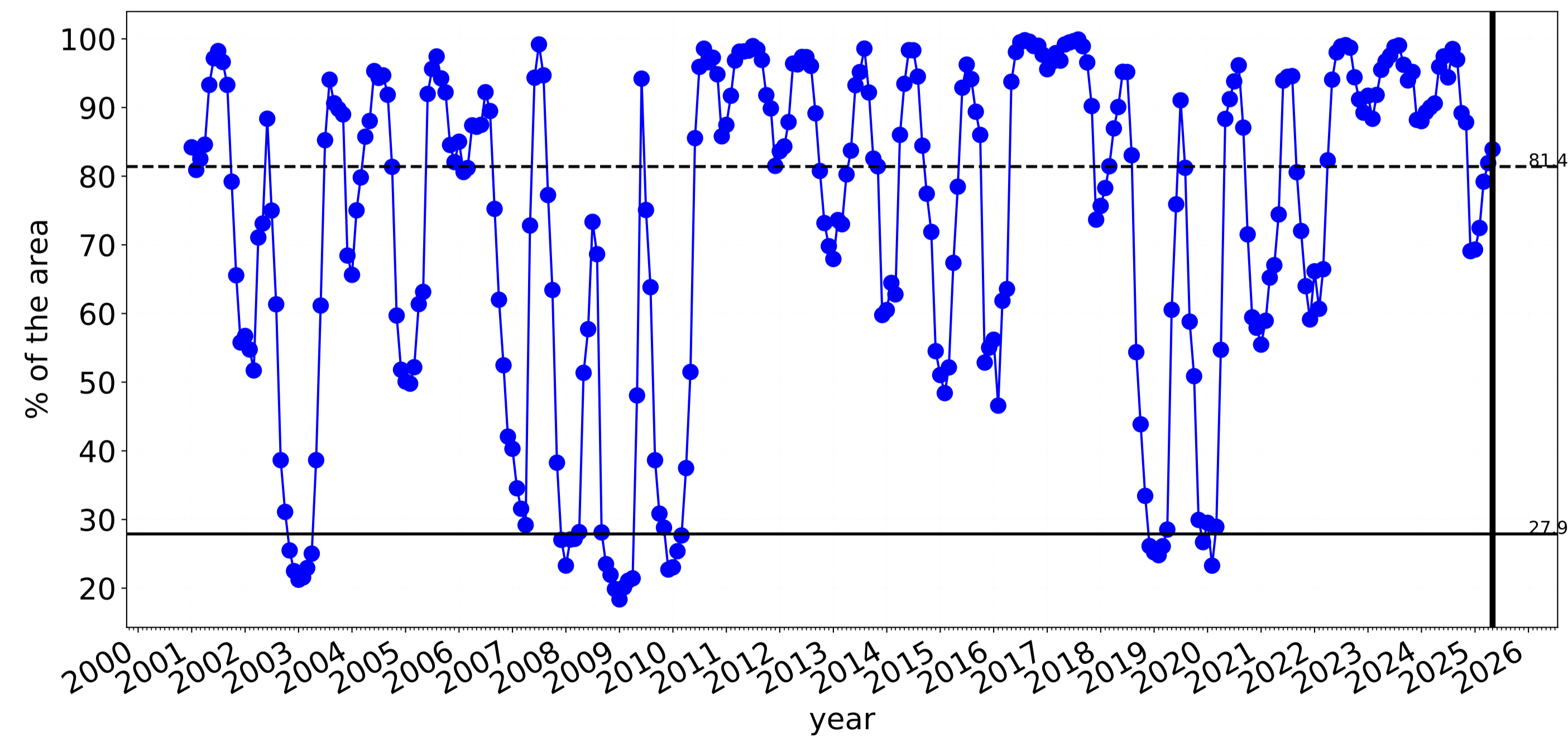
Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)



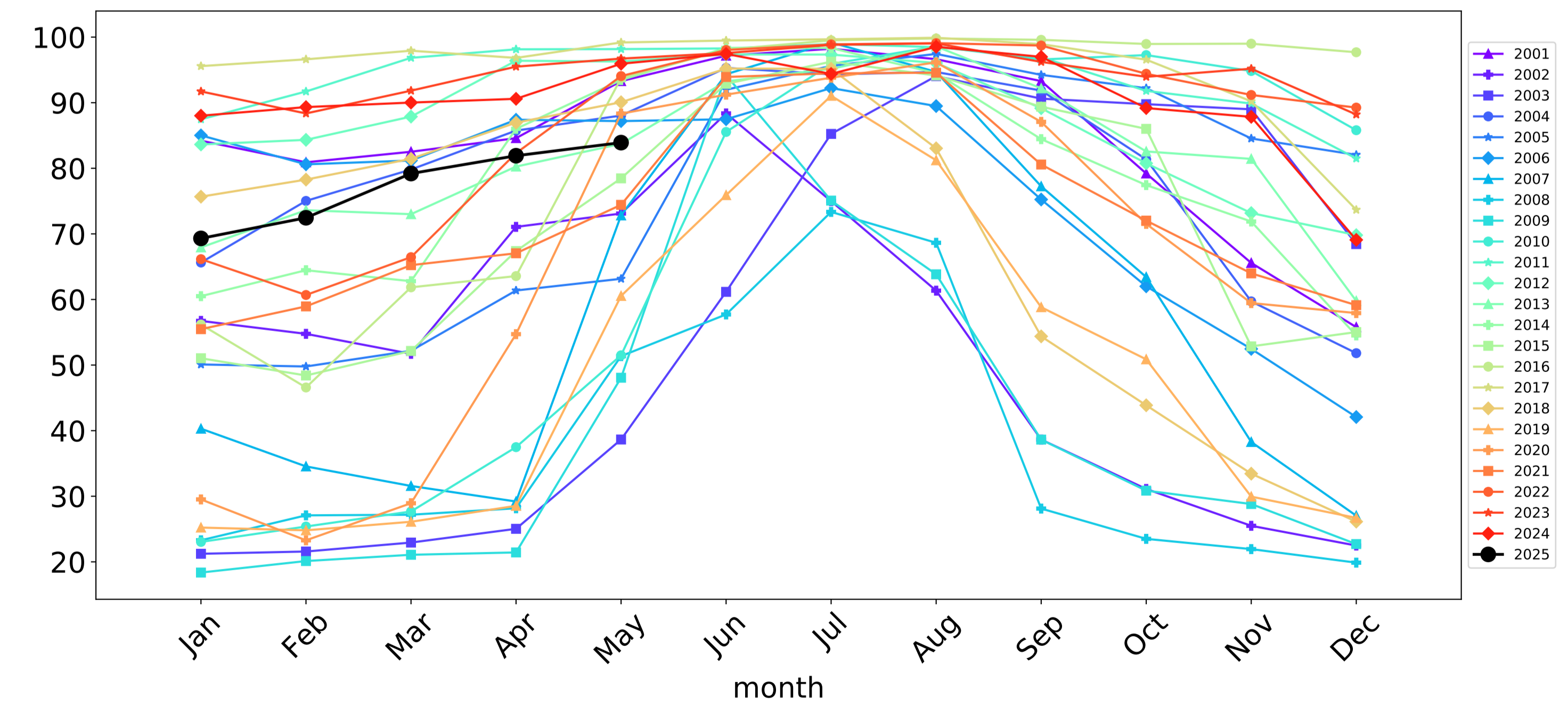
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



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



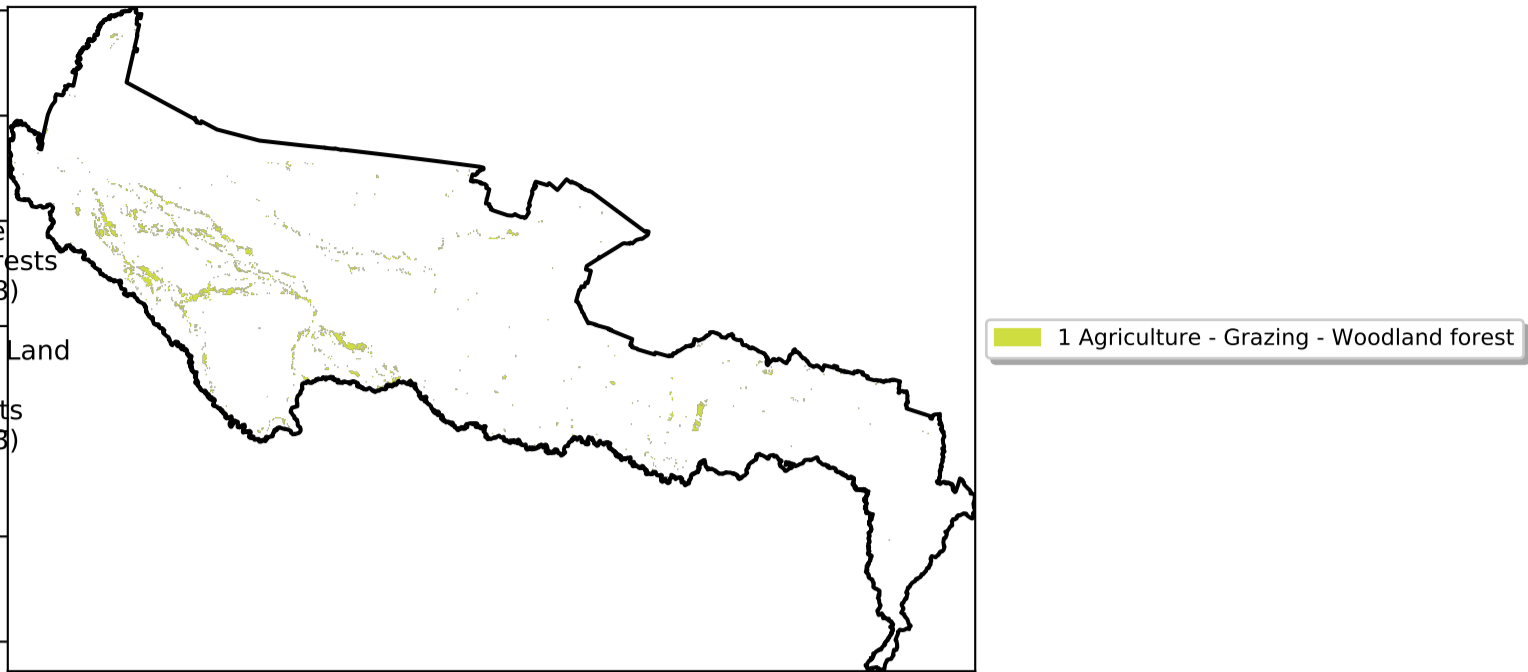
Water erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov>70%)



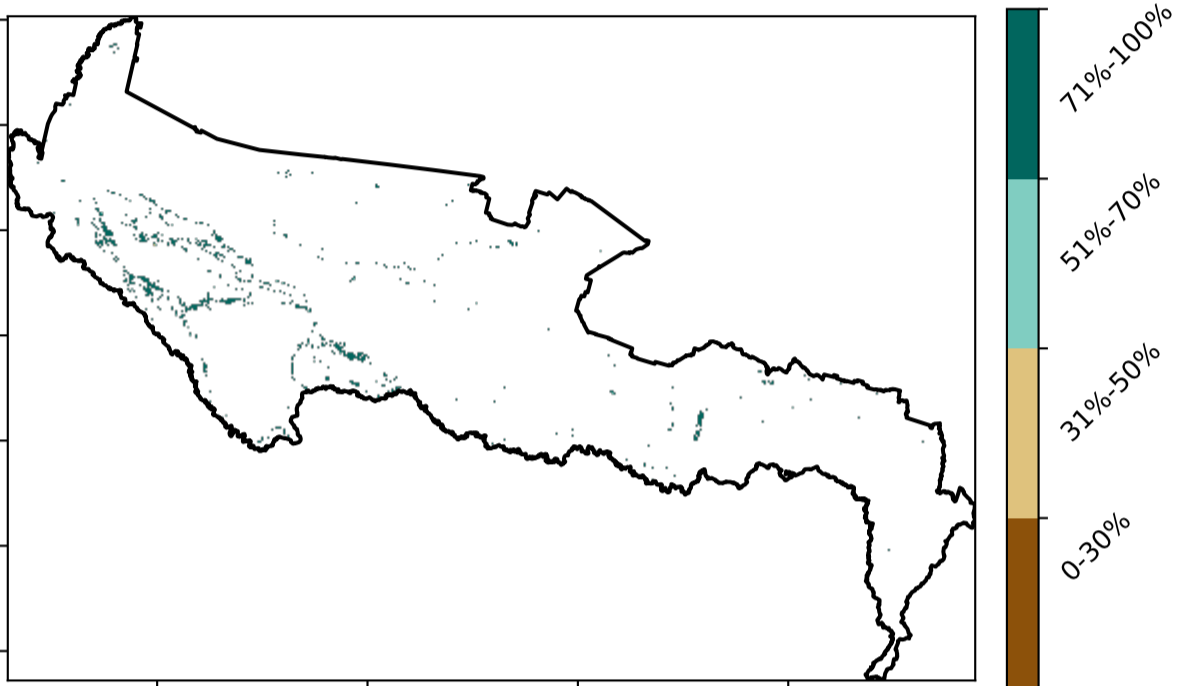
Grazing Woodland forest

Land use and forest cover

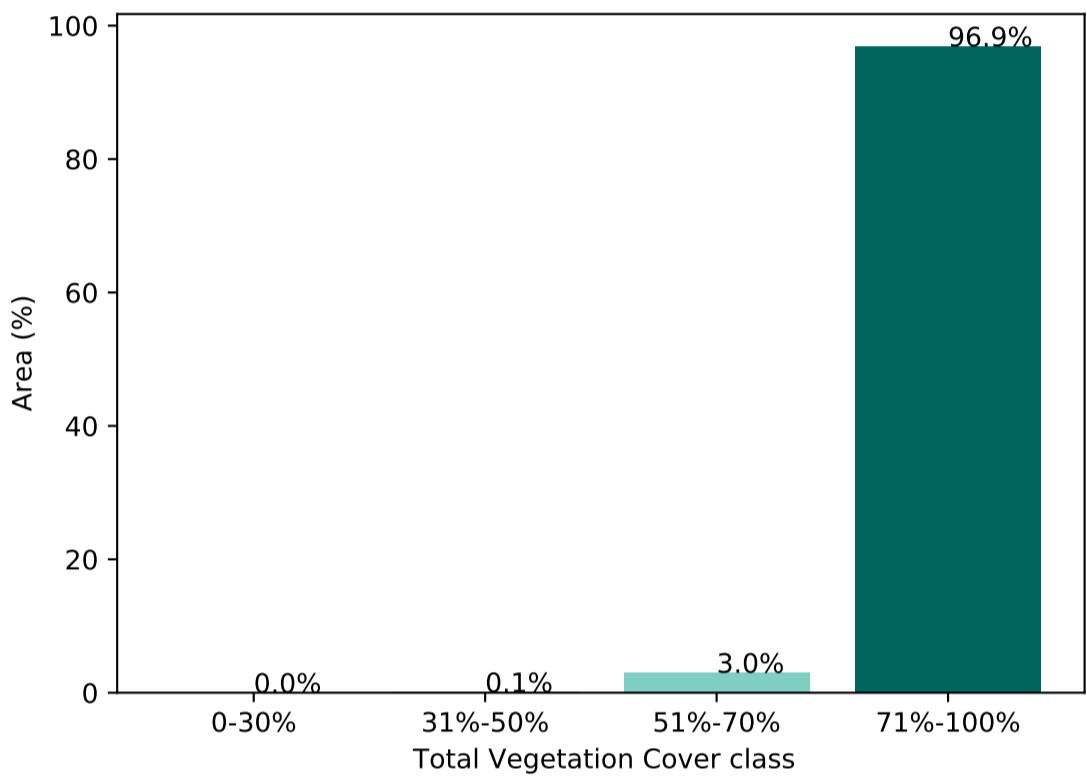
Catchment Scale  
Land Use and Forests  
of Australia (2018)  
Derived from  
Catchment Scale Land  
Use of Australia  
(2018) and Forests  
of Australia (2018)



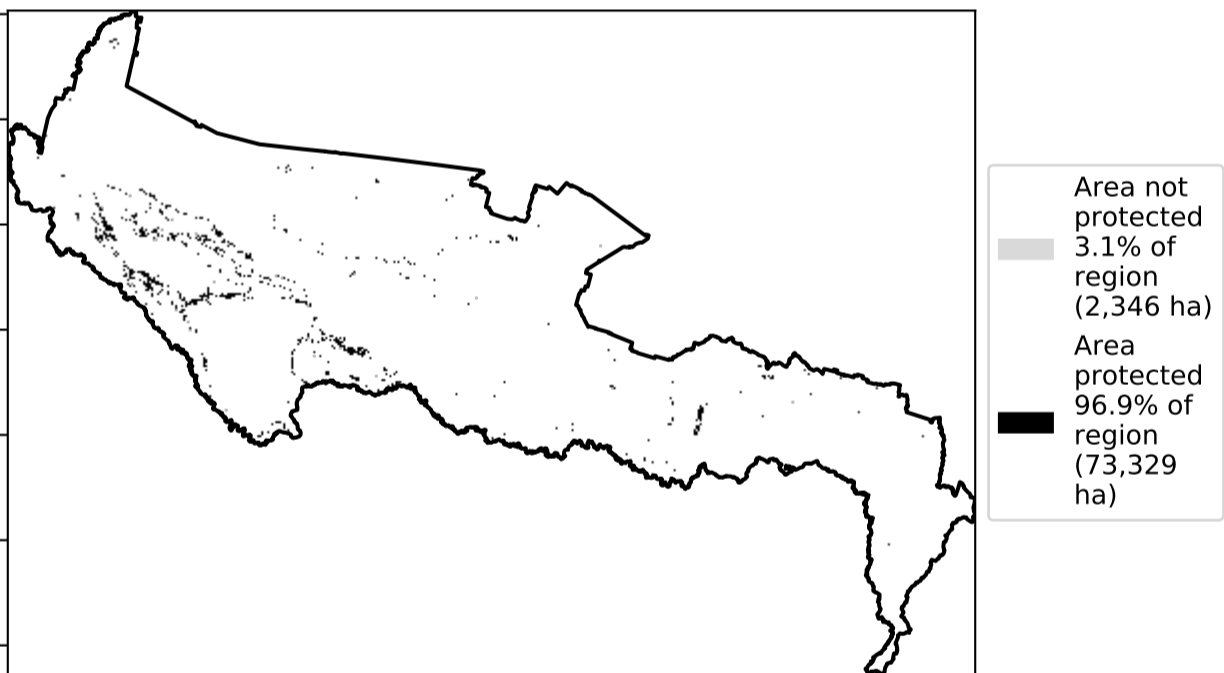
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



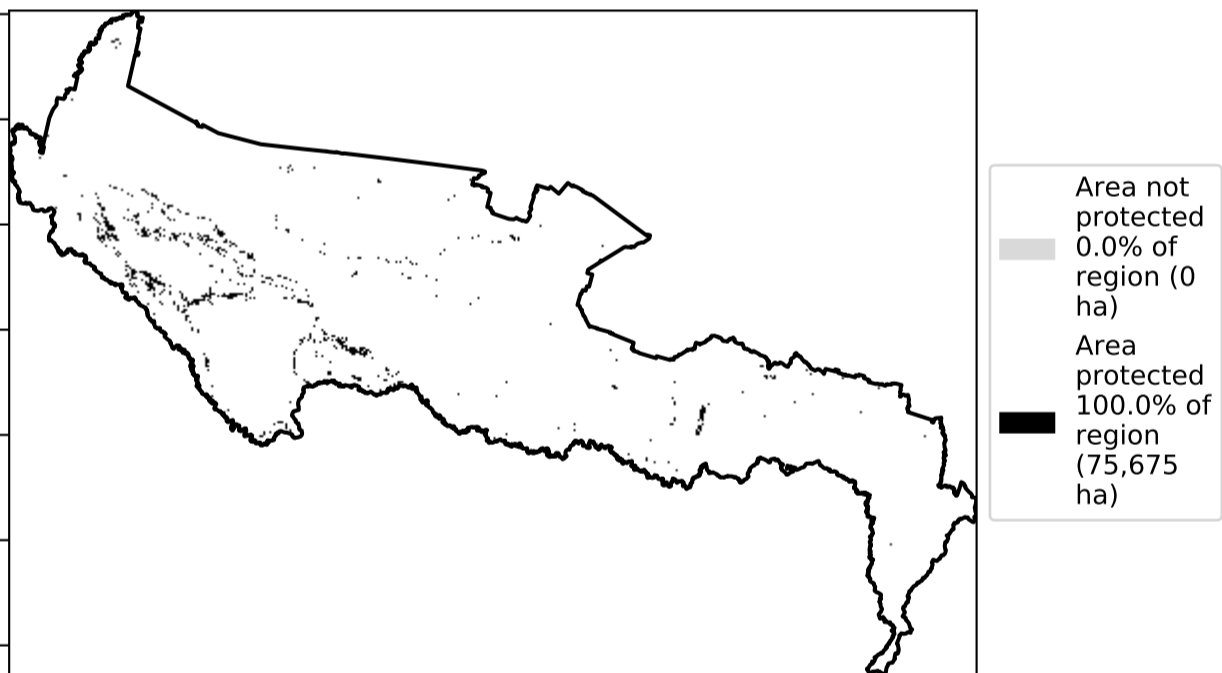
Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)

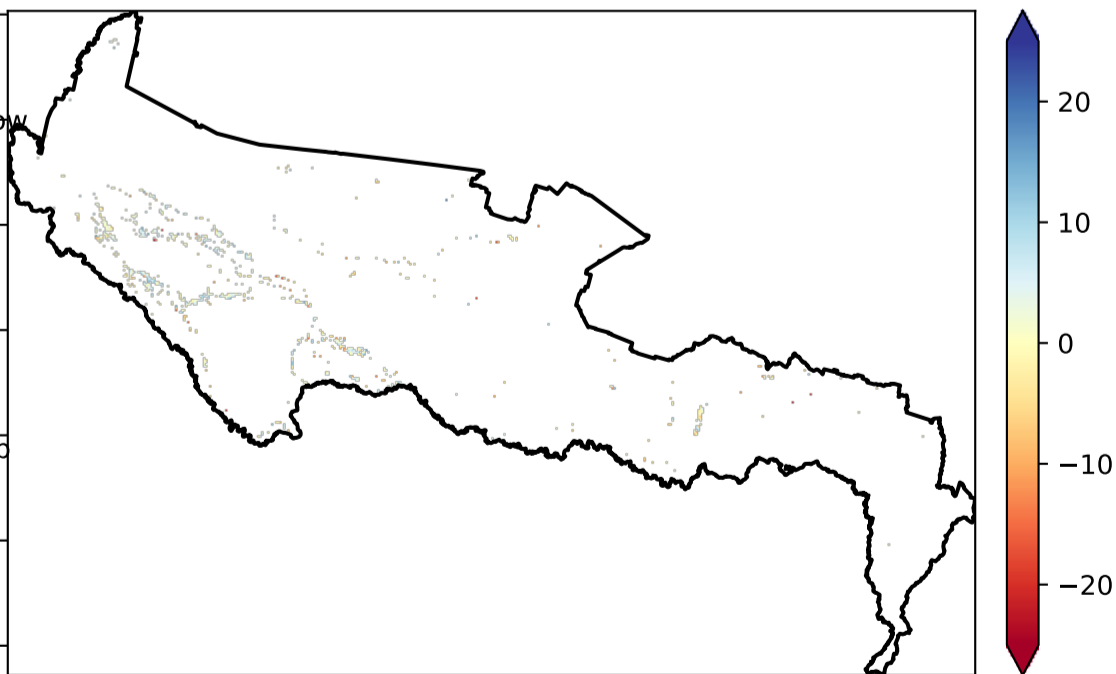


% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



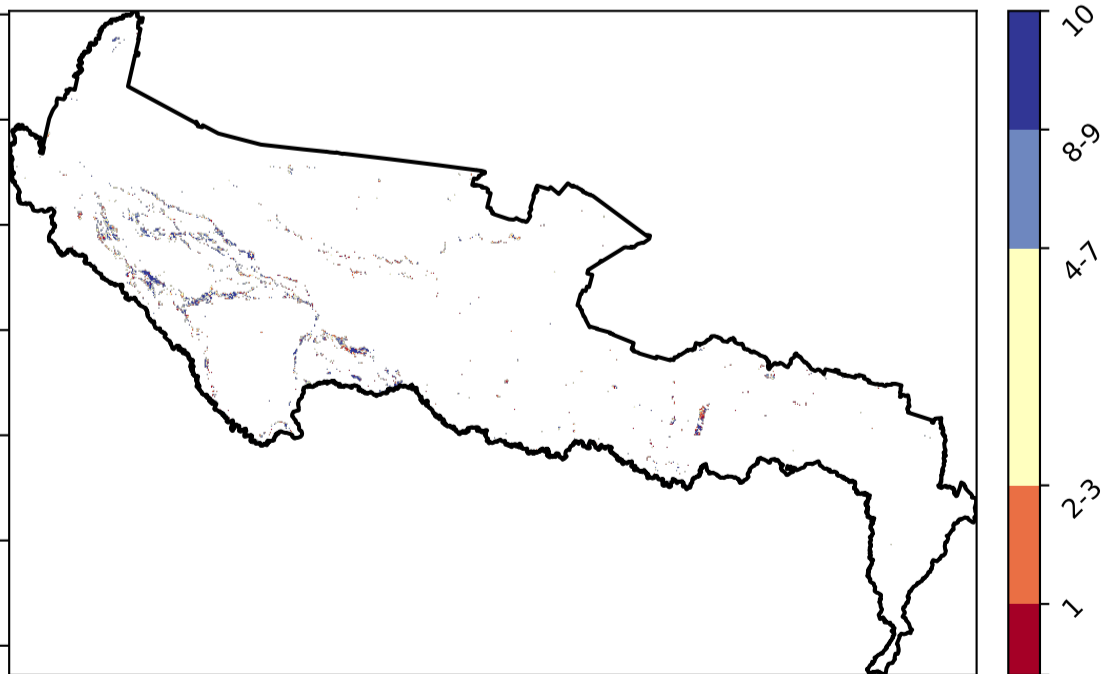
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

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



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

Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]



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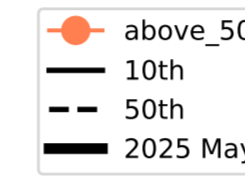
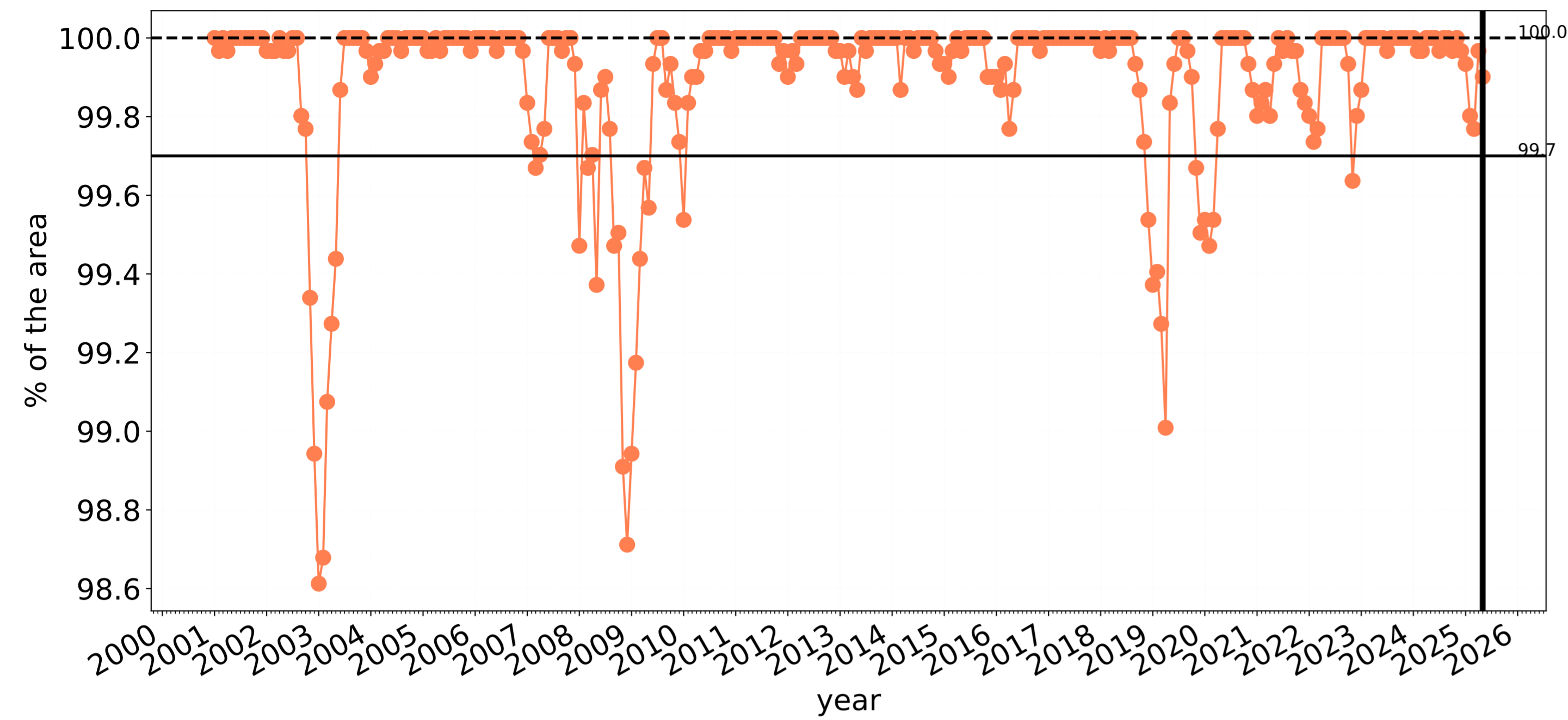
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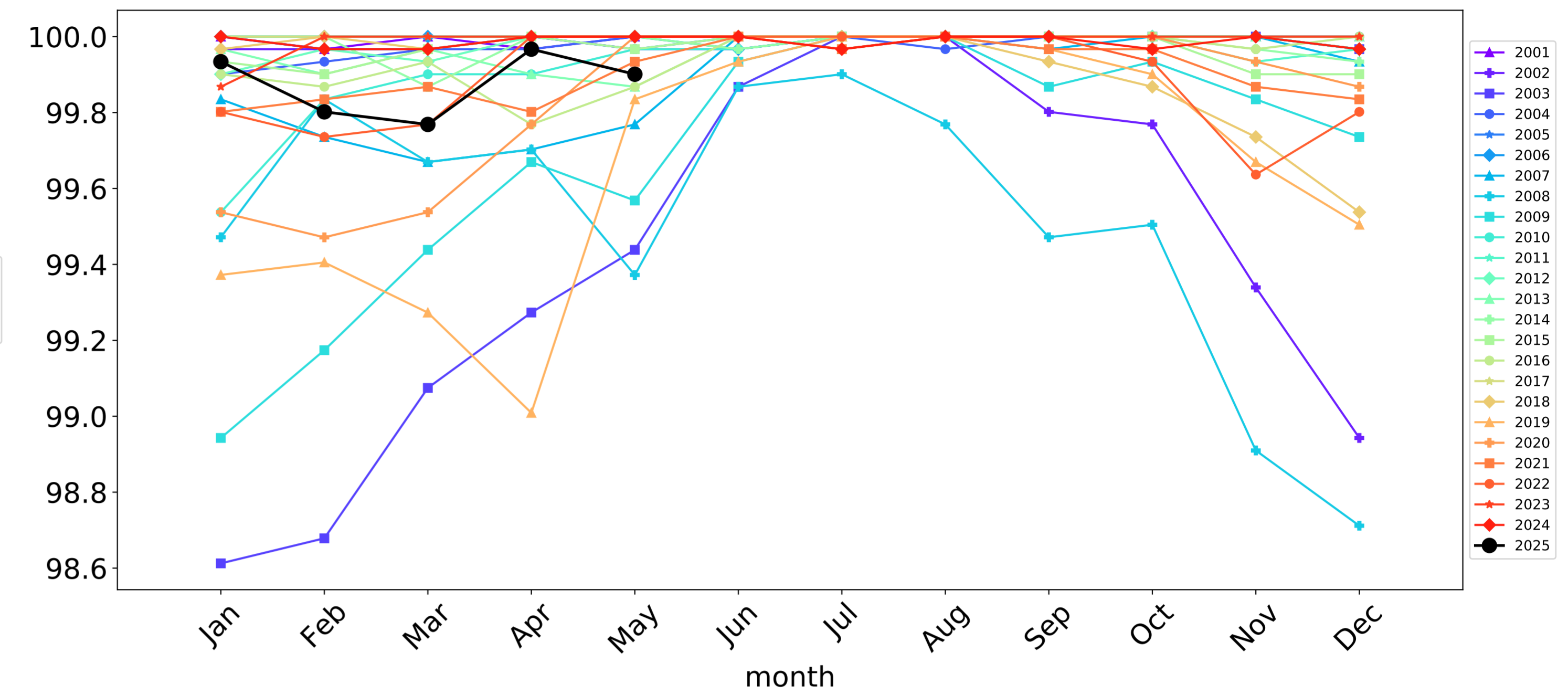


# Grazing Woodland forest timeseries

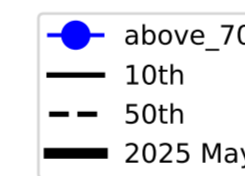
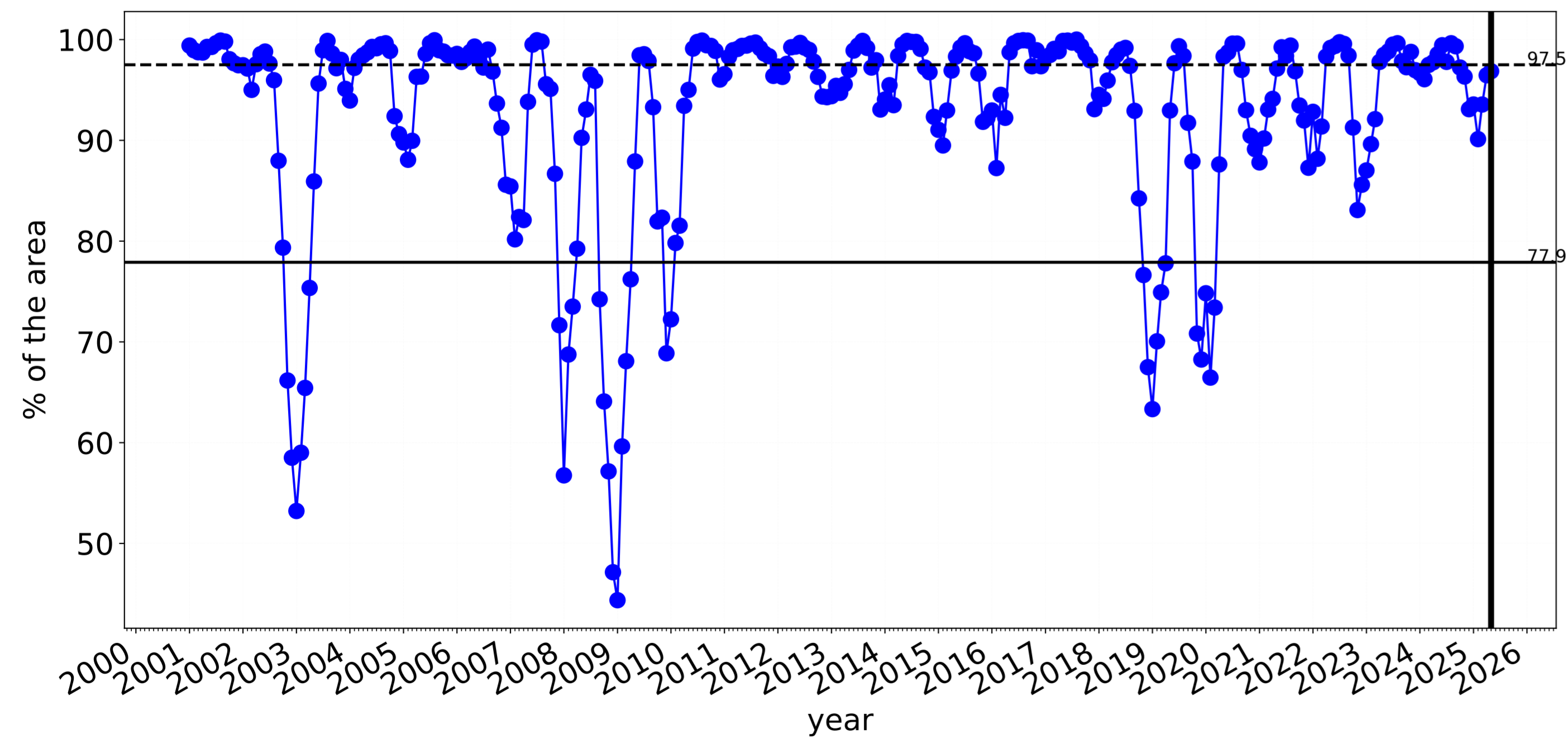
Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)



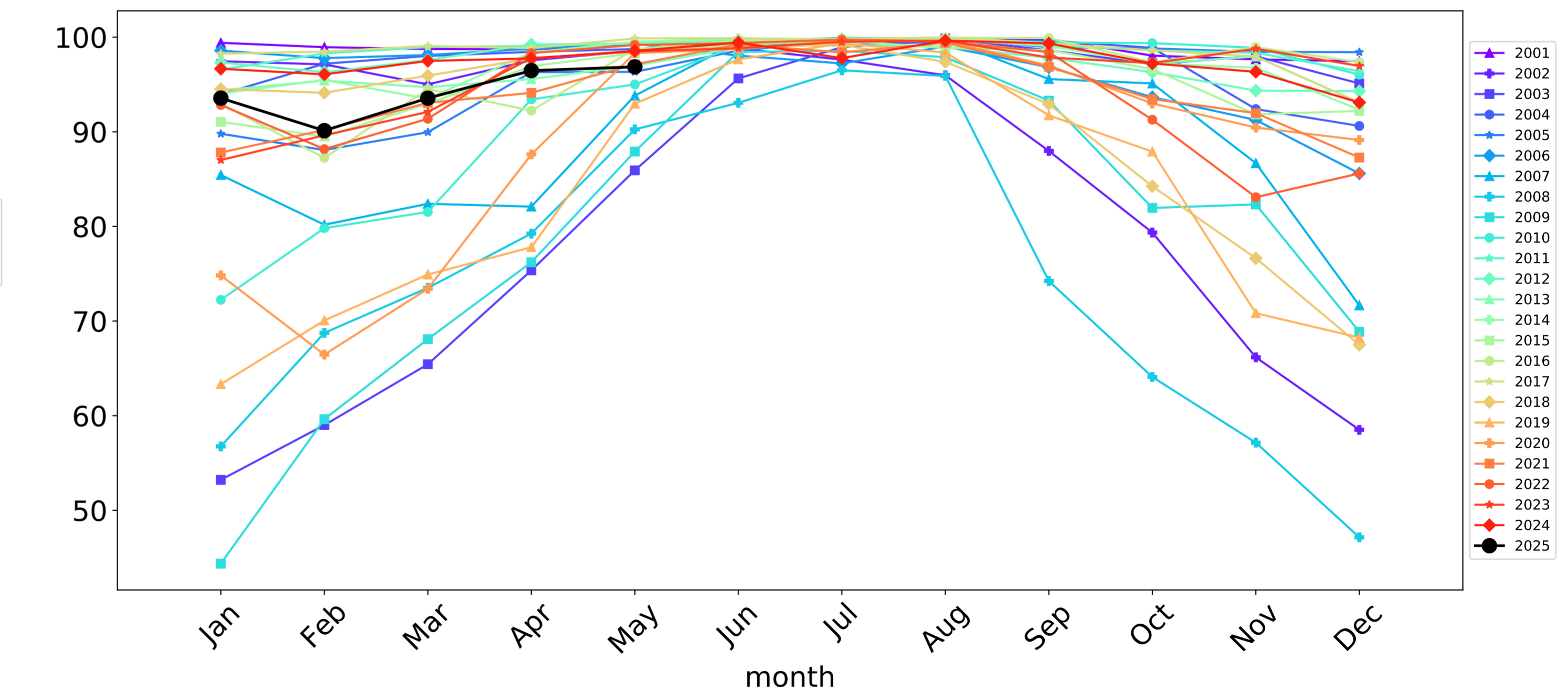
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



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



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



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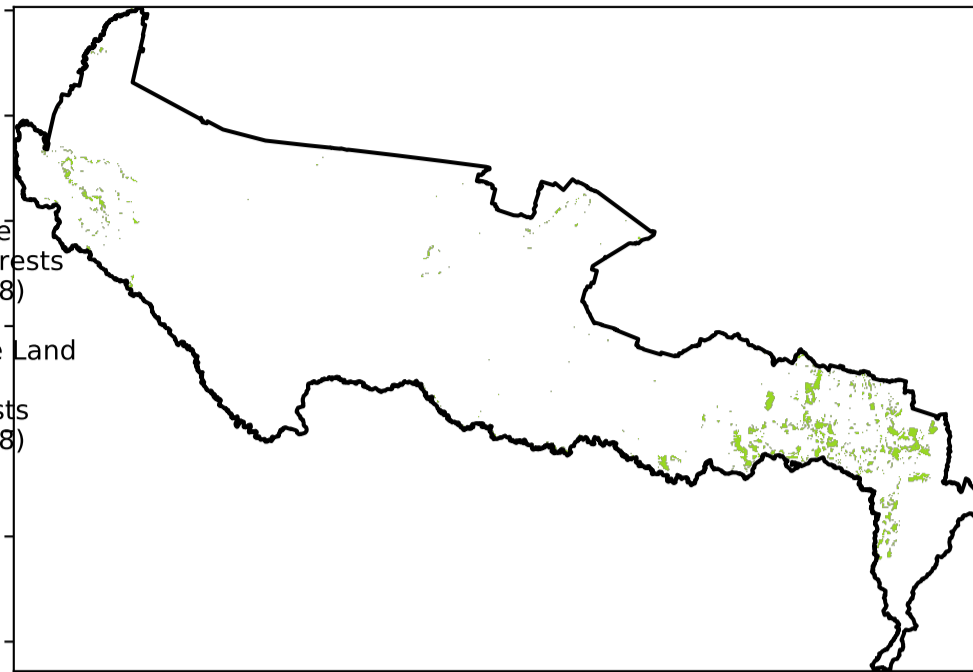
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# Grazing - Forest (non woodland)

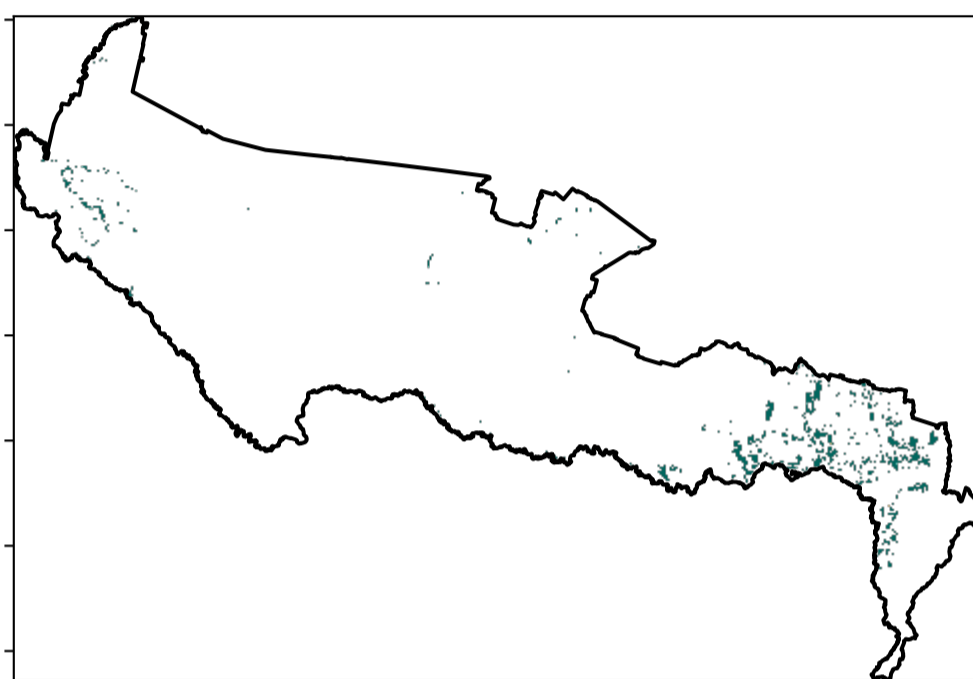
Land use and forest cover

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

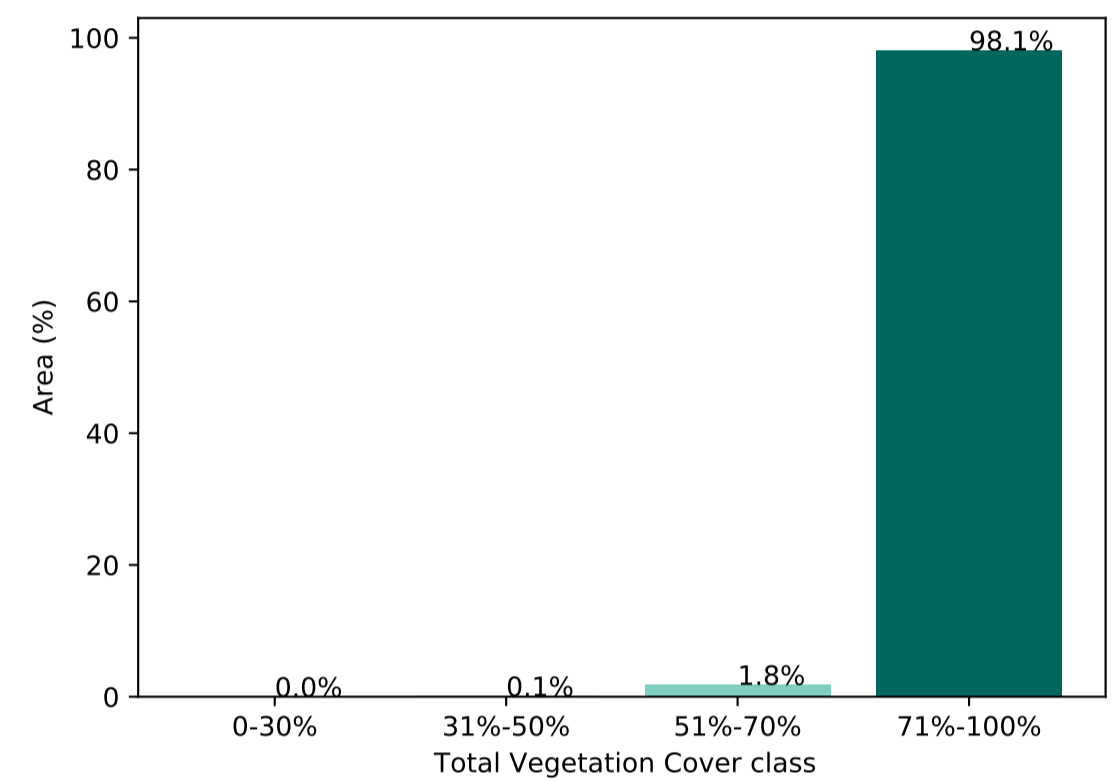


1 Agriculture - Grazing - Non-woodland forest

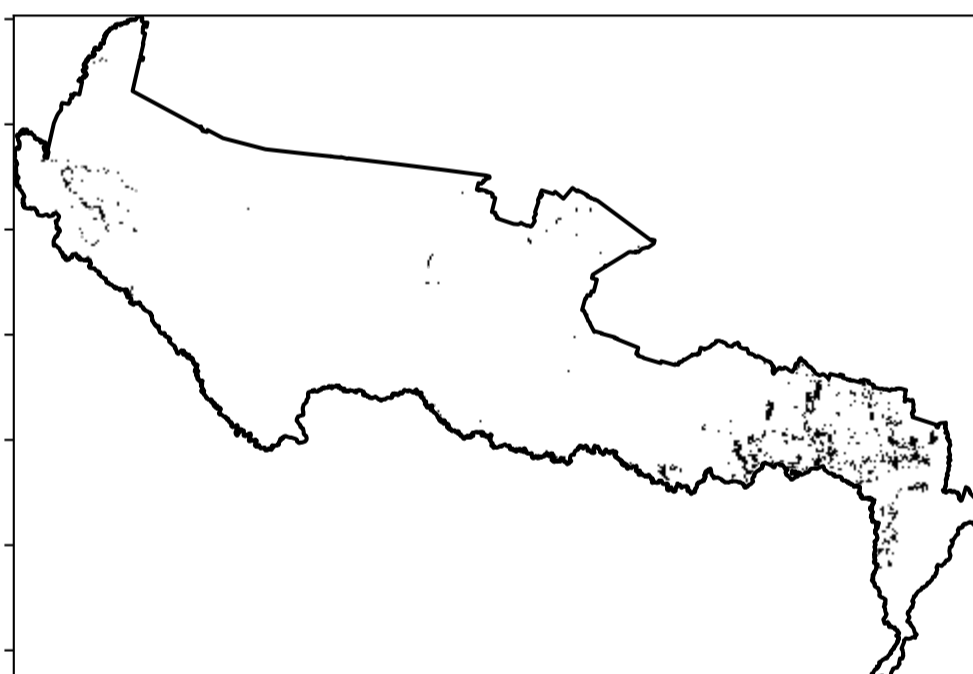
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



Proportion of vegetation cover class in area

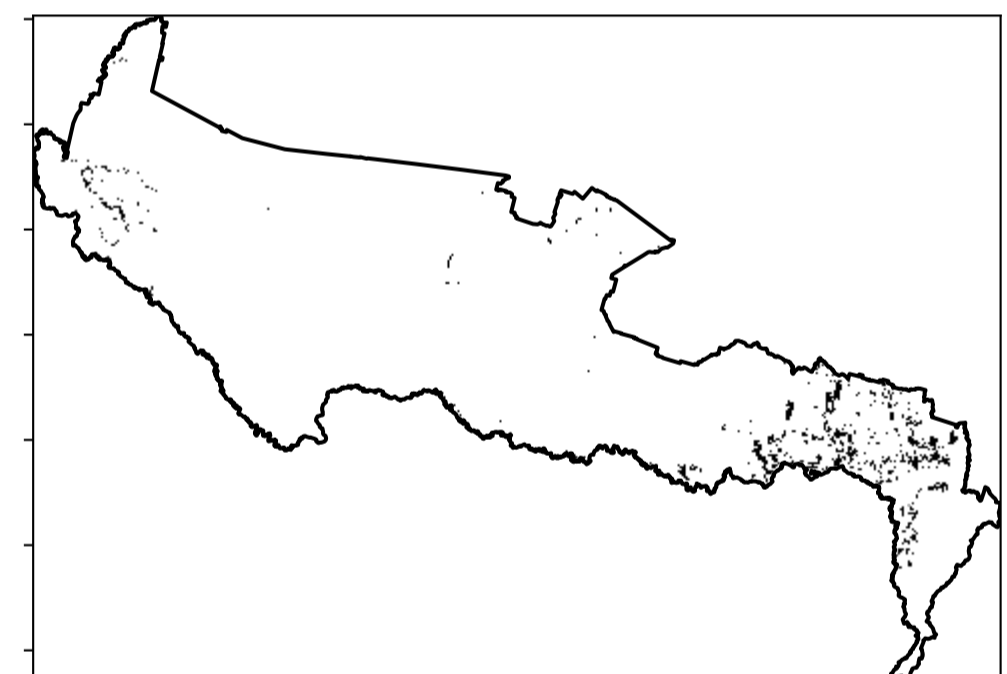


% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



Area not protected  
1.9% of region  
(1,690 ha)  
Area protected  
98.1% of region  
(87,235 ha)

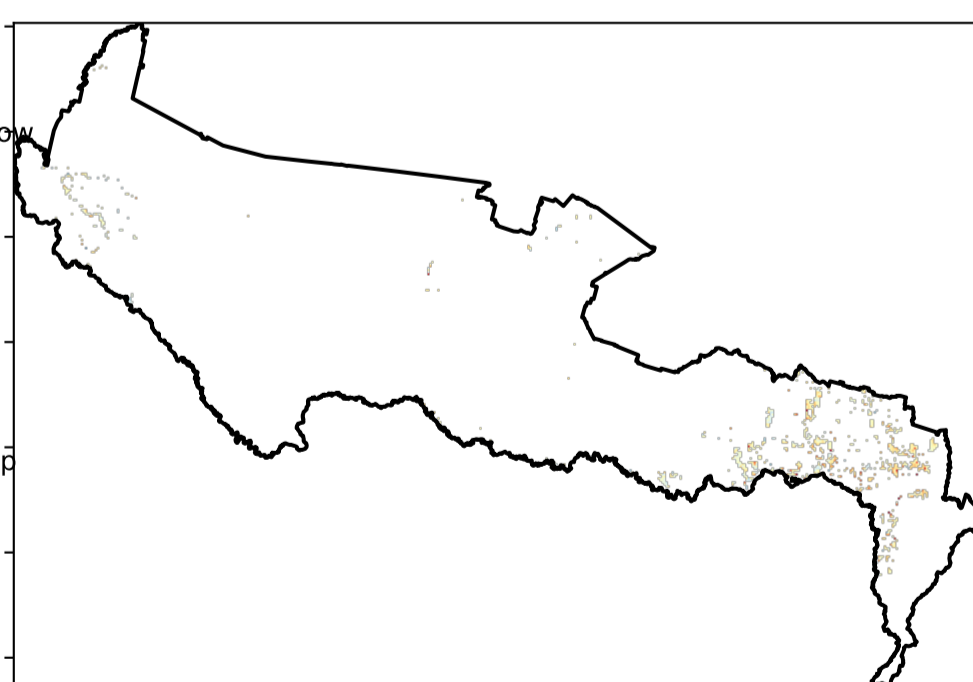
% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



Area not protected  
0.0% of region  
(0 ha)  
Area protected  
100.0% of region  
(88,925 ha)

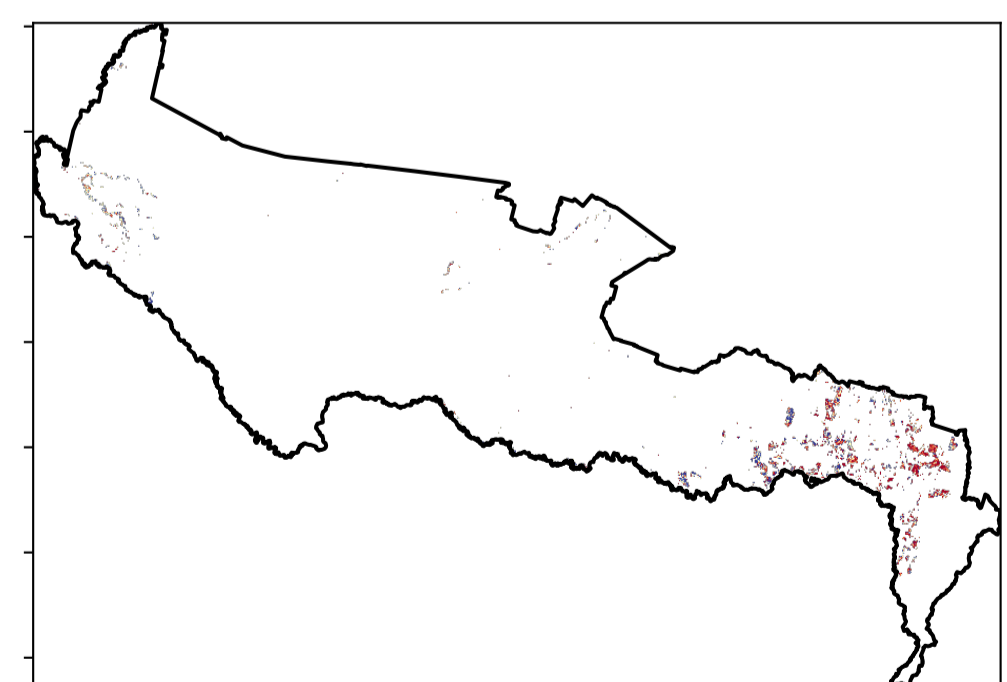
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

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



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

Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]



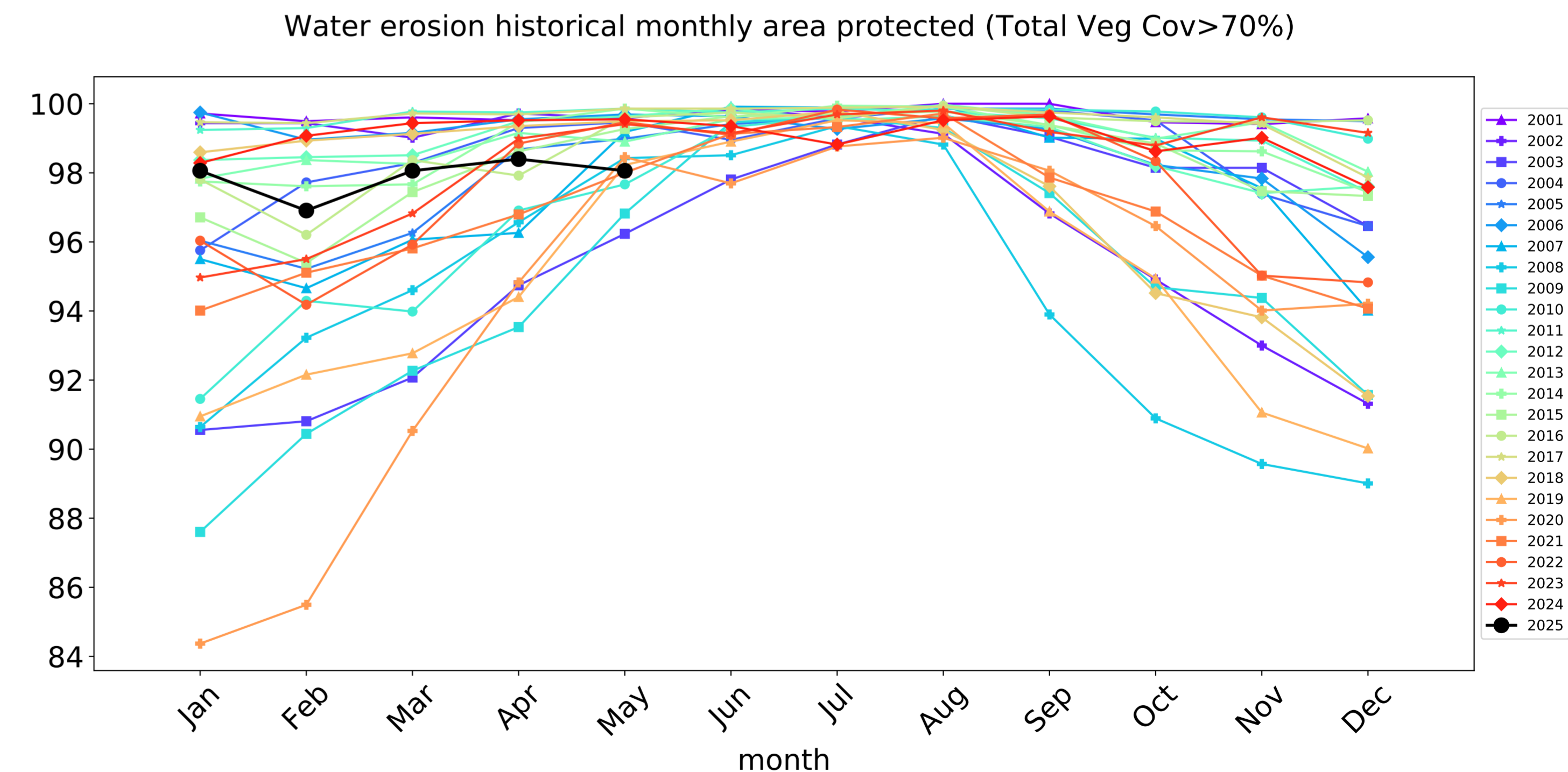
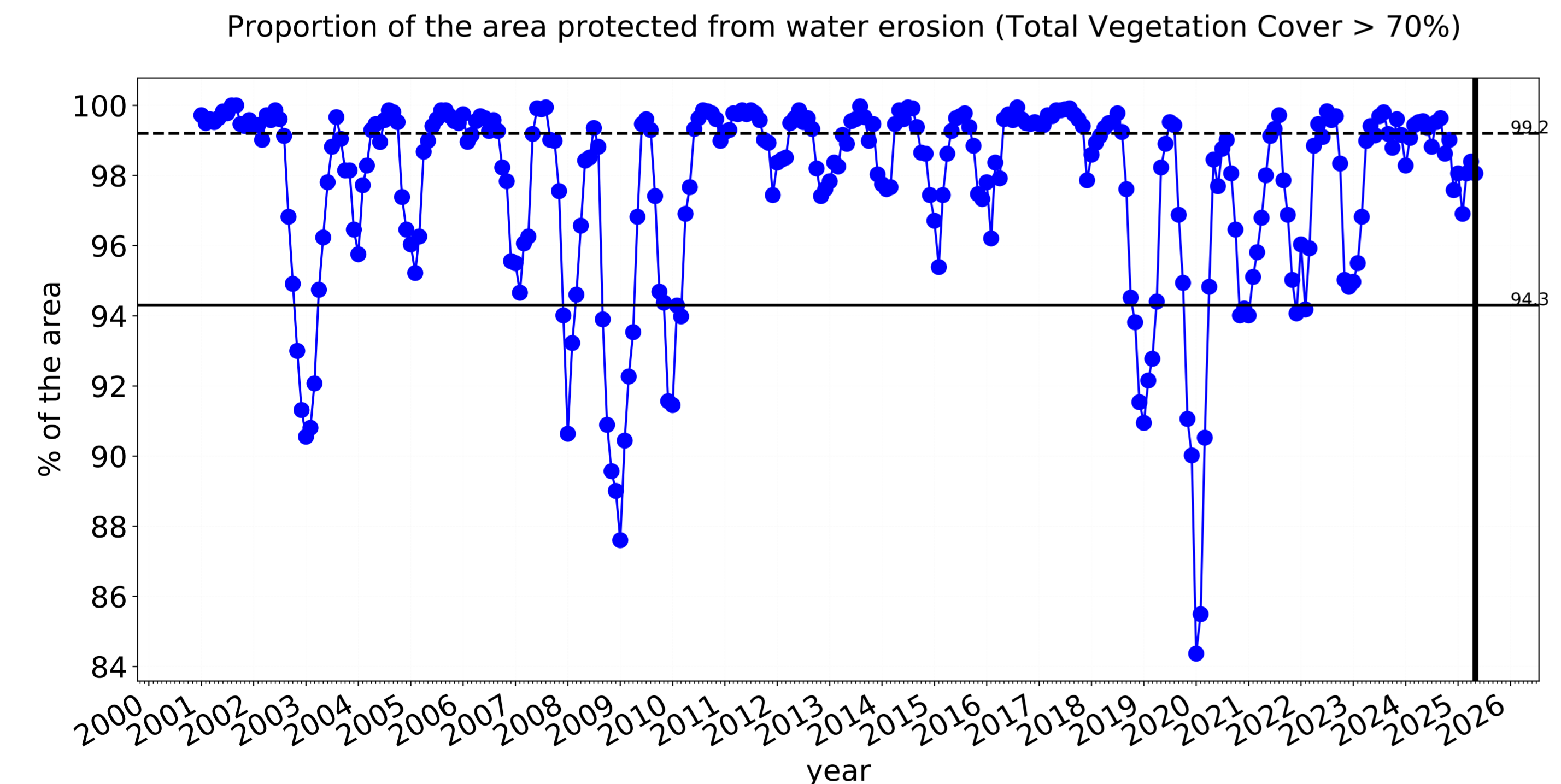
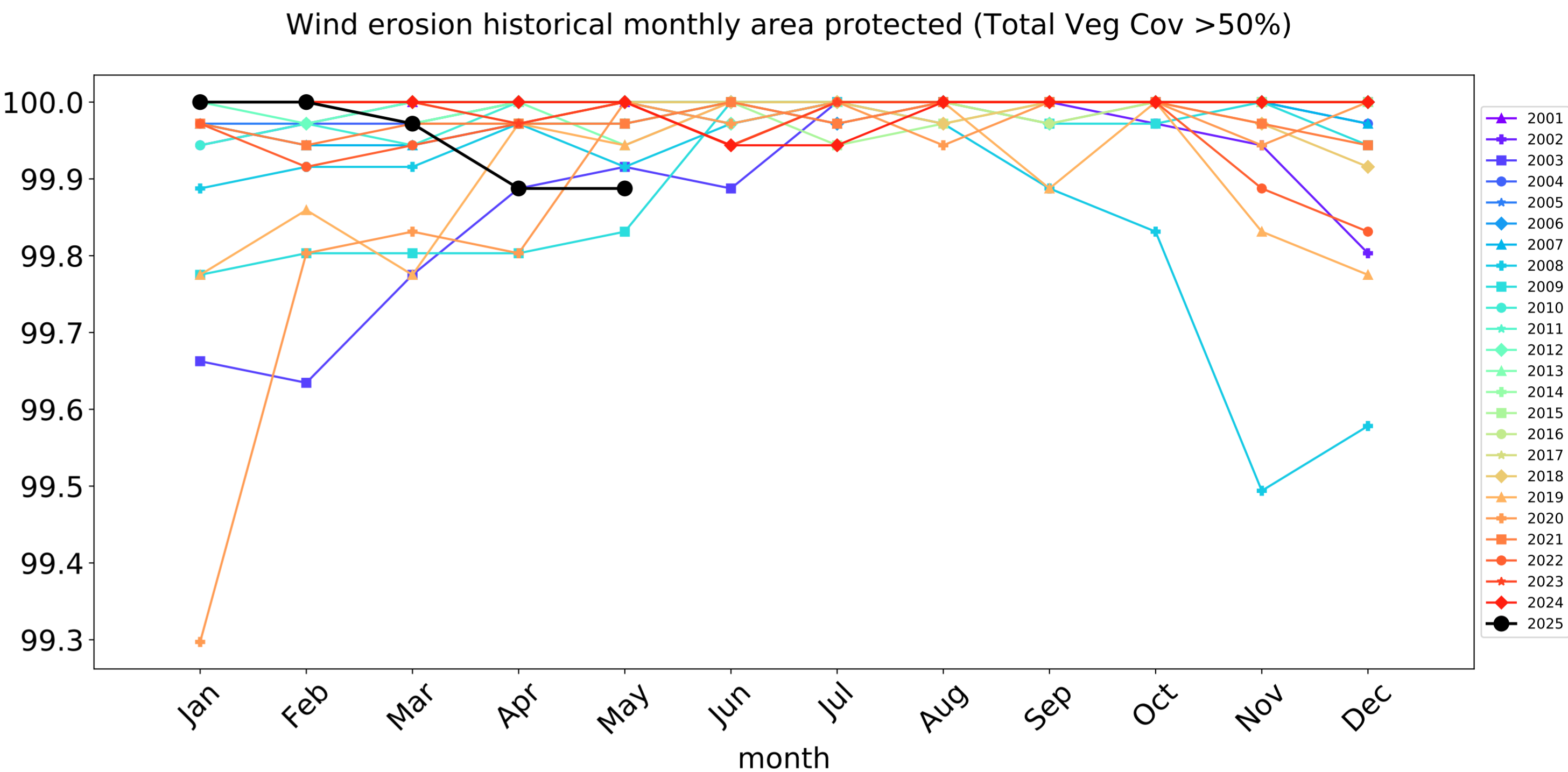
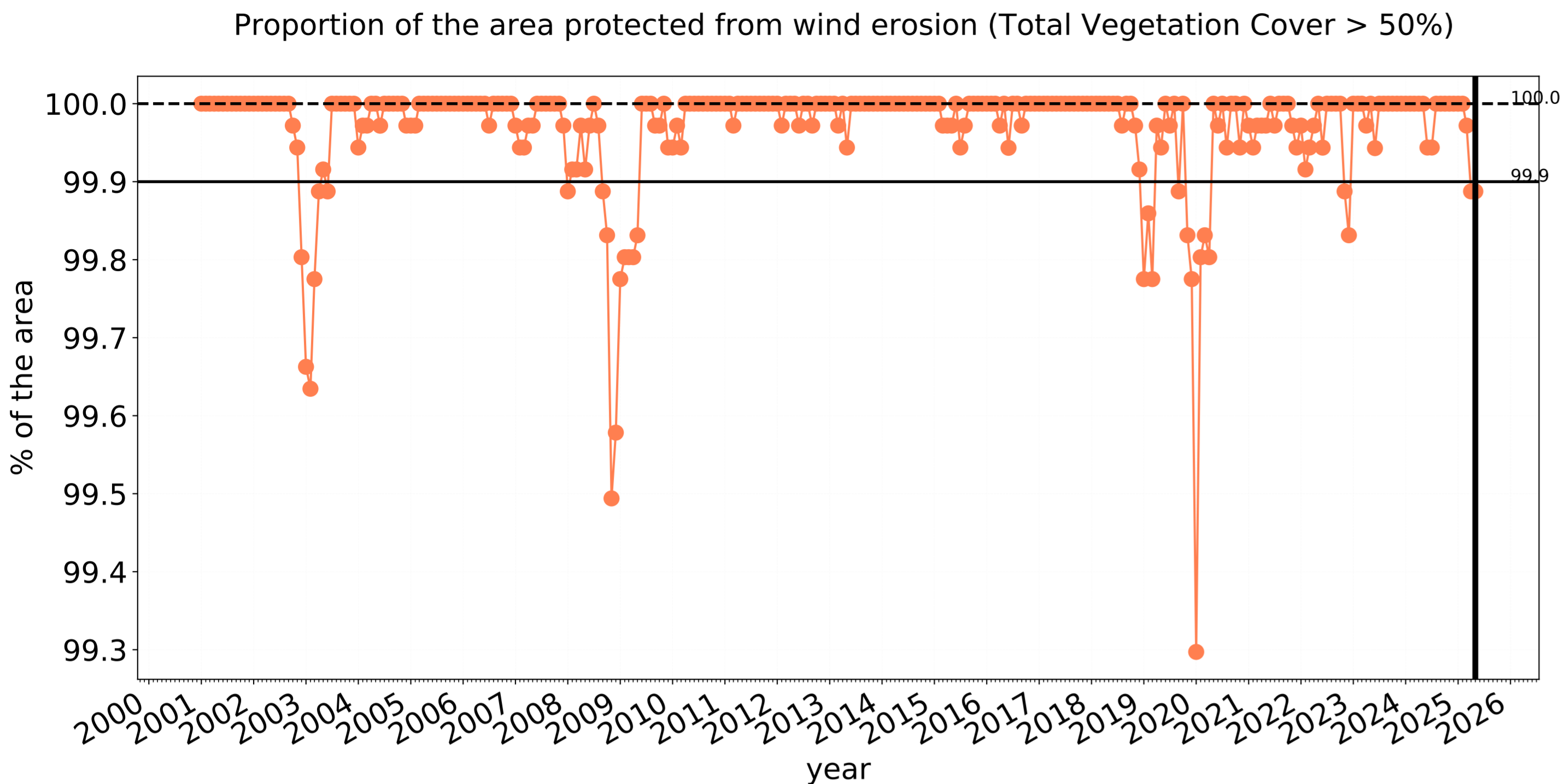
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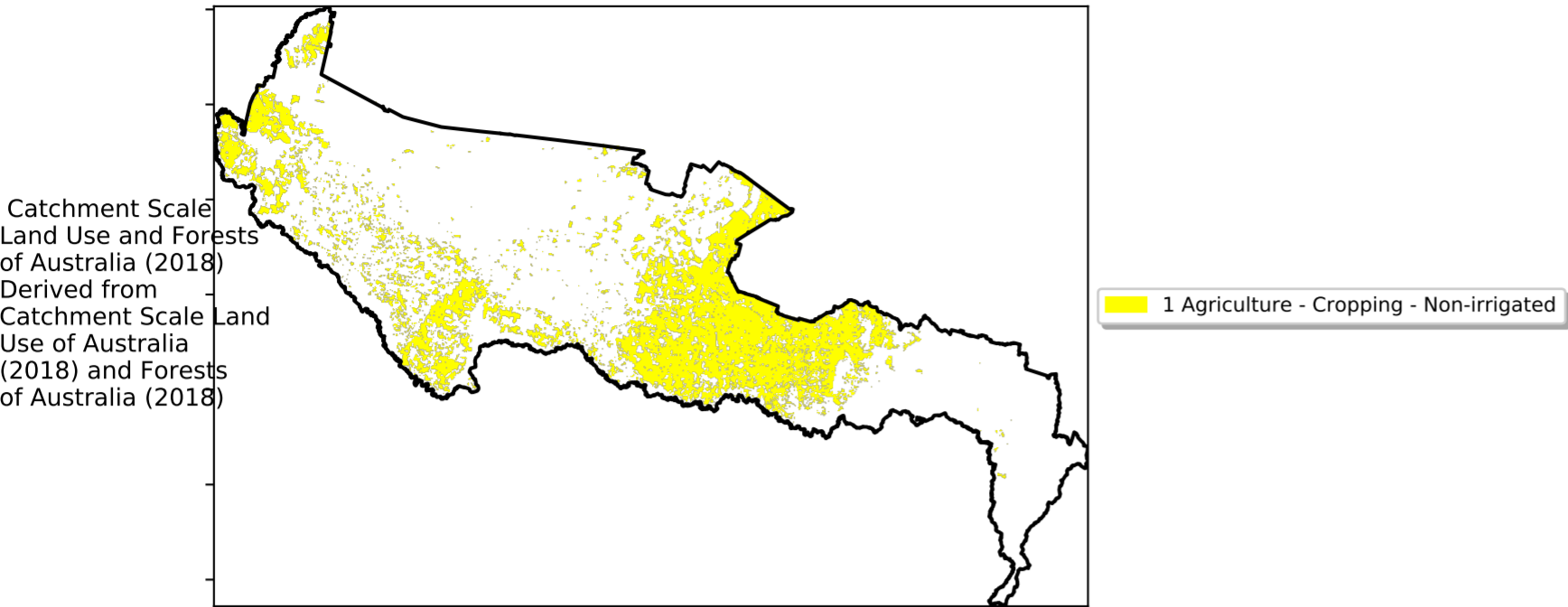


Grazing - Forest (non woodland) timeseries

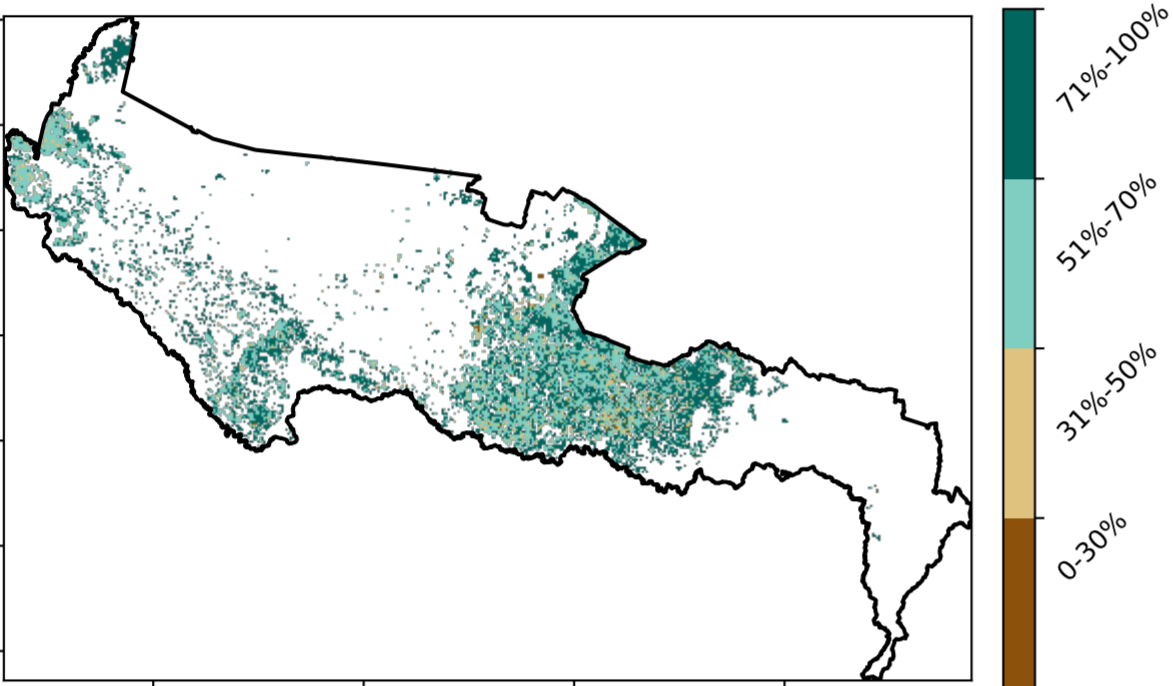


Cropping

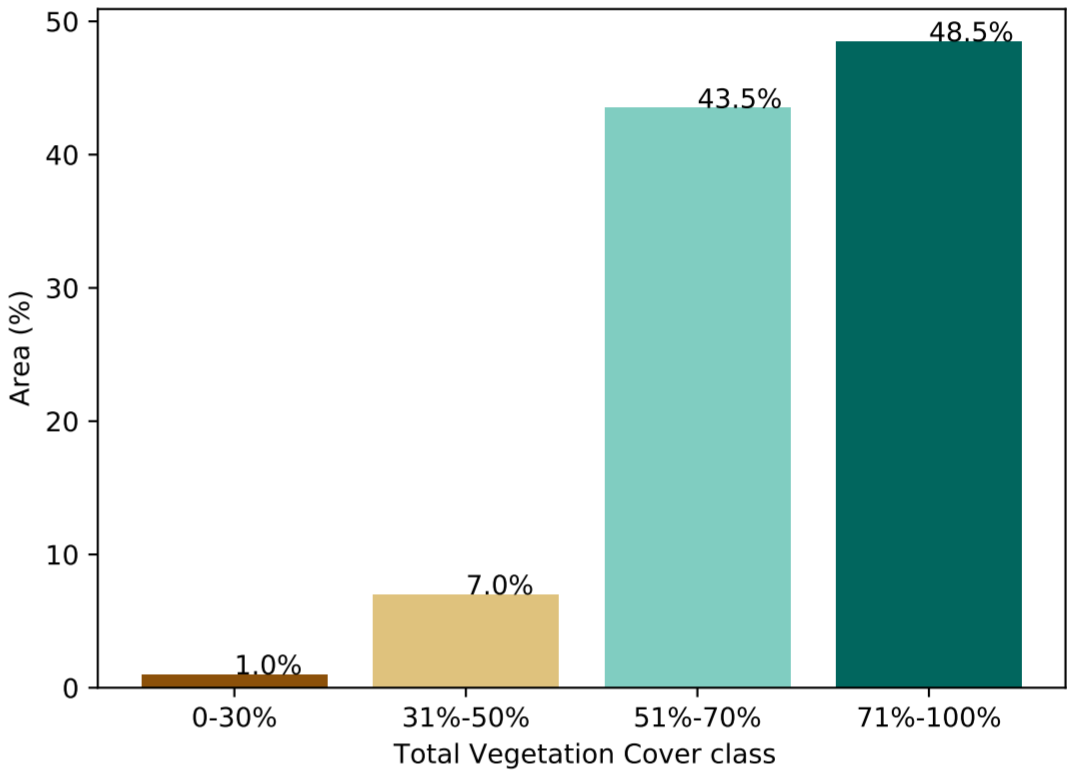
Land use and forest cover



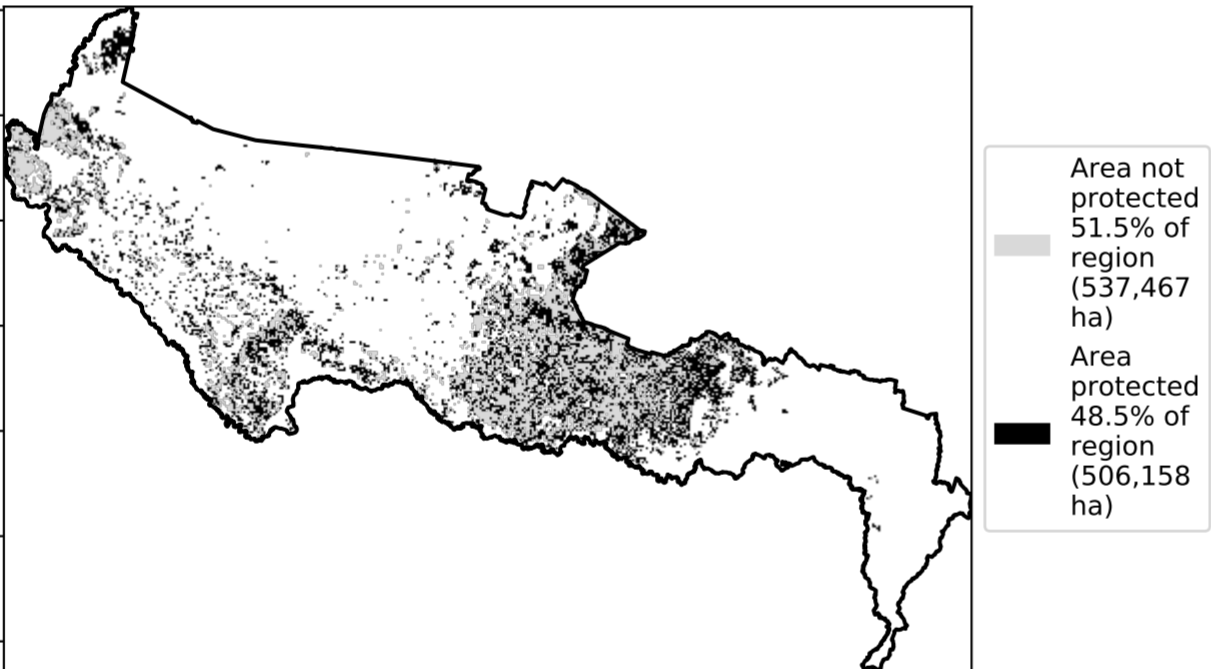
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



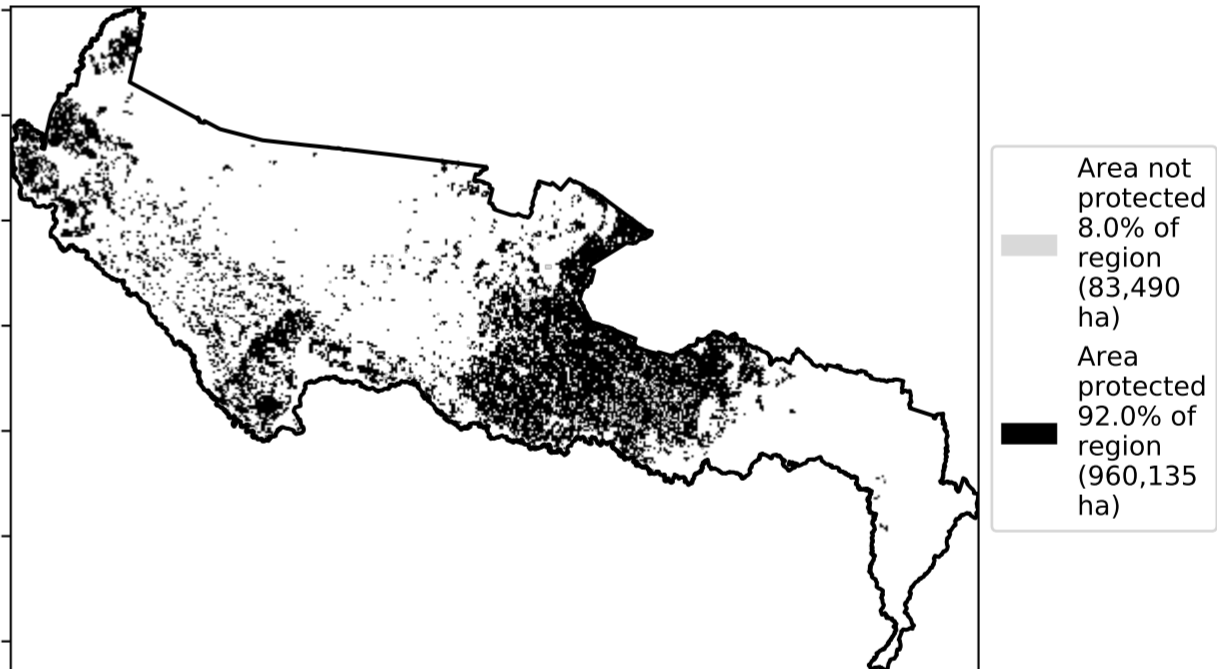
Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



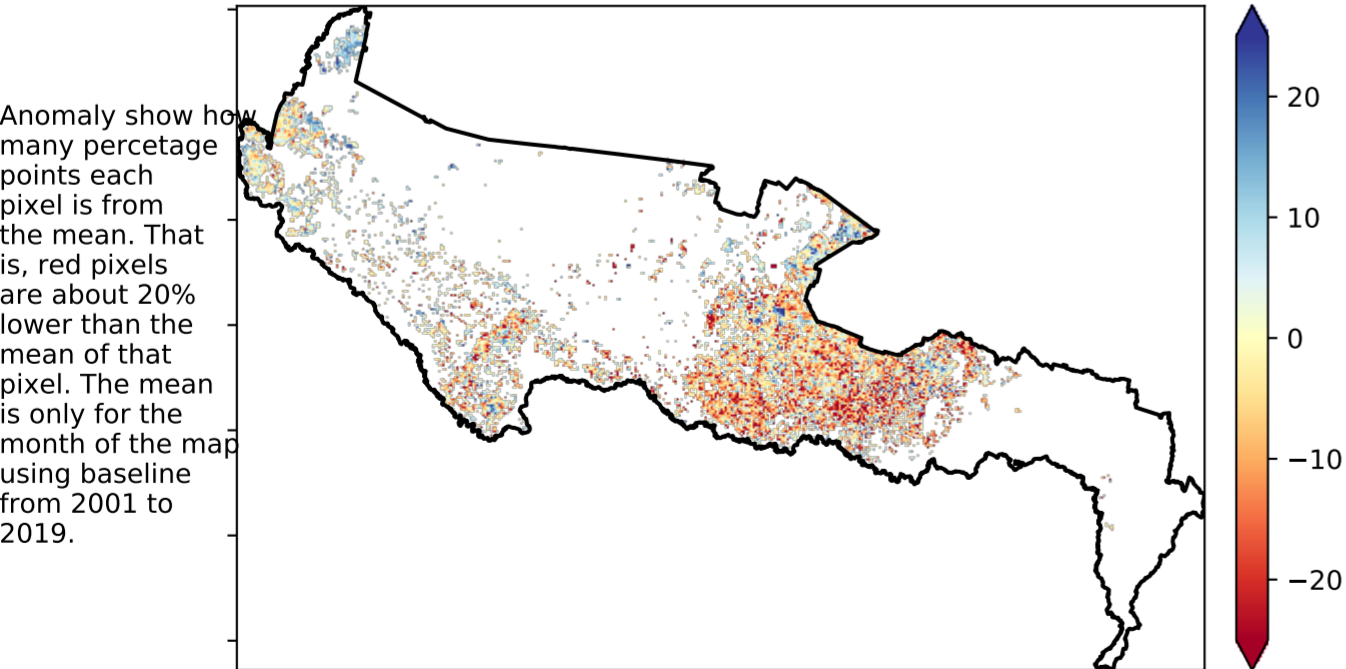
% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)

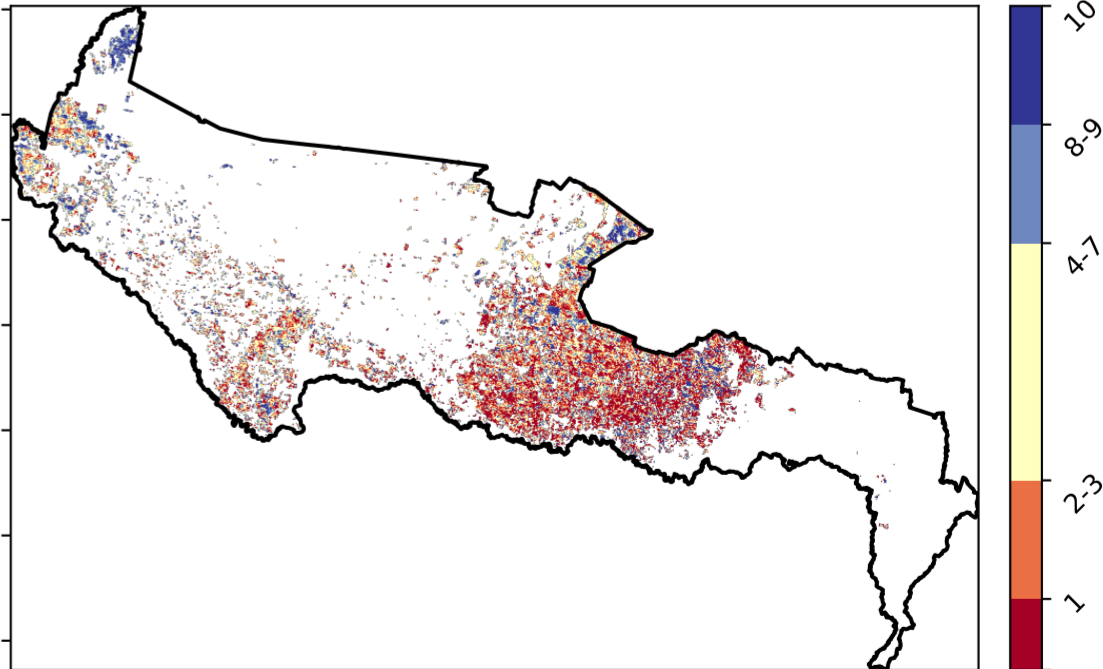


Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]



Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]

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



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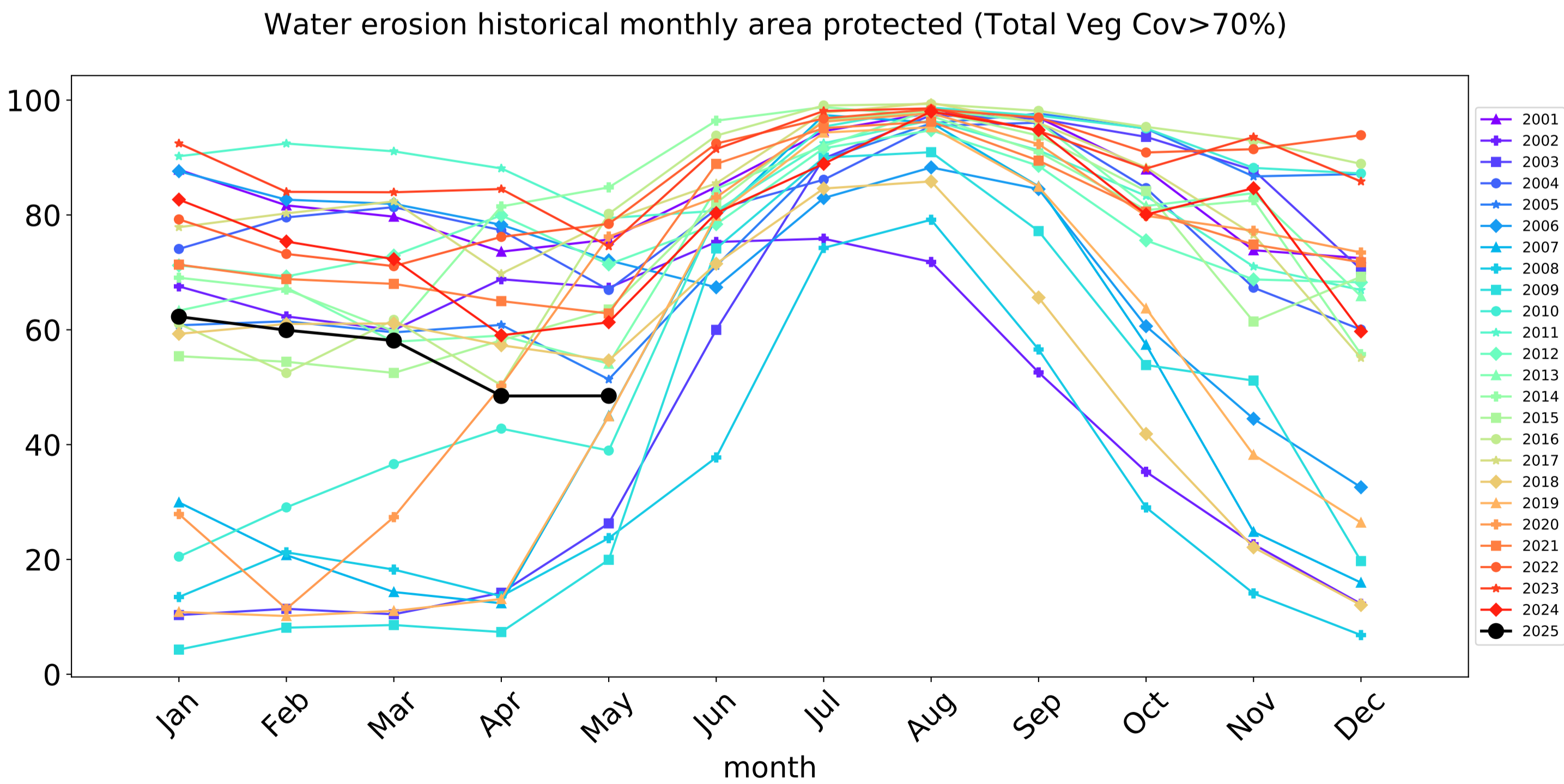
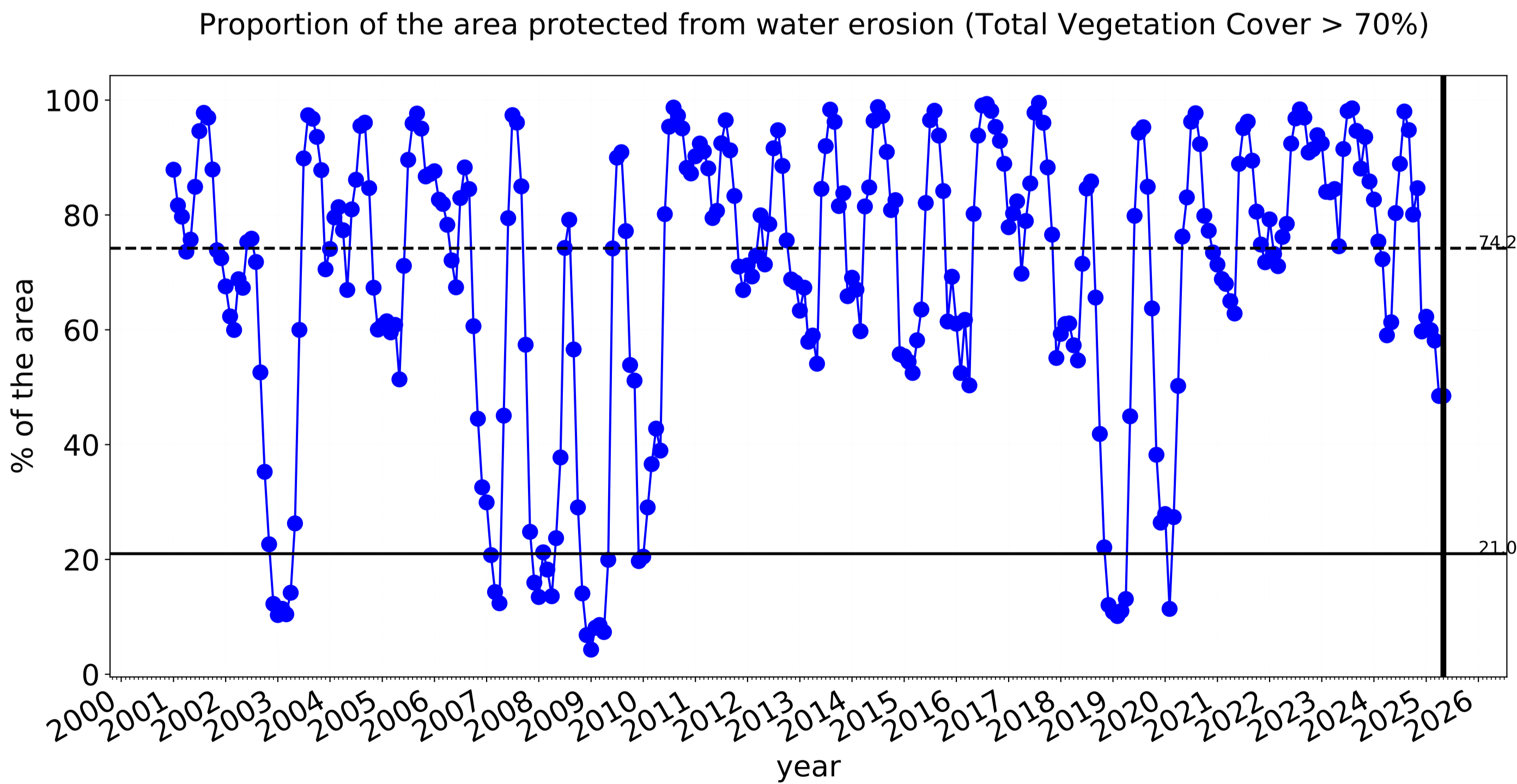
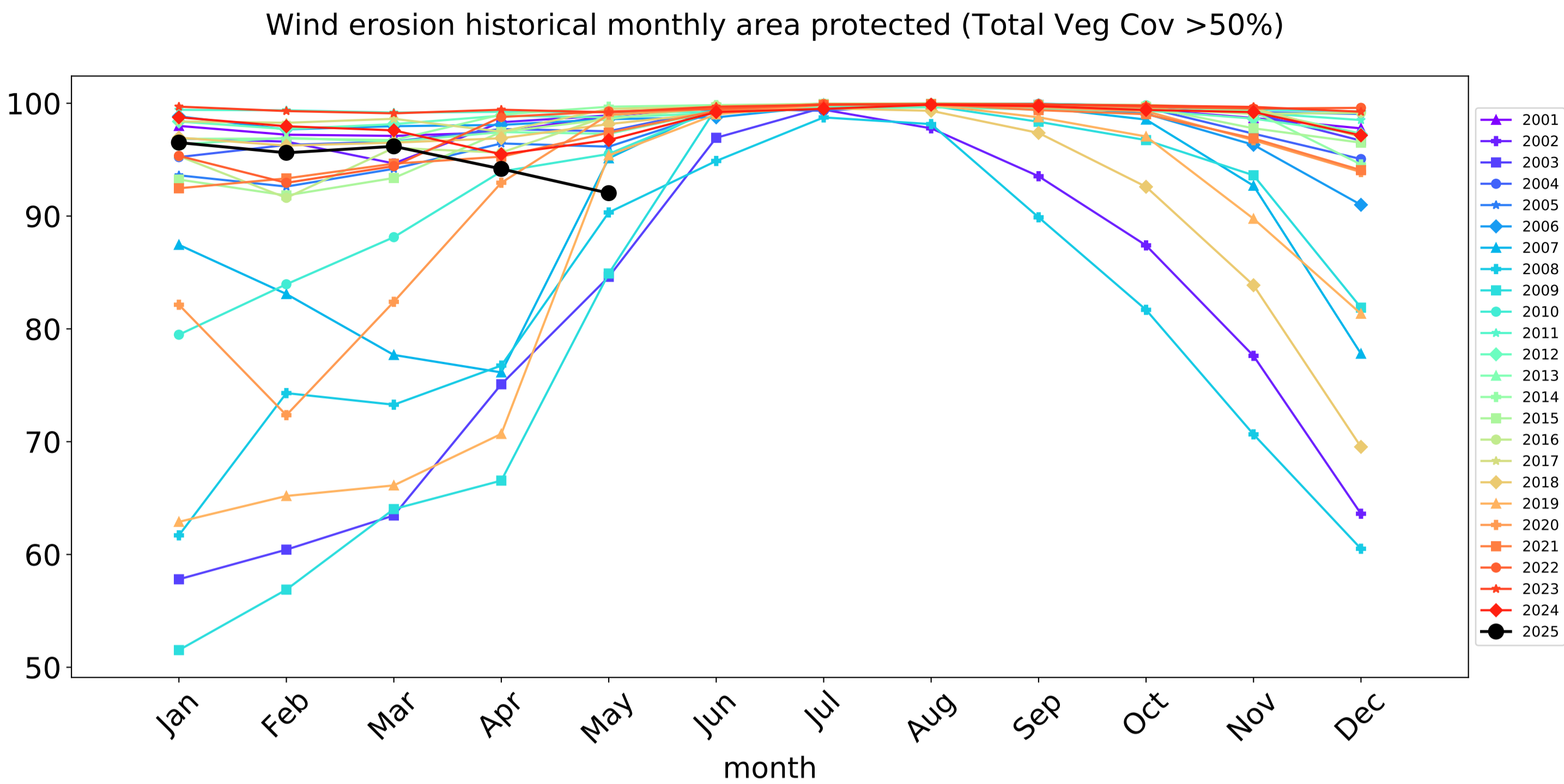
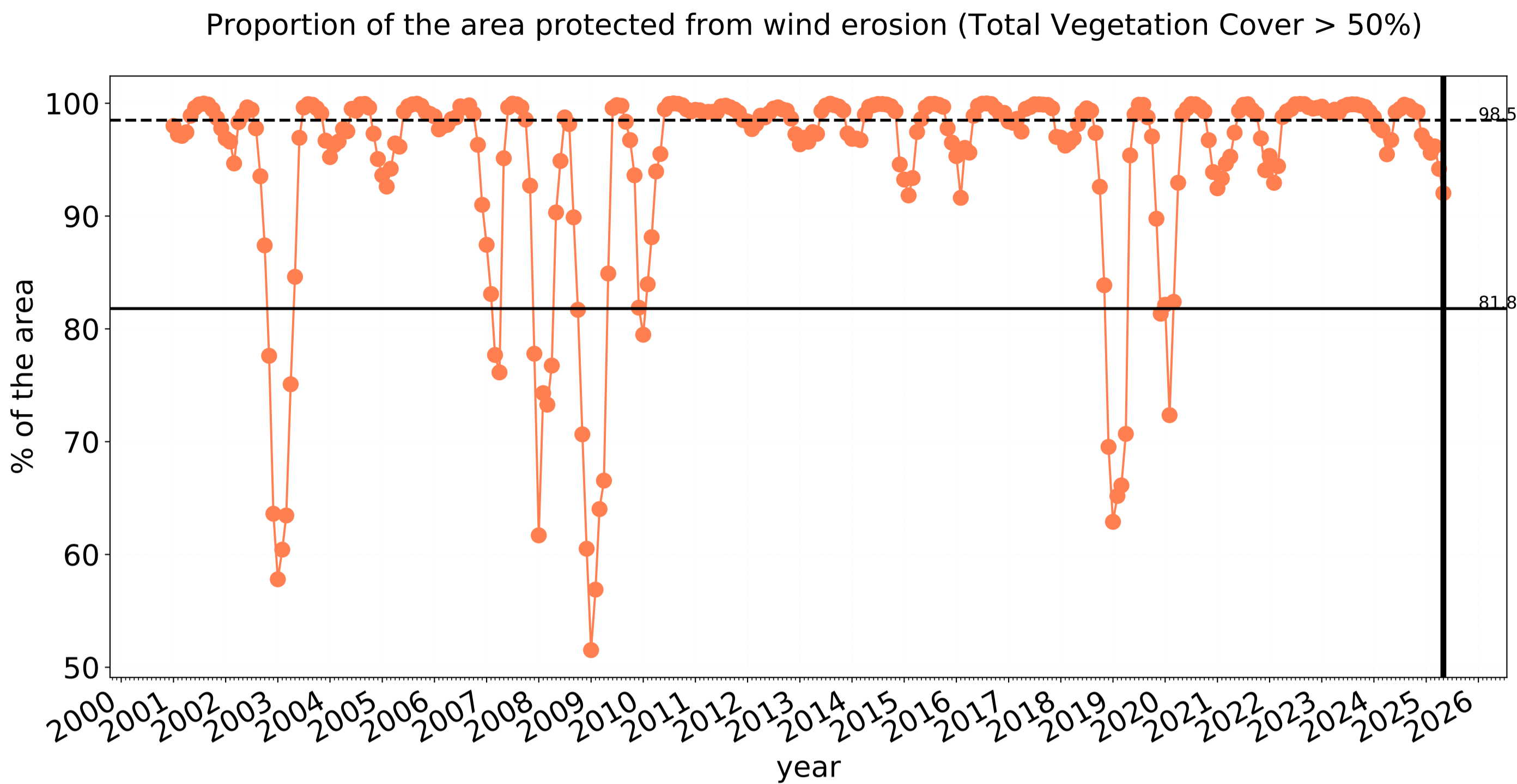


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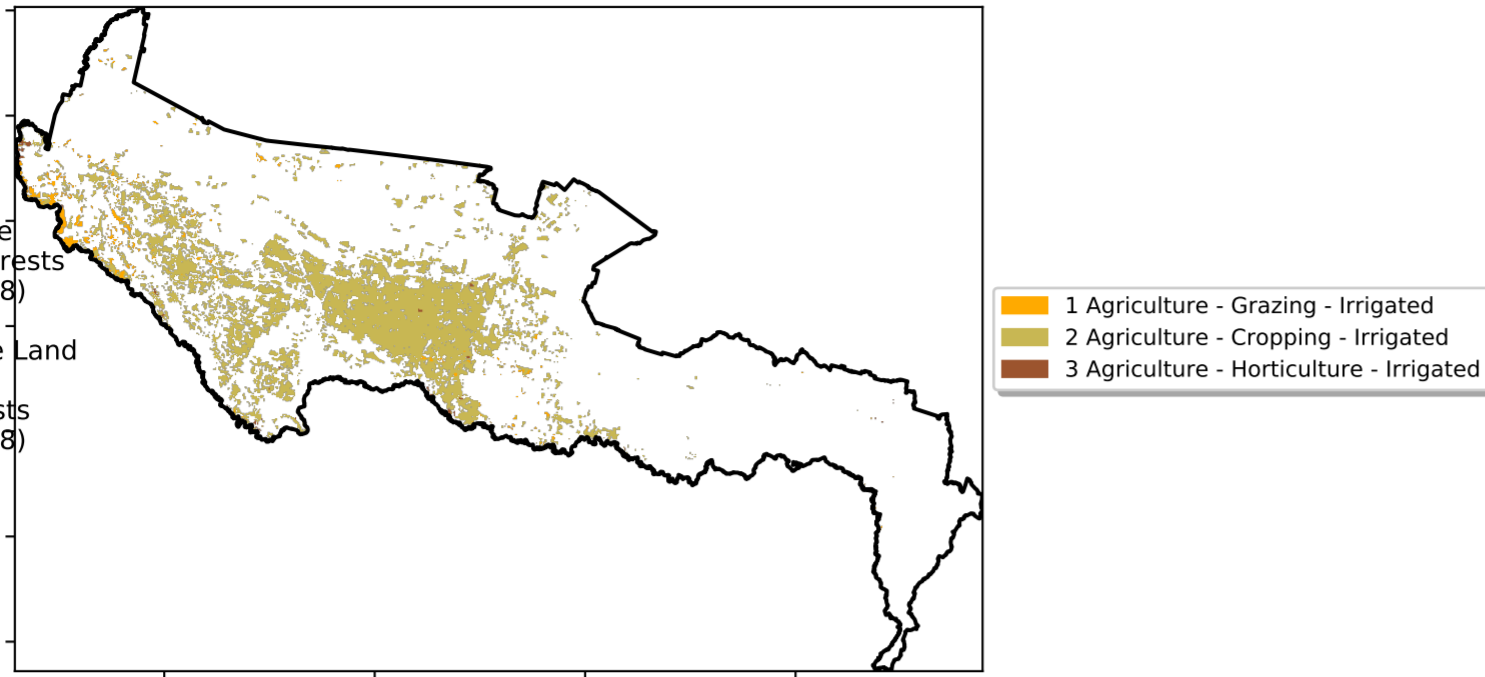
Cropping timeseries



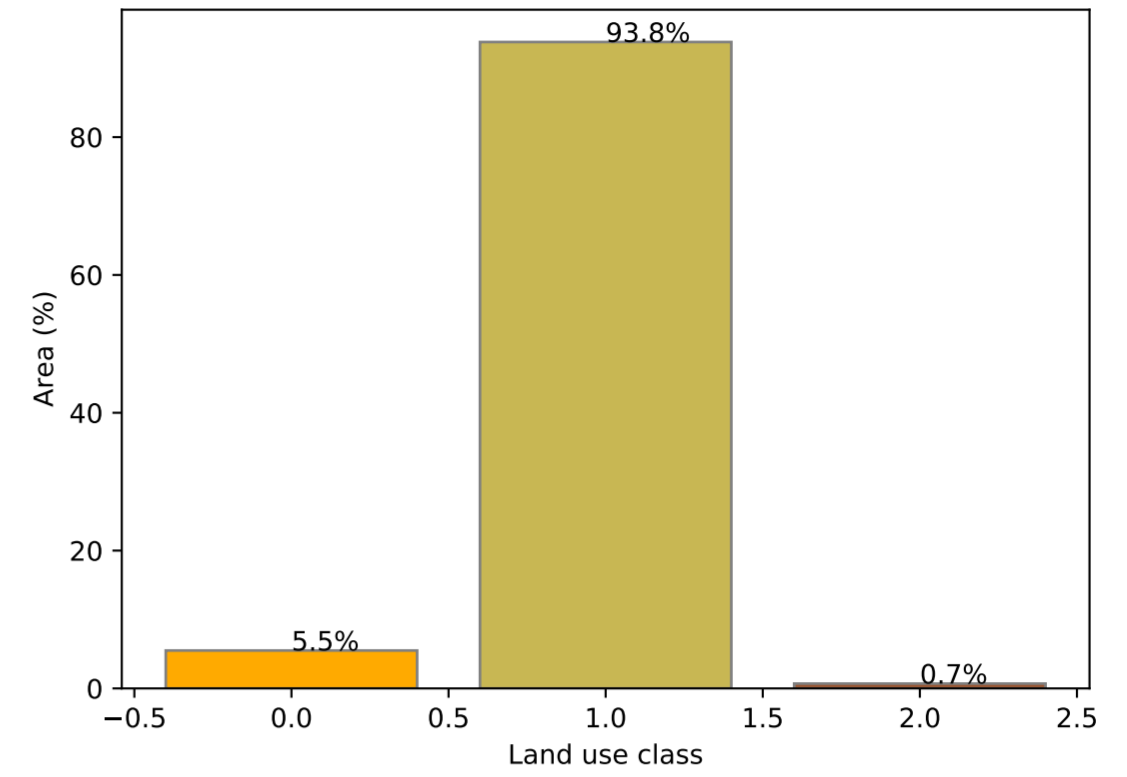
# Irrigation

Land use and forest cover

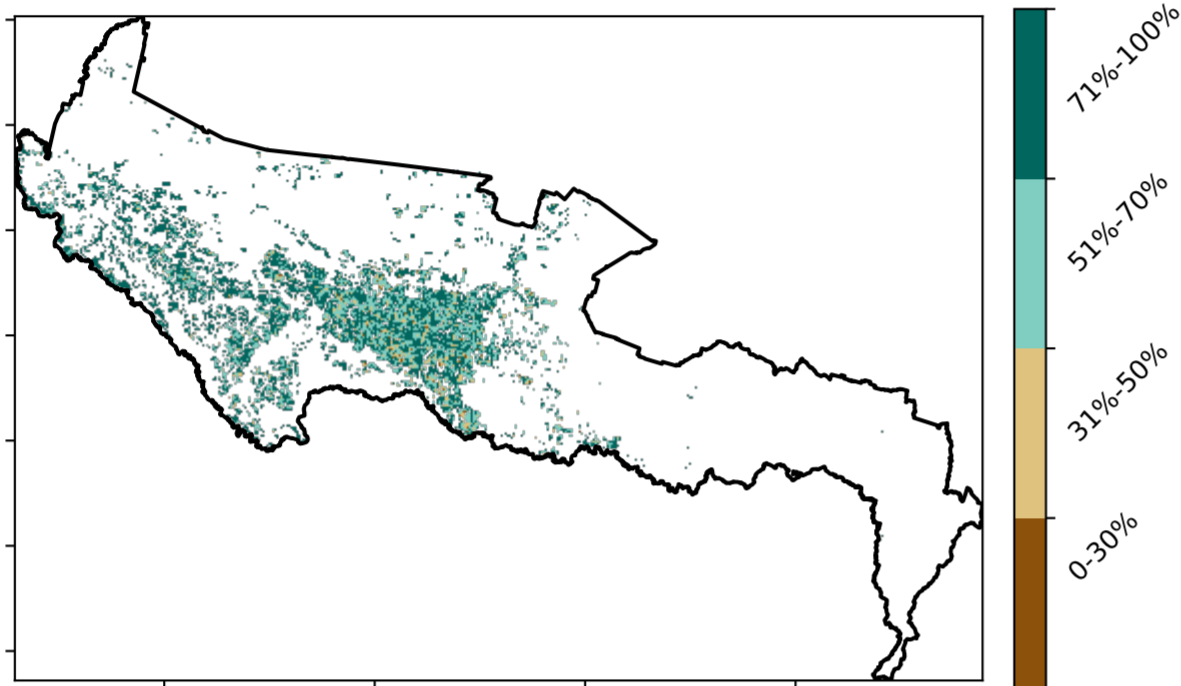
Catchment Scale Land Use and Forests of Australia (2018) Derived from Catchment Scale Land Use of Australia (2018) and Forests of Australia (2018)



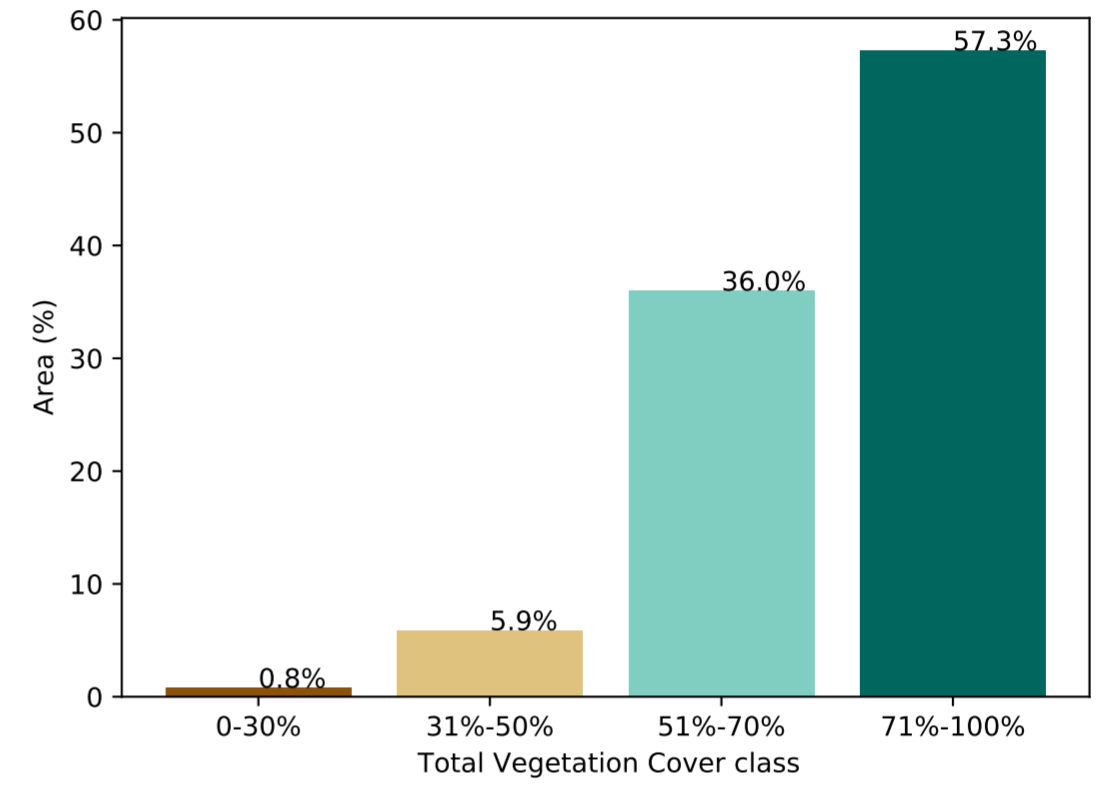
Proportion of each land class in area



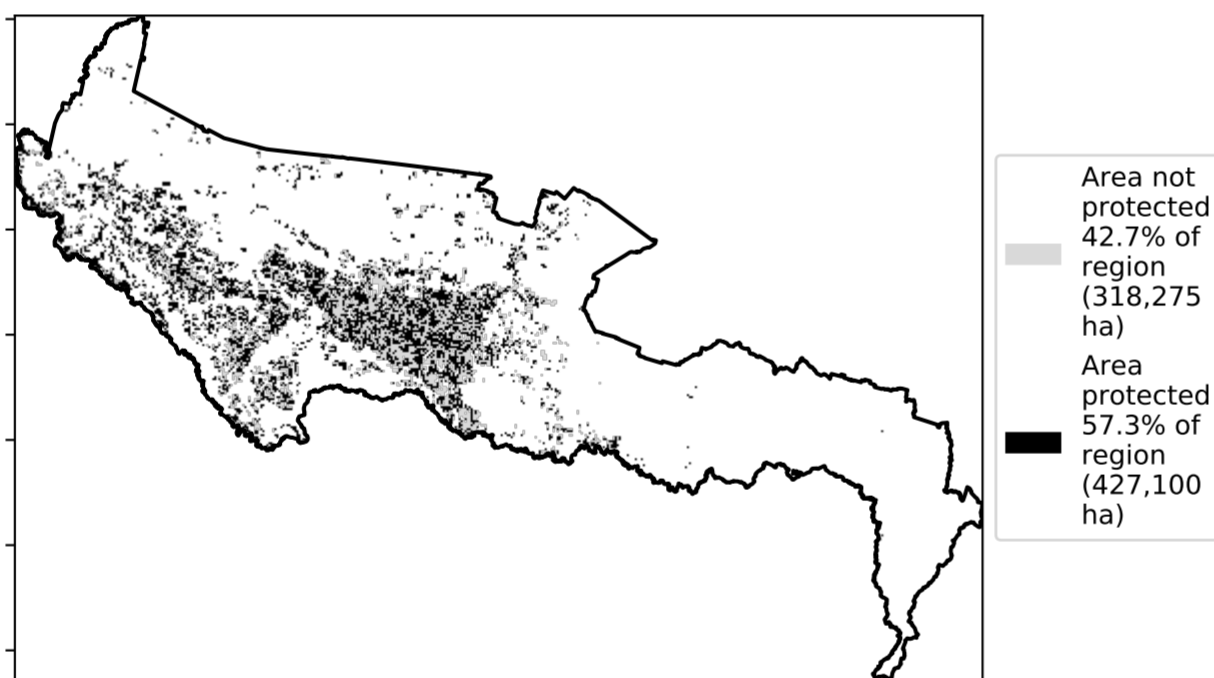
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



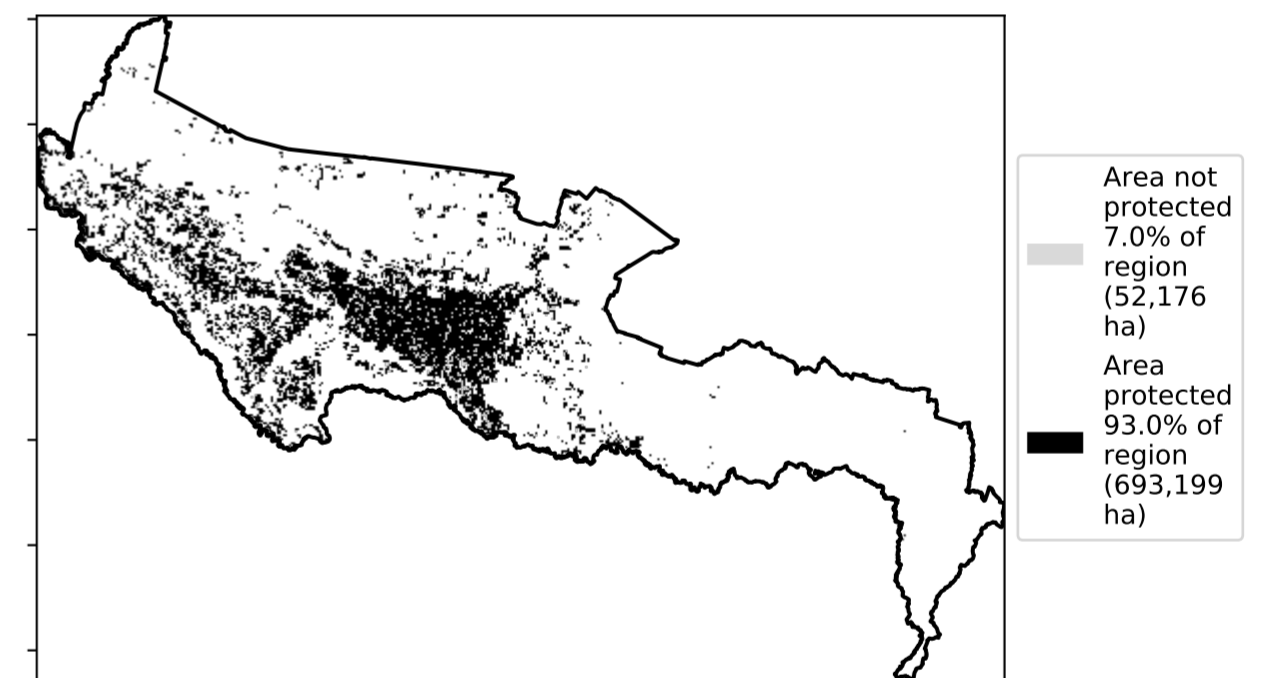
Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)

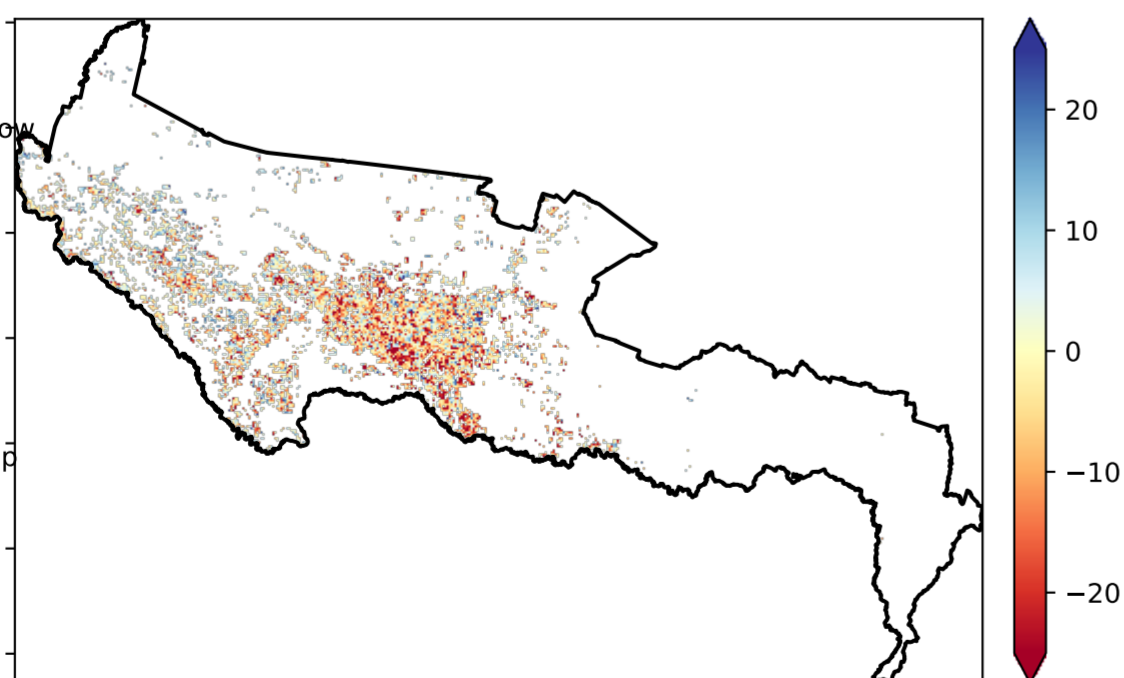


% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



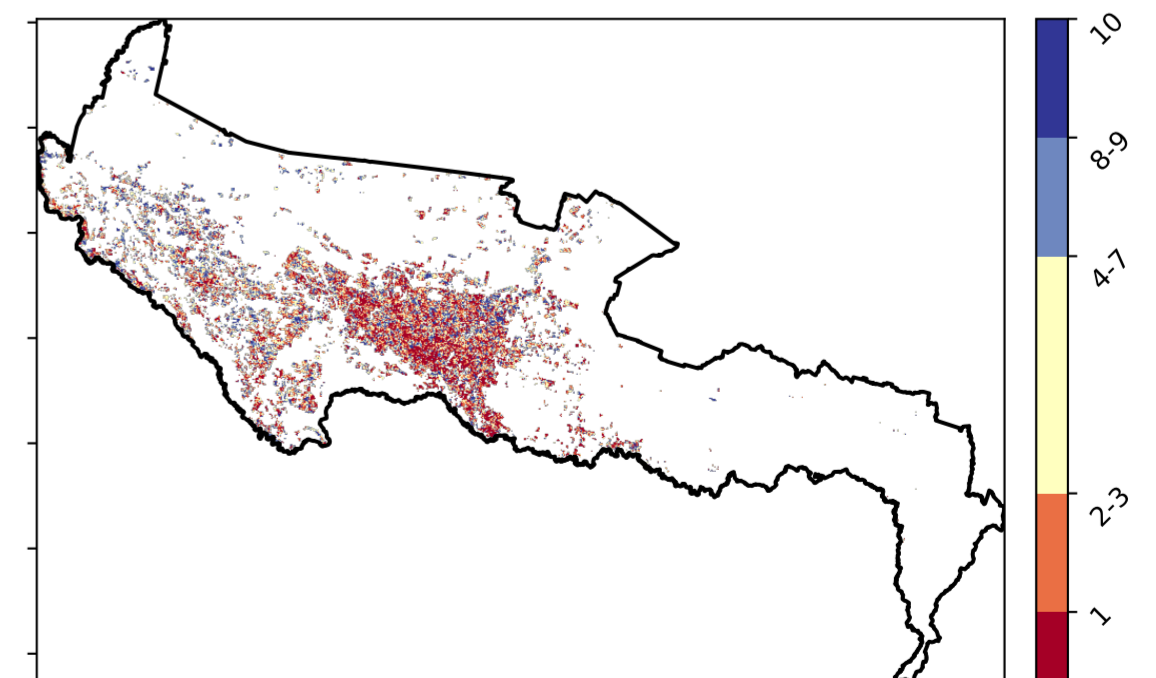
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

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



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

Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]



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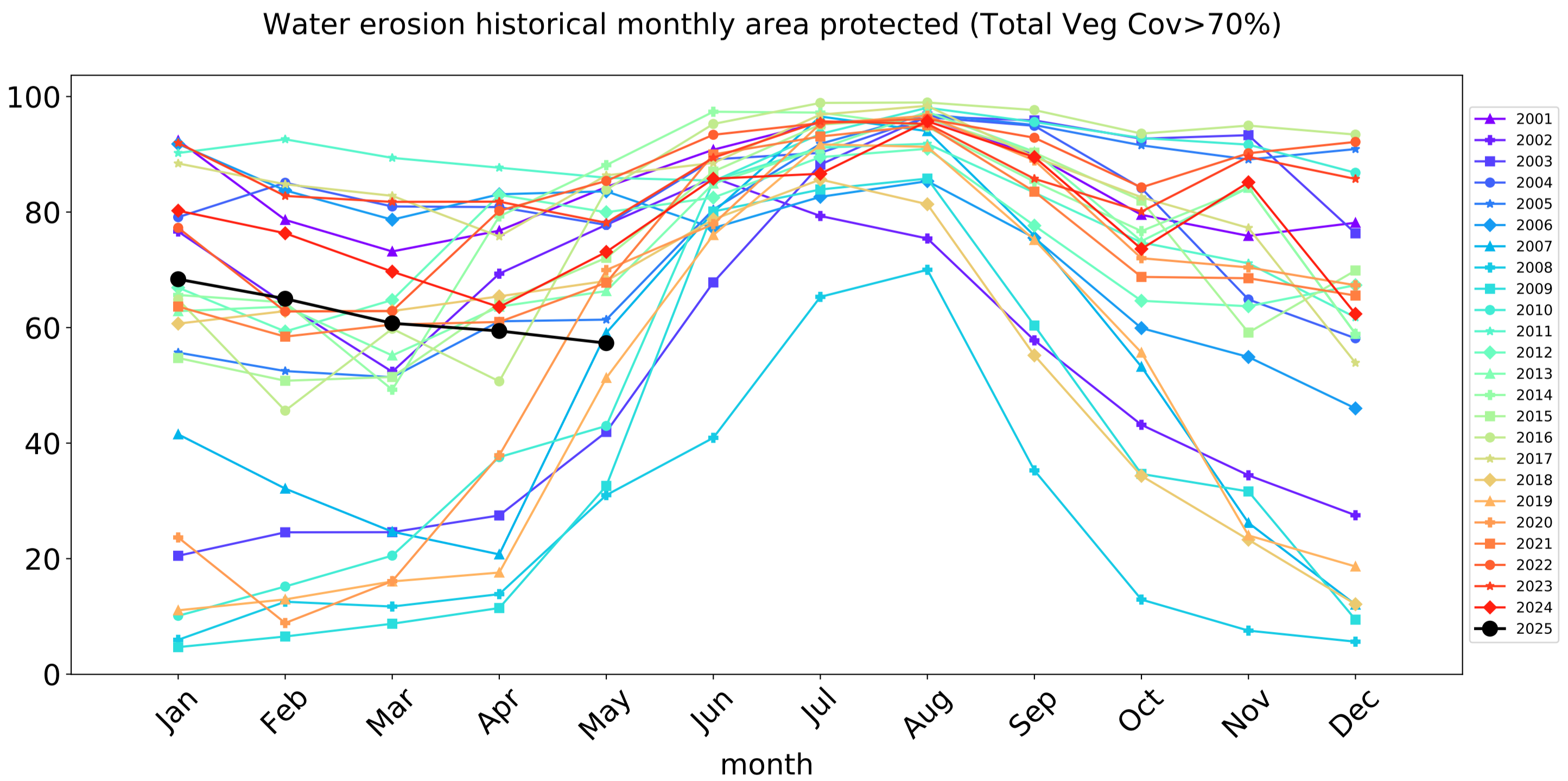
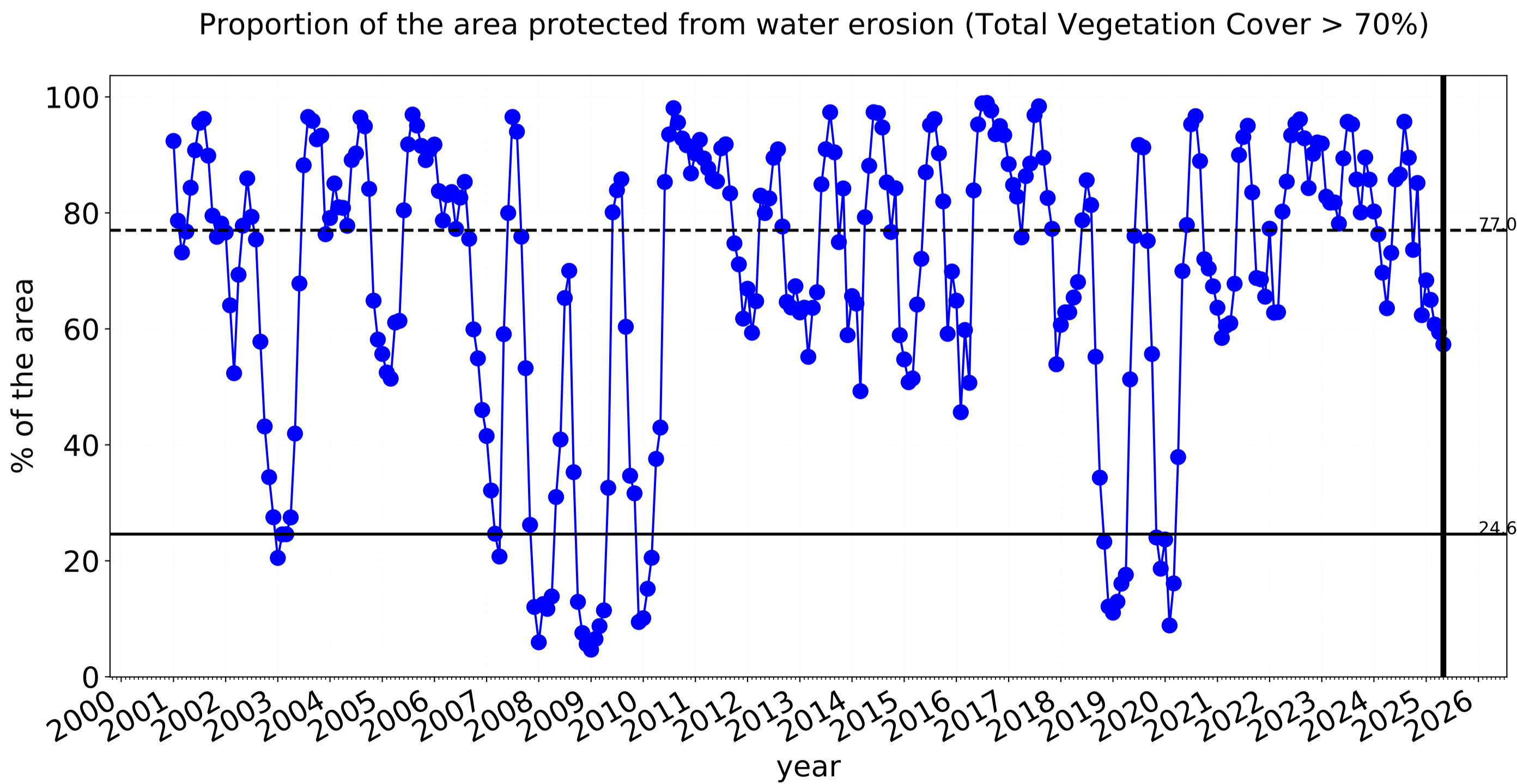
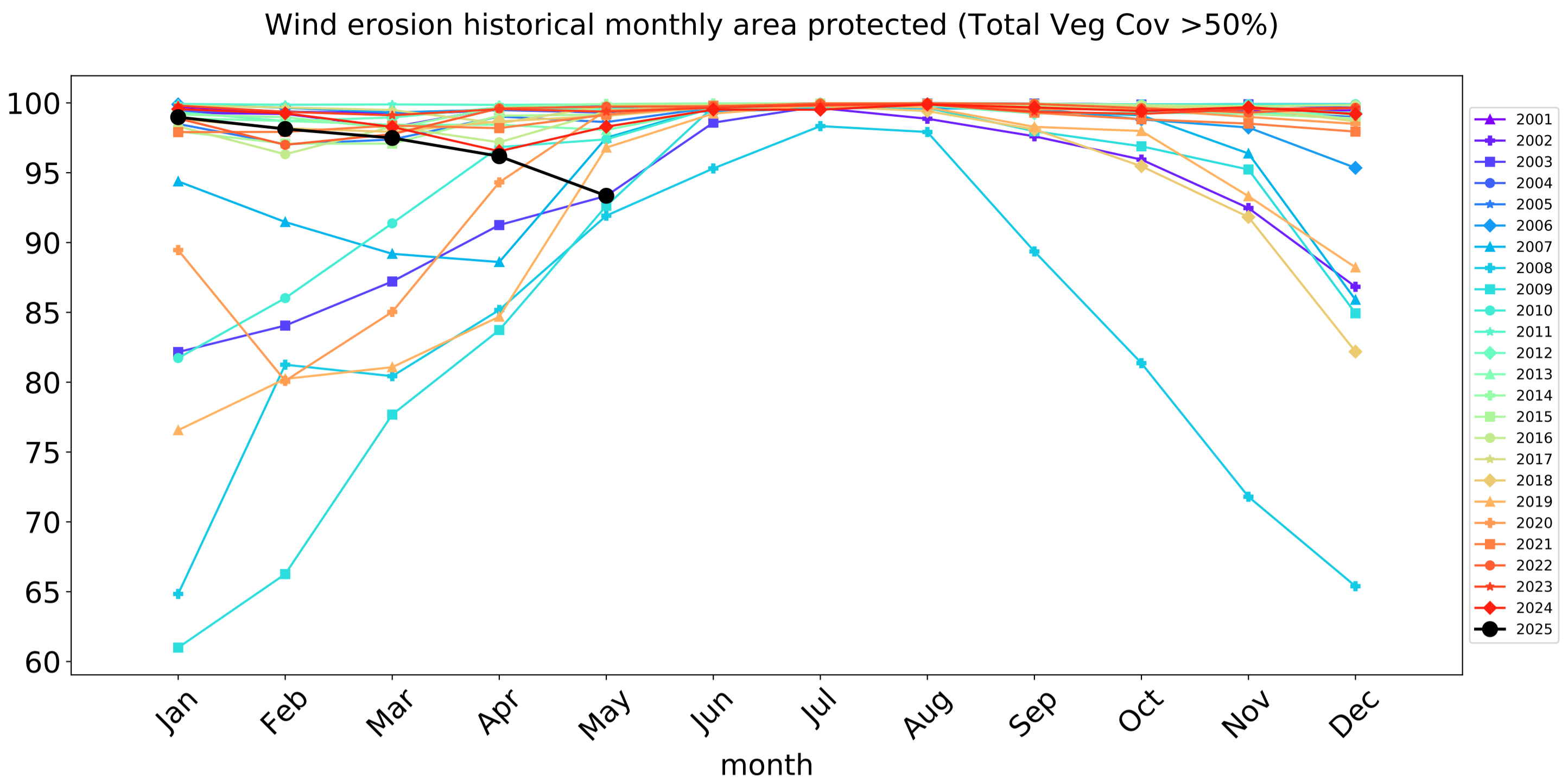
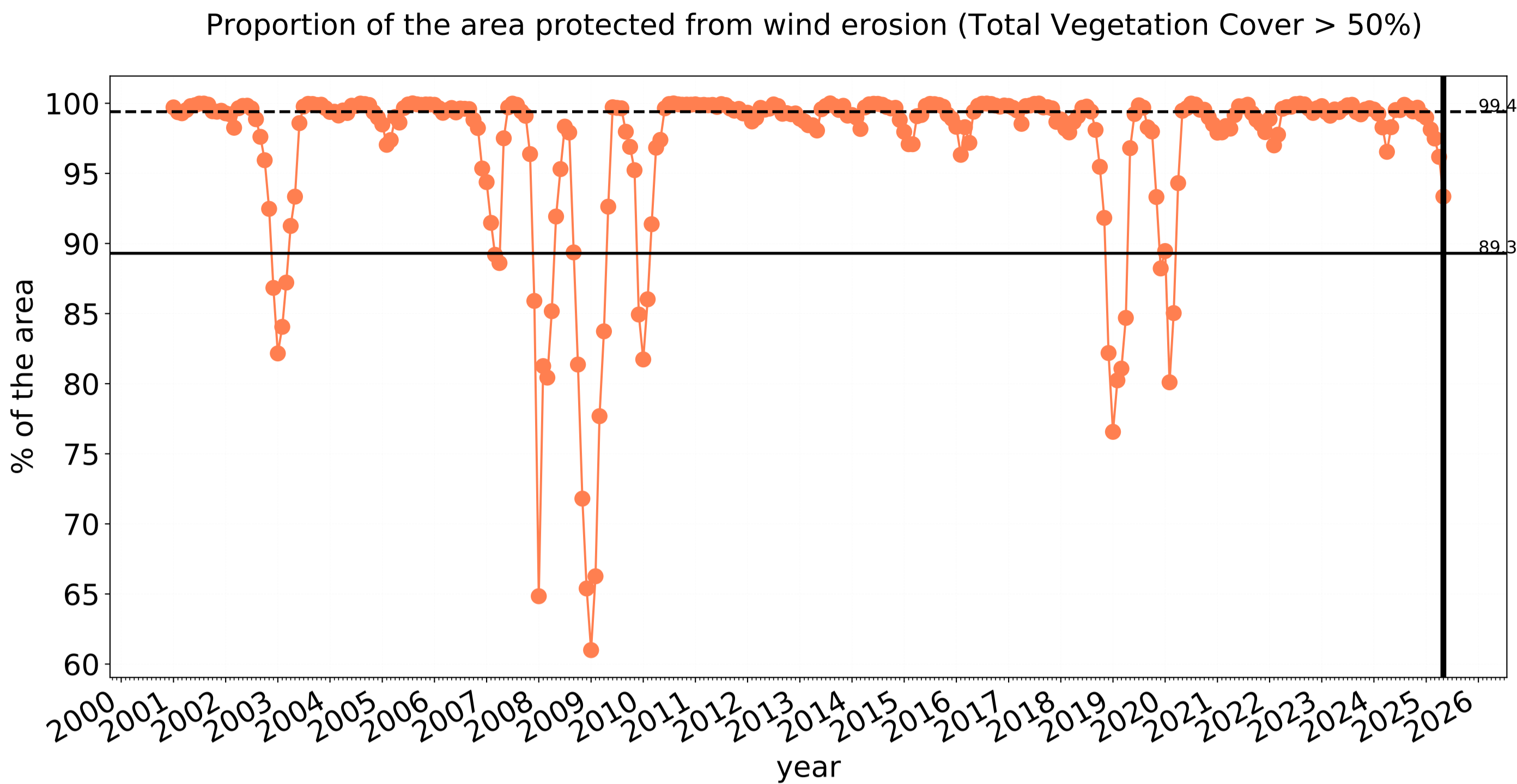


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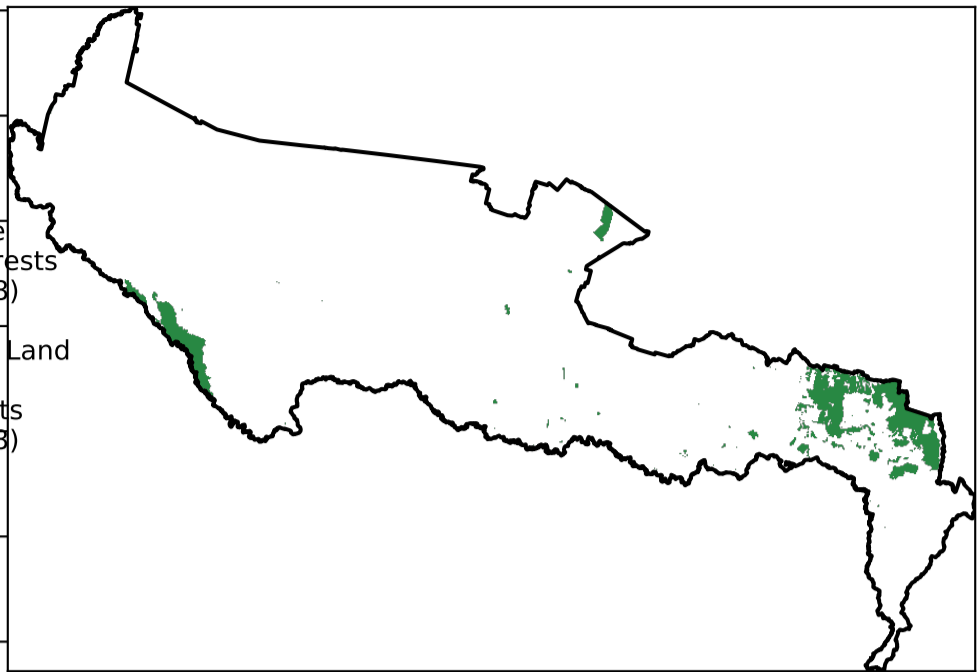
Irrigation timeseries



Production native forests and plantation forests

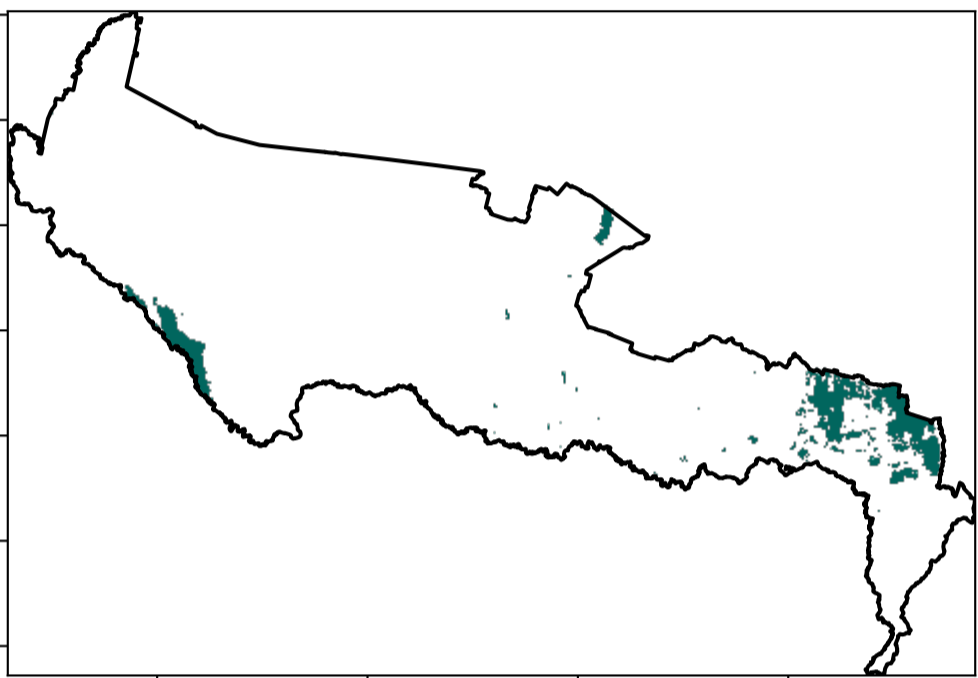
Land use and forest cover

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

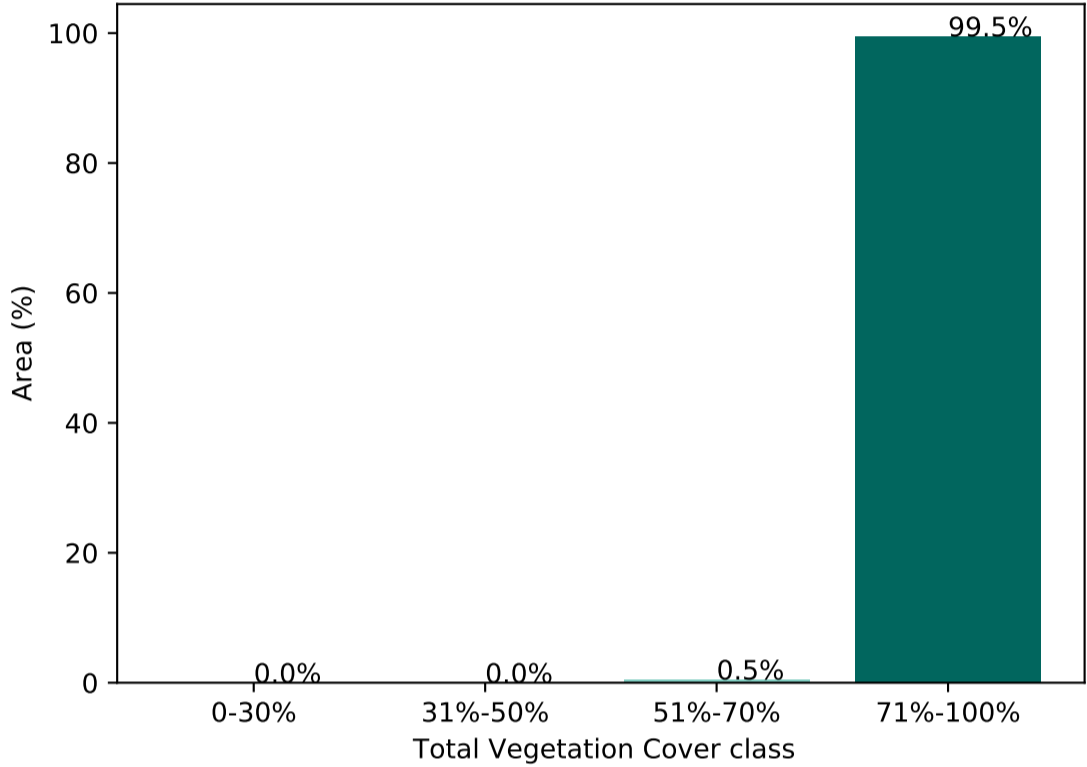


1 Production native forests and plantation forests

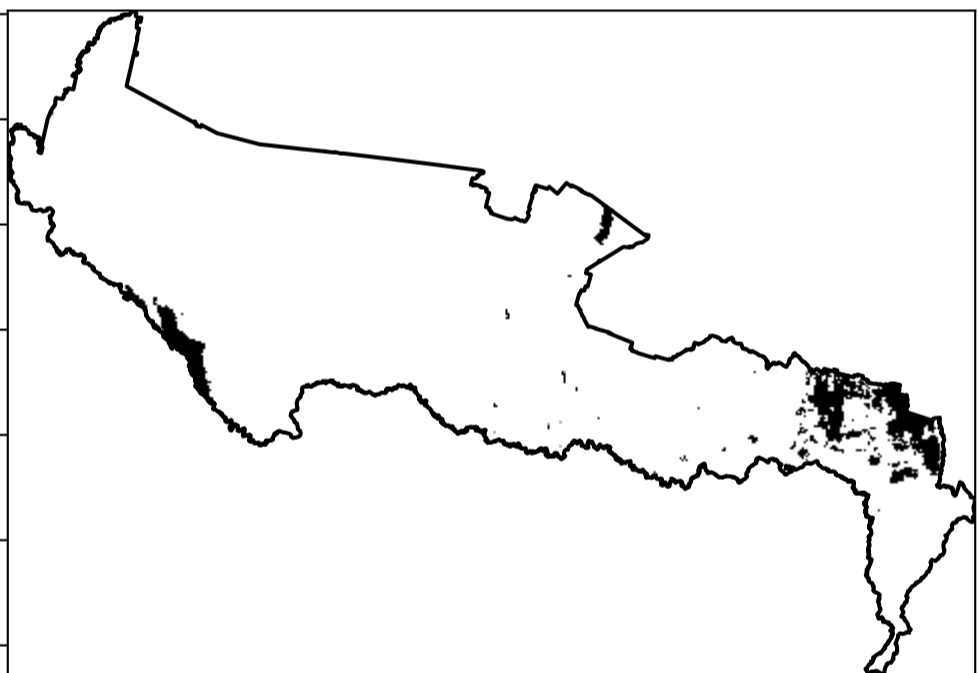
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



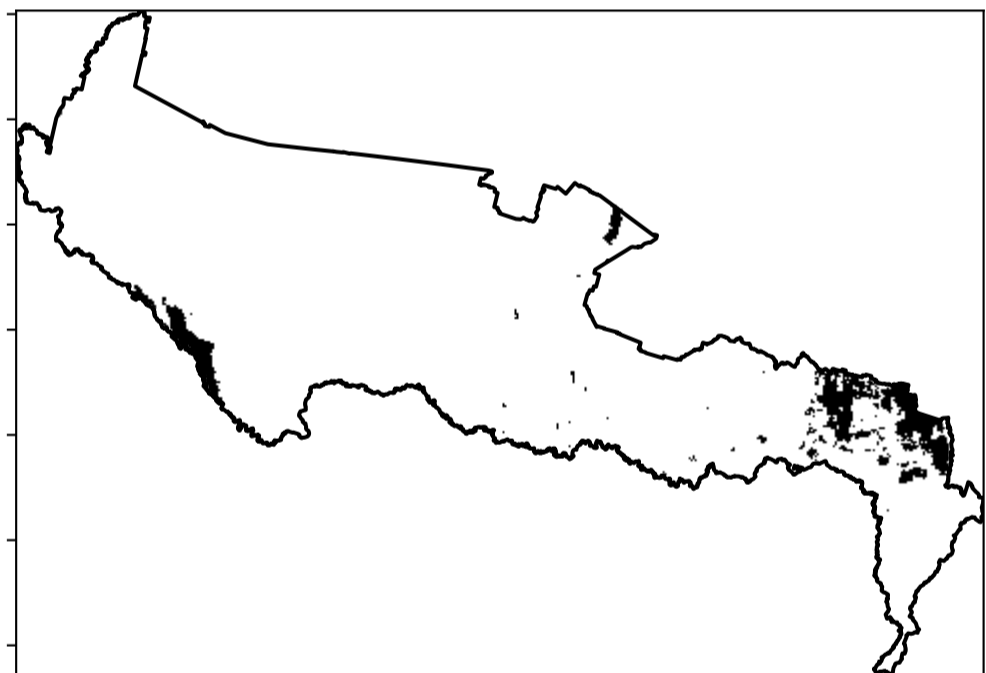
Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)

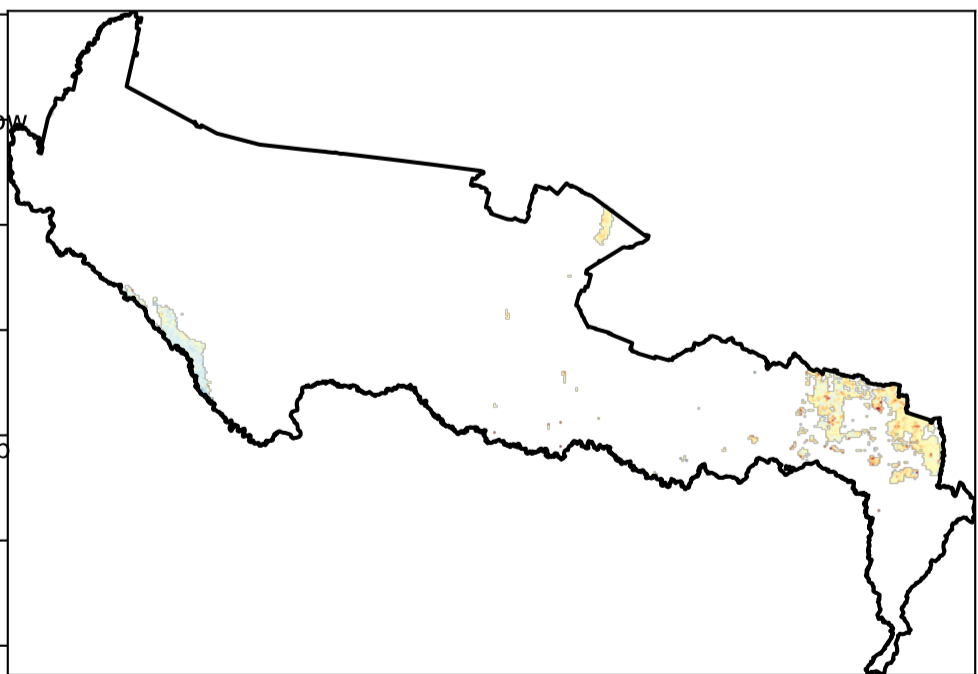


% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



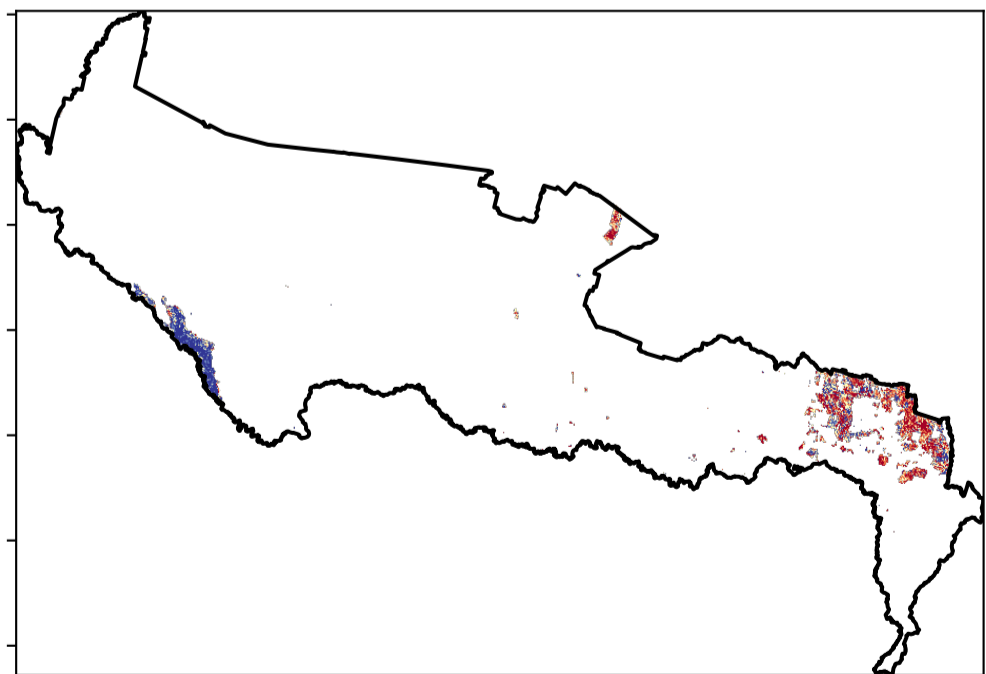
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

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



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

Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]



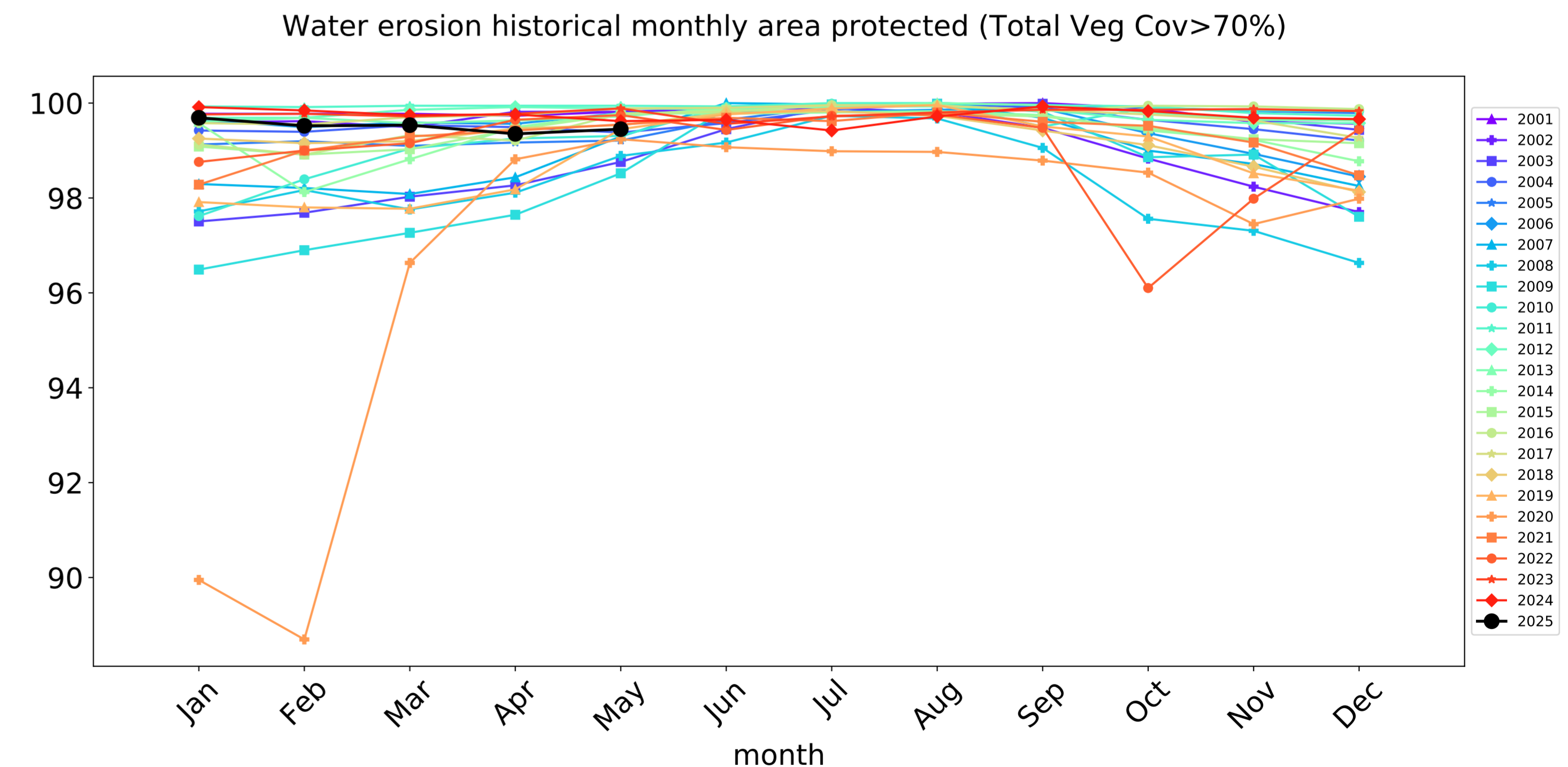
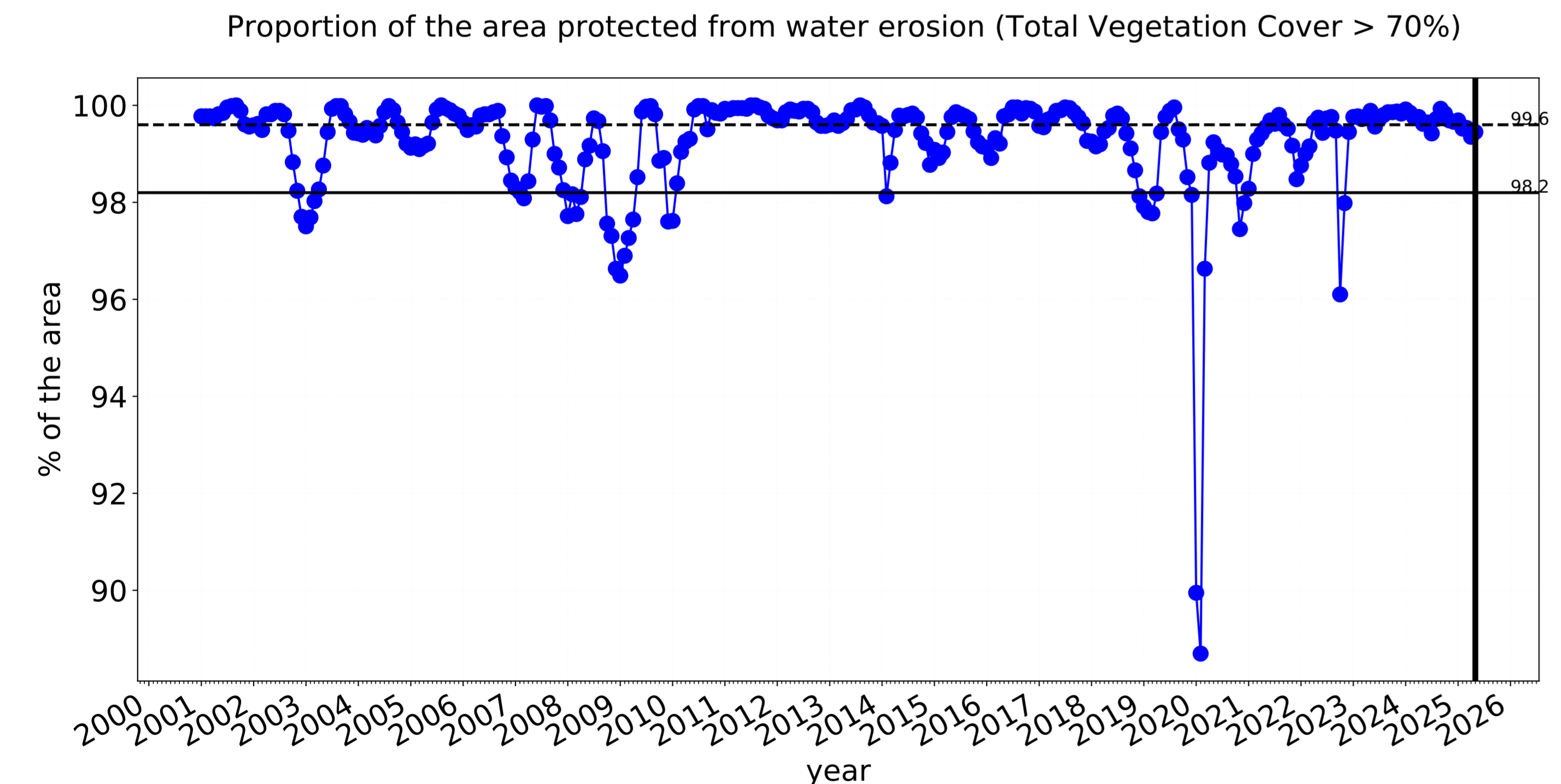
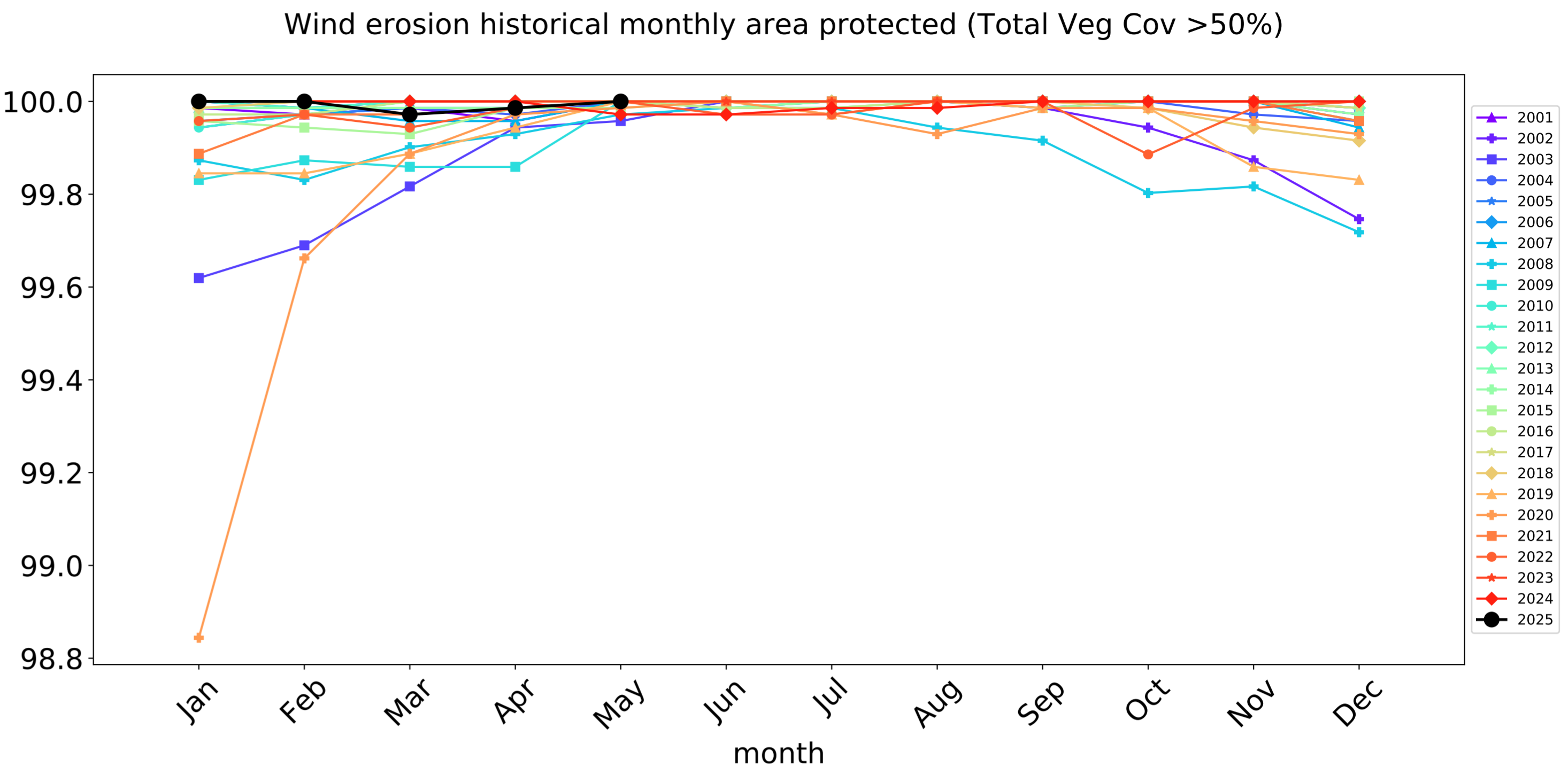
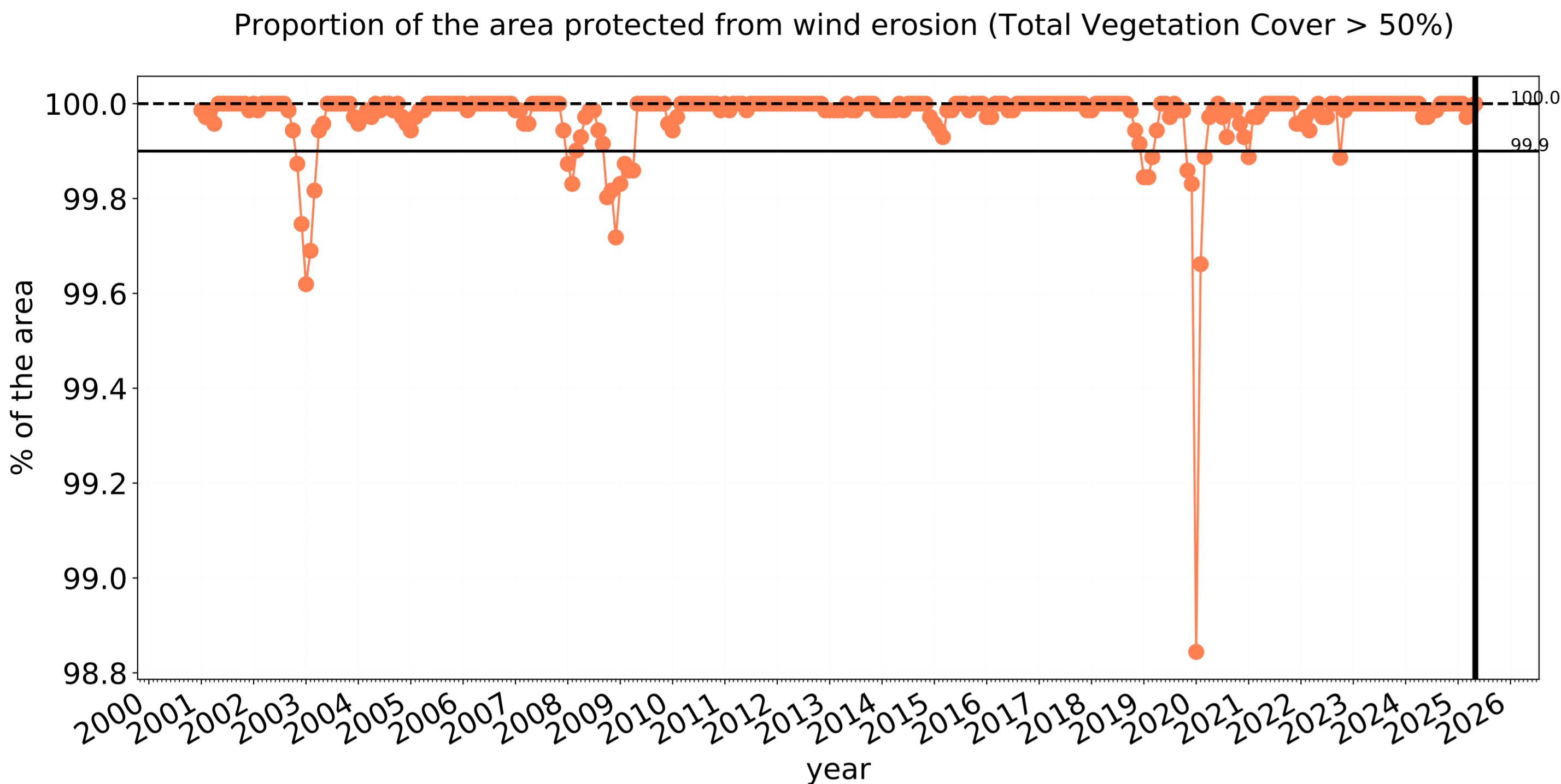
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Production native forests and plantation forests timeseries



Murray (4,178,350 ha and no data 11,333 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	4,178,350	99.5% 4,156,375	96.1% 4,016,825	72.7% 3,038,425	46.8% 1,957,275	20.2% 842,725	10.2% 426,950
Conservation and natural environments	395,675	100.0% 395,625	99.9% 395,350	98.9% 391,200	91.8% 363,100	68.2% 270,000	41.3% 163,225
Conservation and natural environments non forest	96,675	100.0% 96,650	99.7% 96,400	97.1% 93,875	77.7% 75,150	36.0% 34,800	17.9% 17,275
Conservation and natural environments Woodland forest	95,200	100.0% 95,200	100.0% 95,175	99.3% 94,525	95.5% 90,925	76.8% 73,100	51.4% 48,925
Conservation and natural environments Forest (non woodland)	203,800	100.0% 203,775	100.0% 203,775	99.5% 202,800	96.7% 197,025	79.5% 162,100	47.6% 97,025
Agriculture	3,509,100	99.5% 3,491,475	95.6% 3,354,575	68.4% 2,399,025	39.3% 1,378,850	12.3% 431,550	5.2% 182,950
Grazing	1,719,700	99.9% 1,717,800	98.7% 1,697,900	85.2% 1,465,425	55.5% 953,725	19.2% 329,925	8.3% 142,925
Grazing non forest	1,555,100	99.9% 1,553,225	98.6% 1,533,475	83.9% 1,304,925	52.4% 814,750	16.8% 261,250	7.1% 109,850
Grazing Woodland forest	75,675	100.0% 75,675	99.9% 75,600	96.9% 73,300	78.4% 59,300	26.1% 19,750	9.9% 7,525
Grazing - Forest (non woodland)	88,925	100.0% 88,900	99.9% 88,825	98.1% 87,200	89.6% 79,675	55.0% 48,925	28.7% 25,550
Cropping	1,043,625	99.0% 1,033,475	92.0% 960,475	48.5% 506,075	22.3% 232,300	5.9% 61,500	2.5% 25,700
Irrigation	745,375	99.3% 739,800	93.3% 695,800	57.3% 427,175	25.8% 192,650	5.4% 40,050	1.9% 14,275
Production native forests and plantation forests	177,350	100.0% 177,350	100.0% 177,350	99.5% 176,375	96.3% 170,875	71.8% 127,350	42.4% 75,150



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