

Semi-Weekly MLP Data Update

AUTHOR
DevLab@Penn

PUBLISHED
December 17, 2022

Table of contents
[Introduction](#)
[Uganda Update](#)
[Guatemala Update](#)
[Angola Update](#)
[Ghana Update](#)
[Philippines Update](#)
[New Country: Uzbekistan](#)

Introduction

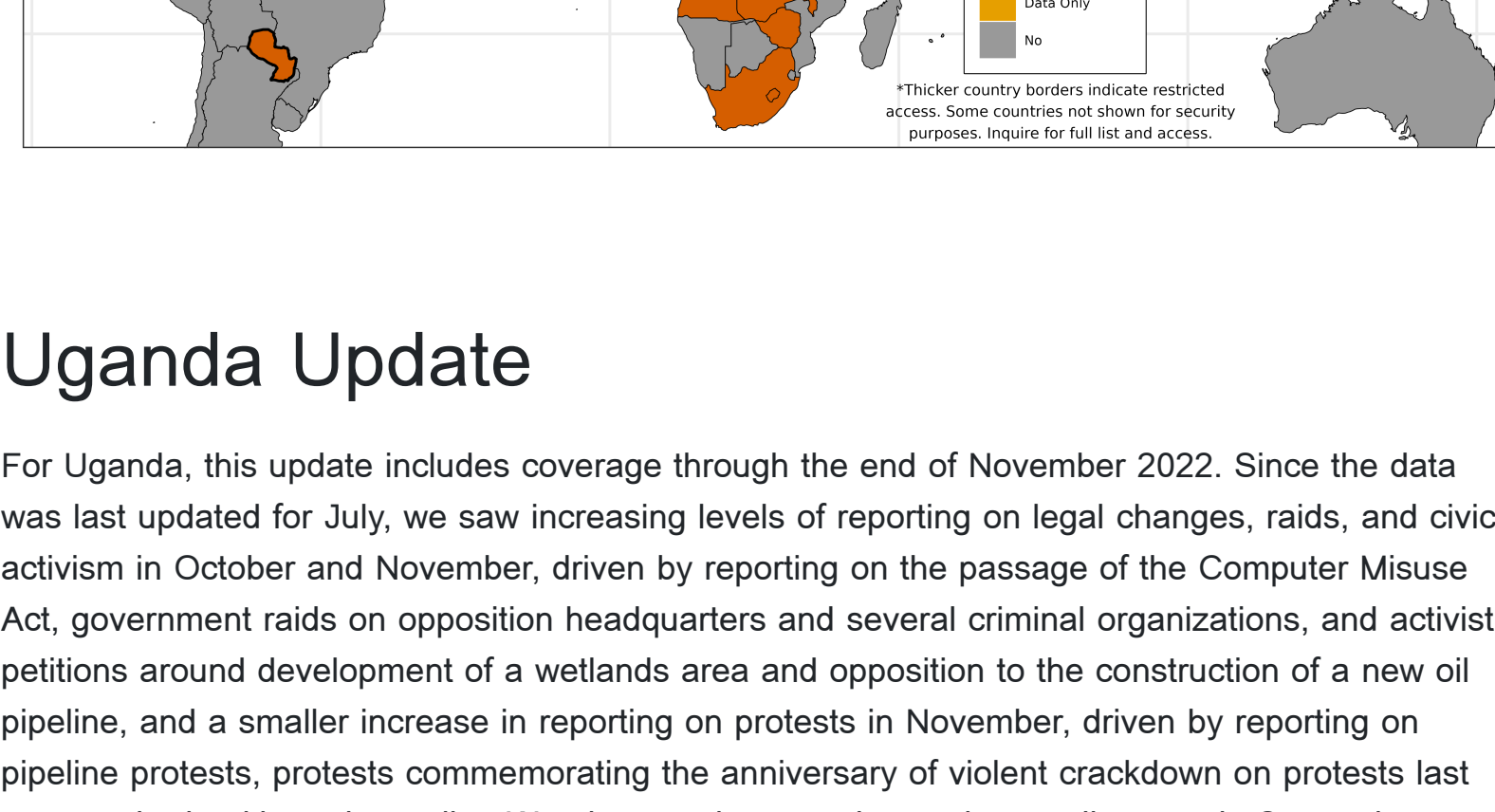
We have updated data and forecasts for Uganda, Guatemala, Angola, Ghana, and Philippines. We also have one new country: Uzbekistan. In these memos, we describe any major events that were detected by our data since the last update. We hope that this information can be useful for monitoring conditions across countries. We also review any notable forecasts made during the last data update and highlight any notable events we are forecasting over the next seven months. Importantly, we only highlight predictions of relatively large events from models with relatively high accuracy scores. In some cases, models with lower performance predict major events, or models with high performance predict smaller events, but we do not highlight these predictions. We encourage you to visit the site to a more thorough investigation.

Note: We have recently completed a review of all local sources that we are scraping to assess their alignment/bias. When we have a larger volume of news from state-aligned sources, we apply weighting that over-represents news from more independent sources. We are not applying weights to any country in this batch.

MLP Website: [here](#)

PW Protected Page: [here](#) (email jspr@sas.upenn.edu for access)

Current country coverage



Uganda Update

For Uganda, this update includes coverage through the end of November 2022. Since the data was last updated for July, we saw increasing levels of reporting on legal changes, raids, and civic activism in October and November, driven by reporting on the passage of the Computer Misuse Act, government raids on opposition headquarters and several criminal organizations, and activist petitions around development of a wetlands area and opposition to the construction of a new oil pipeline, and a smaller increase in reporting on protests in November, driven by reporting on pipeline protests, protests commemorating the anniversary of violent crackdown on protests last year, and a health worker strike. We also saw increased reporting on disasters in September over deadly floods, reporting on election activity in August around several minor by-elections, reporting on state of emergency measures in October driven by ebola lockdowns, and security force mobilization in November driven by increased presence around Uganda's borders to fight illegal imports.

In July, we predicted elevated levels of reporting on arrests around the end of 2022. Although we do not yet have data through the end of the year, the updated data is tracking this forecast closely. Over the last three weeks (not covered by our updated data), we have seen the arrest of the several activists protesting the construction of Uganda's new oil pipeline and the arrest of a major opposition figure, so expect December's data to reflect our July prediction. Please see the [Actual vs Predicted Values](#) section below.

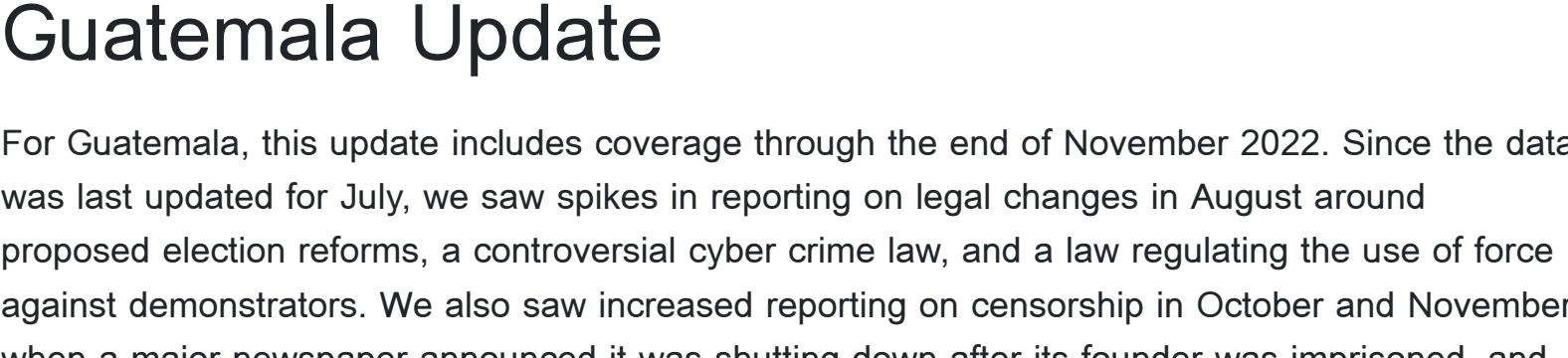
Forecasts

Over the next seven months, we are not predicting any major events.

Actual vs Predicted Values

These plots compare the predicted values from our last update (captured by the dotted-line and blue prediction intervals) with the actual values from our most recently updated data.

Arrests



Guatemala Update

For Guatemala, this update includes coverage through the end of November 2022. Since the data was last updated for July, we saw spikes in reporting on legal changes in August around proposed election reforms, a controversial cyber crime law, and a law regulating the use of force against demonstrators. We also saw increased reporting on censorship in October and November when a major newspaper announced it was shutting down after its founder was imprisoned, and on raids and security force mobilization in November reporting on operations to intercept migrant groups and gang members intending to enter the country and at least two rounds of coordinated raids across the country targeting human trafficking and drug operations.

Forecasts

Over the next seven months, we are not predicting any major events.

Actual vs Predicted Values

In the last update, we did not predict any major events in months covered by this update.

Angola Update

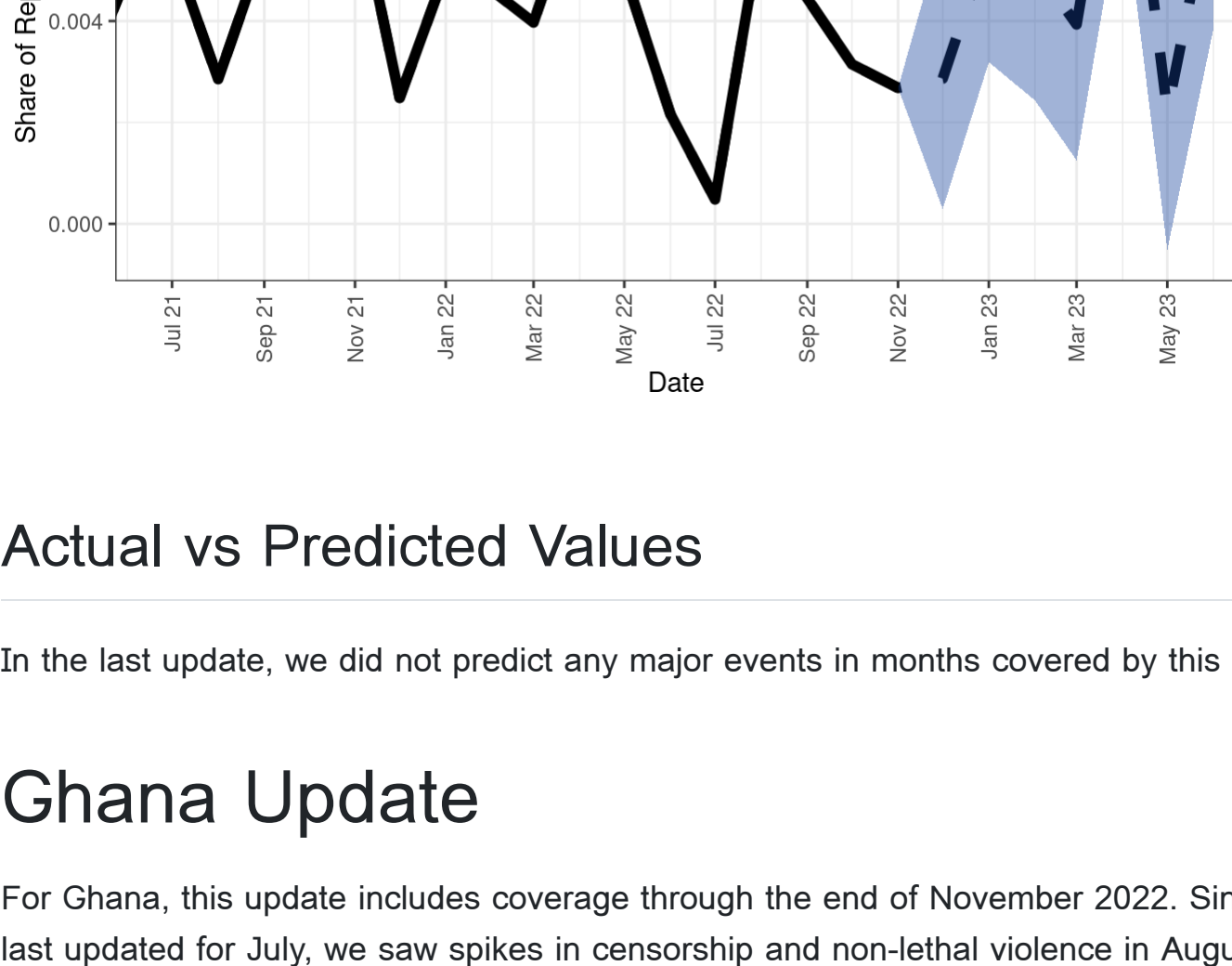
For Angola, this update includes coverage through the end of November 2022. Since the data was last updated for July, we saw spikes in election activity and election irregularities in August, associated with reporting on the elections that month. We saw increased reporting on legal actions and protests for September, October, and November, driven by constitutional court's decision to dismiss complaints about the election filed by an opposition party and subsequent protests in September (although these protests were less pronounced in our data than those of December 2021). October and November also saw elevated levels of reporting on protests driven by separate strikes by transportation workers, teachers, and healthcare workers during these months. Finally, we see elevated levels of reporting on cooperation in November, capturing government negotiations with unions and labor groups, as well as sectoral and bilateral talks happening around COP27.

Over the following months, we are predicting a slight spike in reporting on civic activism in Q2 2023. Please see the [Forecasts](#) section below.

Forecasts

Over the next seven months, we are predicting a slight spike in reporting on civic activism in Q2 2023.

Civic Activism



Actual vs Predicted Values

In the last update, we did not predict any major events in months covered by this update.

Ghana Update

For Ghana, this update includes coverage through the end of November 2022. Since the data was last updated for July, we saw spikes in censorship and non-lethal violence in August. These spikes were caused by the reporting on President's Chief of Staff threatening a newspaper with defamation, the temporary ban of a radio station, and a forced retraction imposed by the National Media Commission on a TV broadcaster, as well as the attempted assassination of TV broadcast journalist, violence instigated by students and youth in several parts of the country, and attacks on several party and local government offices. We also saw a spike in reporting on defamation cases in September through November, with defamation suits filed by government officials against at least three media figures, purges/removals in November around the firing of the country's Finance Minister and a majority party MP, and cooperation in October, resulting from government consultation with stakeholders over the formation of the annual budget and efforts to organize local governments to crack down on illegal mining.

Forecasts

Over the next seven months, we are not predicting any major events.

Actual vs Predicted Values

In the last update, we did not predict any major events in months covered by this update.

Philippines Update

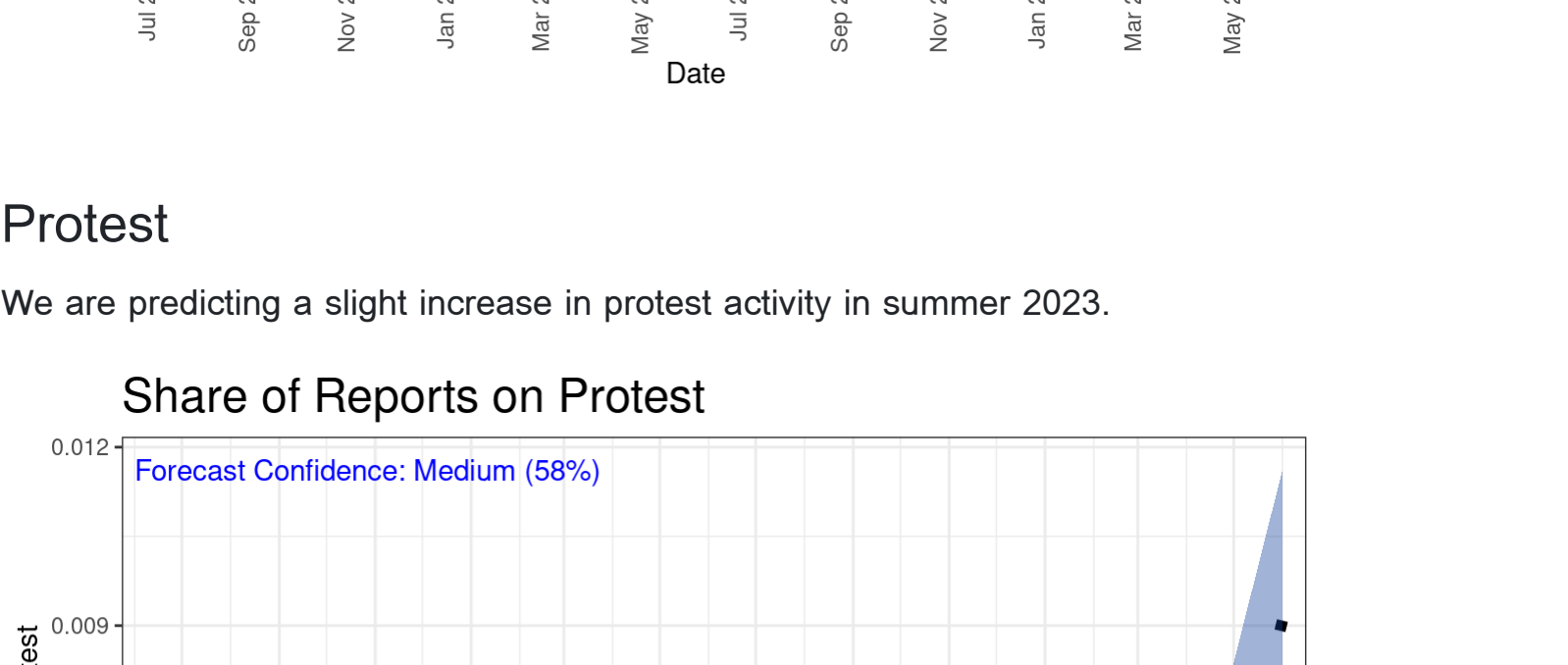
For Philippines, this update includes coverage through the end of November 2022. In our last update (covering the end of July), we saw elevated levels of the Civic Space Index, arrest, censorship, raids, and violence in the months immediately following the May elections. Since July, we saw elevated levels of raids in August, driven by a large number of raids against drug operations, militant groups, and an illegal sugar smuggling operation, lethal violence in October and November, driven by criminal violence, land disputes, the killing of a prominent broadcast journalist and several local political figures, a bus bombing, and clashes between police and a rebel group, and legal actions in September and October, driven by legal proceedings around a major sugar smuggling operation, a militant group, police involved in a deadly raid on human rights activists, and suspects in the murder of a broadcast journalist.

In July, we predicted a significant decrease in the Civic Space Index after October, an increase in legal actions in September-October, and levels of lethal violence to remain at relatively high levels. Our data were consistent with these predictions. Please see the [Actual vs Predicted Values](#) section below.

Over the following months, we are expected the Civic Space Index to continue to decrease, slightly elevated levels of protest in summer 2023, slightly elevated levels of legal changes in Q1 and Q2 2023, and significantly elevated levels of legal actions in Q1 and Q2 2023. Please see the [Forecasts](#) section below.

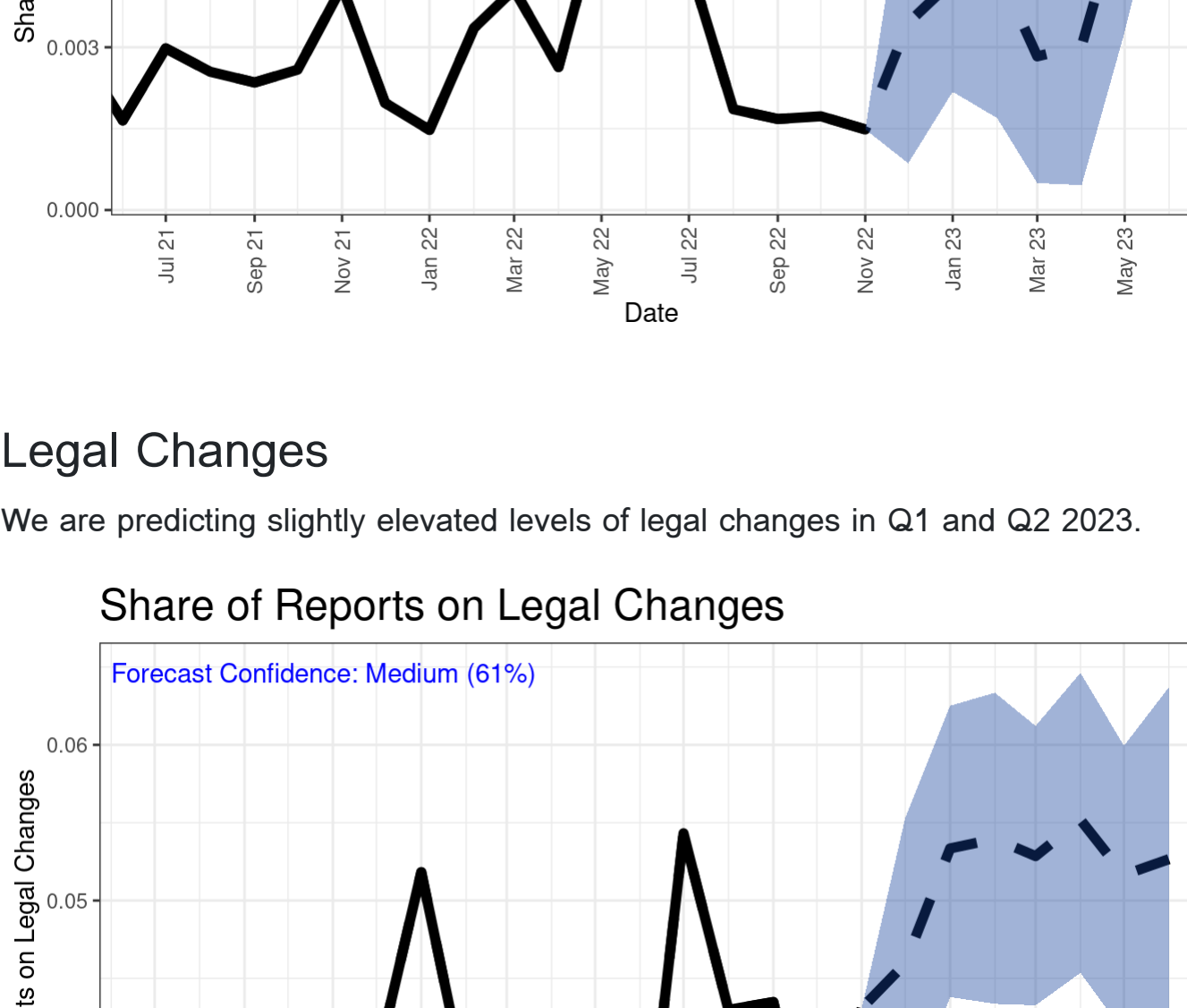
Forecasts

Civic Space Index



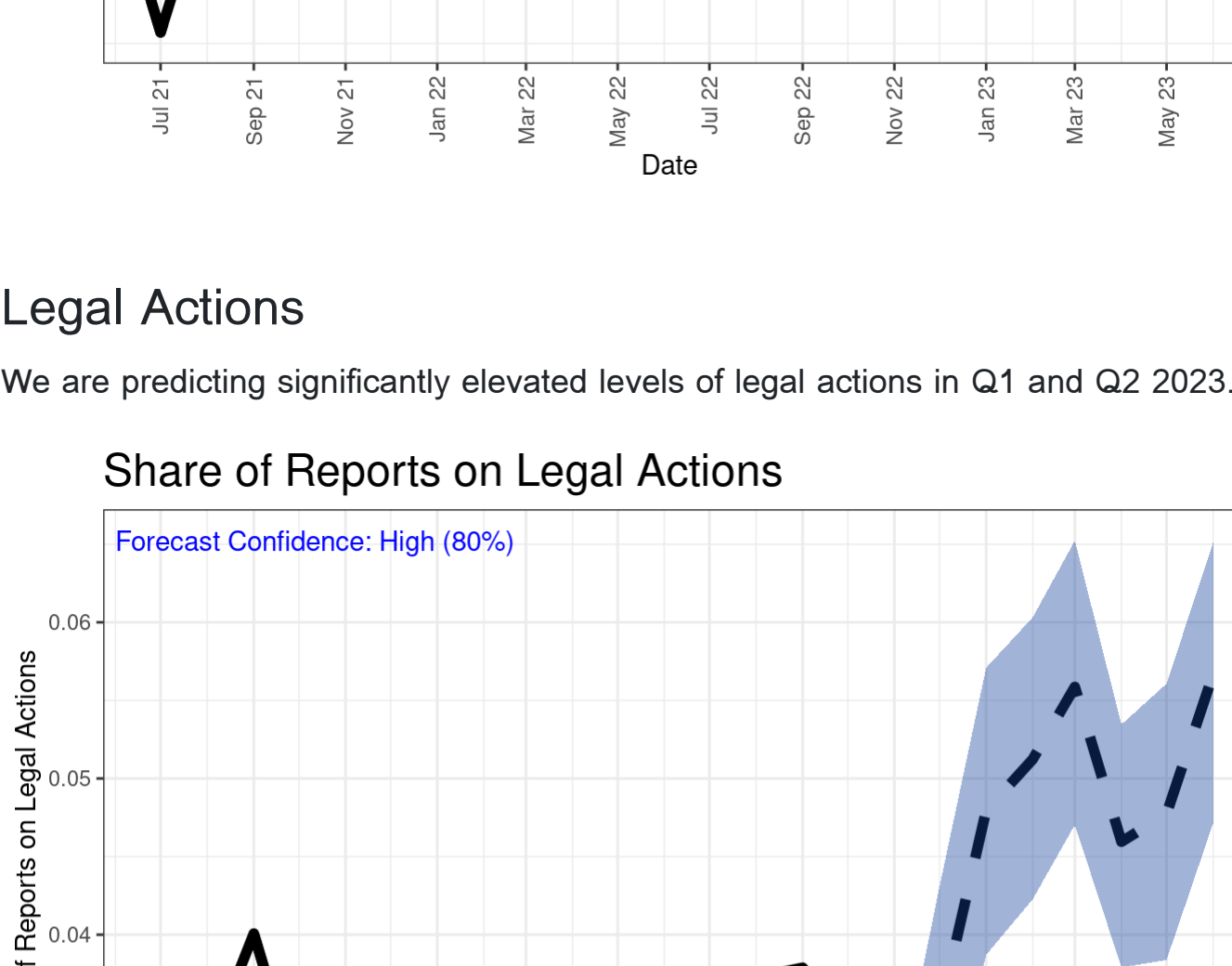
Protest

We are predicting a slight increase in protest activity in summer 2023.



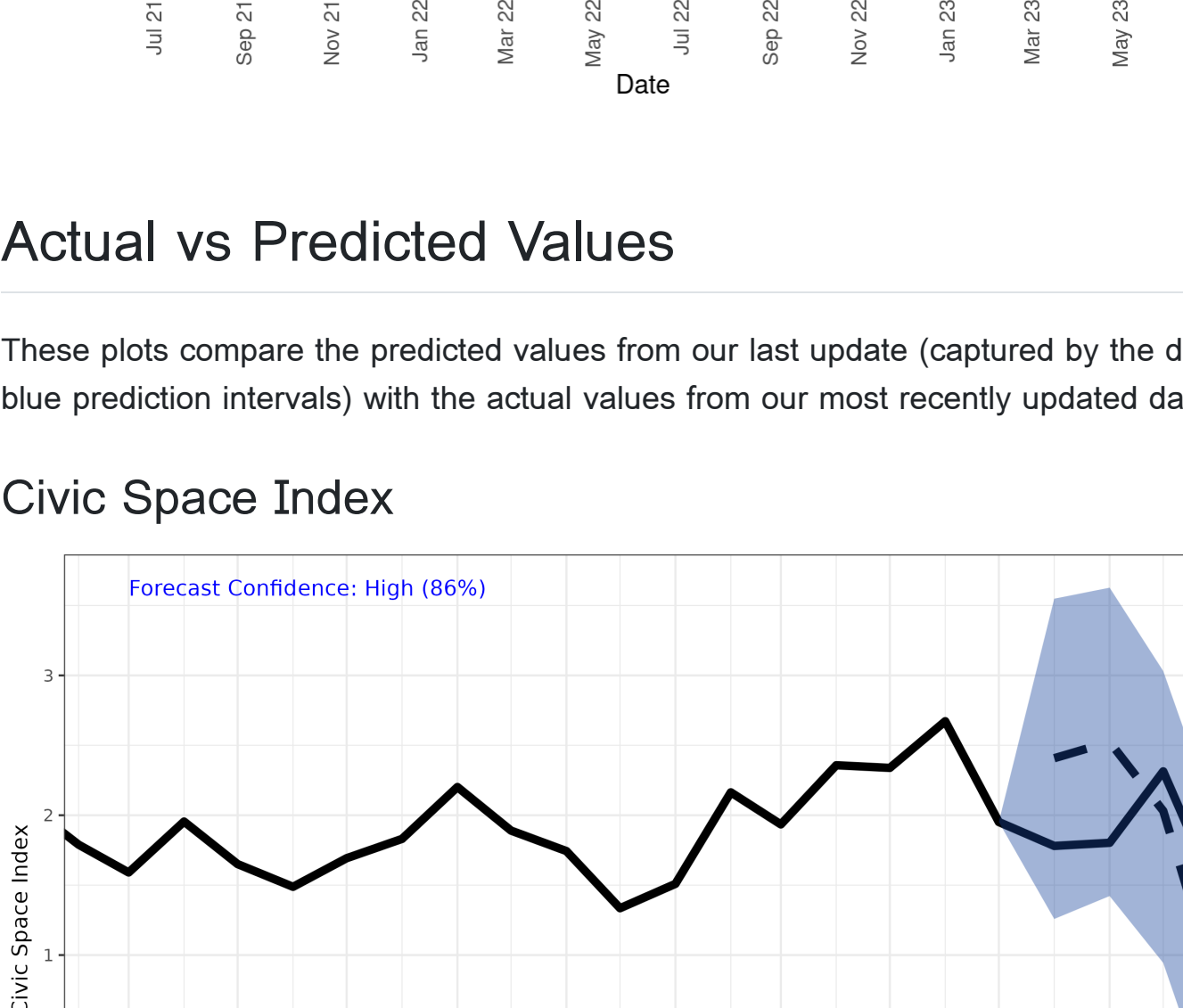
Legal Changes

We are predicting slightly elevated levels of legal changes in Q1 and Q2 2023.



Legal Actions

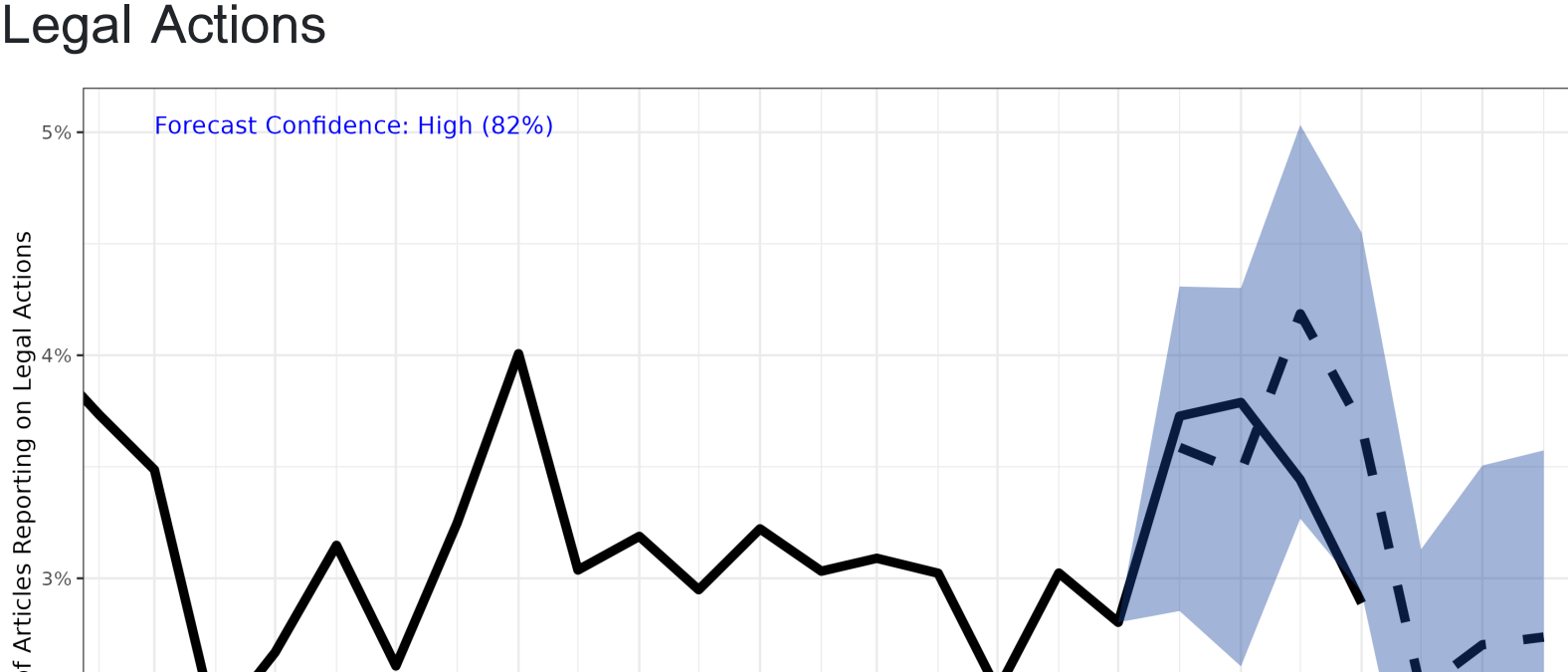
We are predicting significantly elevated levels of legal actions in Q1 and Q2 2023.



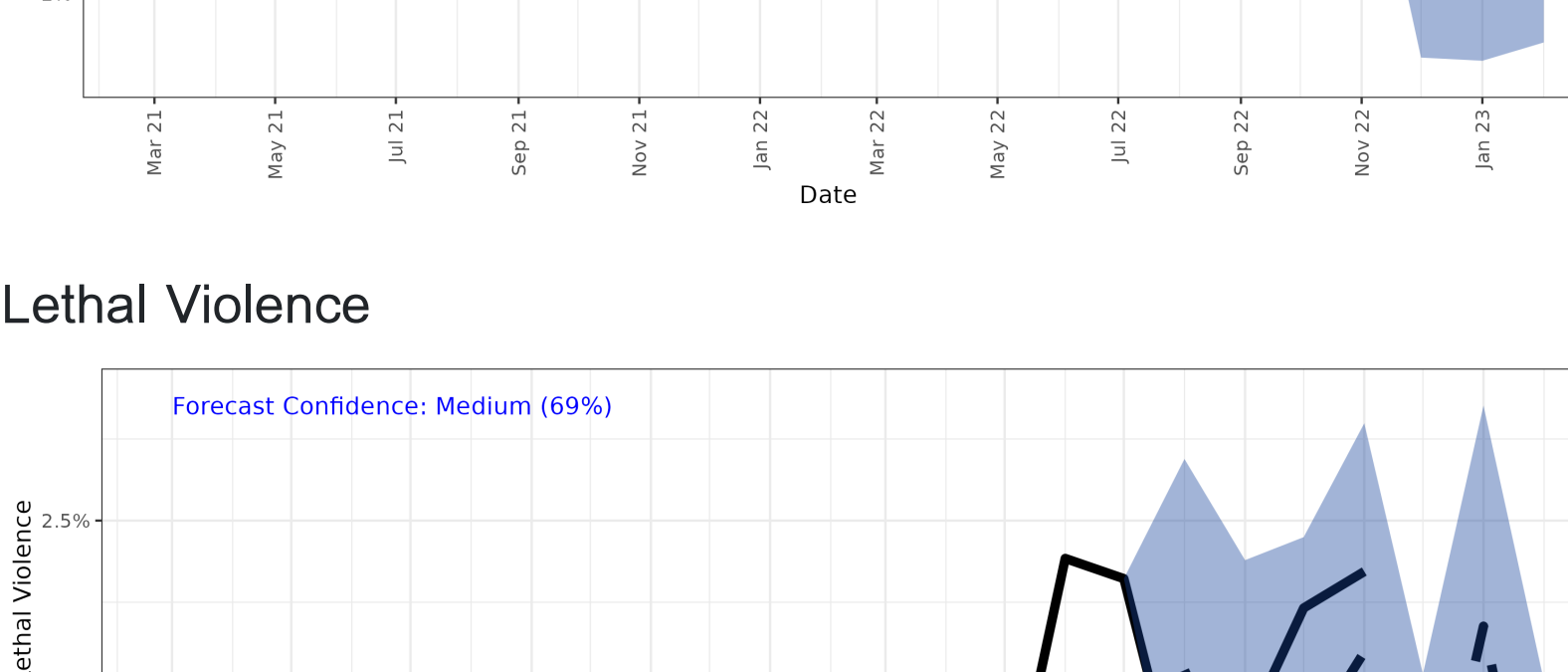
Actual vs Predicted Values

These plots compare the predicted values from our last update (captured by the dotted-line and blue prediction intervals) with the actual values from our most recently updated data.

Civic Space Index



Legal Actions



Lethal Violence



New Country: Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan is a new country. This update includes coverage through the end of November 2022. In recent months, we observed elevated levels of legal actions, protests, lethal violence, and state of emergency in July, driven by violent protests, unrest, and a state of emergency over government plans to curtail the autonomy of the Karakalpakstan province.

We are predicting slightly elevated levels of arrests in Q2 2023.

Forecasts

Arrests

We are predicting slightly elevated levels of arrests in Q2 2023.

