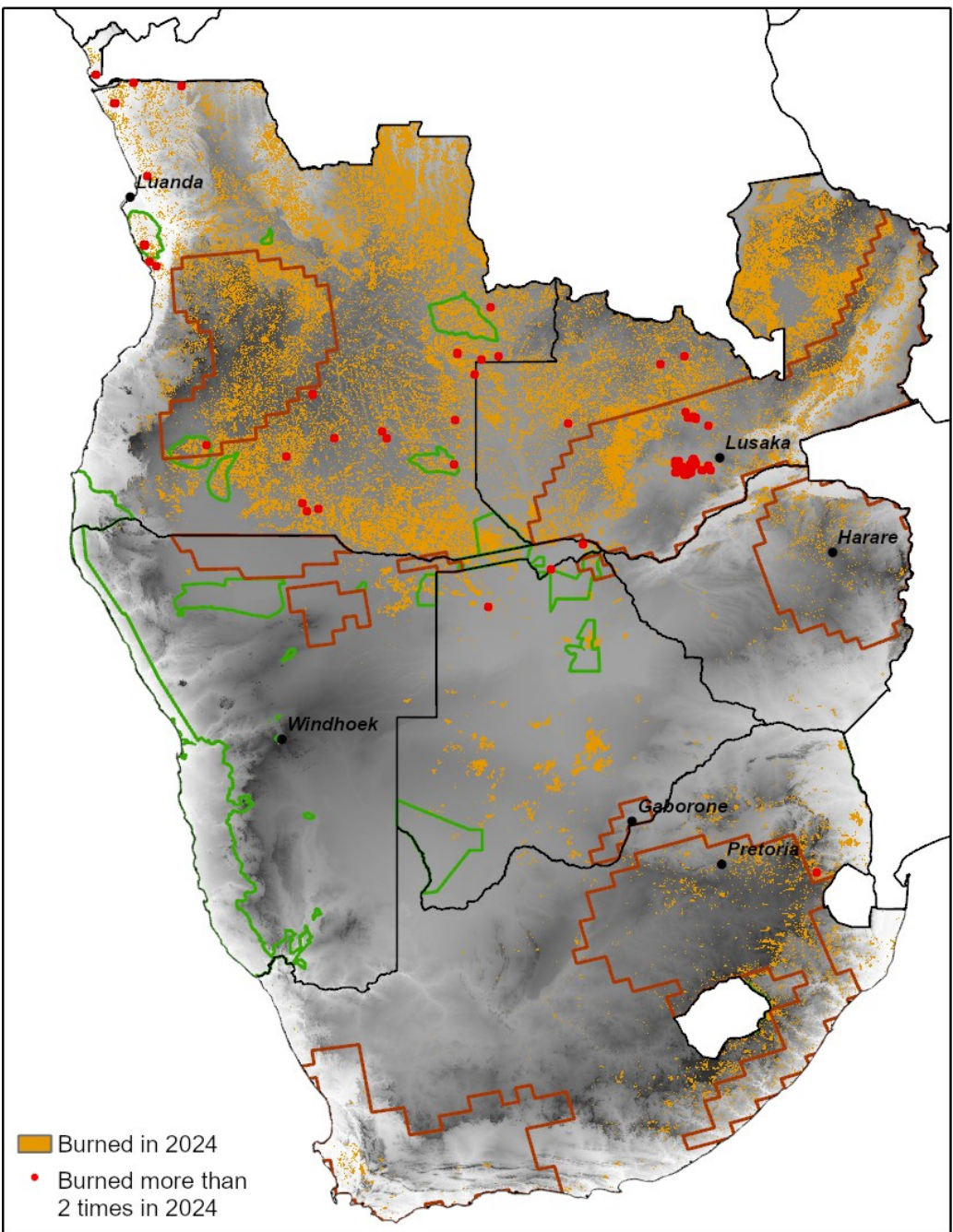


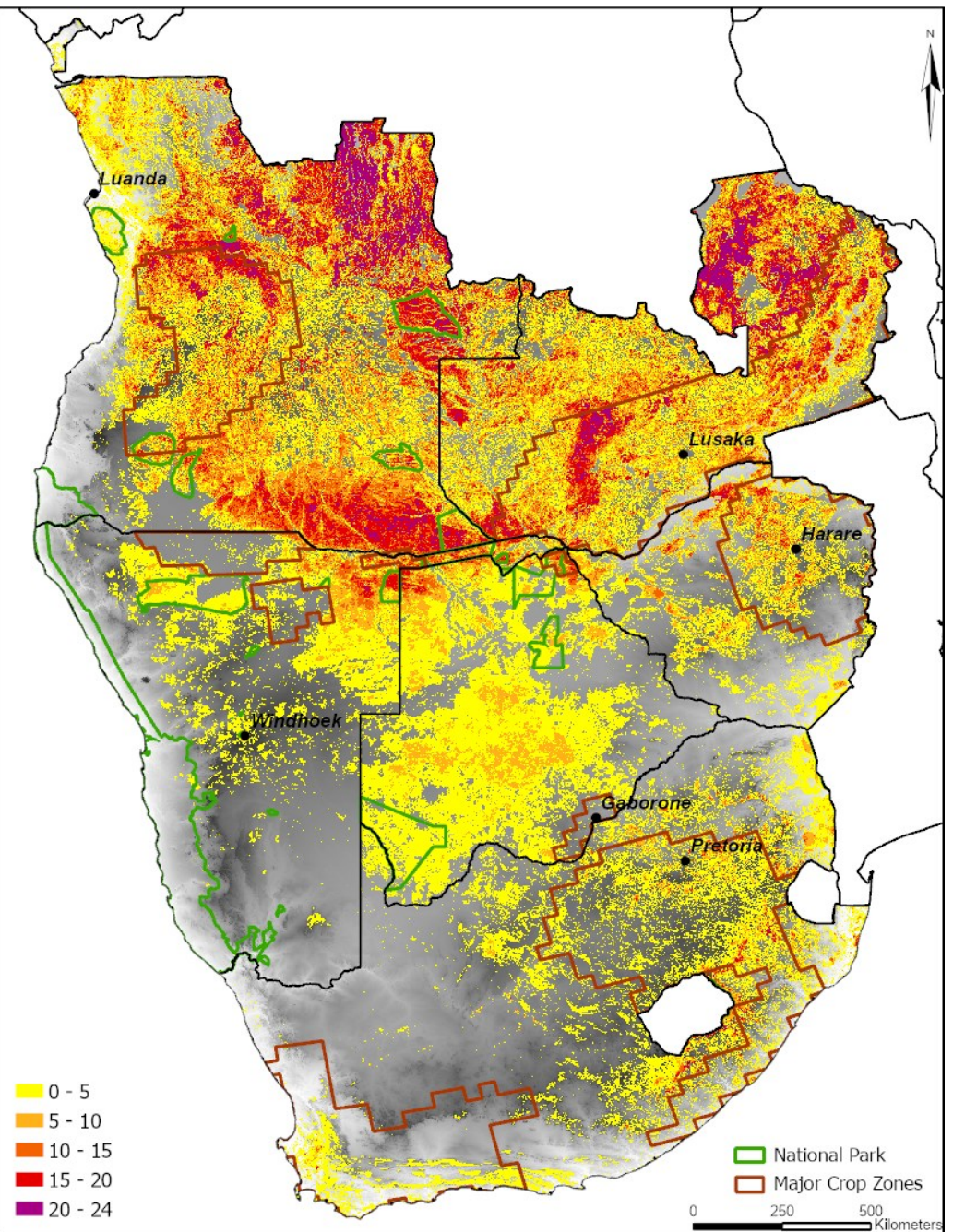
SASSCAL Info Map

Burnt Area from 2001 to 2024 of southern Africa

Areas burned in 2024

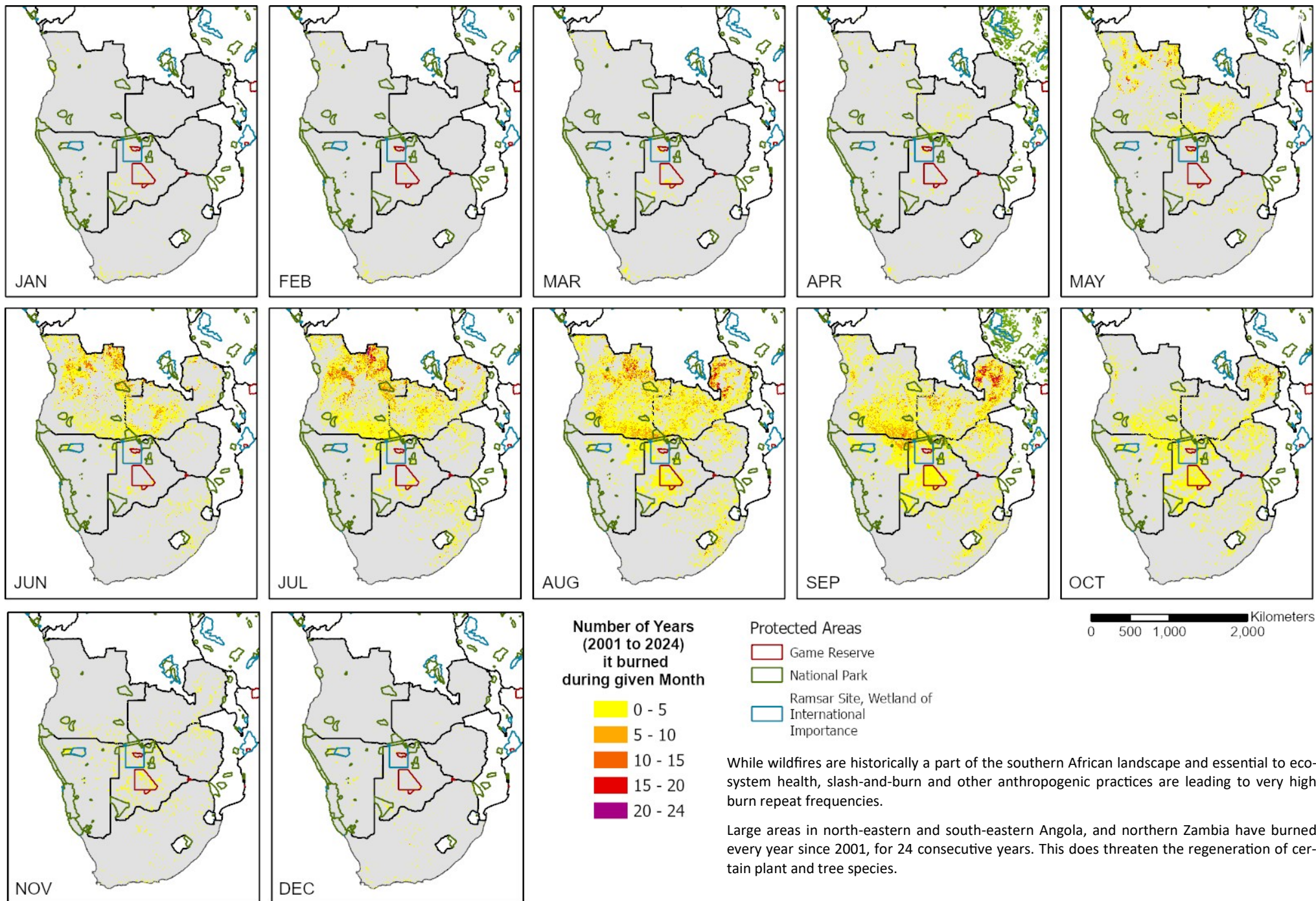


Number of years an area burned from 2001 to 2024



SASSCAL Info Map

Burnt Area from 2001 to 2024 of southern Africa



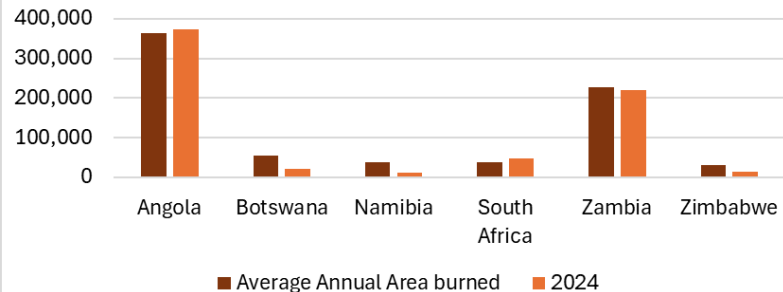
While wildfires are historically a part of the southern African landscape and essential to ecosystem health, slash-and-burn and other anthropogenic practices are leading to very high burn repeat frequencies.

Large areas in north-eastern and south-eastern Angola, and northern Zambia have burned every year since 2001, for 24 consecutive years. This does threaten the regeneration of certain plant and tree species.

SASSCAL Info Map

Burnt Area from 2001 to 2024 of southern Africa

Areas burned in 2024 by Country



The main months of the fire season are from June to October, generally peaking in September, in most of southern Africa, with main burning periods corresponding in particular to the areas that also receive their main rainfall in the summer months.

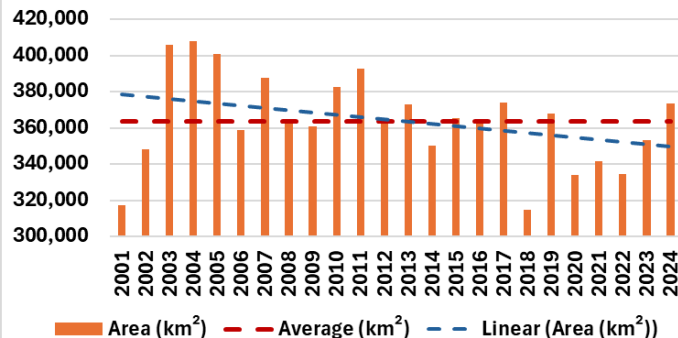
On average, 364 000 km² burn in Angola every year since 2001, while in Zambia, on average 228 000 km² burn annually since 2001. In 2024, the total area burned in Angola was 374 000 km², slightly above the average annual area burned since 2001, while in Zambia, the 219 000 km² burned in 2024, slightly below the annual average.

In Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe, due to the prolonged drought, fuel loads were much less and burning was, as could be expected, well below the annual average.

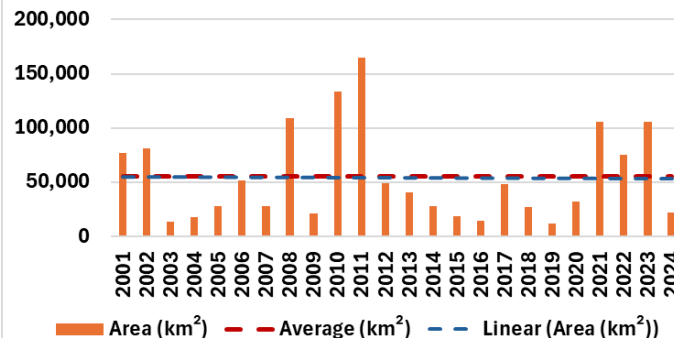
In South Africa, almost 47 000 km² burned in 2024, which is 20% more than the annual average of 39 000 km².

For most southern African countries, the extent of burning appears to be less in the past 10 years than in the previous decade. However, notably, most of southern Africa has experienced more prolonged drought in the past 10 years.

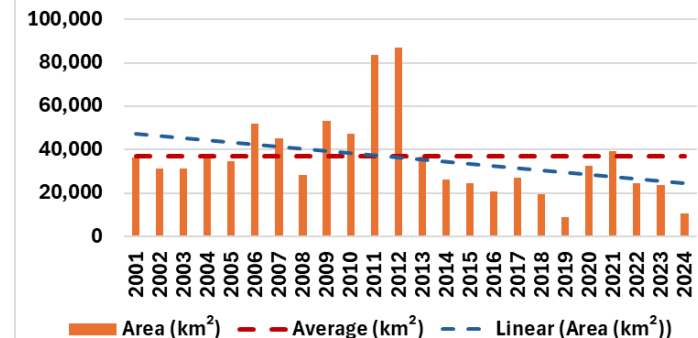
Angola



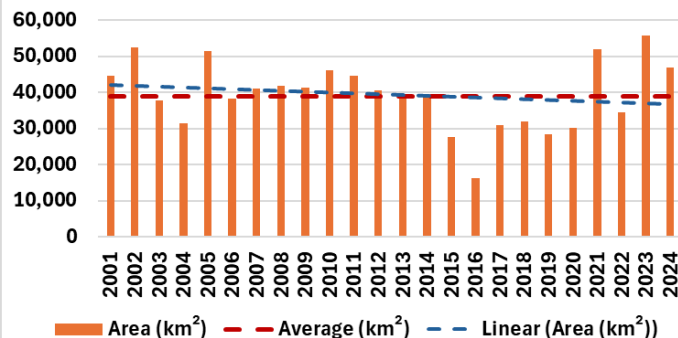
Botswana



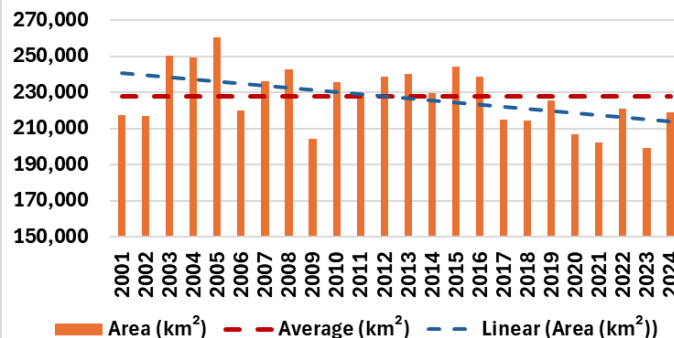
Namibia



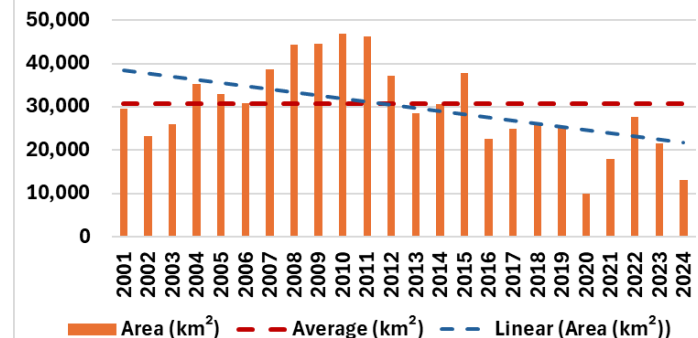
South Africa



Zambia



Zimbabwe



Data Source: MODIS MCD64A1 version 6.1 burnt area fire data from 2001 to 2024

References:

1. Archibald et al. 2008. [What limits fire? An examination of drivers of burnt area in Southern Africa.](#)
2. Giglio et al. 2020. [Collection 6 MODIS Burned Area Product User's Guide Version 1.3.](#)