

climate change initiative

→ FIRE

# “Global and continental burned area datasets from the ESA FireCCI project”

Emilio Chuvieco, Universidad de Alcalá

On behalf the FireCCI consortium





ESA CCI



biomass  
cci



fire  
cci



high resolution  
land cover  
cci



lakes  
cci



land cover  
cci



land surface  
temperature  
cci

Land



aerosol  
cci



cloud  
cci



ghg  
cci



ozone  
cci



water vapour  
cci



salinity  
cci



sst  
cci



sea ice  
cci



sea level  
budget closure  
cci



sea level  
cci



ocean colour  
cci

Ocean



antarctic  
ice sheet  
cci



glaciers  
cci



greenland  
ice sheet  
cci



permafrost  
cci



snow  
cci

Ice



cmug  
cci



open data  
portal  
cci



toolbox  
cci

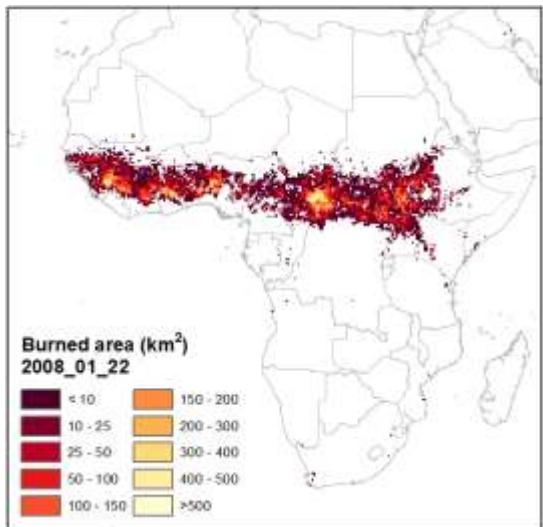
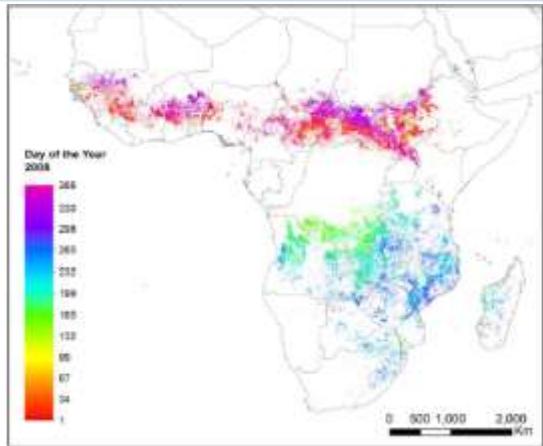
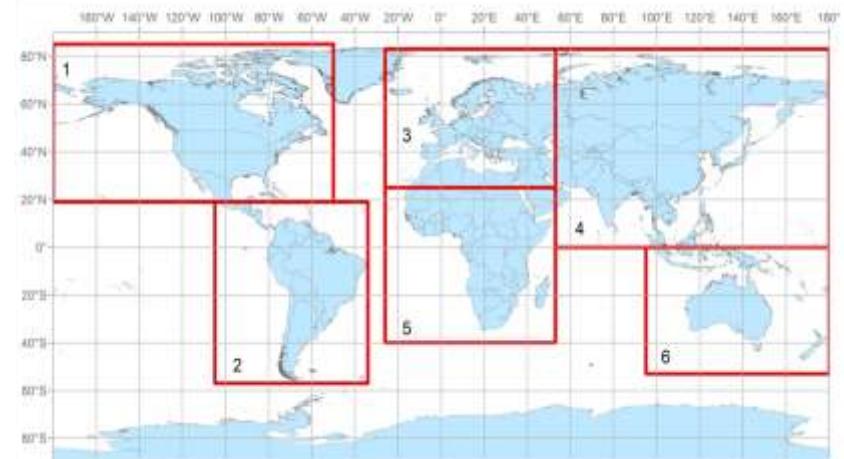
Transversal



# BA product specifications

- Pixel product:

- Monthly files, continental tiles, GeoTiff format.
- 3 Variables: Day of detection (1-366), Confidence level (0-100), Burned land cover (derived from LC\_cci).



- Grid product:

- Monthly global files at 0.25 x 0.25 degree. NetCDF format.
- 23 variables: total burned area, standard error, fraction of burnable area, fraction of observed area, and burned area of each land cover.



Adapted to the different input sensors:

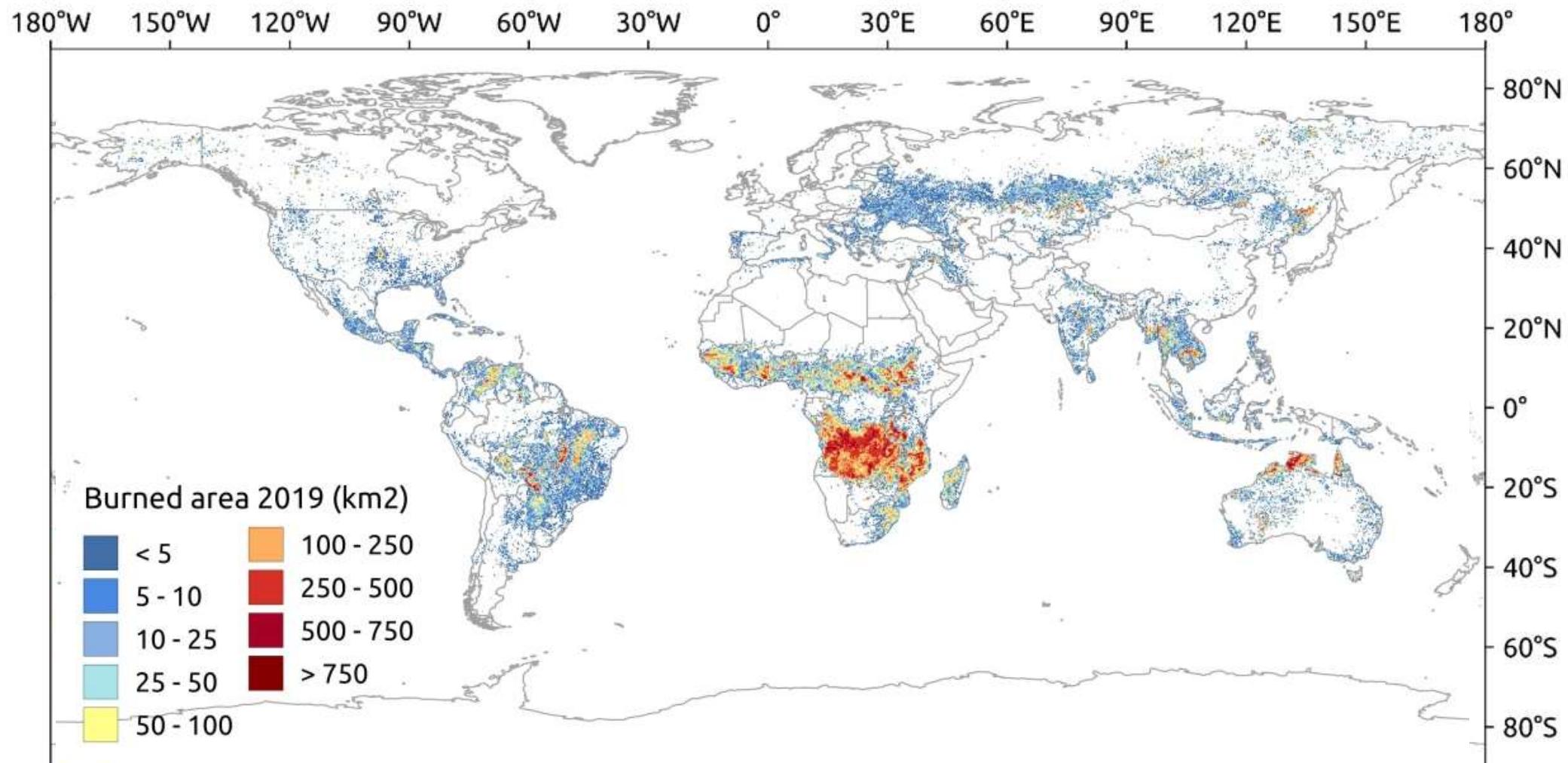
- MERIS, 300 m.
- MODIS, 250m.
- Sentinel-3, OLCI 300 m
- Sentinel-3, SYN 300 m.
- AVHRR – LTDR, 5 km.
- Sentinel-1 SAR, 40 m
- Sentinel-2 MSI, 20 m.

Common approaches:

- Hybrid algorithms: active fires guide BA detection.
- Two-phase: seed + growing.
- Locally adapted.
- Based on temporal composites.



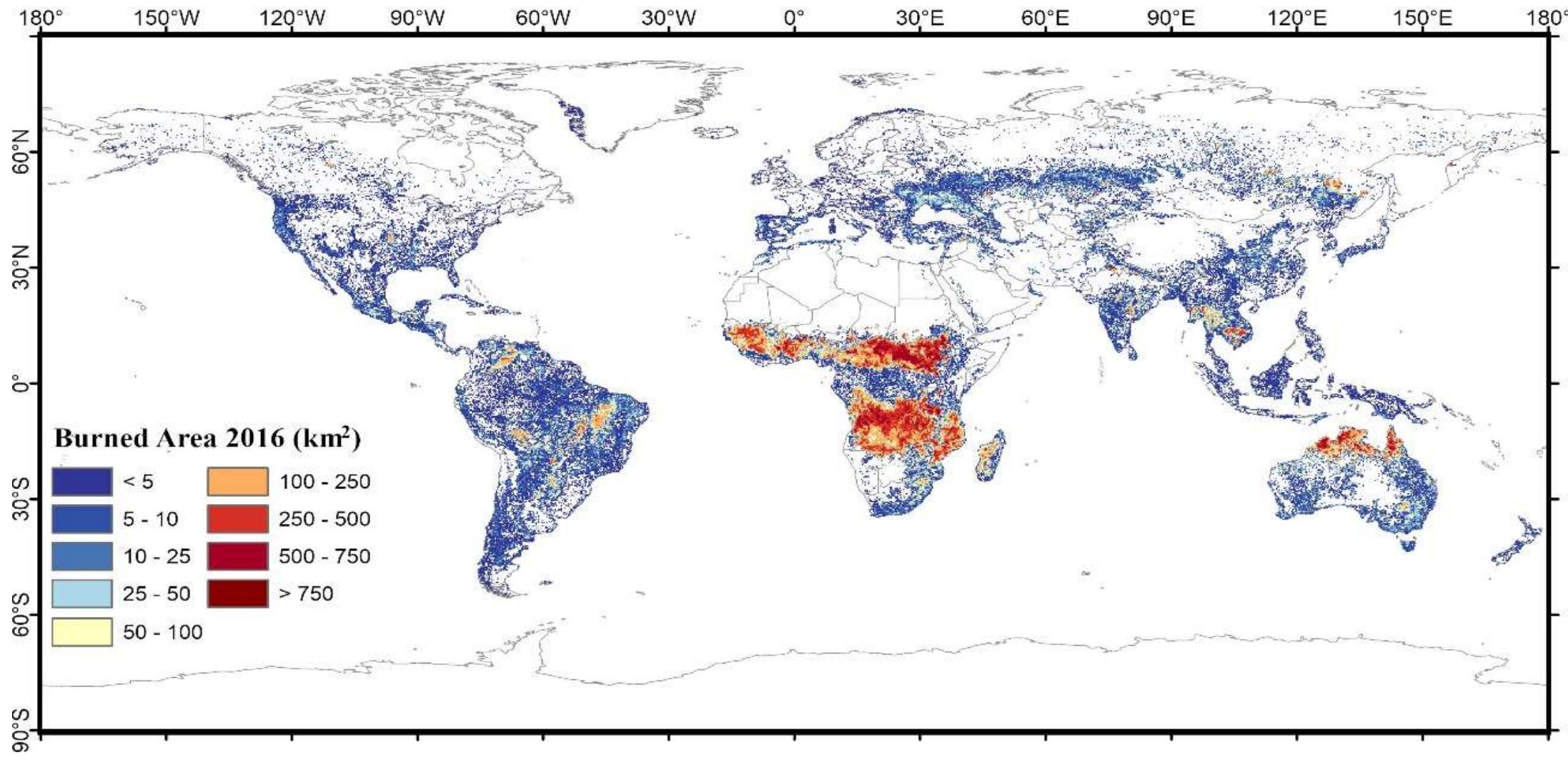
# FireCCI51 (MODIS 250m + HS)



Lizundia-Loiola et al., 2020, RSE



# FireCCILT11 (AVHRR 0.05 d)



Oton et al., 2021, IJAG



# Most recent global products

FireCCIS310:

- Sentinel-3 SYN data 300 m + VIIRS AF.
- Only 2019 (foreseen 2020-22).
- Methods:
  - NIR → NBR2,
  - MODIS → VIIRS AF
  - LC CCI → LC C3S.
- Compositing 20 days → Flexible
- Tile-based+contextual → Contextual.

Punjab

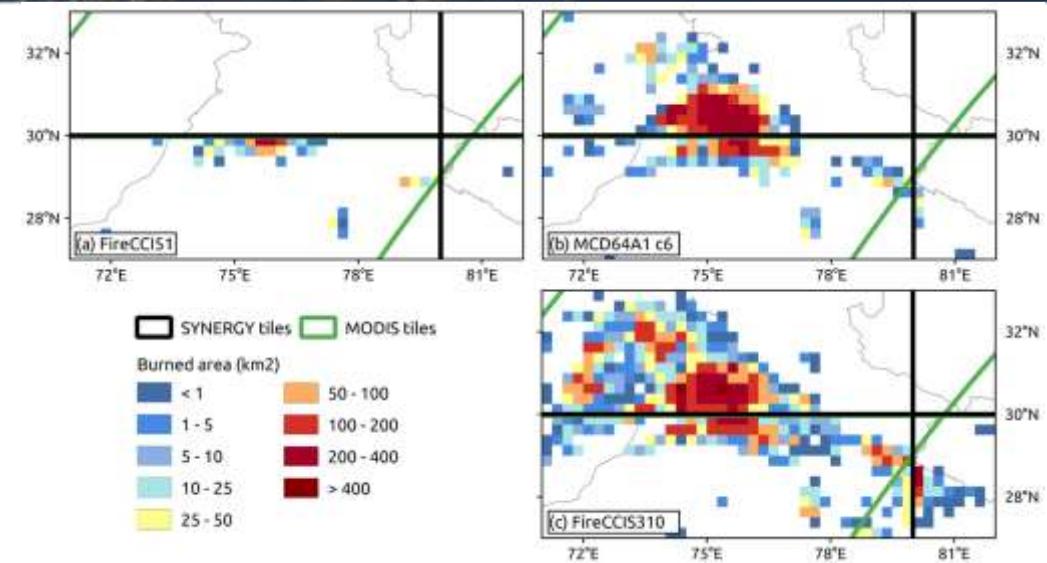
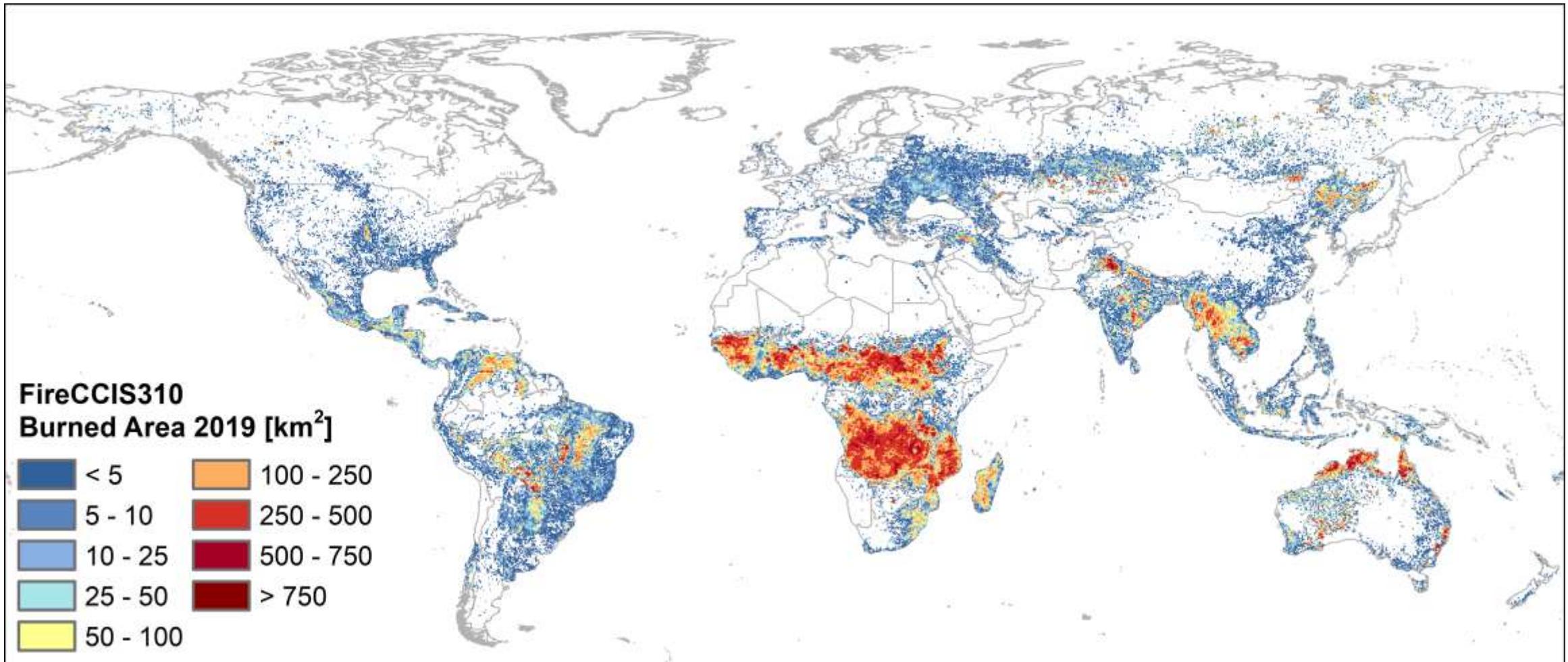


Table 4. Burned area (km<sup>2</sup>) of the year 2019 for each product and biome.

|                            | FireCCIS11 | MCD64A1 c6 | FireCCIS310         |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------|
| Boreal forest              | 86711      | 72370      | 87145               |
| Deserts & xeric shrublands | 116907     | 176164     | 253192 <b>+116%</b> |
| Mediterranean              | 29162      | 32364      | 39765               |
| Temperate forest           | 111999     | 105320     | 165621 <b>+48%</b>  |
| Temperate savanna          | 165610     | 145221     | 220141              |
| Tropical forest            | 433493     | 400165     | 897703 <b>+107%</b> |
| Tropical savanna           | 2958452    | 2529860    | 3311552             |
| Tundra                     | 11531      | 8437       | 12000               |
| Global                     | 3913865    | 3469901    | 4987119 <b>+27%</b> |



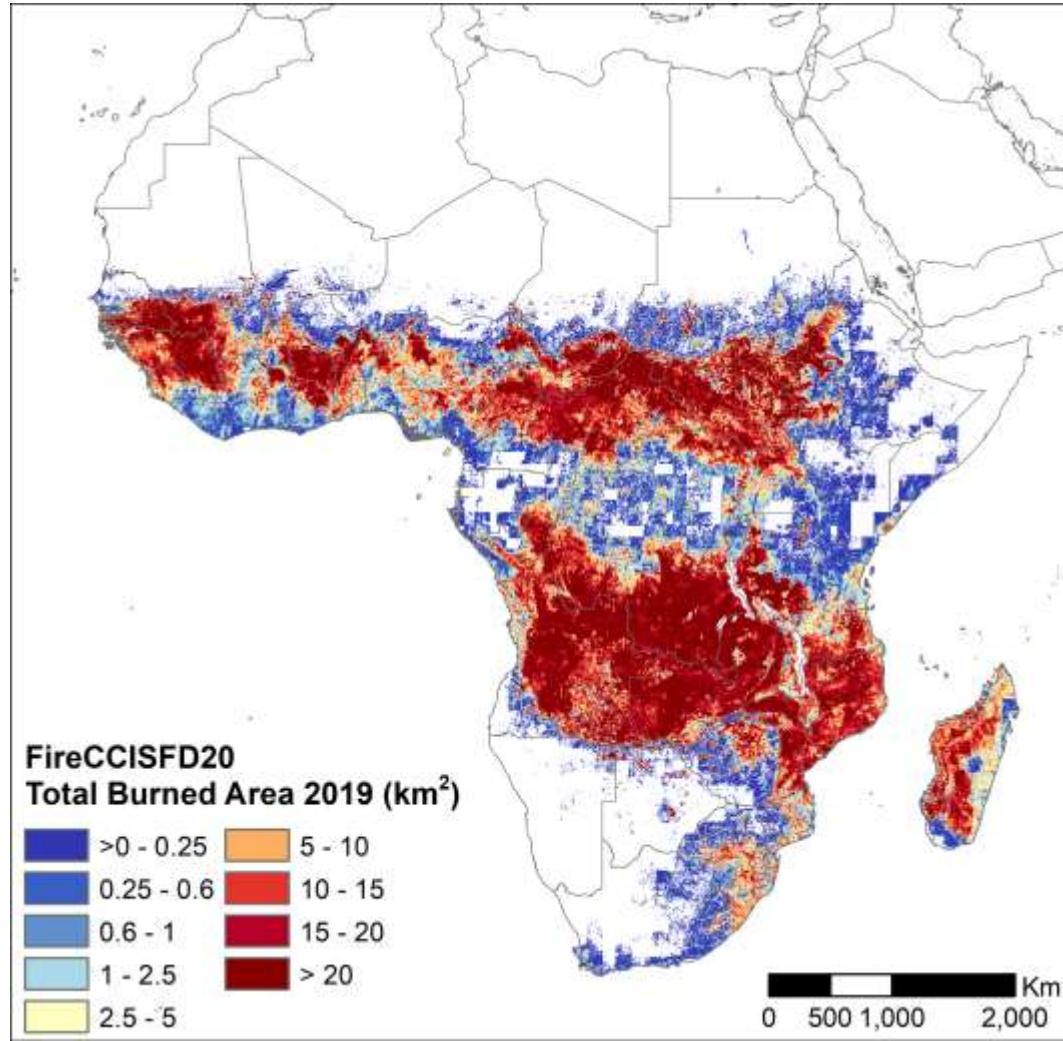
# FireCCIS310 (OLCI + SLSTR at 300m)



Lizundia-Loiola et al., 2022, RSE

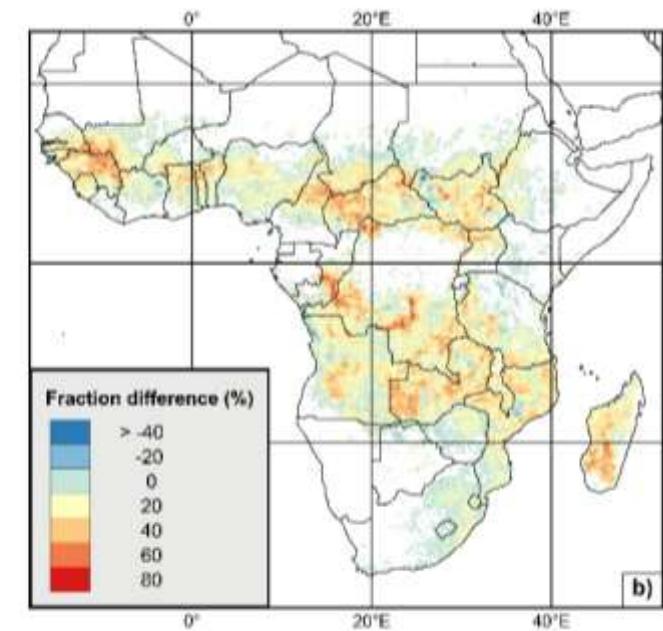
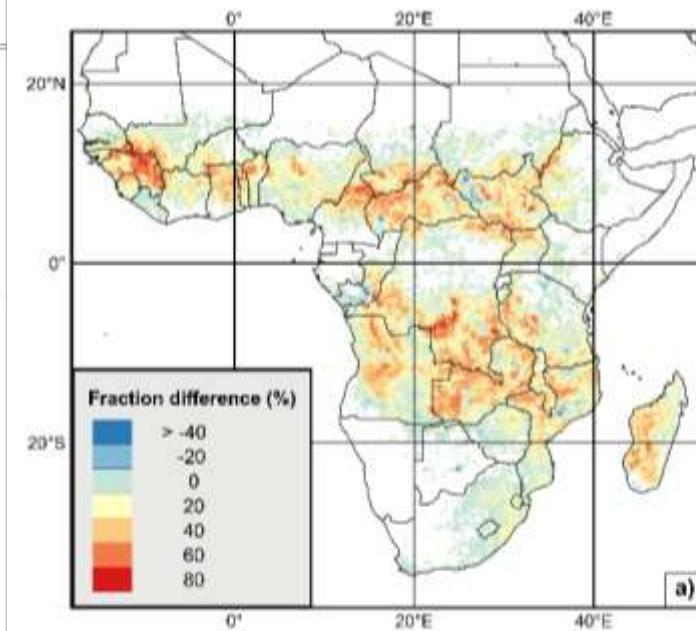


# Regional products: Africa (2019) Sentinel 2A & 2B



(Chuvieco et al., 2022, STOTEN)

4.8 Mkm<sup>2</sup> just for Africa. More BA in all months  
80% more BA than FireCCI51 (MODIS 250 m)  
120% more BA than MCD64A1 (MODIS 500 m)

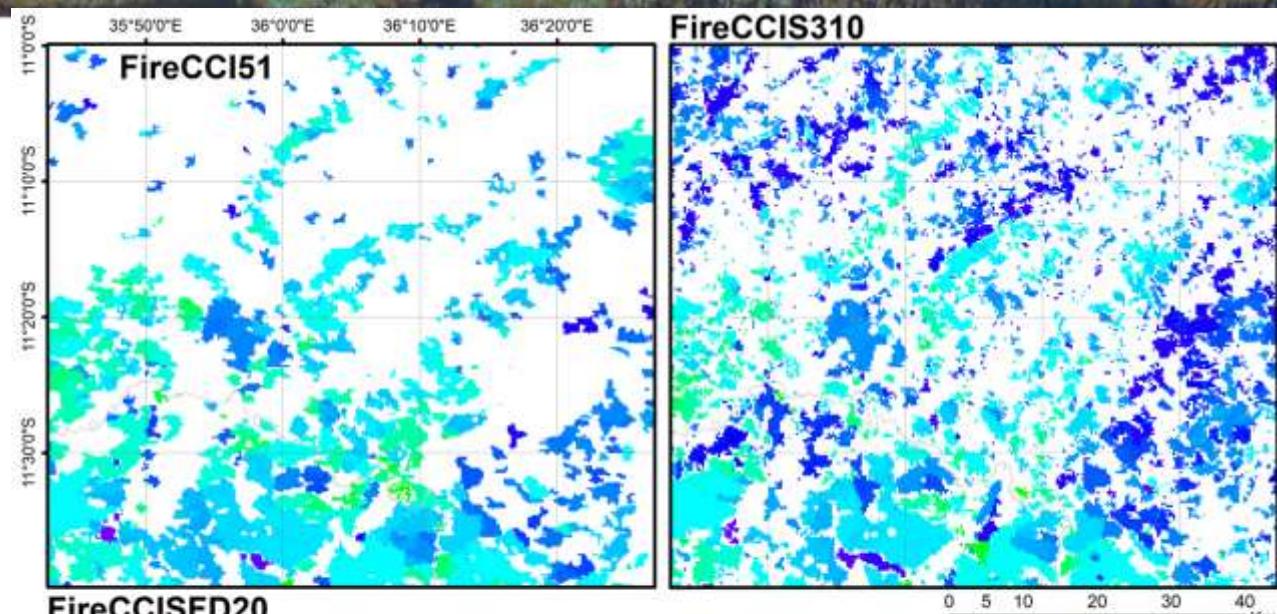


Difference in BA proportion between FireCCISFD20 and  
a) MCD64A1 and b) FireCCI51

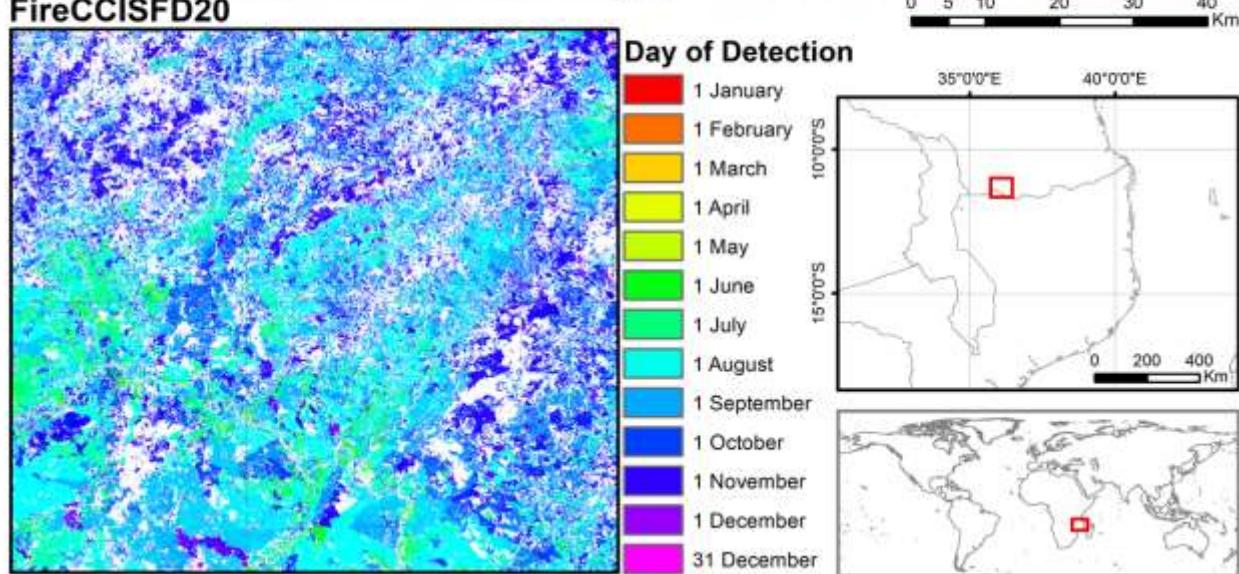


# Differences with existing global BA products

MODIS 250 m  
+ AF 1000 m

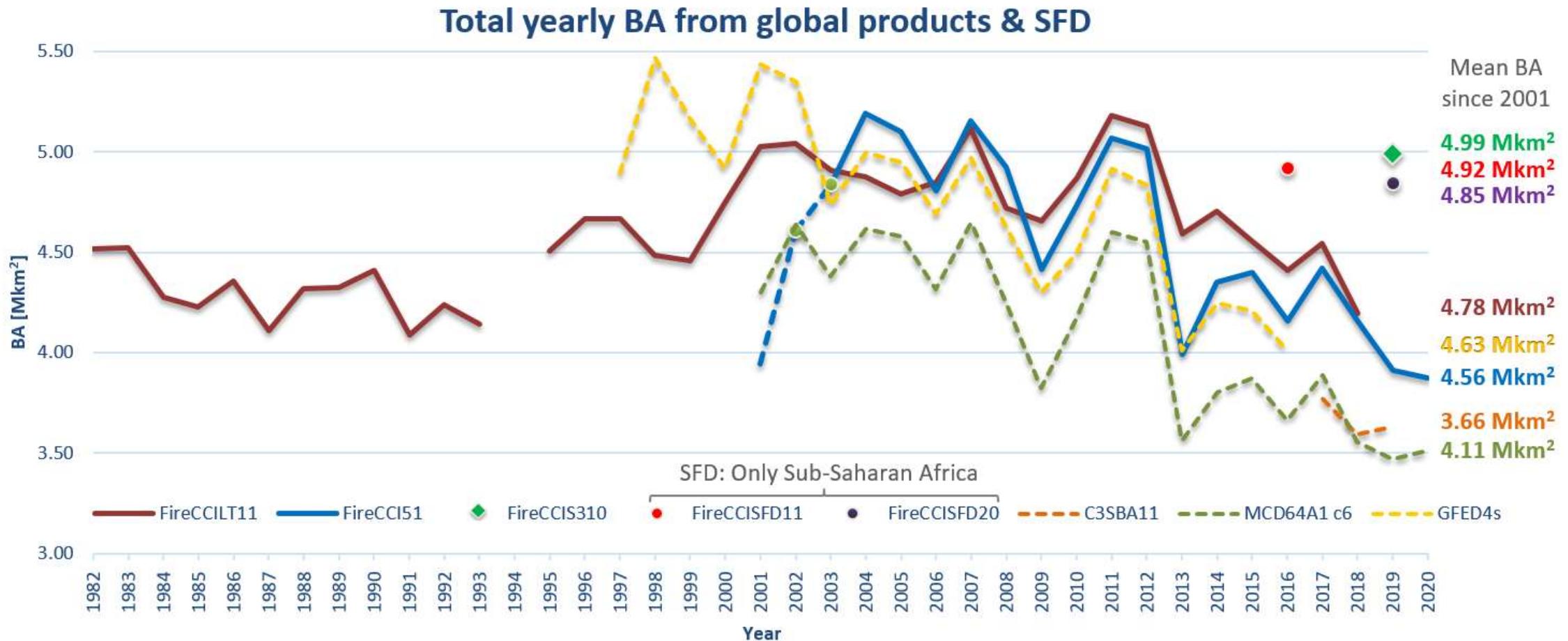


S2 MSI 20 m  
+ AF 375 m





# Fire trends in FireCCI products

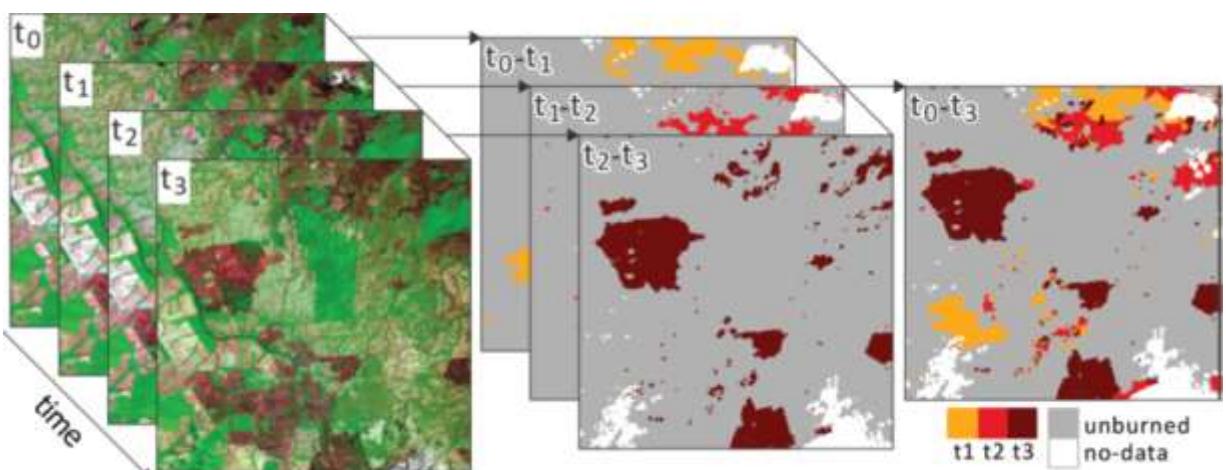
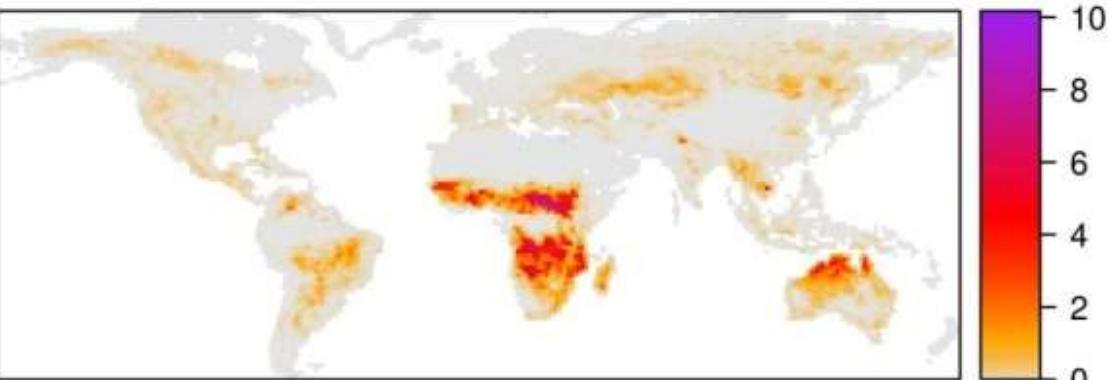
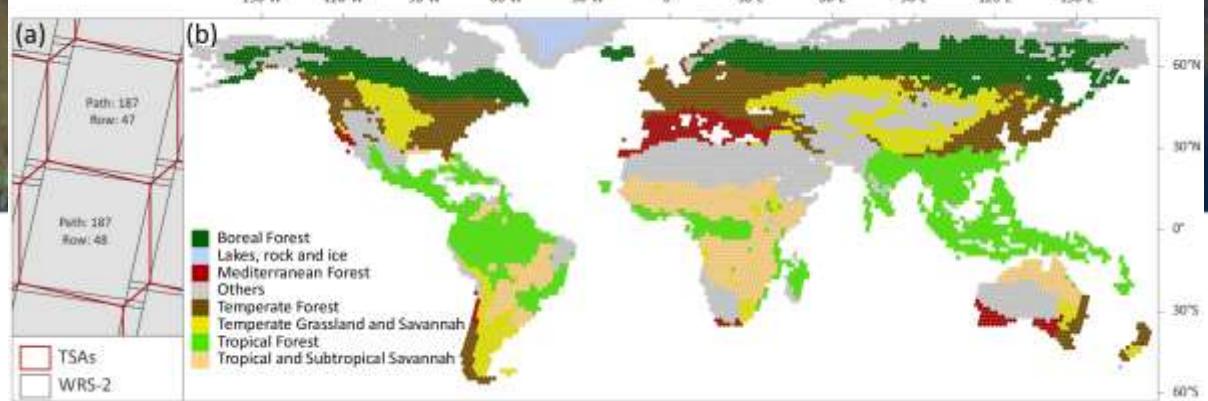




# Validation

- Random stratified sampling of TSA
- Long-term sampling scenes:
  - Global: Franquesa et al., 2022 RSE.
  - Africa: Stroppiana et al., 2022 IJPRS.

| Product             | OE [%] | CE [%] | DC [%] | RelB [%] |
|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|----------|
| <b>FireCCISFD20</b> | 8.5    | 15.0   | 87.7   | 8.4      |
| <b>MCD64C6</b>      | 56.5   | 21.1   | 56.0   | -44,9    |
| <b>FireCCI51</b>    | 52.2   | 25.1   | 58.4   | -36.2    |





# Emissions estimates

- GFED framework
  - 1.7 Pg C for SFD.
  - 67% more than GFED4s
- Land-cover specific estimates of biomass fuel consumption per BA unit.
  - 1.3 Pg C for SFD.
  - 61% more than GFED4s



**African burned area and fire carbon emissions are strongly impacted by small fires undetected by coarse resolution satellite data**

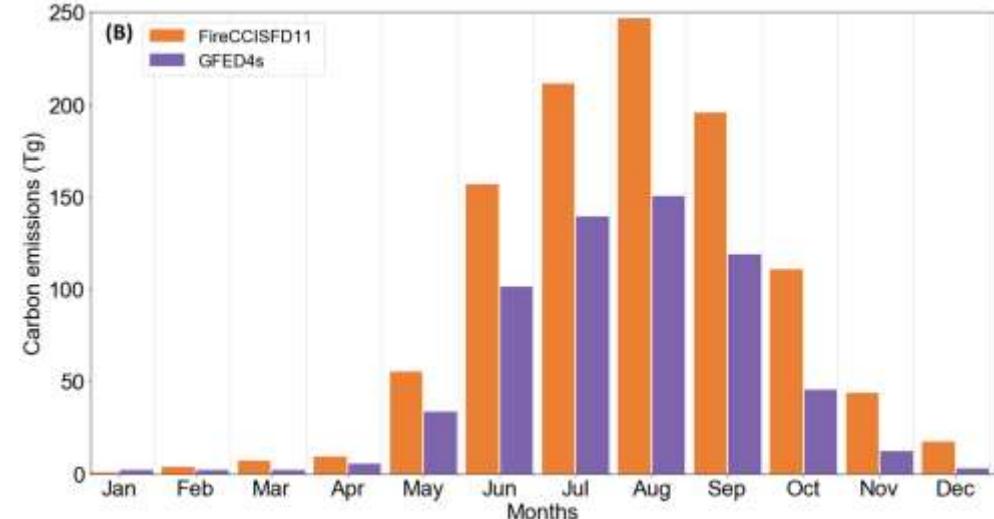
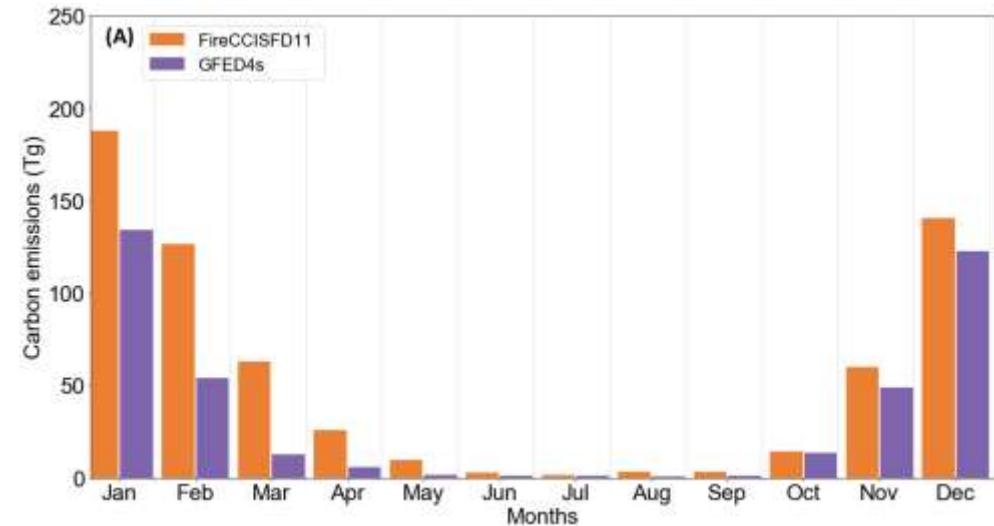
Ruben Ramo<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Ekhi Roteta<sup>c</sup>, Ioannis Bistinas<sup>d,e</sup>, Dave van Wees<sup>d</sup>, Aitor Bastarrika<sup>e</sup>, Emilio Chuvieco<sup>b</sup>, and Guido R. van der Werf<sup>a</sup>.

<sup>a</sup>COMPLUTUS-Tecnologías de la Información Geográfica SL, 28801 Alcalá de Henares, Spain; <sup>b</sup>Environmental Remote Sensing Research Group, Department of Geology, Geography and the Environment, University of Alcalá, 28801 Alcalá de Henares, Spain; <sup>c</sup>Department of Mining and Metallurgical Engineering and Materials Science, School of Engineering of Vitoria-Gasteiz, University of the Basque Country, 01006 Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain; <sup>d</sup>Faculty of Science, Vrije Universiteit, 1081HV Amsterdam, The Netherlands; and <sup>e</sup>Atos Nederland B.V., Burg. 1185MC Amstelveen, The Netherlands

Edited by Karen C. Seto, Yale University, New Haven, CT, and approved December 29, 2020; received for review June 10, 2020

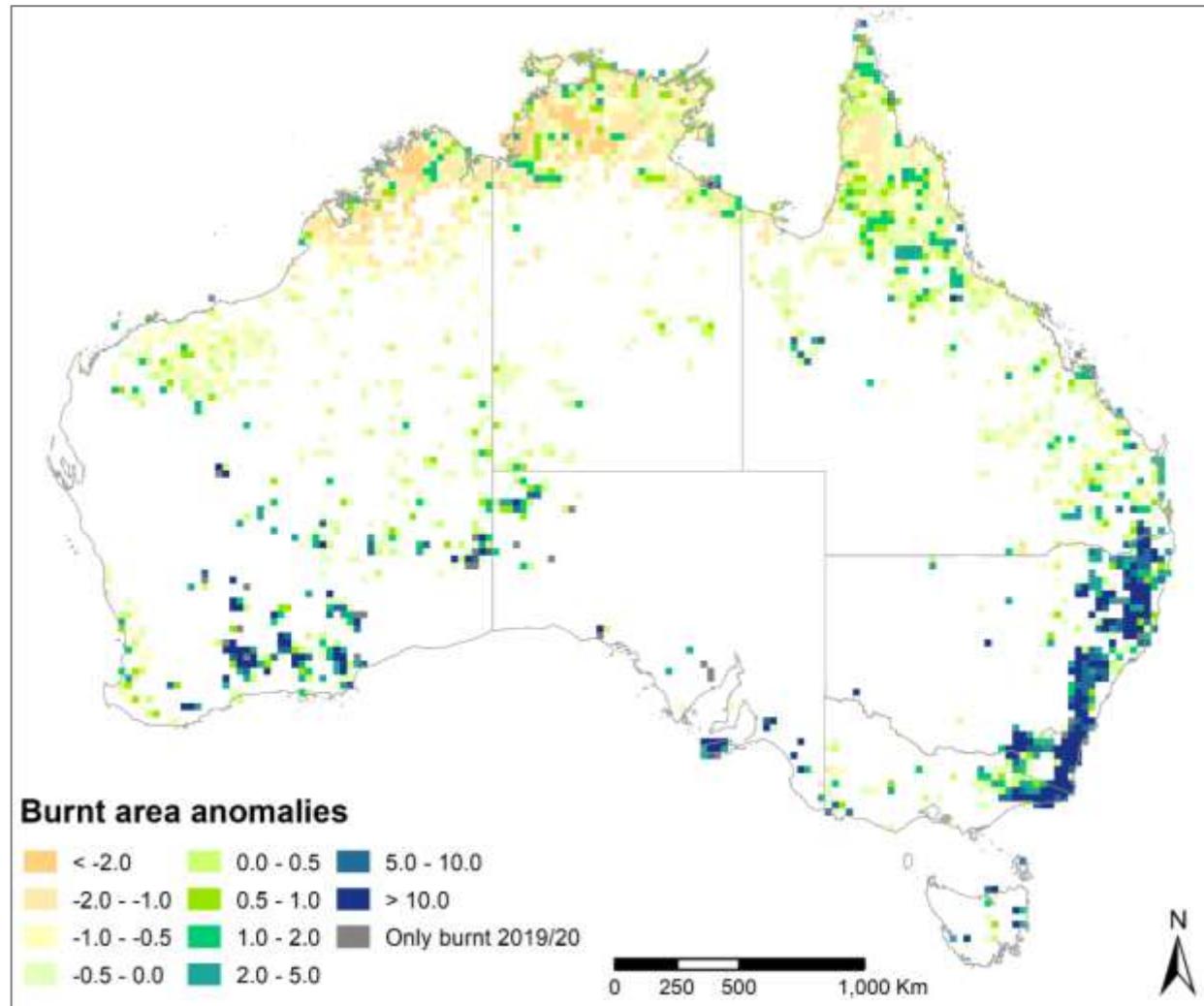
Fires are a major contributor to atmospheric budgets of greenhouse gases and aerosols, affect soils and vegetation properties, and are a key driver of land use change. Since the 1990s, global burned area (BA) estimates based on satellite observations have provided critical insights into patterns and trends of fire occurrence. However, these global BA products are based on coarse spatial-resolution sensors,

that small fires led to an additional 24 to 54% BA compared to previous estimates. Thanks to recent developments in satellite instruments and computing power, we can now map BA with substantially higher spatial resolution ( $\leq 30$  m) and for large geographic regions (19–21), reducing the dependency on statistical methods and active fire detections.





# Temporal anomalies



Bowman et al., 2020, Nature



Fire-and-rescue crew attend a blaze in Sydney, Australia, in 2019.

## Wildfires: Australia needs a national monitoring agency

David Bowman, Grant Williamson, Marta Yebra, Joshua Lizundia-Lolola, Marla Lucrecia Pettinari, Sami Shah, Ross Bradstock & Emilio Chuvileco

Comprehensive fire surveillance will strengthen resilience and adaptation to climate change.

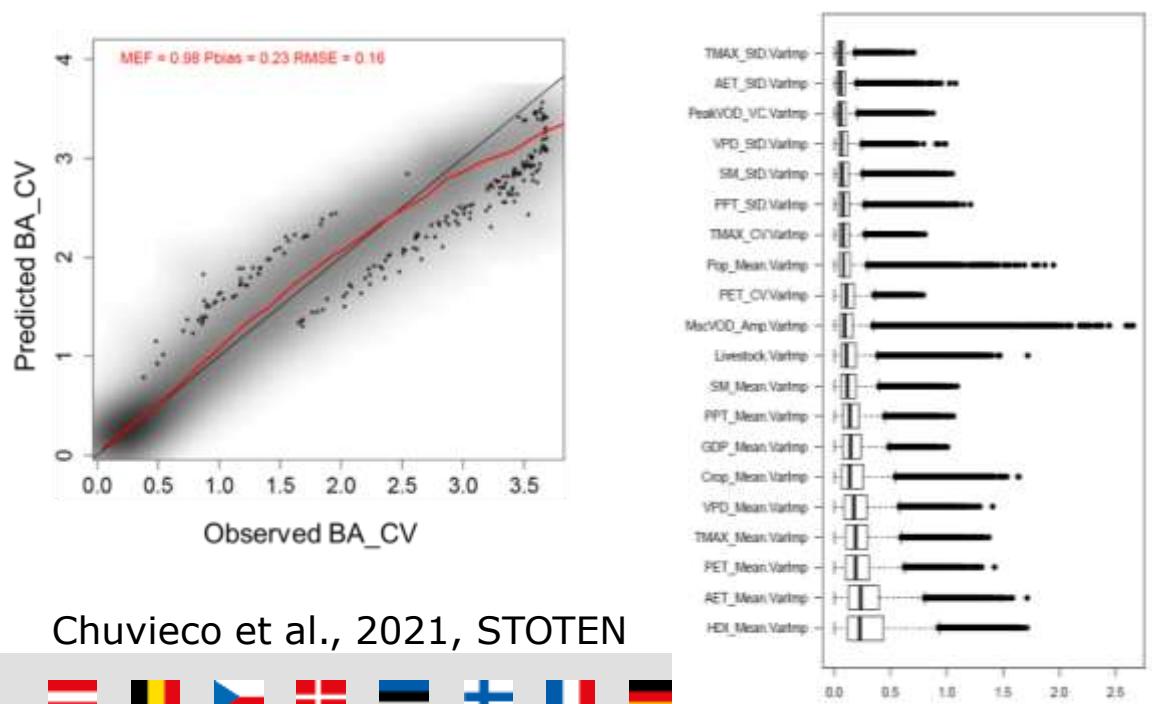
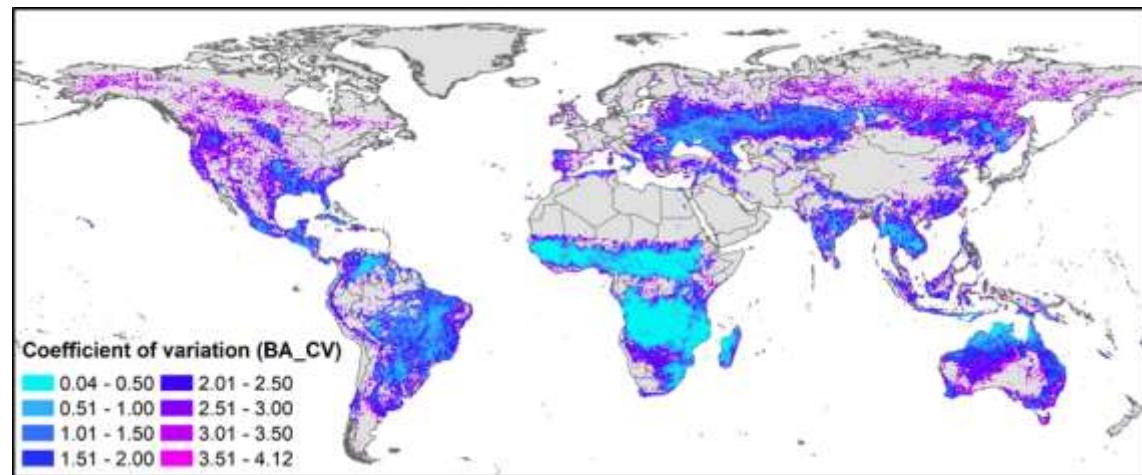
Just before the COVID-19 pandemic, bush fires in Australia destroyed more than 3,000 homes and burnt millions of hectares of vegetation. The crisis exposed the nation's fire monitoring system as being unfit for purpose. Precise real-time information about the area burnt and the intensity of the fires was not available when it was needed.

Australia does not have a central system for gathering and storing essential information about bush fires. State and territory governments, and even agencies within states, have different approaches. This worked fine when fires were smaller. But those in the 2019–20 season crossed multiple state borders.

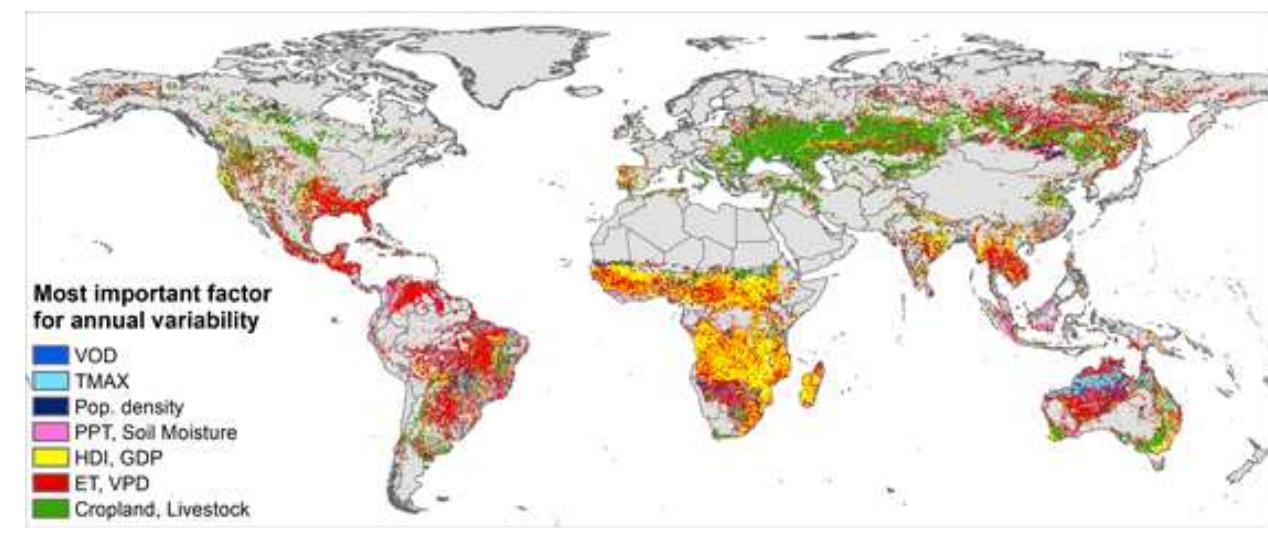
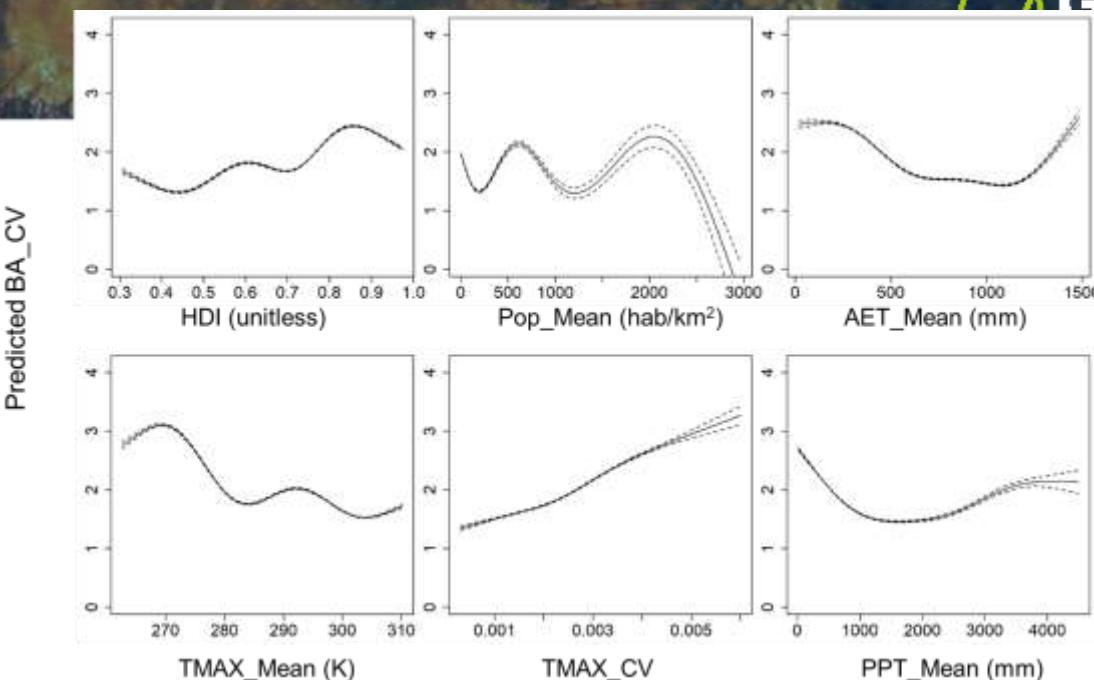
The blazes engulfed a huge geographic range and burnt for a duration and intensity that was beyond the experience of communities and fire managers<sup>1</sup>. Many Australians endured five months of smoke pollution that breached national air-quality standards. Usually, people would experience shorter bouts covering smaller areas<sup>2</sup>.



# Drivers of fire variability



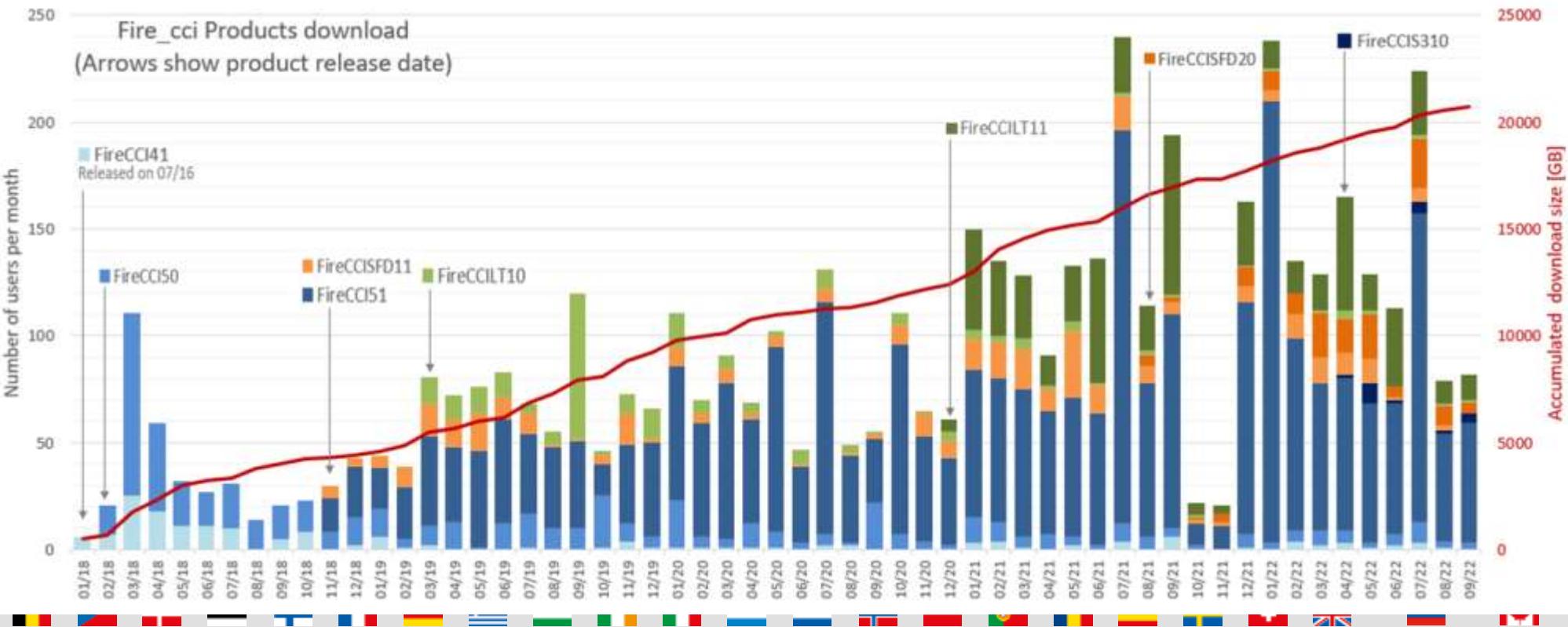
Chuvieco et al., 2021, STOTEN





# Fire CCI products

| Product Name    | Main input Information                       | Spatial resolution |       | Coverage                               | Dashed products: being produced in FireCCI+ Phase 2 |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|-----------------|--|--------------------|-------|--|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|                 |  | Pixel              | Grid  |  | 1982  | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| FireCCI50       | MODIS  | 250 m              | 0.25° |  |   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| FireCCI51       | MODIS  | 250 m              | 0.25° |  |   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| FireCCIS310     | Sentinel-3                                   | 300 m              | 0.25° | Global                                 |   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| FireCCILT11*    | AVHRR-LTDR                                   | 0.05°              | 0.25° |  |   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| FireCCIM10*     | FireCCI51, FireCCIS310, FireCCILT11, MCD64A1 | 0.25°              |       |  |   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| FireCCISFD11    | Sentinel-2                                   | 20 m               | 0.25° | Sub-Saharan Africa                     |   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| FireCCISFD20    | Sentinel-2                                   | 20 m               | 0.05° |  |   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| FireCCILTSFD    | Landsat, Sentinel-2                          | 30 m               |       | Test sites: Sahel, S. America, Siberia |   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| FireCCIS15A10   | Sentinel-1                                   | 40 m               |       |  |   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| FireCCIS152AF10 | S1 + S2                                      | 40 m               |       | Test sites Africa                      |   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |





## ESA climate office

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Thanks.

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### Fire

The Fire\_cci project aims to improve consistency, using better algorithms for both pre-processing and burned area detection while incorporating error characterisation.

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