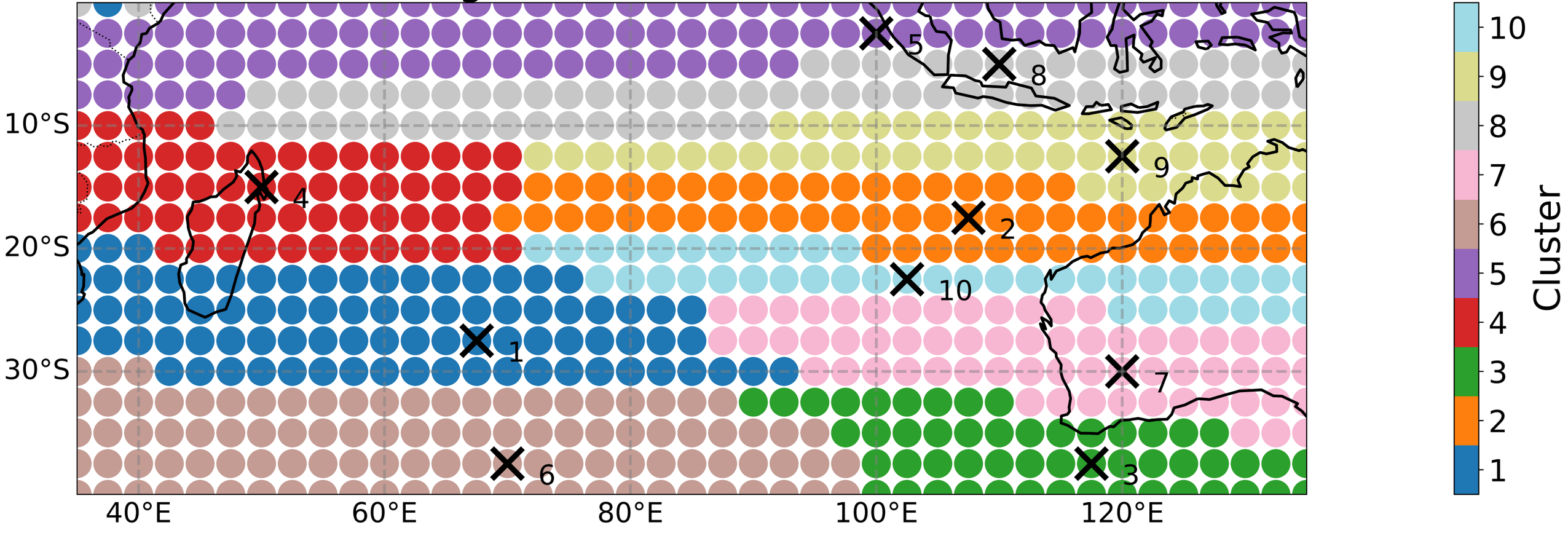Meridional gradient of zonal wind at 500 hPa