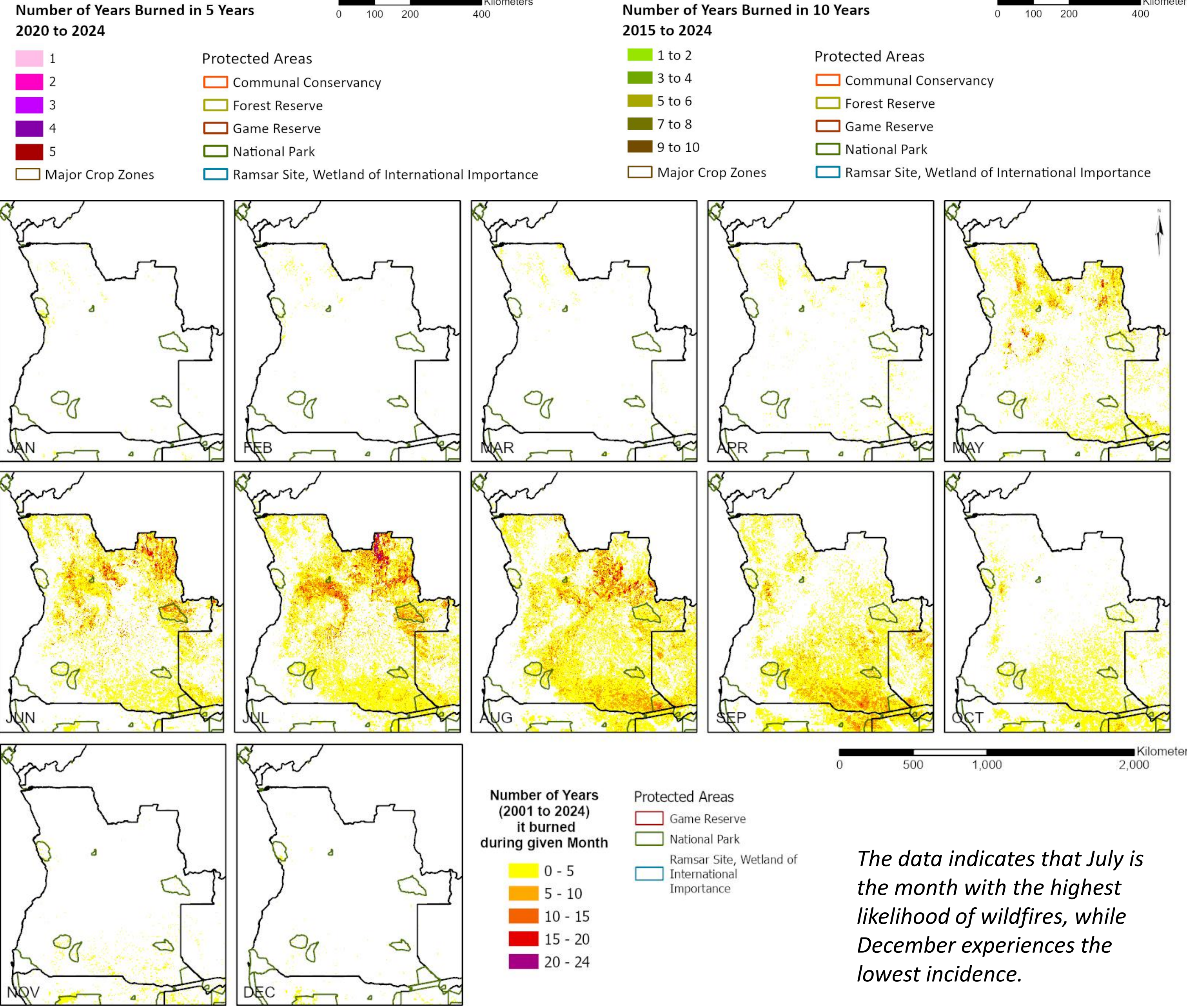
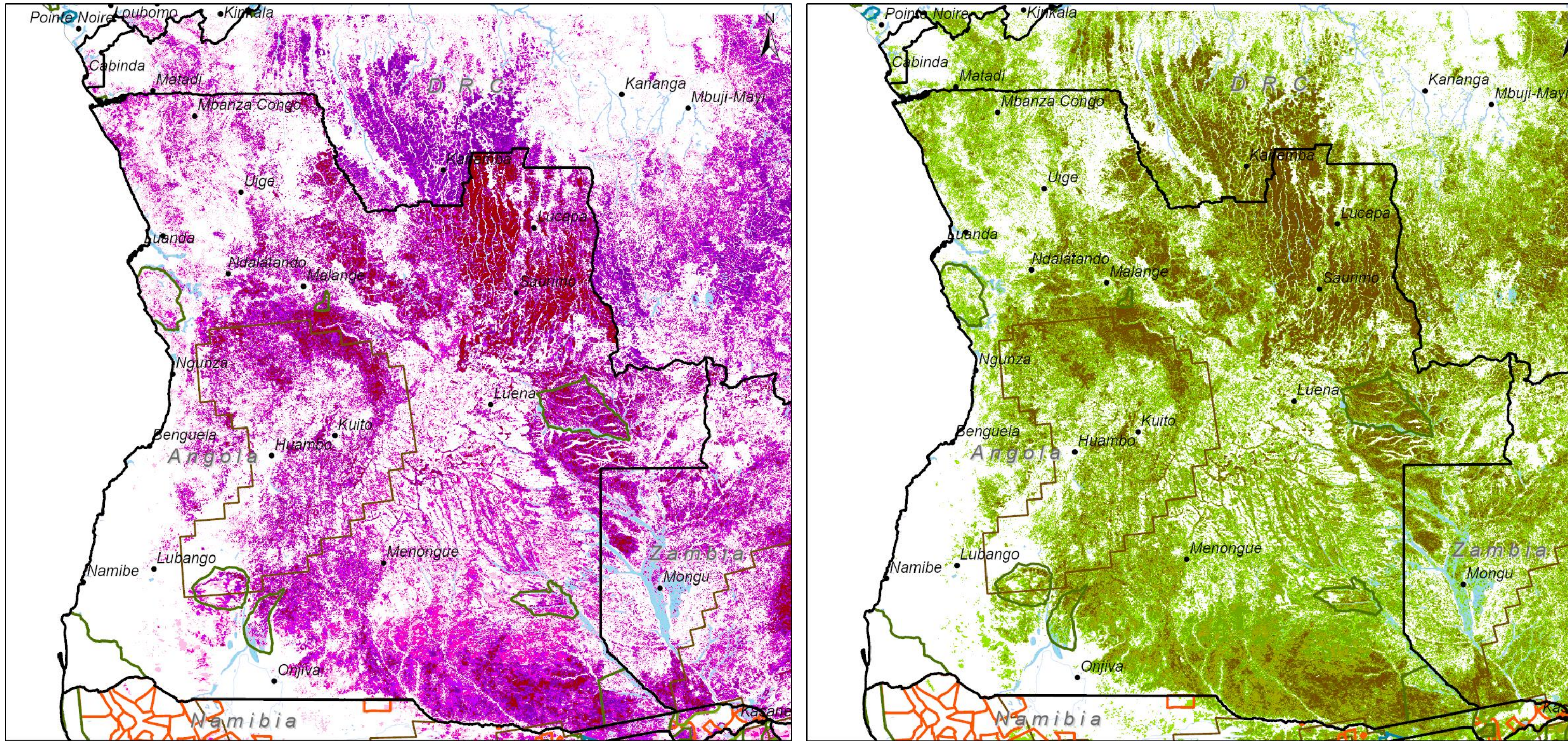
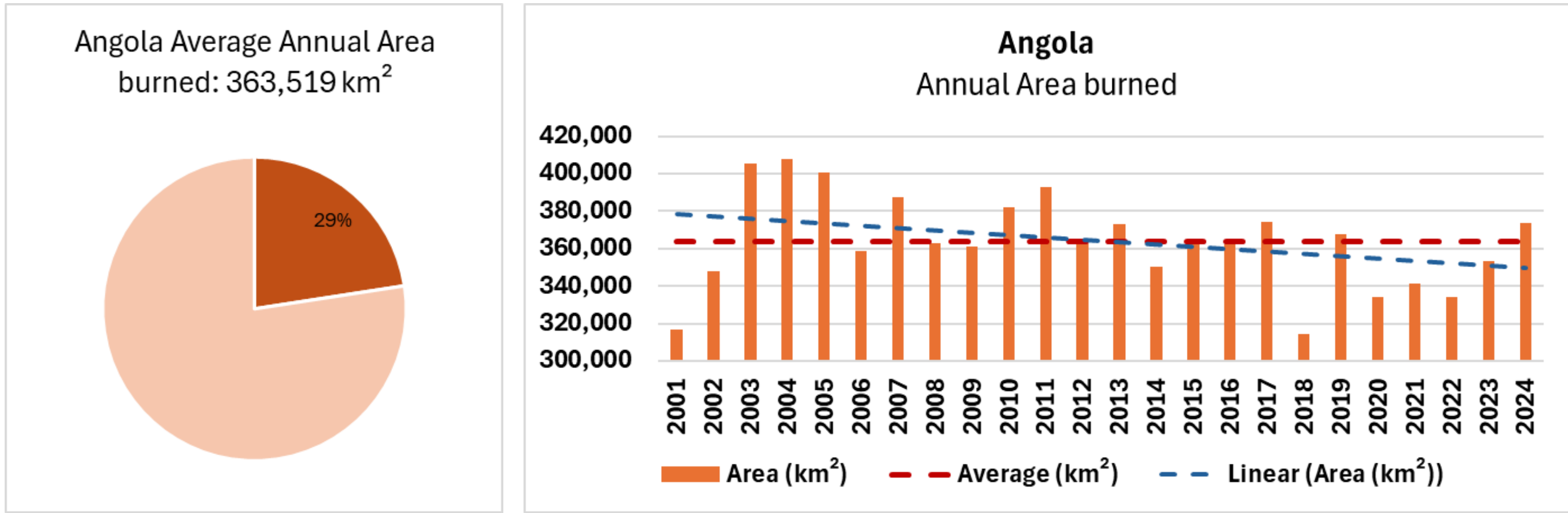


Angola's Fire Regime

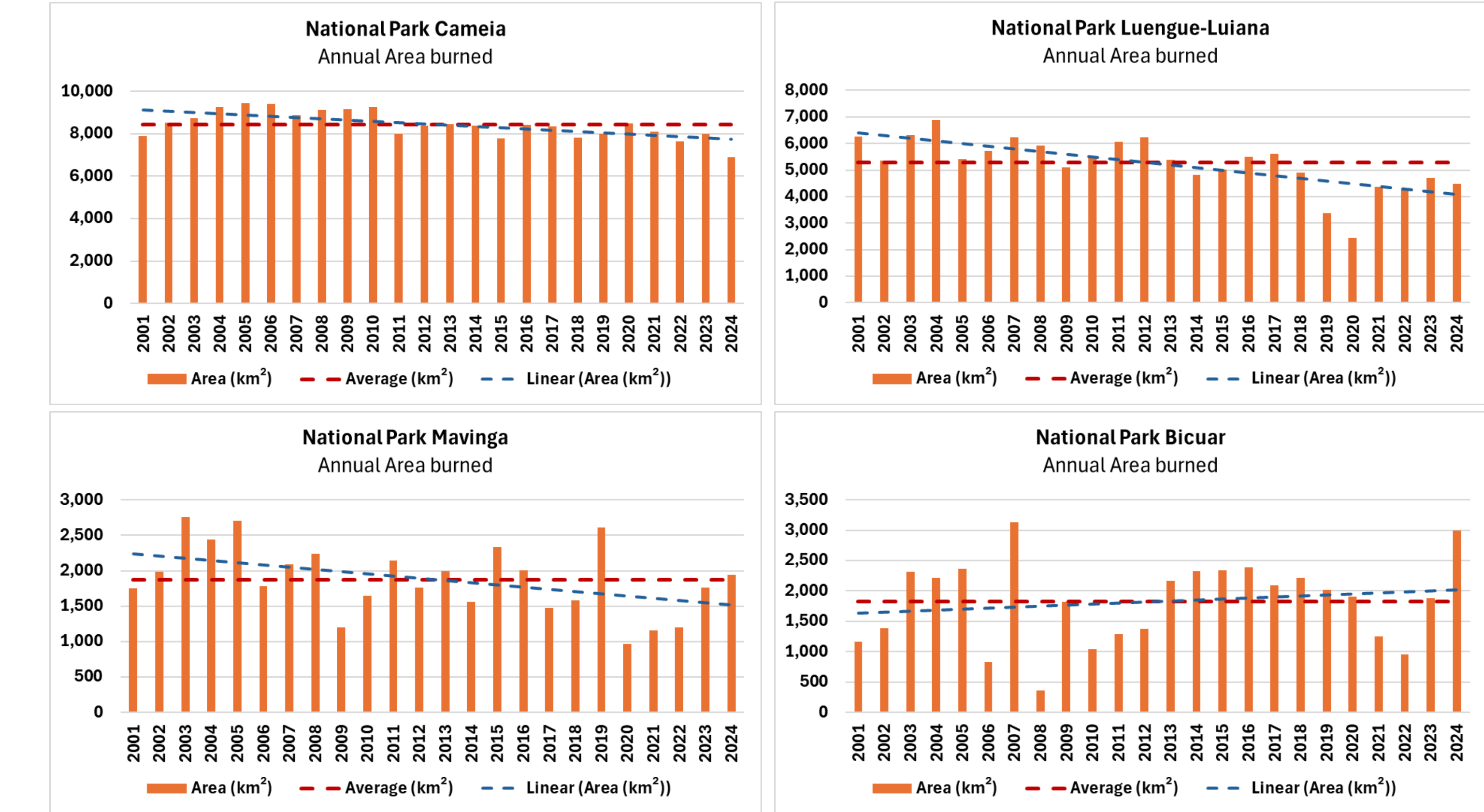
An analysis from 2001 to 2024



On average, just over 100 000 km² burn in Angola during the month of July. The biggest areas burned in a month were in August 2003 with 126 000 km², August 2009 with 129 200 km² and August 2010 with about 126 400 km².

Burning in Areas under Conservation Management

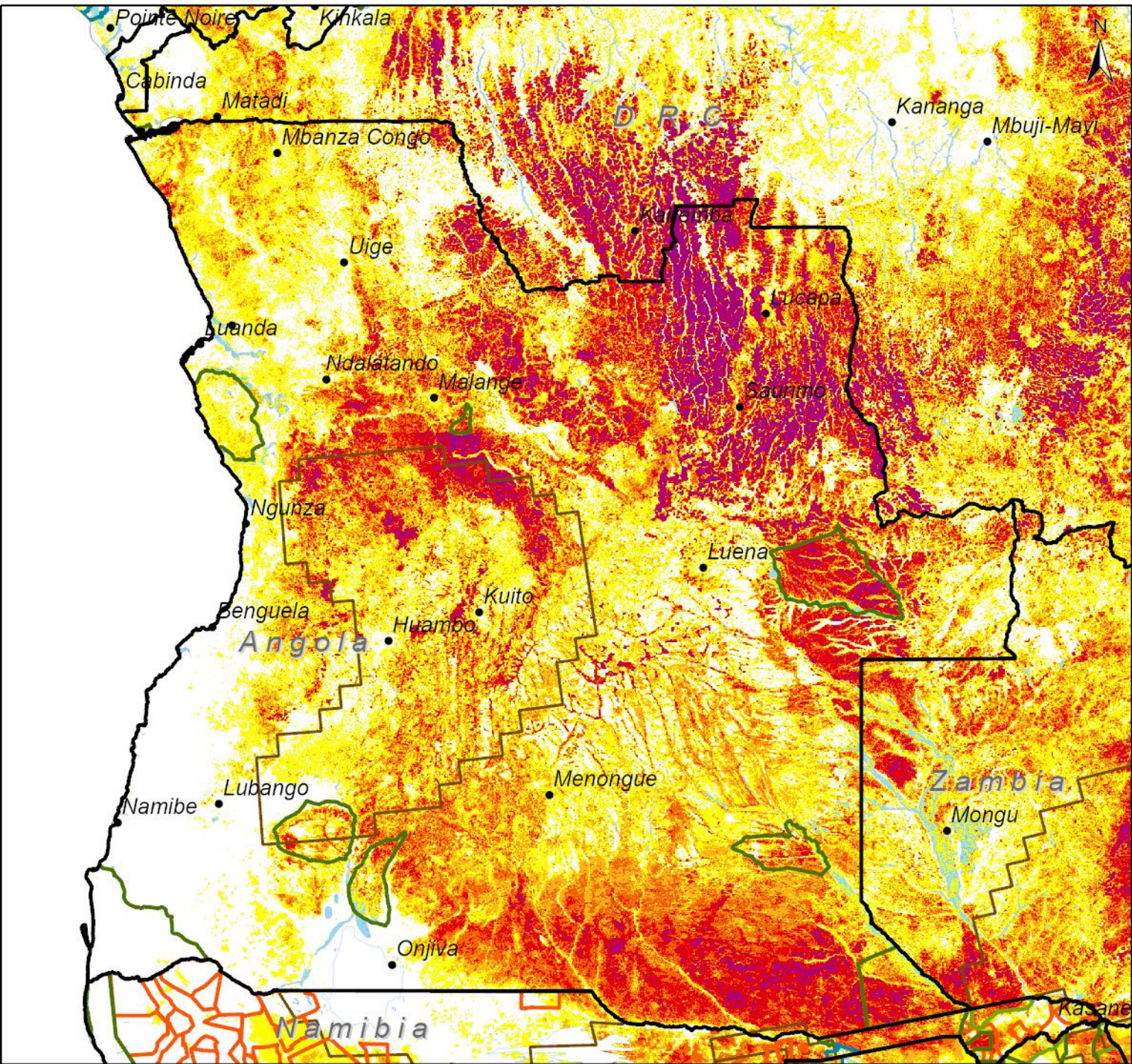
While fires may be essential to some ecosystem's health, such as the fire-dependent savanna's of Mavinga and Luengue-Luana National Parks, at high frequencies, they may be detrimental to the biodiversity of the same systems. Cameia National Park, in the Province of Moxico, in the central-east of Angola, burns the most, with on average 8 400 km² per year.



Wildfire Trends in Angola

According to satellite-based MODIS MCD64A1 version 6.1 burnt area fire data from 2001 to 2024, an average of around 29 % of Angola's land surface area, corresponding to almost 365 000 km², burns every year due to naturally occurring wildfires or anthropogenic actions. Anthropogenic fires are driven by slash-and-burn and hunting practices in Angola. Between 2001 and 2024, the years 2003 to 2005 were the most catastrophic for Angola with about 406 000, 408 000 and 401 000 km² burned respectively. This high intensity and extent of burning was not a result of higher fuel loads but rather the burning associated with clearing land after the civil war in Angola ended in 2002 and the population started to resettle.

The above average areas burned in 2007, 2010 and 2011 are more likely to have been the result of high fuel loads, resulting from five consecutive above average rainfall years starting in 2006/2007 and ending in 2010/2011.



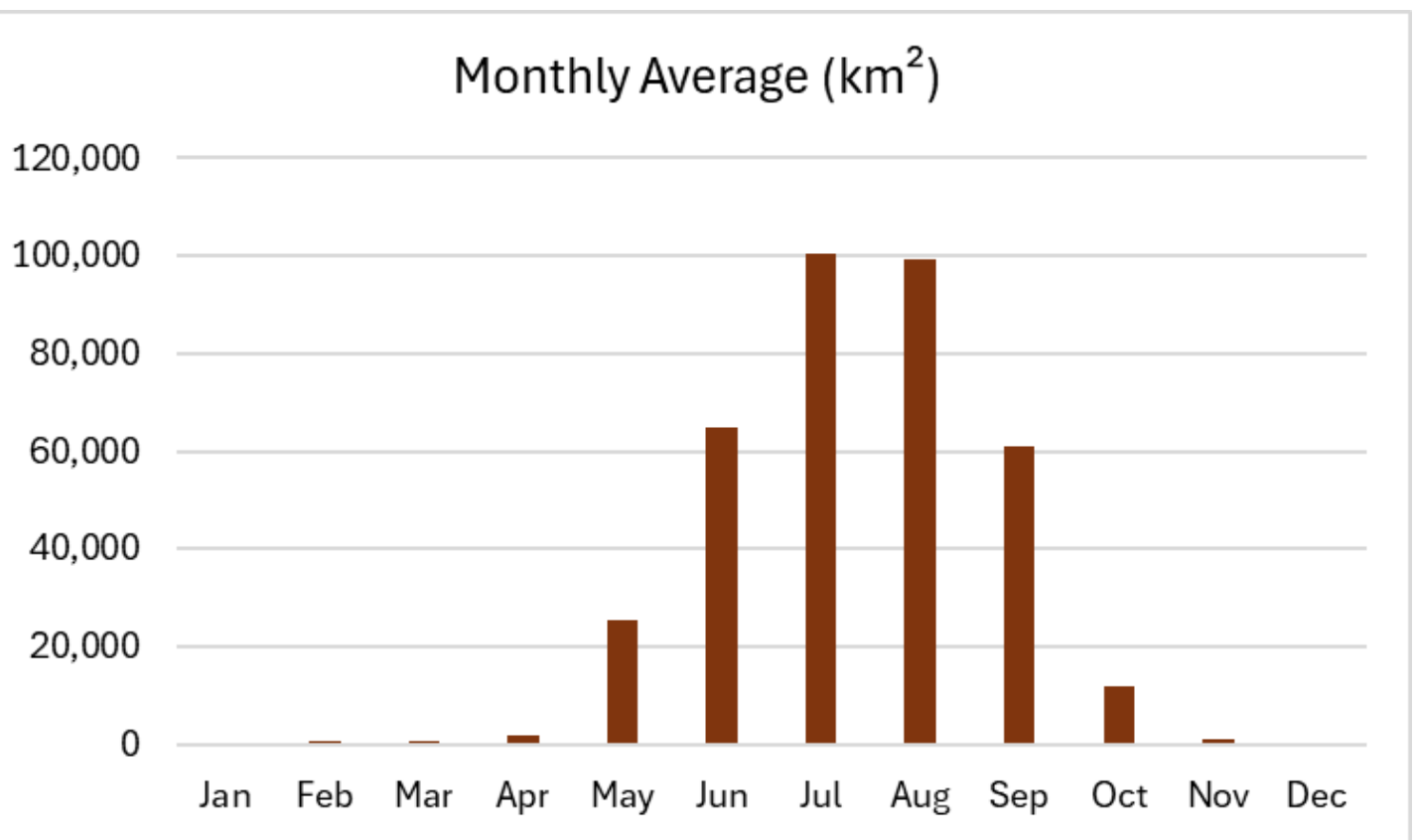
Areas vulnerable to repeat burning

A number of areas in Angola have burned every year since 2001, in particular in the Provinces of Lunda Morte, Lunda Sul and Malanje, in the north-east of Angola.

High frequencies of burning, with burning almost every year, also occur in the Provinces of Cuando Cubango and Cunene, in the south of Angola and the Province of Cuanza Sul in the north-west of Angola.

High frequencies of burning are a particular concern for sensitive ecosystems such as the peatlands, the humid rainforests, and the Afromontane and escarpment forests, where fires can cause irreversible damage to the biodiversity of these areas.

Angola fire season occurs from May to September



Annual fire season

The main months of the fire season in Angola are from May to September, generally peaking in July.

