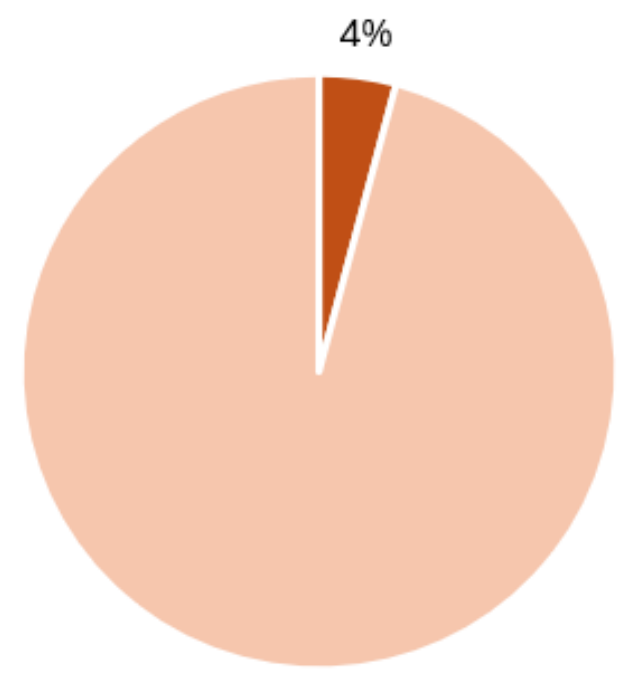


Namibia's Fire Regime

An analysis from 2001 to 2025

Namibia Average Annual
Area burned: 35,895 km²



Wildfire Trends and Impacts in Namibia

According to satellite-based MODIS MCD64A1 version 6.1 burnt area fire data from 2001 to 2025 , an average of around 4 % of Namibia's surface area, corresponding to around 36 000 km², burns every year due to naturally occurring wildfires or anthropogenic actions. This is considerably less than observed in Namibia's northern neighbors, with Angola, burning an annual average of around 364 000 km², and Zambia, with an average of around 227 000 km² every year. Notably, the majority of Namibia's land surface is arid or semi-arid and therefore, the landscape provides much smaller fuel loads than in its northern neighbors.

In the past 25 years of Namibia's fire history, the years 2011 and 2012 were the most catastrophic, with around 84 000 and 87 000 km² burning respectively.

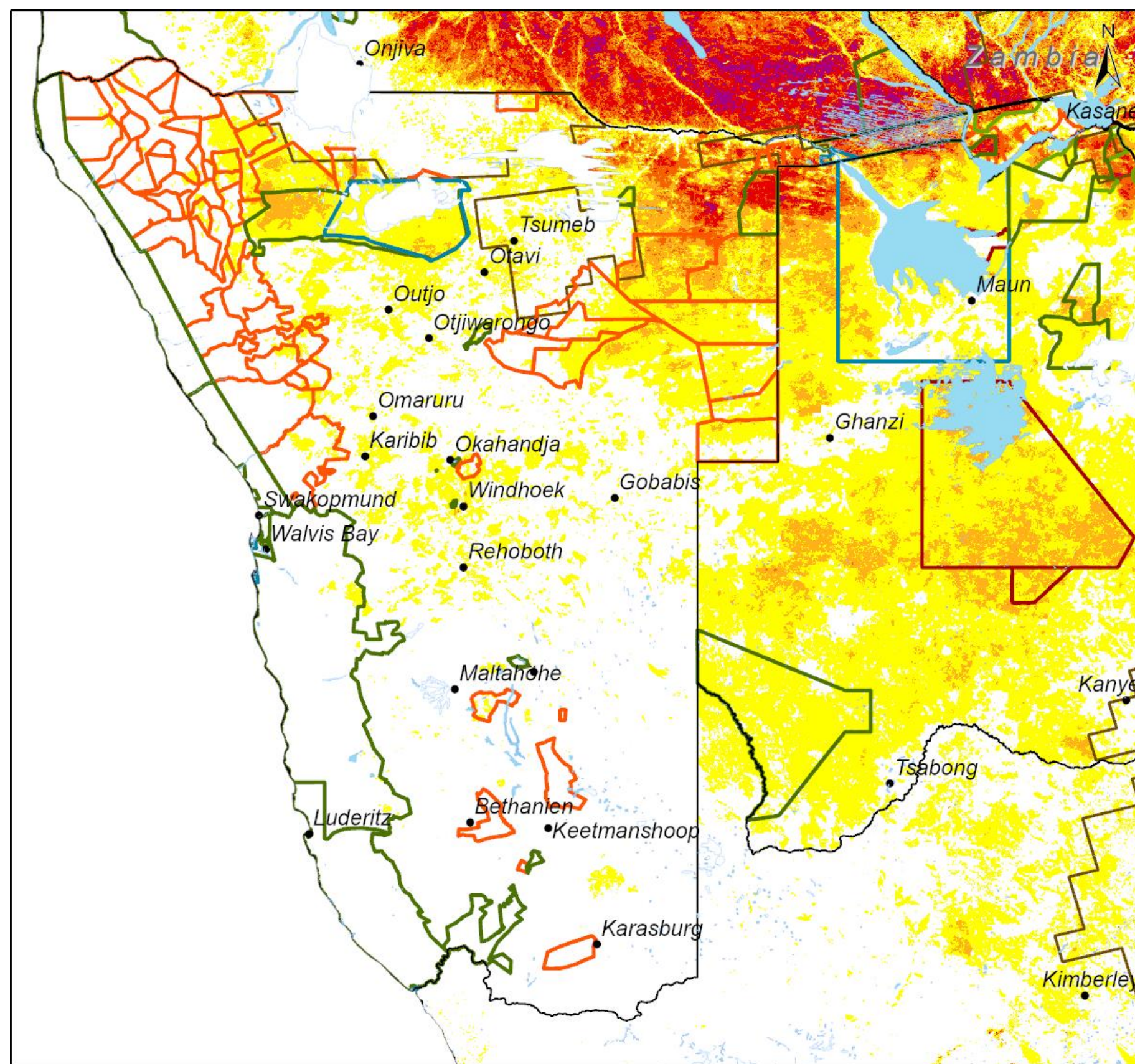
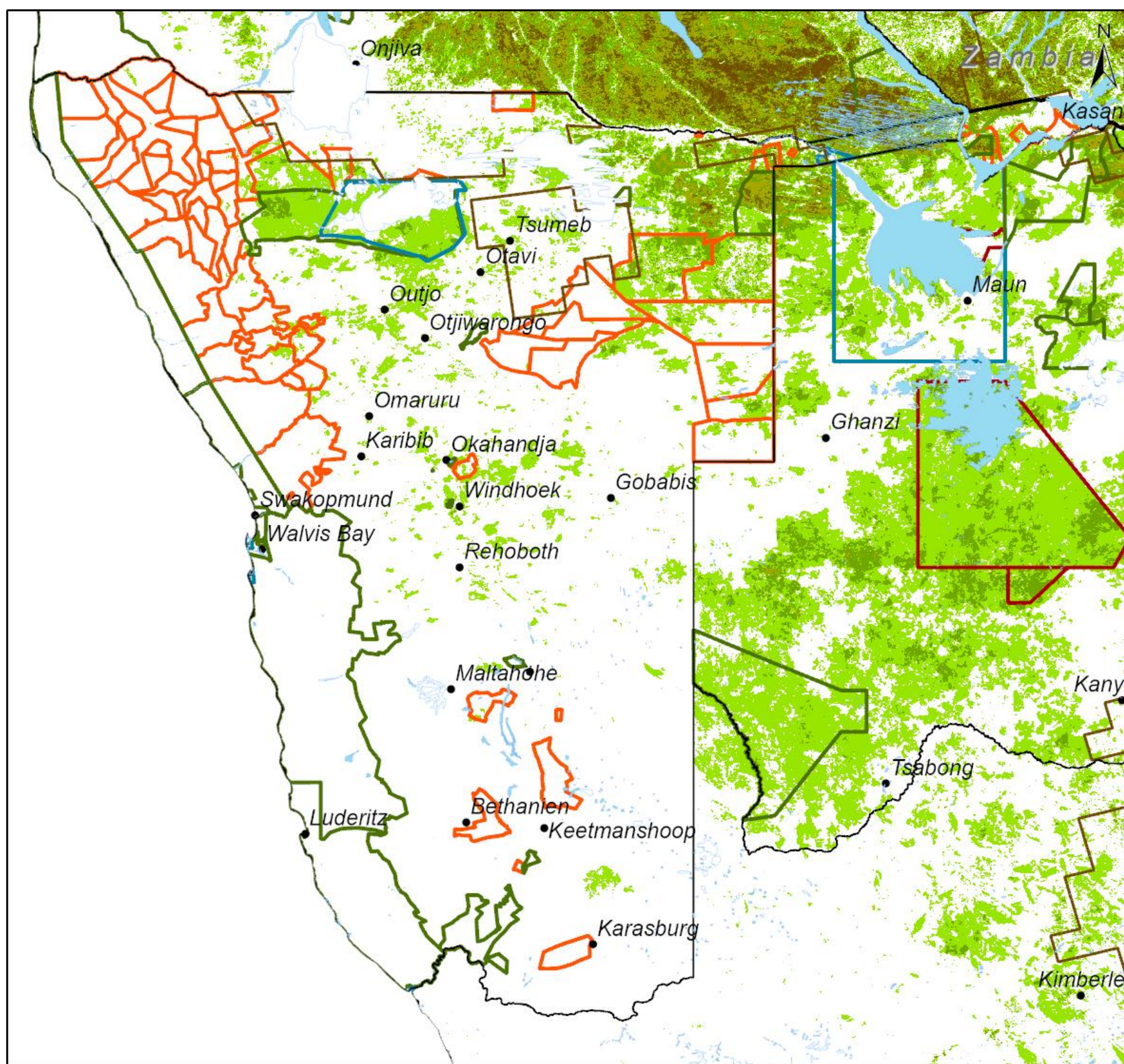
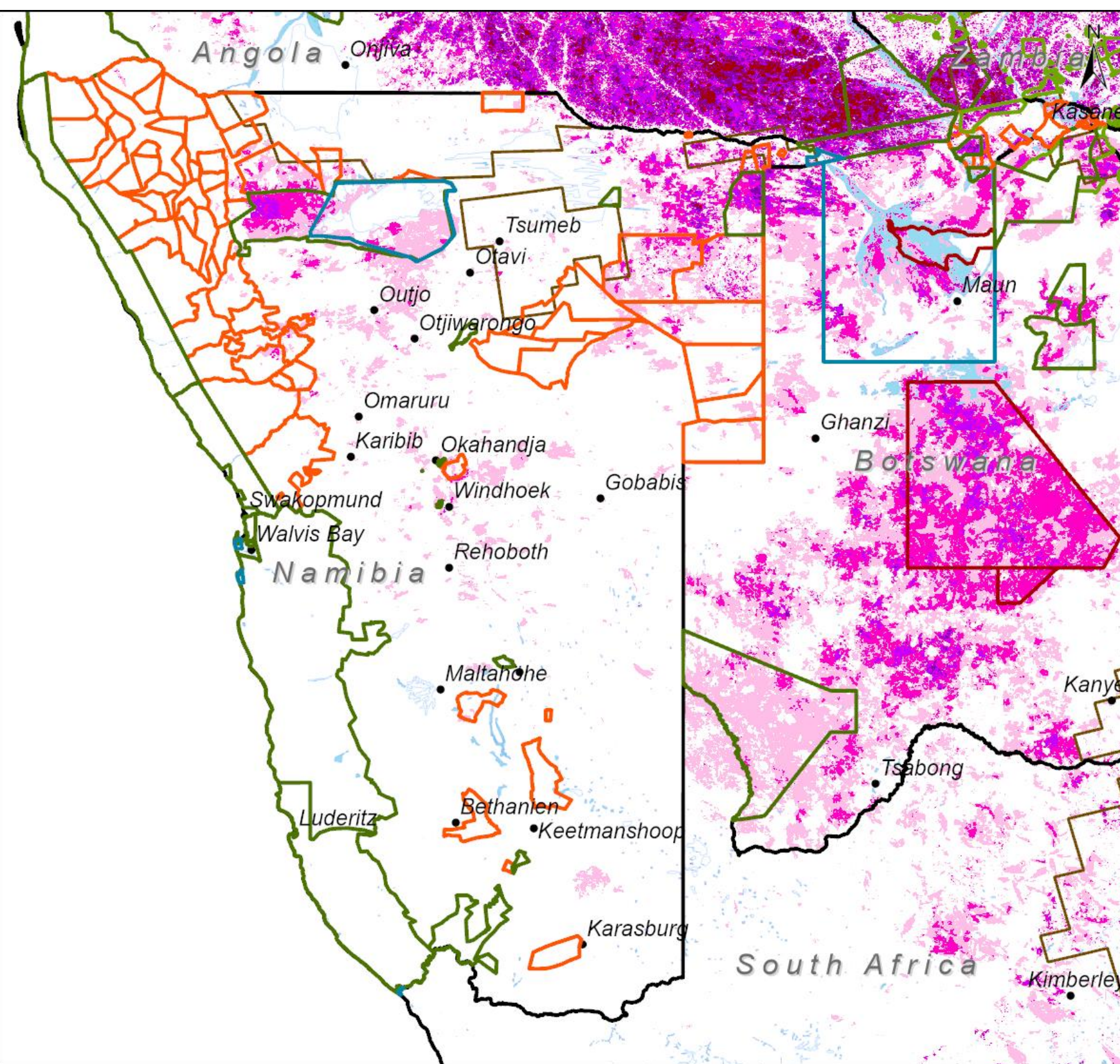
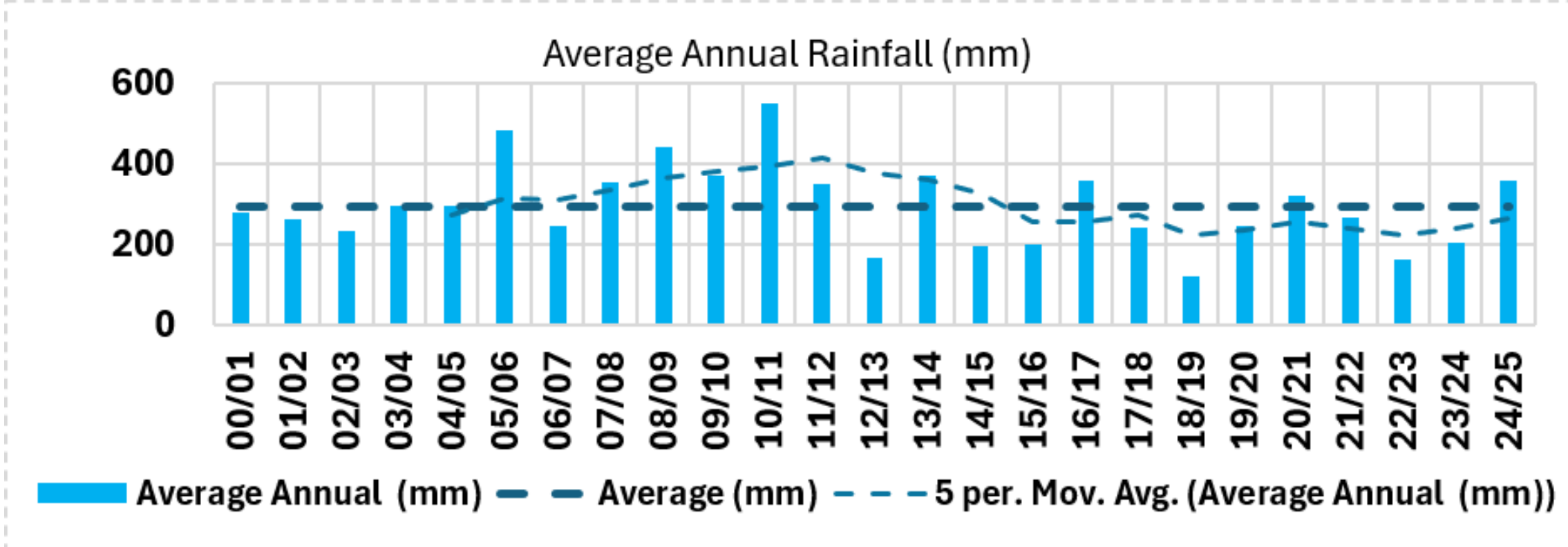
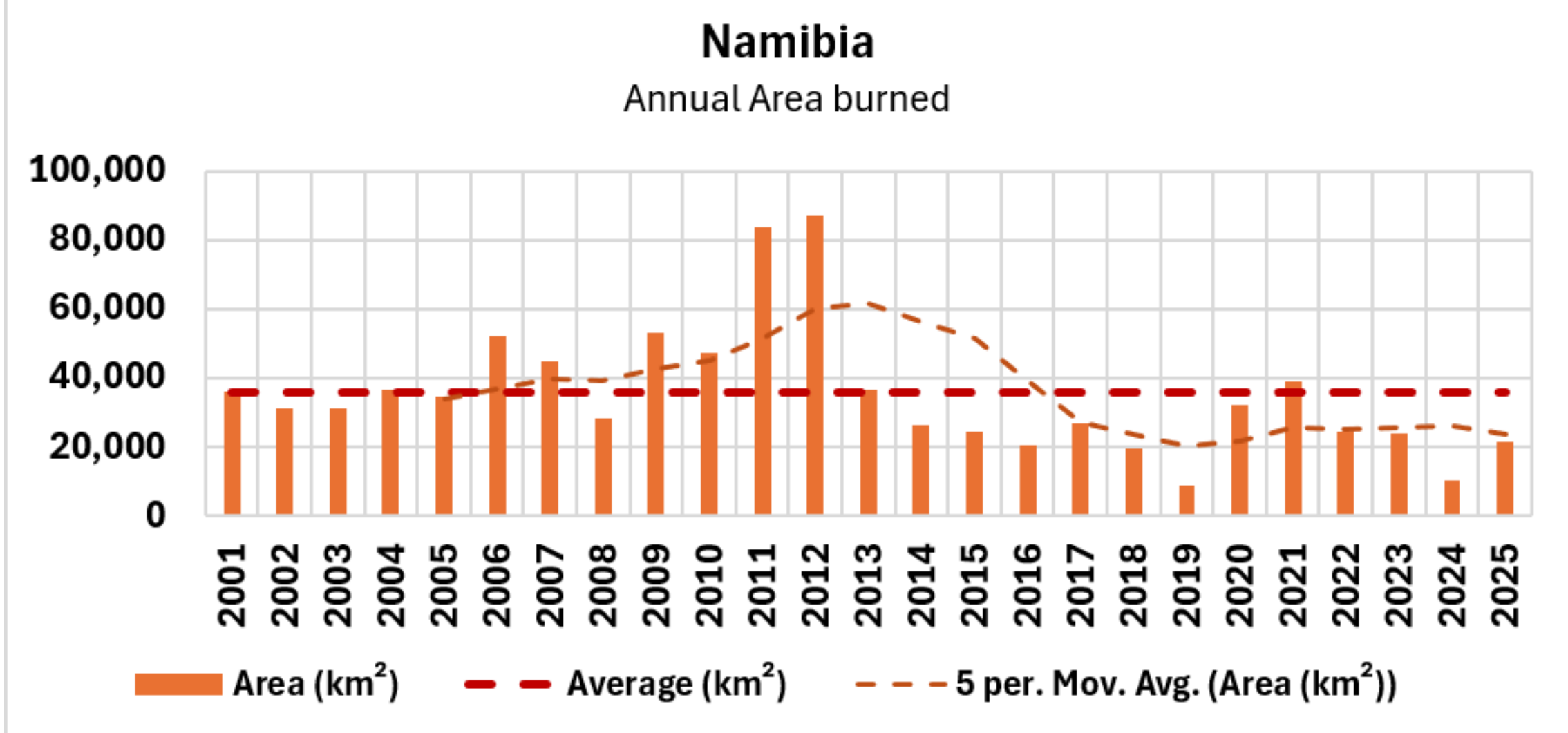
It does appear that years with above average annual burns may coincide with above average annual rainfall periods, most likely due to higher fuel loads. Though, notably, despite an above average rainfall season in 2024/25, the total area burned in Namibia in 2025 was well below the 25-year average.

Areas vulnerable to repeat burning

In particular Namibia's East Kavango and Zambezi are subjected to high frequencies of burning, with some areas having burned almost every year in the past 25 years. Areas subjected to a high frequency of burning do cause concern for Namibia's biodiversity and unique Okavango and Zambezi wildlife and flora species.

Annual fire season

The main months of the fire season in Namibia are from June to November, generally peaking in September. Most burning occurs in the drier winter months before the wet season starts. On average, around 15 000 km² burn in Namibia during the month of September. The biggest areas burned in a month were in September 2012, with 34 000 km², and September 2006, with 31 000 km², mainly in Namibia's north-central, Kavango East and West and Zambezi.

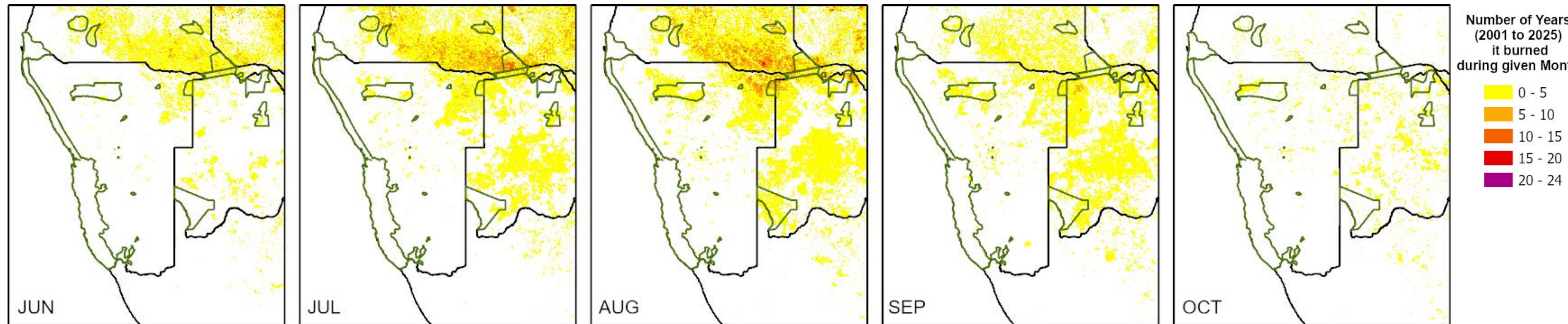
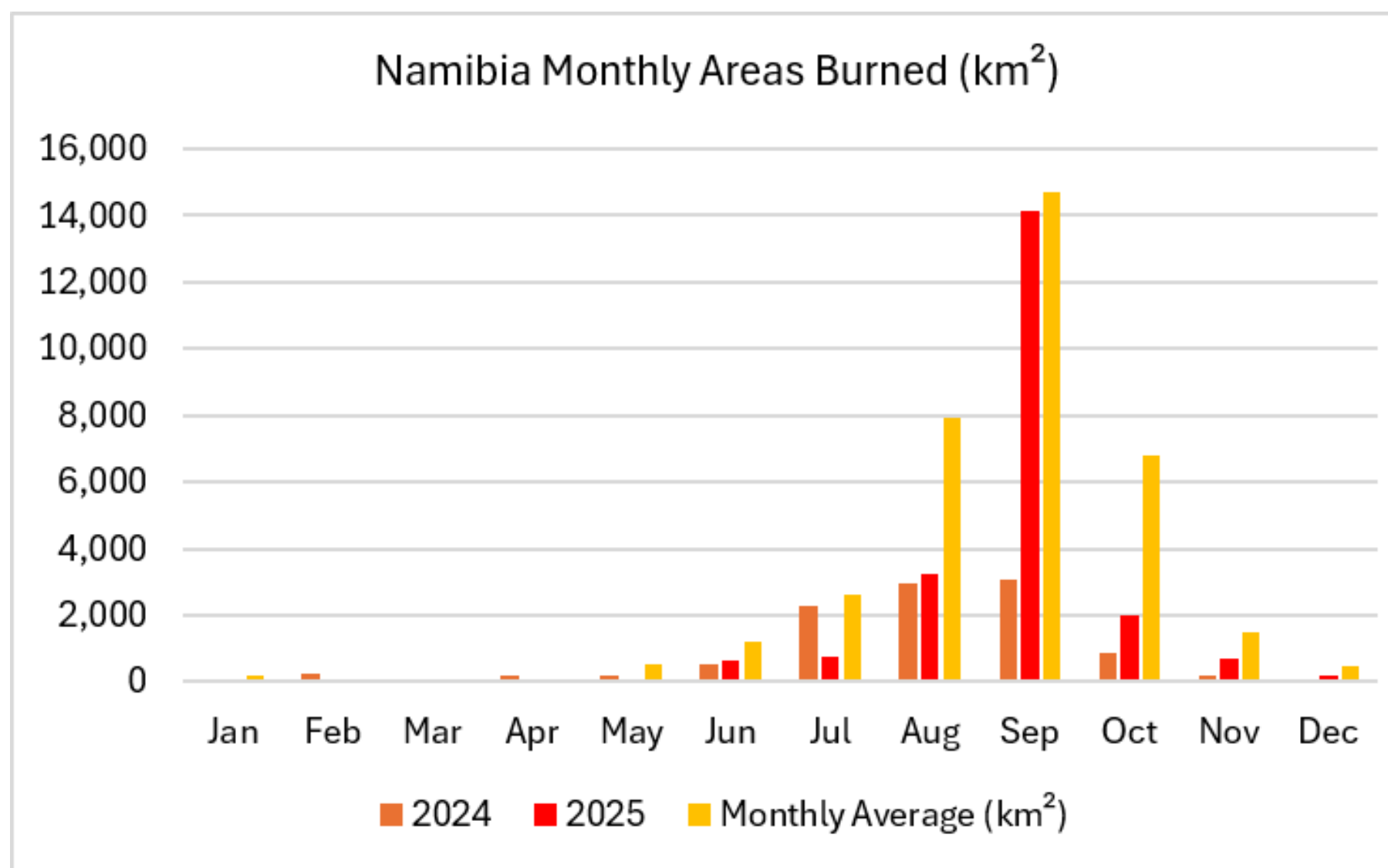


Wildfire history in Etosha National Park

On 22 September 2025, a fire that broke out, on a farm on the south-western border of Etosha National Park, during charcoal production, rapidly spread into the Park. Due to a good rainfall season earlier in 2025, fuel loads were high.

Ultimately, about one third of Etosha National Park burned, destroying around 750 000 ha of grazing. Around 170 000 ha of grazing burned in neighboring farms and Communal areas.

Namibia's Etosha National Park has a history of burning after good rainfall seasons, coinciding with high fuel loads.



The data indicates that September is the month with the highest likelihood of wildfires, while February experiences the lowest incidence.

