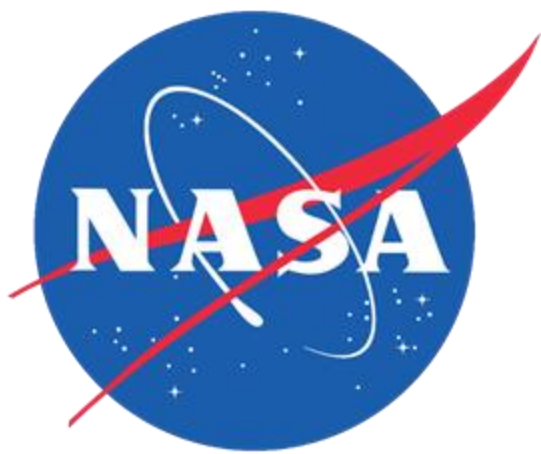


Zimbabwe Ecological Conservation



Assessing Effects of Urban Development and Drought on Tree Health to Protect White-Backed Vulture Nesting Sites in Zimbabwe

Community Concerns

The white-backed vulture is vital to the sub-Saharan African ecosystem as they play a pivotal role in the decomposition process. However, this species faces extinction due to the nesting tree mortality rate which is linked to human activities, like urban expansion and climate-induced drought. During droughts, African elephants gather around waterholes, leading to more aggressive behavior towards the surrounding nesting trees. Vegetation health and landcover change assessments are important to understand how vulture nesting sites have responded to this dynamic environment.

Optimal Nesting Sites:

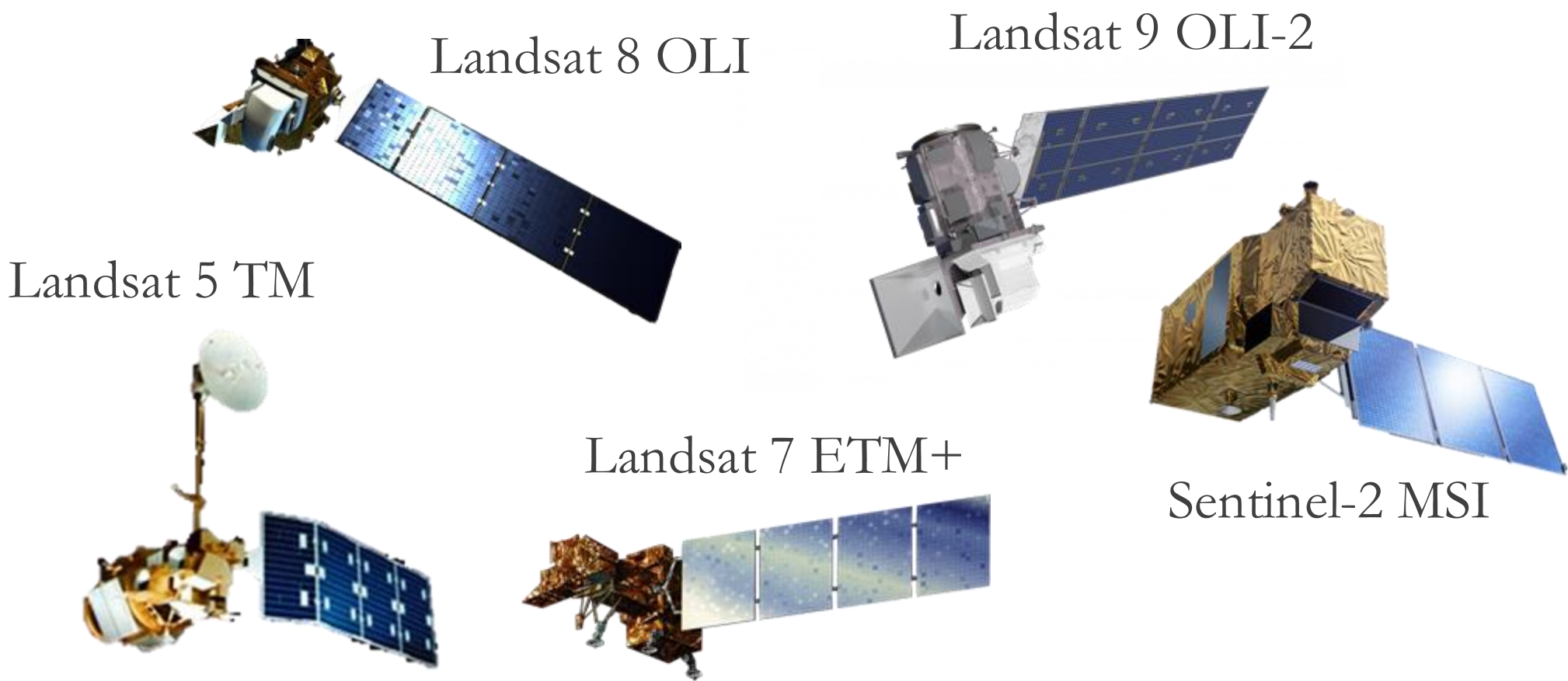


53% nested in Bushlands

16% prefer the Woodlands

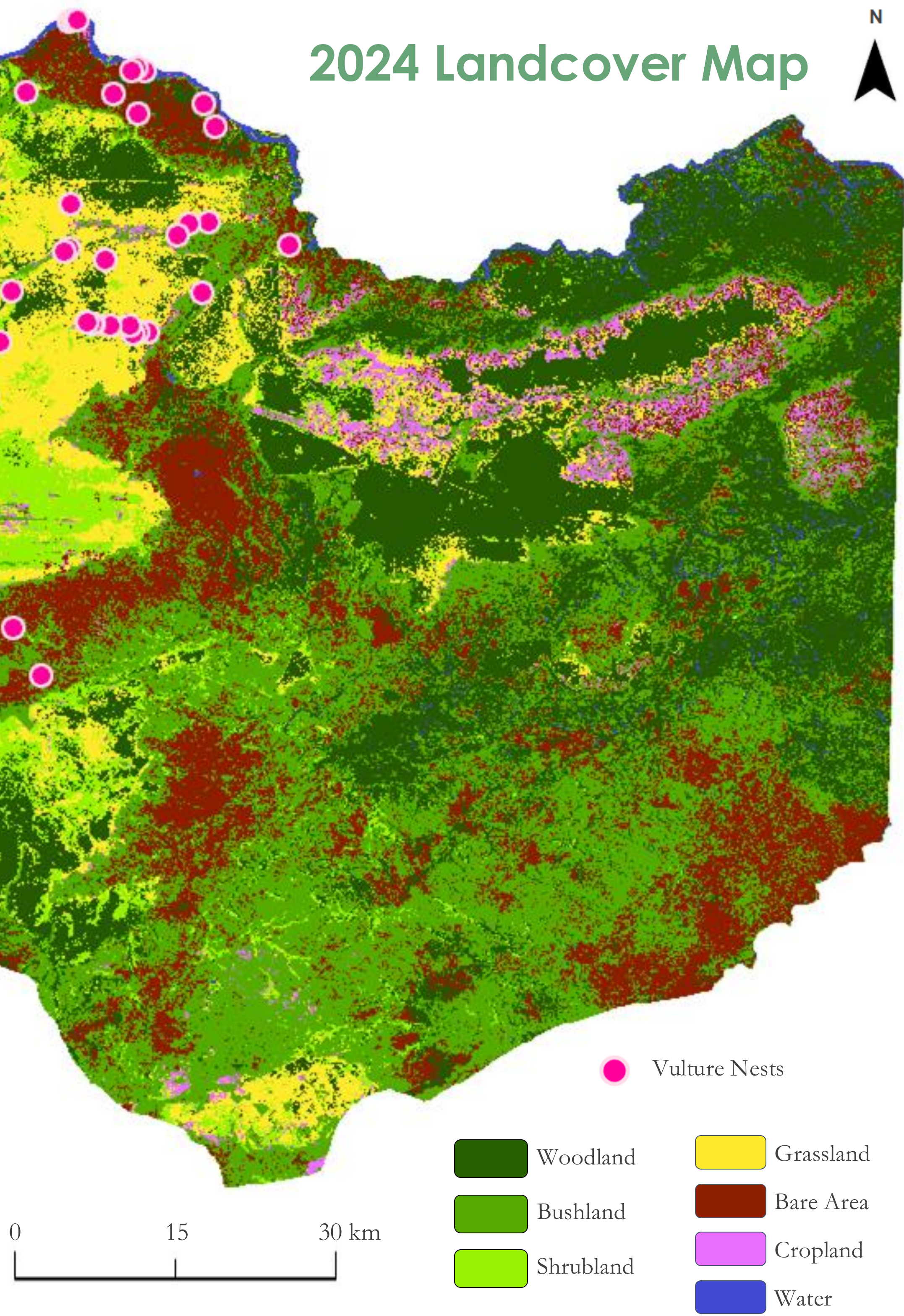
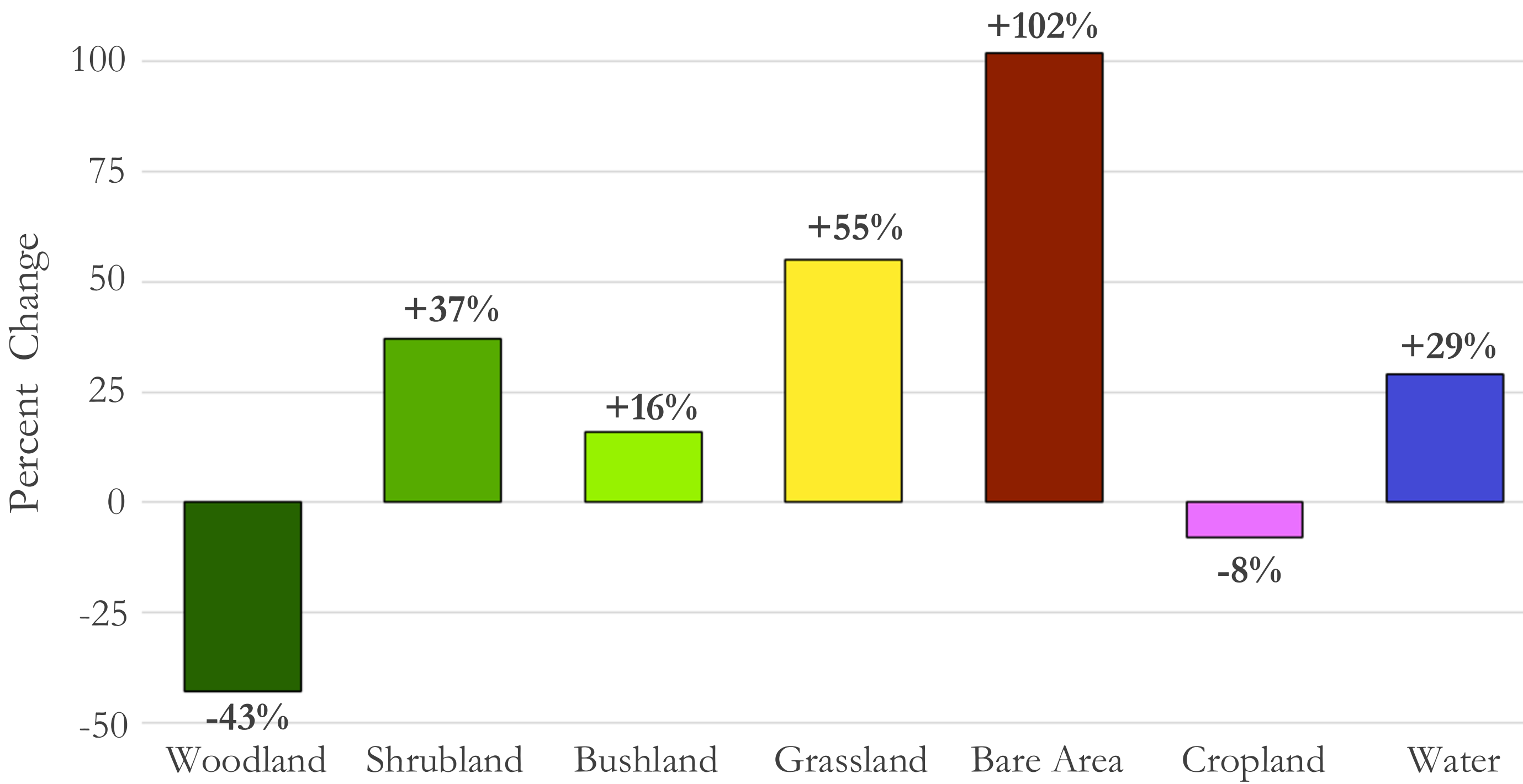
Not only is the tree cover reduced with 43% of woodlands converted to sparser landscapes, but since 2020, the health of nesting trees also declined.

Earth Observations



2024 Landcover Map

Landcover Type Change from 1994 to 2024



Team Members



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Project Partners

- Connected Conservation Trust
- Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust

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