

# Total vegetation cover soil protection

## Region:NRM Riverina NSW

Date: September 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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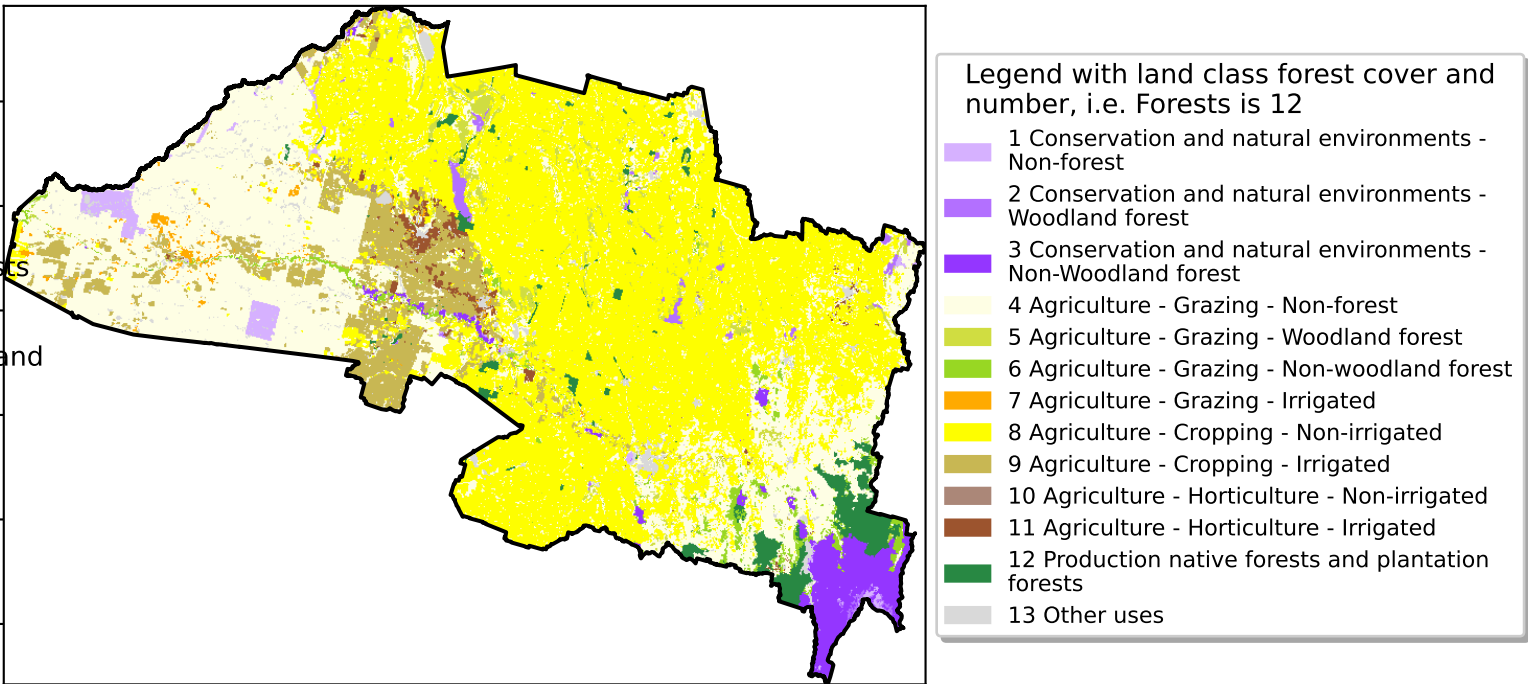




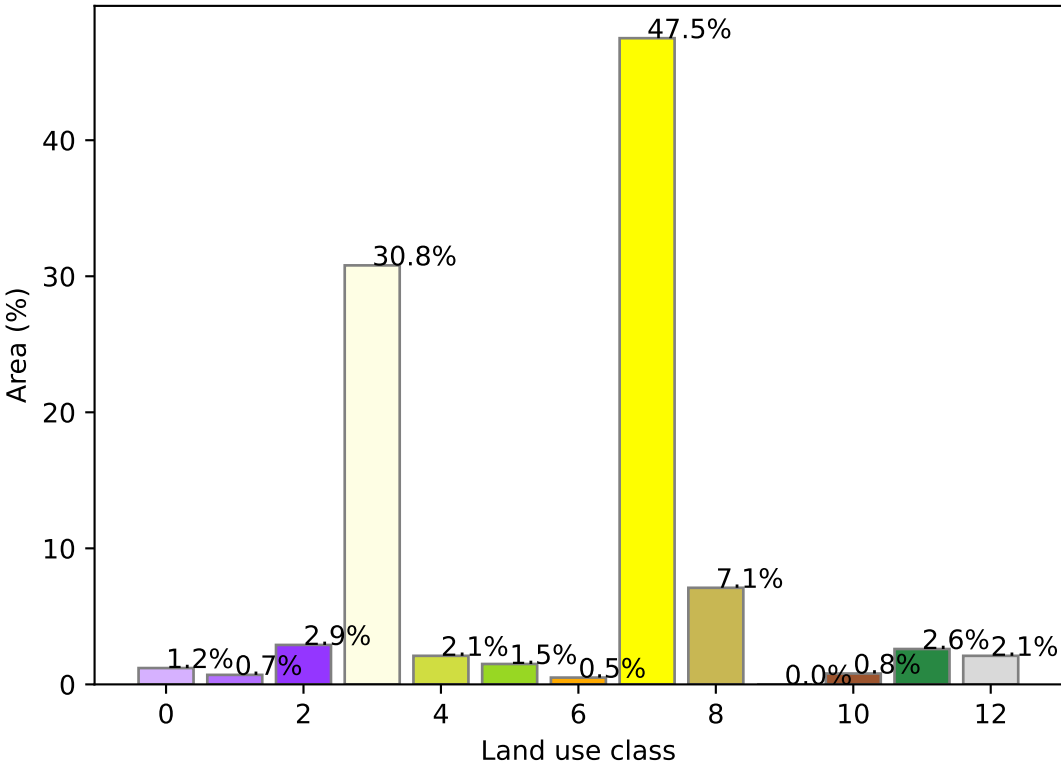
Vegetation Cover Sep 2025

Land use and forest cover

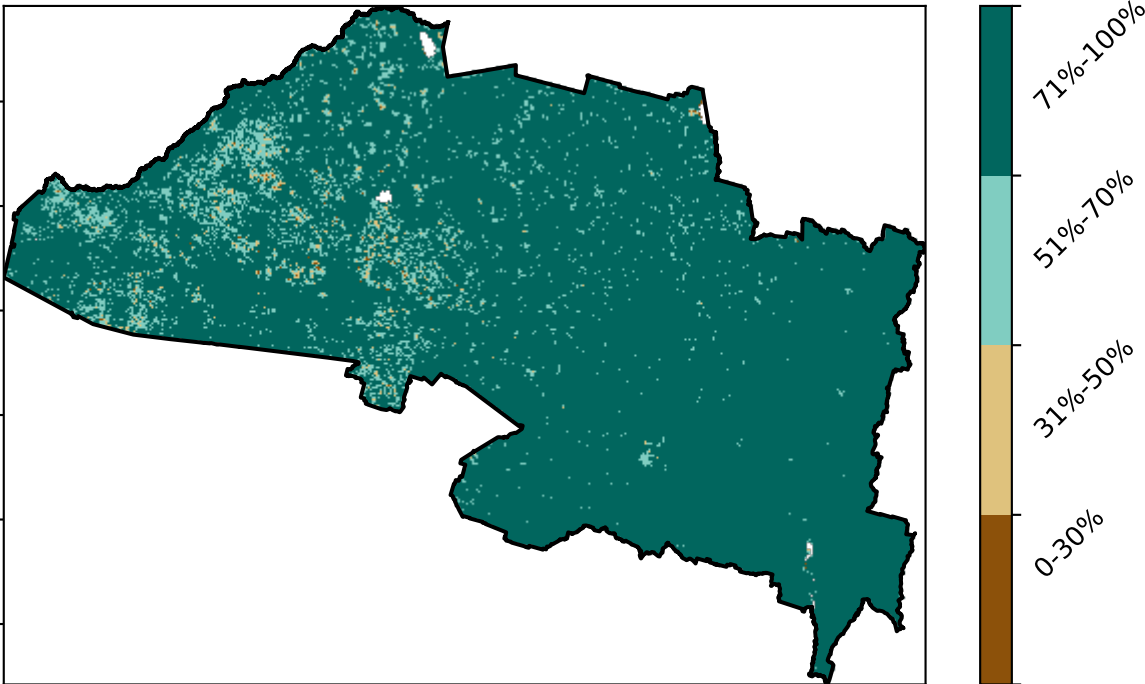
Catchment Scale  
Land Use and Forests  
of Australia (2018).  
Derived from  
Catchment Scale Land  
Use of Australia  
(2018) and Forests  
of Australia (2018)



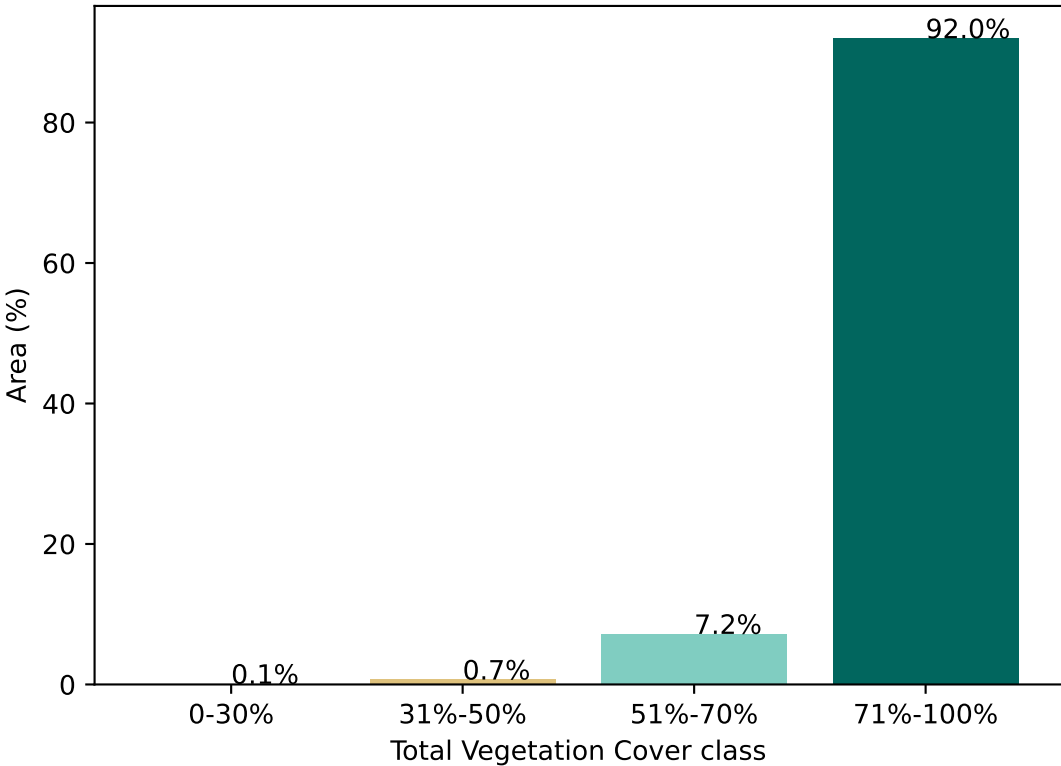
Proportion of each land class in area



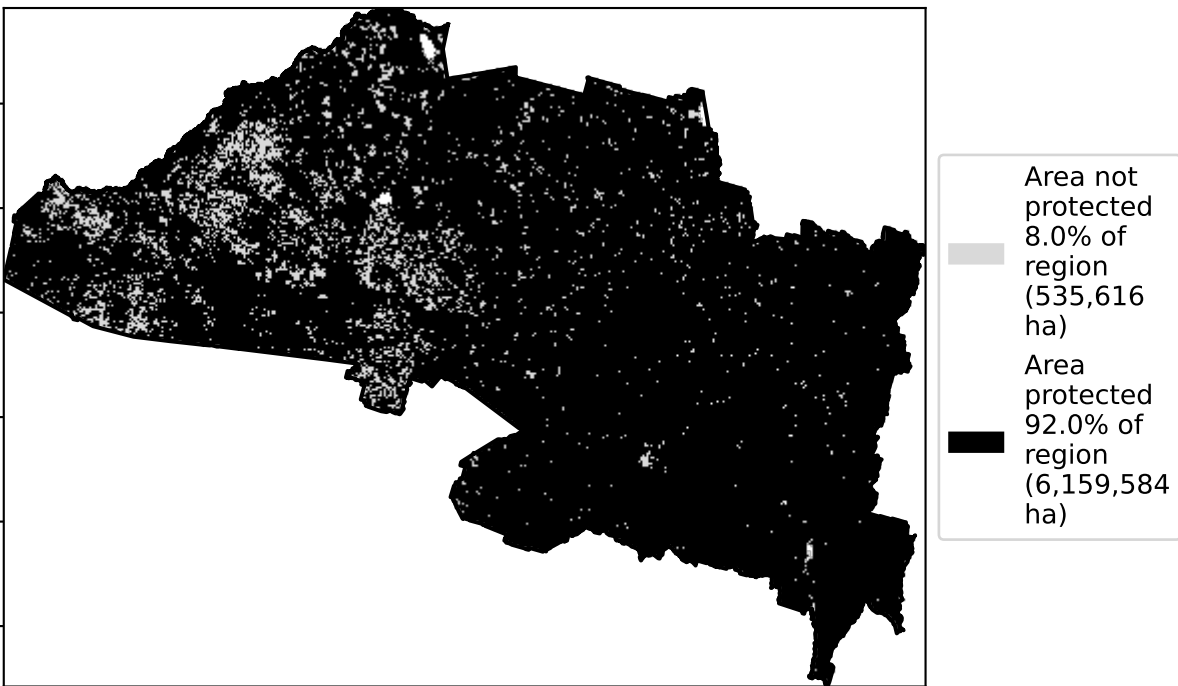
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)

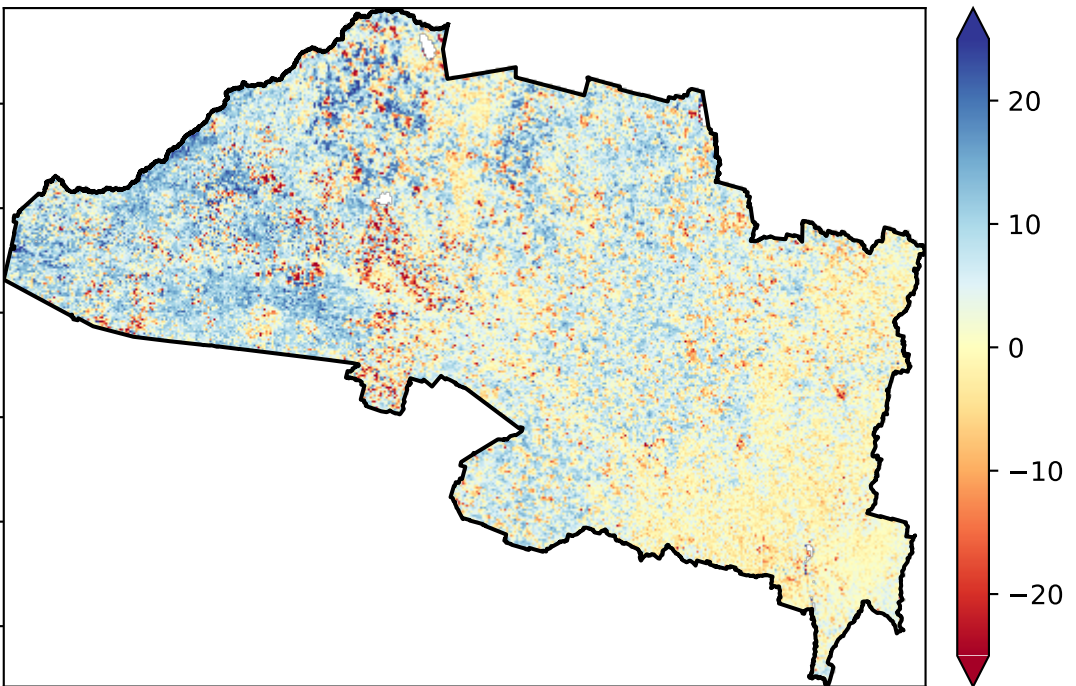


% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



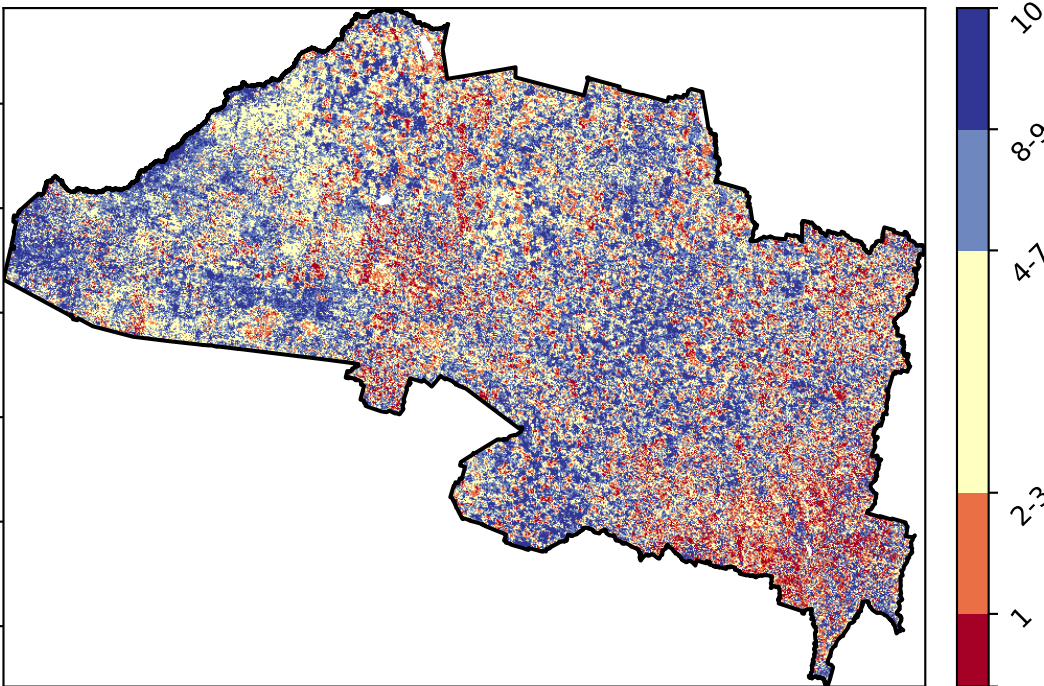
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

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.

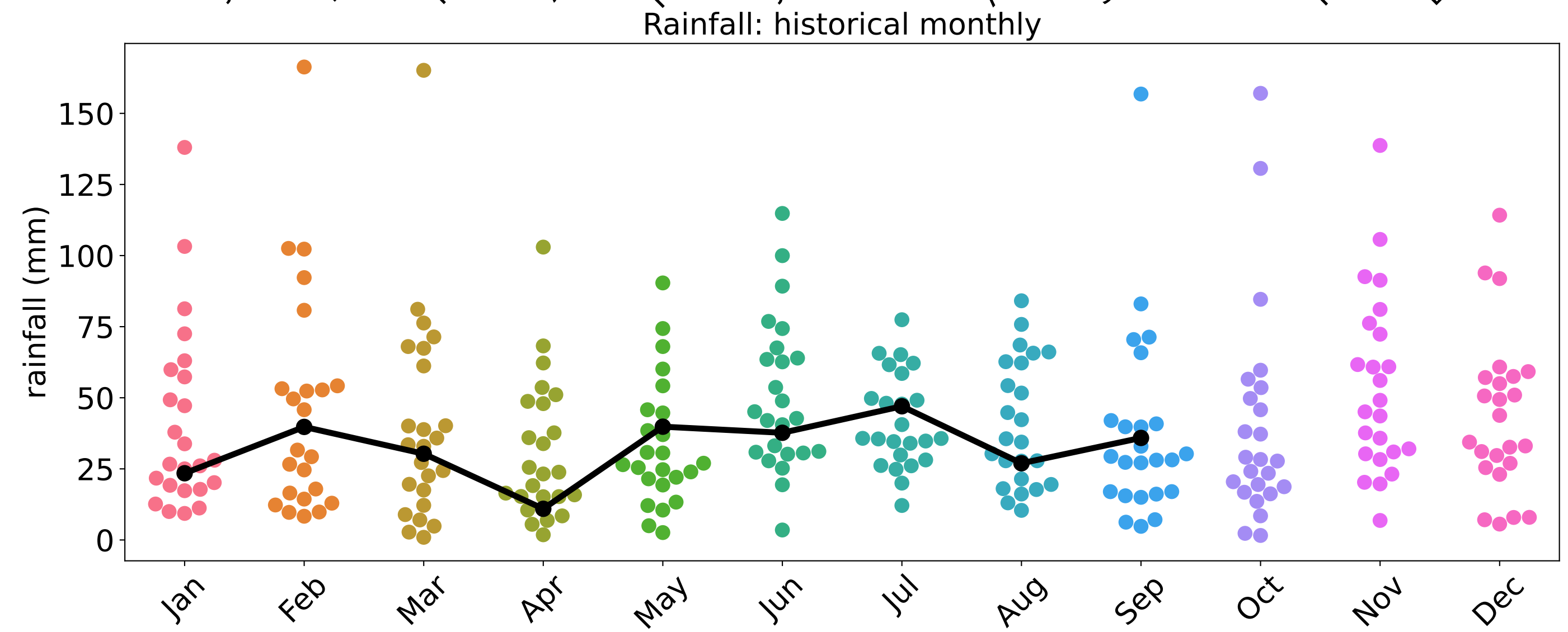
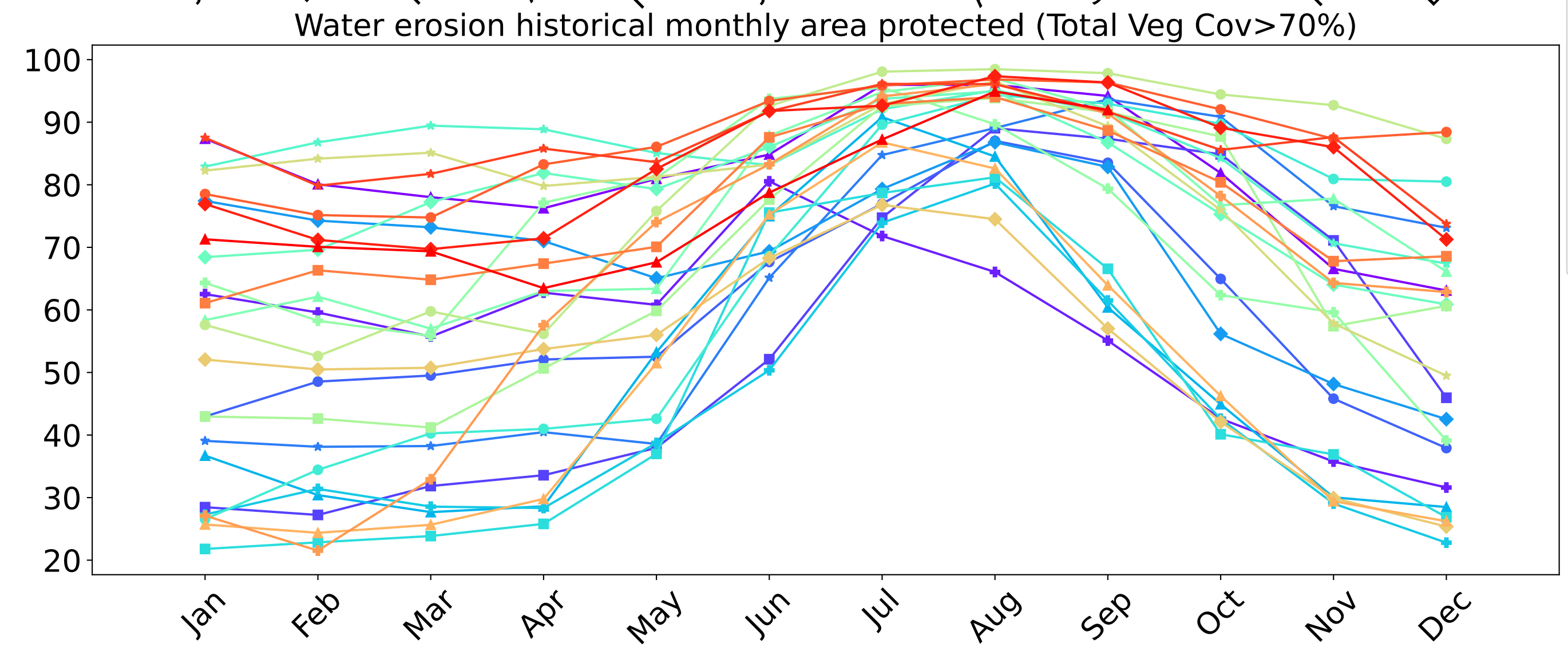
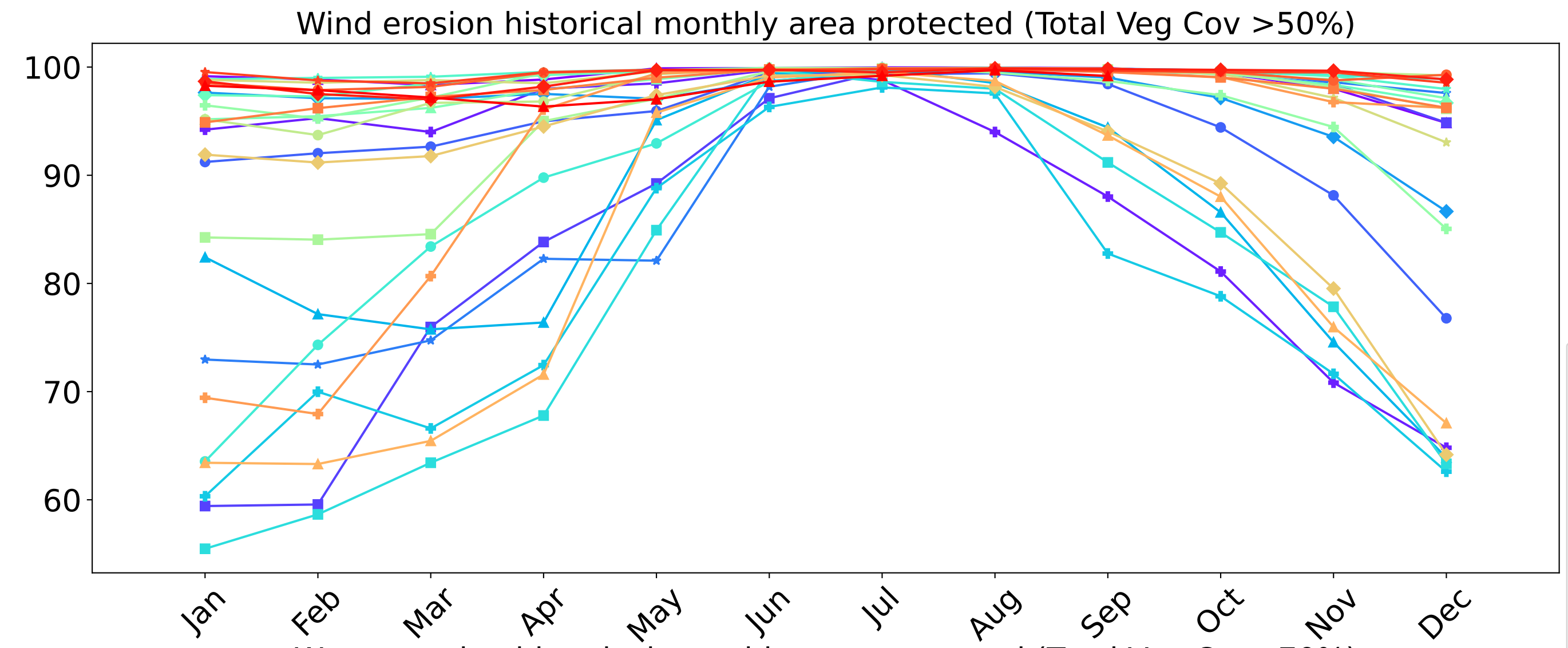
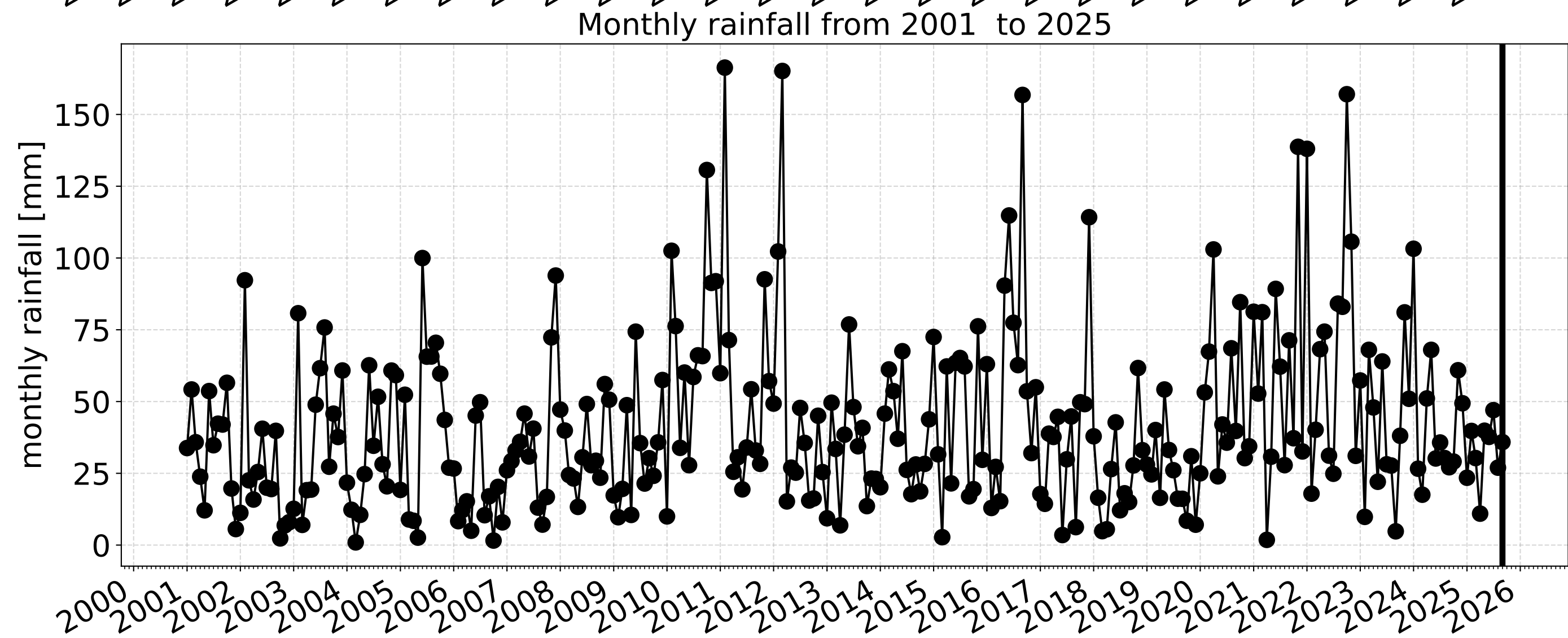
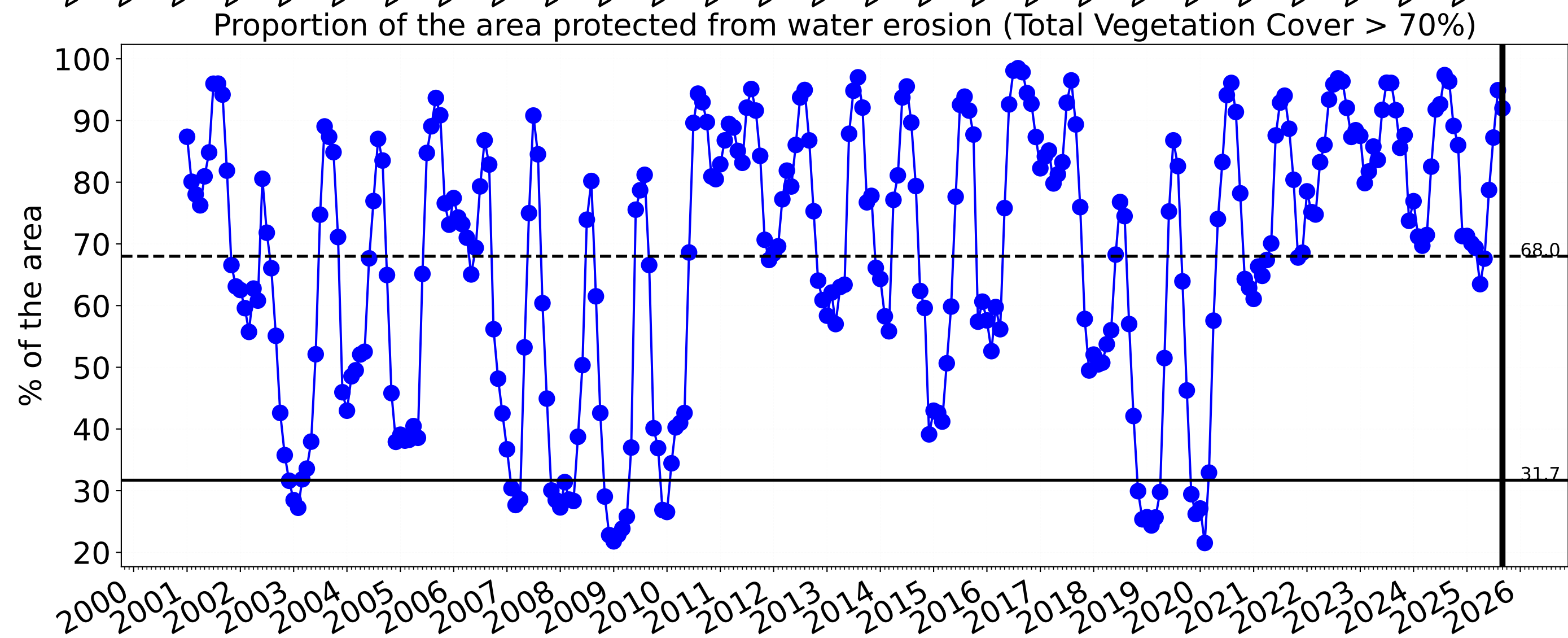
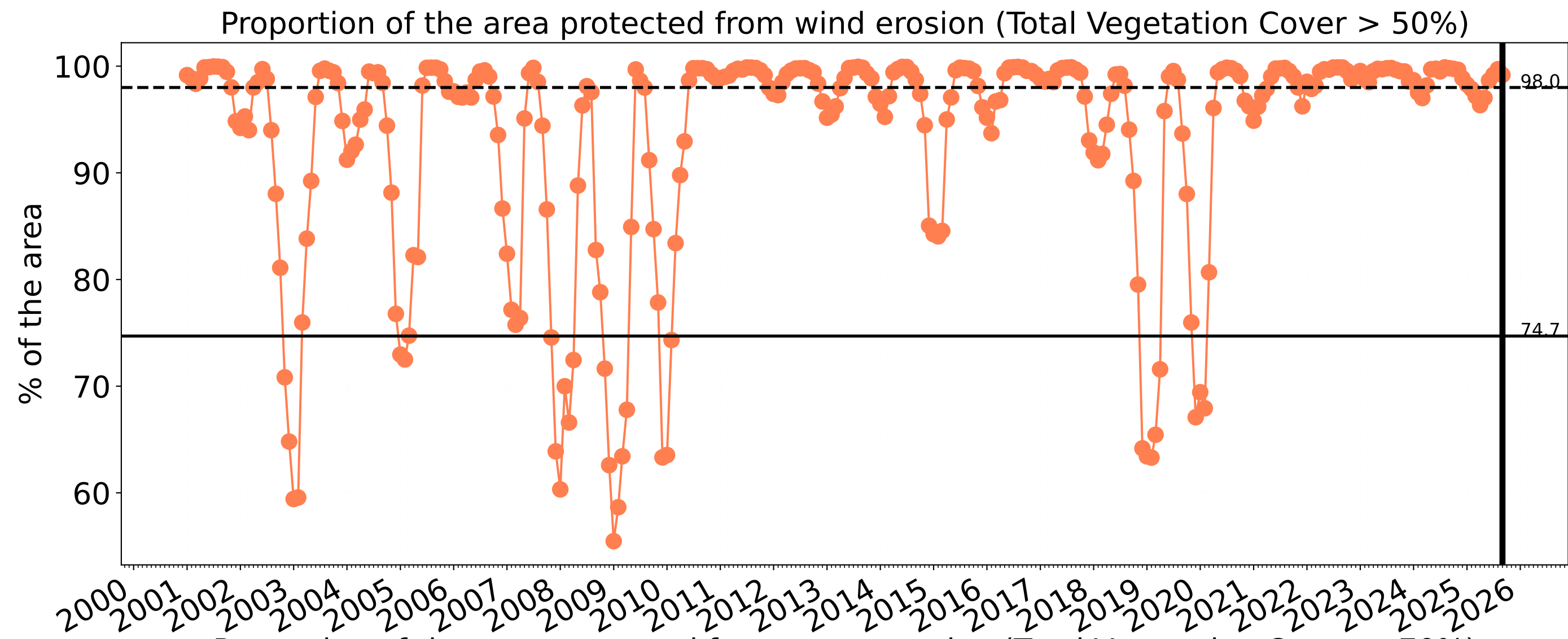
Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]



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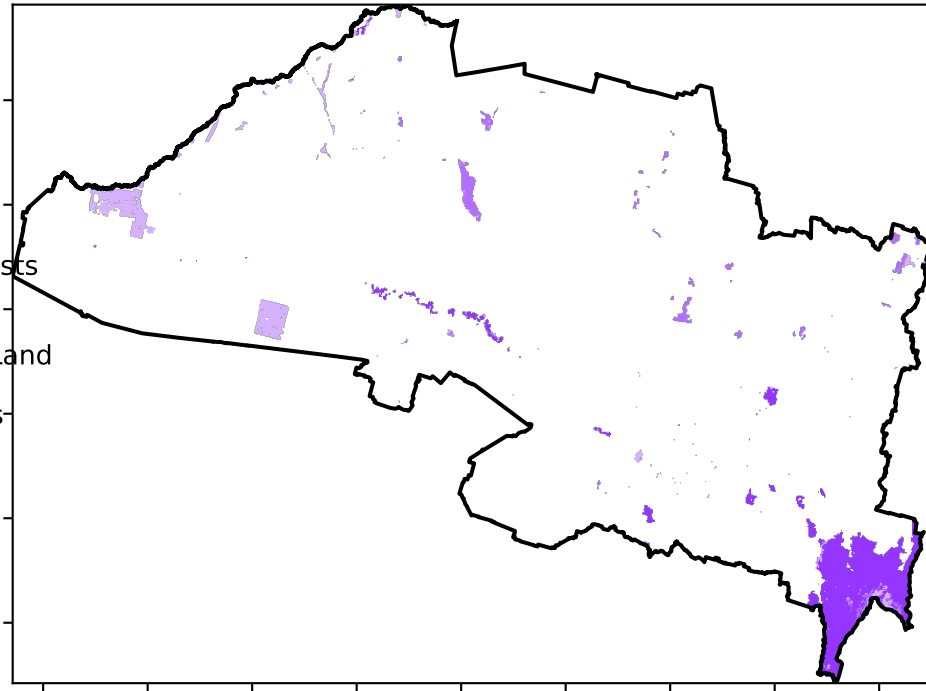




# Conservation and natural environments

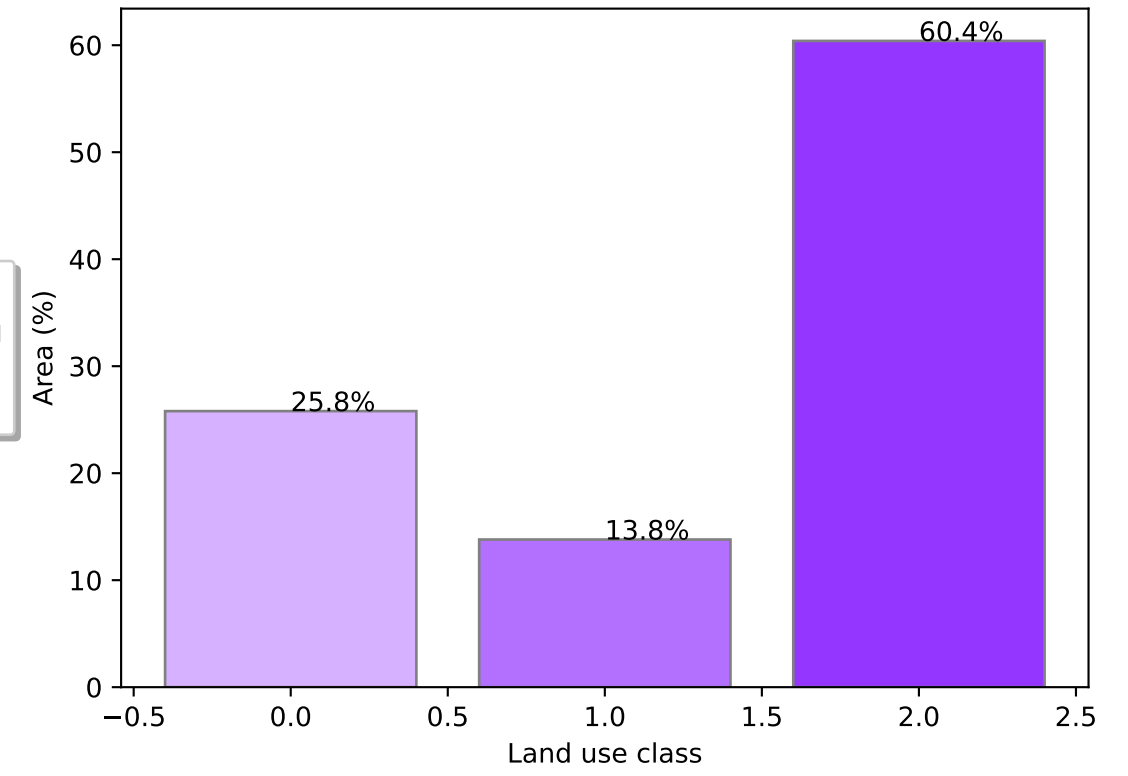
Land use and forest cover

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

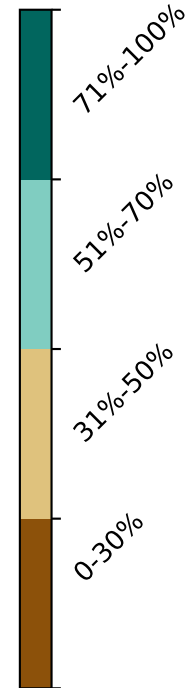
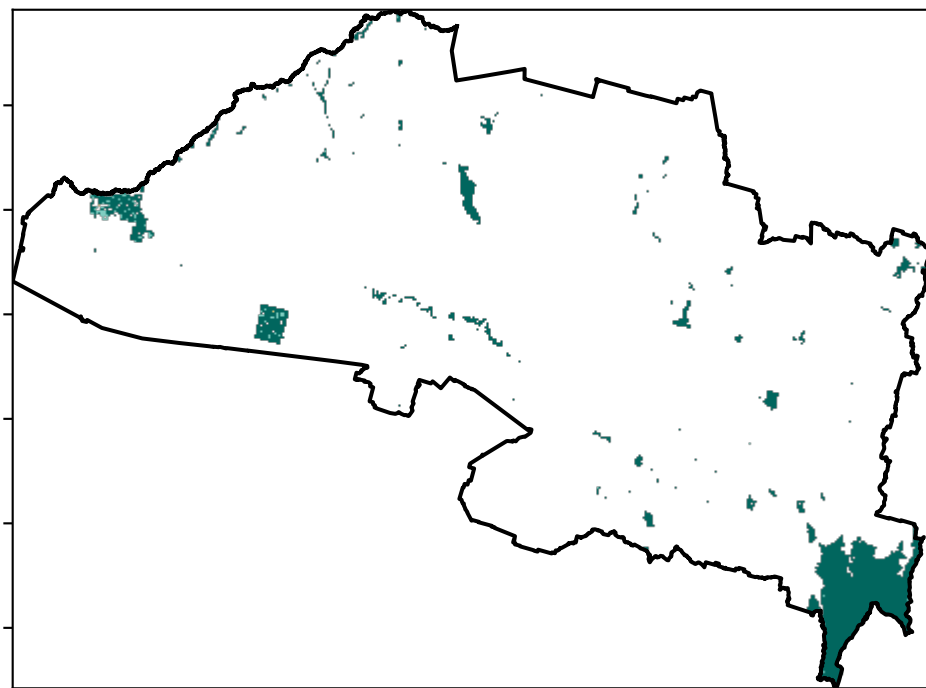


- 1 Conservation and natural environments - Non-forest
- 2 Conservation and natural environments - Woodland forest
- 3 Conservation and natural environments - Non-woodland forest

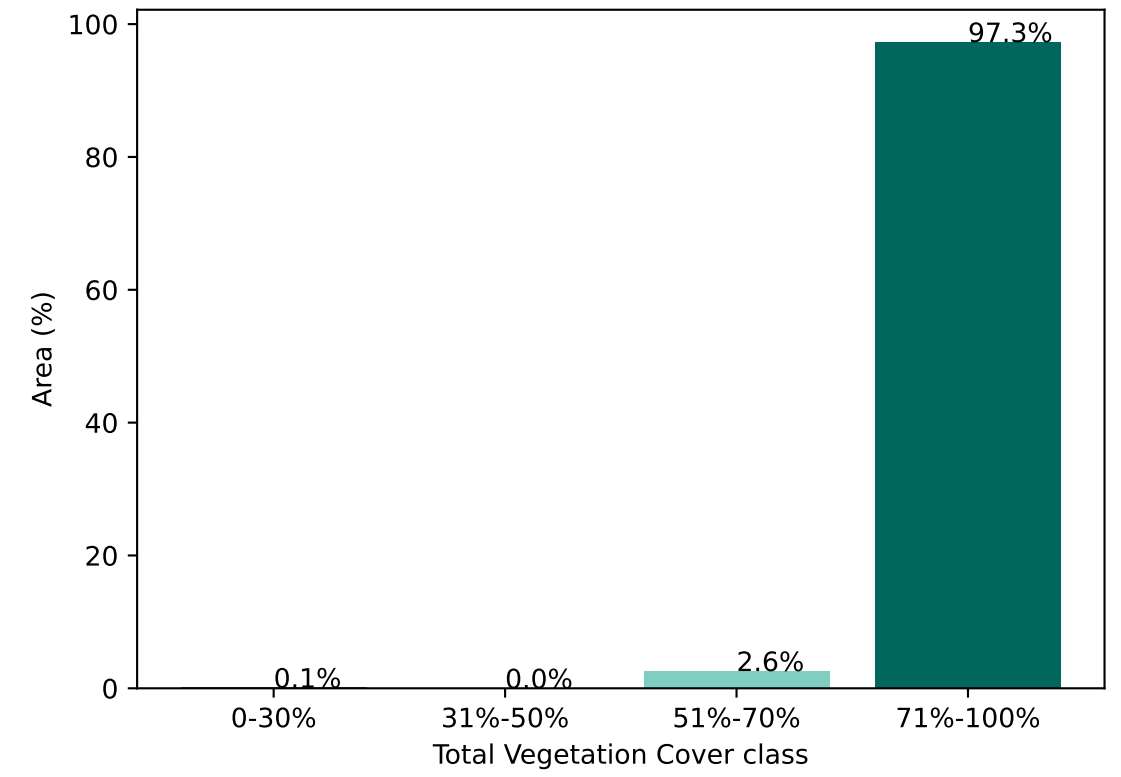
Proportion of each land class in area



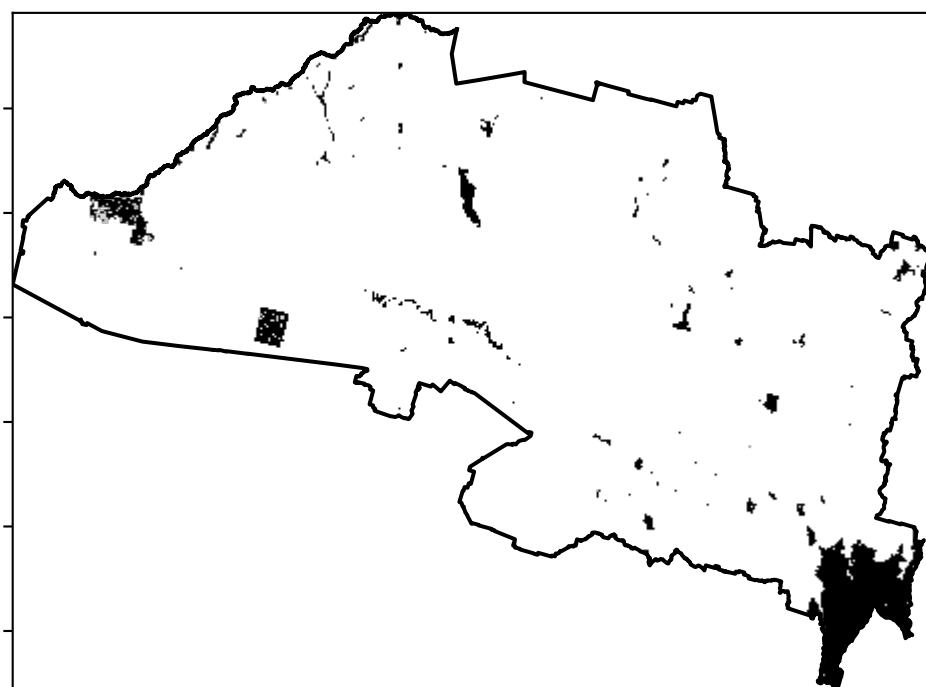
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



Proportion of vegetation cover class in area

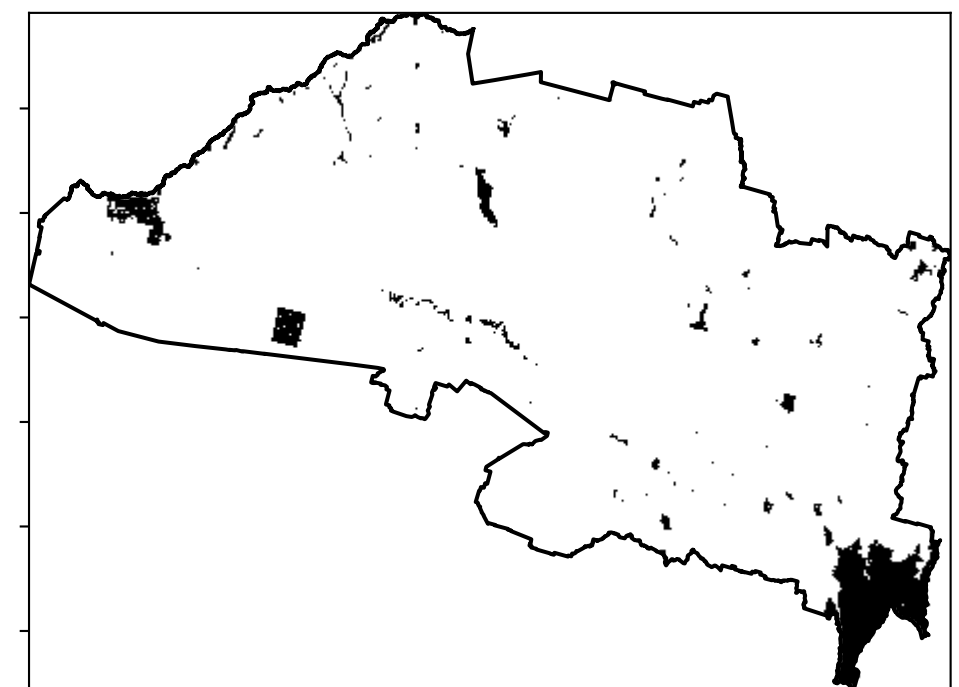


% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



- Area not protected  
2.7% of region  
(8,724 ha)
- Area protected  
97.3% of region  
(314,376 ha)

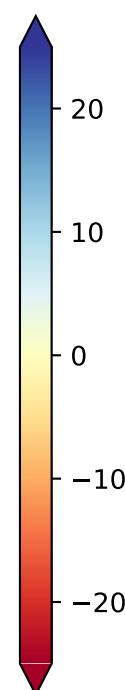
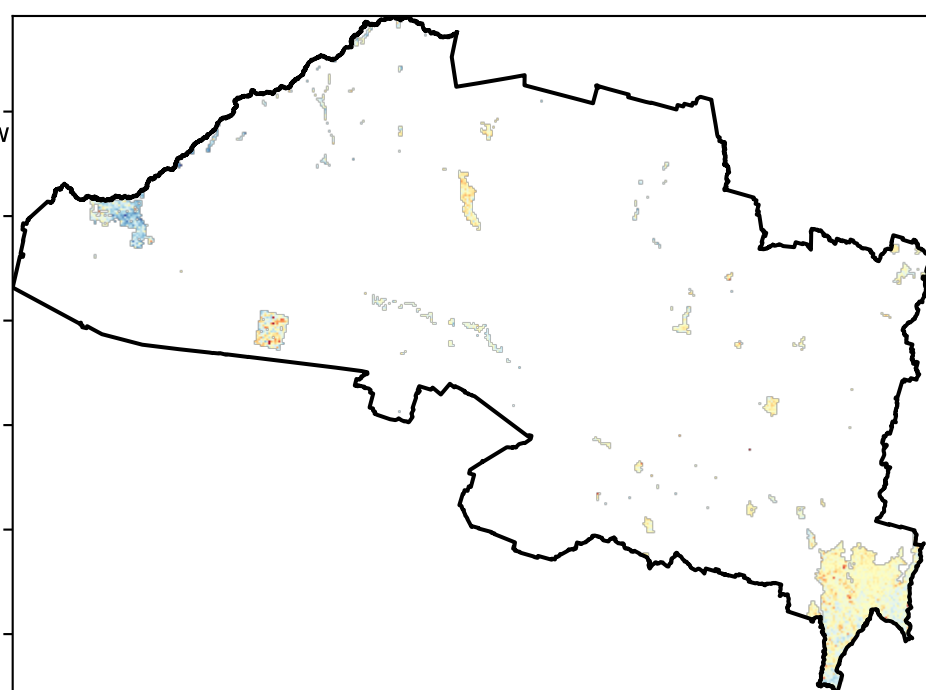
% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



- Area not protected  
0.0% of region  
(0 ha)
- Area protected  
100.0% of region  
(323,100 ha)

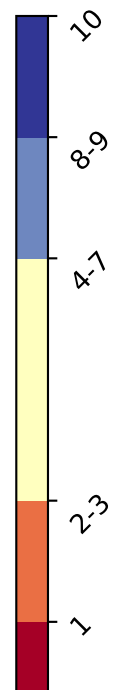
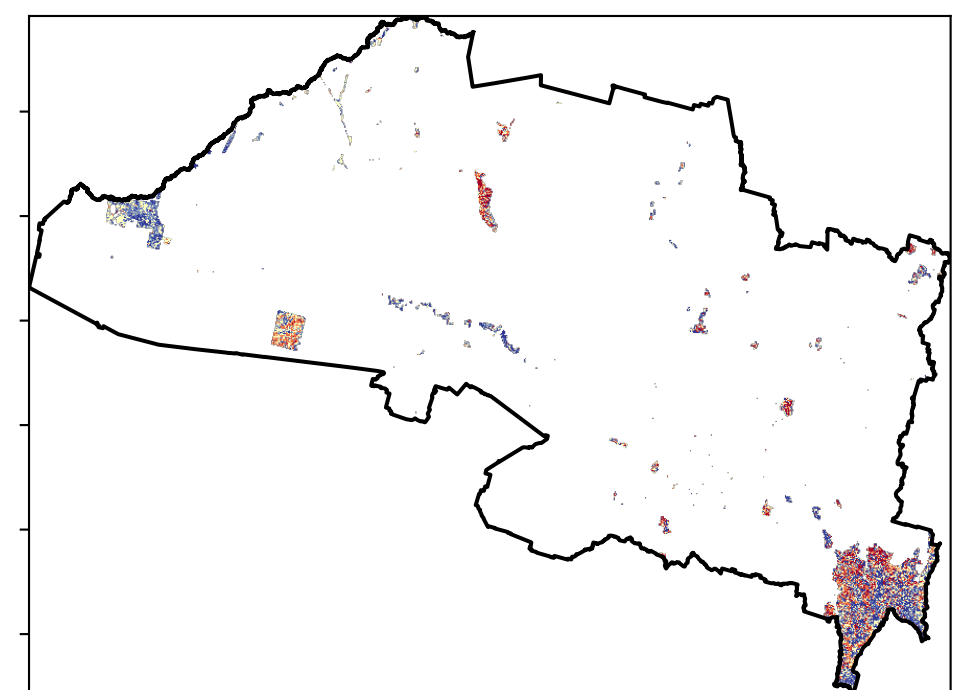
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

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.

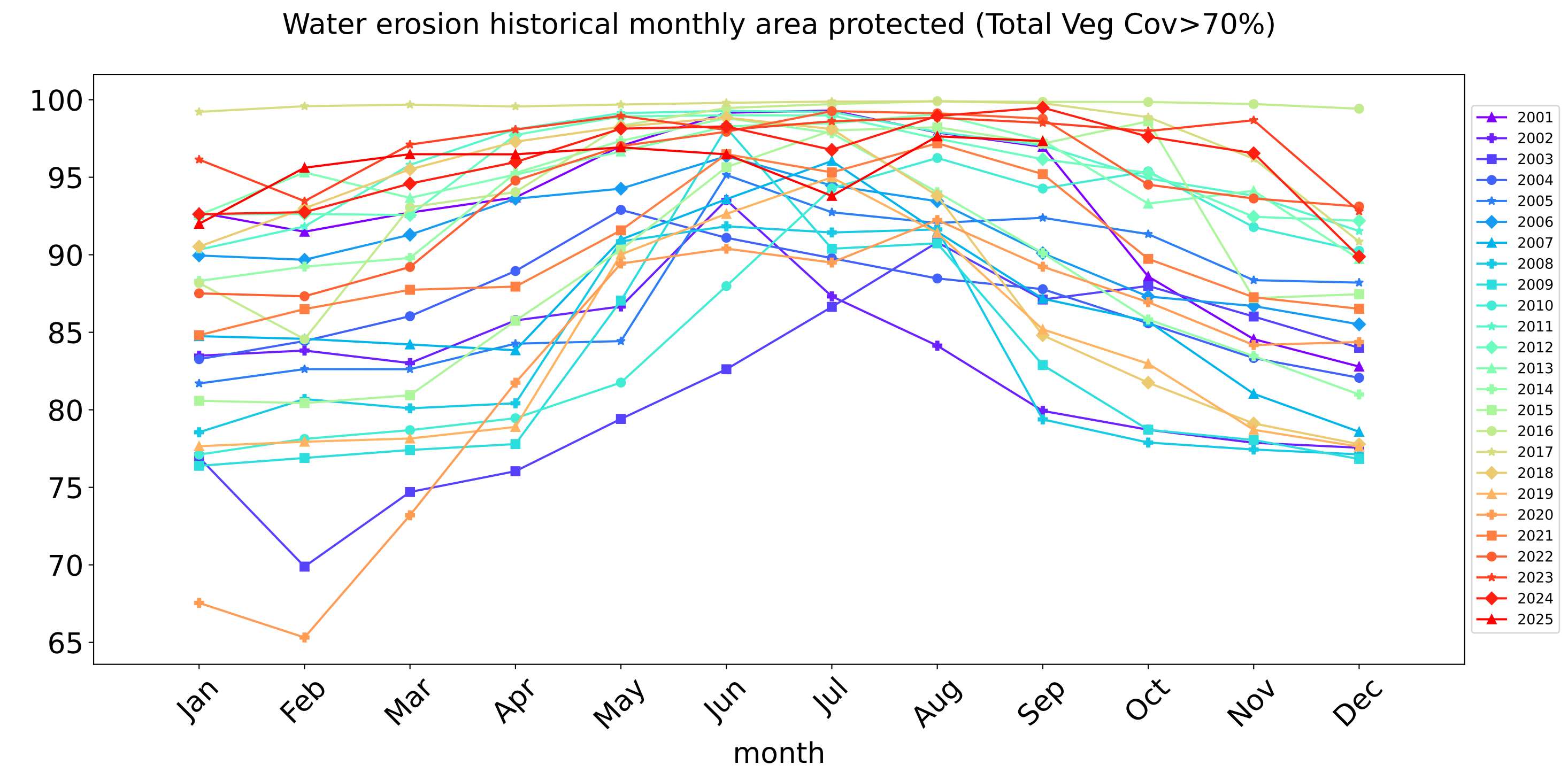
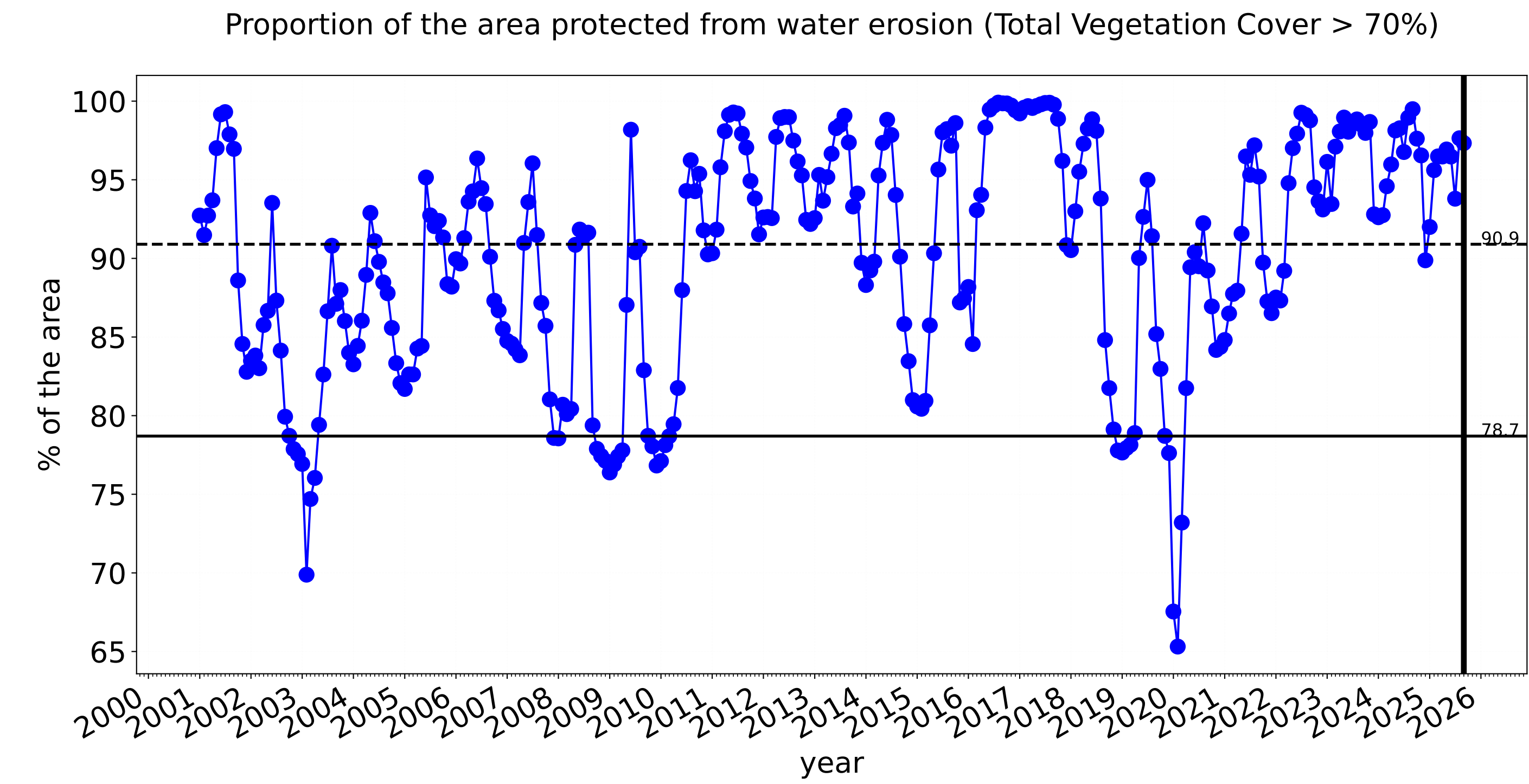
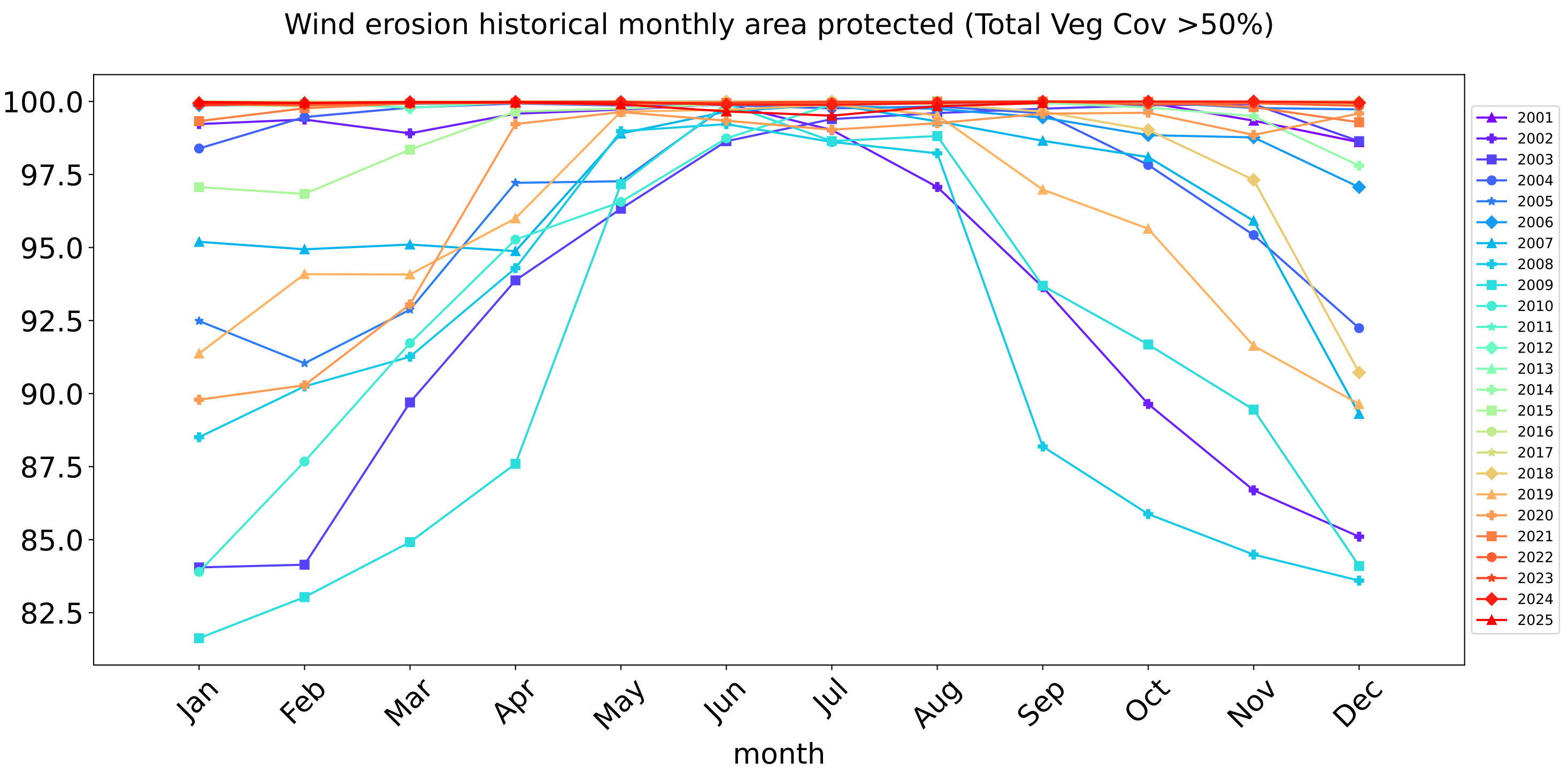
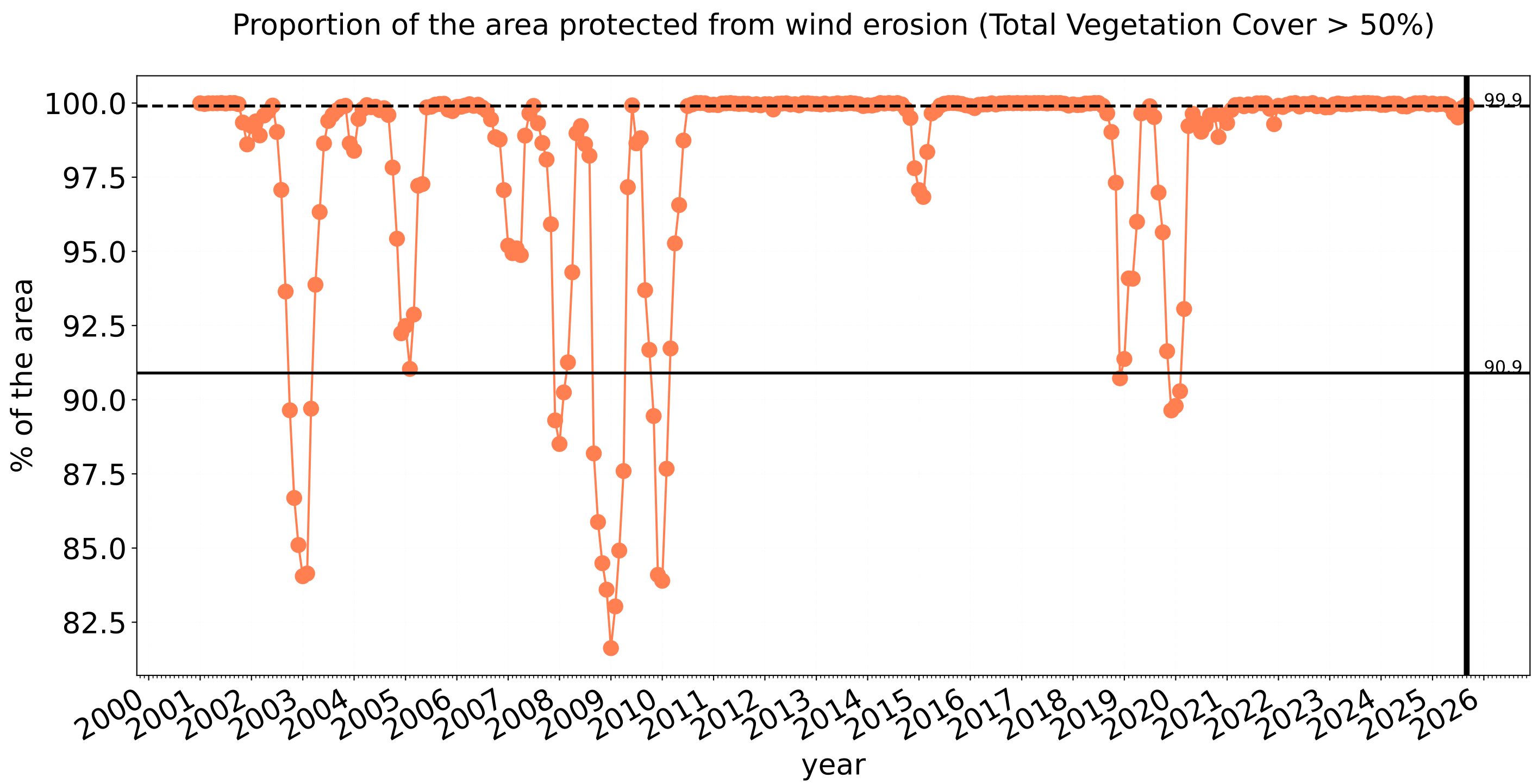


Deciles show where the pixel value lies in the record, from highest to lowest, for that month. That is, red pixels are in the lowest 10% of records for that month of the map using baseline from 2001 to 2019.

Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]



Conservation and natural environments timeseries

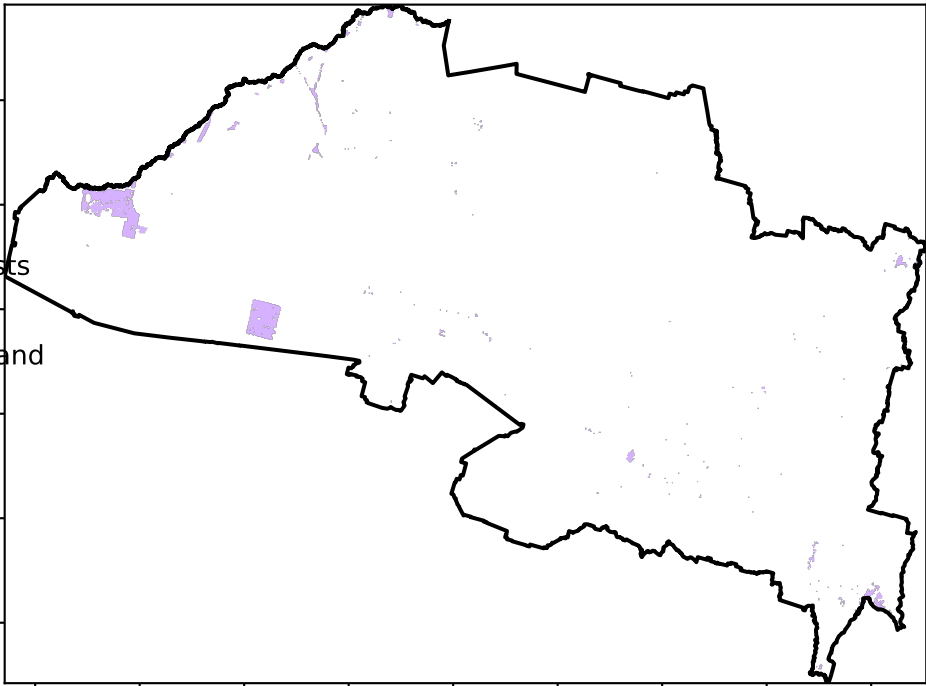




Conservation and natural environments non forest

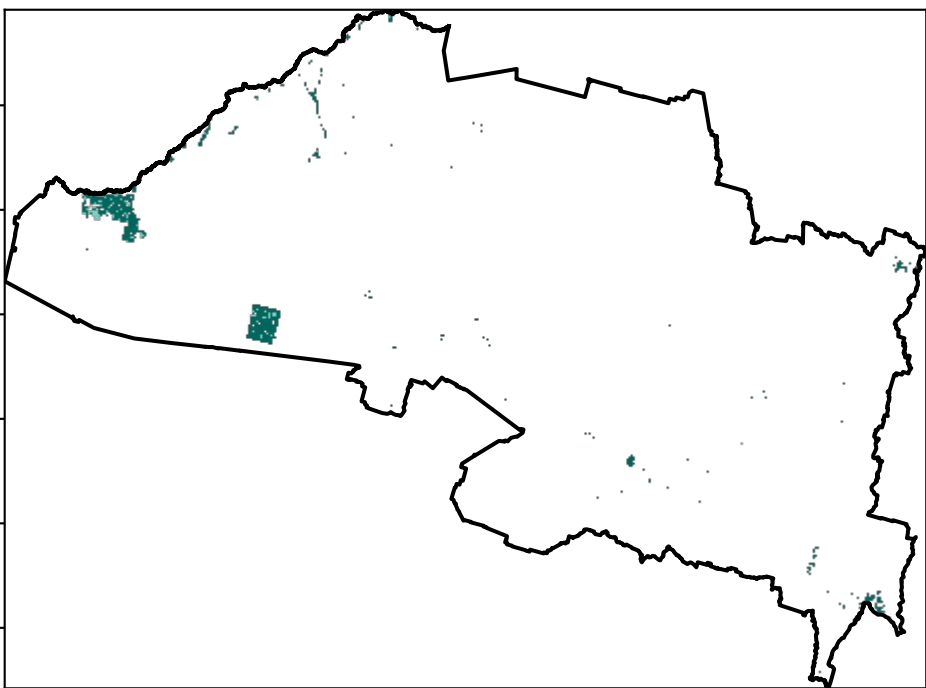
Land use and forest cover

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

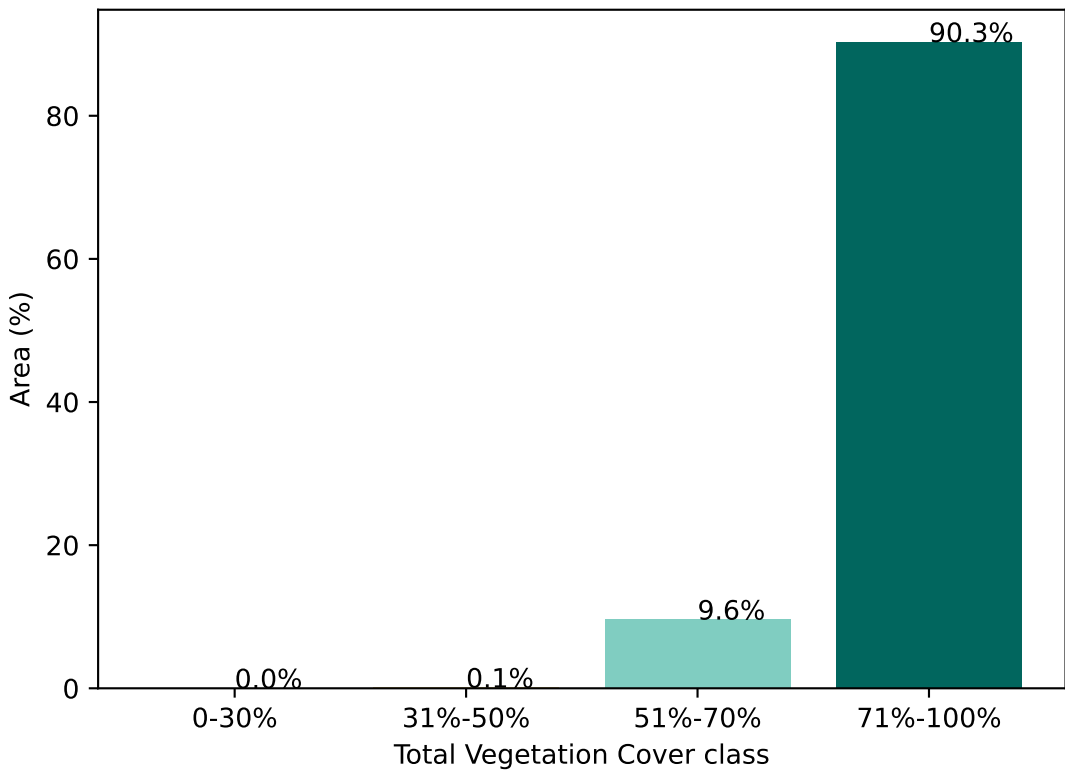


1 Conservation and natural environments - Non-forest

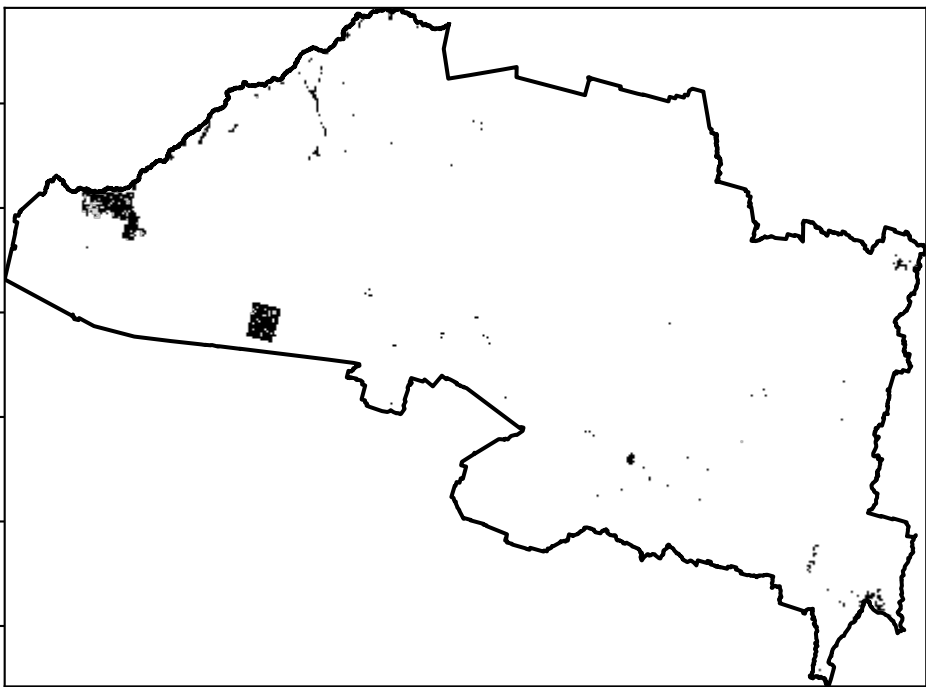
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



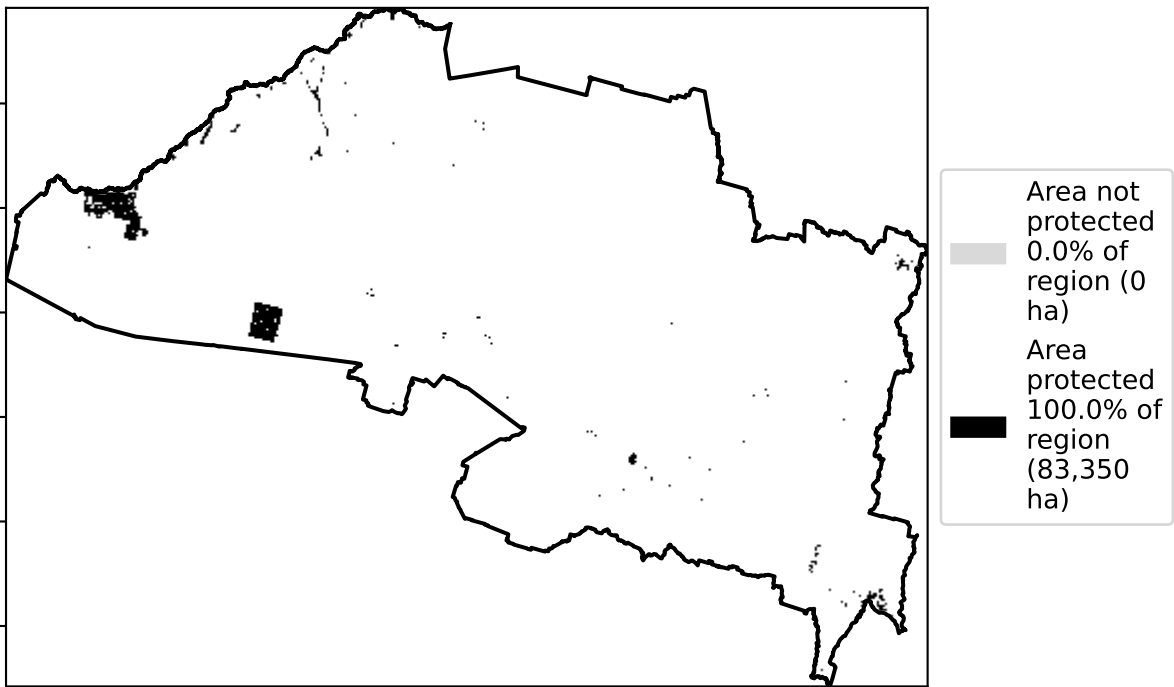
Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)

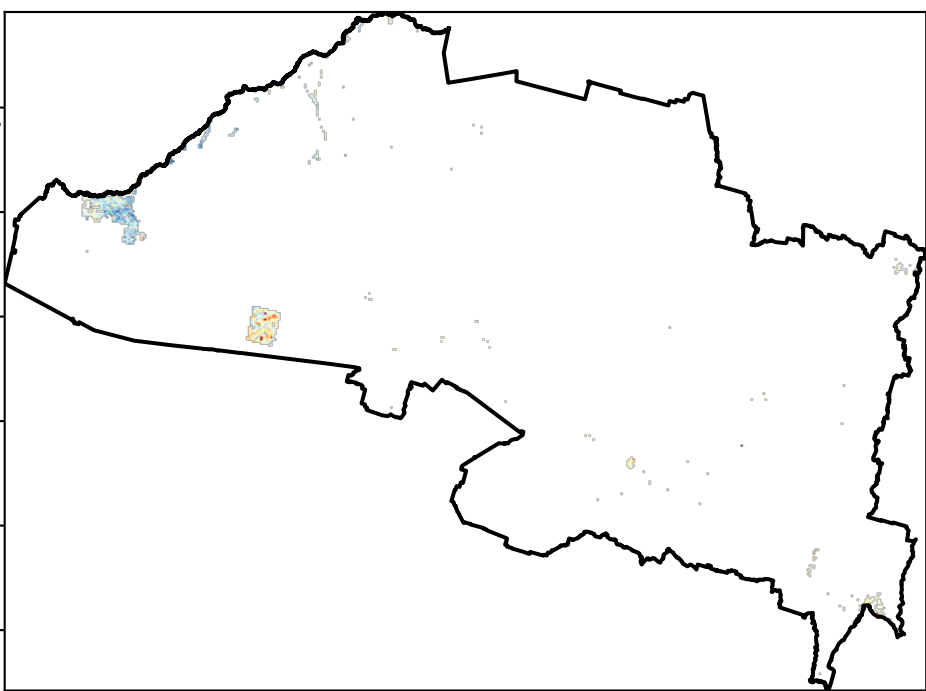


% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



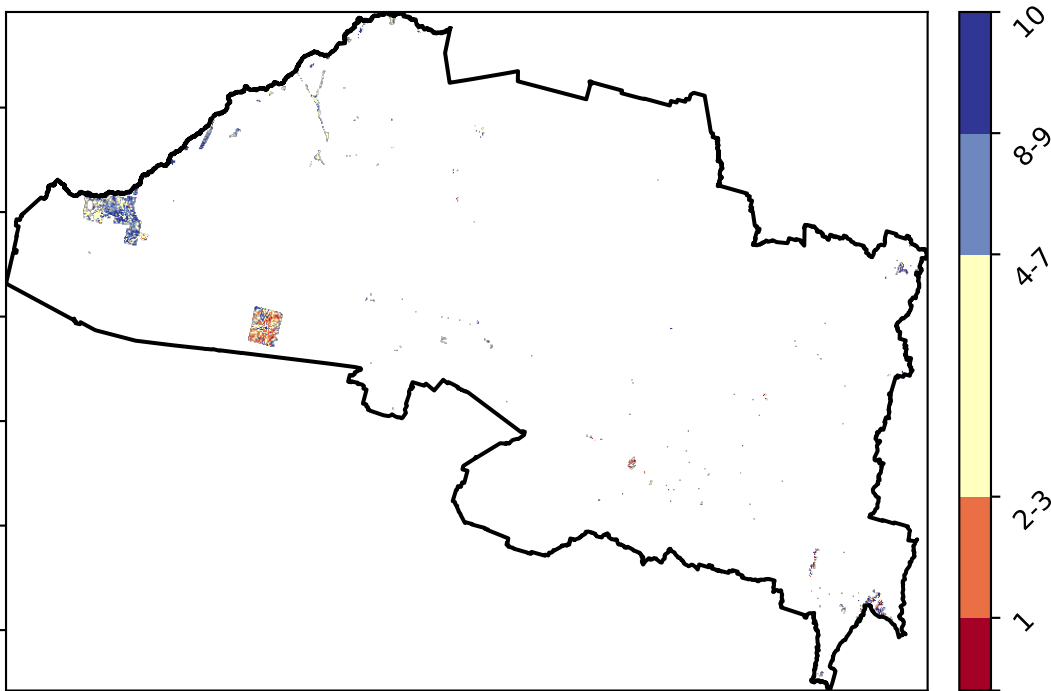
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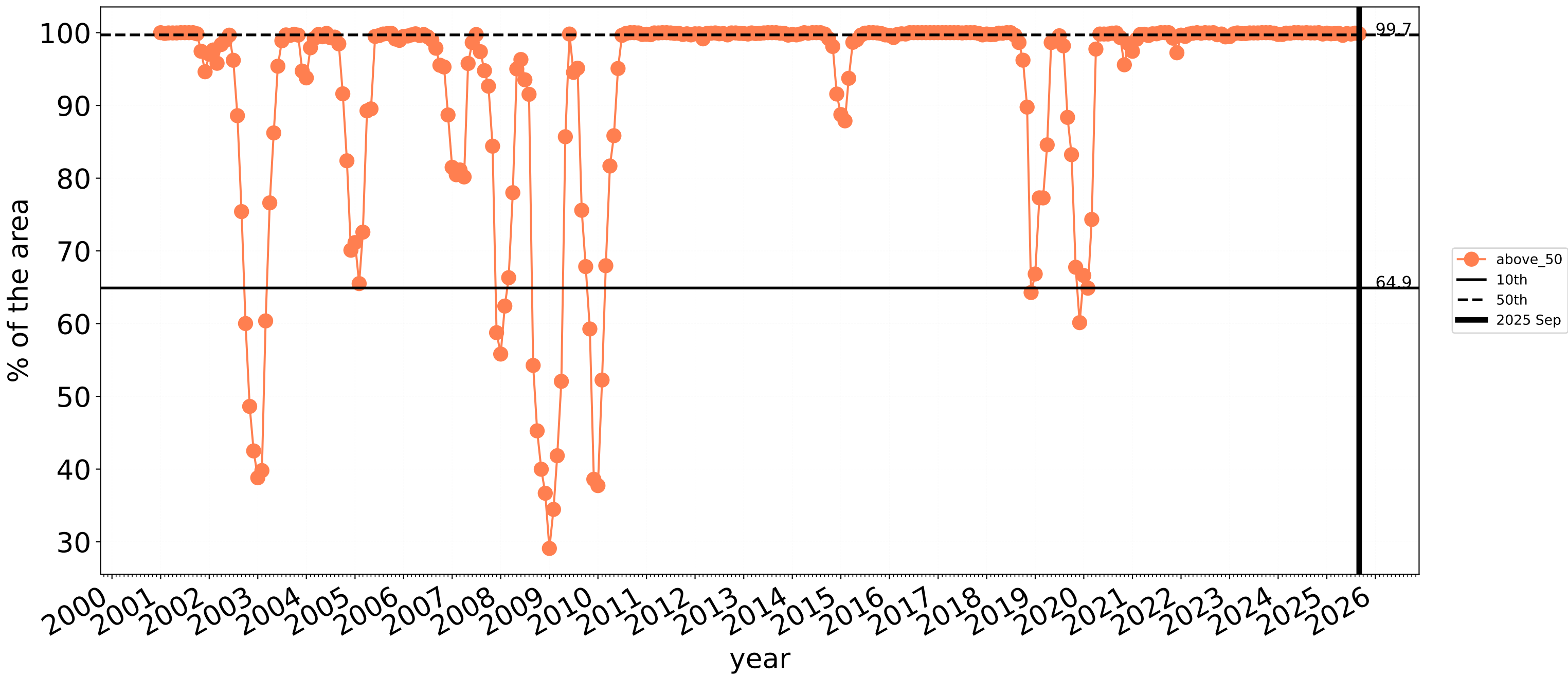
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Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]

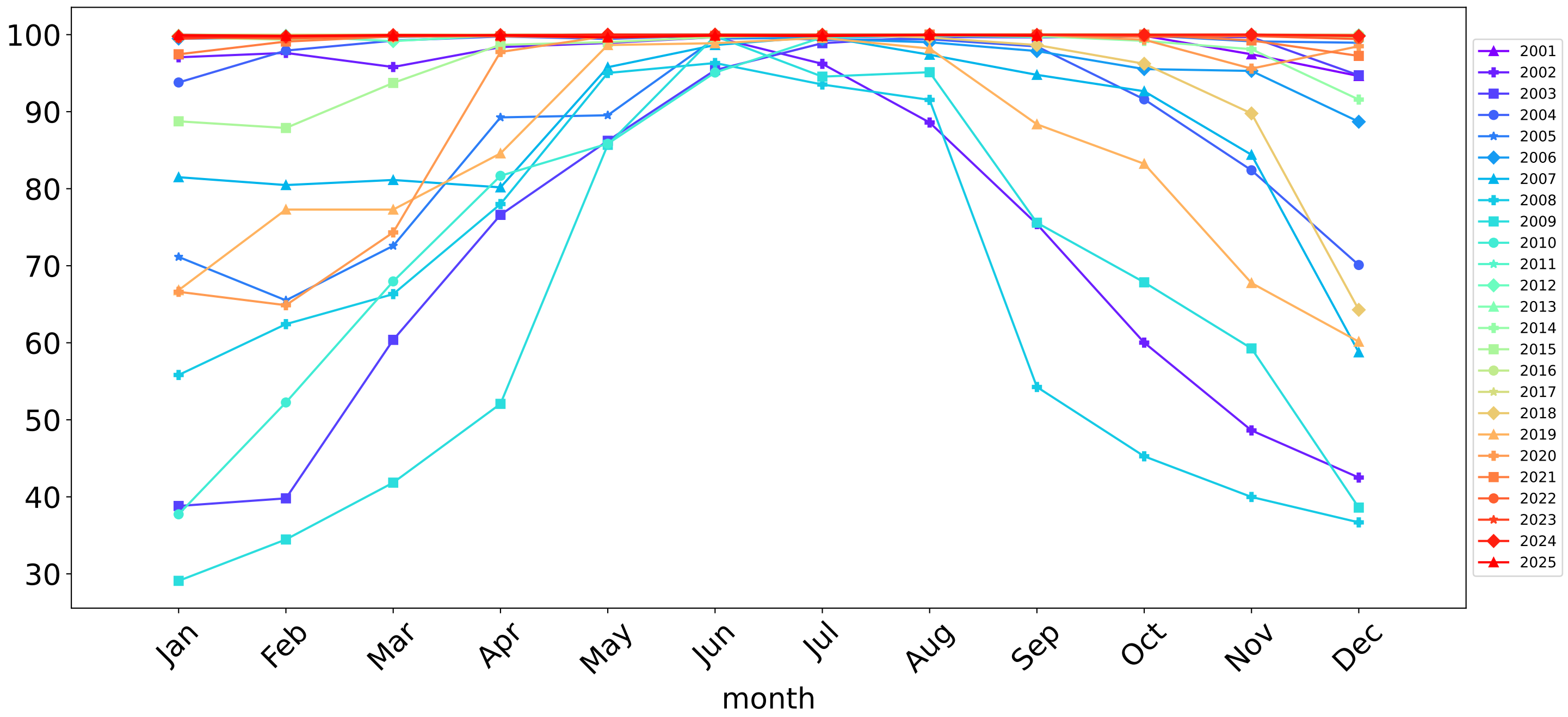


Conservation and natural environments non forest timeseries

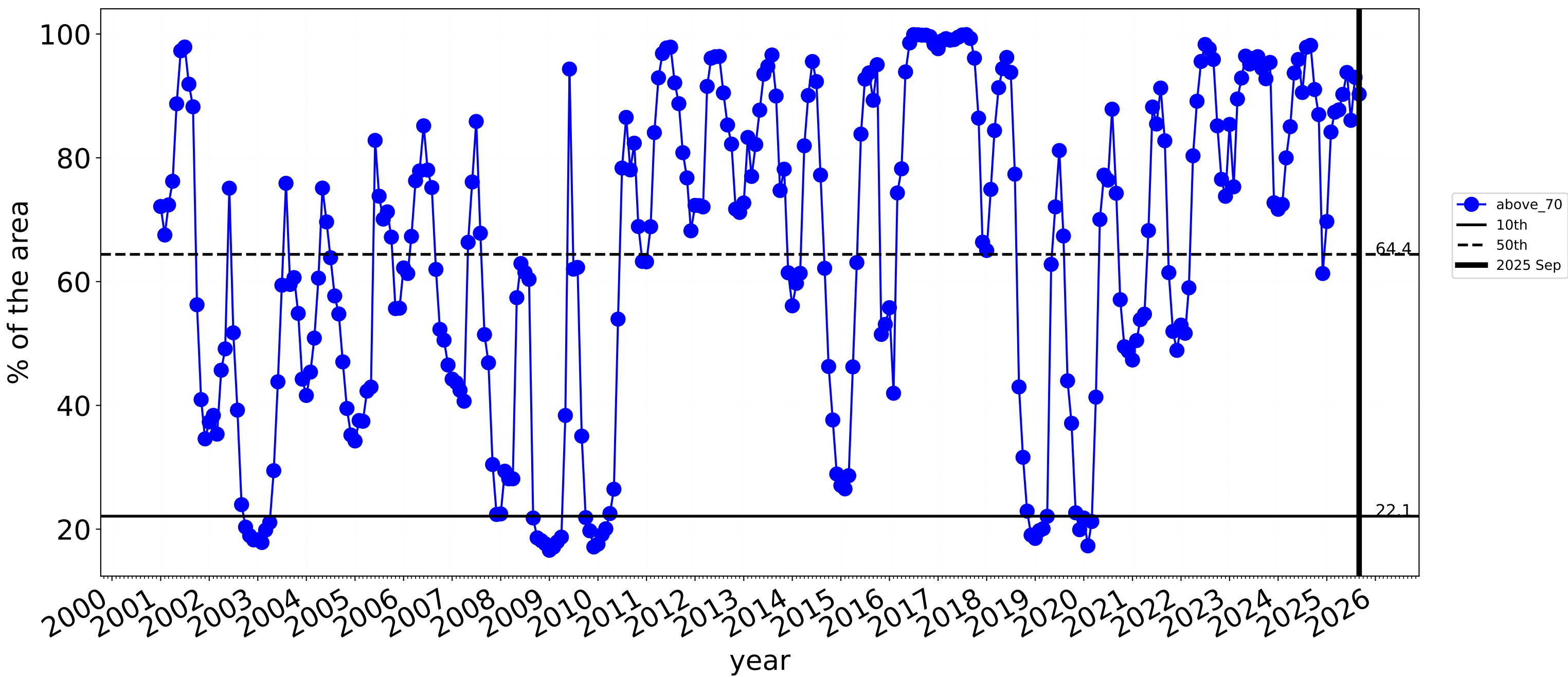
Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)



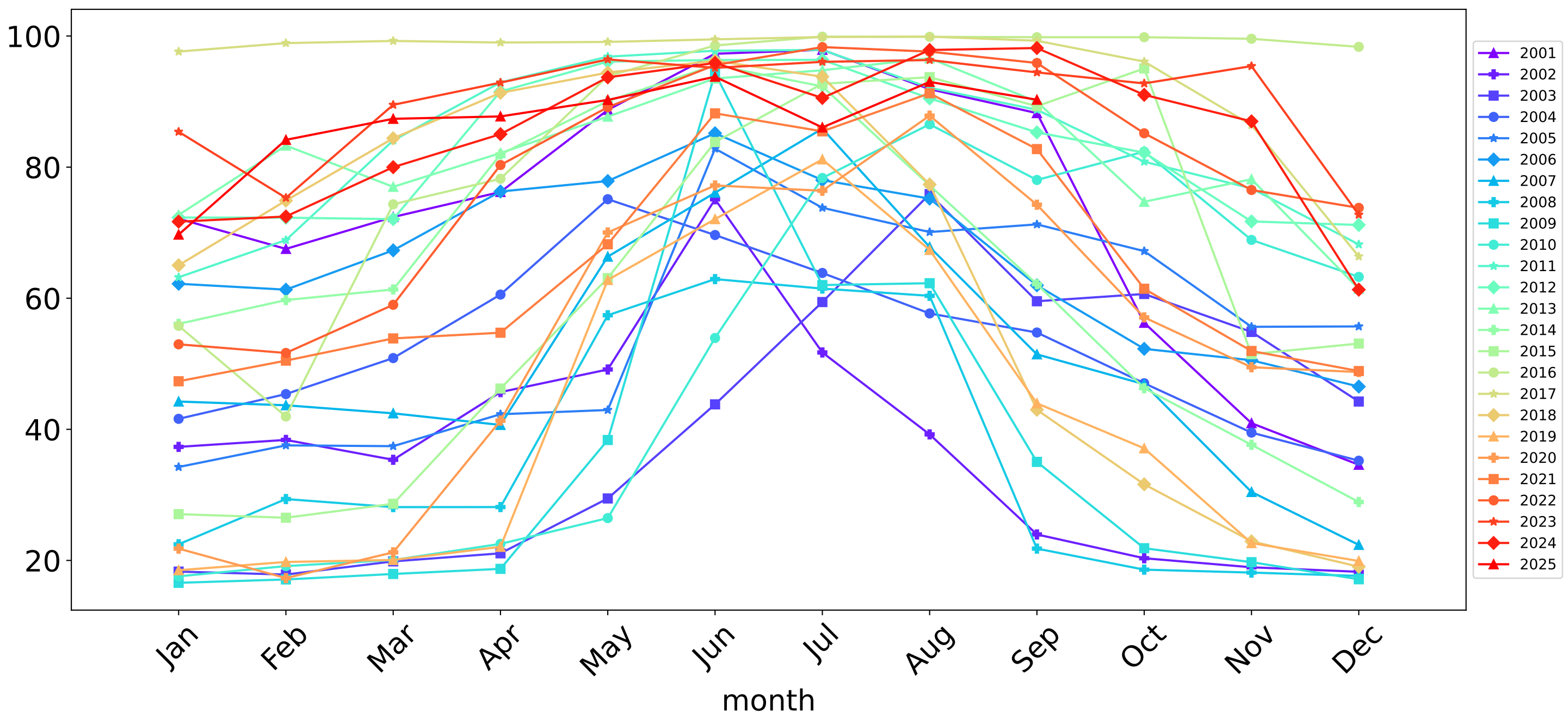
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



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



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

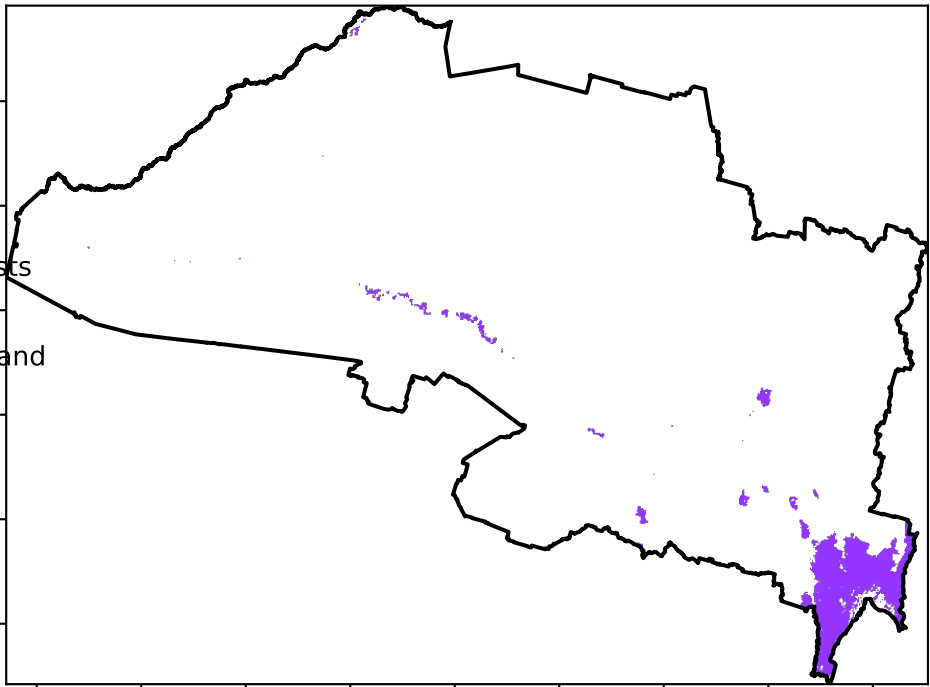




Conservation and natural environments Forest (non woodland)

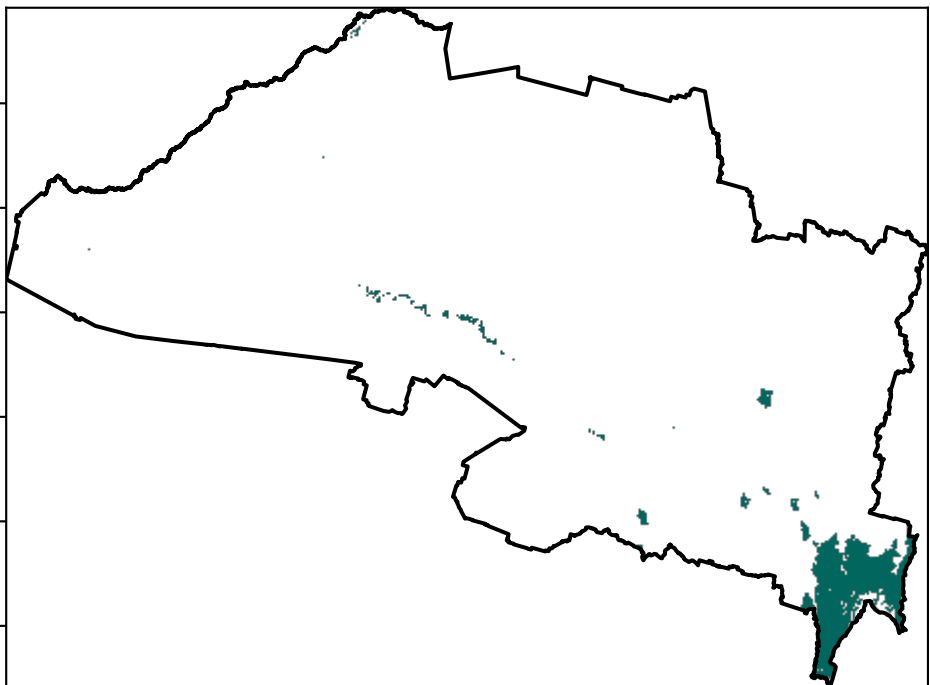
Land use and forest cover

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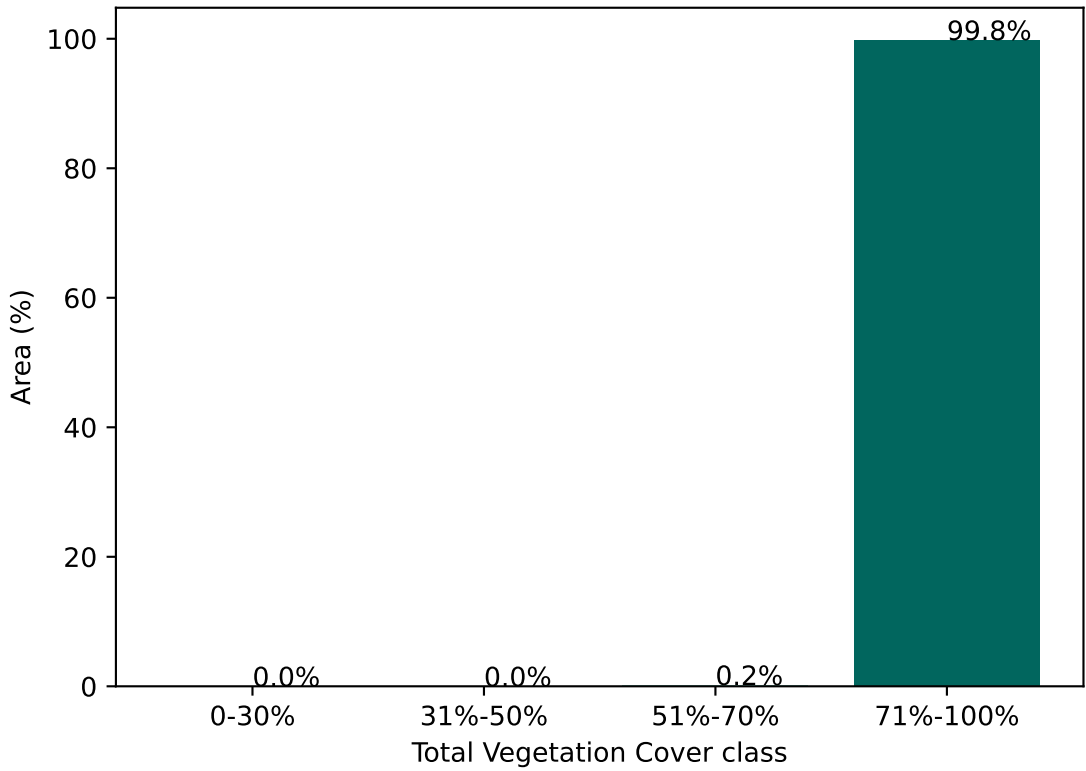


1 Conservation and natural environments - Non-woodland forest

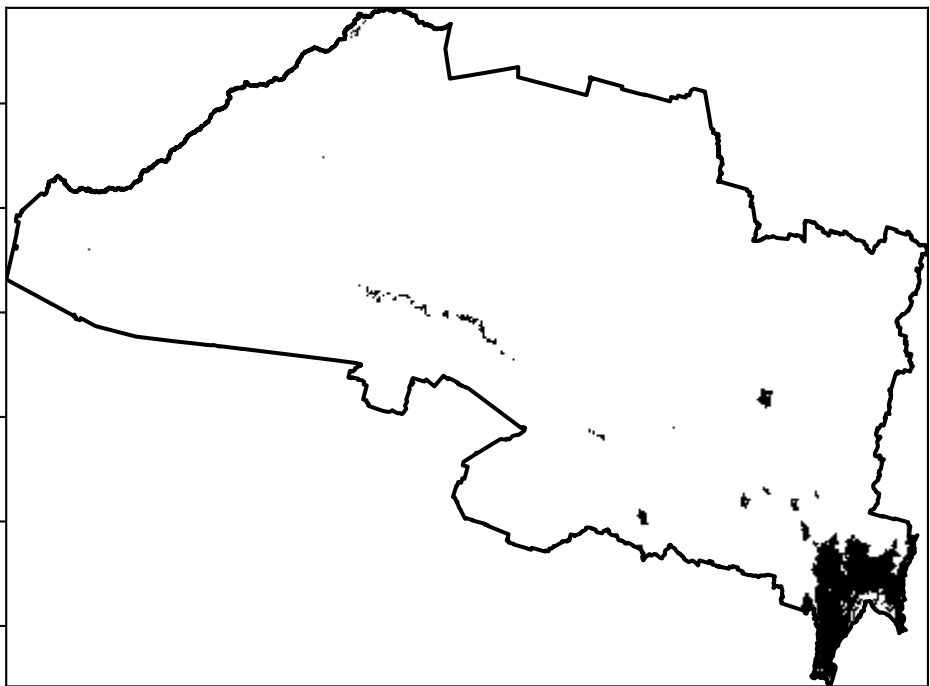
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



Proportion of vegetation cover class in area

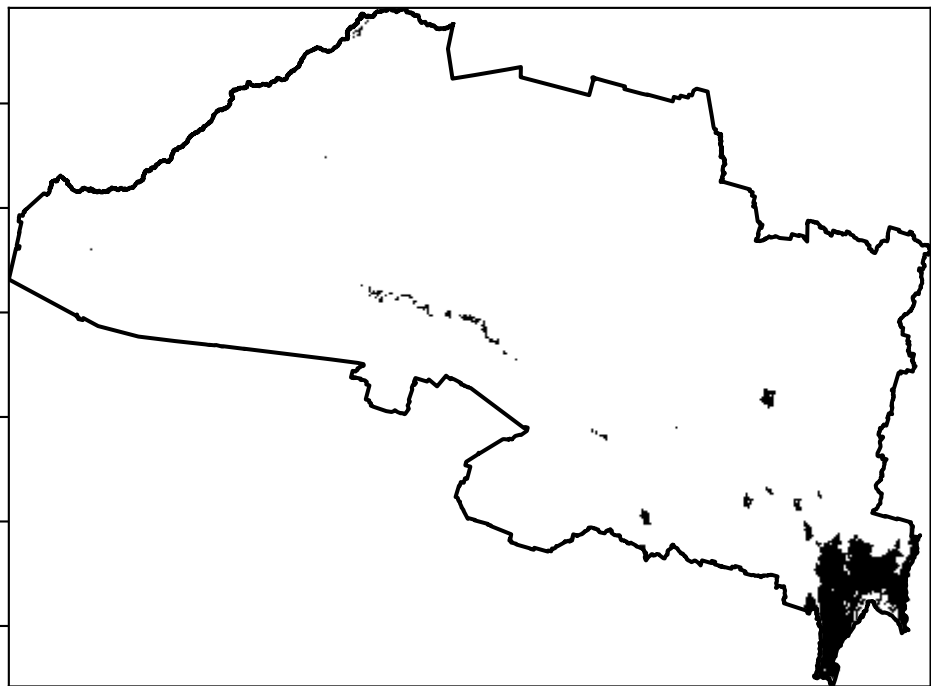


% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



Area not protected  
0.2% of region  
(391 ha)  
Area protected  
99.8% of region  
(194,860 ha)

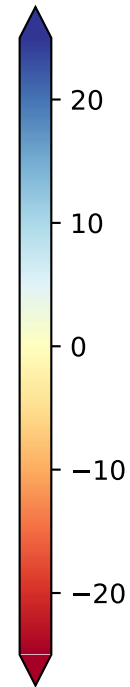
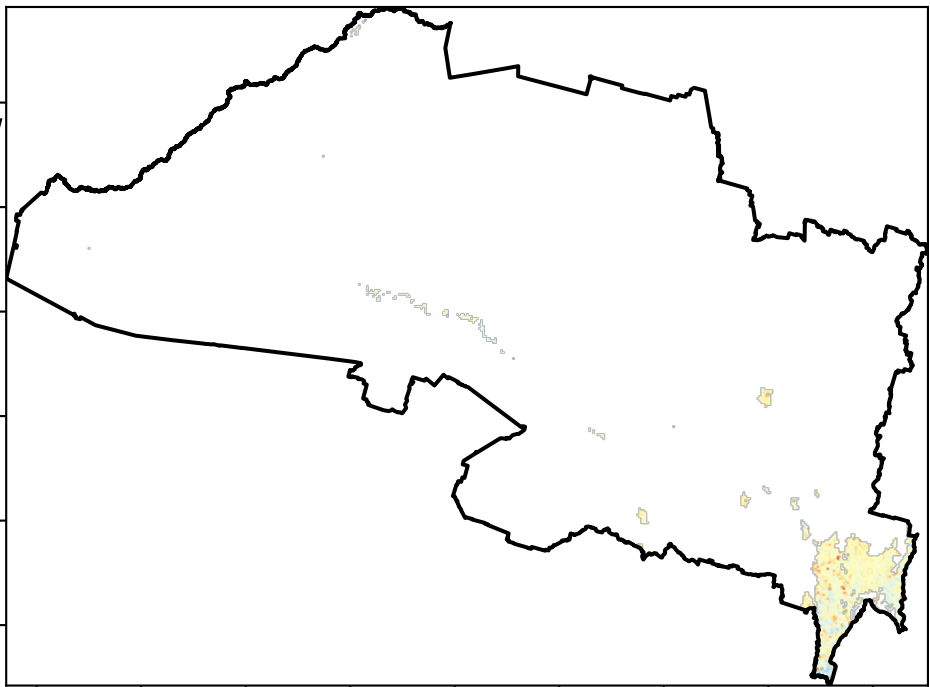
% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



Area not protected  
0.0% of region (0 ha)  
Area protected  
100.0% of region  
(195,250 ha)

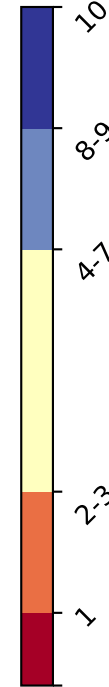
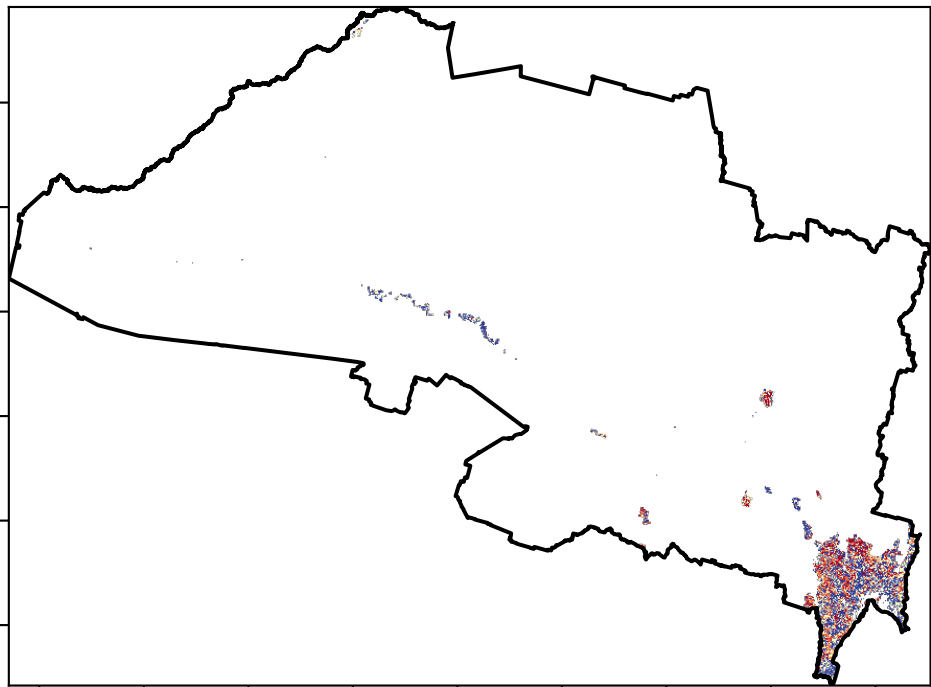
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

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Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]



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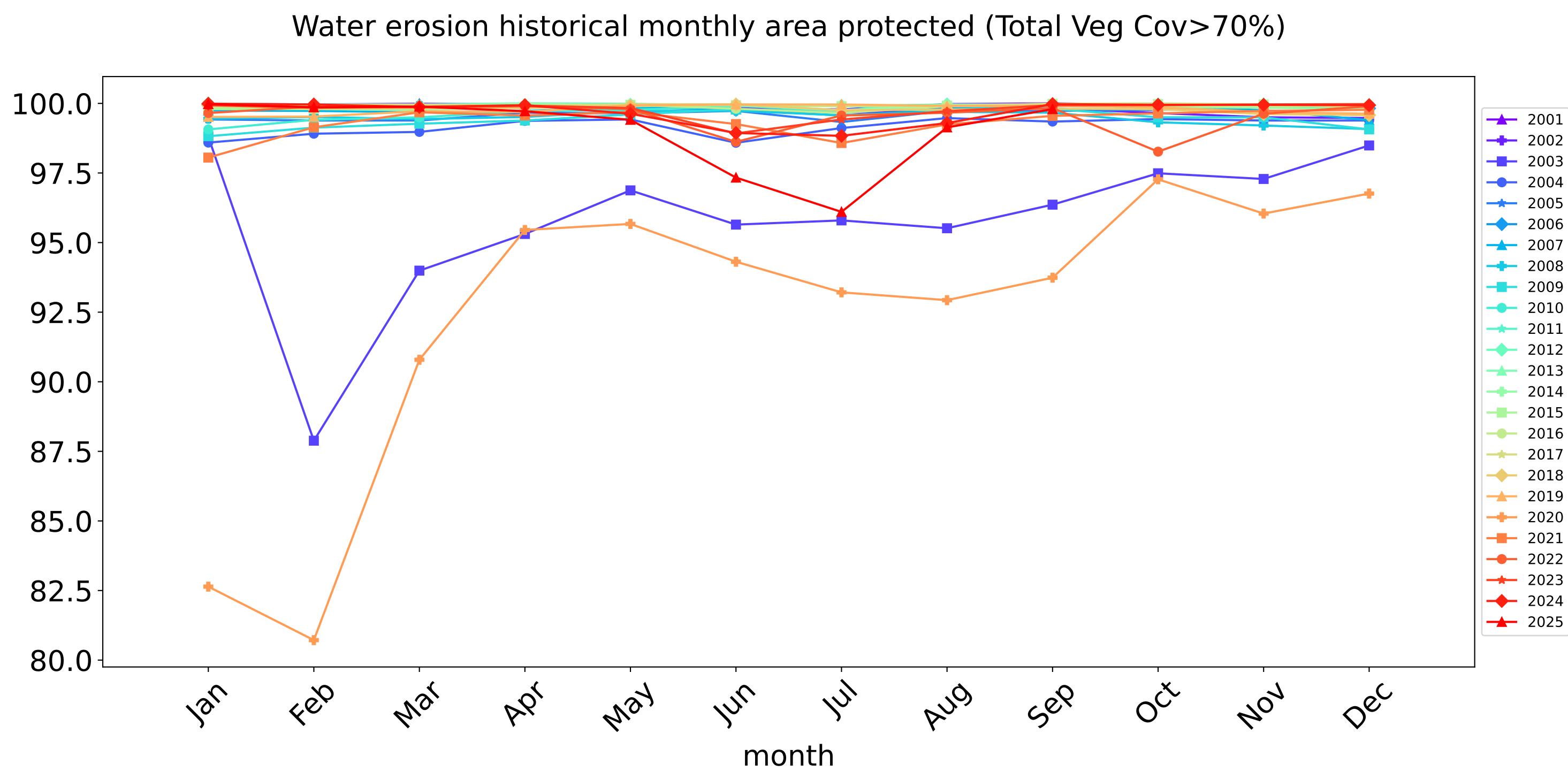
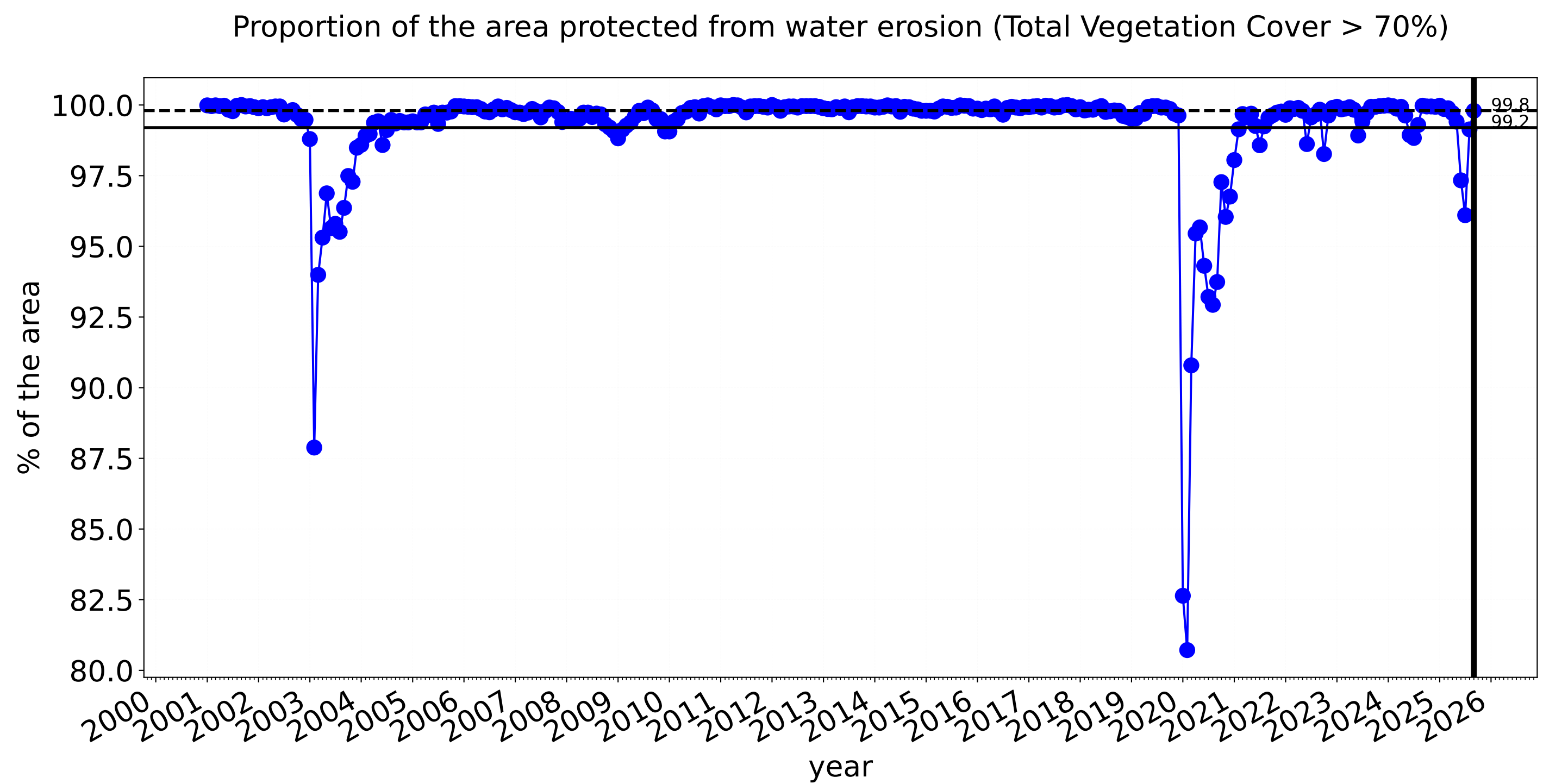
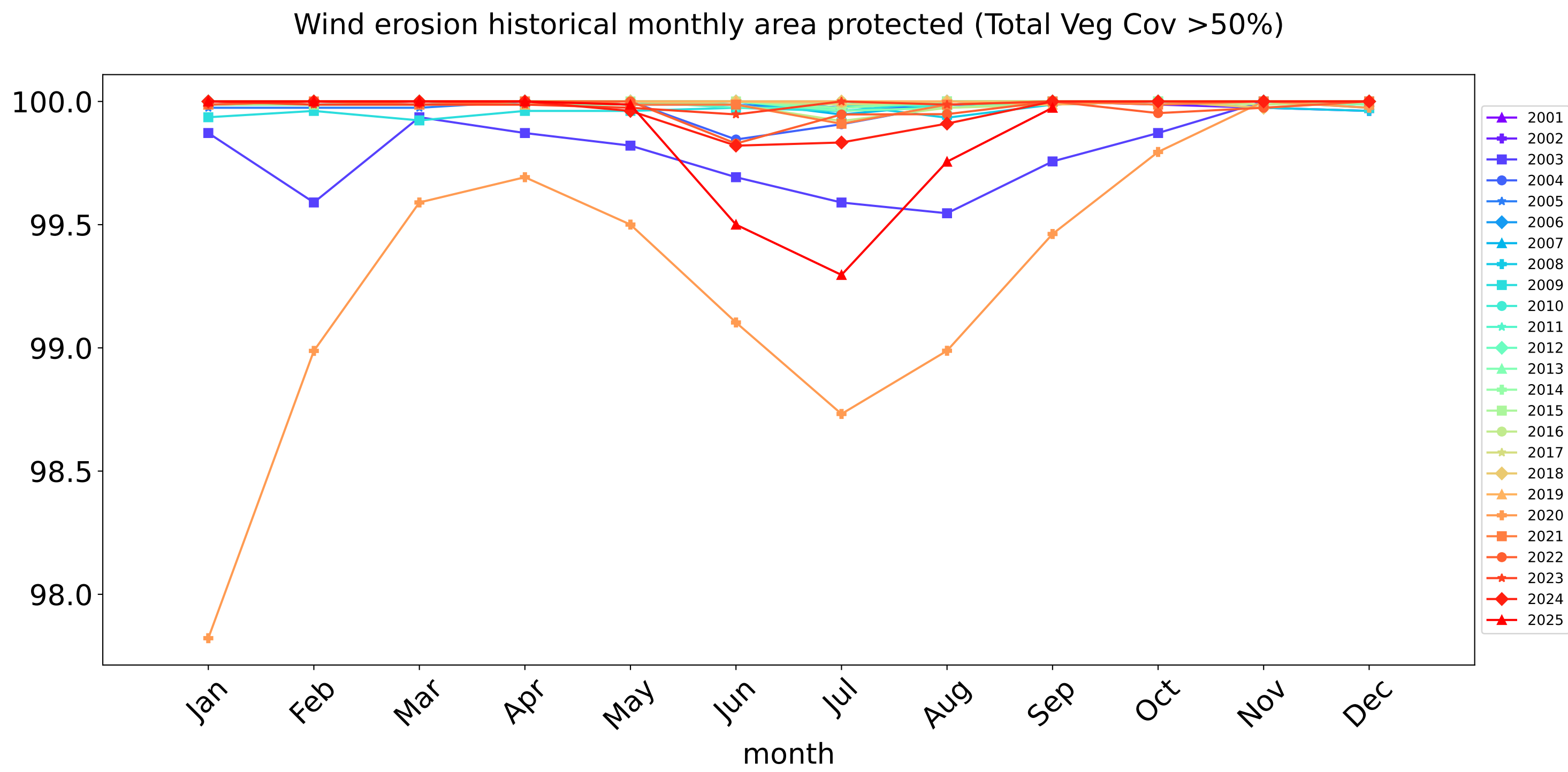
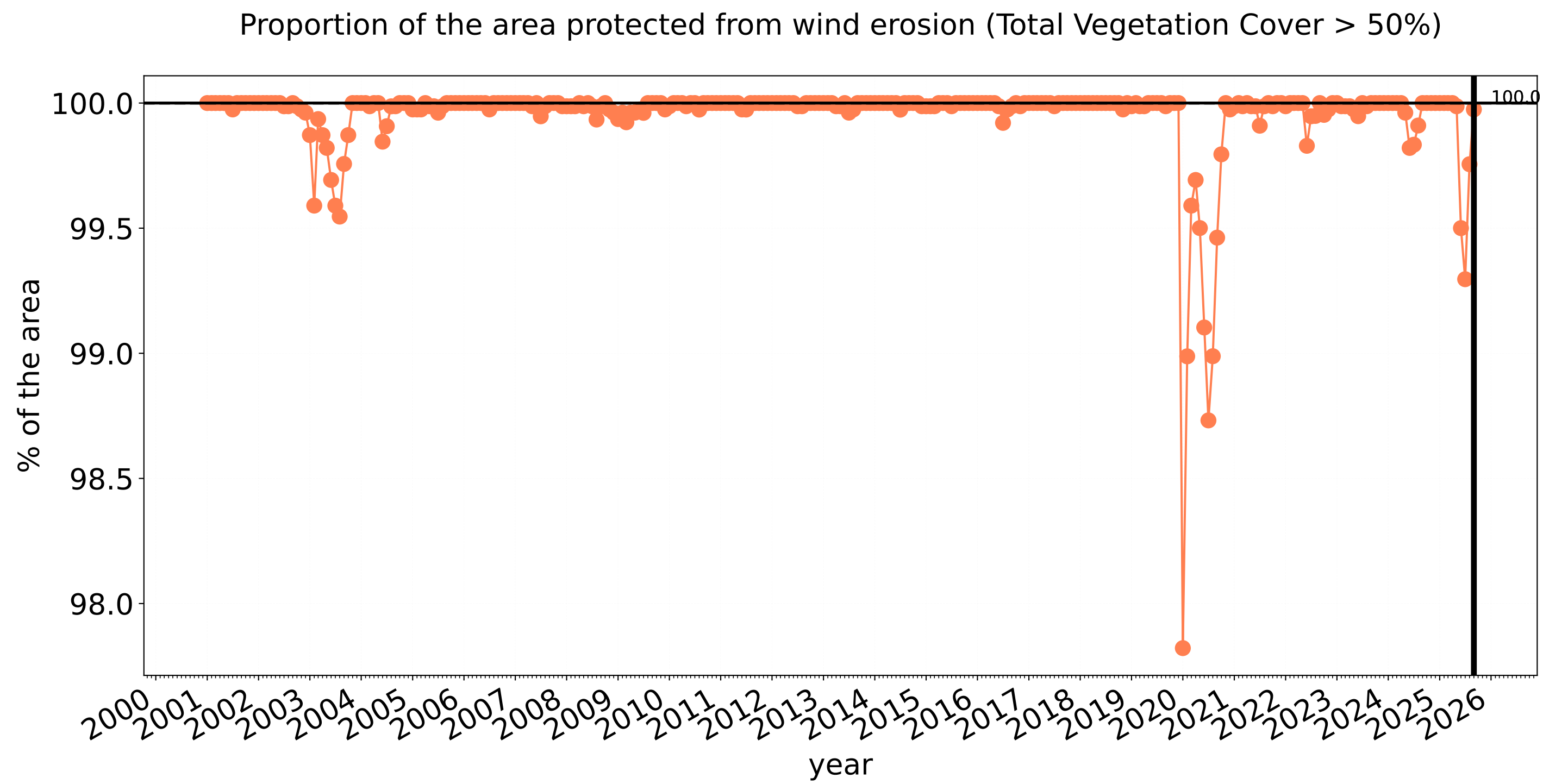


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Conservation and natural environments Forest (non woodland) timeseries

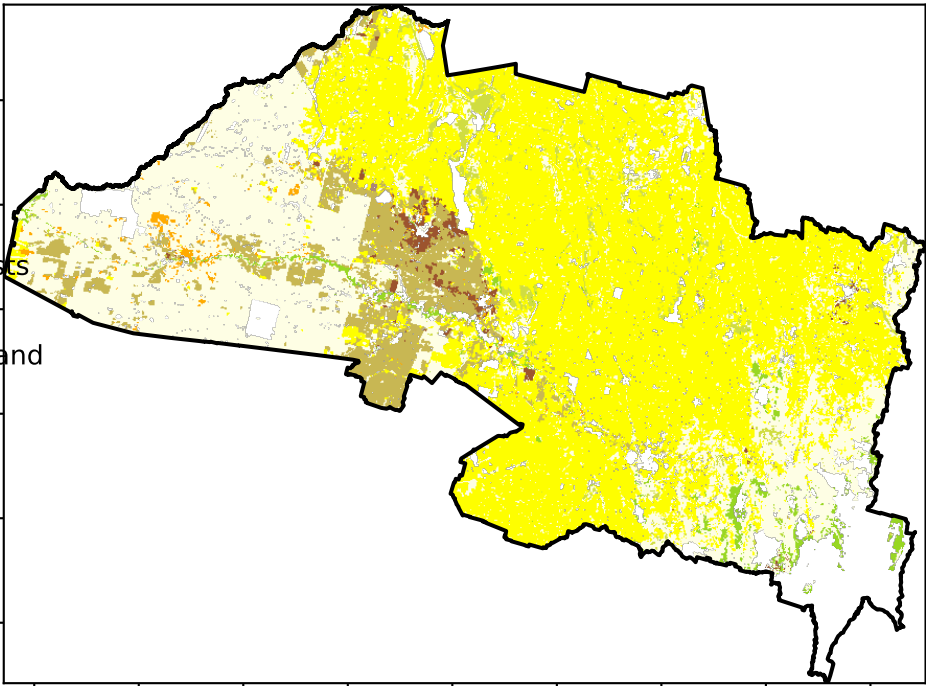




Agriculture

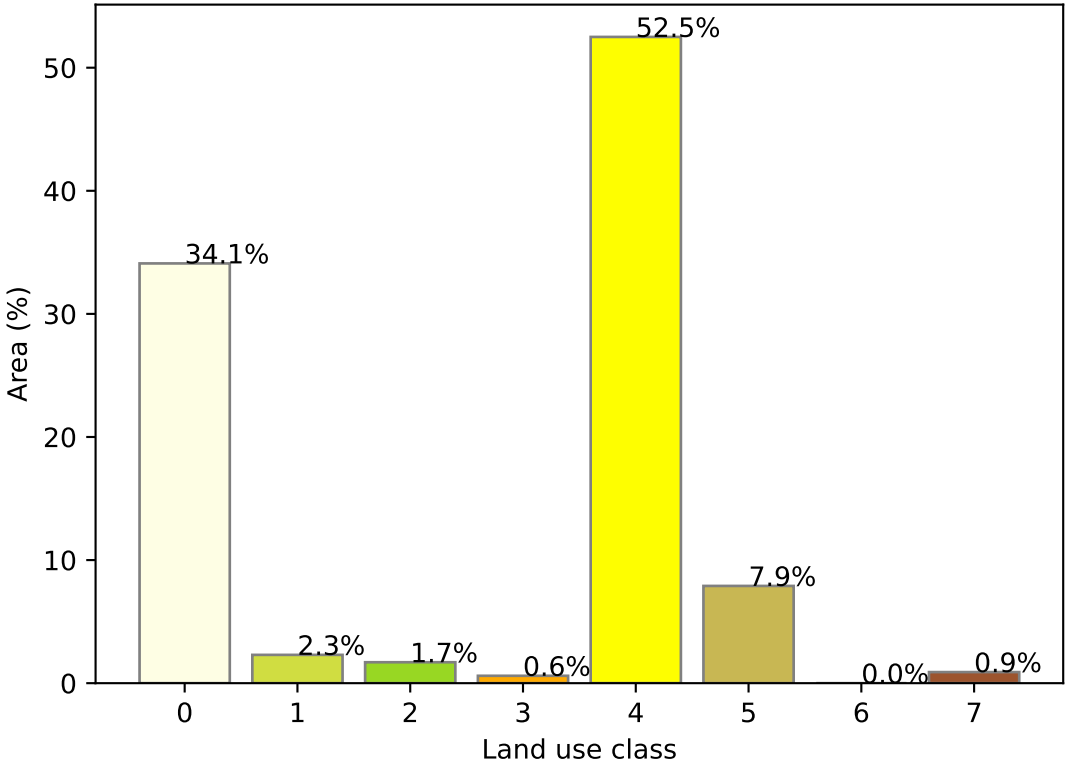
Land use and forest cover

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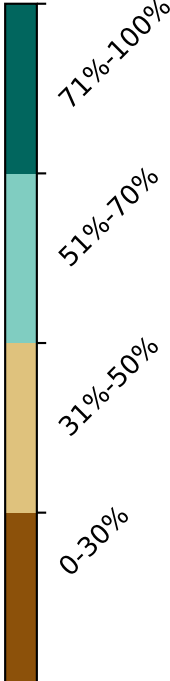
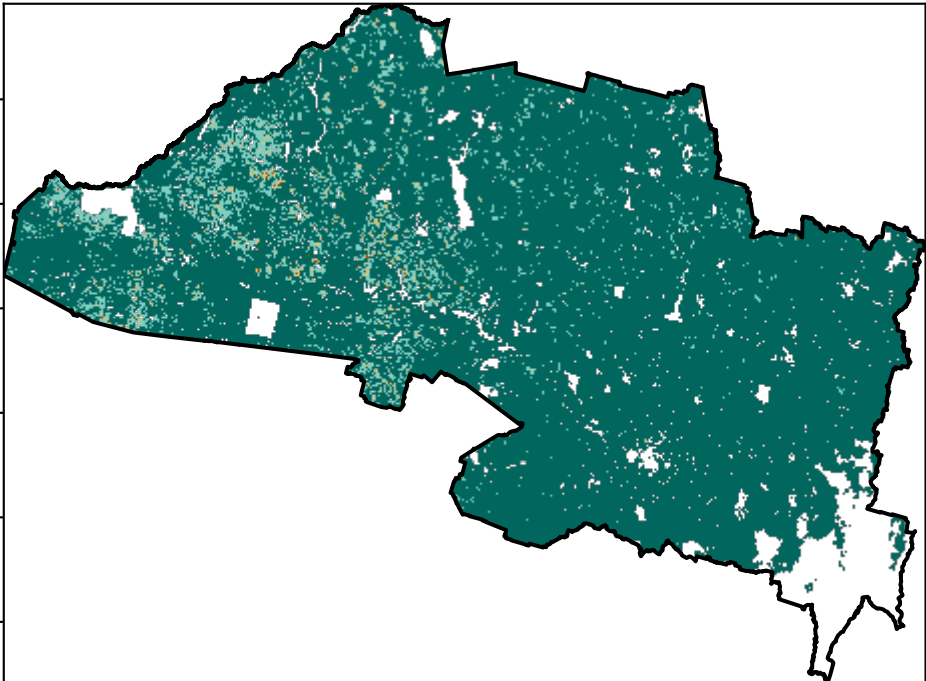


- 1 Agriculture - Grazing - Non forest
- 2 Agriculture - Grazing - Woodland forest
- 3 Agriculture - Grazing - Non-woodland forest
- 4 Agriculture - Grazing - Irrigated
- 5 Agriculture - Cropping - Non-irrigated
- 6 Agriculture - Cropping - Irrigated
- 7 Agriculture - Horticulture - Non-irrigated
- 8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

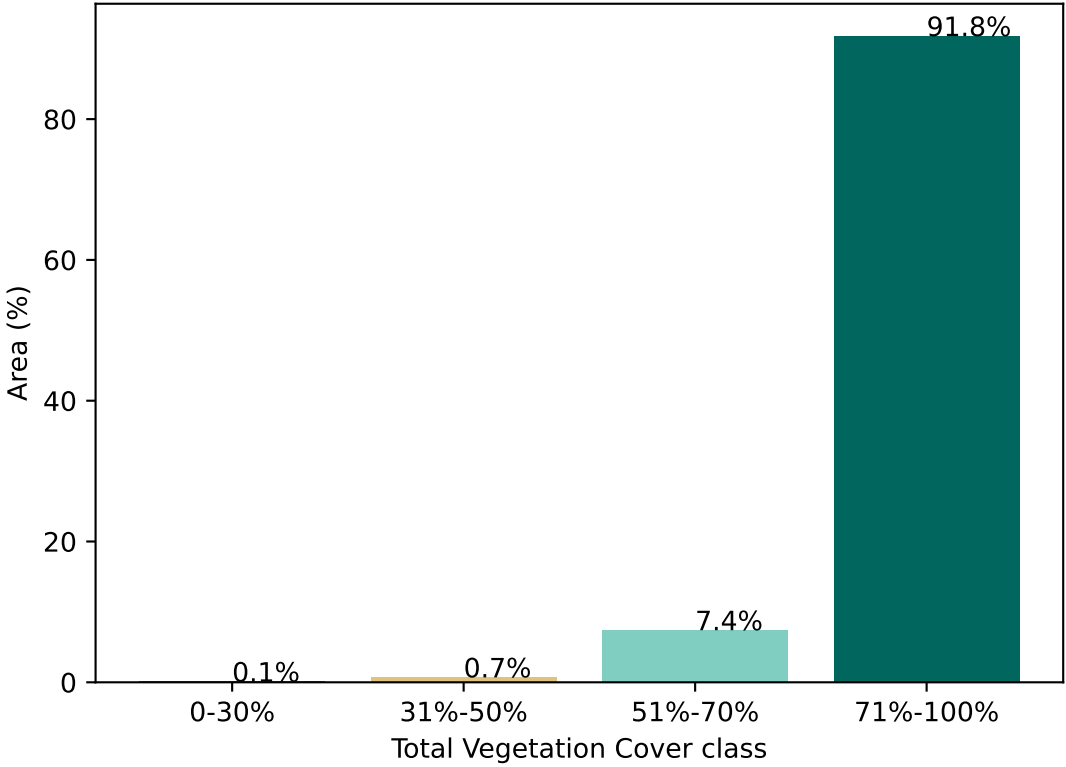
Proportion of each land class in area



Total Vegetation Cover [%]



Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



- Area not protected 8.2% of region (497,584 ha)
- Area protected 91.8% of region (5,570,516 ha)

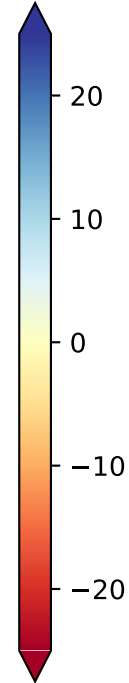
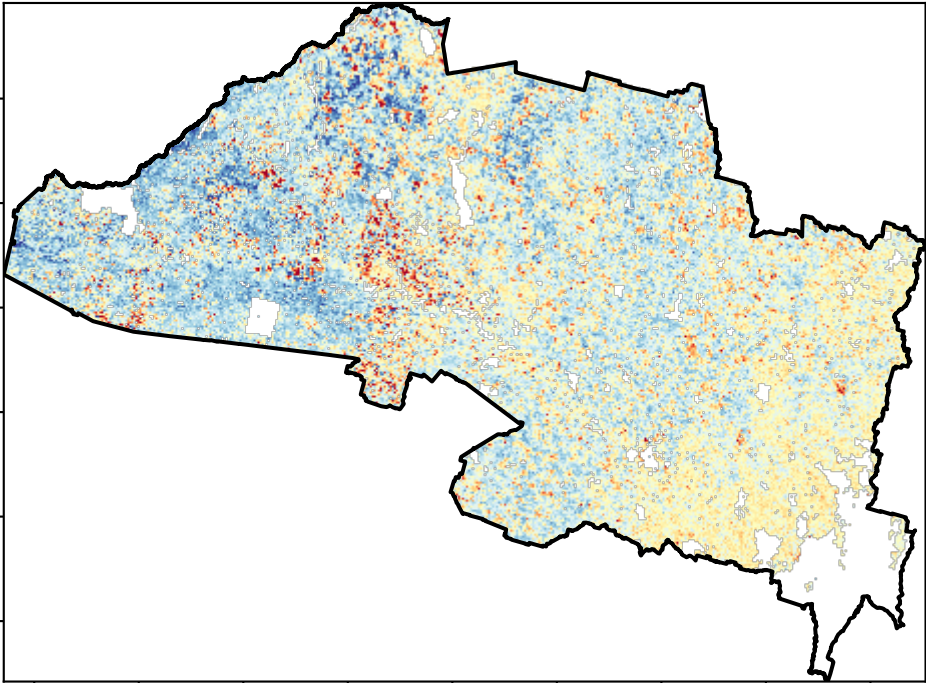
% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



- Area not protected 1.0% of region (60,681 ha)
- Area protected 99.0% of region (6,007,419 ha)

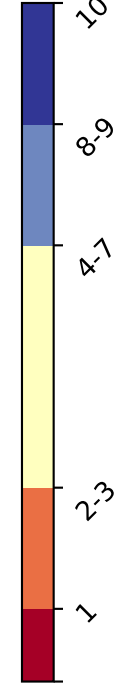
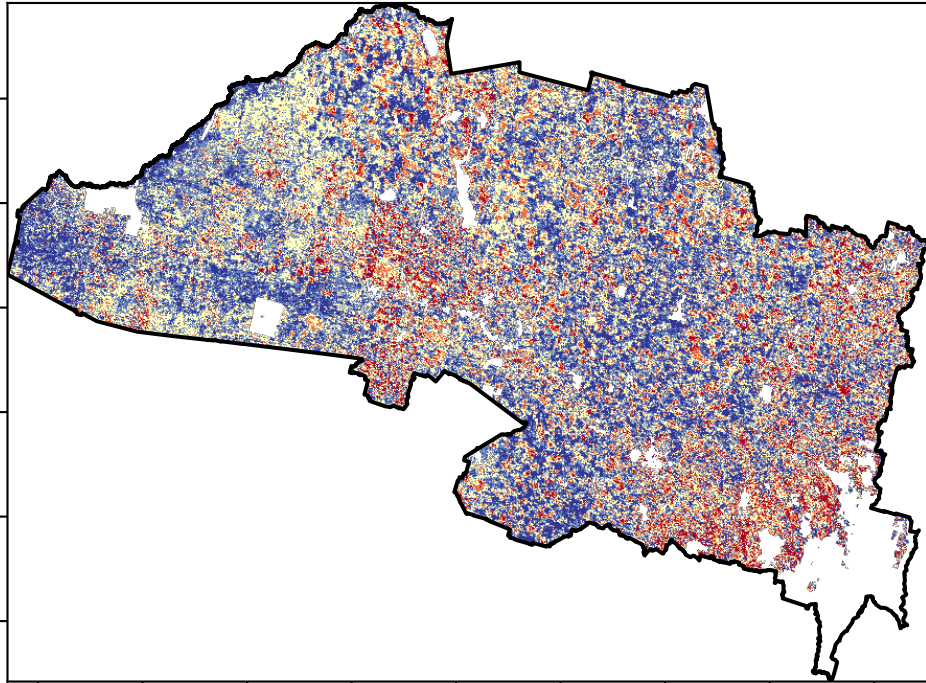
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

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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

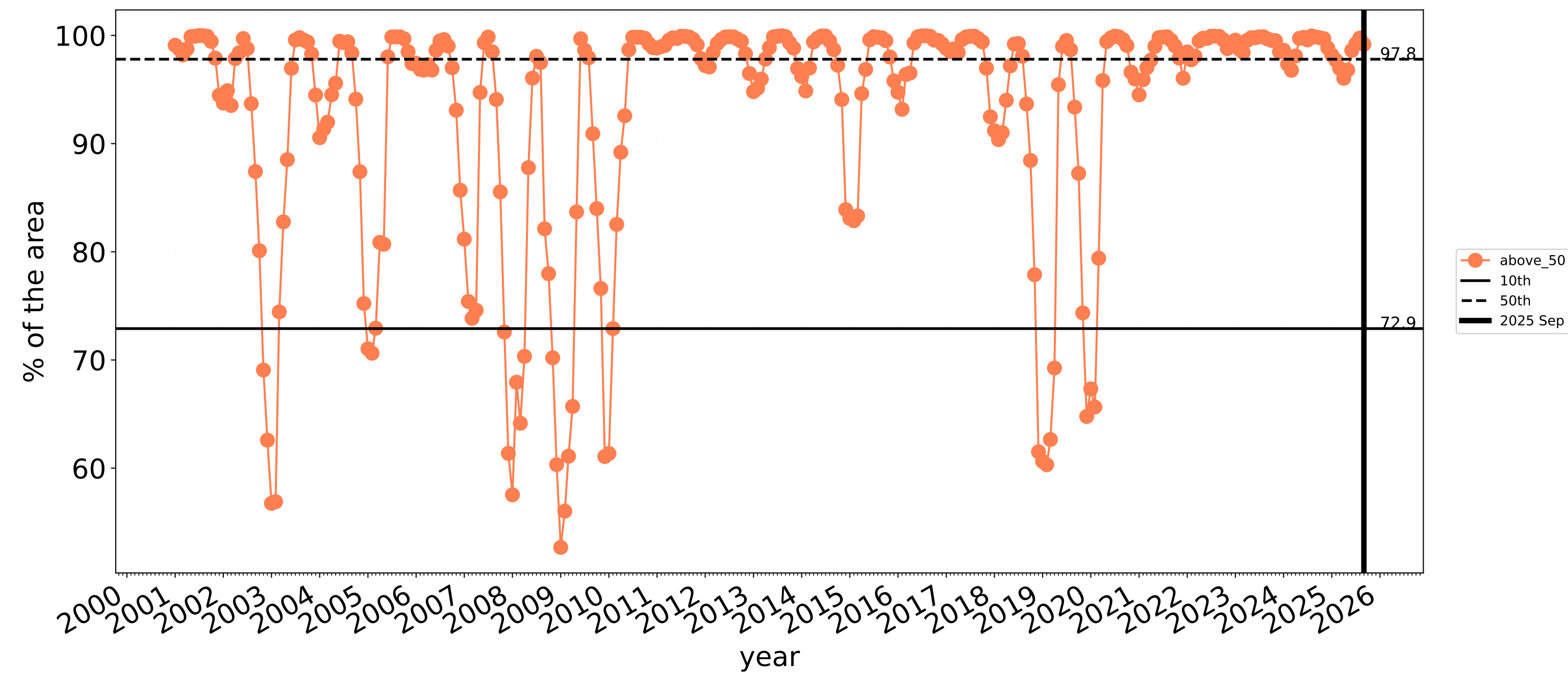
National Landcare Programme



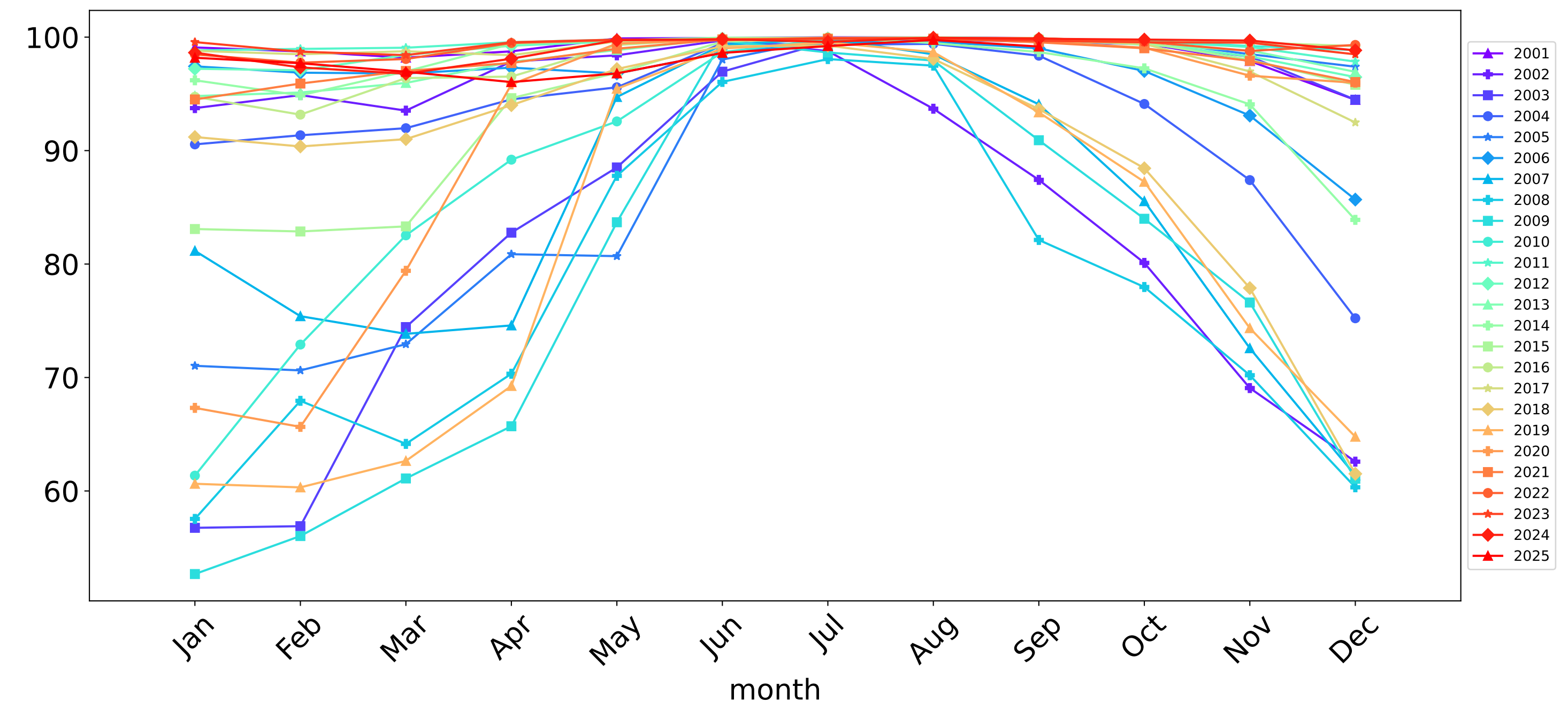


# Agriculture timeseries

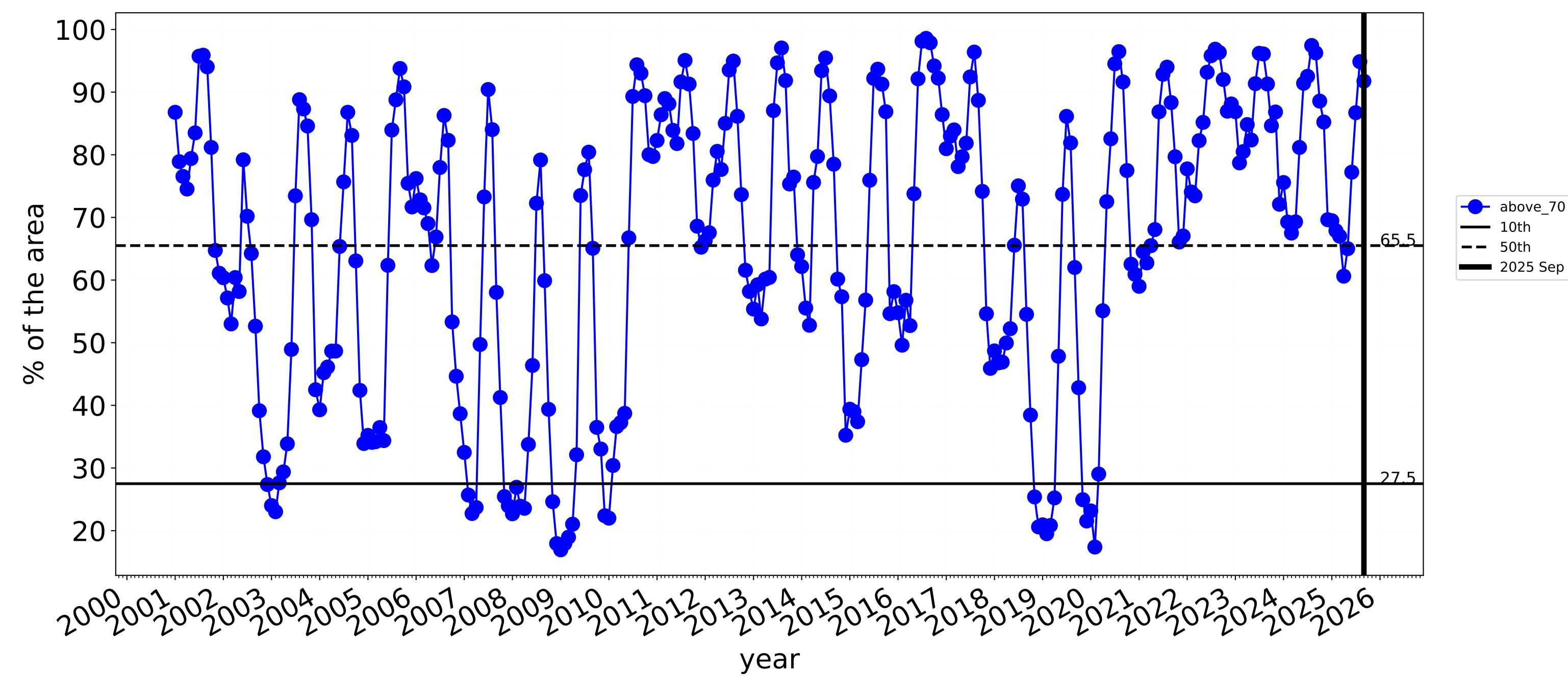
Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)



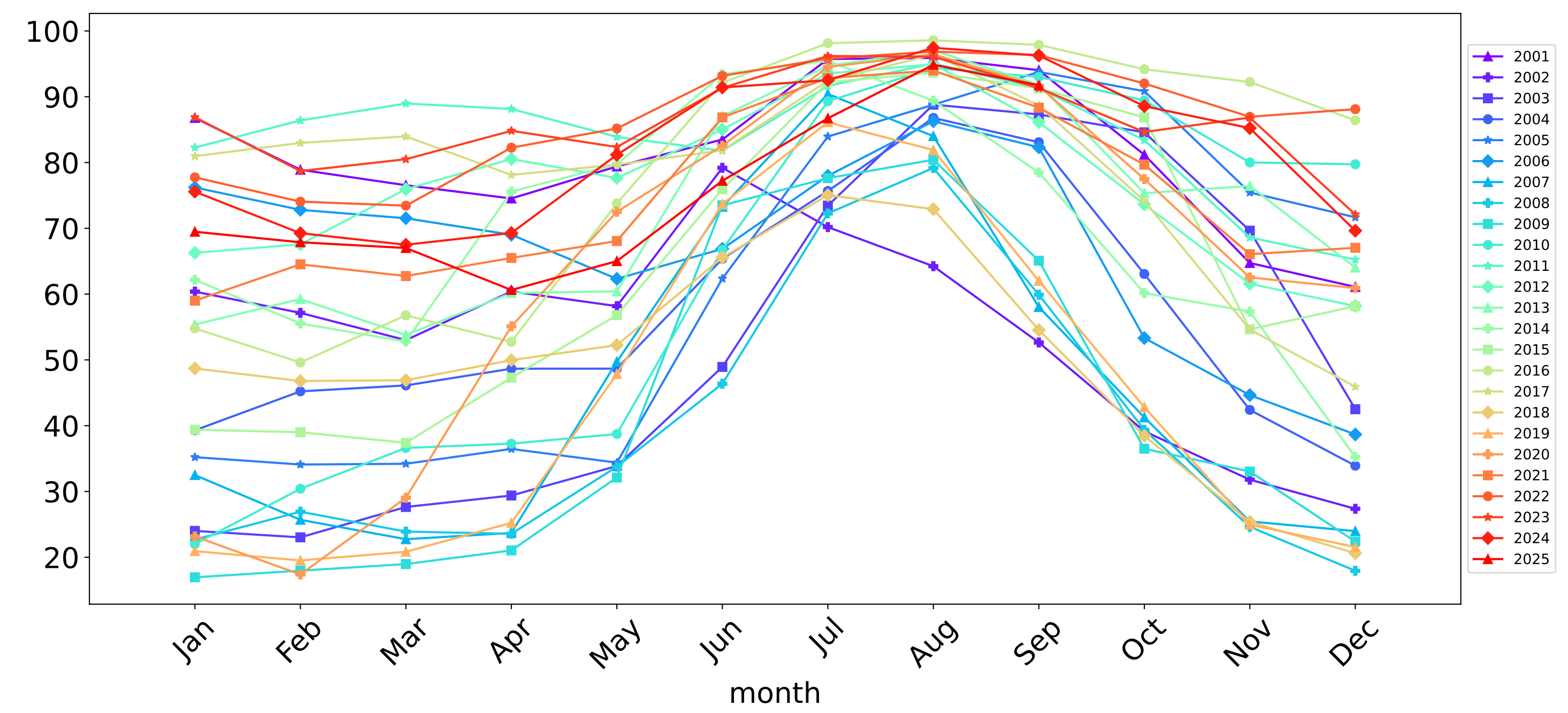
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



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



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

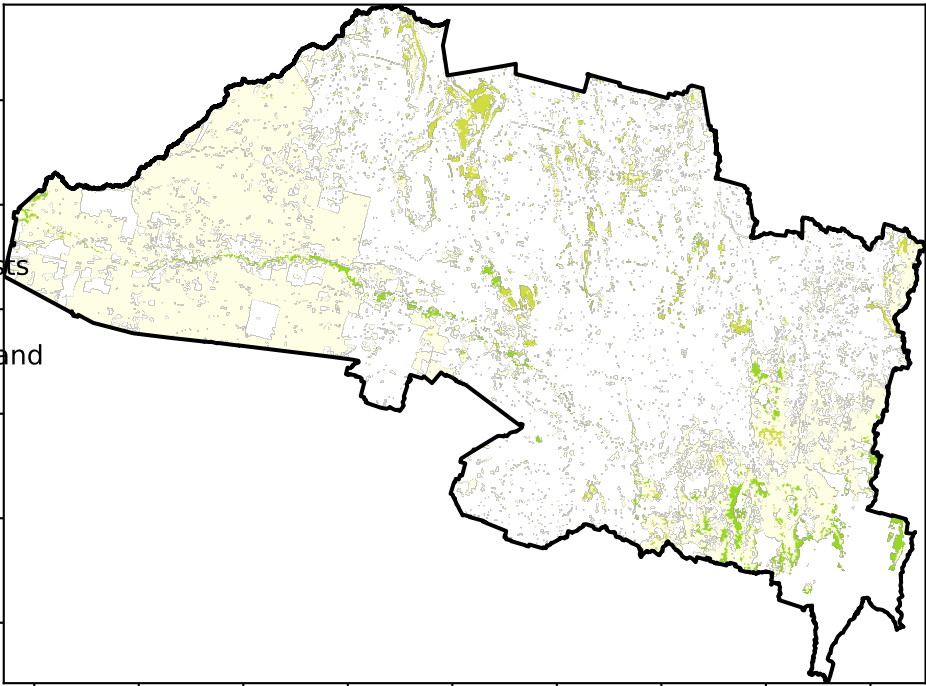




Grazing

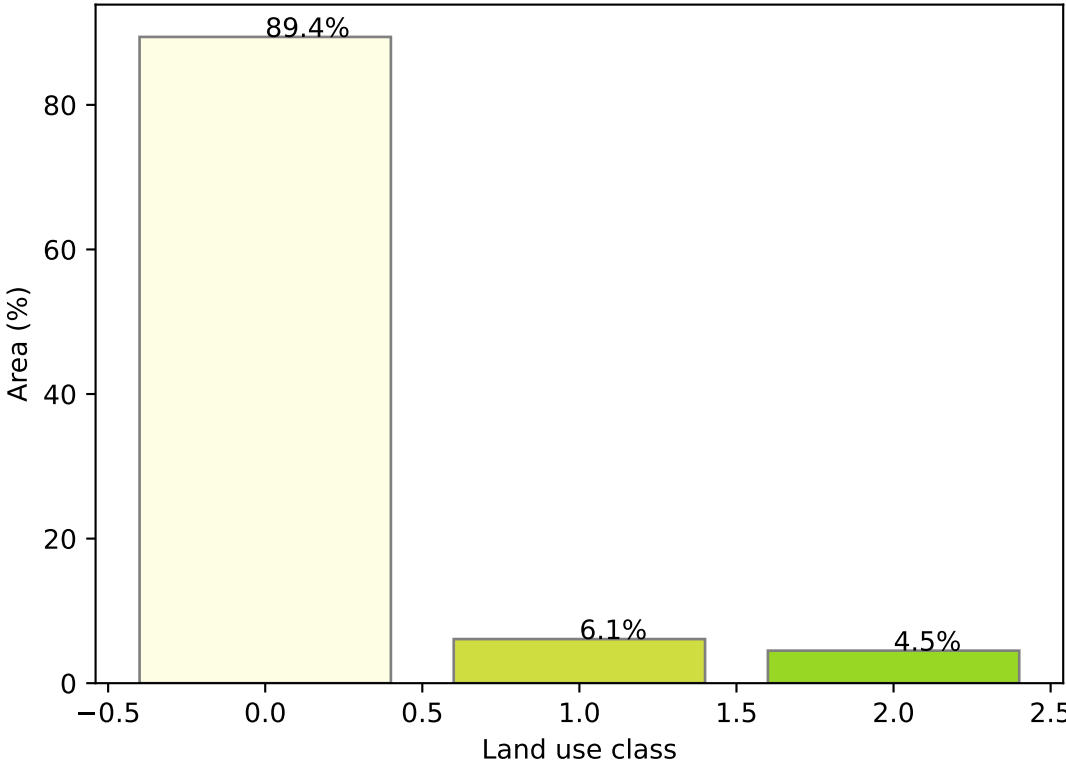
Land use and forest cover

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

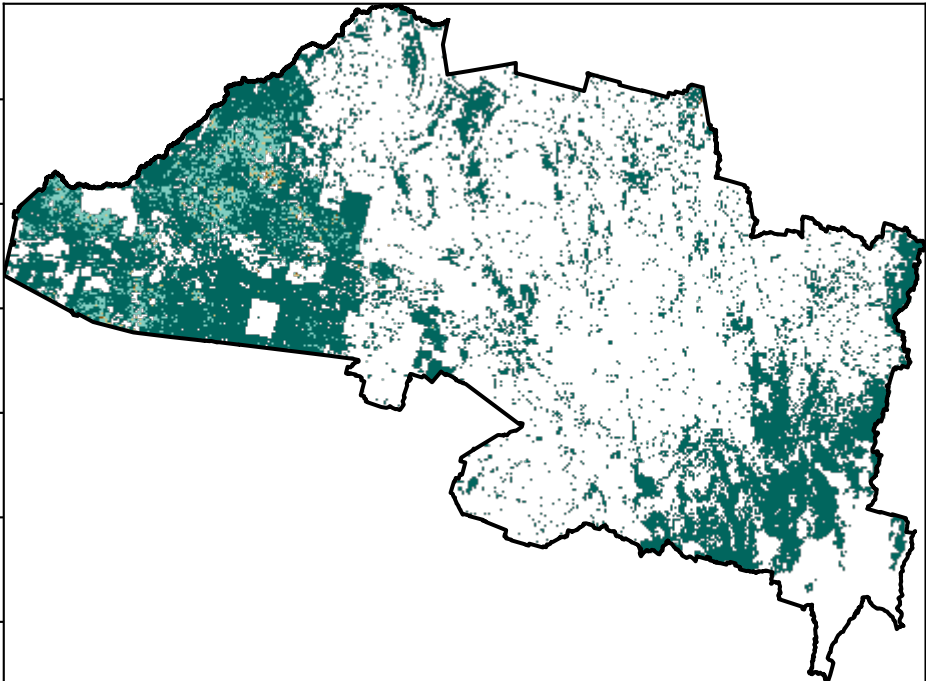


- 1 Agriculture - Grazing - Non forest
- 2 Agriculture - Grazing - Woodland forest
- 3 Agriculture - Grazing - Non-woodland forest

Proportion of each land class in area

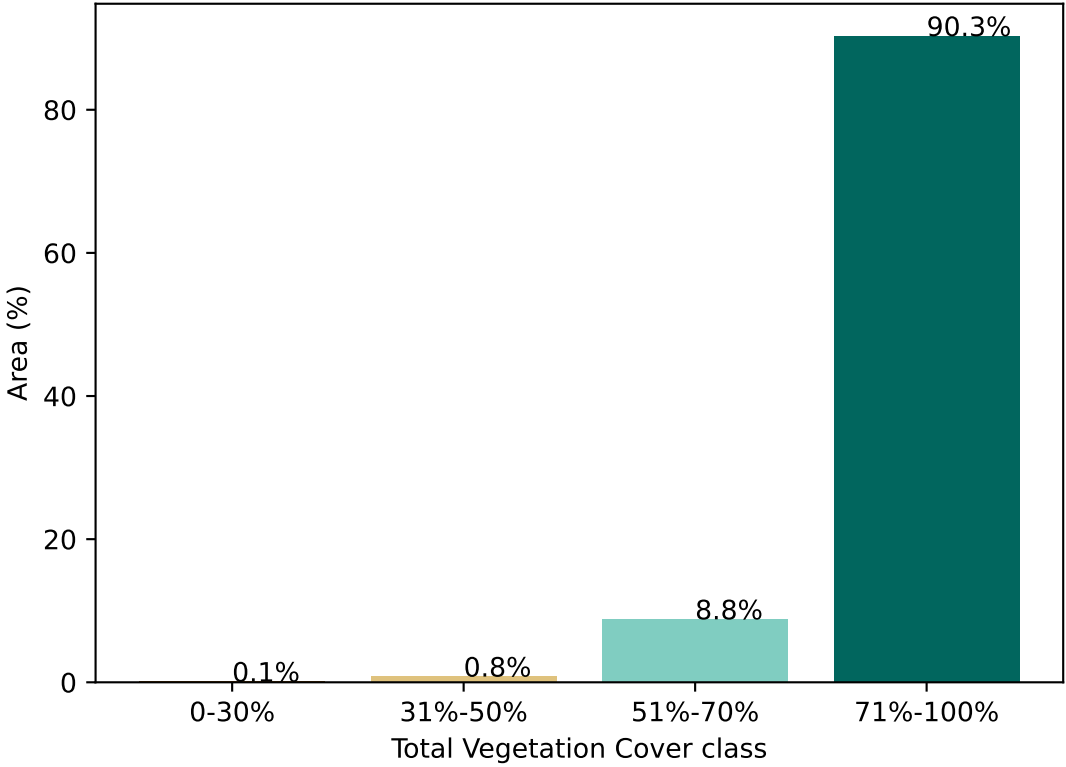


Total Vegetation Cover [%]

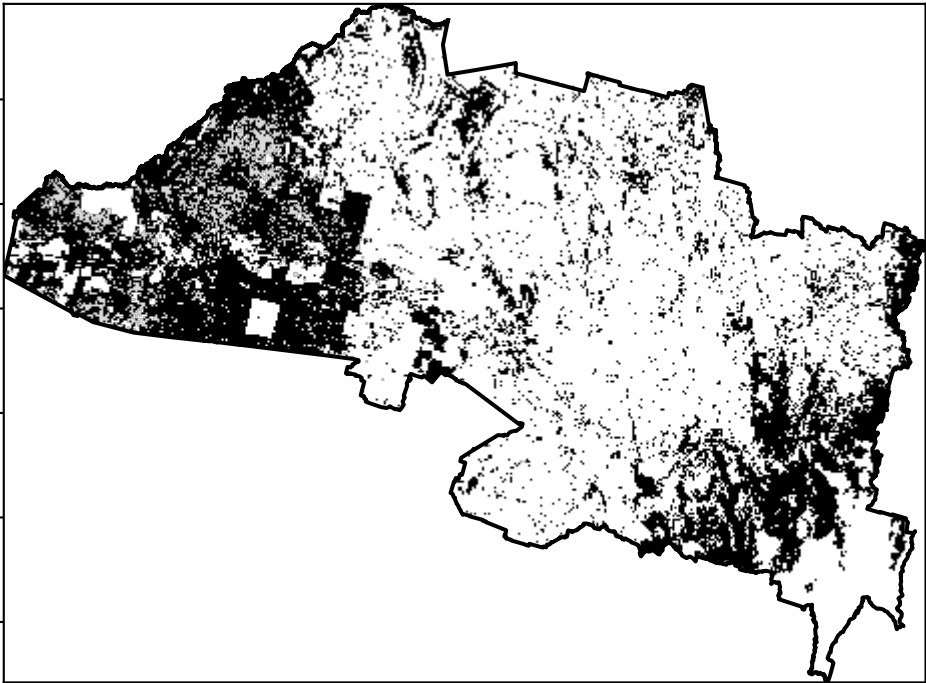


- 71%-100%
- 51%-70%
- 31%-50%
- 0-30%

Proportion of vegetation cover class in area

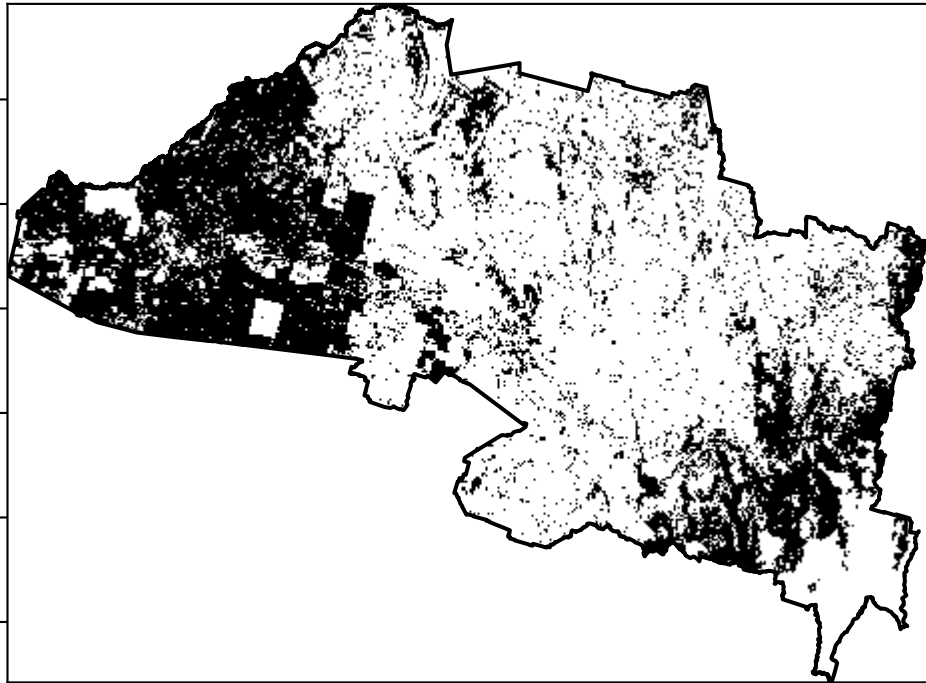


% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



- Area not protected  
9.7% of region  
(224,245 ha)
- Area protected  
90.3% of region  
(2,087,555 ha)

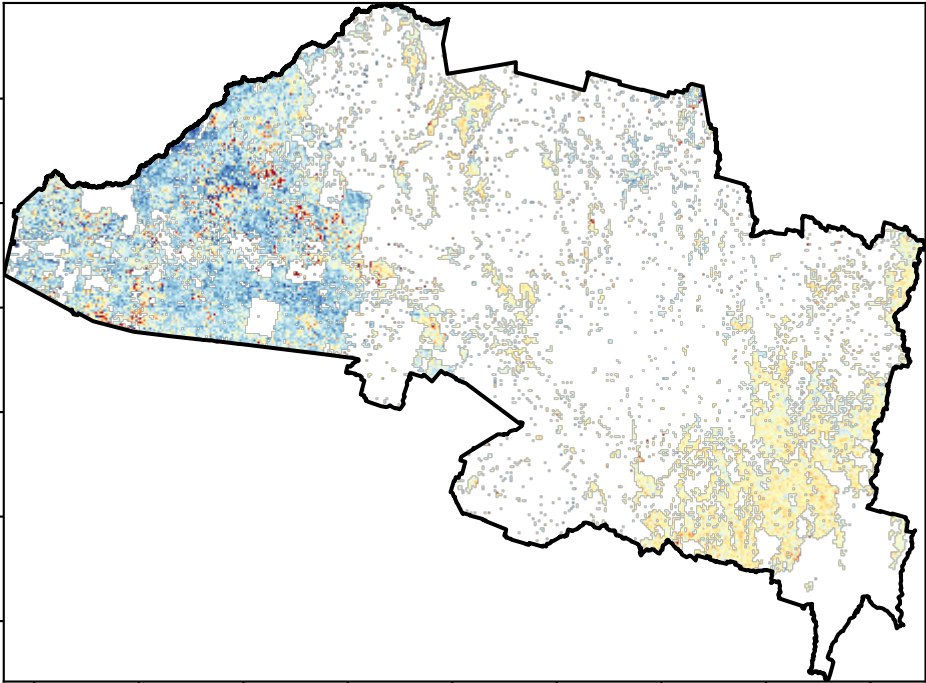
% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



- Area not protected  
1.0% of region  
(23,118 ha)
- Area protected  
99.0% of region  
(2,288,682 ha)

Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

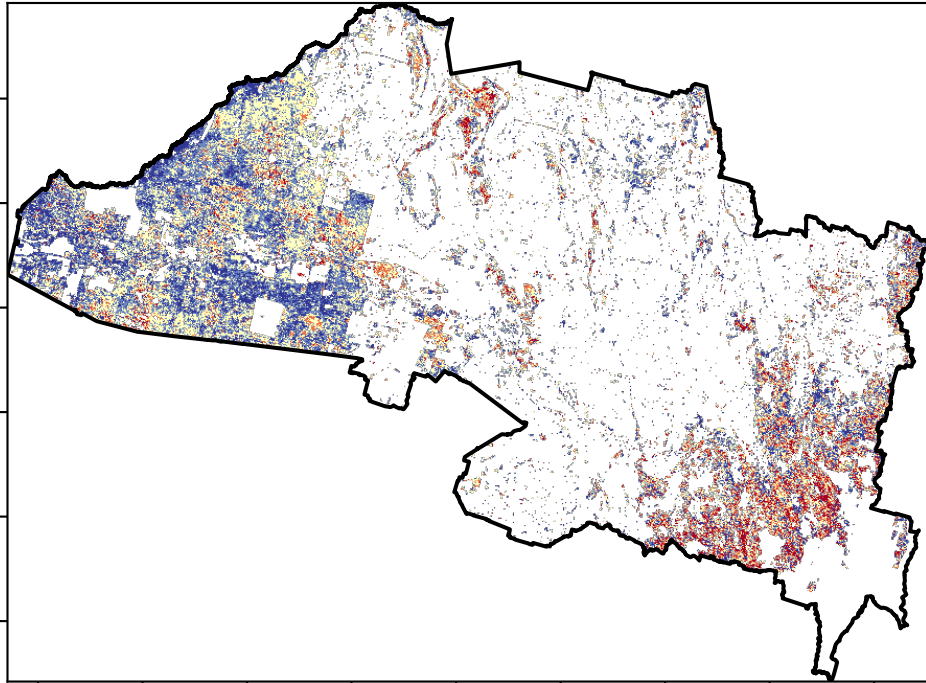
Anomaly show how many percentage points each pixel is from the mean. That is, red pixels are about 20% lower than the mean of that pixel. The mean is only for the month of the map using baseline from 2001 to 2019.



- 20
- 10
- 0
- 10
- 20

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

Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]



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



Ecosystem Research Infrastructure

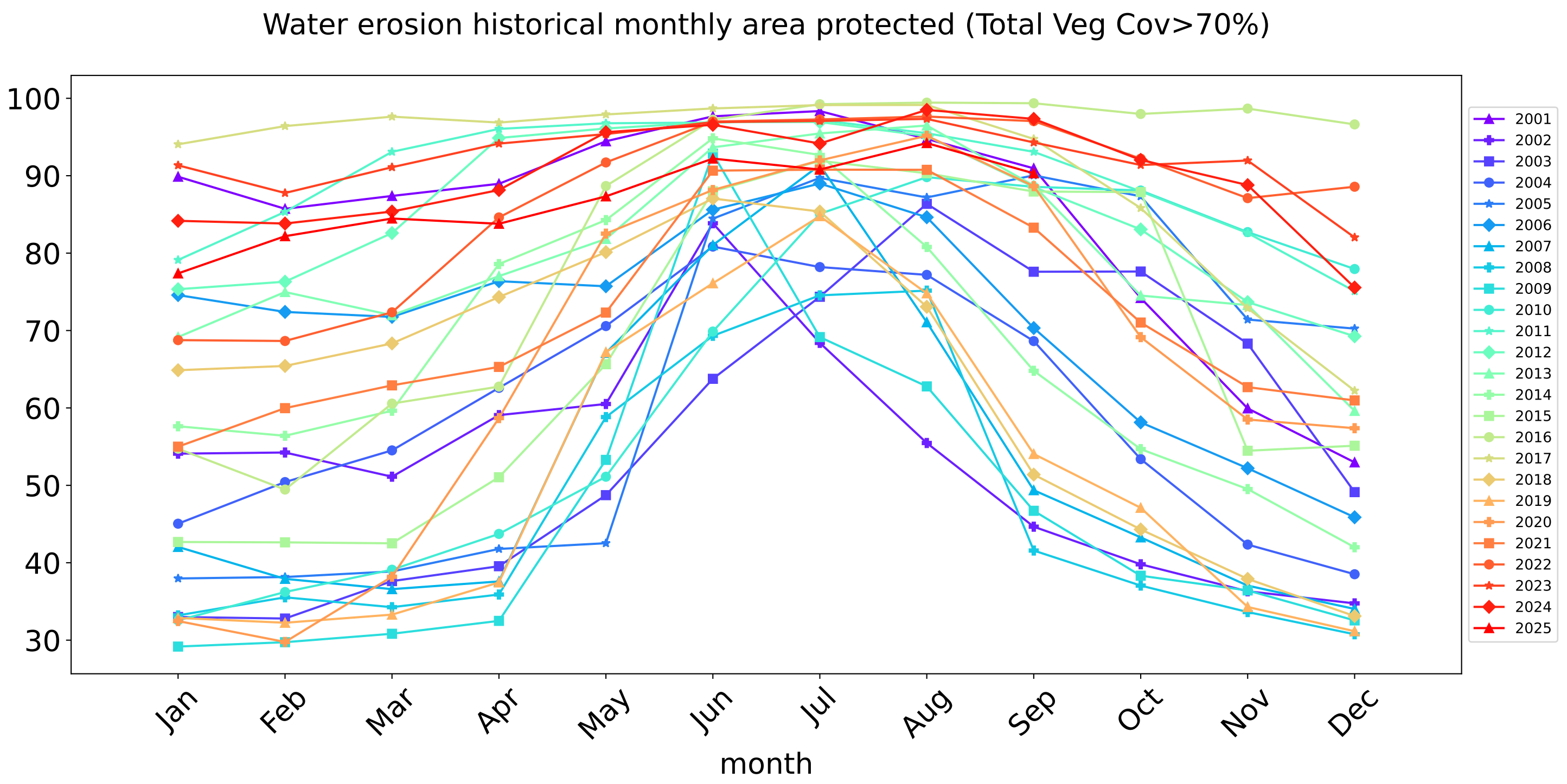
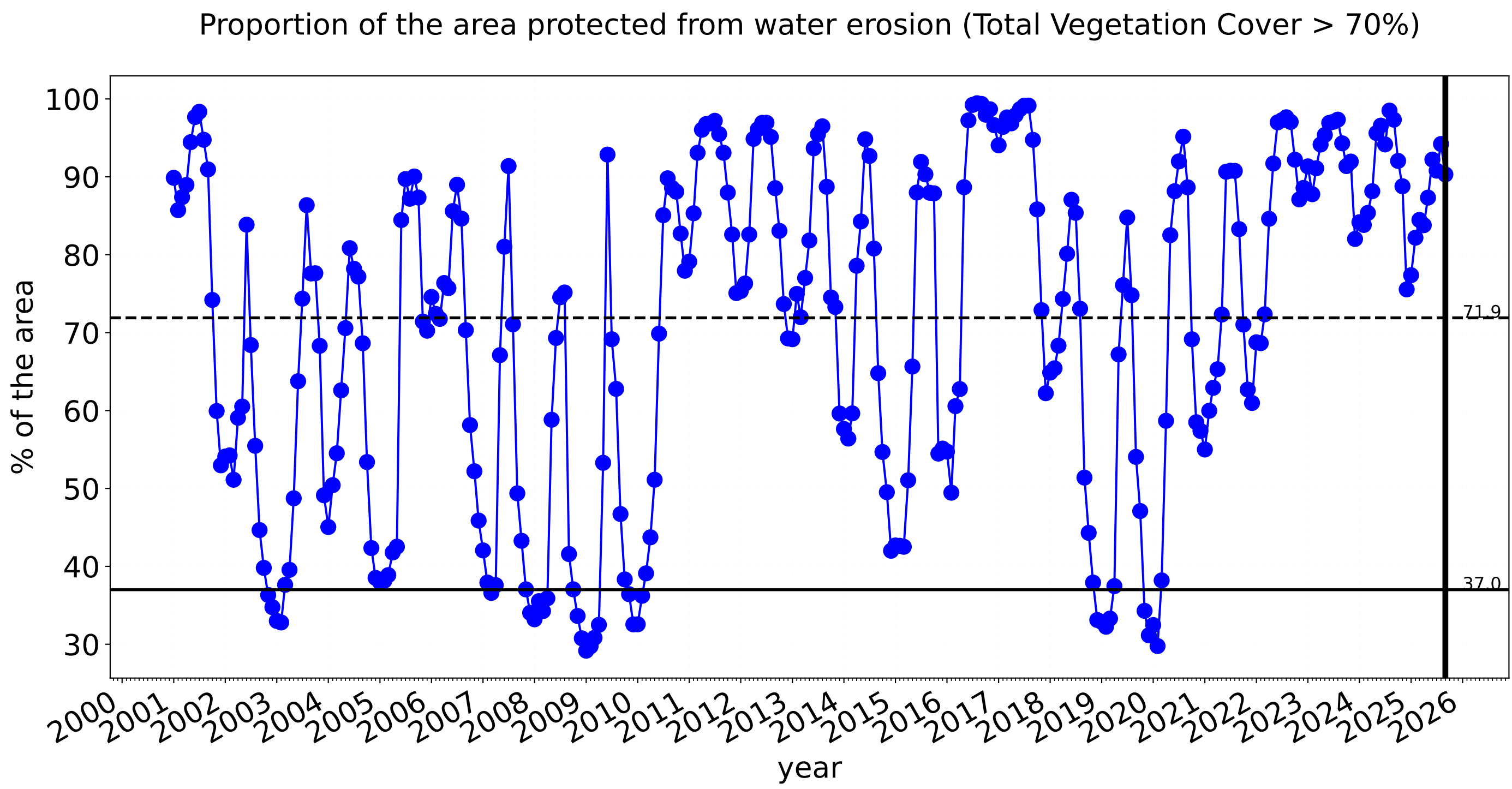
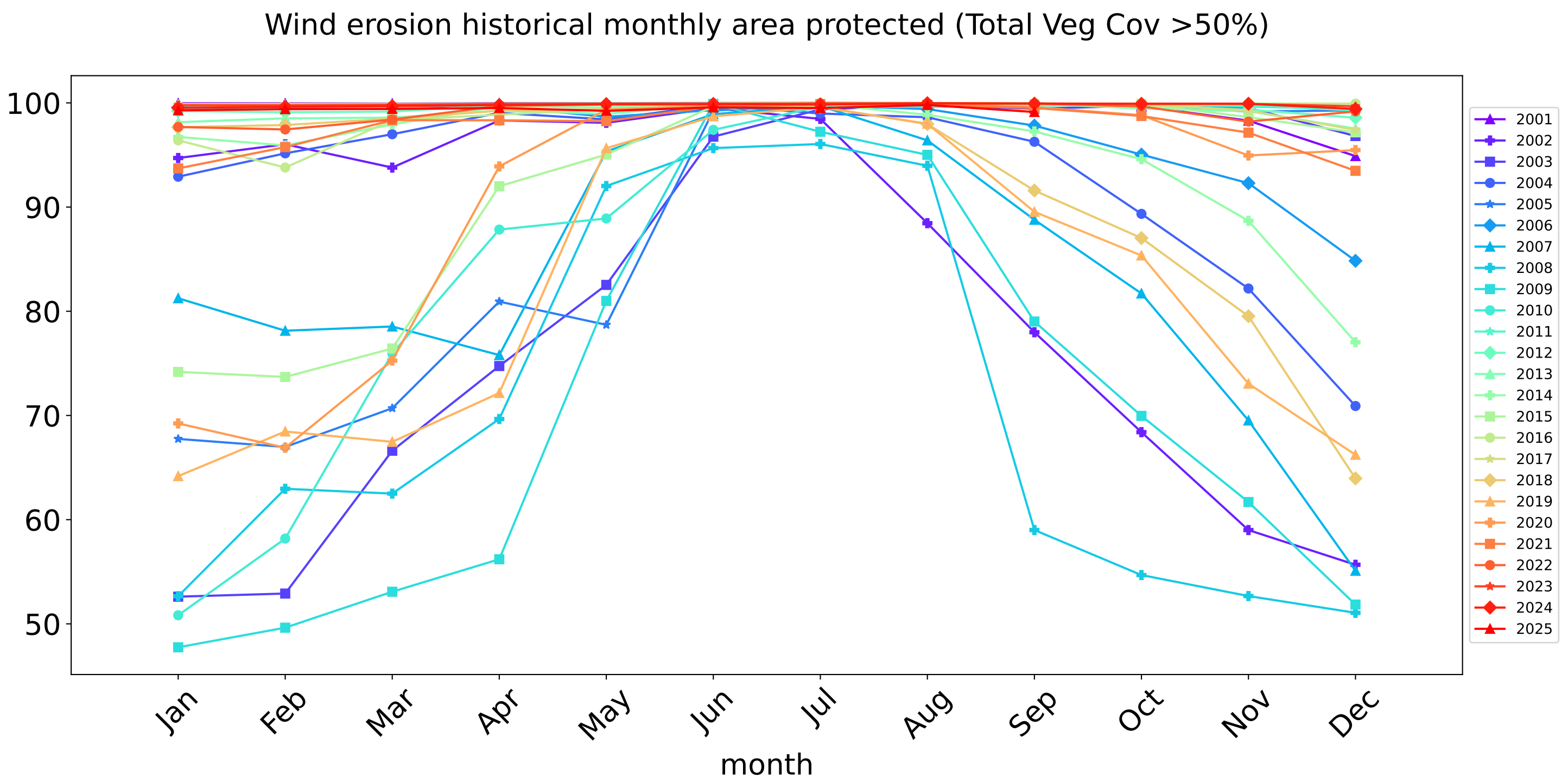
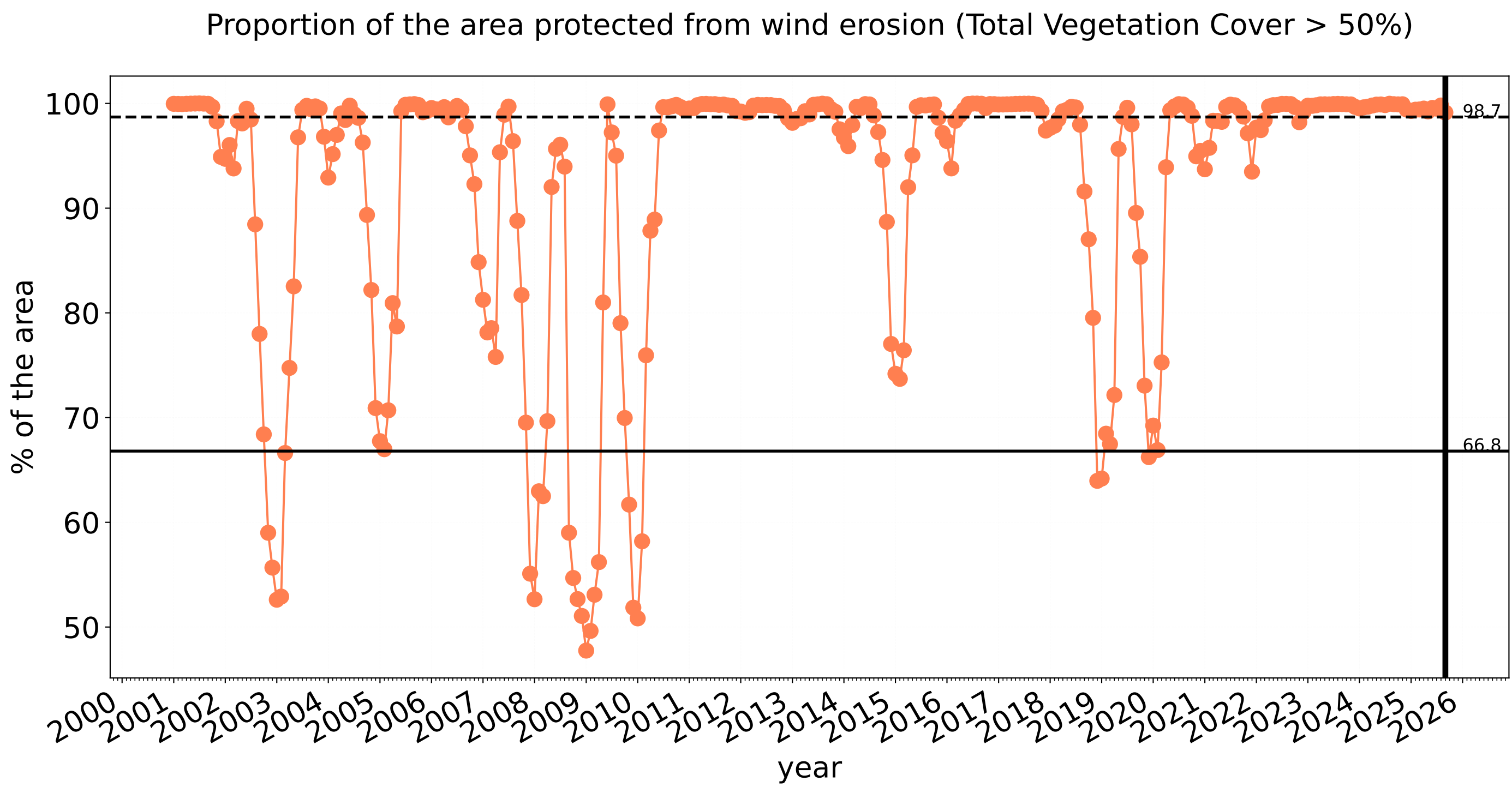


National Landcare Programme





Grazing timeseries

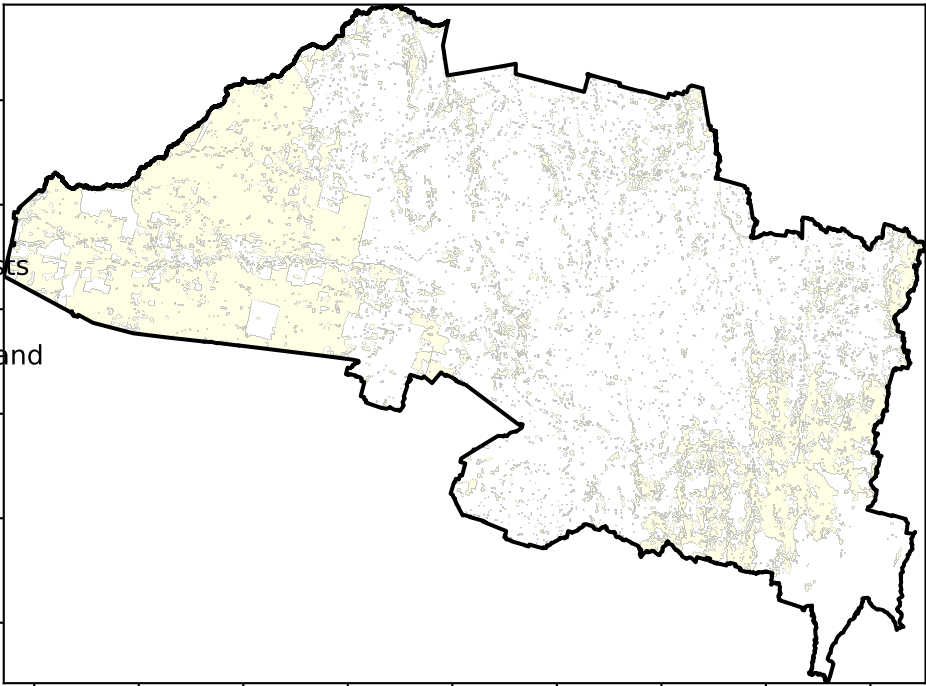




Grazing non forest

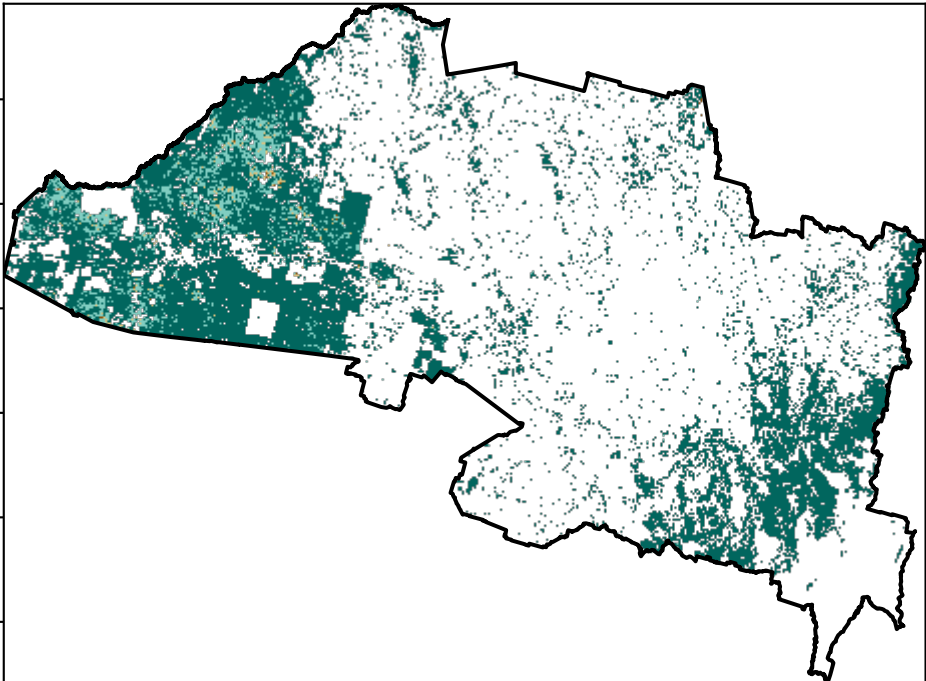
Land use and forest cover

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

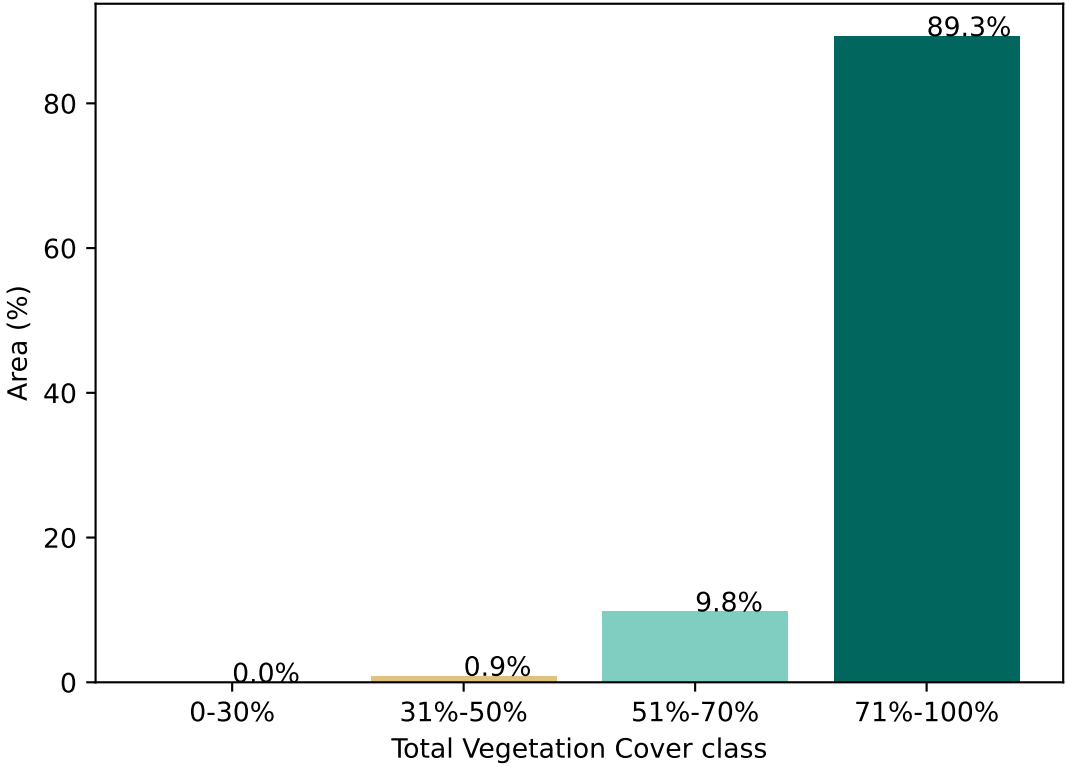


1 Agriculture - Grazing - Non forest

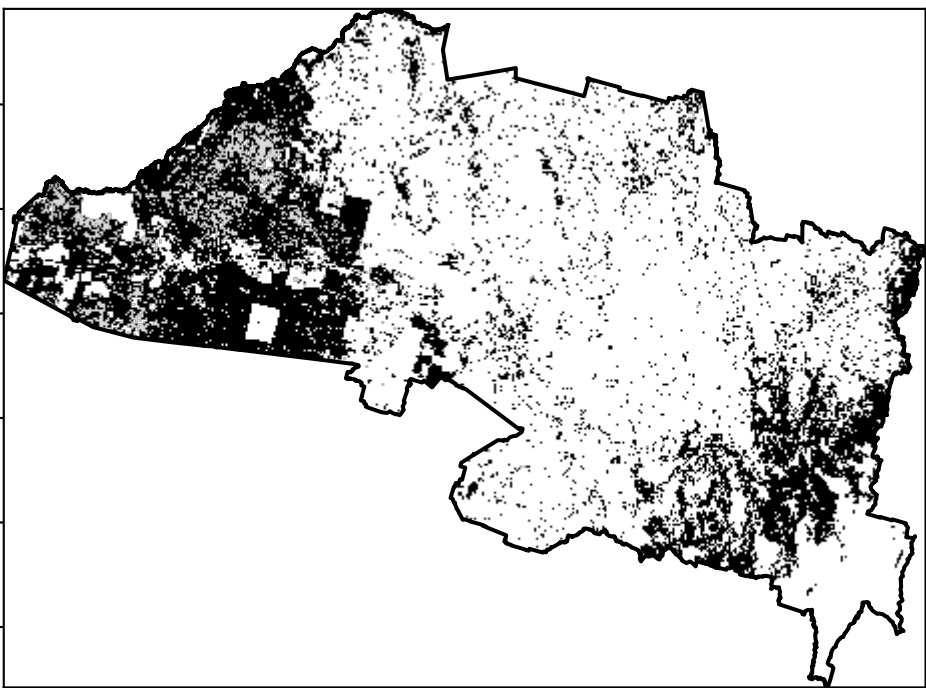
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



Proportion of vegetation cover class in area

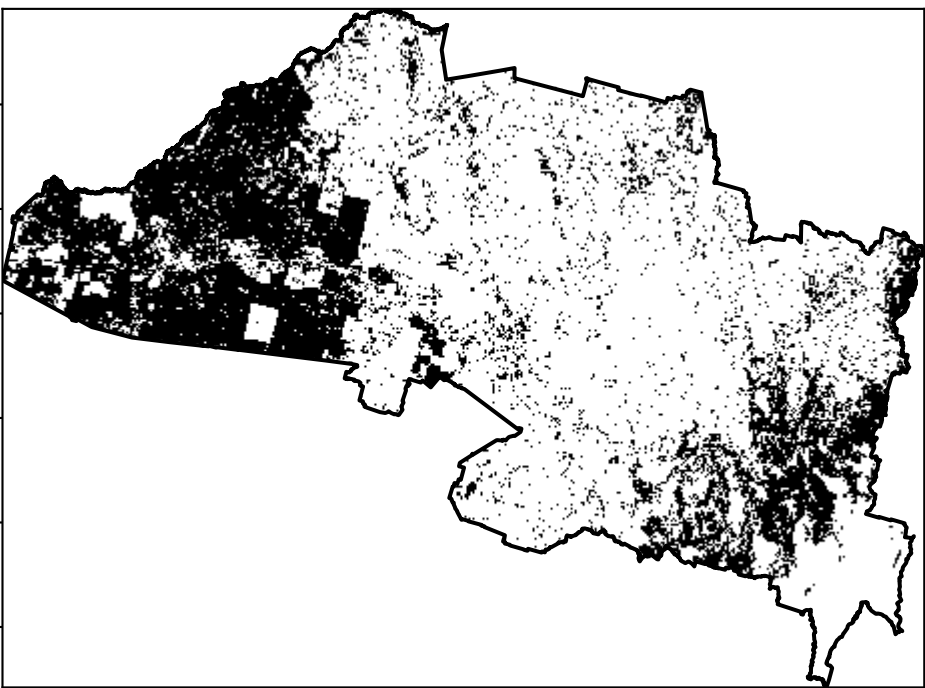


% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



Area not protected  
10.7% of region  
(221,148 ha)  
Area protected  
89.3% of region  
(1,845,652 ha)

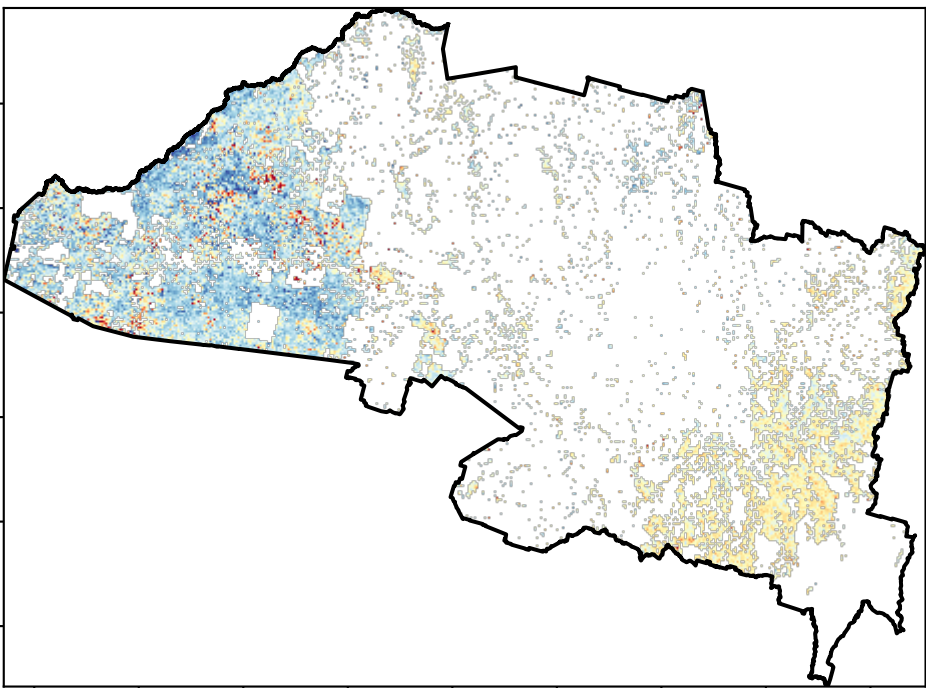
% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



Area not protected  
1.0% of region  
(20,668 ha)  
Area protected  
99.0% of region  
(2,046,132 ha)

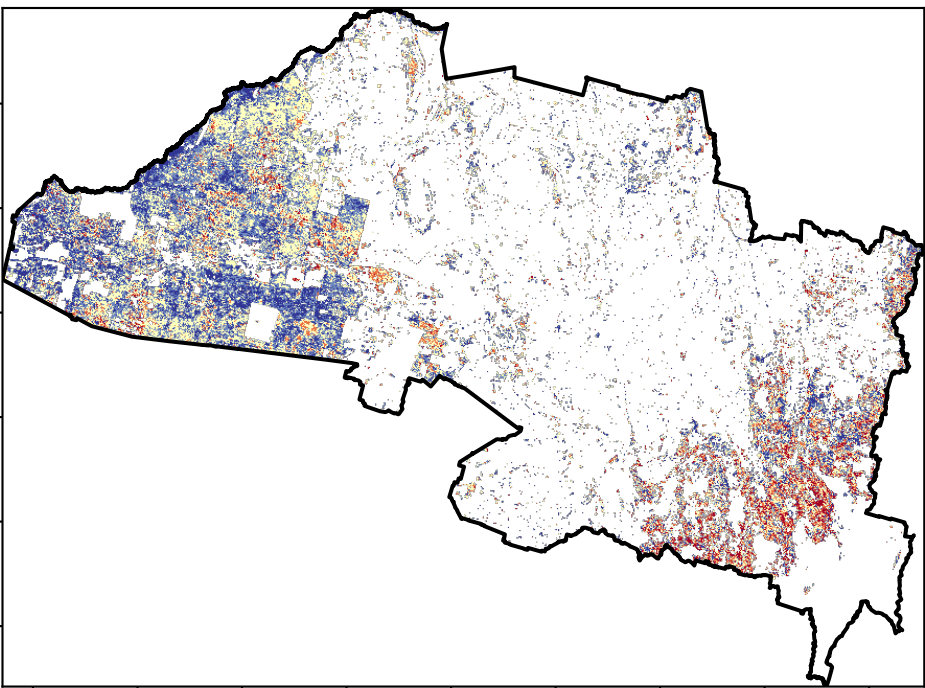
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

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



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

Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]



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Ecosystem Research Infrastructure



Australian Government

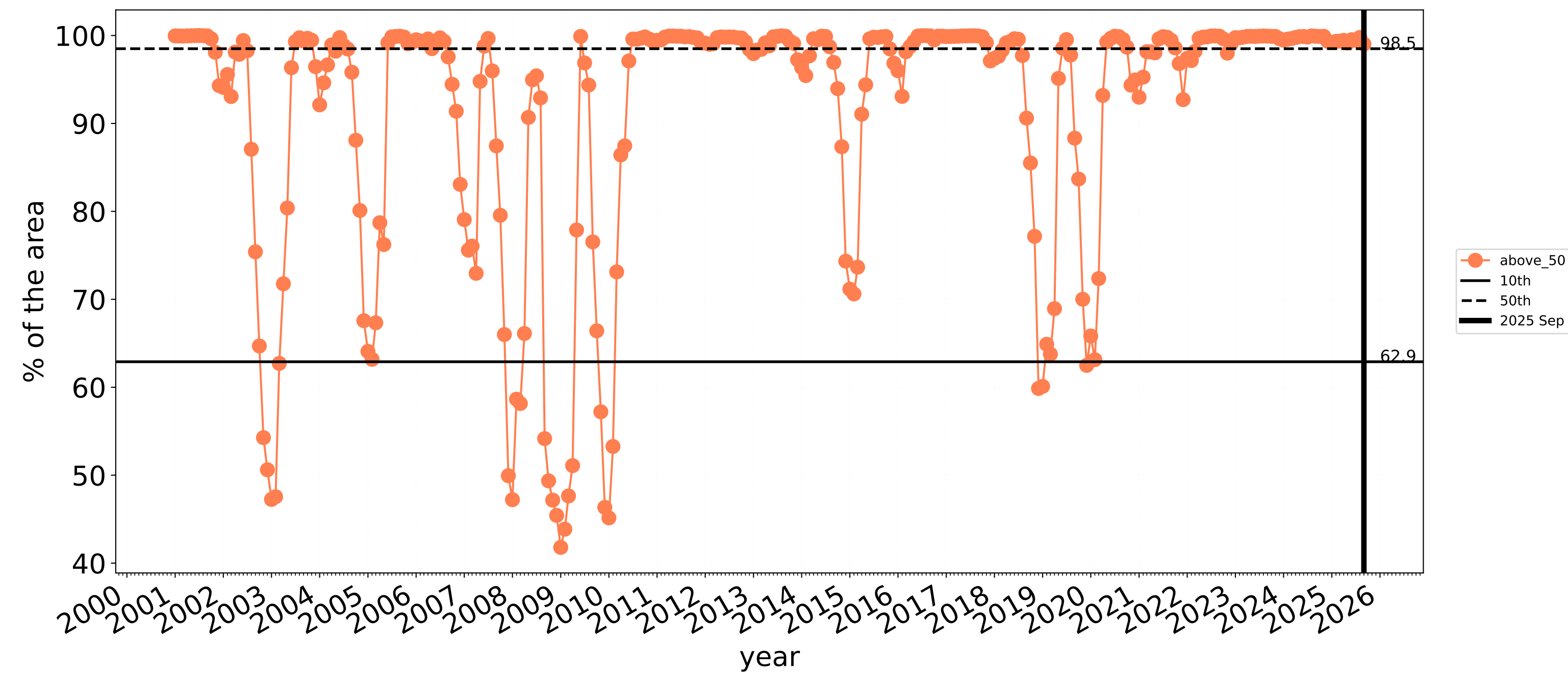
National Landcare Programme



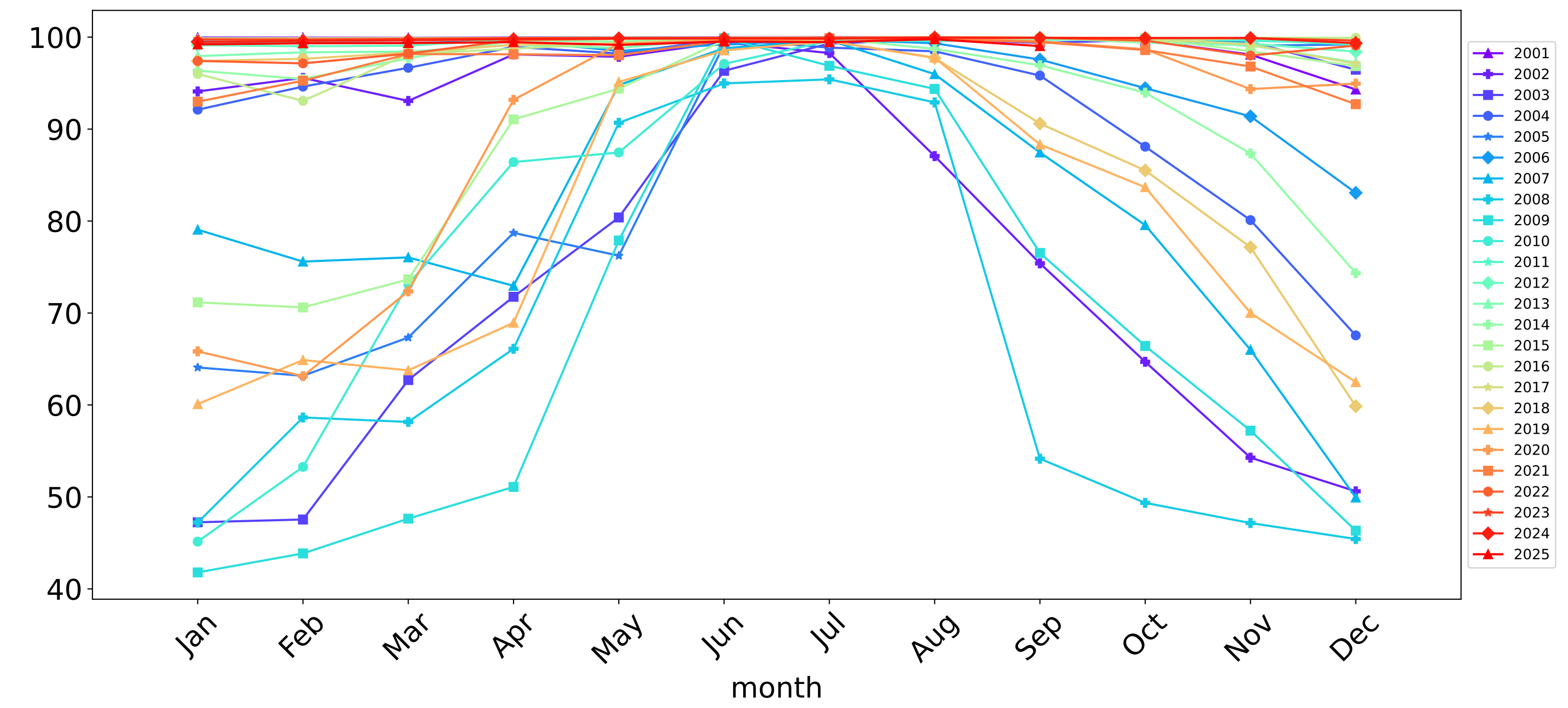


## Grazing non forest timeseries

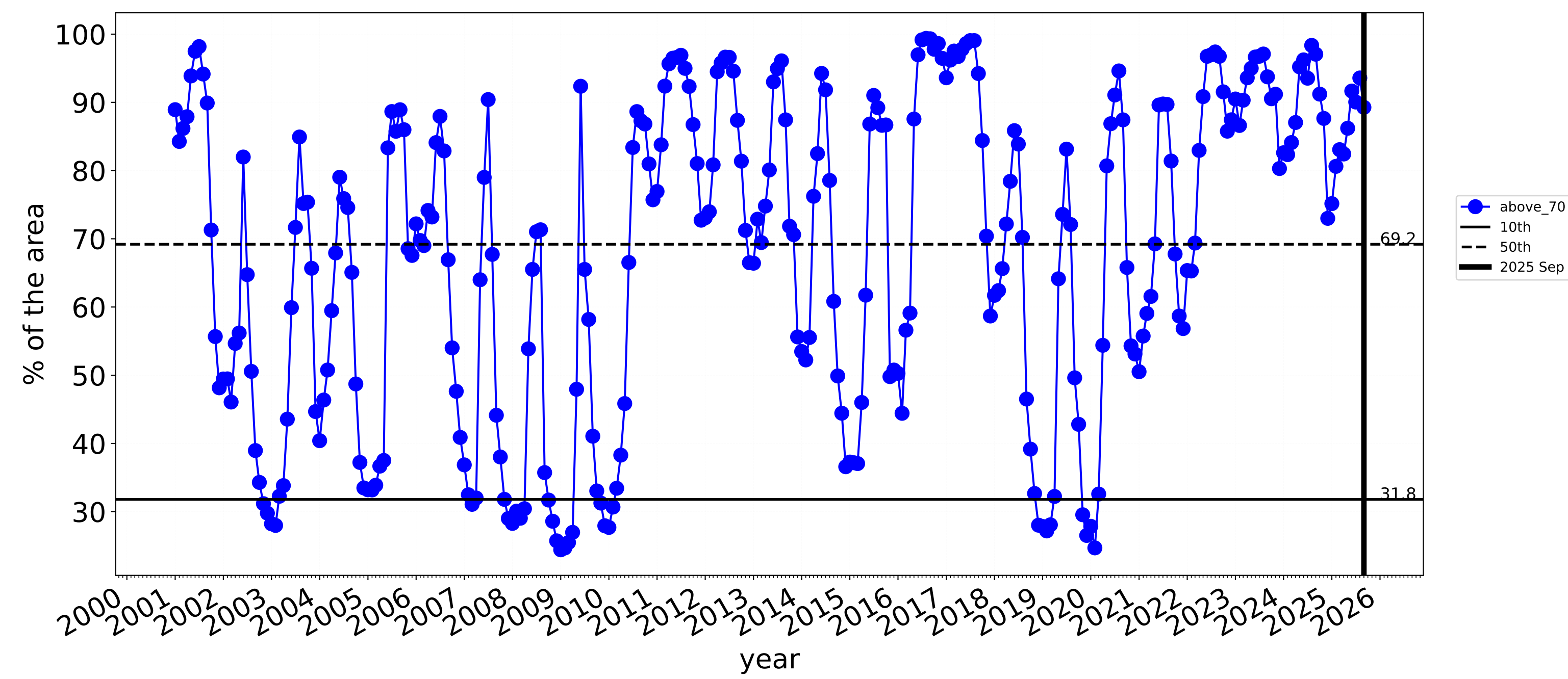
Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)



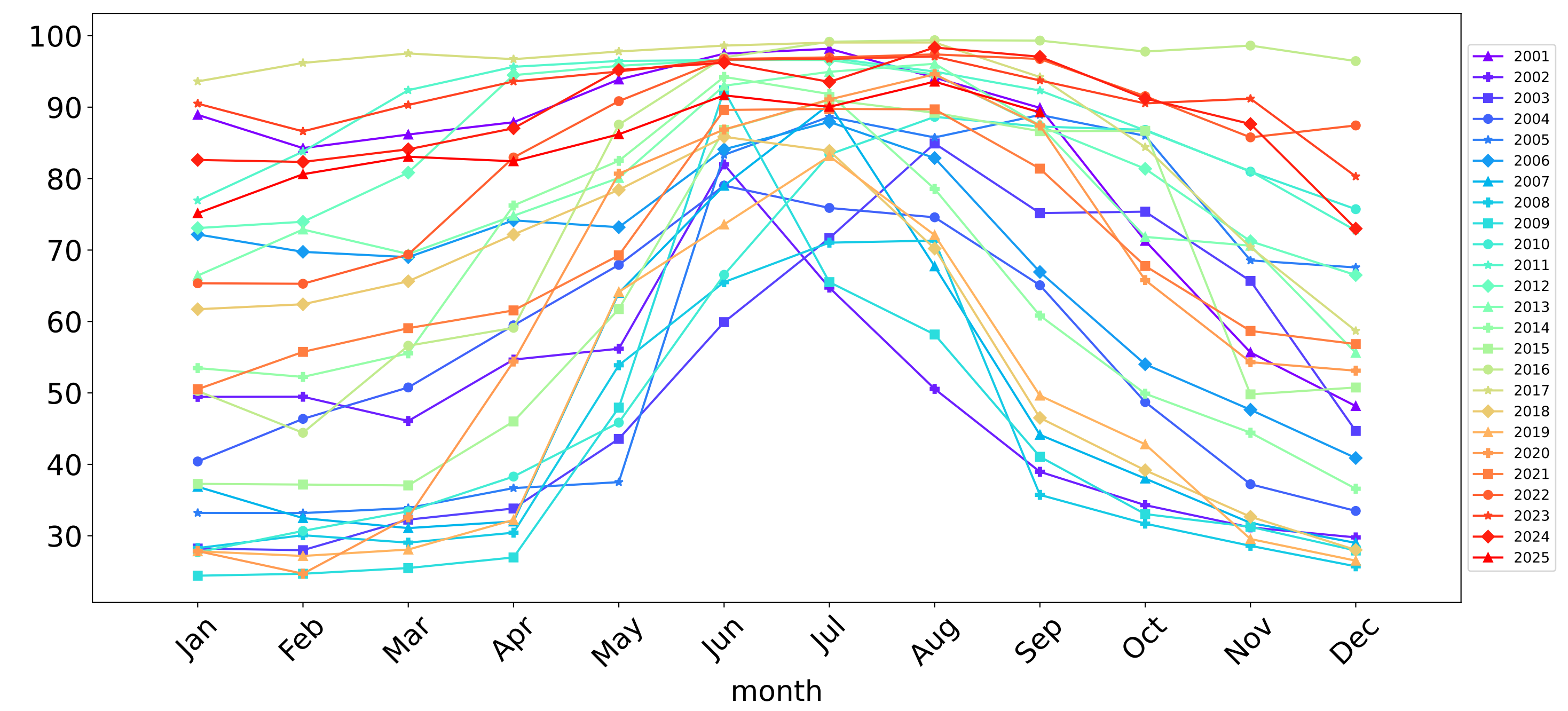
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



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



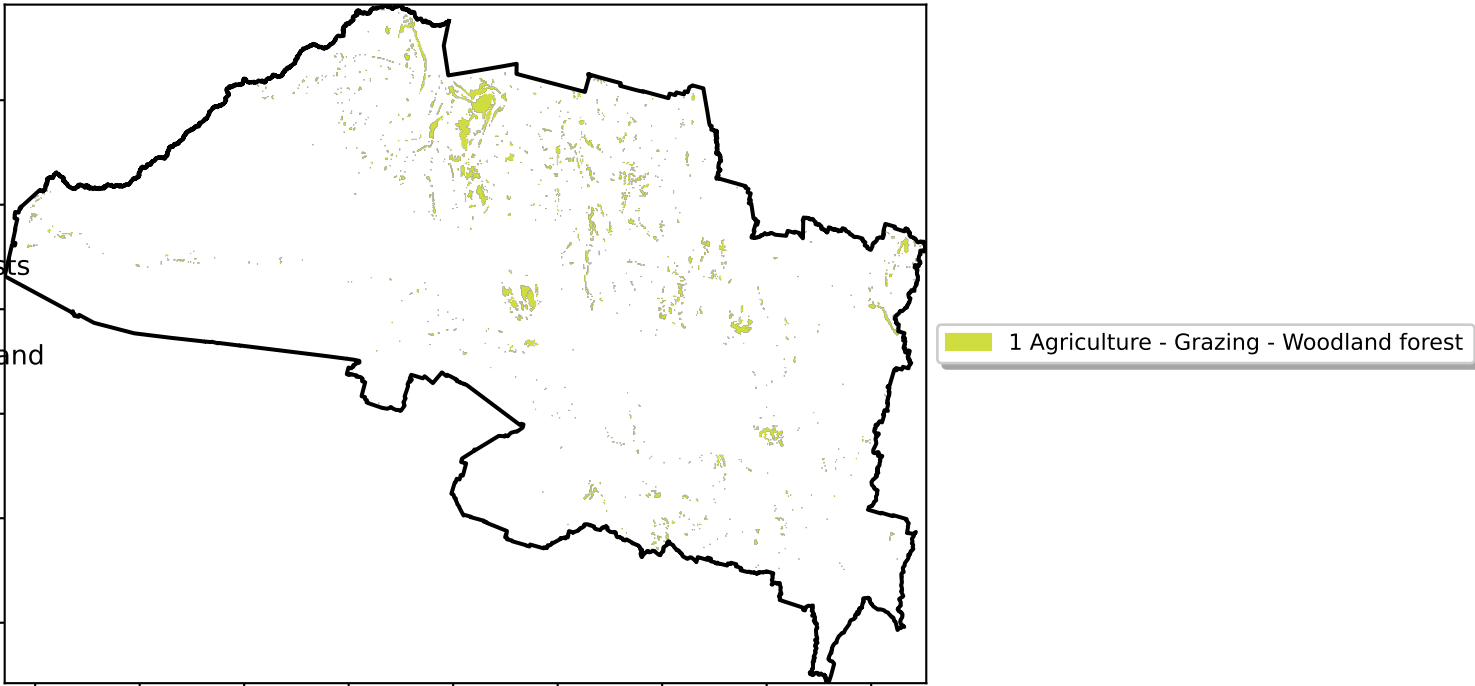
Water erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov>70%)



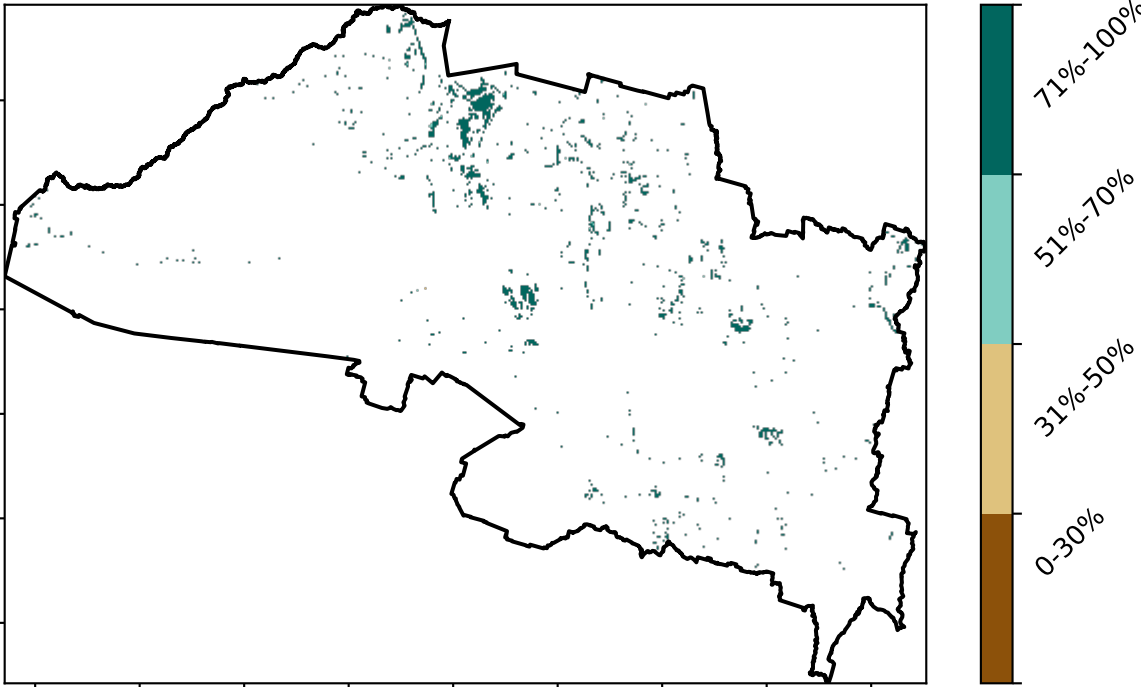
Grazing Woodland forest

Land use and forest cover

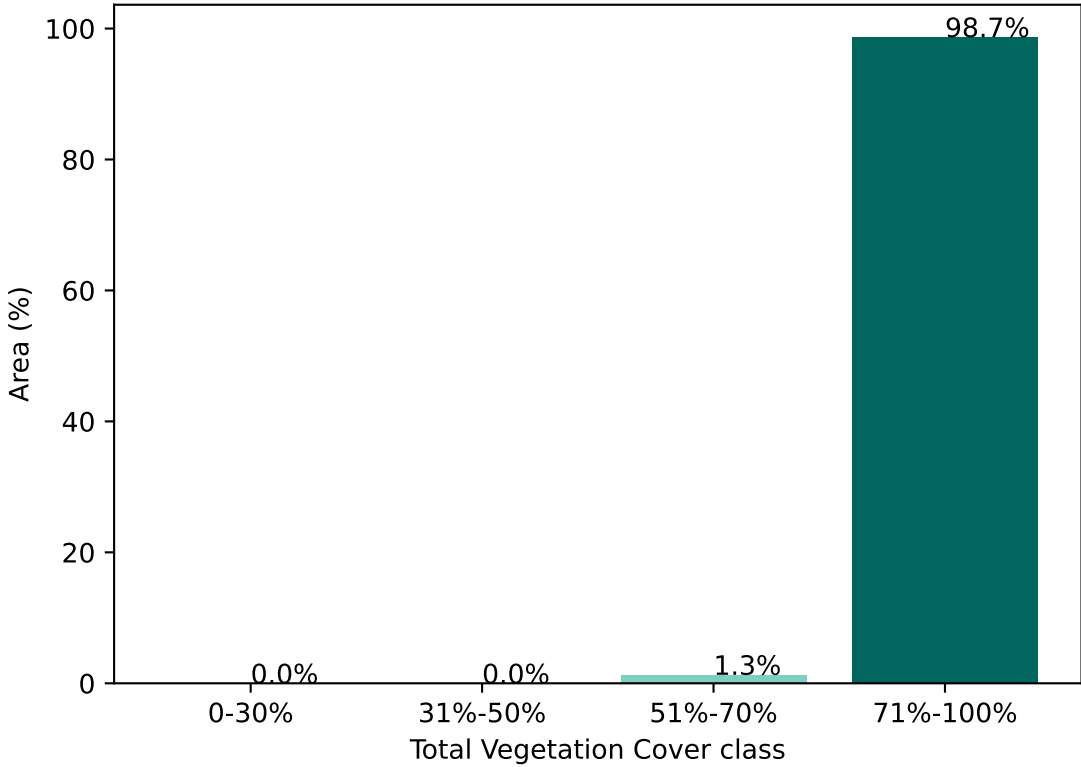
Catchment Scale Land Use and Forests of Australia (2018). Derived from Catchment Scale Land Use of Australia (2018) and Forests of Australia (2018)



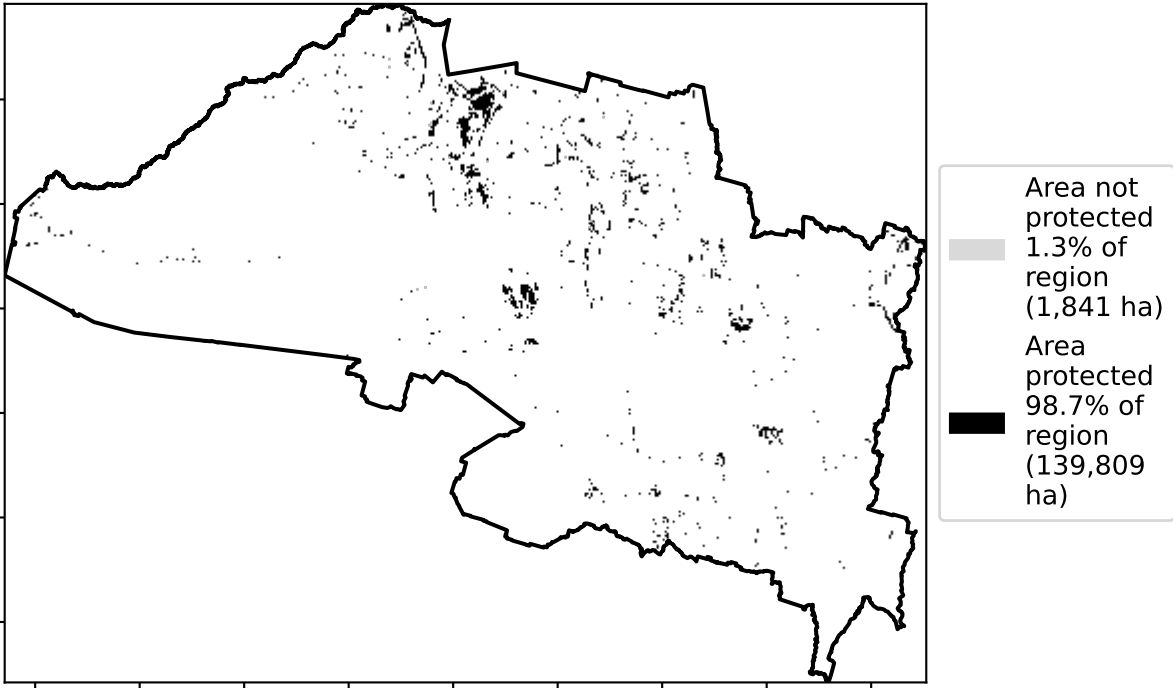
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



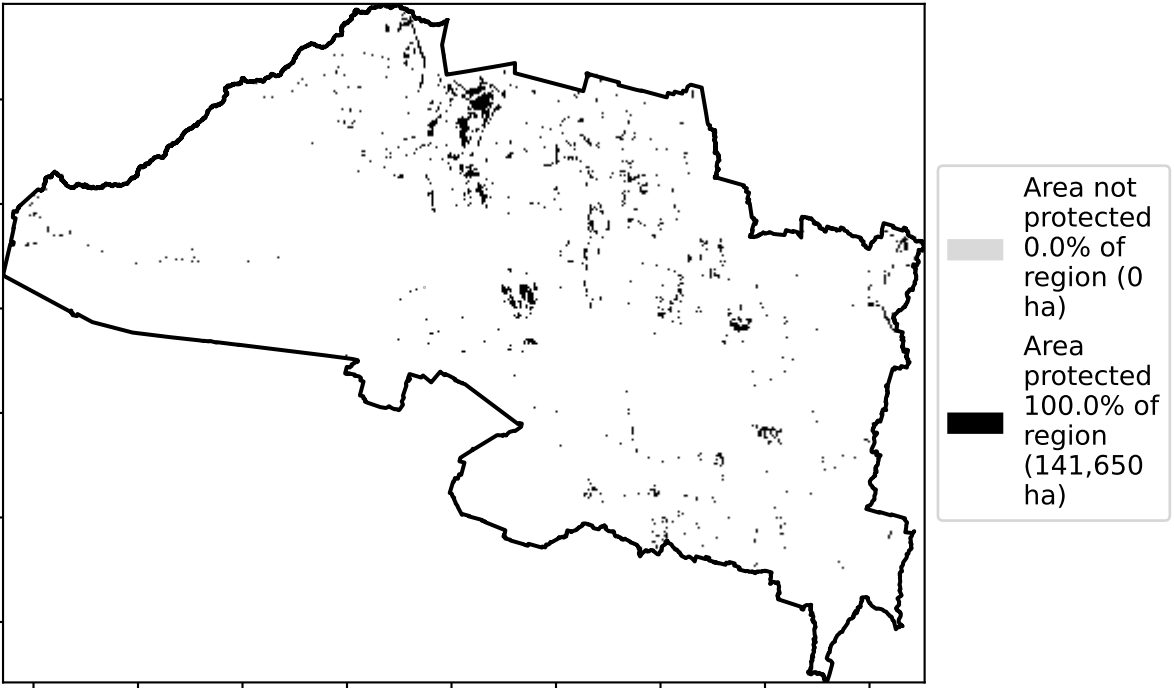
Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)

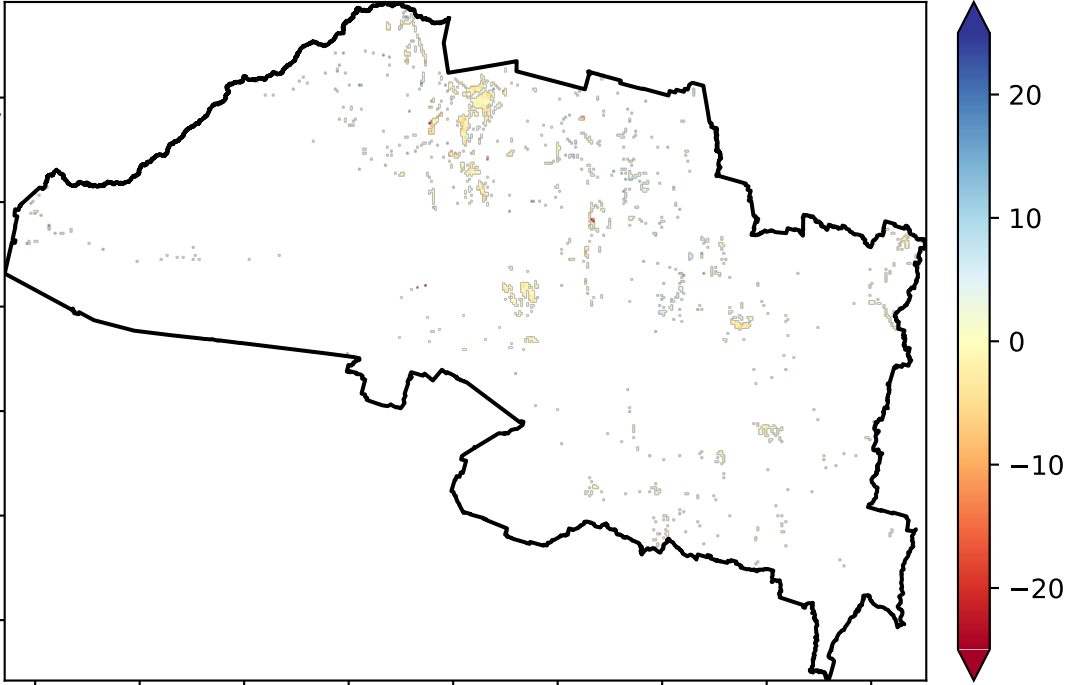


% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



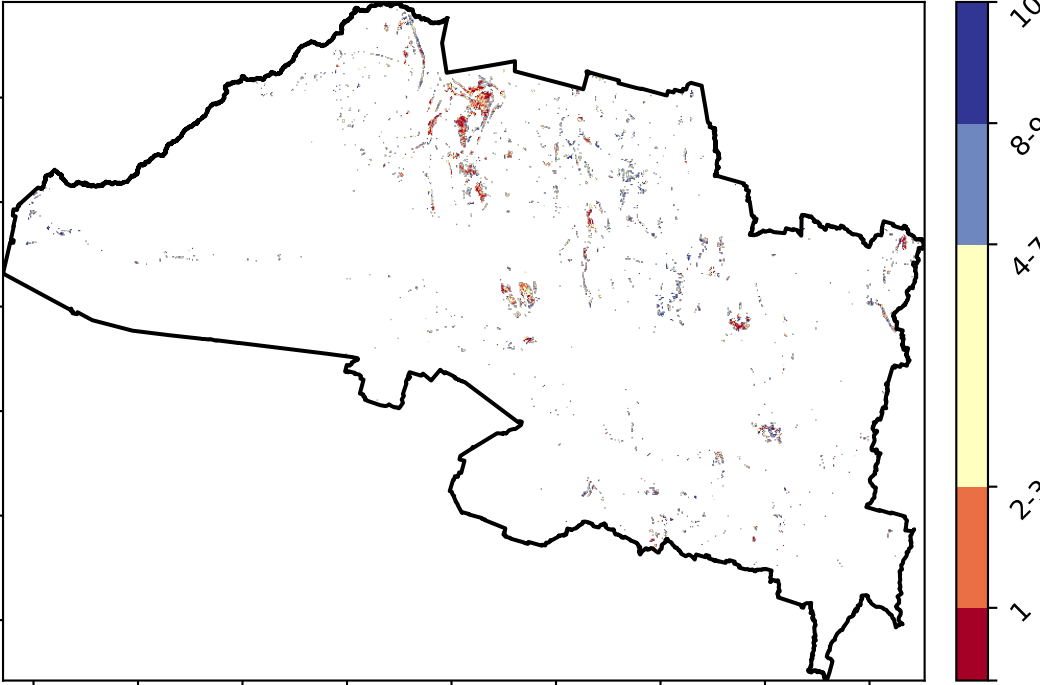
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

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.

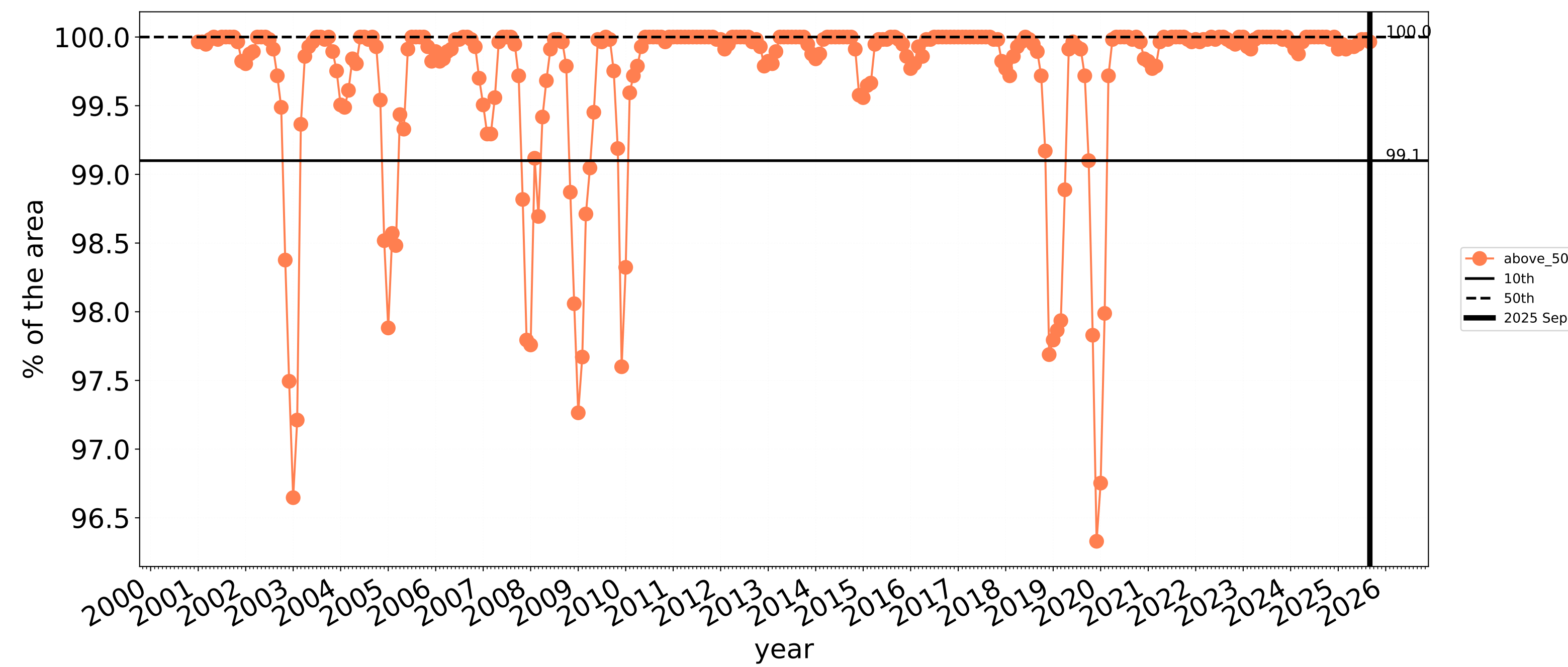
Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]



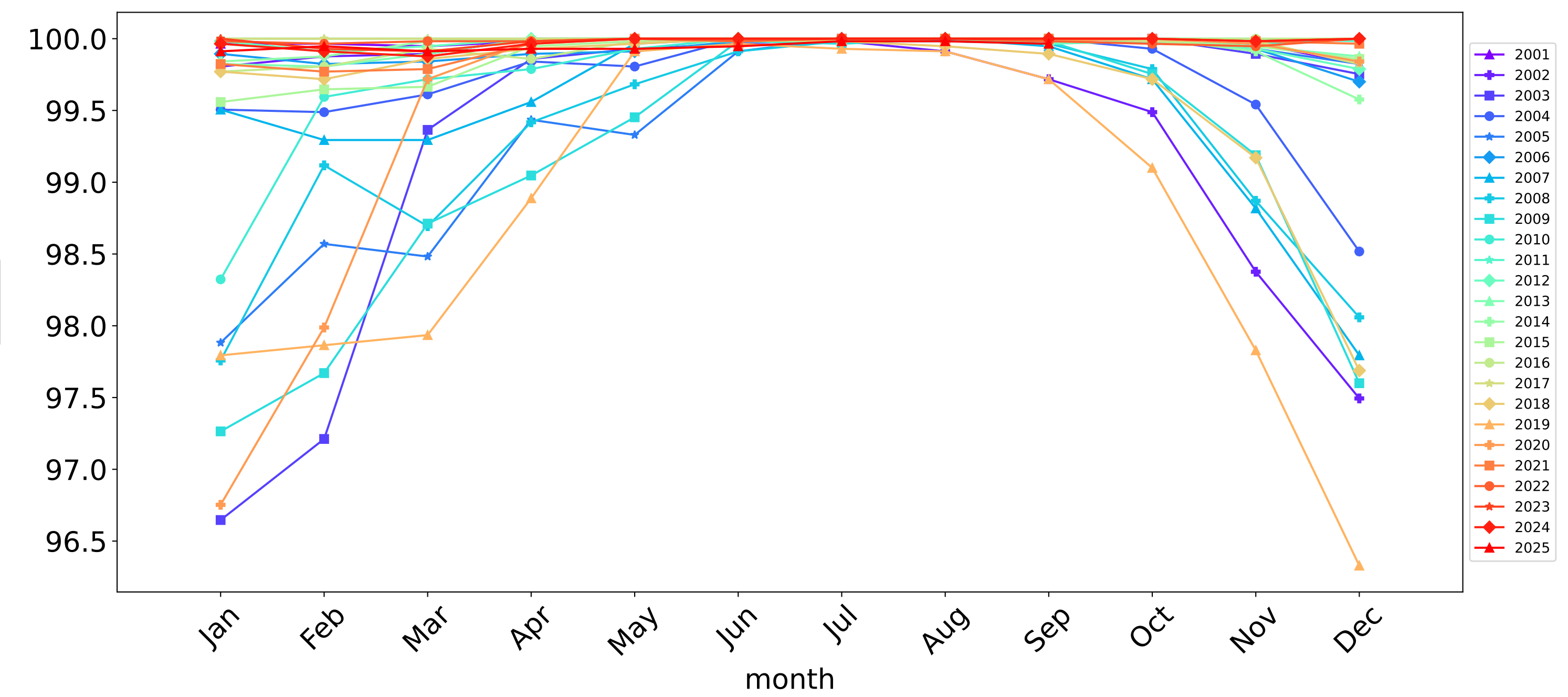


# Grazing Woodland forest timeseries

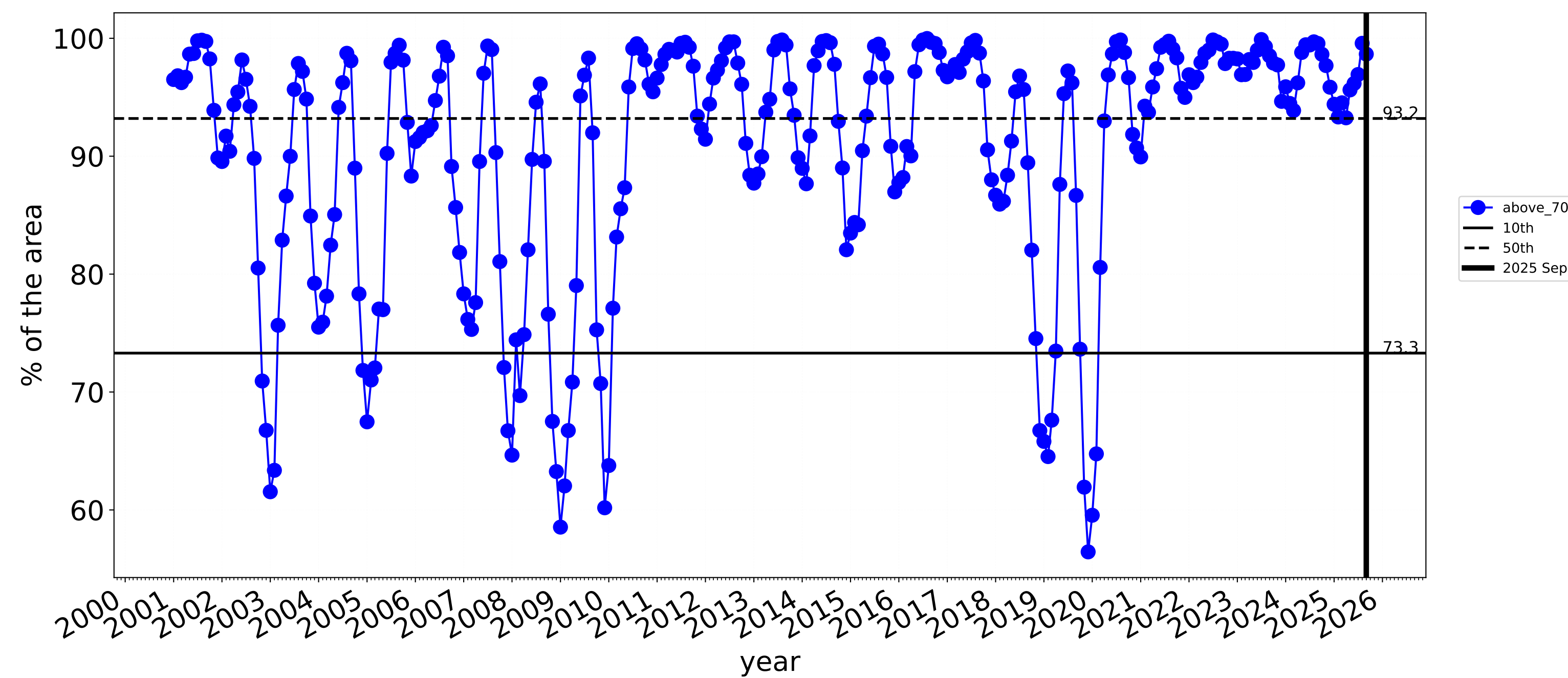
Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)



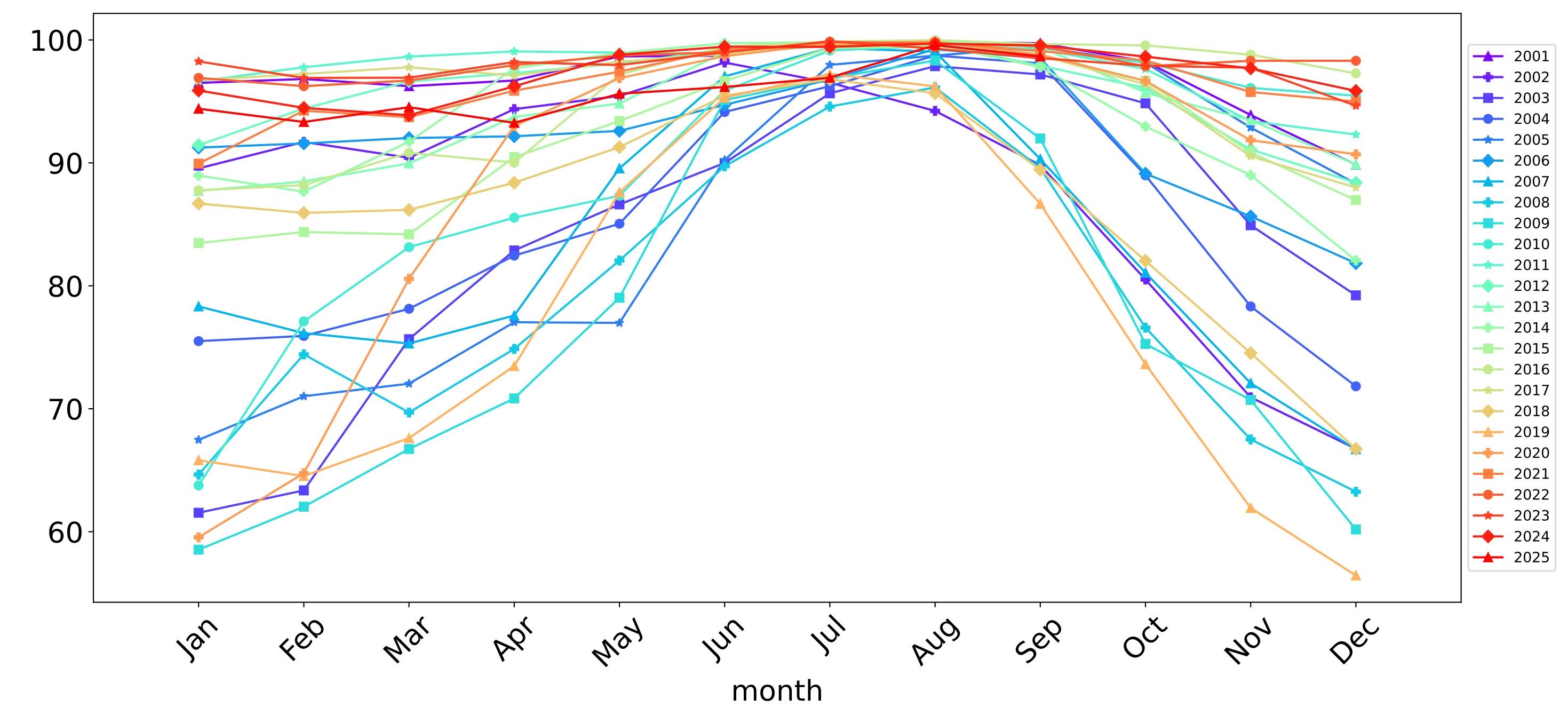
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



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



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

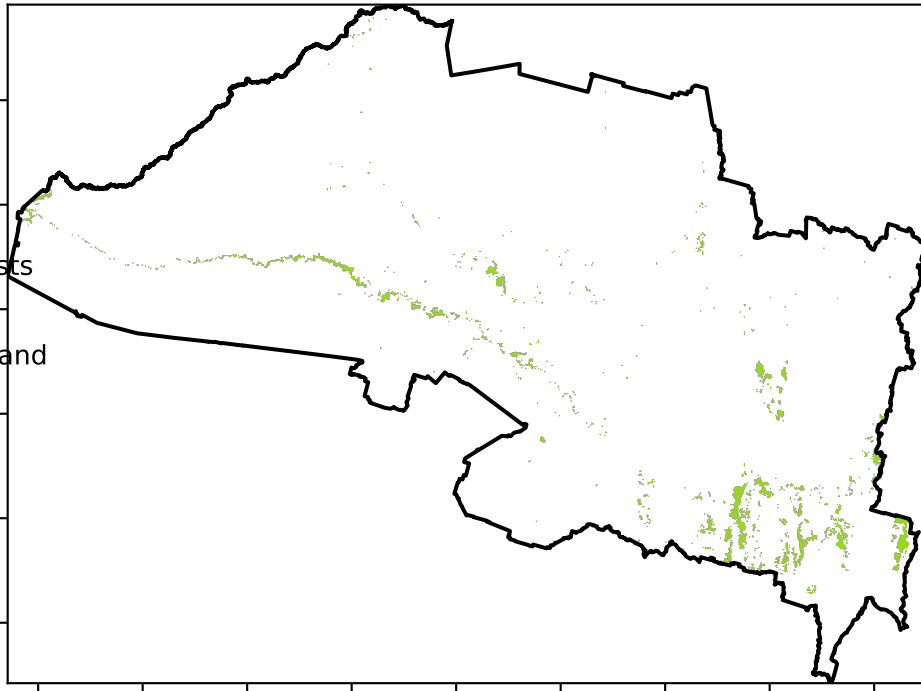




# Grazing - Forest (non woodland)

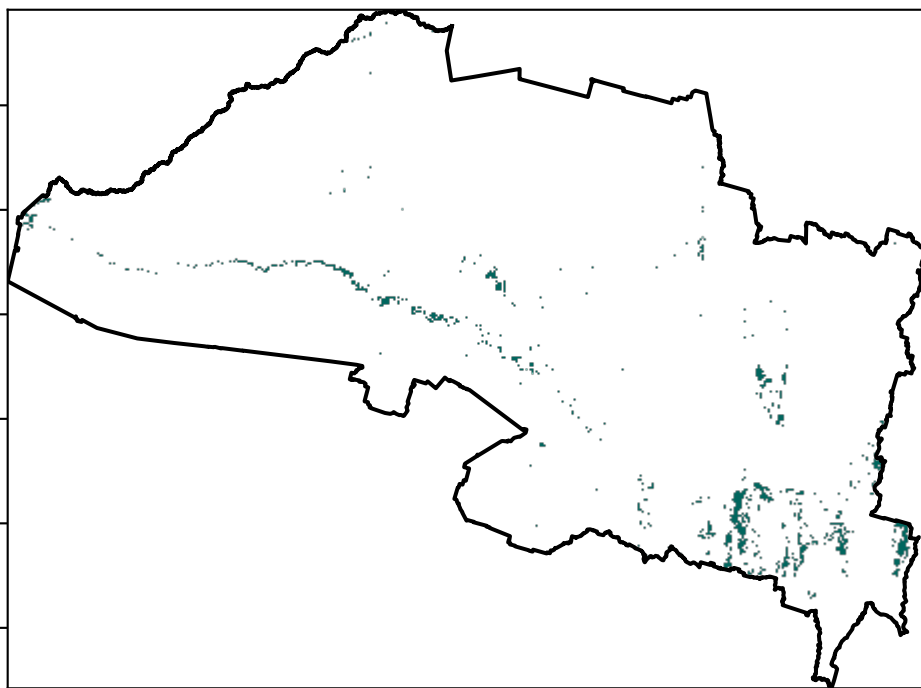
Land use and forest cover

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

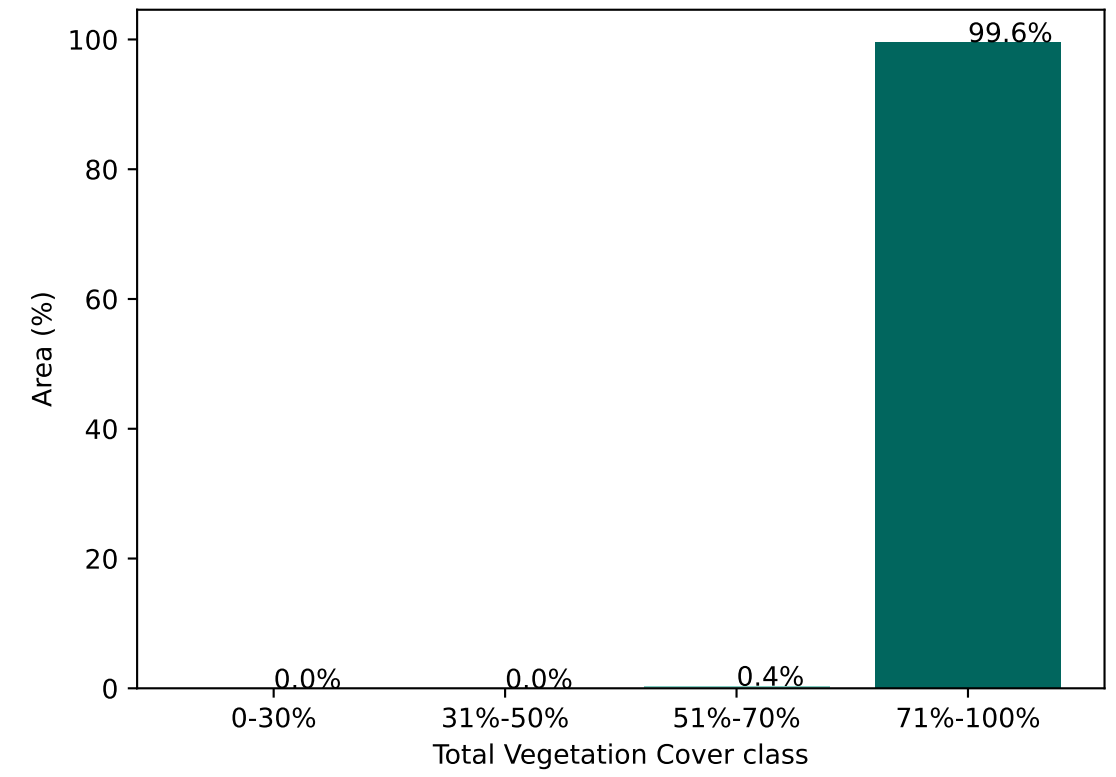


1 Agriculture - Grazing - Non-woodland forest

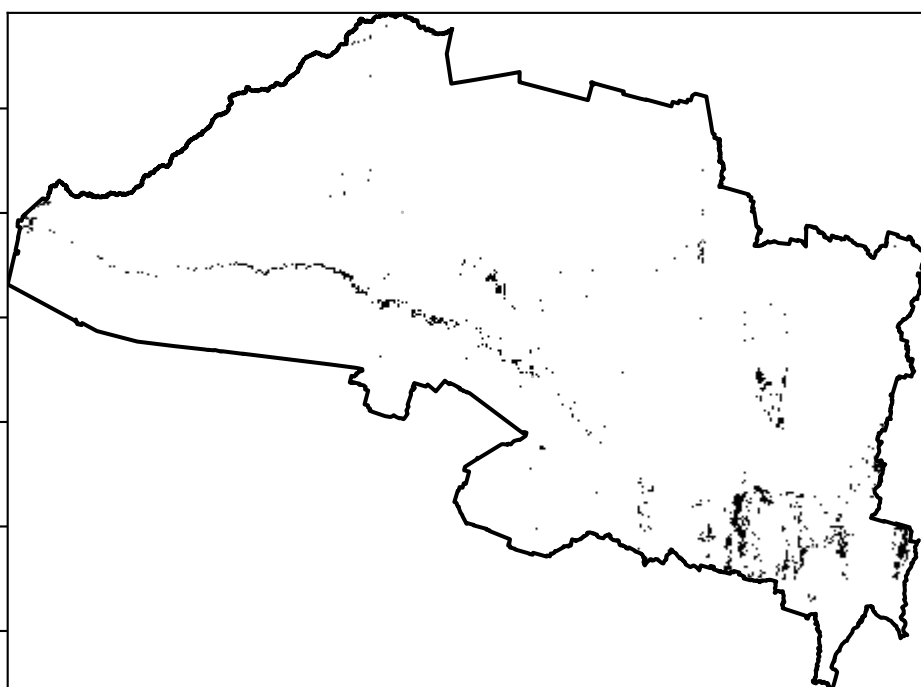
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



Proportion of vegetation cover class in area

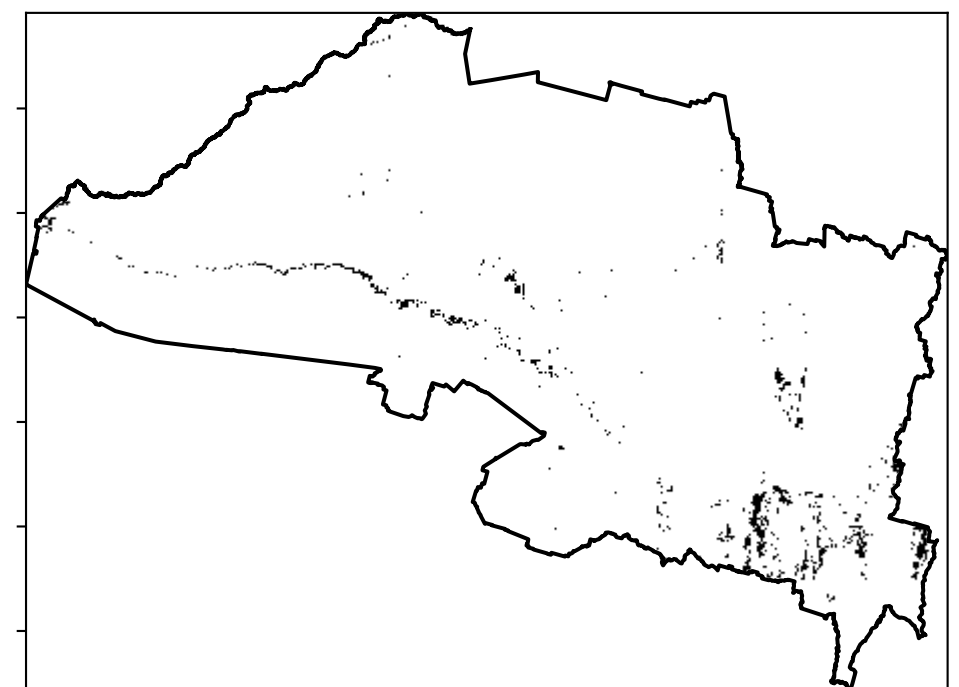


% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



Area not protected  
0.4% of region  
(413 ha)  
Area protected  
99.6% of region  
(102,937 ha)

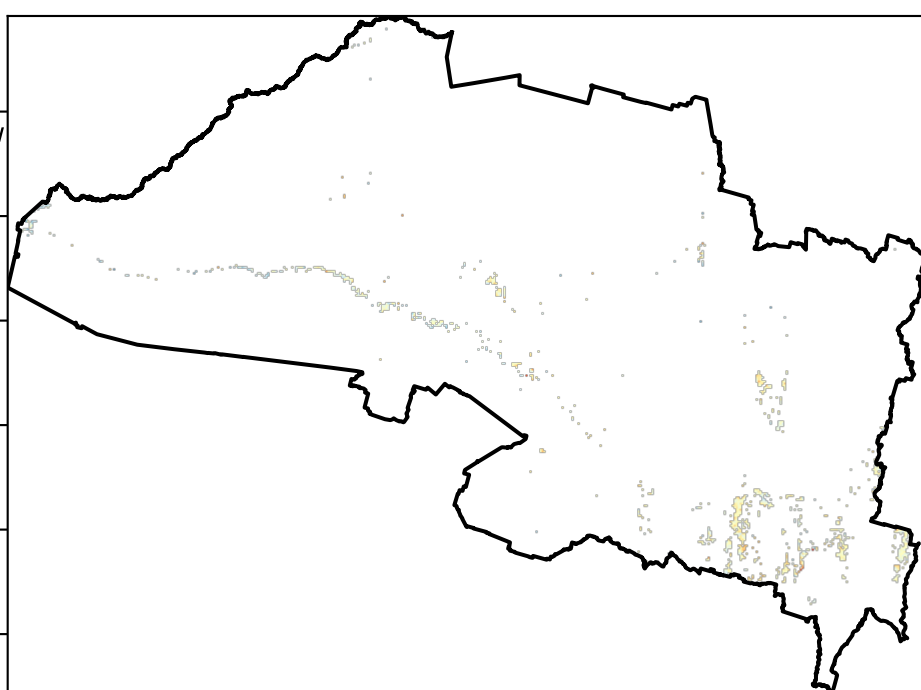
% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



Area protected  
100.0% of region  
(103,350 ha)

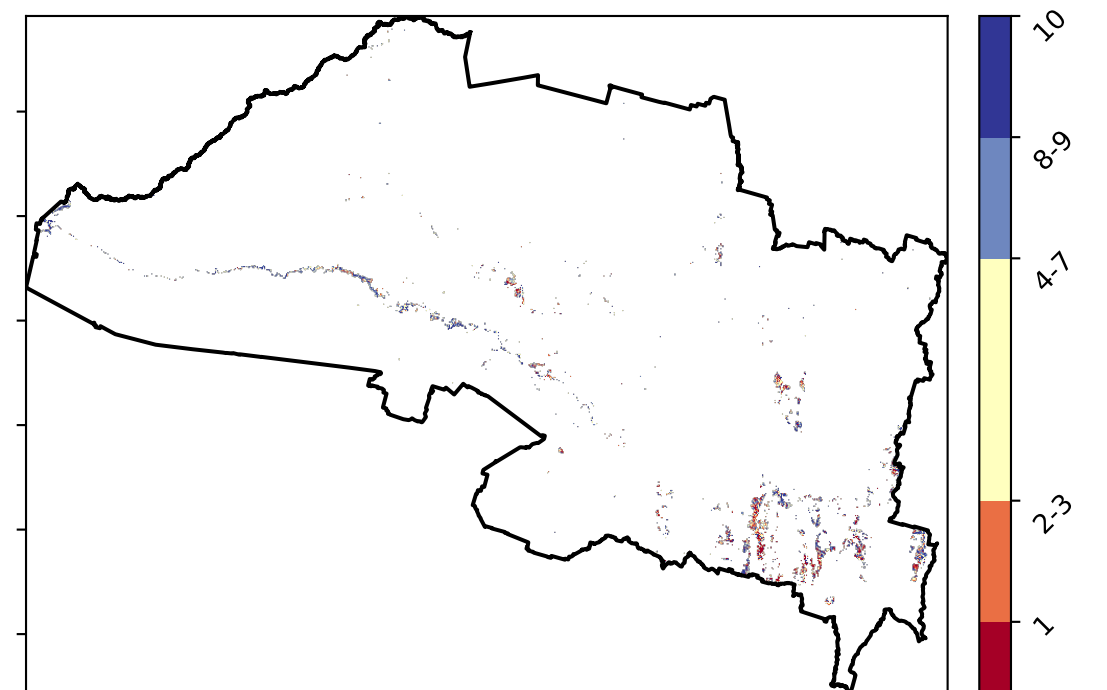
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

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.

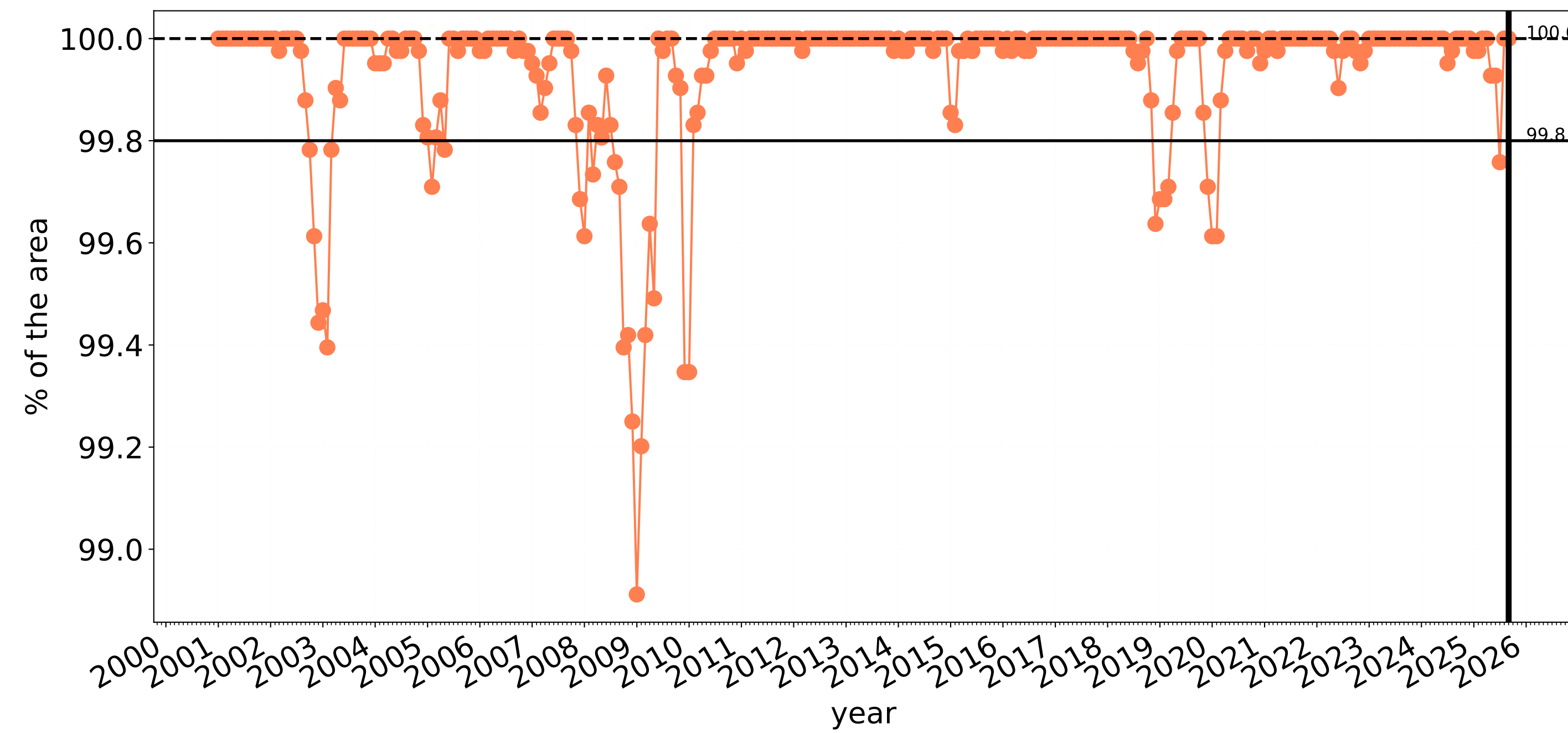
Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]



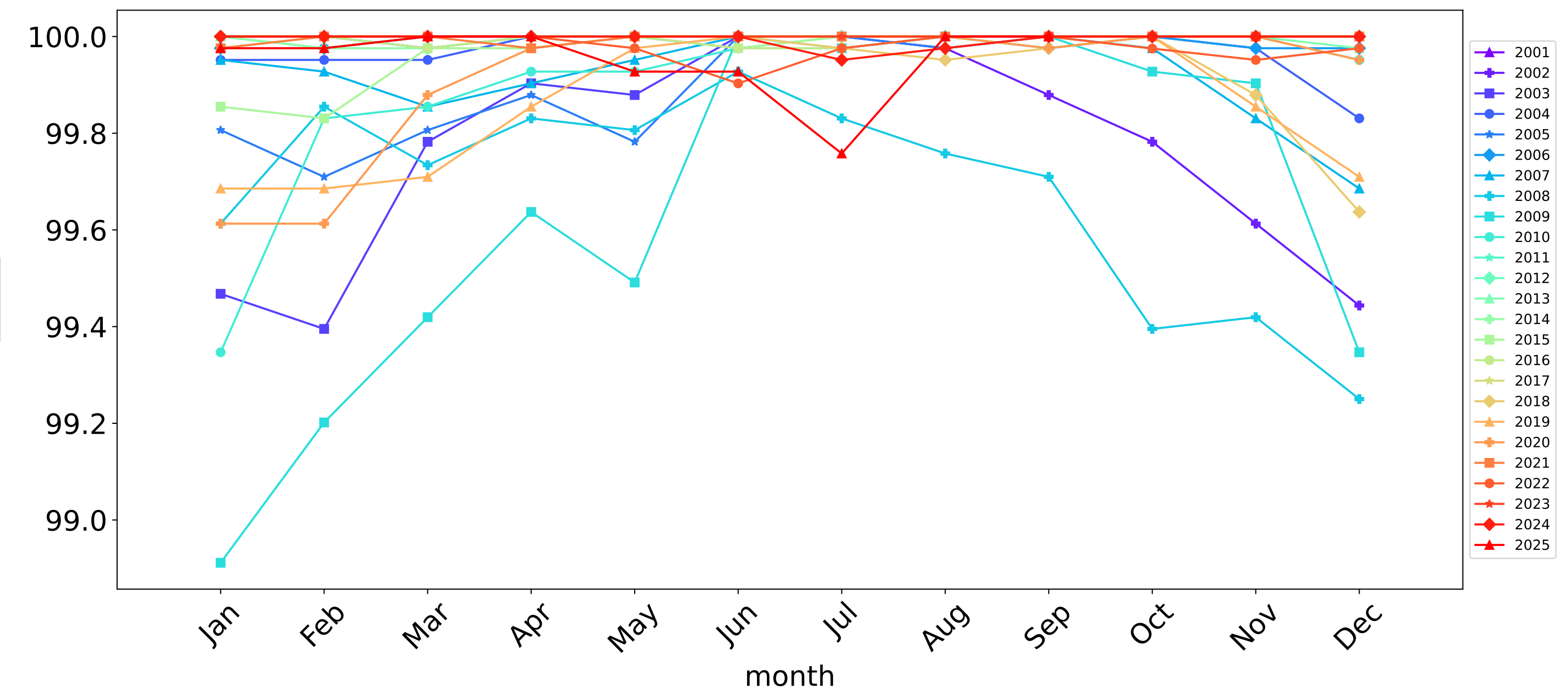


# Grazing - Forest (non woodland) timeseries

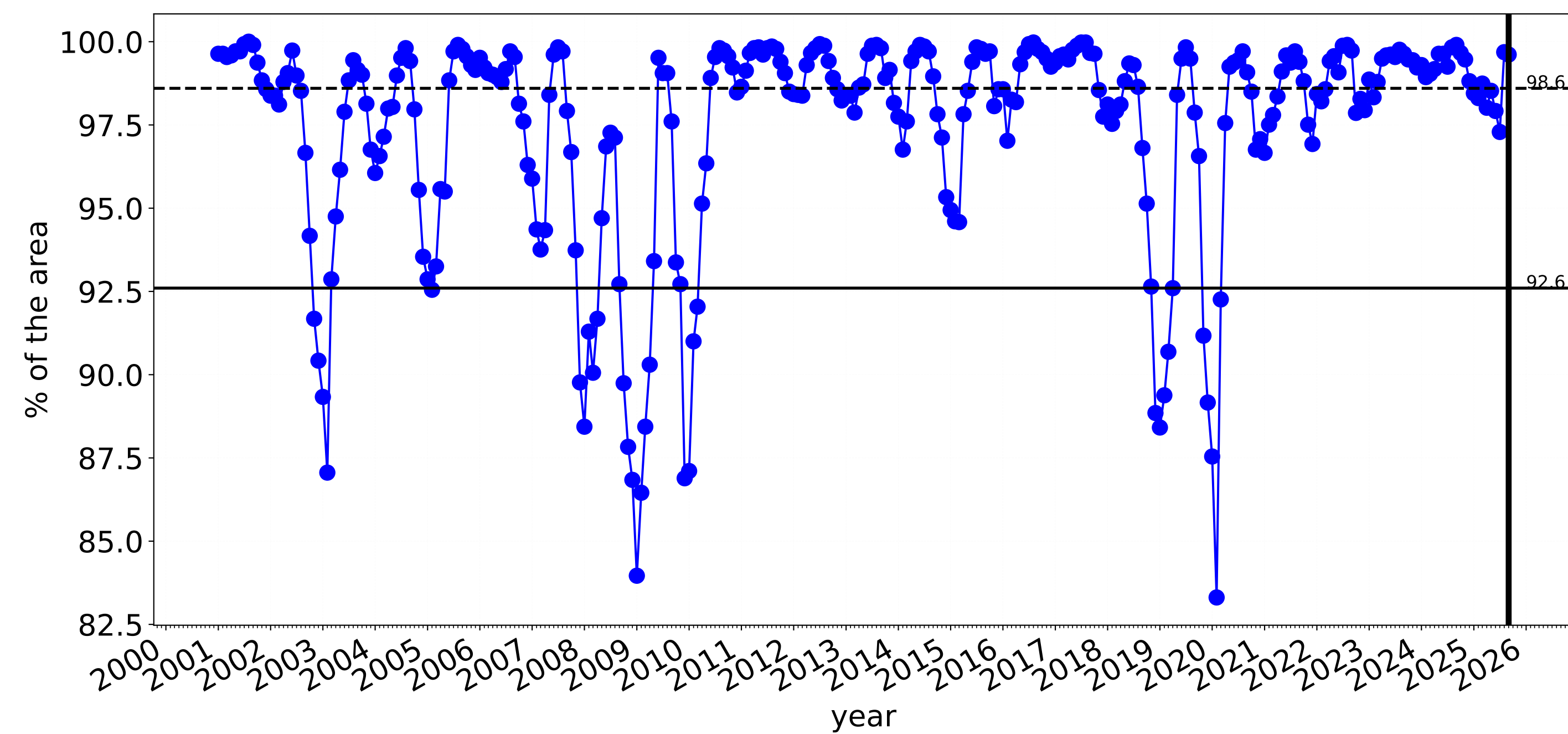
Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)



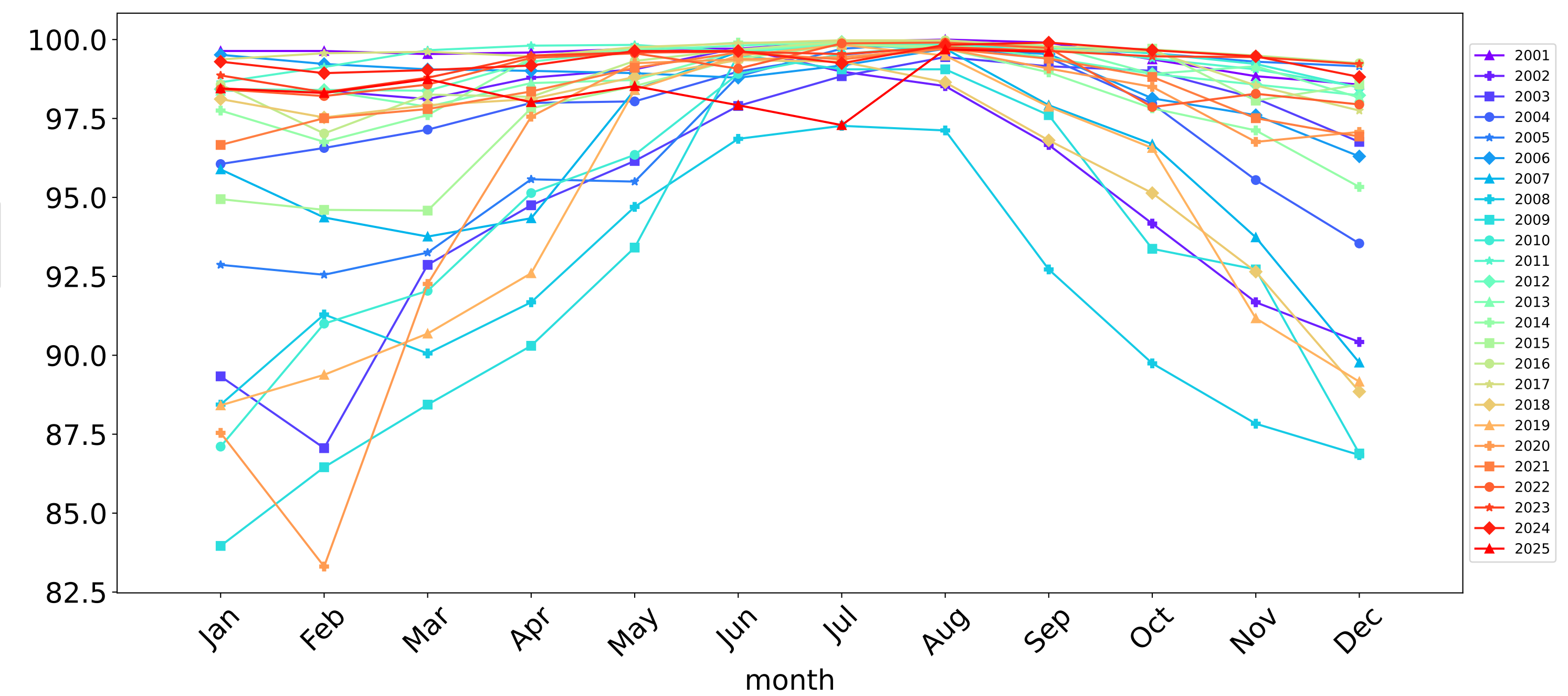
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



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



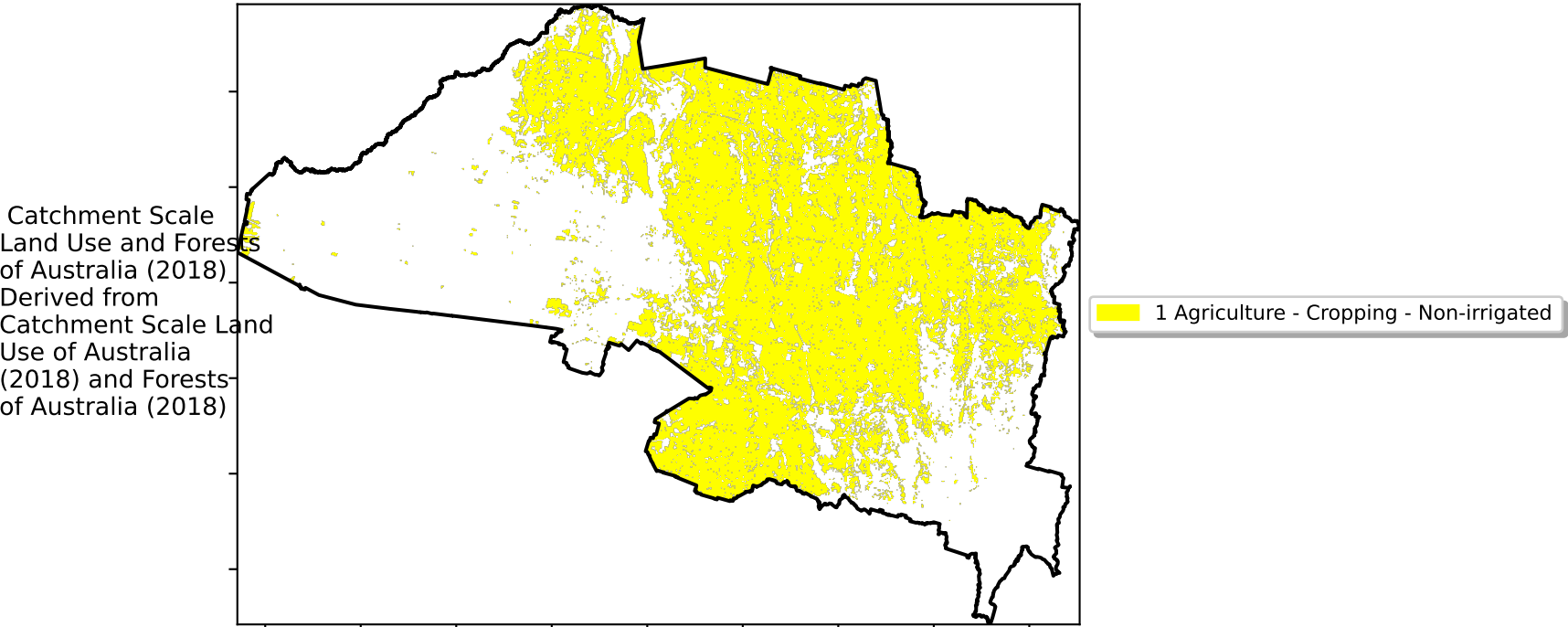
Water erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov>70%)



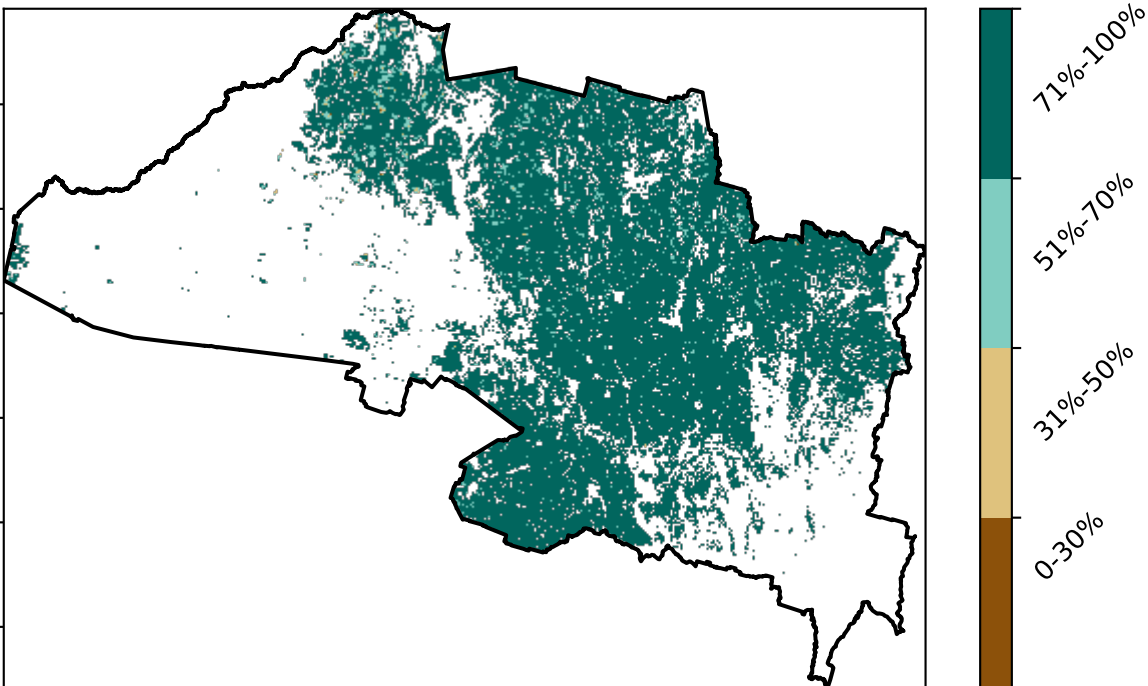


Cropping

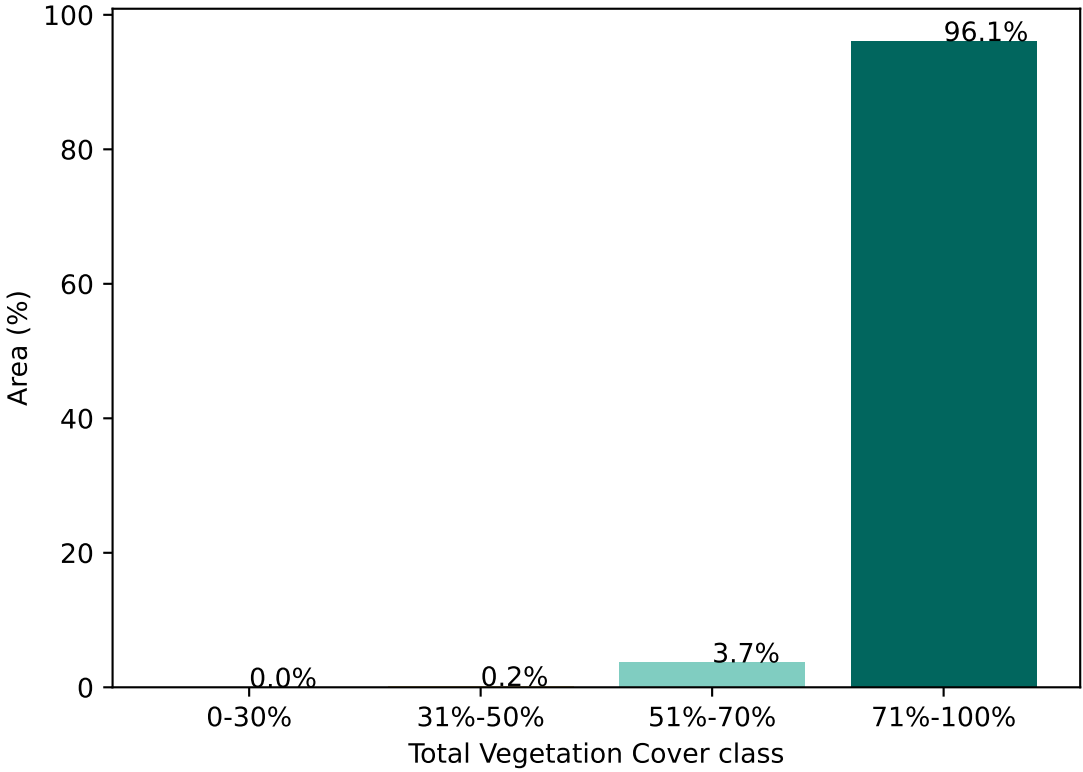
Land use and forest cover



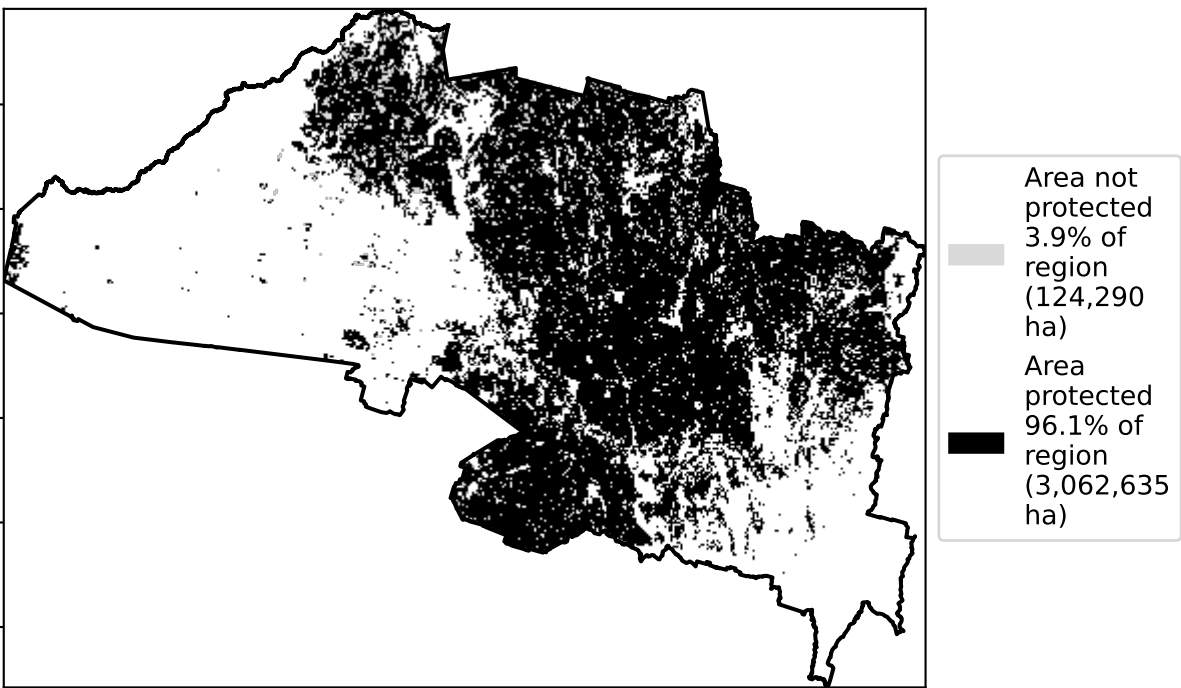
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



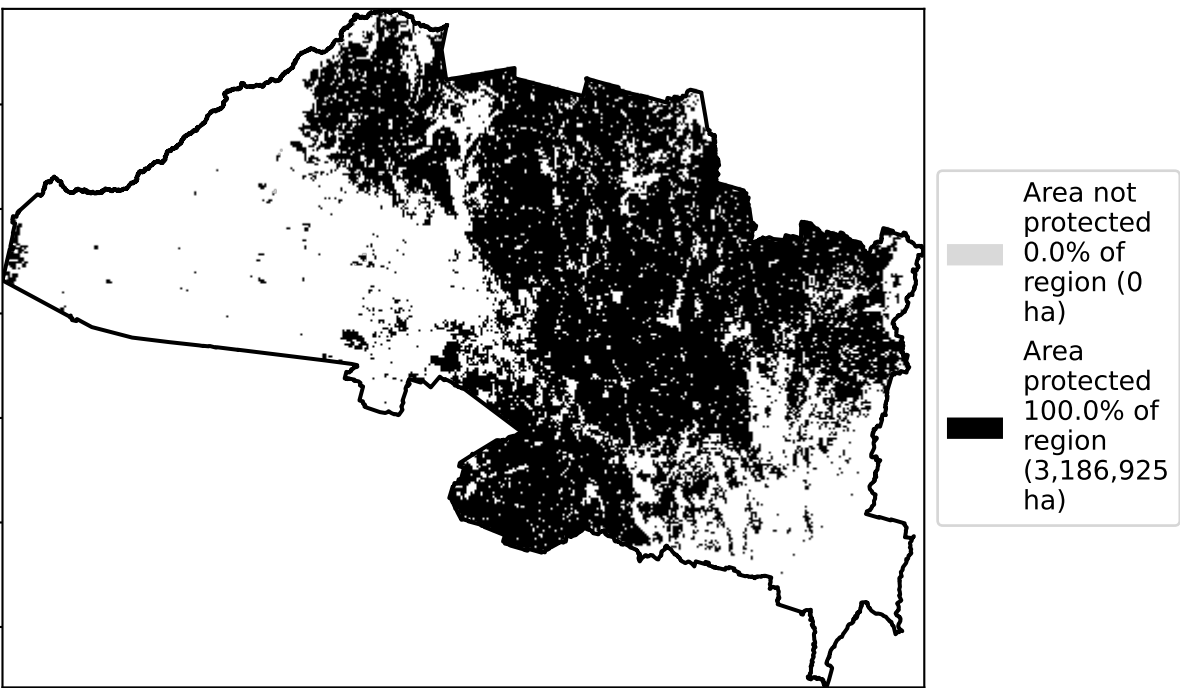
Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



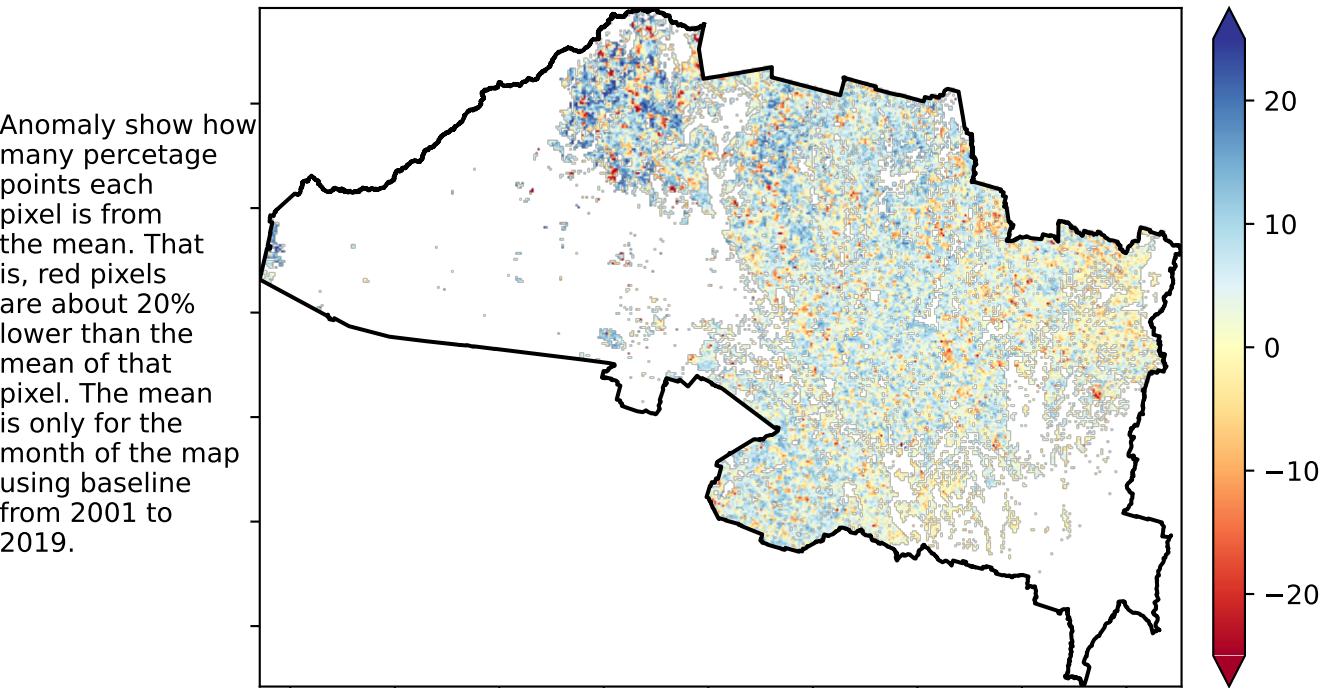
% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)

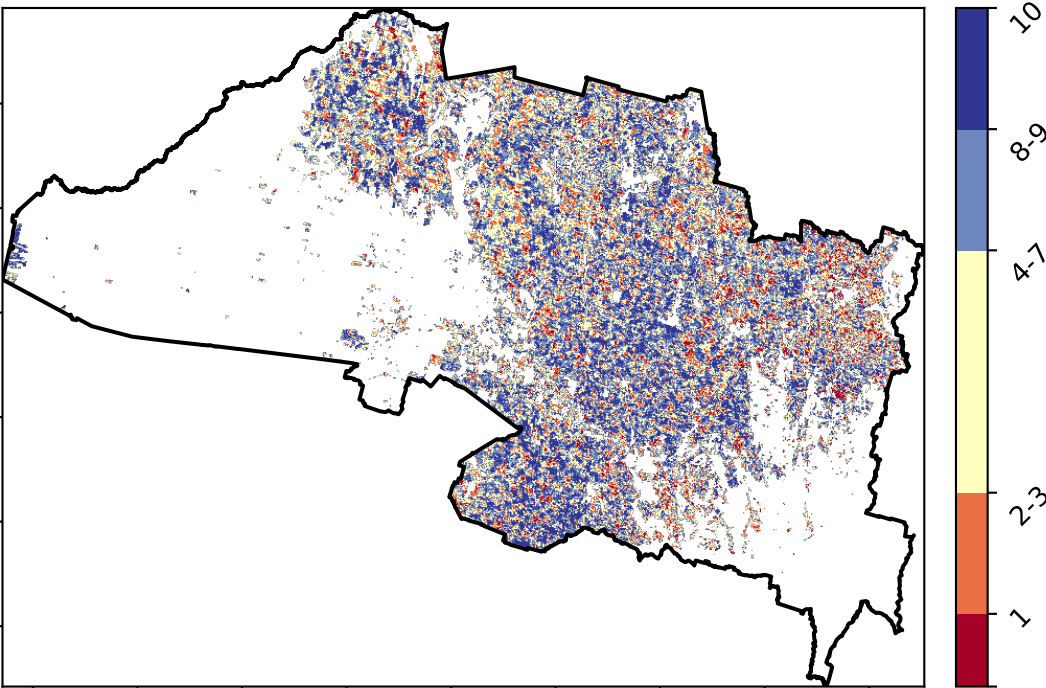


Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]



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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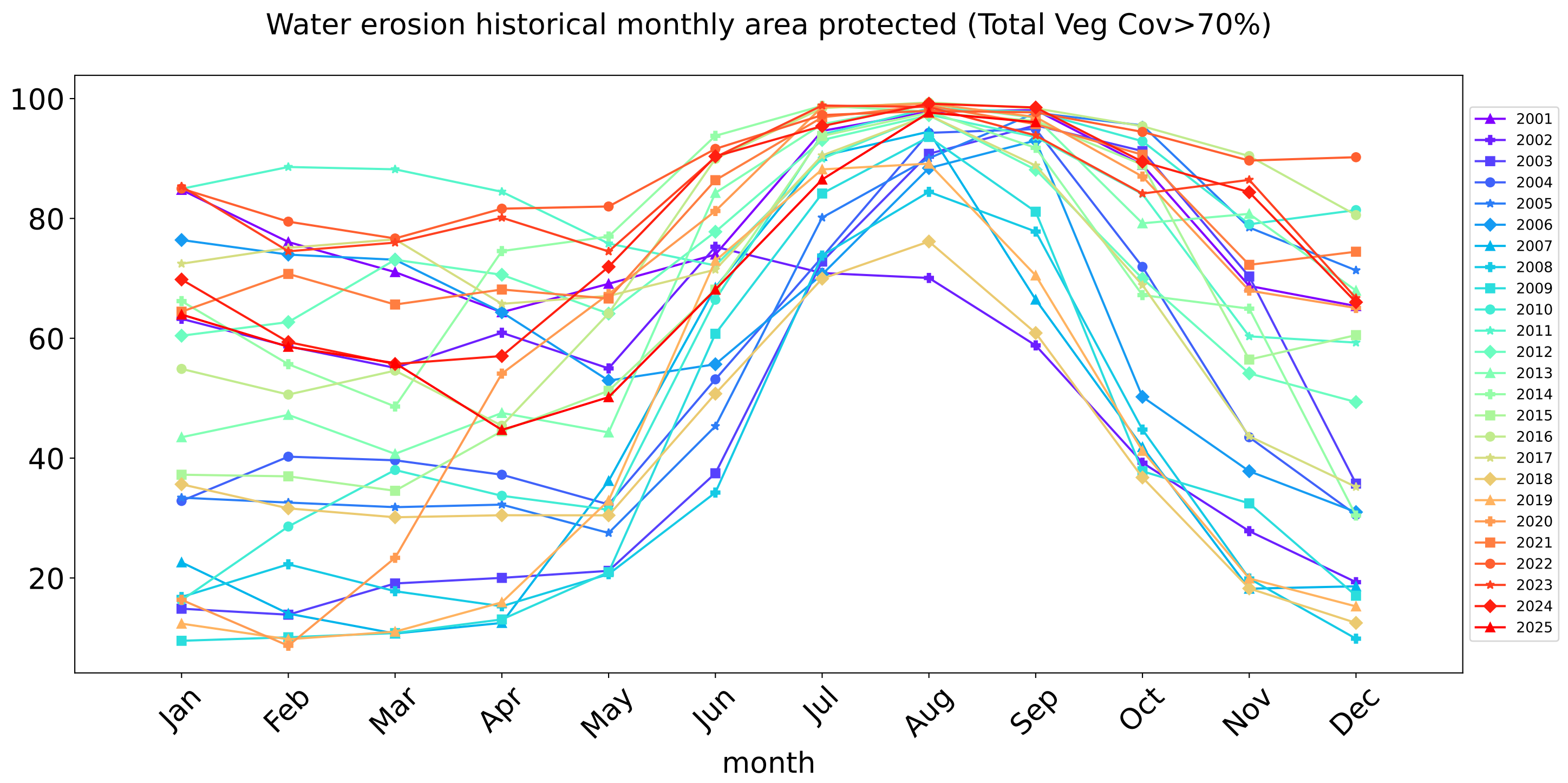
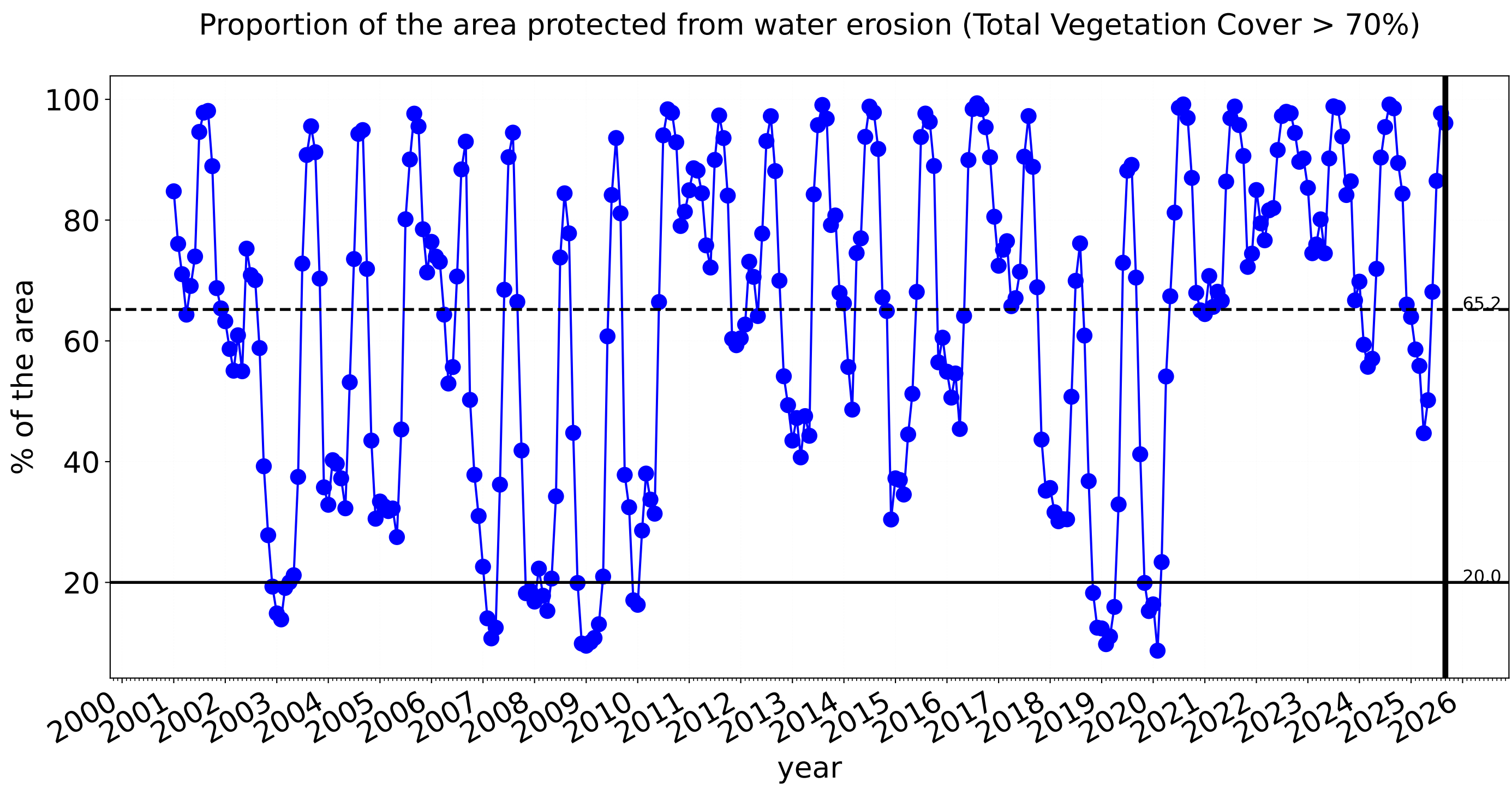
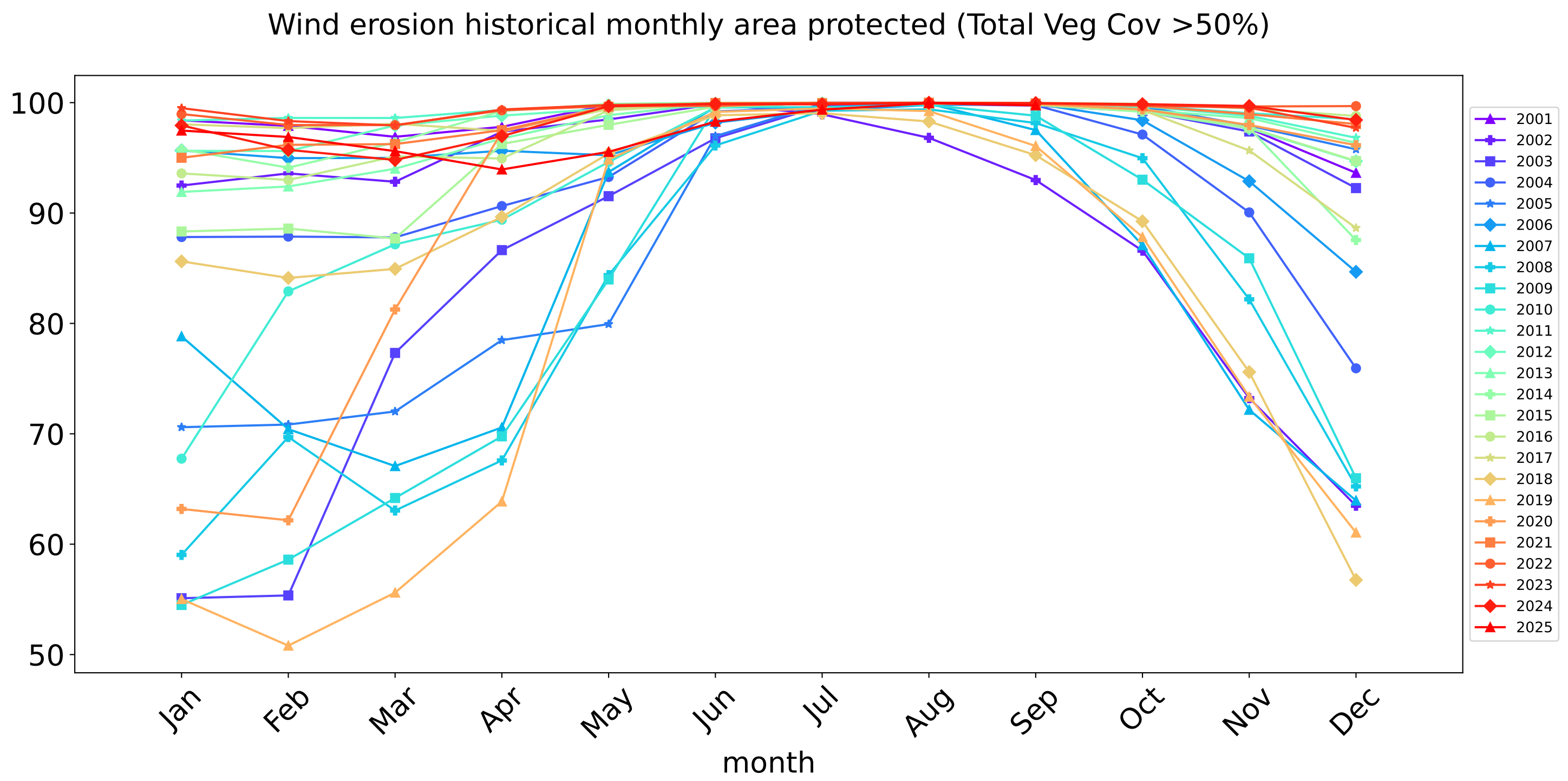
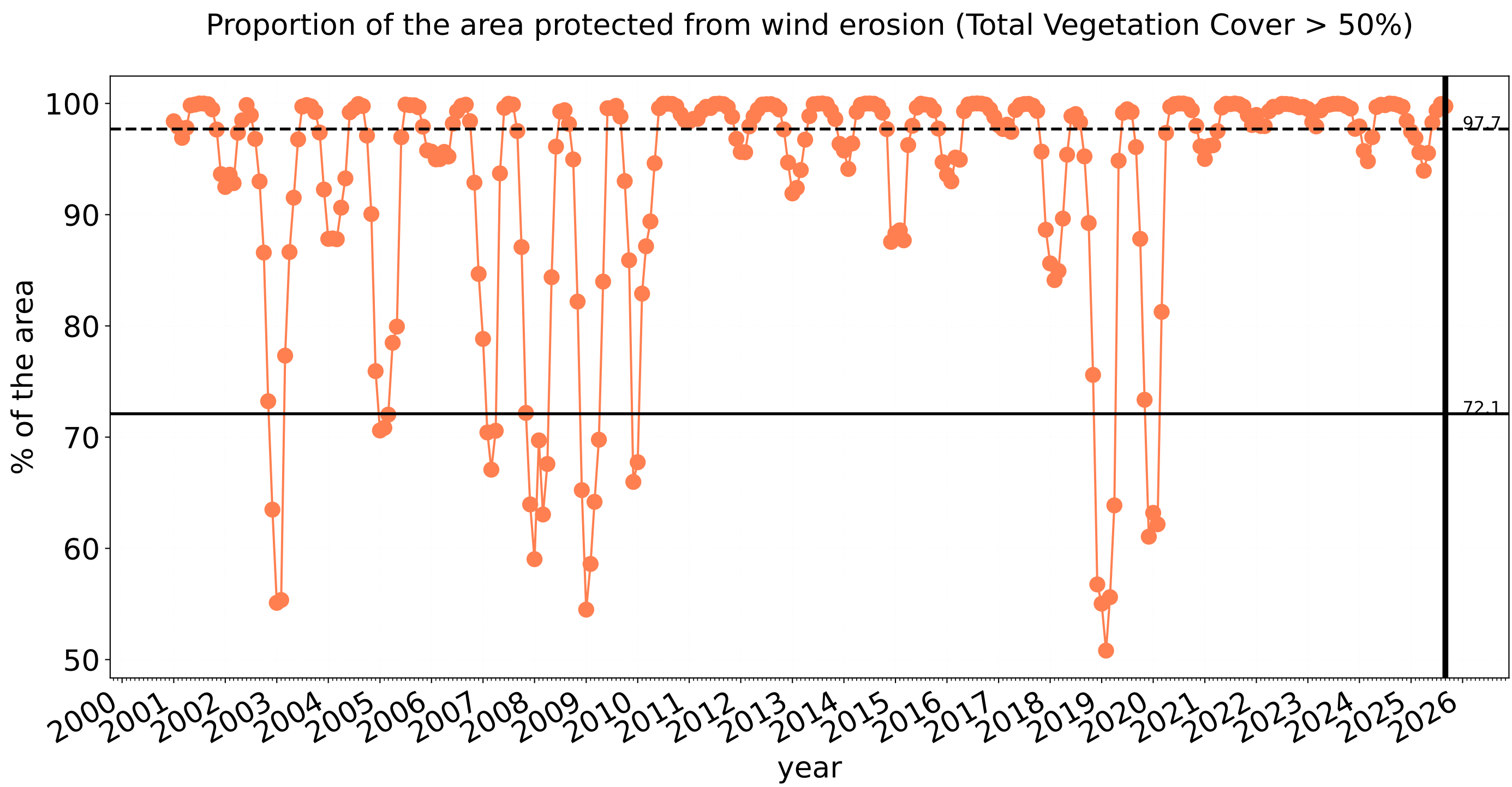
Australian Government

National  
Landcare  
Programme





Cropping timeseries

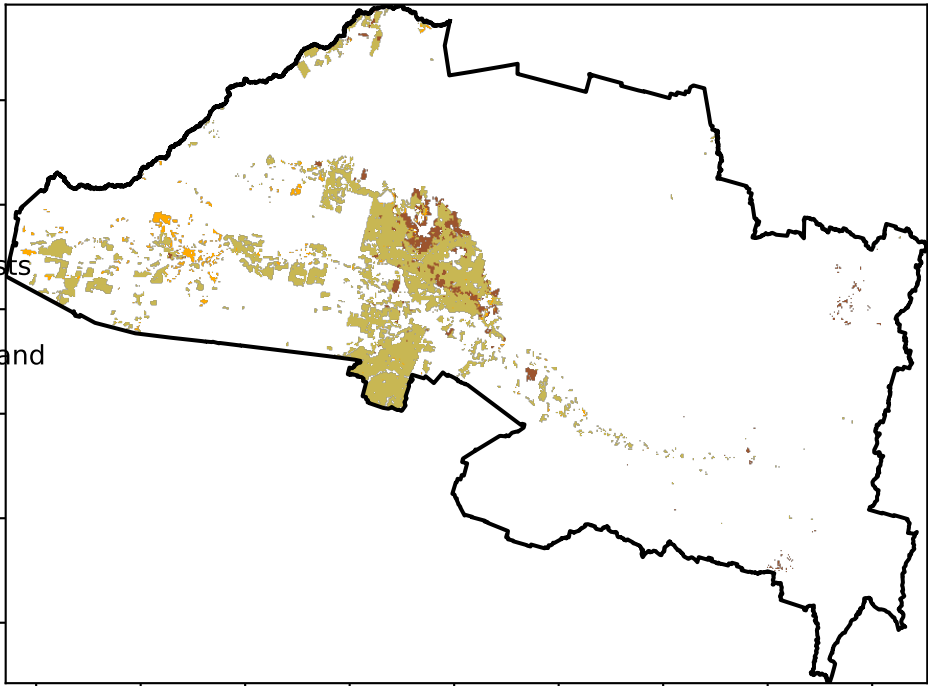




Irrigation

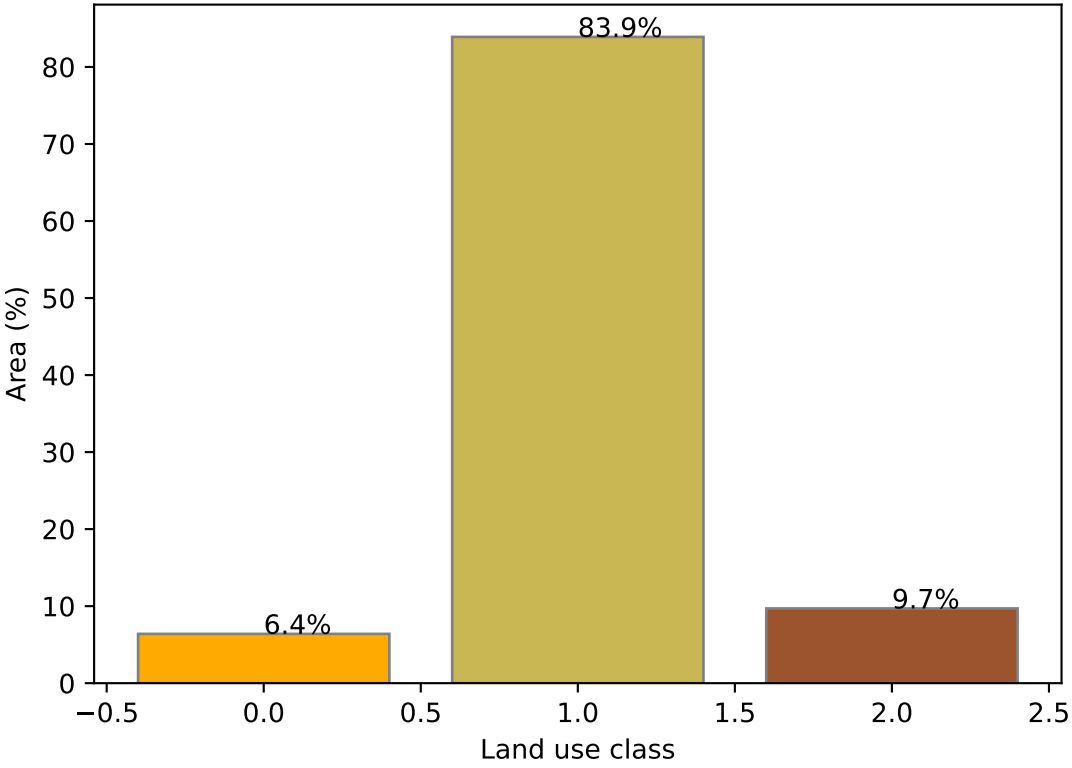
Land use and forest cover

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

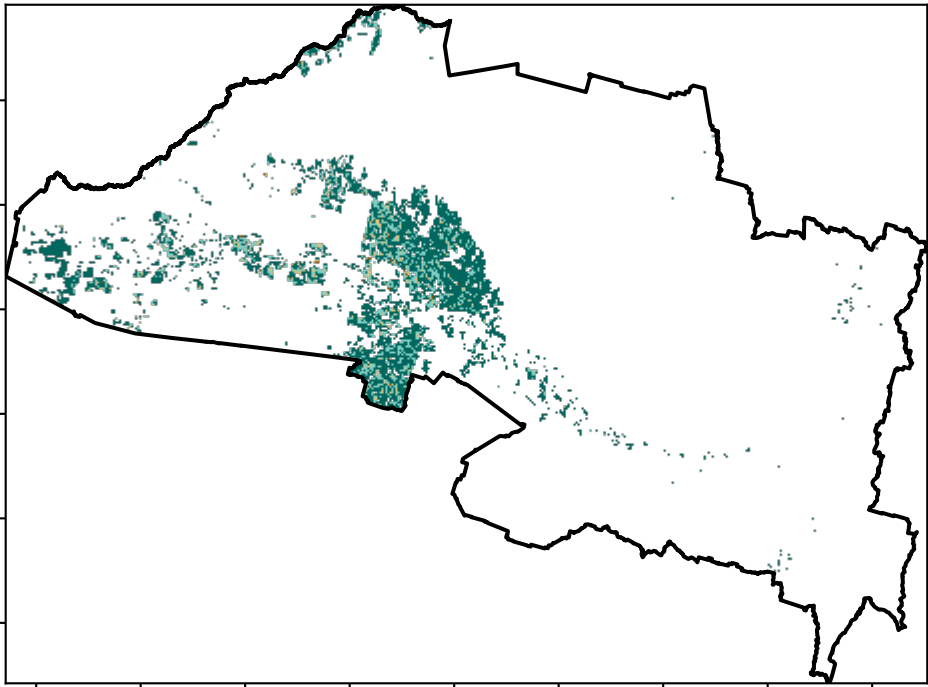


- 1 Agriculture - Grazing - Irrigated
- 2 Agriculture - Cropping - Irrigated
- 3 Agriculture - Horticulture - Irrigated

Proportion of each land class in area

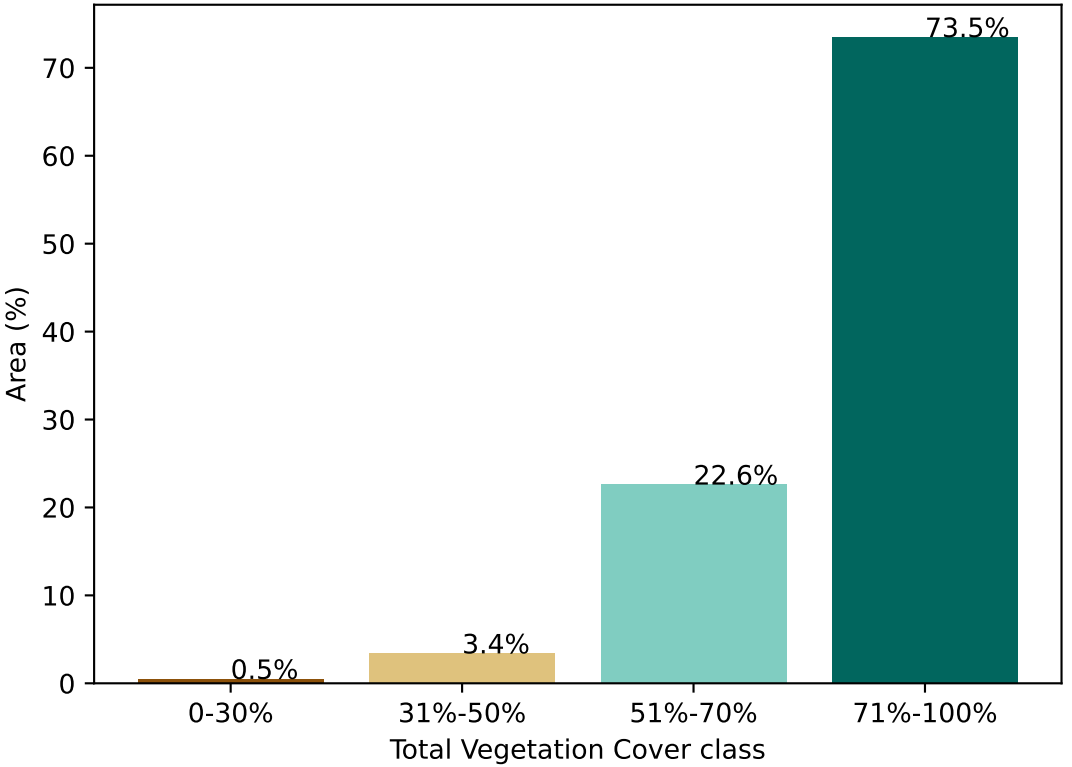


Total Vegetation Cover [%]

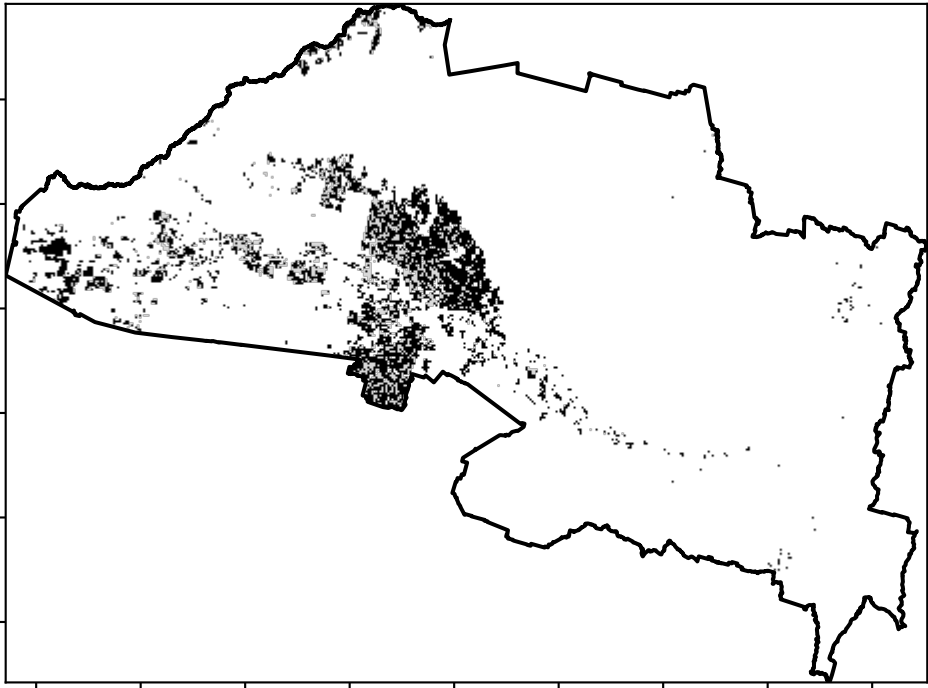


- 71%-100%
- 51%-70%
- 31%-50%
- 0-30%

Proportion of vegetation cover class in area

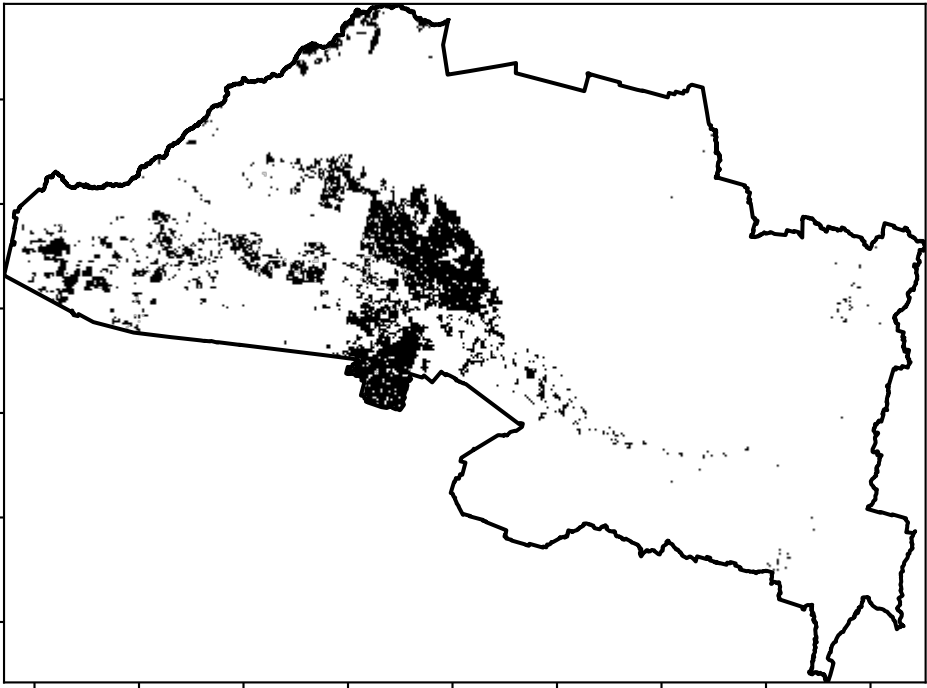


% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)



- Area not protected 26.5% of region (150,401 ha)
- Area protected 73.5% of region (417,149 ha)

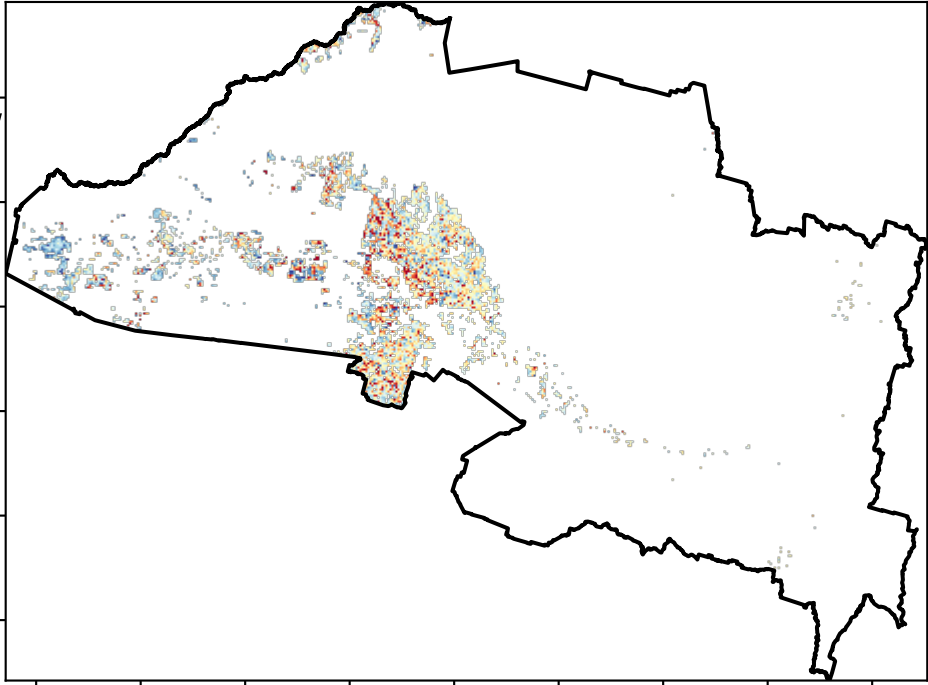
% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



- Area not protected 4.0% of region (22,702 ha)
- Area protected 96.0% of region (544,848 ha)

Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

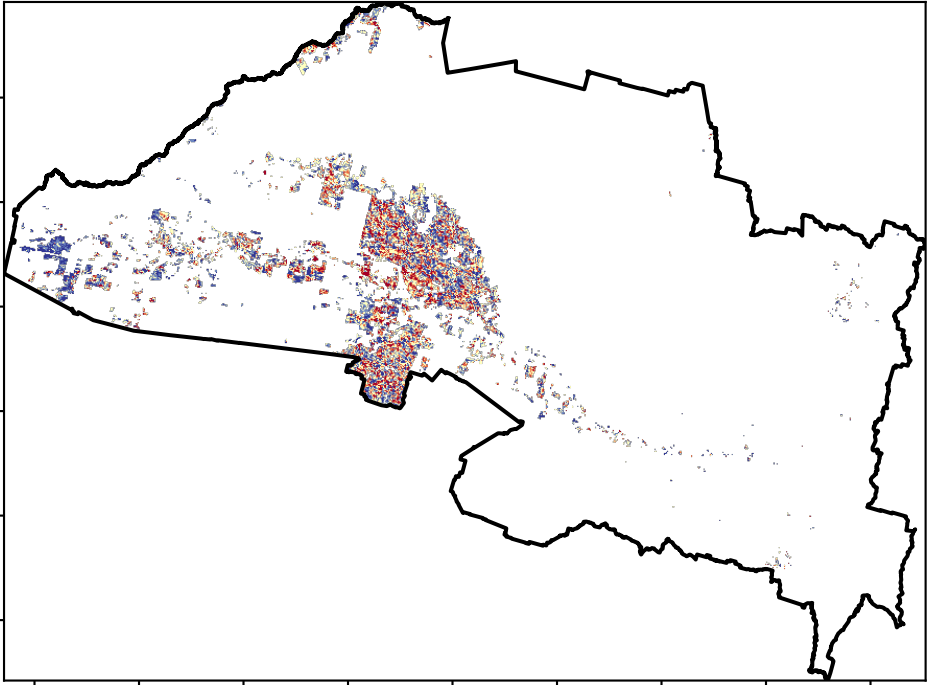
Anomaly show how many percentage points each pixel is from the mean. That is, red pixels are about 20% lower than the mean of that pixel. The mean is only for the month of the map using baseline from 2001 to 2019.



- 20
- 10
- 0
- 10
- 20

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

Total Vegetation Cover Decile [%]



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



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Ecosystem Research Infrastructure



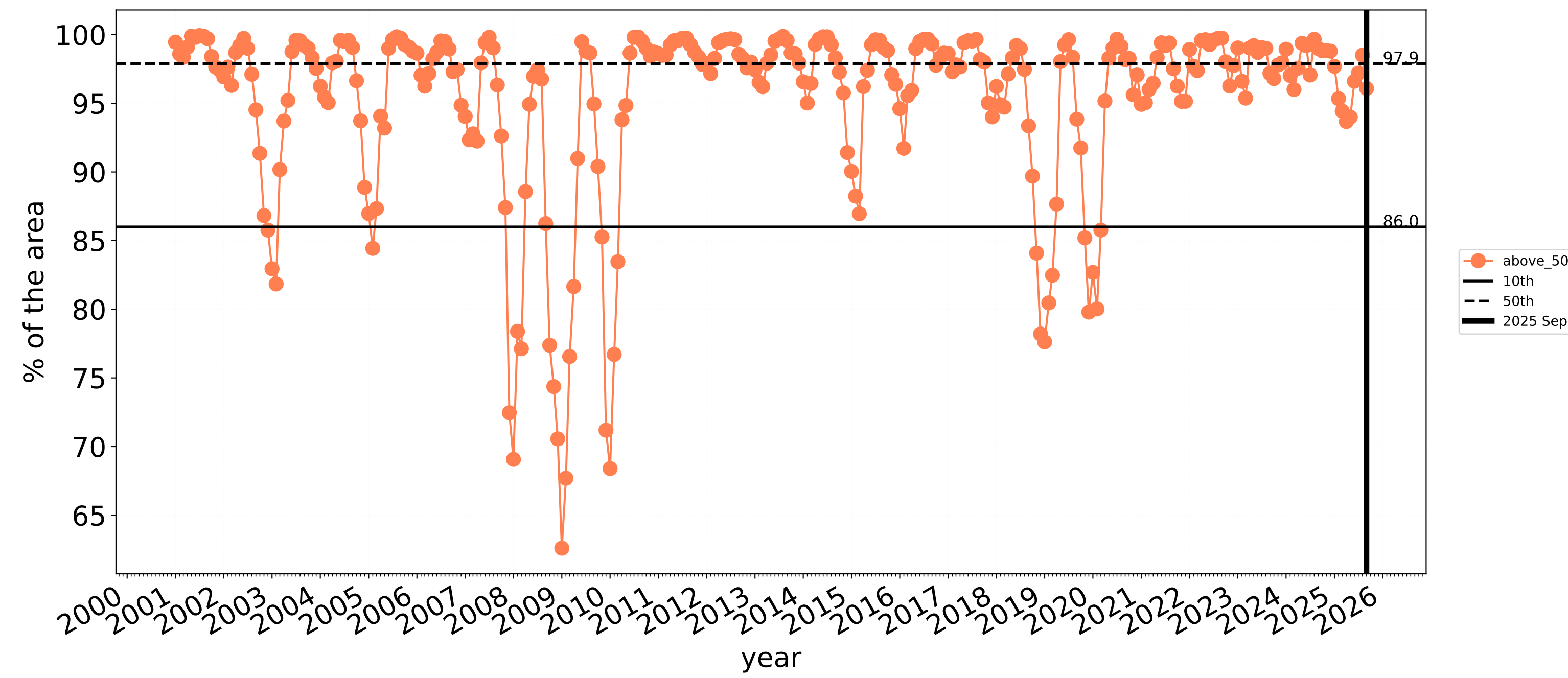
National  
Landcare  
Programme



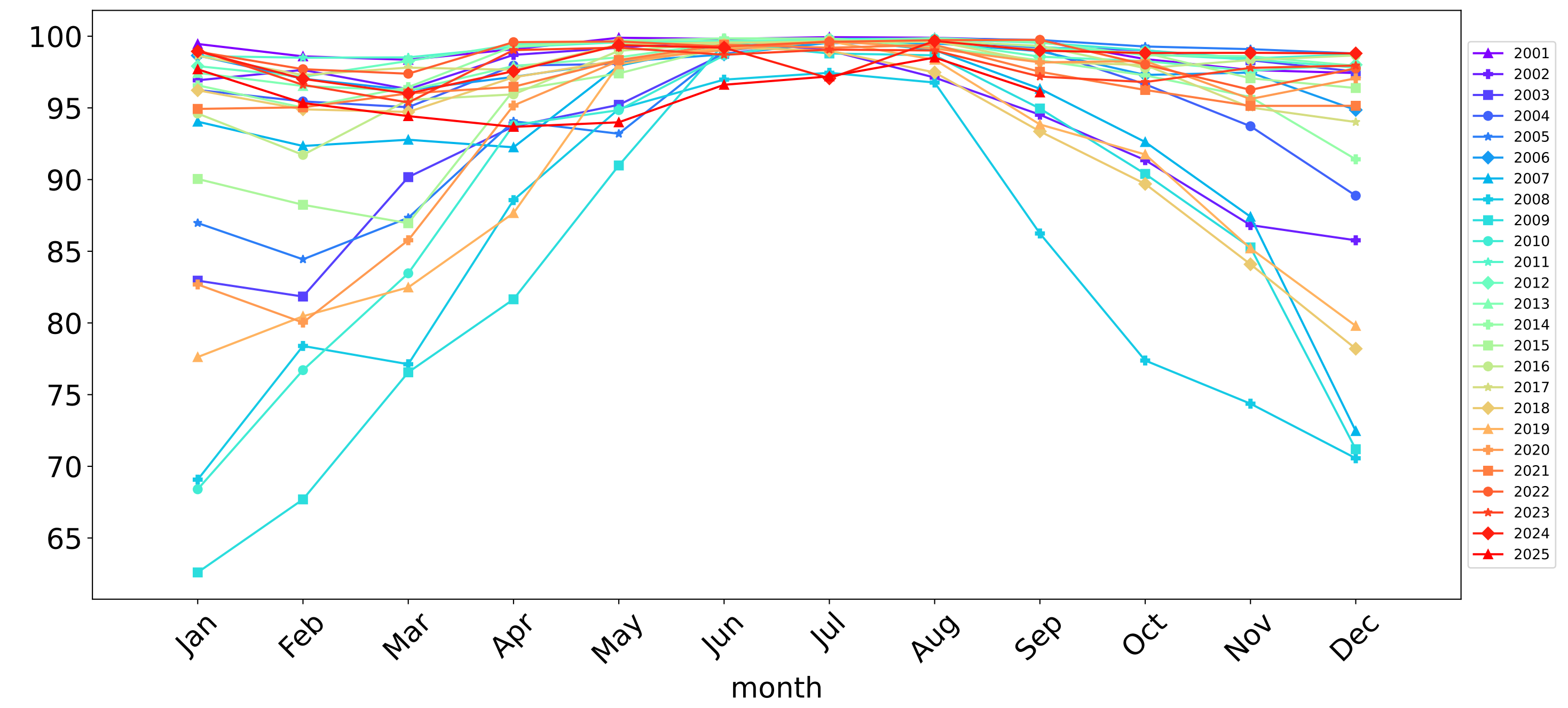


# Irrigation timeseries

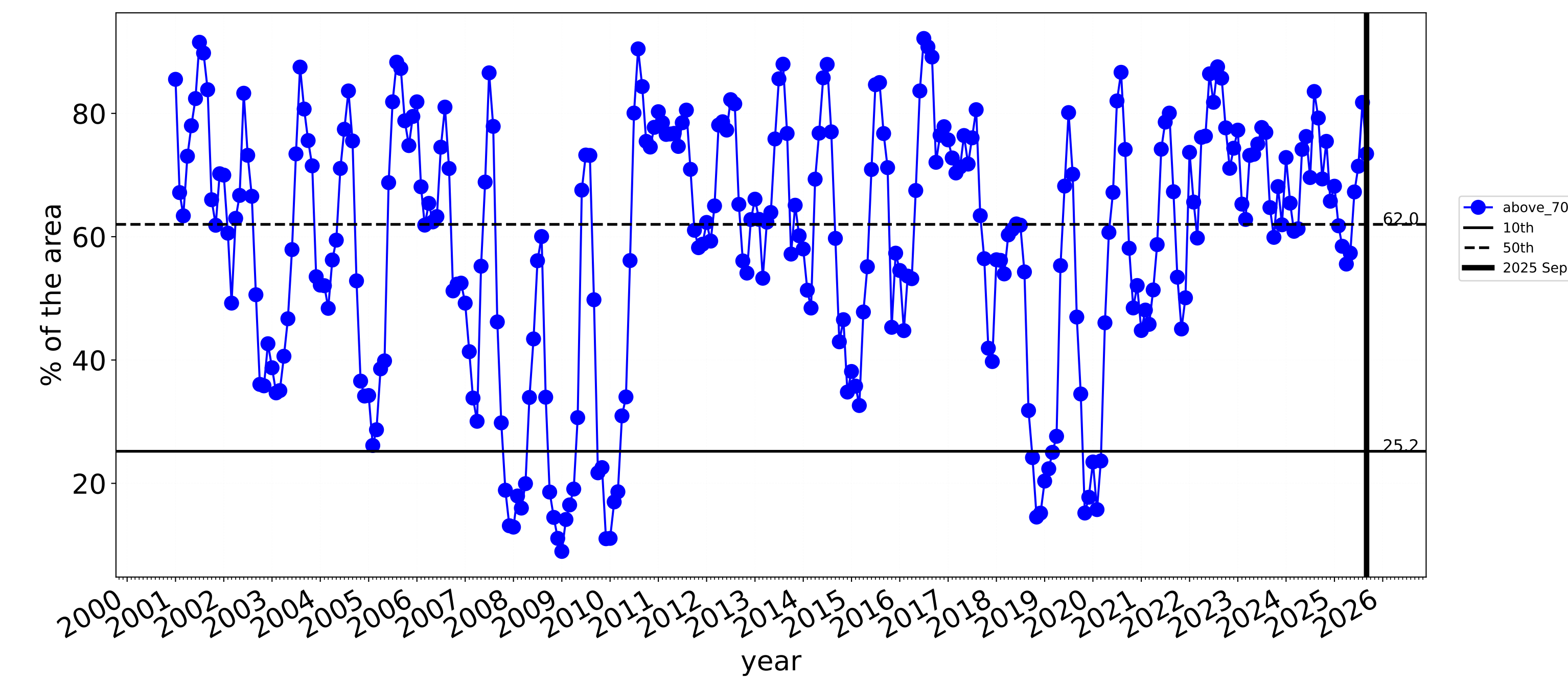
Proportion of the area protected from wind erosion (Total Vegetation Cover > 50%)



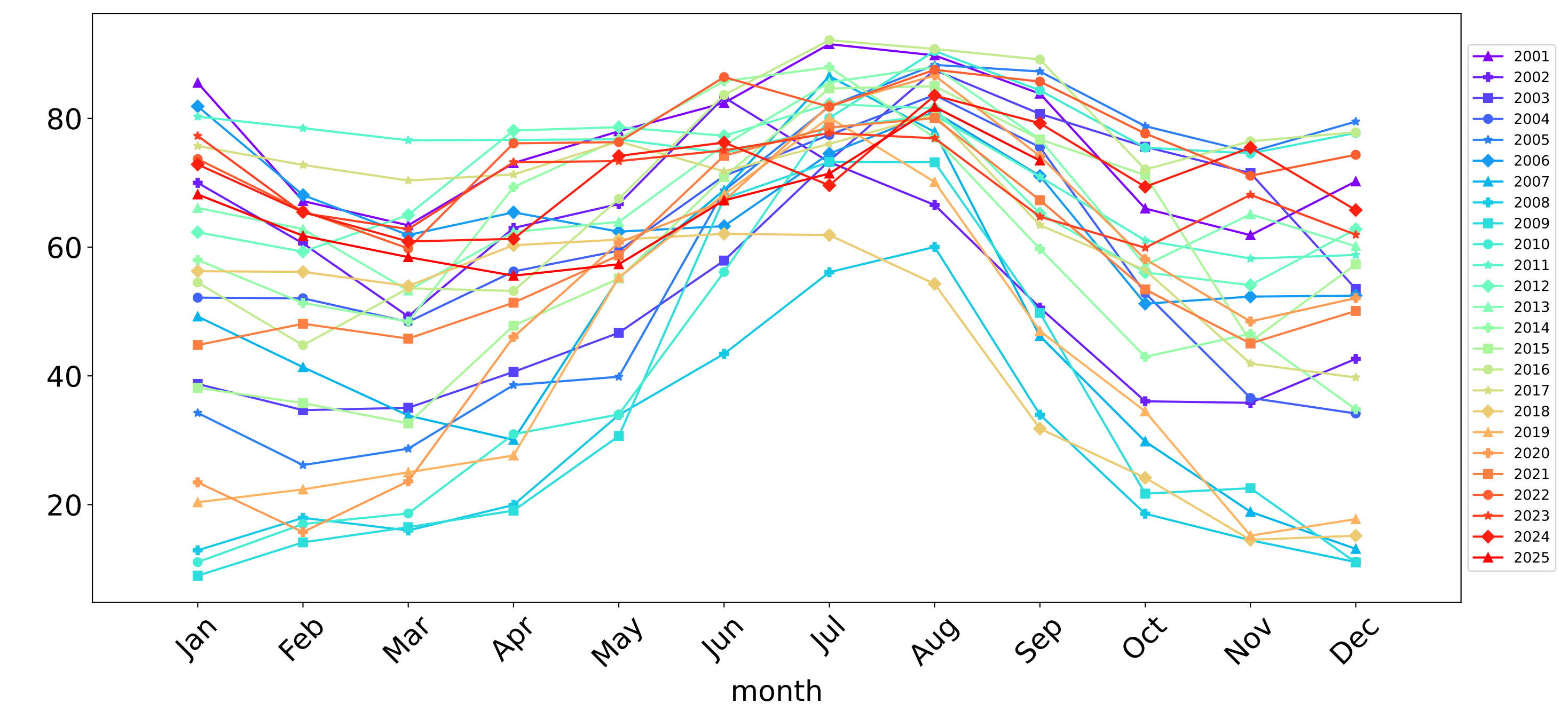
Wind erosion historical monthly area protected (Total Veg Cov >50%)



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



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

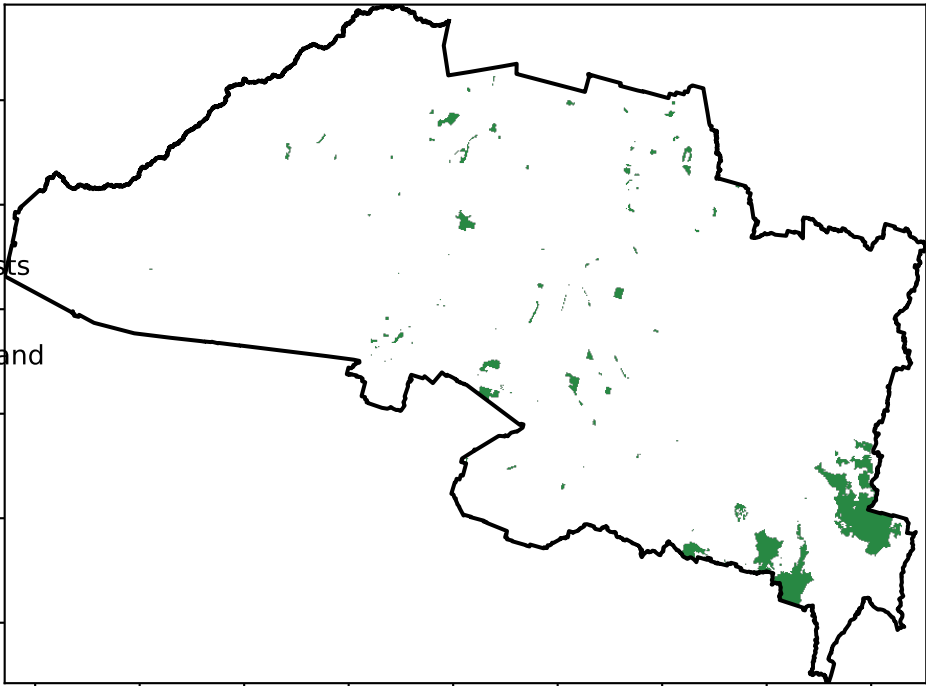




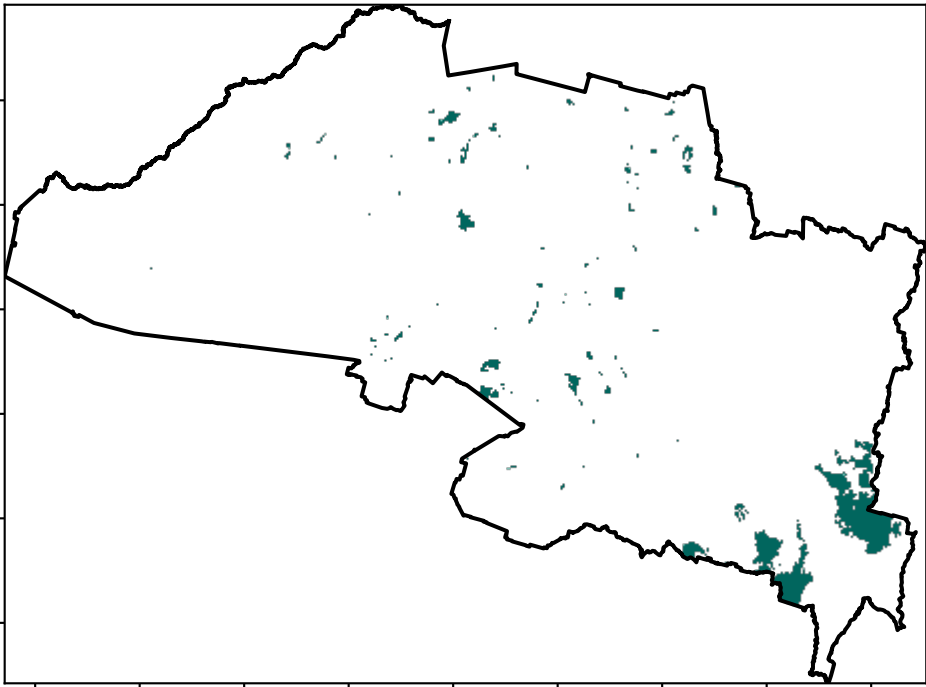
Production native forests and plantation forests

Land use and forest cover

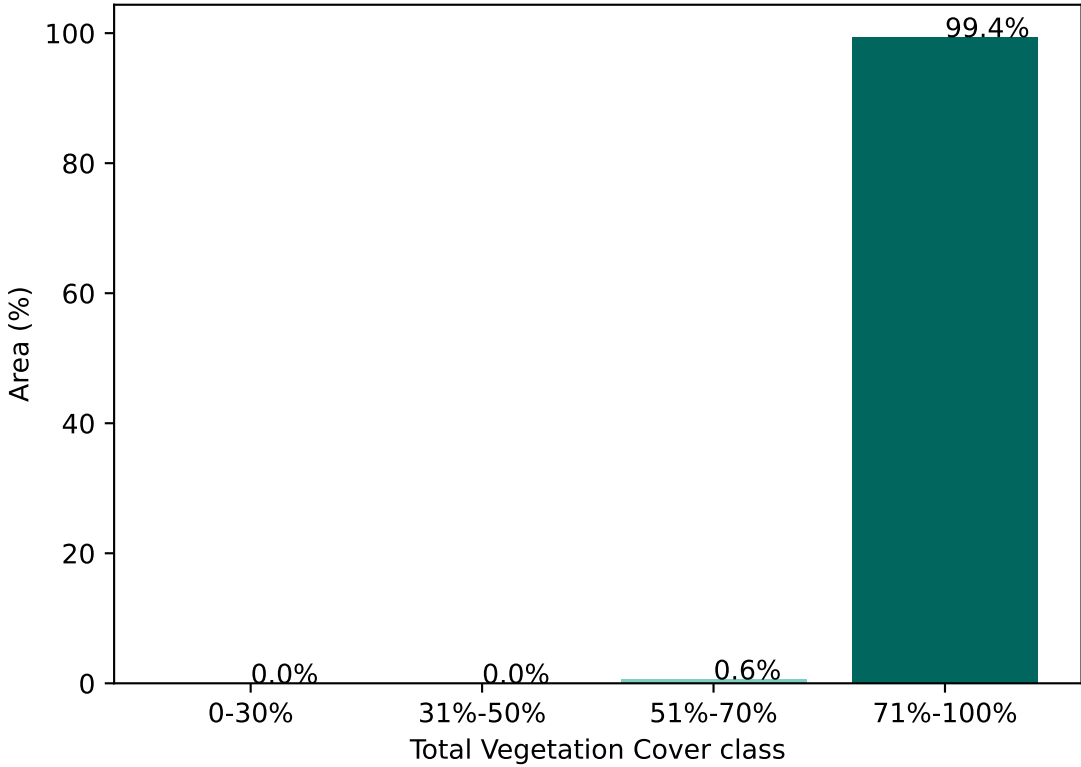
Catchment Scale Land Use and Forests of Australia (2018). Derived from Catchment Scale Land Use of Australia (2018) and Forests of Australia (2018)



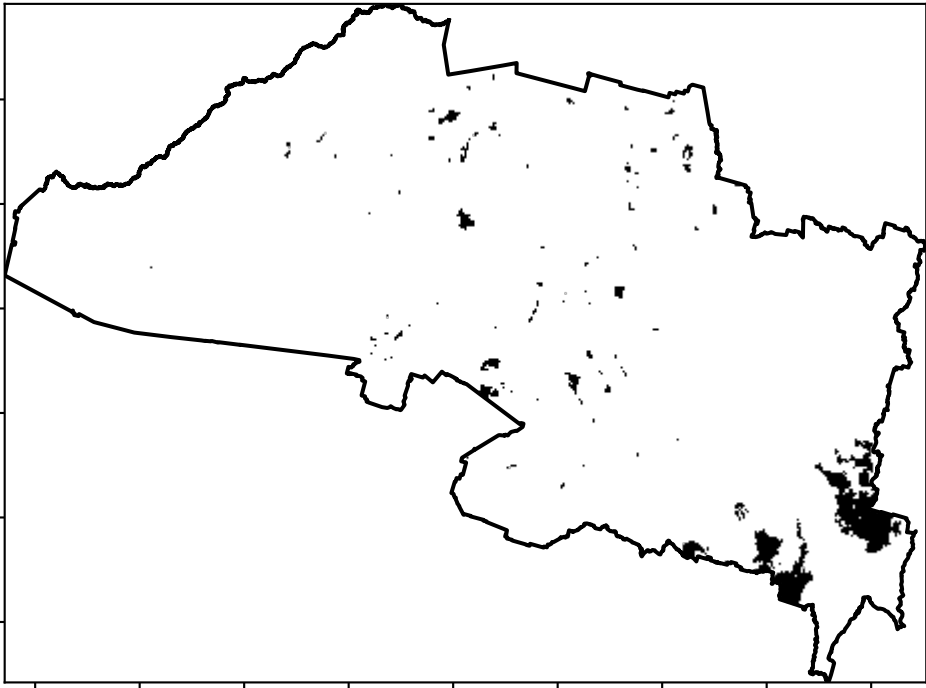
Total Vegetation Cover [%]



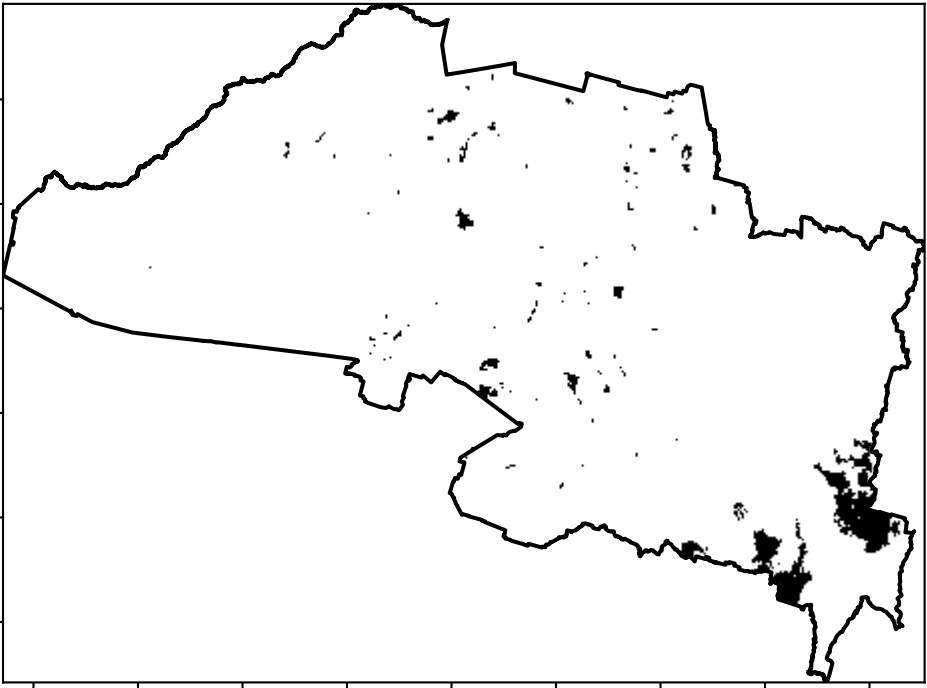
Proportion of vegetation cover class in area



% Area protected from water erosion (>70%)

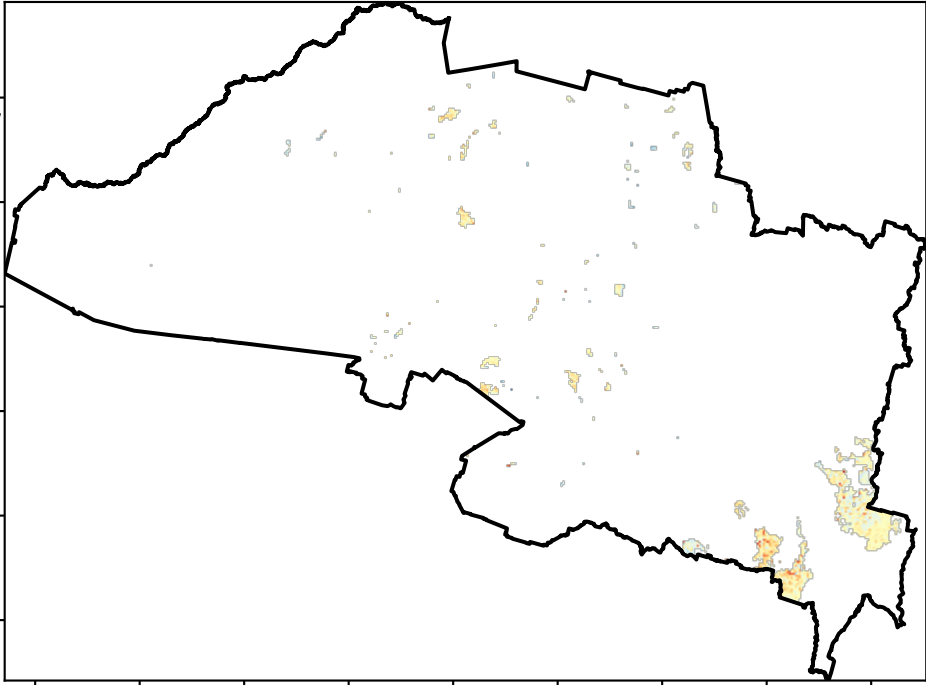


% Area protected from wind erosion (>50%)



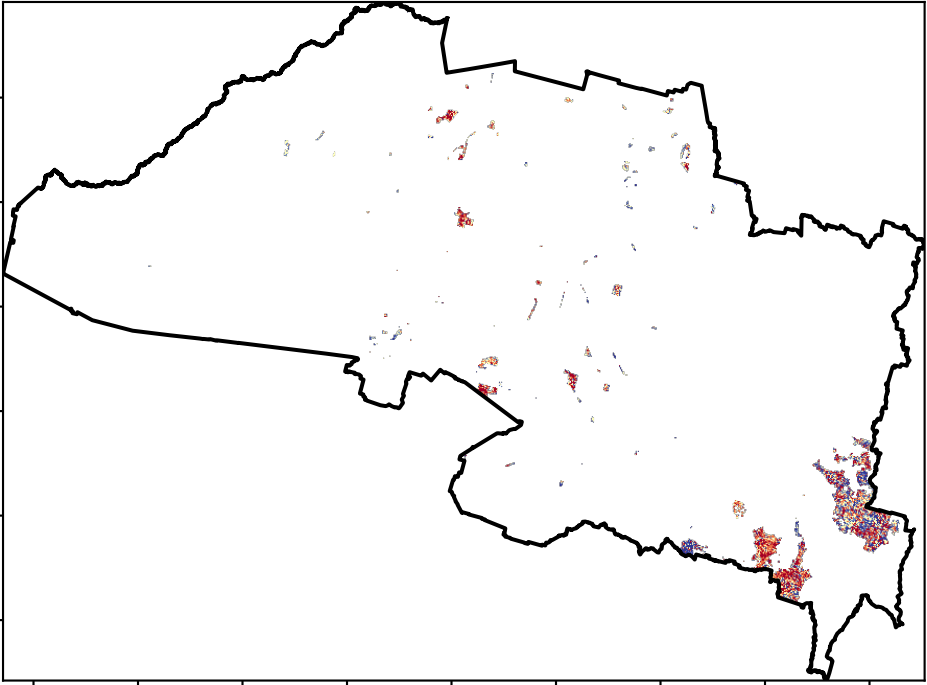
Total Vegetation Cover Anomaly [%]

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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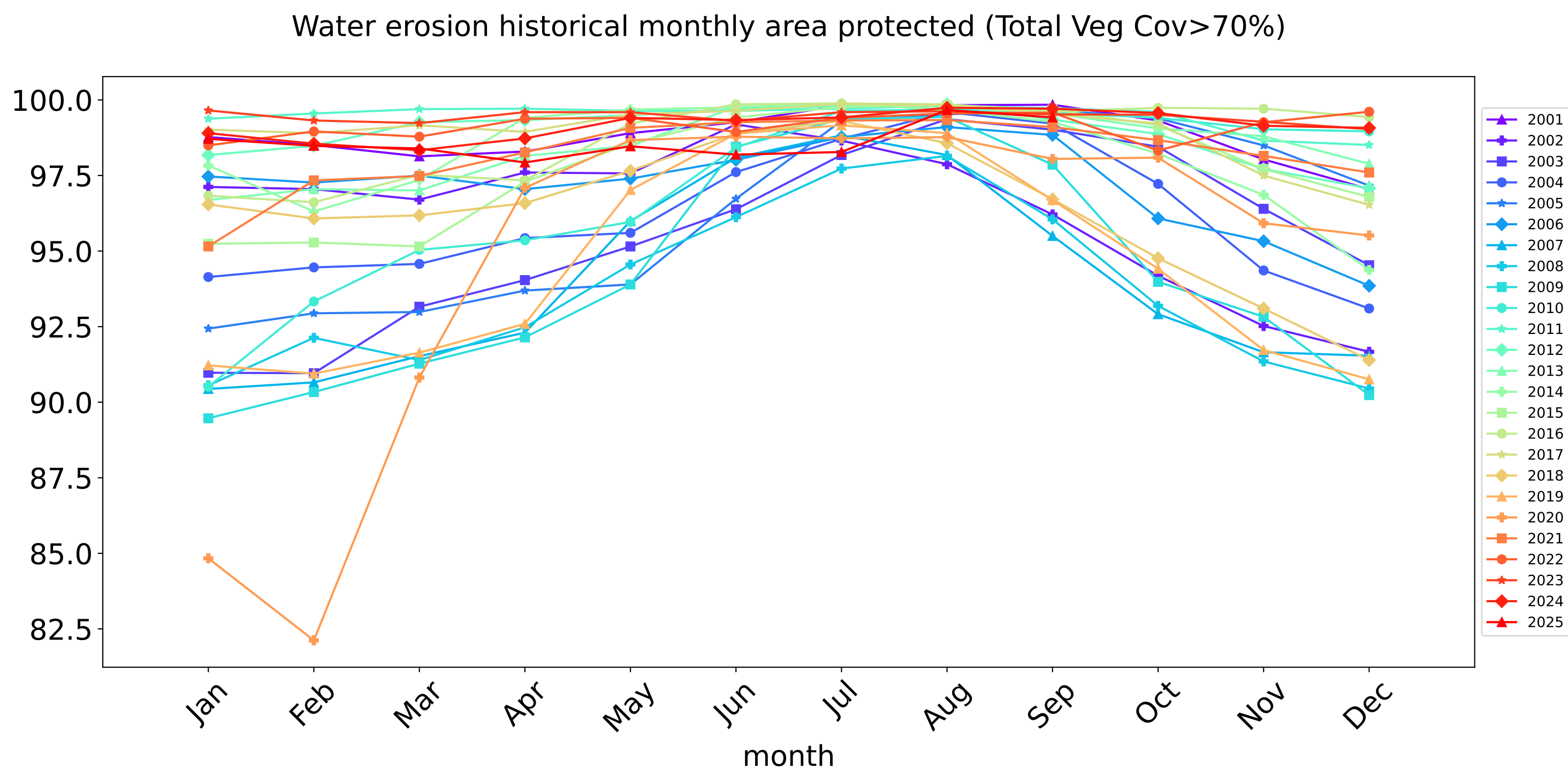
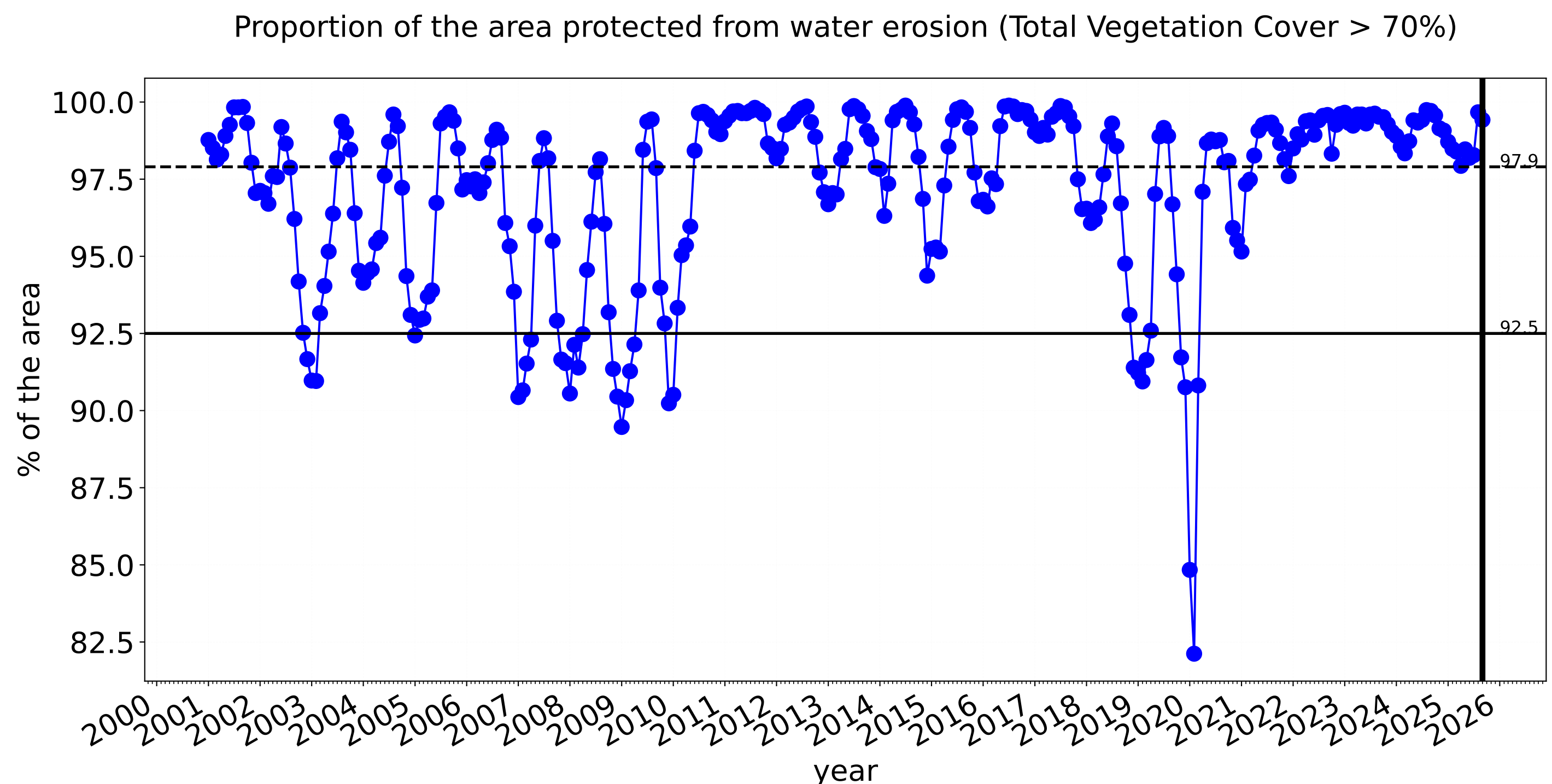
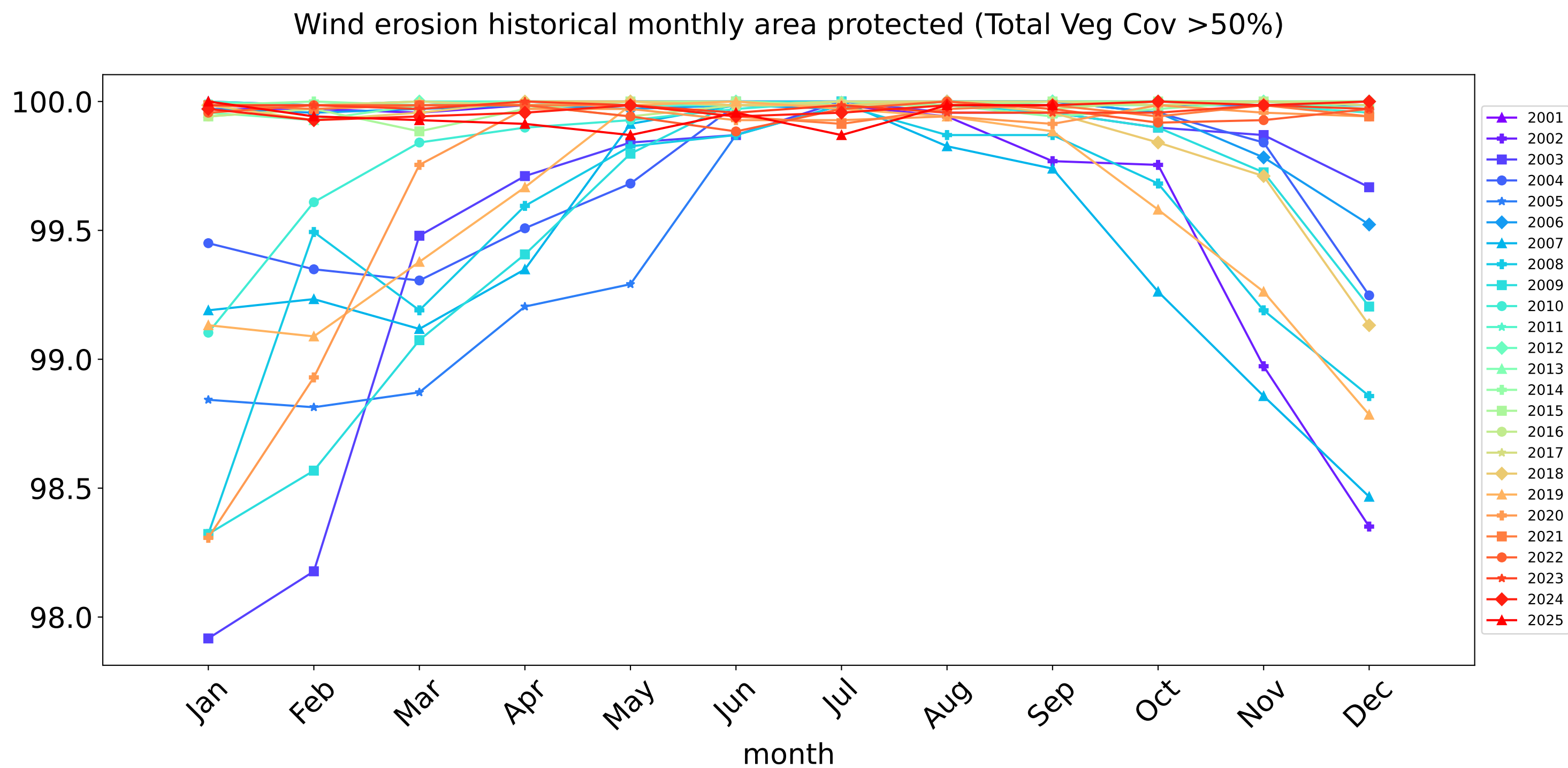
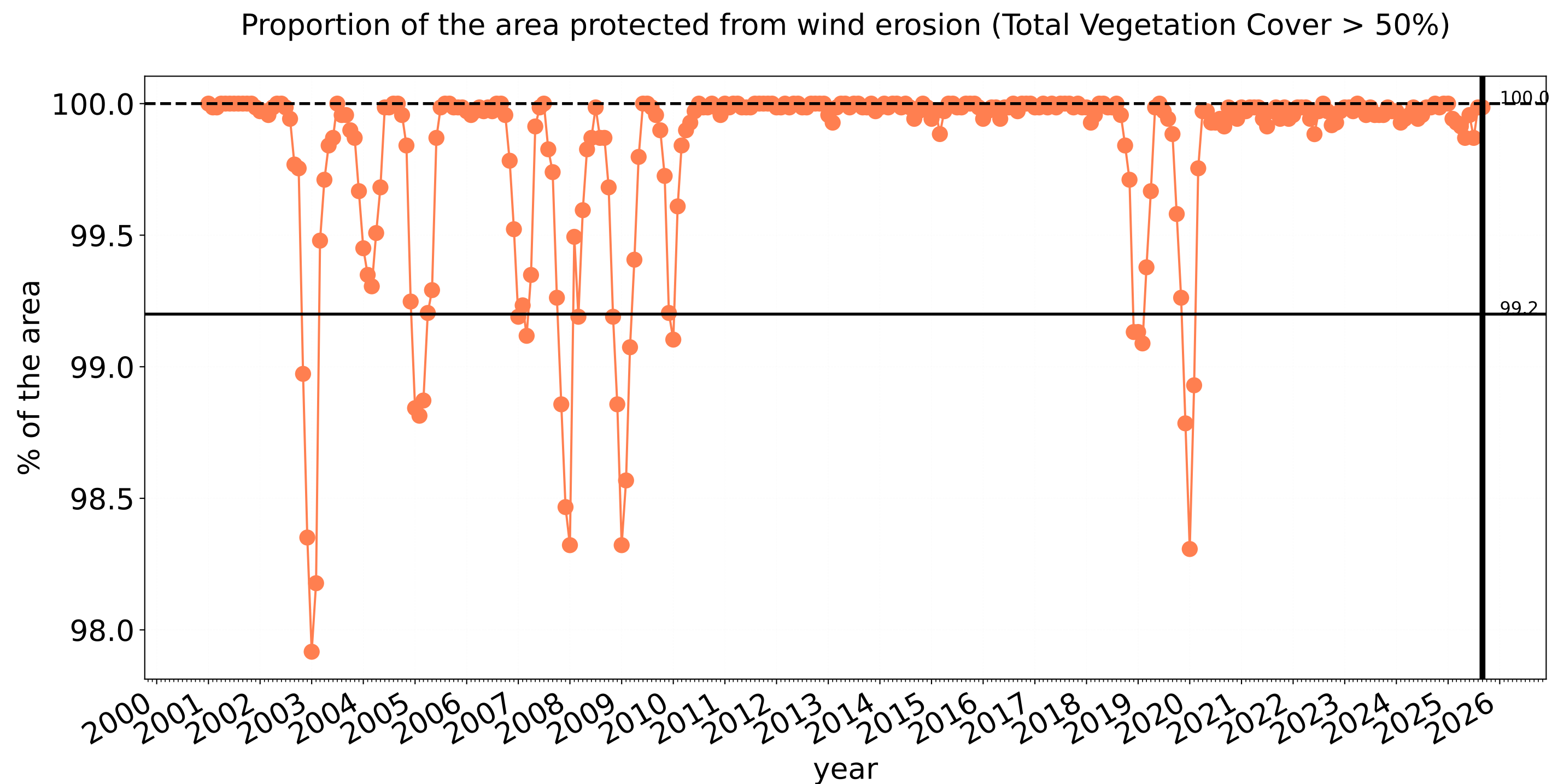


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Production native forests and plantation forests timeseries





Riverina (6,695,200 ha and no data 13,135 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	6,695,200	99.9% 6,688,625	99.2% 6,640,000	92.0% 6,157,925	73.2% 4,903,075	27.2% 1,820,500	9.3% 621,850
Conservation and natural environments	323,100	100.0% 323,075	99.9% 322,925	97.3% 314,475	86.4% 279,300	59.9% 193,475	32.5% 104,950
Conservation and natural environments non forest	83,350	100.0% 83,350	99.9% 83,225	90.3% 75,250	53.0% 44,200	17.0% 14,175	8.2% 6,875
Conservation and natural environments Forest (non woodland)	195,250	100.0% 195,225	100.0% 195,200	99.8% 194,850	98.7% 192,650	81.6% 159,400	47.3% 92,325
Agriculture	6,068,100	99.9% 6,062,725	99.2% 6,017,800	91.8% 5,567,625	72.4% 4,391,600	25.0% 1,514,325	7.6% 458,300
Grazing	2,311,800	99.9% 2,309,825	99.1% 2,291,625	90.3% 2,087,725	68.8% 1,590,200	22.3% 514,925	6.0% 139,100
Grazing non forest	2,066,800	99.9% 2,064,825	99.0% 2,046,675	89.3% 1,845,025	66.2% 1,368,175	20.5% 423,950	5.5% 113,475
Grazing Woodland forest	141,650	100.0% 141,650	100.0% 141,600	98.7% 139,750	87.2% 123,525	24.8% 35,150	4.8% 6,775
Grazing - Forest (non woodland)	103,350	100.0% 103,350	100.0% 103,350	99.6% 102,950	95.3% 98,500	54.0% 55,825	18.2% 18,850
Cropping	3,186,925	100.0% 3,186,375	99.8% 3,179,050	96.1% 3,061,400	80.5% 2,566,325	30.3% 964,950	9.8% 311,375
Irrigation	567,550	99.5% 564,700	96.1% 545,300	73.5% 416,875	41.3% 234,125	6.0% 34,325	1.4% 7,825
Production native forests and plantation forests	172,825	100.0% 172,825	100.0% 172,800	99.4% 171,825	95.2% 164,475	58.0% 100,175	32.2% 55,700



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