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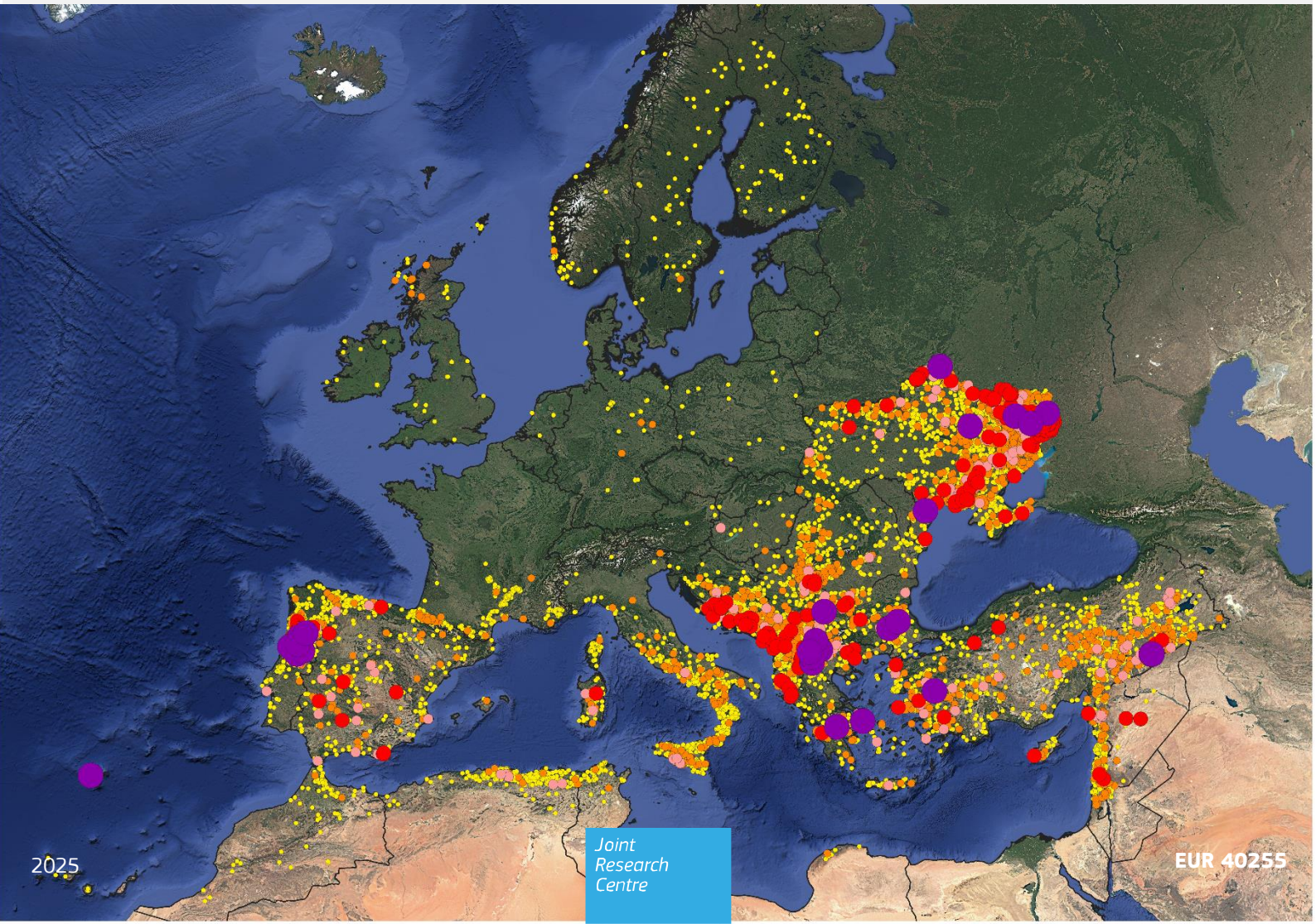
Advance report on Forest Fires in Europe, Middle East and North Africa 2024



2025

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Cover page illustration: EFFIS – Distribution of burnt areas mapped in 2025.

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Contents

Abstract

This report contains the annual summary of the wildfire season of 2024 on the basis of data from the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS). It is published early in 2025 to provide an advance comprehensive analysis of the wildfire season 2024. The analysis and data in the report complement the near-real time data provided in the web applications of EFFIS during 2024 and precede the complete analysis of the 2024 wildfire season that will be published in collaboration with the EFFIS country network in the last quarter of 2025.

The report includes an analysis of the fire danger situation in 2024 and correlates this with the impact of wildfires, which is represented by the burnt areas mapped in the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS). Furthermore, the report provides a time series comparison of the fire danger situation and the impact of wildfires in 2024 in relation to the historical overview of the data series in EFFIS.

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Executive Summary

Although based purely on statistics, 2024 may appear overall as an average wildfire year, it included the occurrence of serious wildfire episodes early in the core of the wildfire season, in July, with critical wildfires in some of the Greek islands and in Madeira, in Portugal. The overall trends of wildfires in spring and summer 2024 were on or below average, due to intermittent rainfalls across the Mediterranean region. However, a series of multiple wildfires were ignited in Portugal in September, which resulted in a total burnt area over 100 000 ha in the European Union in just a week.

The 2024 wildfire season in the European Union finished with a total burnt area of 419 298 ha, which is slightly above average of the period 2006 – 2023. About 35% of this, i.e. 147 017 ha, occurred on Natura200 sites. However, it is relevant to mention that many wildfires, which caused extensive burnt areas, occurred in the Balkan region, inside and outside the EU territory. It is worth mentioning that a record number of wildfires were mapped in EFFIS in the Ukrainian territory. The distribution of these fires depicts the area of the combat frontline in the war between Ukraine and Russia.

1 The European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS)

The European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS) has been established jointly by the European Commission services (DG ENV and JRC) and the relevant fire services in the EU Member States and European countries (Forest Services and Civil Protection services). Research activities for the development of the system initiated at JRC in 1998 and the first EFFIS operations were in the year 2000.

In 2003, EFFIS was embedded in the new Regulation (EC) No 2152/2003 (Forest Focus) of the European Council and Parliament on monitoring of forests and environmental interactions until it expired in 2006. Since then, EFFIS operated as a voluntary system of information on wildfires until the end of 2015, when it became part of the EU Copernicus program, under the Emergency Management Services.

Acting as the focal point of information on forest fires, EFFIS supports the national services in charge of wildfire management. Currently, the EFFIS network is made up of 43 countries in Europe, Middle East and North Africa. EFFIS provides specific support to the Emergency Response Coordinating Centre (ERCC) (formerly Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC)) of Civil Protection as regards near-real time information on wildfires during the fire campaigns, and assists other DGs through the provision both pre-fire and post-fire information on wildfire regimes and impacts. It provides information that supports the needs of the European Parliament with regards to wildfire management, impact in natural protected areas and harmonized information on forest fires in the EU.

EFFIS also centralises the national fire data that the countries collect through their national forest fire programmes in the so-called EFFIS Fire Database. The EFFIS web services[1] allow users to access near-real time and historical information on wildfires in Europe, Middle East and North Africa.

EFFIS provides a continuous monitoring of the fire situation in Europe and the Mediterranean area, and regularly sends updates to EC services during the main fire season. The information about the on-going fire season is continuously updated on the EFFIS web site (up to 8 times, daily), which can be interactively queried[2]. EFFIS provides daily meteorological fire danger maps and forecasts of fire danger up to 9 days in advance, updated maps of the latest active fires, wildfire perimeters and post-fire evaluation of damage.

The EFFIS module for the assessment of meteorological forest fire danger is the EFFIS Danger Forecast. This module forecasts forest fire danger in Europe, part of North Africa and the Middle East, on the basis of the Canadian Fire Weather Index (FWI), allowing a harmonized evaluation to be made of the forest fire danger situation throughout Europe and neighbouring countries.

The damage caused by forest fires in Europe and neighbouring countries is estimated using the EFFIS Rapid Damage Assessment (RDA) module. Since 2000, cartography of the burnt areas is produced every year through the processing of satellite imagery. After 2003 the processing chain was further automated to process MODIS data in near-real time. Daily, two full image mosaics of the European territory are processed in EFFIS to derive burnt area maps, every day. Additionally, since 2018, Sentinel-2 imagery is used to map fires, which allows the mapping of fires smaller than 30 ha and refining the final perimeters of those fires initially mapped from MODIS 250 m imagery. The burnt area mapped by EFFIS corresponds, on average, to around 95 % of the total area burnt in Europe each year. Further to the mapping of burnt areas, the analysis of which types of land cover classes are affected by fires is performed.

[1] http://effis.jrc.ec.europa.eu

[2] see http://effis.jrc.ec.europa.eu/current-situation

2 Wildfires in 2024: Country reports from EFFIS

The EFFIS Danger Forecast

The EFFIS Danger Forecast was developed to support the Commission's Directorate-General for the Environment and the forest fire-fighting services in the EU Member States. From 2002, at the request of the Member States, operation of the EFFIS Danger Forecast was extended to six months starting on 1 May and ending on 31 October, and in 2006 to nine months, from 1 February to 31 October. From 2008 the EFFIS Danger Forecast system has run continuously throughout the year without interruption.

The geographic extent has been enlarged over the years from the initial extent that covered only the Mediterranean region. Now the system covers the whole of Europe and MENA (Middle East & North Africa) countries.

The meteorological data used to run the model has also changed during the years. At the beginning the system started using forecasted data provided by Météo-France[3] with a spatial resolution of around 50 km. Then over time other providers were included, such as DWD (Deutscher Wetterdienst)[4] and ECMWF (European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecast)[5] and the resolution has improved. Now the system runs with three different data sets from three providers: ECMWF (the primary), Météo-France and DWD; with a spatial resolution in a range from around 10 km to 25 km.

In the following chapters the fire danger trends assessed by EFFIS in the different countries during the 2023 fire season are presented, comparing them with long term trends. To make this analysis we use the Fire weather Index (FWI) calculated on the base of the ECMWF ERA5 reanalysis dataset. The link can be found here:

https://cds.climate.copernicus.eu/cdsapp#!/dataset/cems-fire-historical?tab=overview

Through the Danger Forecast module of EFFIS the situation has been continuously monitored and the risk level analysed and mapped.

In the charts we present fire weather index data for the current year, showing how it compares against the long-term minimum and maximum, the 10-90 percentiles, and the long-term average (measured from 1980-2023). This makes it possible to see whether and when extreme conditions occur in the current year.

The current methodology is based on the calculation of the FWI of each country day by day for the whole time series. Then for each country we calculate the statistics - min, max, average, the 10th percentile and the 90th percentile.

Mapped burnt areas

The country chapters also detail the burnt areas mapped in each country in 2024.

European countries (EU and non-EU) are listed alphabetically, followed by the MENA countries.

Burnt areas are split into different land cover types using the CORINE Land Cover (CLC) 2018 database unless otherwise specified.

The figures may also include agricultural and urban areas that were burned during the wildfires, or prescribed fires, which may not strictly be considered forest fires in the countries concerned. The breakdown of totals into the different land cover types gives some ideas of the different areas affected.

NOTE

In 2024, fires smaller than 30 ha were mapped. These figures are displayed in the tables of land cover types and the charts of monthly numbers of fires/burnt areas.

However, when comparing the latest data with the historic records of previous years, a filter has been applied excluding fires under 30 ha, in order to make consistent comparisons. This applies to the charts showing the annual time series of mapped numbers of fires/burnt areas.

It is also worth noting, however, that almost all burnt area results from fires larger than 30 ha.

[3] https://meteofrance.com/
[4] https://www.dwd.de
[5] https://www.ecmwf.int/

2.1 EFFIS Rapid Damage Assessment: 2024 results

The Rapid Damage Assessment module of EFFIS was set up to provide reliable and harmonized estimates of the areas affected by wildfires during the fire season. The methodology and the spatial resolution of the satellite sensor data used for this purpose, from the MODIS sensor, at 250 metre spatial resolution, allowed fires of about 30 ha or larger to be mapped. This methodology was enhanced in 2018 through the use of Sentinel 2 imagery, at 20 metre spatial resolution, which allowed the mapping of fires of about 5 ha or larger.

In order to maintain the comparability of the area burnt nowadays with the area mapped prior to 2018, when current results are compared with those of previous years, only the number and the area burnt by fires above 30 ha is used, while the higher resolution is reported for the 2024 season.

Although the number of fires mapped in EFFIS is only a fraction of the total number of fires in the countries, the area burned by these fires represent approximately 95 % of the total burnt area reported by the countries.

The fires mapped in EFFIS include all those fires that burned natural land, including prescribed fires that are set for management or conservation purposes. Non-wildland fires are excluded from the statistics published in the system. Accordingly, fires that burn grassland, shrub land and other wooded land are included in the EFFIS statistics. If a portion of a mapped fire includes agricultural or urban areas, these land covers are included in the estimation of the area of the event. Information on each type of land cover that is affected by the fires mapped in EFFIS is provided for each fire event. However, total figures of burnt areas may not correspond with national statistics that consider only areas burned in forest areas.

In order to obtain the statistics of the burnt area by land cover type, the data from the European CORINE Land Cover database were used. Therefore, the mapped burnt areas were overlaid with the CLC data, making it possible to derive damage assessment results comparable for all the EU countries.

The results for each of the countries affected by forest fires are given in the following paragraphs in alphabetical order, followed by a section on the MENA countries.

The total area burned in 2024, as shown by the analysis of satellite imagery, is shown in Table 1.

Figure 1 shows the scars caused by forest fires during the 2024 season. In 2024, across the region covered by EFFIS, fires were detected and mapped in 42 countries and a total burnt area of 1 866 900 ha was mapped, around twice that mapped in 2023. However, half of this total (965 360 ha) came from Ukraine, which logged a greater burnt area than was measured across the whole of Europe, Middle East and North Africa in 2023.

Table 1. Areas mapped in 2024 estimated from satellite imagery.

Country	***Area (Ha)***	***Number of Fires***
Albania	49189	453
Algeria	10354	369
Austria	37	3
Bosnia & Herzegovina	45536	351
Bulgaria	45435	256
Croatia	16286	65
Cyprus	3529	28
Denmark	47	8
Finland	601	61
France	17321	605
Germany	1144	48
Greece	43593	301
Hungary	1262	15
Ireland	200	10
Israel	17274	205
Italy	50844	1500
Jordan	1860	49
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244	13250	246
Lebanon	16437	717
Lithuania	8	2
Libya	285	12
Moldova	68	1
Montenegro	26373	340
Morocco	1074	73
Netherlands	35	2
North Macedonia	97660	250
Norway	805	42
Palestinian Territory	1198	12
Poland	211	40
Portugal	147461	735
Romania	43003	926
Serbia	43004	584
Slovakia	6	2
Slovenia	79	2
Spain	47607	769
Sweden	589	49
Switzerland	3	1
Syria	22683	254
Tunisia	1469	78
Türkiye	131223	1663
UK	2497	39
Ukraine	965360	8753
Total	**1866900**	**19919**

Summary	**Total Area (Ha)**
EU27	419298
Other European countries	1374968
Middle East and North Africa	72634
Natura2000/other protected sites	147609

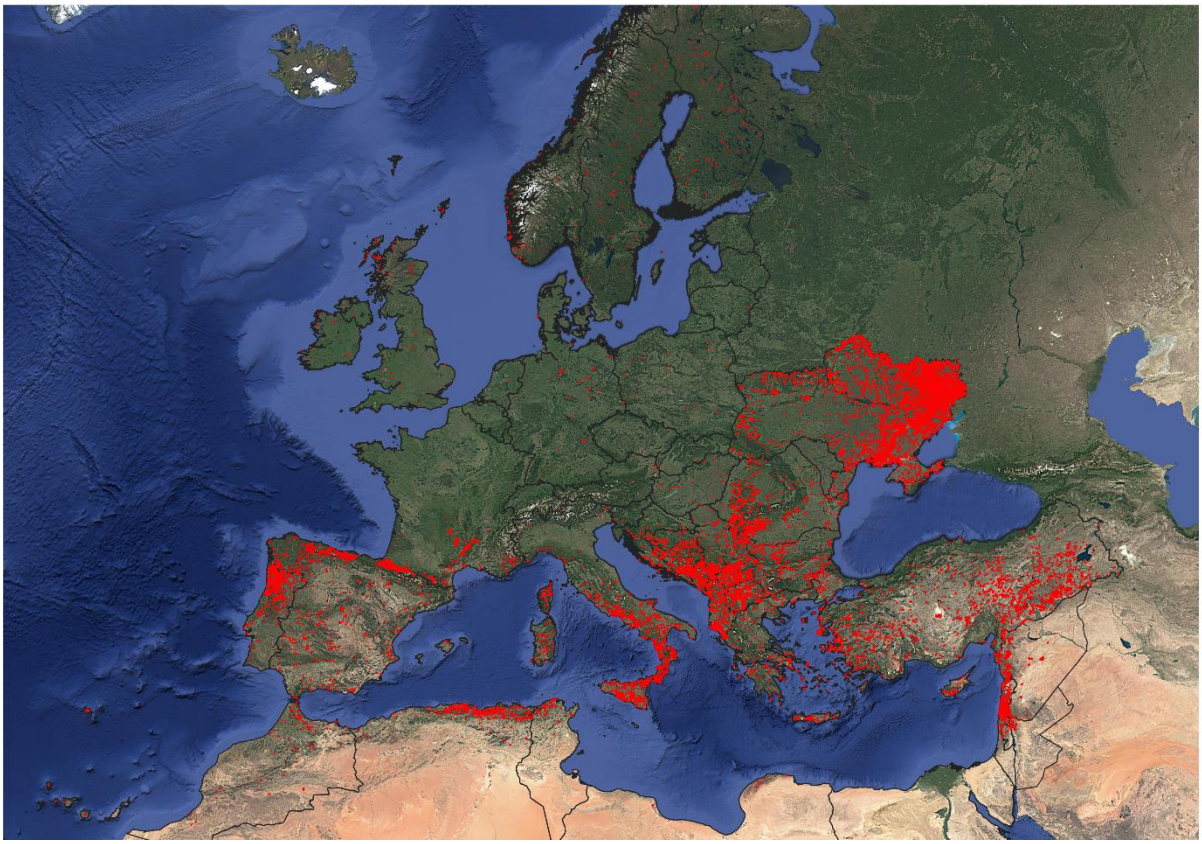

Figure 1. Burnt scars produced by wildland fires during the 2024 fire season.

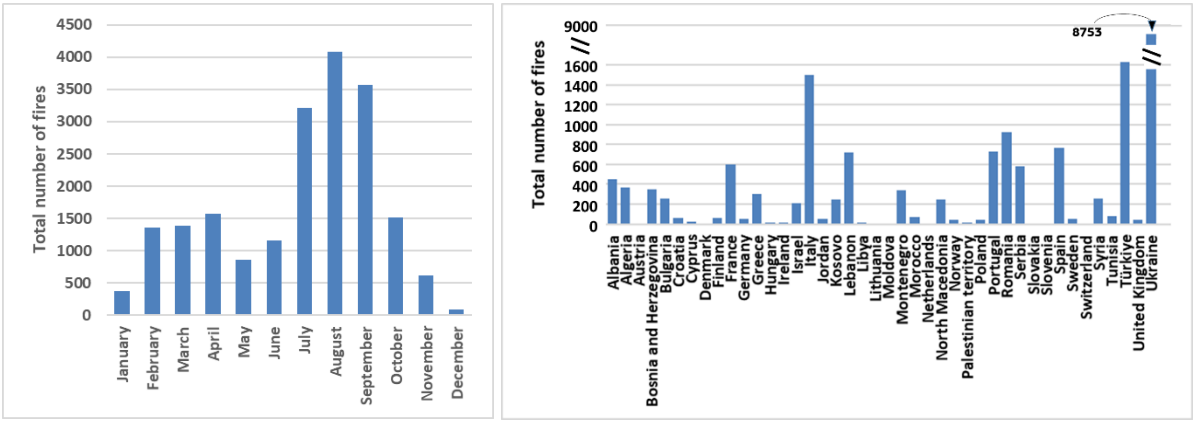

Figure 2. Total number of fires mapped by month and country in 2024.

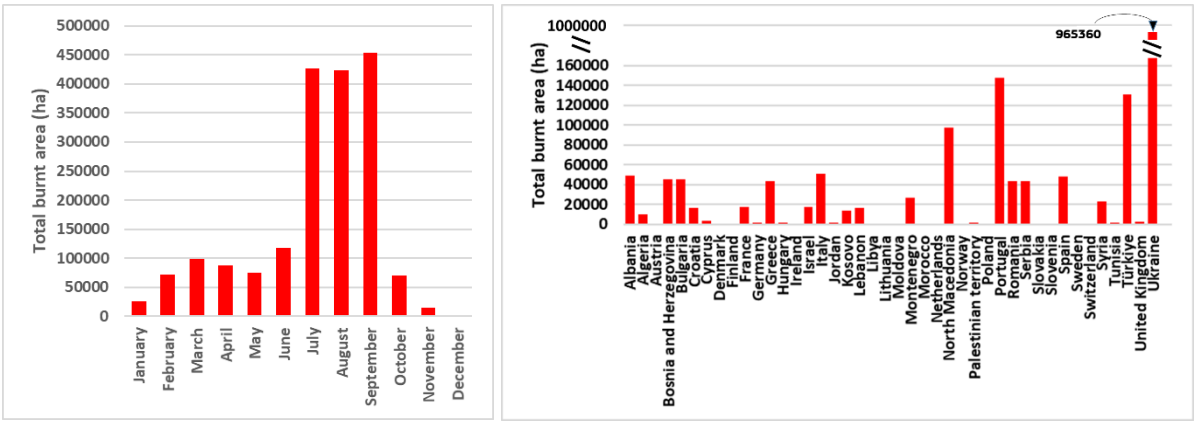

Figure 3. Total burnt area of fires mapped by month and country in 2024.

Damage to Natura2000 sites

Of particular interest is the analysis of the damage caused by fires to the areas protected within the Natura2000 network, as they include habitats of especial interest which are home for endangered plant and animal species.

The category of Natura2000 areas only exists in the countries of the European Union, but some other countries also report equivalent protected areas. The area burnt within the Natura2000 sites and other protected areas for which there is information is presented below.

Note: mapped burnt areas from all fires are presented, including also those that are prescribed for fire management or conservation purposes.

Country	Area (Ha)	% of Natura2000 Area	Number of Fires
Austria	17.0	0.00	1
Bulgaria	29975.8	0.53	146
Croatia	11545.5	0.34	38
Cyprus	860.0	0.36	6
Denmark	47.0	0.01	8
Finland	44.6	0.00	6
France	9867.7	0.11	314
Germany	1113.9	0.02	46
Greece	10782.7	0.22	171
Hungary	707.2	0.03	11
Ireland	125.8	0.01	6
Italy	13506.6	0.19	475
Lithuania	7.0	0.00	1
Netherlands	35.0	0.00	2
Poland	113.0	0.00	27
Portugal	36661.3	1.53	239
Romania	13465.8	0.17	293
Slovakia	2.0	0.00	1
Slovenia	79.0	0.01	2
Spain	17982.0	0.11	276
Sweden	78.3	0.00	8
EU27 total	**147017.2**		**2077**
Algeria	15.4		3
Lebanon	241.9		5
Morocco	96.0		3
UK	238.4		12
Non-EU total	**591.7**		**23**
Total (all)	**147609**		**2100**

Fires were mapped in 21 of the 27 EU member states (all except Belgium, Czechia, Estonia, Luxembourg, Latvia and Malta). Data for non-European protected sites was available for 4 countries.

The total burnt area in Natura2000 and other protected sites in 2024 was 147 609 ha, around 70 % of the amount recorded in 2023 and less than half of the 2022 total.

Portugal was the most affected country in 2024, followed by Bulgaria and Spain. These three countries accounted for just under 60% of the total area burnt in protected areas in 2024 (Figure 4, Figure 5).

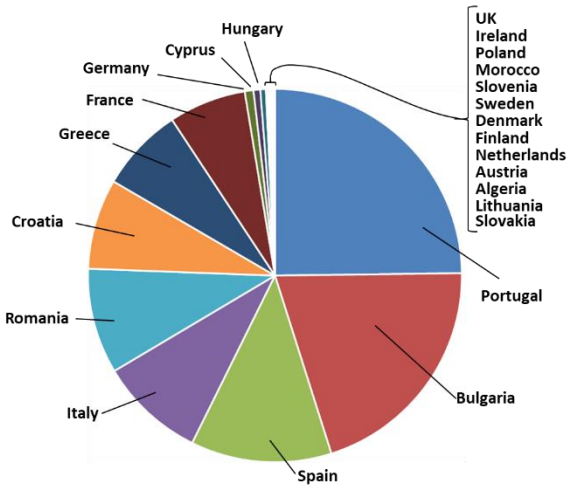

Figure 4. Total area burnt in Natura2000 sites and other protected areas in 2024.

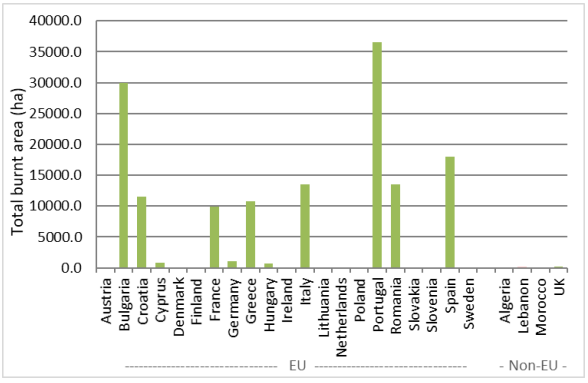

Figure 5. Total mapped burnt area in Natura2000 sites and other protected areas in 2024.

Affected land cover types

[*N.B. Totals from Ukraine are excluded from this section because its burnt area was significantly higher than in any other country covered by EFFIS (amounting to half of the total mapped across the entire region), disproportionately affecting the results. Ukraine figures are discussed separately in section 2.1.36 on page 36*].

In 2024, excluding figures from Ukraine, around one third of the total burnt area occurred in Other Natural Land as identified by the 2018 CORINE Land Cover Type classification system and the 2019 Copernicus Globcover classification in regions where Corine was not available (Figure 7). A further 22 % was mapped in Agricultural Land, while 17% affected forest (Broadleaf, Conifer or Mixed), a slightly lower proportion than in recent years. (Figure 6, Figure 7).

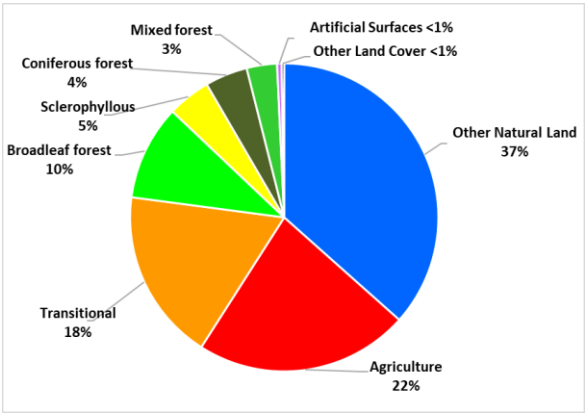

Figure 6. Proportions of land cover types affected in 2024 (all countries *excluding Ukraine*).

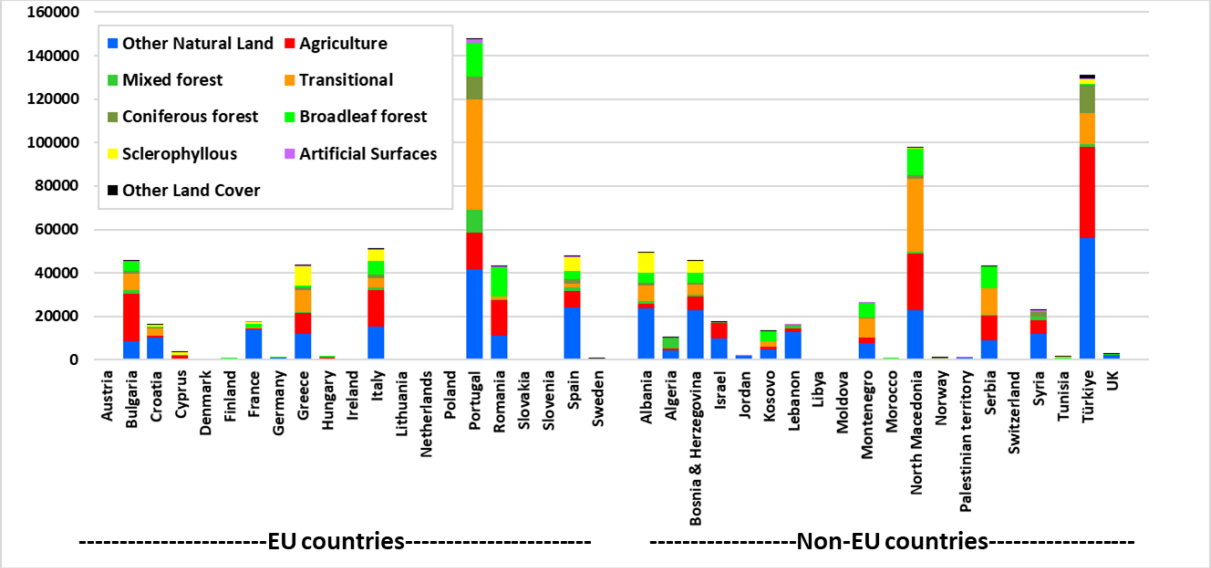

Figure 7. Burnt area in each country in 2024 by CORINE land class (*excluding Ukraine*).

European countries

In 2024, fires were mapped in 21 of the EU27 countries (all except Belgium, Czechia, Estonia, Luxembourg, Latvia and Malta), burning 419 298 ha, around 80% of the amount recorded in 2023 and only half of 2022's total. The main peak occurred in September when some of the largest fires of the year were mapped in Portugal.

Of this total, 147 017 ha occurred on Natura2000 sites, less than has been mapped in the last two years. This is equivalent to around 35 % of the total burnt area in European countries, a lower proportion than has been recorded in the last two years. Just under one half of the damage to protected areas came from two countries (Portugal and Bulgaria).

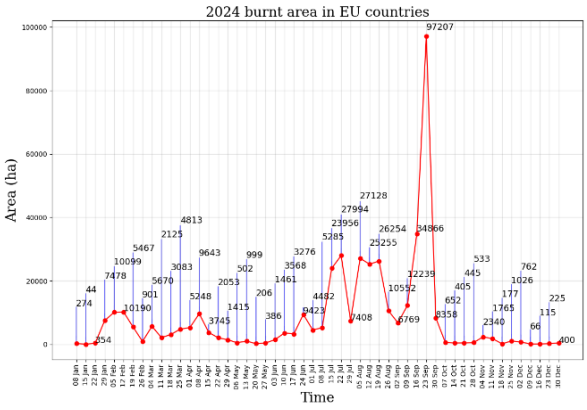

Figure 8. Burnt area weekly evolution in EU27 countries in 2024.

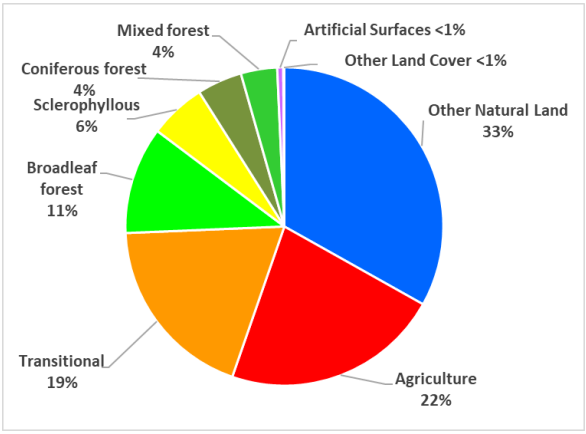

Figure 9. Proportions of land cover types affected in EU27 countries in 2024.

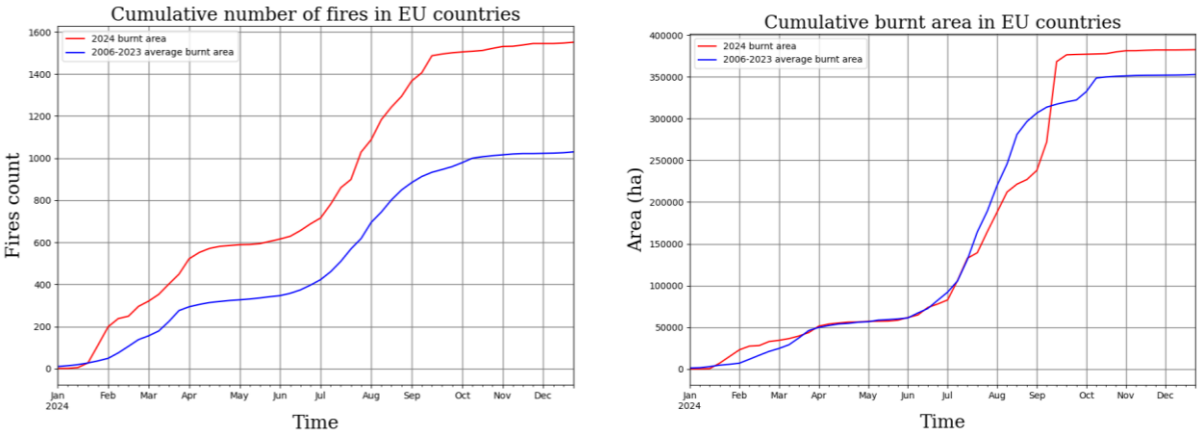

Figure 10. Cumulative number of fires and burnt area in 2024 in EU27 countries (red line) compared with the 2006-2023 average (blue line). Fires are filtered to include only those ≥30 ha to allow the comparison with previous years.

2.1 Country reports

2.1.1 Albania

The 2024 fire season in Albania was the most extreme for the last 6 years (Figure 13). A total of 49 189 ha from 453 fires were mapped, mostly in July and August (Figure 12) when the largest fires of the year occurred. 19 fires exceeded 500 ha, including one of over 4 000 ha in Dropull i Poshtëm region in July.

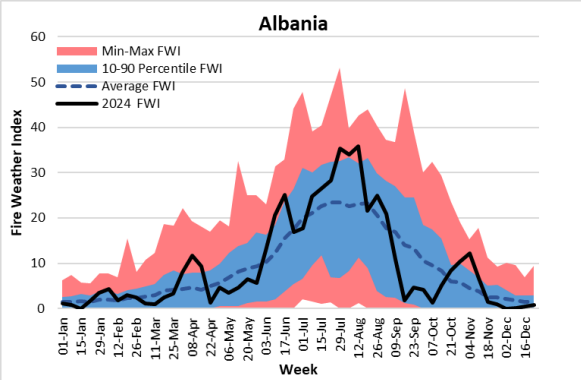

Figure 11. Fire weather Index information for Albania.

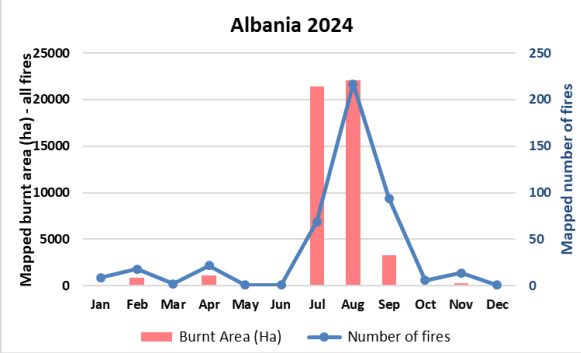

Figure 12. Monthly numbers of fires and burnt area in Albania in 2024.

Table 2. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Albania by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Broadleaf forest	4681	9.52
Coniferous forest	1281	2.60
Mixed forest	978	1.99
Other Natural Land	23571	47.92
Sclerophyllous vegetation	8931	18.16
Transitional	7352	14.95
Agriculture	2319	4.72
Artificial Surfaces	72	0.15
Other Land Cover	3	0.01
TOTAL	**49189**	**100**

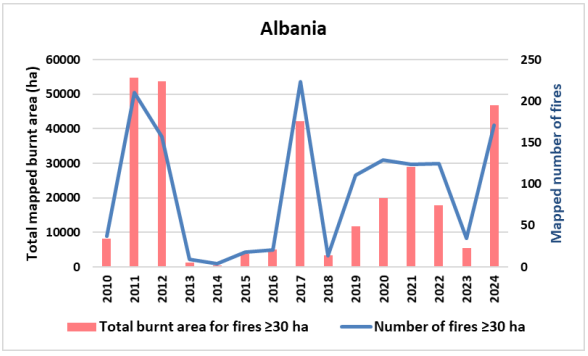

Figure 13. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Albania.

Mapped locations of the fires in 2024 can be seen in Figure 14.

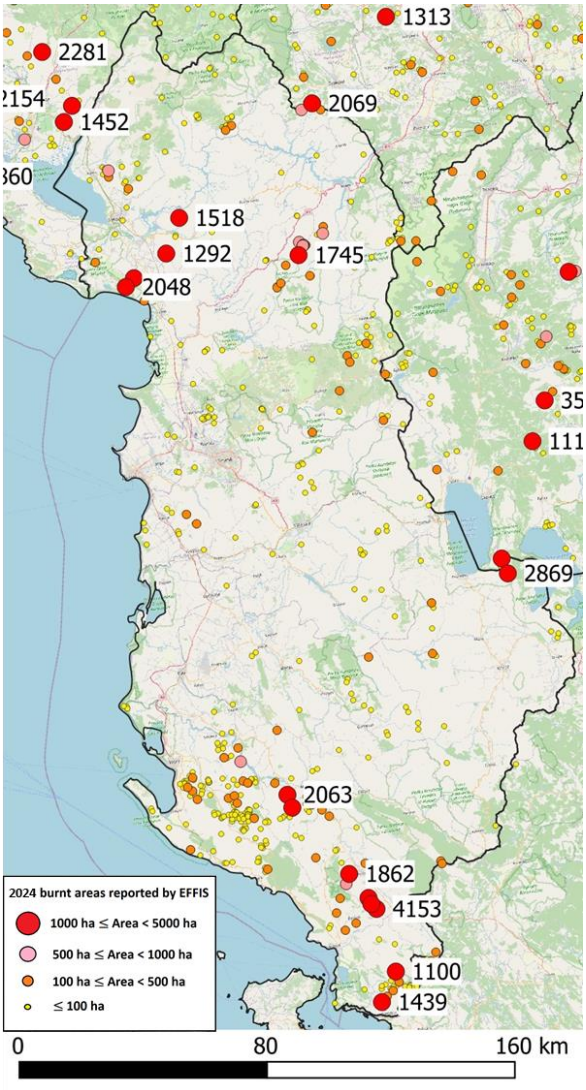

Figure 14. Locations of fires in Albania in 2024.

2.1.2 Austria

Only three fires were mapped in Austria in 2024, making it the lightest season for several years. Of the total of 37 ha mapped, one fire of 17 ha occurred on a Natura2000 site.

Table 3. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Austria by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Broadleaf forest	6	16.22
Mixed forest	3	8.11
Other Natural Land	17	45.95
Agriculture	11	29.73
TOTAL	**37**	**100**

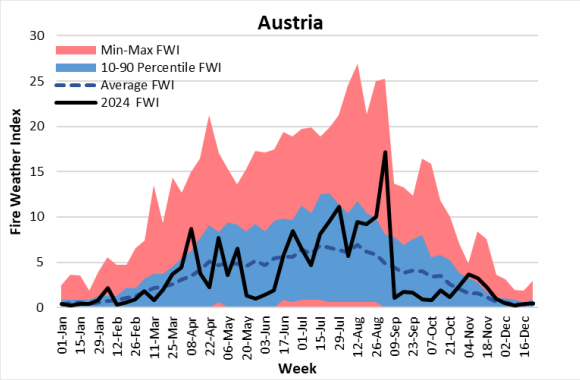

Figure 15. Fire weather Index information for Austria.

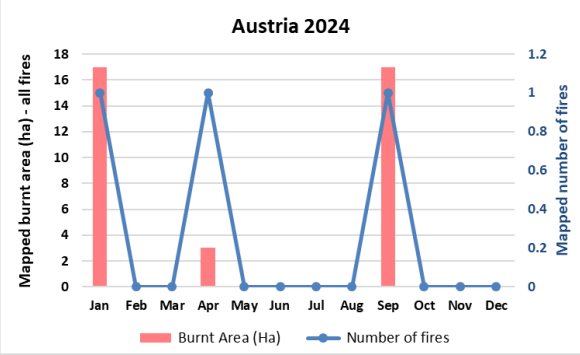

Figure 16. Monthly numbers of fires and burnt area in Austria in 2024.

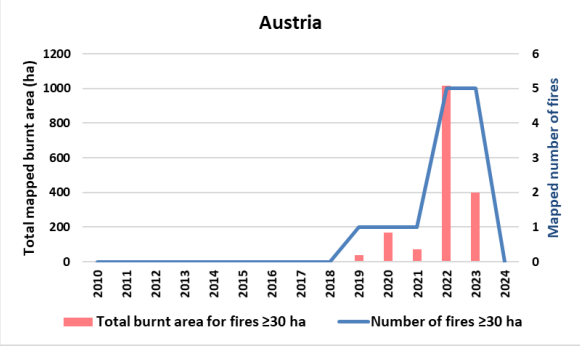

Figure 17. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Austria.

2.1.3 Belgium

No fires were mapped in 2024. The Fire Weather Index was below average levels for most of the year.

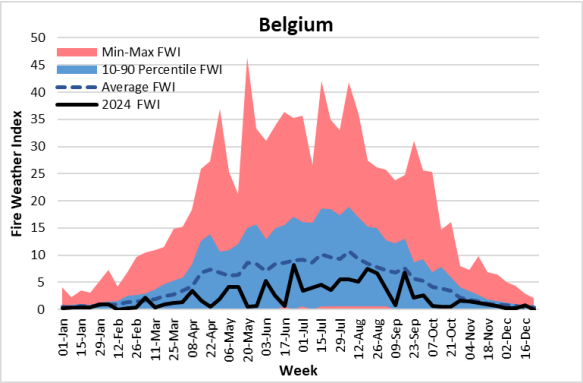

Figure 18. Fire weather Index information for Belgium.

2.1.4 Bosnia and Herzegovina

A total of 45 536 was mapped from 351 fires in Bosnia, significantly more than in 2023 but less than the preceding three years. The first peak of activity was early in the year when the two largest fires of the season occurred (one of almost 4 000 ha in Nevesinje in January and one of almost 3 000 ha in Glamoč in March). A second peak occurred around August and included several other large fires. In total 19 fires of over 500 ha were mapped, of which 8 exceeded 1 000 ha. Around half of the total burnt area occurred in Other Natural Land (Table 4).

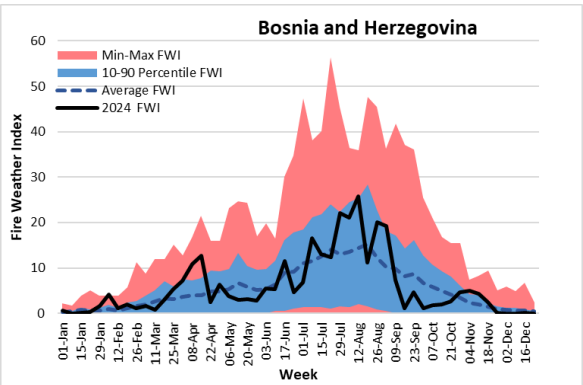

Figure 19. Fire weather Index information for Bosnia.

Table 4. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Bosnia-Herzegovina by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Broadleaf forest	4873	10.70
Coniferous forest	884	1.94
Mixed forest	960	2.11
Other Natural Land	22927	50.35
Sclerophyllous vegetation	5281	11.60
Transitional	4260	9.36
Agriculture	6290	13.81
Artificial Surfaces	18	0.04
Other Land Cover	42	0.09
TOTAL	**45536**	**100**

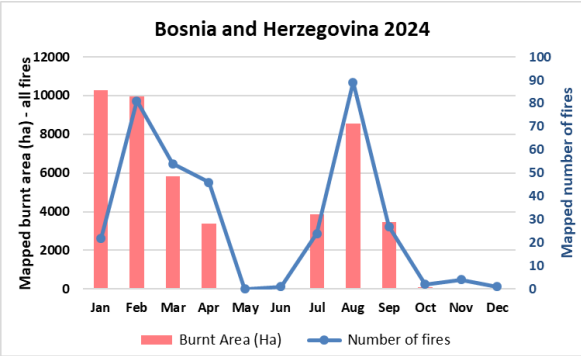

Figure 20. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Bosnia & Herzegovina in 2024.

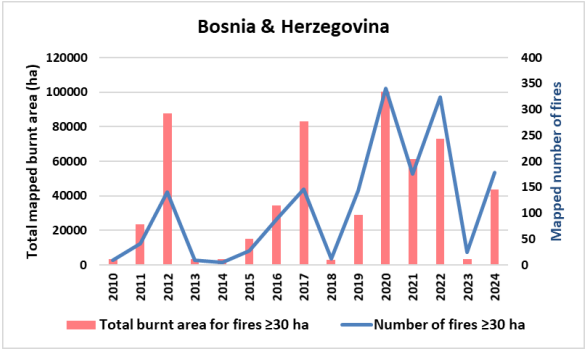

Figure 21. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Bosnia & Herzegovina.

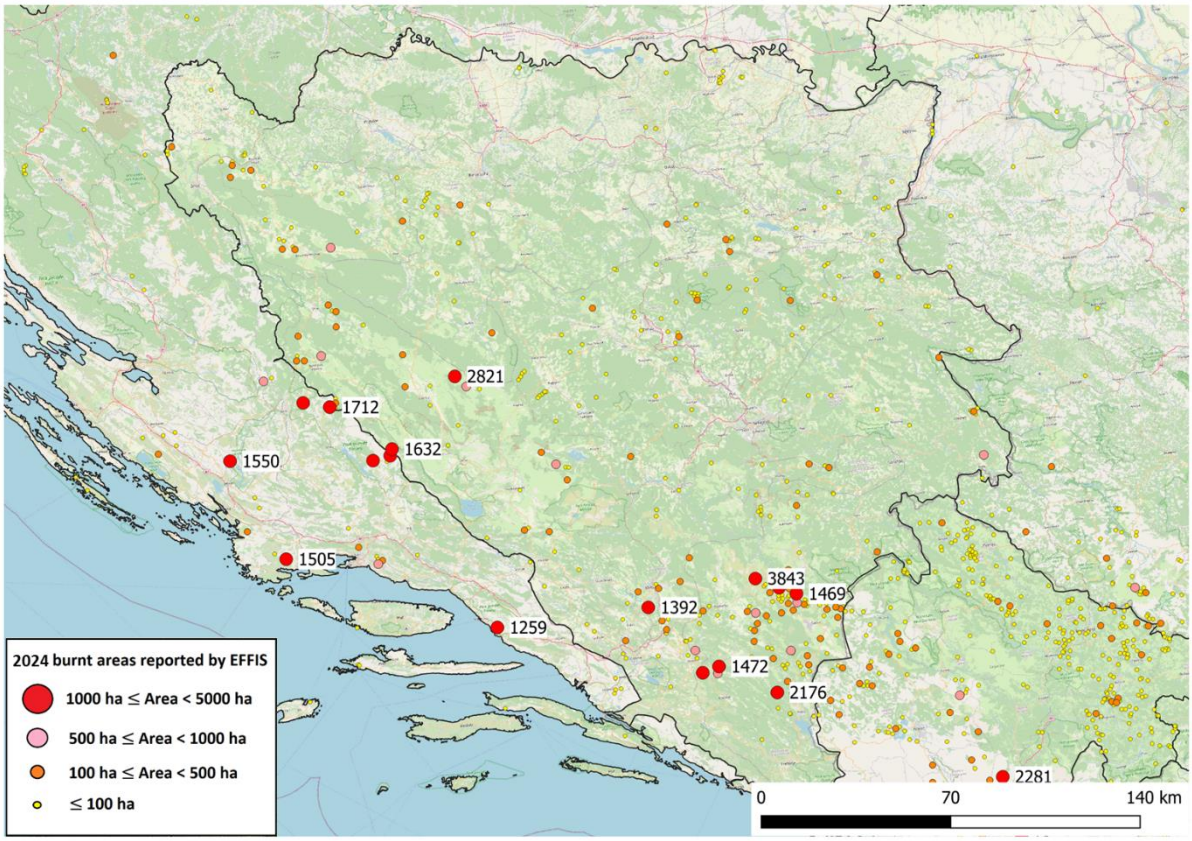

Figure 22. Locations of fires in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2024.

2.1.5 Bulgaria

The total recorded burnt area in Bulgaria was the highest for more than a decade, exceeding the totals for the previous four years combined (Figure 25). 45 435 ha was mapped from 256 fires, including two of around 8 000 ha and a further 15 over 500 ha. The vast majority of the damage occurred in July when the largest fires of the year were mapped.

Table 5. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Bulgaria by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Broadleaf forest	4345	9.56
Coniferous forest	1275	2.81
Mixed forest	1637	3.60
Other Natural Land	8437	18.57
Transitional	7578	16.68
Agriculture	21865	48.12
Artificial Surfaces	254	0.56
Other Land Cover	44	0.10
TOTAL	**45435**	**100**

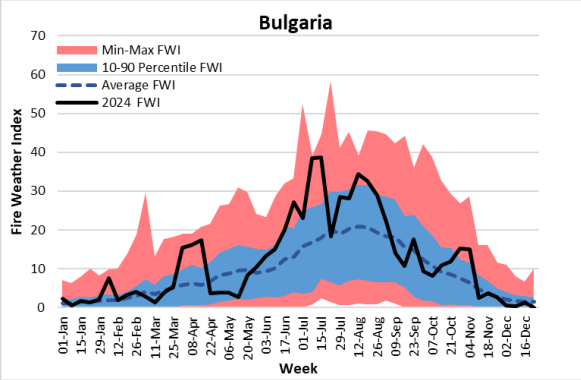

Figure 23. Fire weather Index information for Bulgaria.

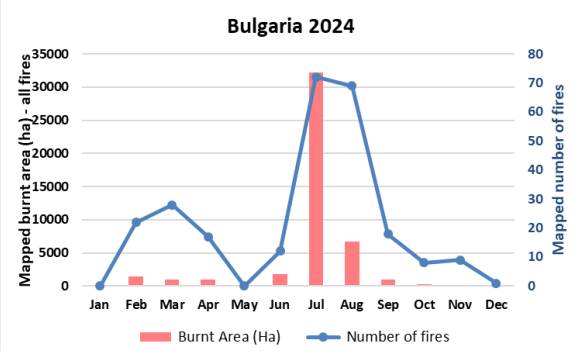

Figure 24. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Bulgaria in 2024.

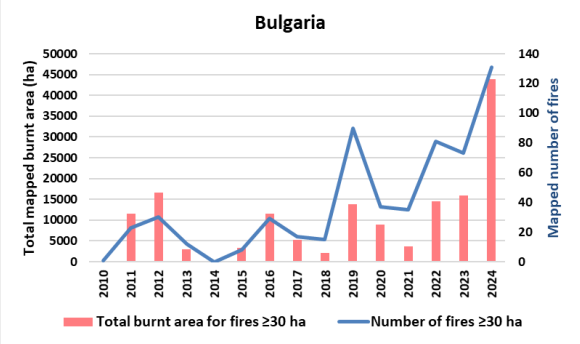

Figure 25. Annal mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Bulgaria.

Of the annual total, around two-thirds (29 976 ha) occurred on Natura2000 sites, amounting to 0.53 % of the total protected land in Bulgaria. Agricultural land was particularly impacted in 2024 (Table 5).

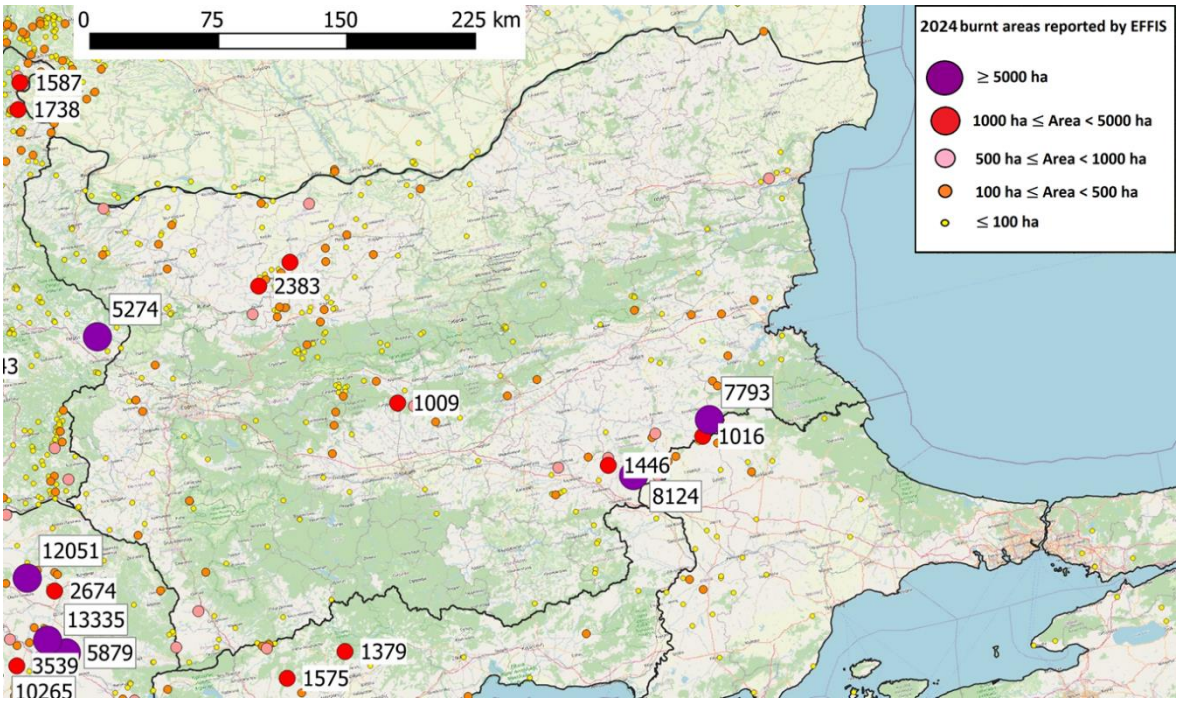

Figure 26. Locations of fires in Bulgaria in 2024.

2.1.6 Croatia

There were 65 mapped fires in Croatia in 2024, burning a total of 16 286 ha. Although this was significantly more than in 2023, that was an unusually light year, and the 2024 total was close to the long term average. Half of the damage occurred in August, but the largest fire of the season, over 2 500 ha in Hrvace municipality, was at the end of January. Seven other fires, all in August or late July, exceeded 1 000 ha. Of the total, 11 546 ha (27 % of the total) occurred on Natura2000 sites, amounting to 0.34 % of the protected areas in the country. The locations of these mapped fires can be seen in Figure 30.

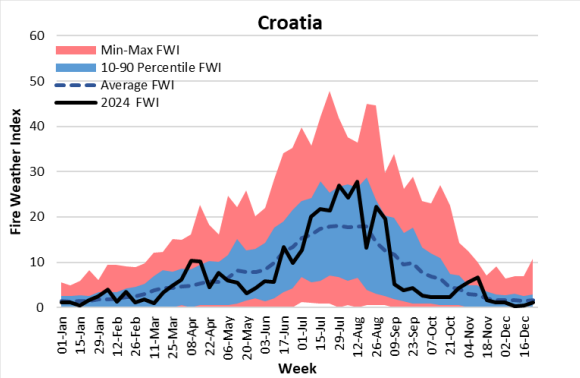

Figure 27. Fire weather Index information for Croatia.

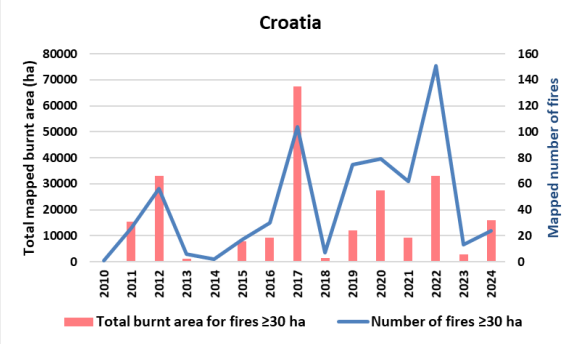

Figure 28. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Croatia in 2024.

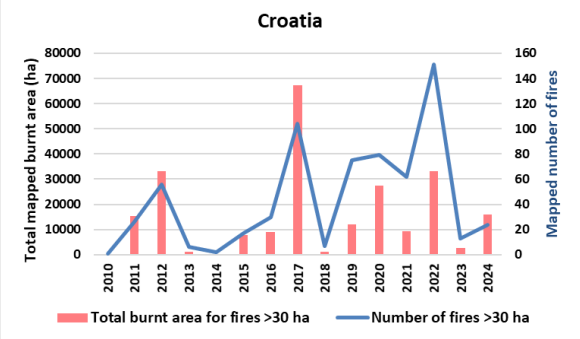

Figure 29. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Croatia.

Table 6. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Croatia by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Broadleaf forest	460	2.82
Coniferous forest	425	2.61
Mixed forest	44	0.27
Other Natural Land	10212	62.70
Sclerophyllous vegetation	917	5.63
Transitional	3232	19.85
Agriculture	936	5.75
Artificial Surfaces	59	0.36
Other Land Cover	1	0.01
TOTAL	**16286**	**100**

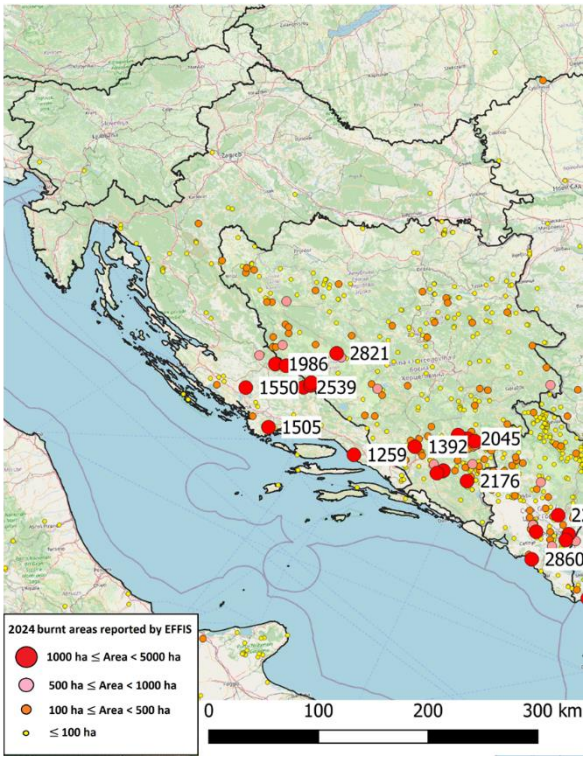

Figure 30. Locations of fires in Croatia in 2024.

2.1.7 Cyprus

In 2024, 28 fires were mapped in Cyprus covering 3 529 ha, somewhat more than was recorded in the previous two years. Over two thirds of the damage occurred in June, including the largest fire of the year which covered over 1 600 ha in Paphos district. A total of 860 ha was mapped on Natura2000 sites, accounting for a quarter of the total and 0.36% of the total protected land of the country.

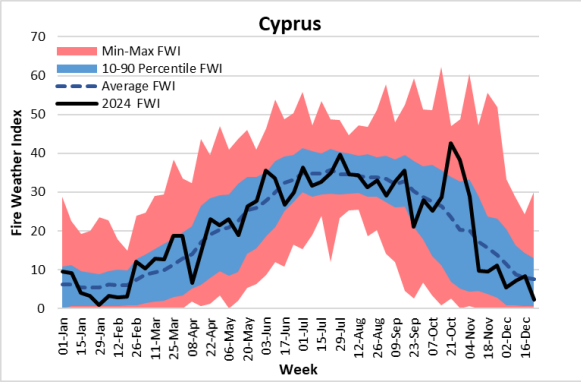

Figure 31. Fire weather Index information for Cyprus.

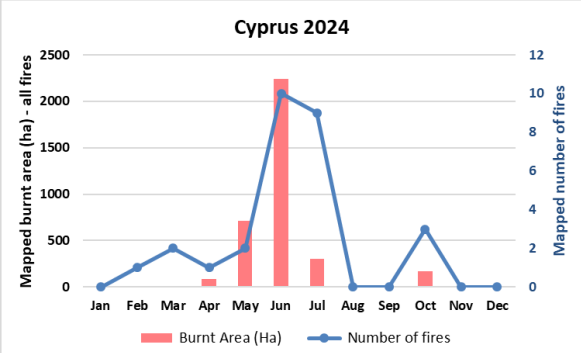

Figure 32. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Cyprus in 2024.

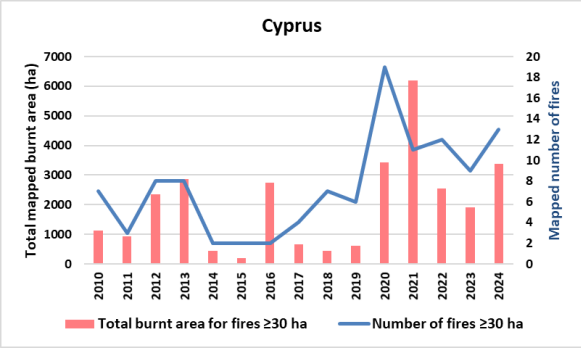

Figure 33. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Cyprus.

Table 7. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Cyprus by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Coniferous forest	90	2.55
Other Natural Land	49	1.39
Sclerophyllous vegetation	1389	39.35
Transitional	14	0.40
Agriculture	1957	55.46
Artificial Surfaces	20	0.57
Other Land Cover	10	0.28
TOTAL	**3529**	**100**

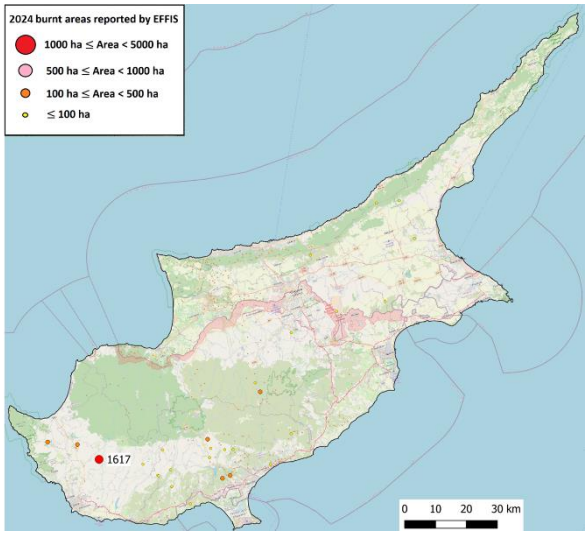

Figure 34. Locations of fires in Cyprus in 2024.

2.1.8 Czechia

No fires were mapped in 2024. The Fire Weather Index was mostly at or below average levels except for some periods in the spring and a short peak at the beginning of September (Figure 35).

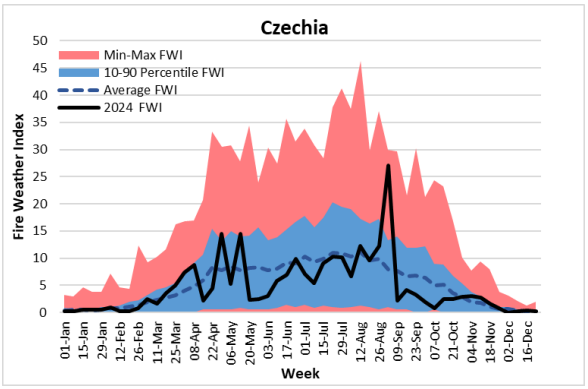

Figure 35. Fire weather Index information for Czechia.

2.1.9 Denmark

In Denmark, eight fires burned 47 ha in May and October, all on Natura2000 sites in in Other Natural Land.

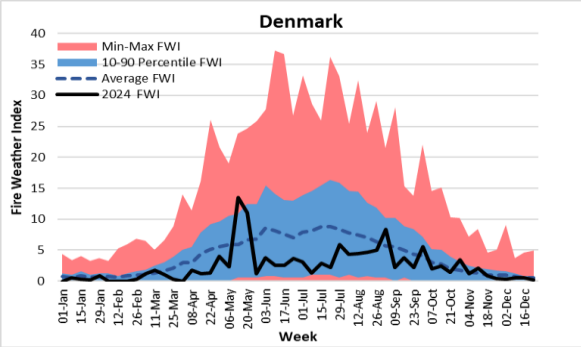

Figure 36. Fire weather Index information for Denmark.

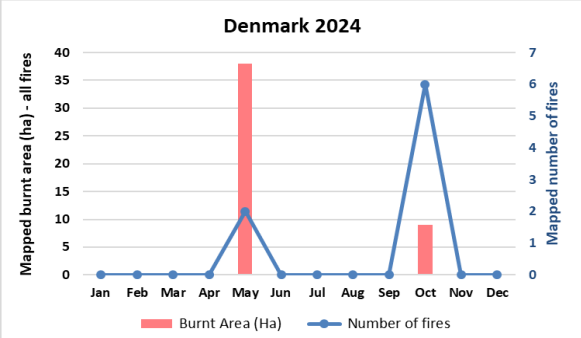

Figure 37. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Denmark in 2024.

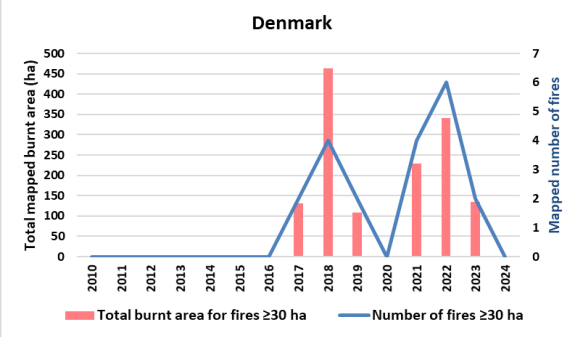

Figure 38. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Denmark.

2.1.10 Estonia

No fires were mapped in Estonia in 2024. The Fire Weather Index was mostly at or below average levels, apart from a short peak in the Spring.

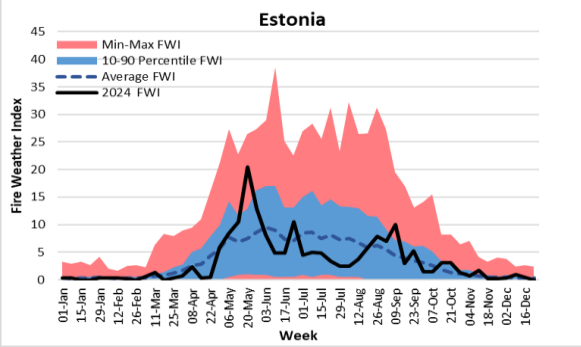

Figure 39. Fire weather Index information for Estonia.

2.1.11 Finland

The 2024 fire season in Finland was light and comparable to the previous two years. A total burnt area of 601 ha was mapped from 61 fires, mostly in Coniferous Forest (Table 8). Less than 10% (45 ha) of the total was on Natura2000 land. Similar to past years, the fire season ran from May to September (Figure 41).

Table 8. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Finland by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Broadleaf forest	15	2.50
Coniferous forest	476	79.20
Mixed forest	73	12.15
Other Natural Land	11	1.83
Transitional	26	4.33
TOTAL	**601**	**100**

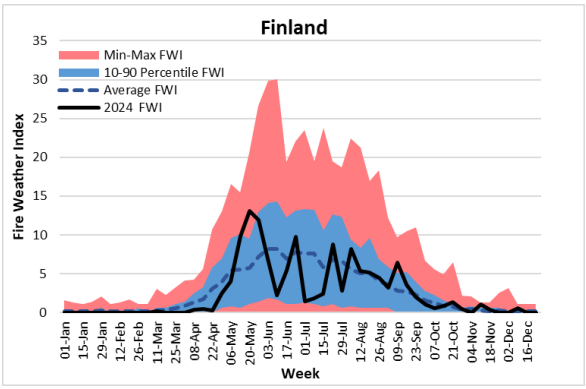

Figure 40. Fire weather Index information for Finland.

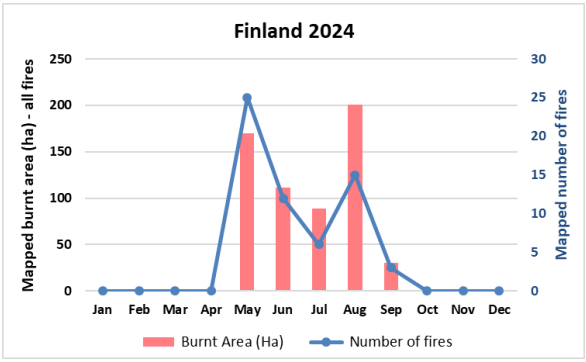

Figure 41. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Finland in 2024.

Figure 42. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Finland.

2.1.12 France

The 2024 fire season in France was light. The total of 17 321 ha from 605 fires was less than the 2023 total and also lower than the long term average. Most fires occurred early in the season, between January and March, and no fire exceeded 500 ha. 9 868 ha (57 %) of the annual total occurred on Natura2000 sites, which corresponds to 0.11 % of the total Natura2000 areas in the country.

Table 9. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in France by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Broadleaf forest	1435	8.29
Coniferous forest	53	0.31
Mixed forest	198	1.14
Other Natural Land	13883	80.15
Sclerophyllous vegetation	923	5.33
Transitional	286	1.65
Agriculture	530	3.06
Artificial Surfaces	12	0.07
TOTAL	**17321**	**100**

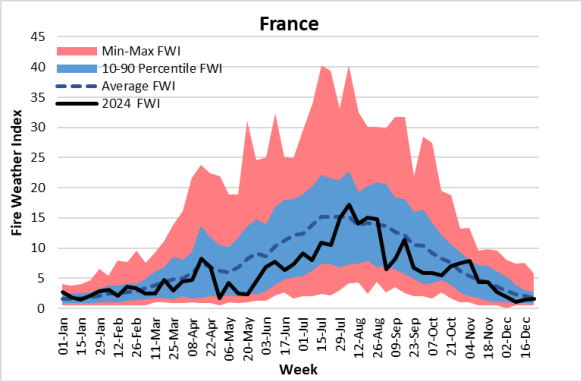

Figure 43. Fire weather Index information for France.

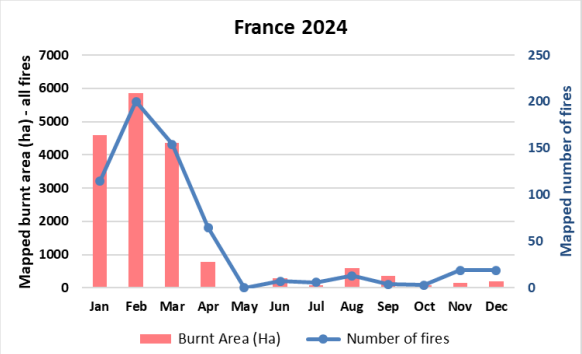

Figure 44. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in France in 2024.

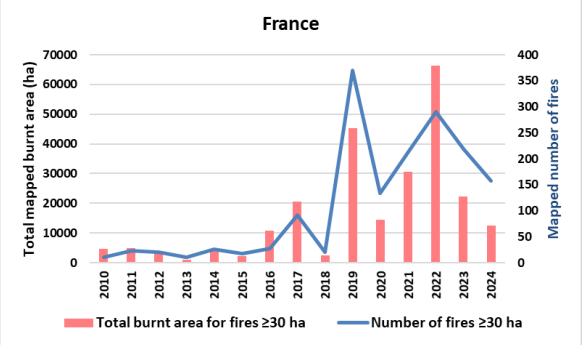

Figure 45. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in France.

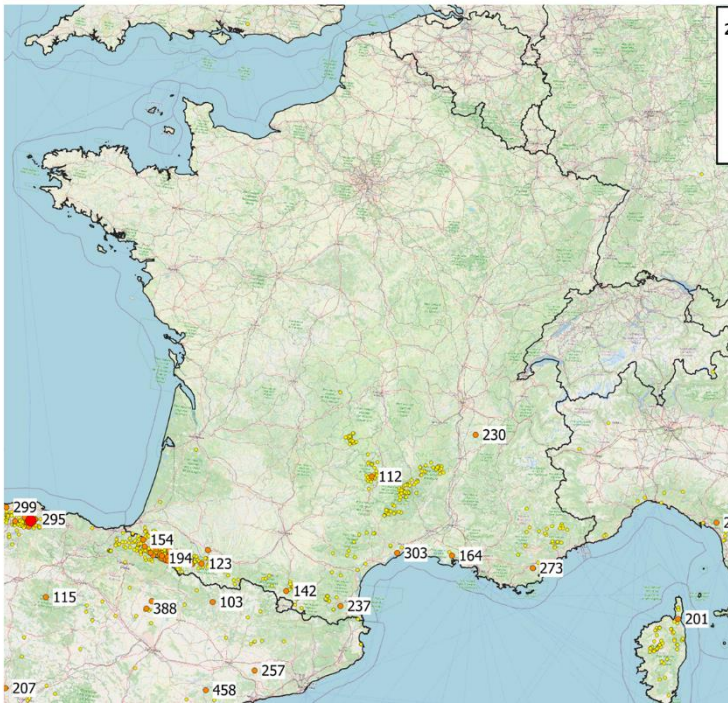

Figure 46 Locations of fires in France and Corsica in 2024.

2.1.13 Germany

The 2024 fire season in Germany was similar to that of 2023. 48 fires were mapped, burning a total of 1 144 ha, mostly in Other Natural Land. Half of the year's total occurred in August, although there was also a smaller peak in the spring. Almost all of the year's total (1 114 ha, 97 %) occurred on Natura2000 sites, amounting to 0.02 % of the protected area in the country.

Table 10. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Germany by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Broadleaf forest	114	9.97
Coniferous forest	52	4.55
Mixed forest	11	0.96
Other Natural Land	941	82.26
Transitional	26	2.27
TOTAL	**1144**	**100**

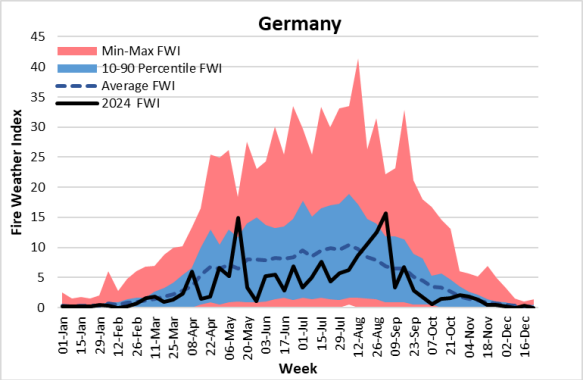

Figure 47. Fire weather Index information for Germany.

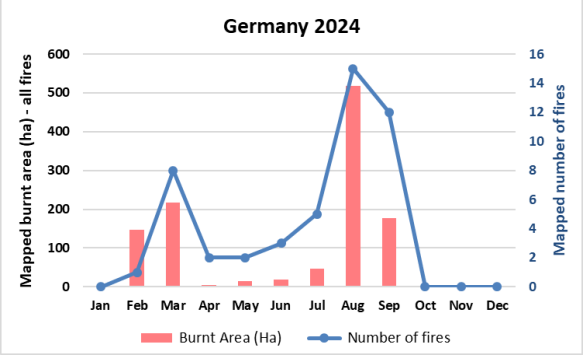

Figure 48. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Germany in 2024.

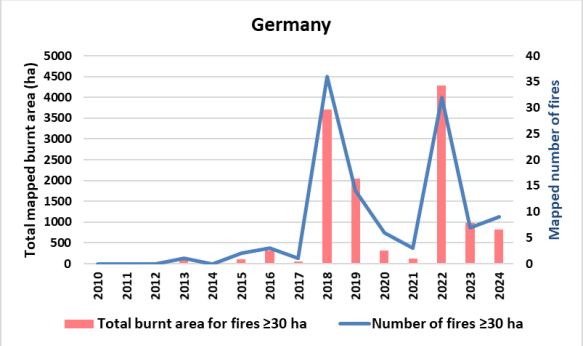

Figure 49. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Germany.

2.1.14 Greece

After a historically bad year in 2023, the 2024 season was much quieter, although slightly above the long term average. The fire season ran from June to September, with a number of small fires also occurring during November. The largest fire of the year occurred in Eastern Attica and covered nearly 11 000 ha, and was the third largest mapped by EFFIS in Europe in 2024. Six other fires exceeded 1 000 ha, with a further seven greater than 500 ha.

Of the total, around a quarter (10783 ha) occurred on Natura2000 sites, amounting to 0.22 % of the total protected area of Greece.

Table 11. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Greece by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Broadleaf forest	619	1.42
Coniferous forest	1637	3.76
Mixed forest	322	0.74
Other Natural Land	11743	26.94
Sclerophyllous vegetation	9007	20.66
Transitional	9853	22.60
Agriculture	9992	22.92
Artificial Surfaces	418	0.96
Other Land Cover	2	0.00
TOTAL	**43593**	**100**

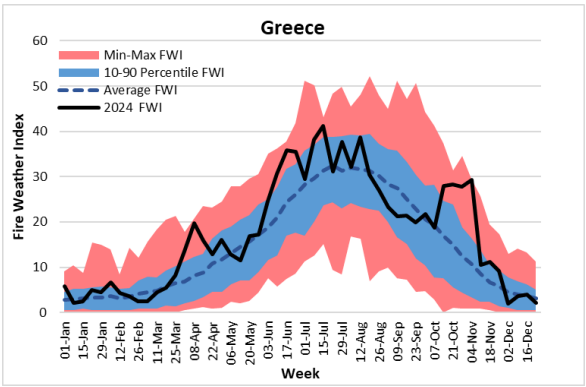

Figure 50. Fire weather Index information for Greece.

Figure 51. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Greece in 2024.

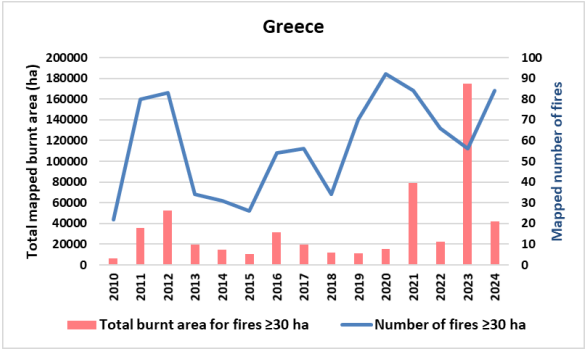

Figure 52. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Greece.

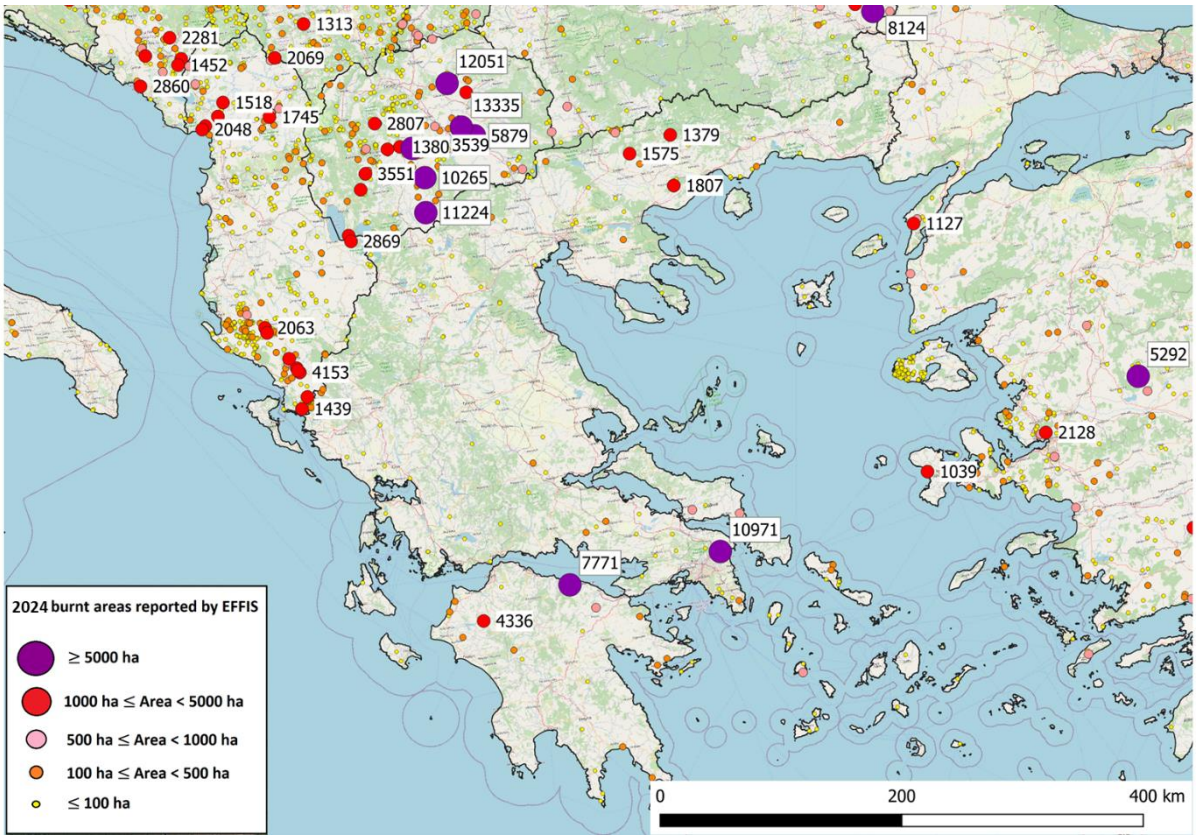

Figure 53. Locations of fires in Greece in 2024.

2.1.15 Hungary

In 2024, 1 262 ha was mapped from 15 fires, more than in 2023 but significantly less than the extreme year of 2022. 95% of the damage occurred in August and September, including the largest fire of the year in Csönge district, which was mapped at nearly 600 ha. Of the annual total, just over half (707 ha) occurred on Natura2000 sites, representing 0.03% of the protected areas of the country.

Table 12. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Hungary by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Broadleaf forest	35	2.77
Coniferous forest	211	16.71
Mixed forest	26	2.06
Other Natural Land	382	30.25
Transitional	96	7.60
Agriculture	513	40.62
TOTAL	**1262**	**100**

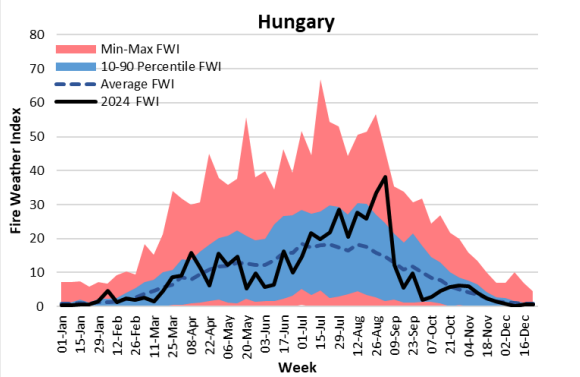

Figure 54. Fire weather Index information for Hungary.

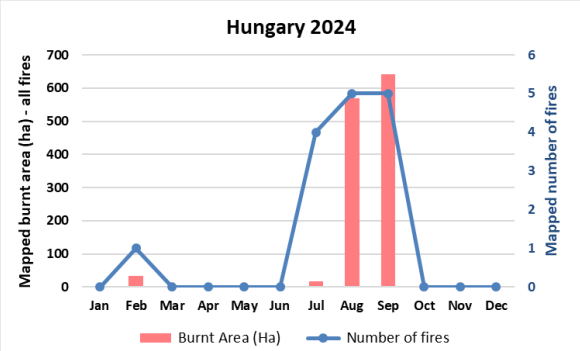

Figure 55. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Hungary in 2024.

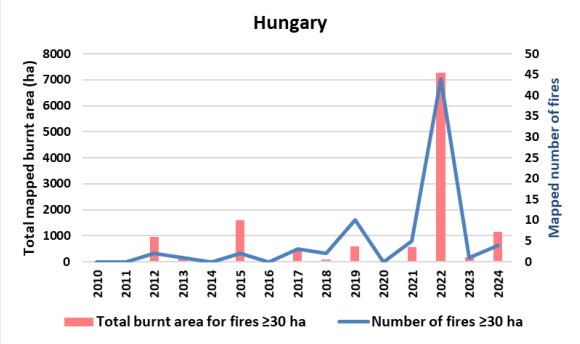

Figure 56. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Hungary.

2.1.16 Ireland

It was a quiet year in Ireland. Only 10 fires were mapped in 2024, covering a total of 200 ha, mostly in Other Natural Land. Around two thirds of the total (126 ha) was on Natura2000 sites, amounting to 0.01% of the protected sites in the country.

Table 13. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Ireland by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Coniferous forest	10	4.98
Other Natural Land	164	82.09
Transitional	15	7.46
Agriculture	11	5.47
TOTAL	**200**	**100**

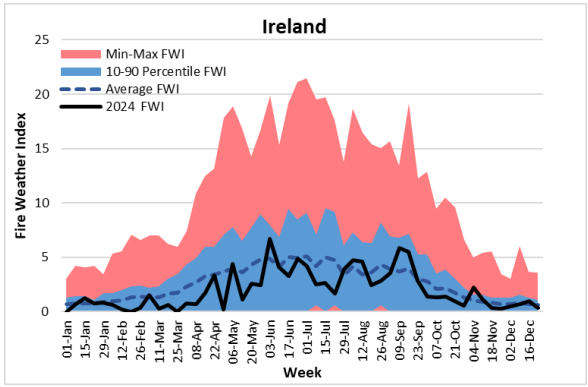

Figure 57. Fire weather Index information for Ireland.

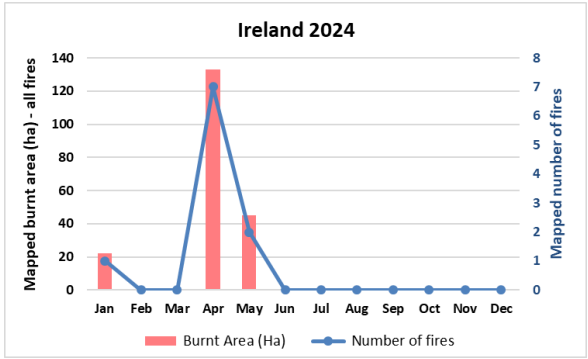

Figure 58. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Ireland in 2024.

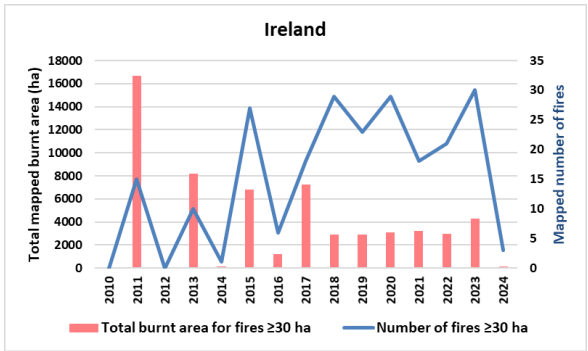

Figure 59. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Ireland.

2.1.17 Italy

The 2024 fire season in Italy was better than average, with the lowest total burnt area recorded for 5 years. A total of 1 500 fires were mapped, resulting in a total burnt area of 50 844 ha. Three quarters of the damage was in July and August, when most of the major fires of the year occurred, including one of over 1 000 ha in Nuoro district. Six other fires exceeded 500 ha, significantly below the 36 mapped in 2023.

A quarter of the total burnt area (13507 ha) occurred on Natura2000 sites, corresponding to 0.19 % of the Natura2000 land in Italy.

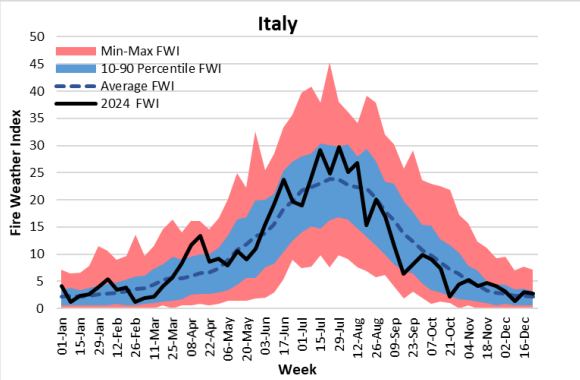

Figure 60. Fire weather Index information for Italy.

Figure 61. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Italy in 2024.

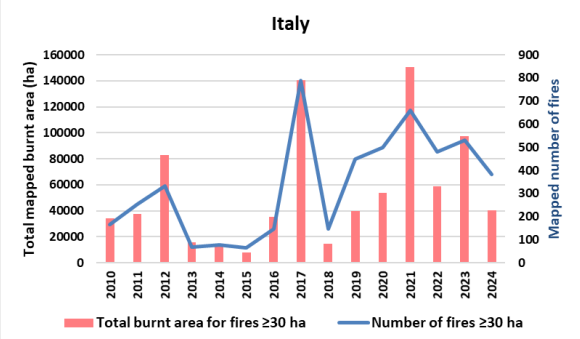

Figure 62. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Italy.

Table 14. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Italy by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Broadleaf forest	6264	12.32
Coniferous forest	1462	2.87
Mixed forest	1015	2.00
Other Natural Land	15489	30.46
Sclerophyllous vegetation	5202	10.23
Transitional	4582	9.01
Agriculture	16659	32.76
Artificial Surfaces	130	0.26
Other Land Cover	41	0.08
TOTAL	**50844**	**100**

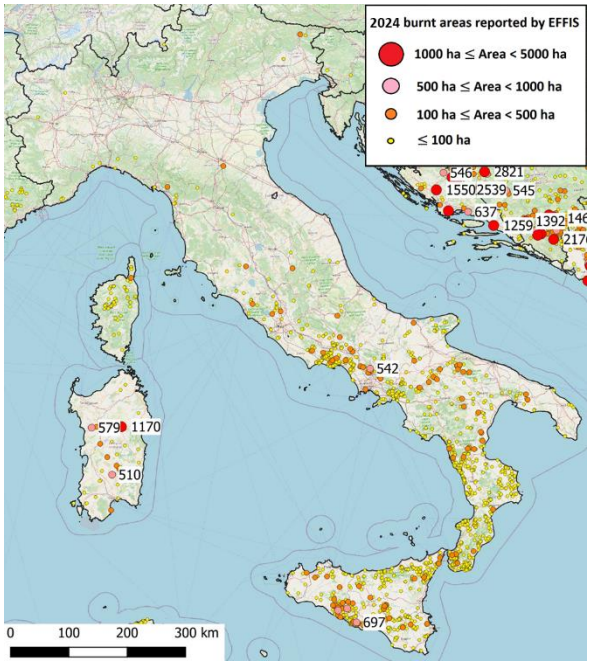

Figure 63. Locations of fires in Italy, Sicily and Sardinia in 2024.

2.1.18 Kosovo under UNSCR 1244

The 2024 fire season in Kosovo was the worst for several years. A total of 13 250 ha was mapped from 246 fires in two peaks, one in the spring and the other in late summer when the three largest fires of the season, all over 1 000 ha, occurred (Figure 67).

Table 15. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Kosovo by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Broadleaf forest	4523	34.14
Coniferous forest	95	0.72
Mixed forest	60	0.45
Other Natural Land	4582	34.58
Transitional	2728	20.59
Agriculture	1250	9.43
Artificial Surfaces	9	0.07
Other Land Cover	2	0.02
TOTAL	**13250**	**100**

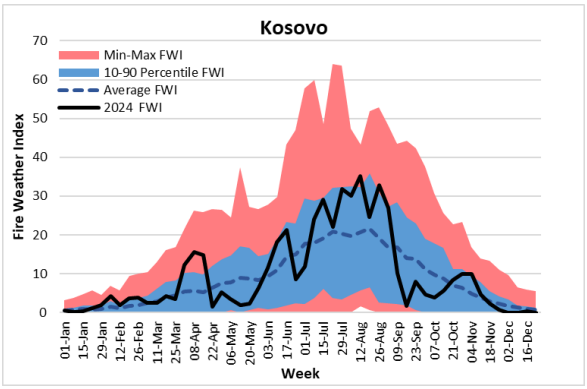

Figure 64. Fire weather Index information for Kosovo.

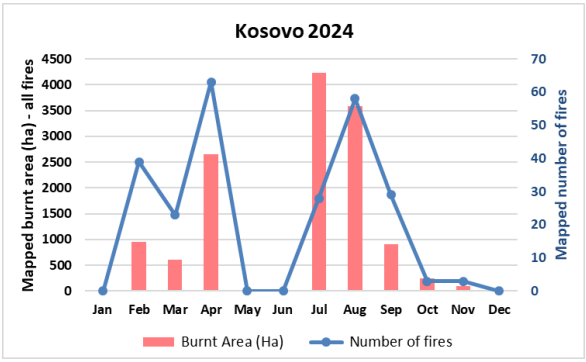

Figure 65. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Kosovo in 2024.

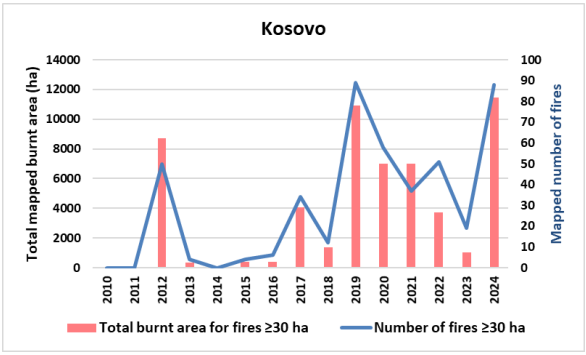

Figure 66. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Kosovo.

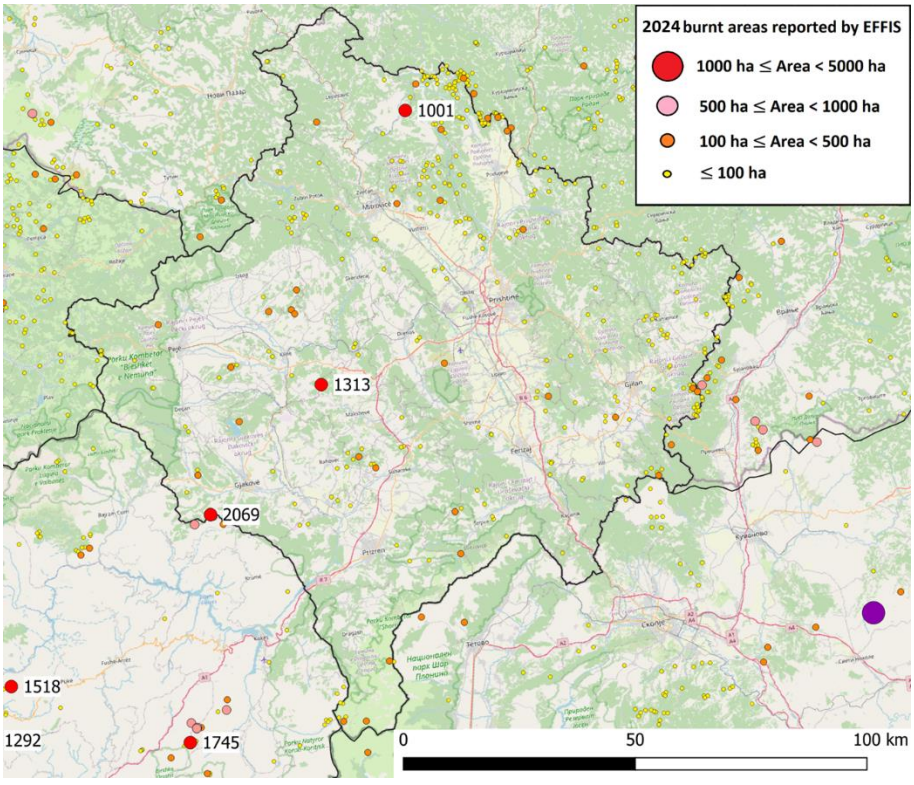

Figure 67. Locations of fires in Kosovo in 2024.

2.1.19 Lithuania

Only two fires were mapped in Lithuania in May, covering a total of 8 ha.

Table 16. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Lithuania by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Coniferous forest	1	12.50
Other Natural Land	7	87.50
TOTAL	**8**	**100**

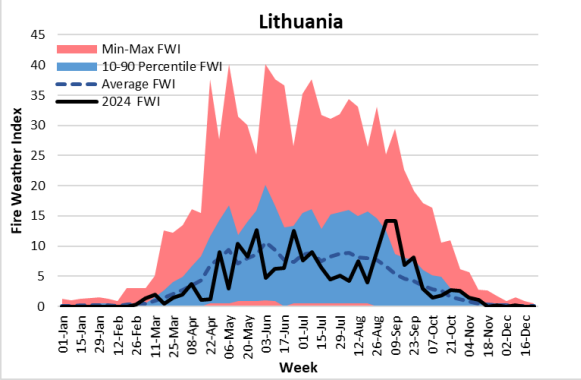

Figure 68. Fire weather Index information for Lithuania.

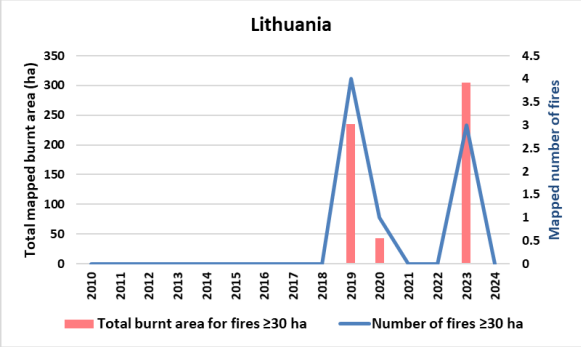

Figure 69. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Lithuania.

2.1.20 Moldova

One fire was mapped in Moldova in August, covering 68 ha.

Table 17. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Moldova by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Mixed forest	18	26.09
Other Natural Land	33	47.83
Agriculture	18	26.09
TOTAL	**68**	**100**

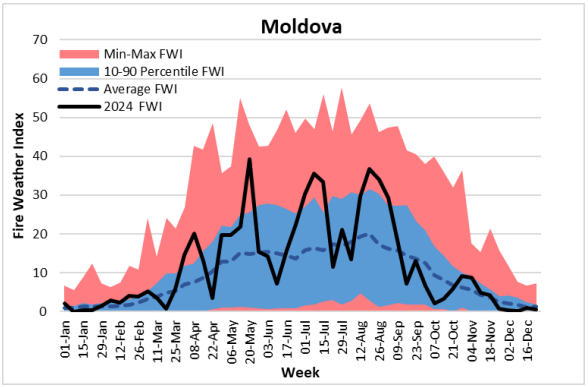

Figure 70. Fire weather Index information for Moldova.

2.1.21 Montenegro

After a quiet year in 2023, the 2024 fire season in Montenegro was closer to the long term average, with a similar total to that recorded in 2022. A total of 26 373 ha was mapped from 340 fires. There were two peaks of activity; one in the first months of the year and a second one in July-August when most of the largest fires of the year occurred (Figure 73). The largest three exceeded 2 000 ha, and a further 5 were greater than 500 ha.

Table 18. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Montenegro by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Broadleaf forest	6831	25.90
Coniferous forest	517	1.96
Mixed forest	257	0.97
Other Natural Land	7905	29.97
Sclerophyllous vegetation	37	0.14
Transitional	8562	32.47
Agriculture	2219	8.41
Artificial Surfaces	45	0.17
TOTAL	**26373**	**100**

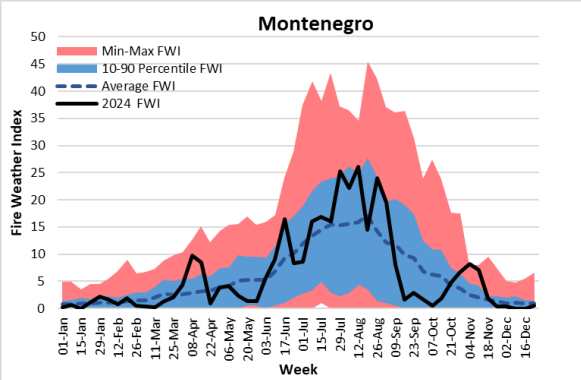

Figure 71. Fire weather Index information for Montenegro.

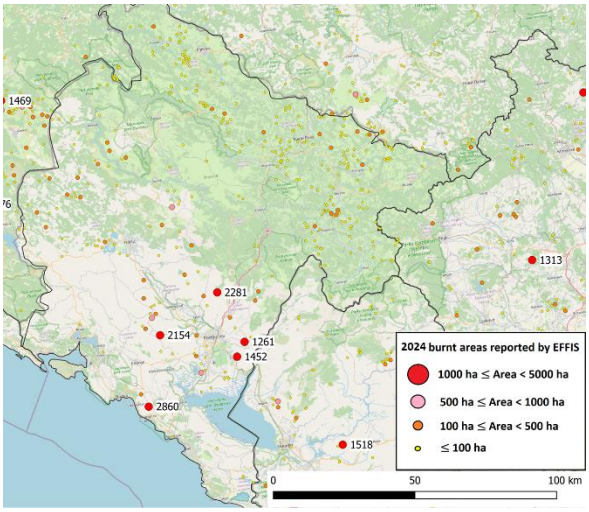

Figure 72. Locations of fires in Montenegro in 2024.

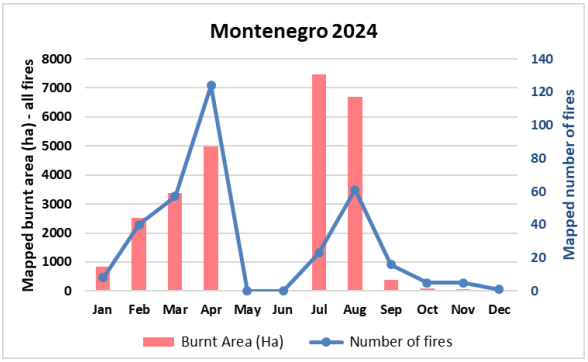

Figure 73. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Montenegro in 2024.

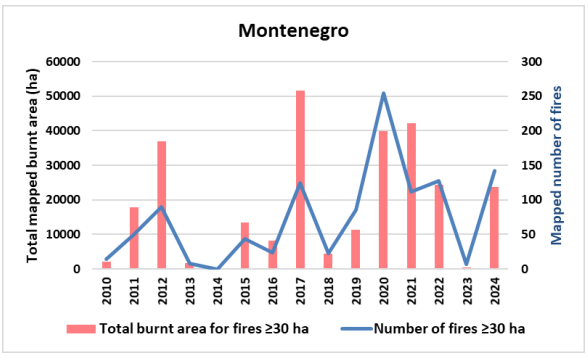

Figure 74. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Montenegro.

2.1.22 The Netherlands

Only two fires were mapped in the Netherlands in March, covering a total of 35 ha, all on Natura2000 sites in Other Natural Land.

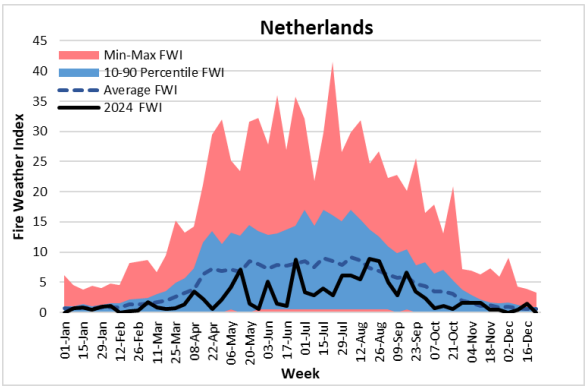

Figure 75. Fire weather Index information for the Netherlands

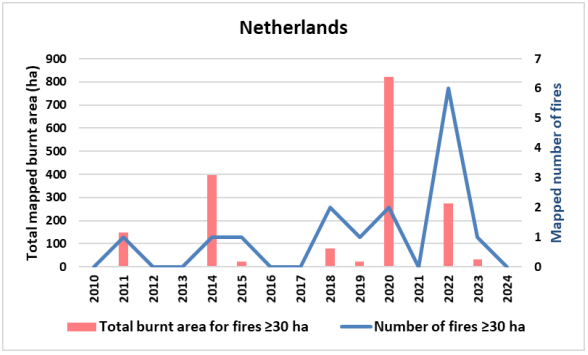

Figure 76. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in the Netherlands.

2.1.23 North Macedonia

It was the worst year for fires in North Macedonia in over a decade, with a mapped burnt area of 97 660 from 250 fires; this exceeds the total recorded for the previous 6 years combined. The fire season was short but intense, running from July to September, during which time some of the largest fires mapped by EFFIS in 2024 occurred.

Table 19. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in North Macedonia by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Broadleaf forest	12188	12.48
Coniferous forest	1978	2.03
Mixed forest	543	0.56
Other Natural Land	22832	23.38
Sclerophyllous vegetation	215	0.22
Transitional	33569	34.37
Agriculture	26237	26.87
Artificial Surfaces	79	0.08
Other Land Cover	18	0.02
TOTAL	**97660**	**100**

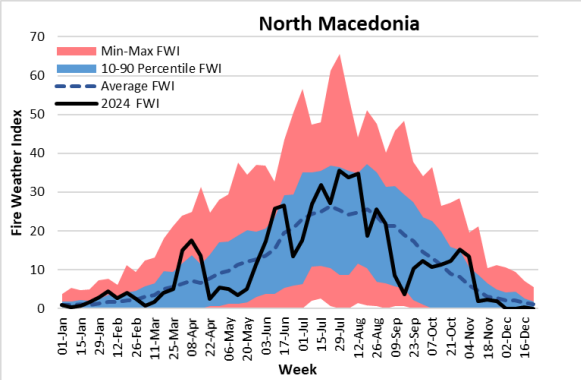

Figure 77. Fire weather Index information for North Macedonia.

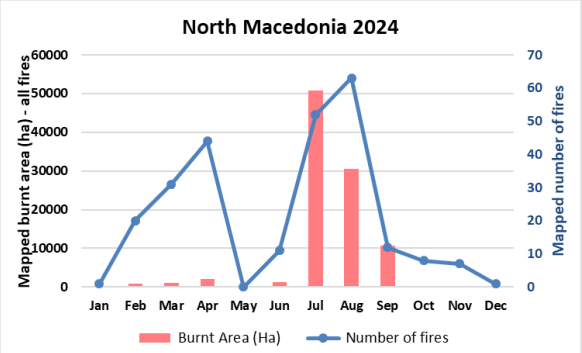

Figure 78. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in North Macedonia in 2024.

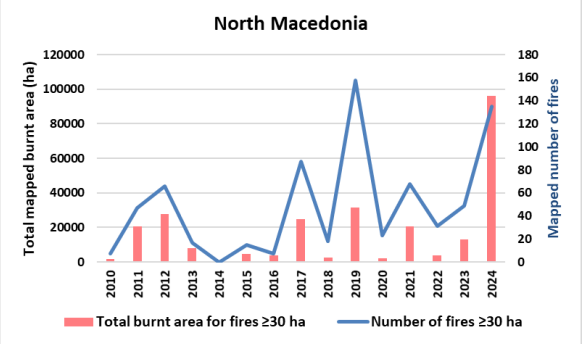

Figure 79. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in North Macedonia.

The largest fires of the year can be seen in Figure 80 and include four over 10 000 ha, ten that exceeded 1 000 ha and a further nine over 500 ha.

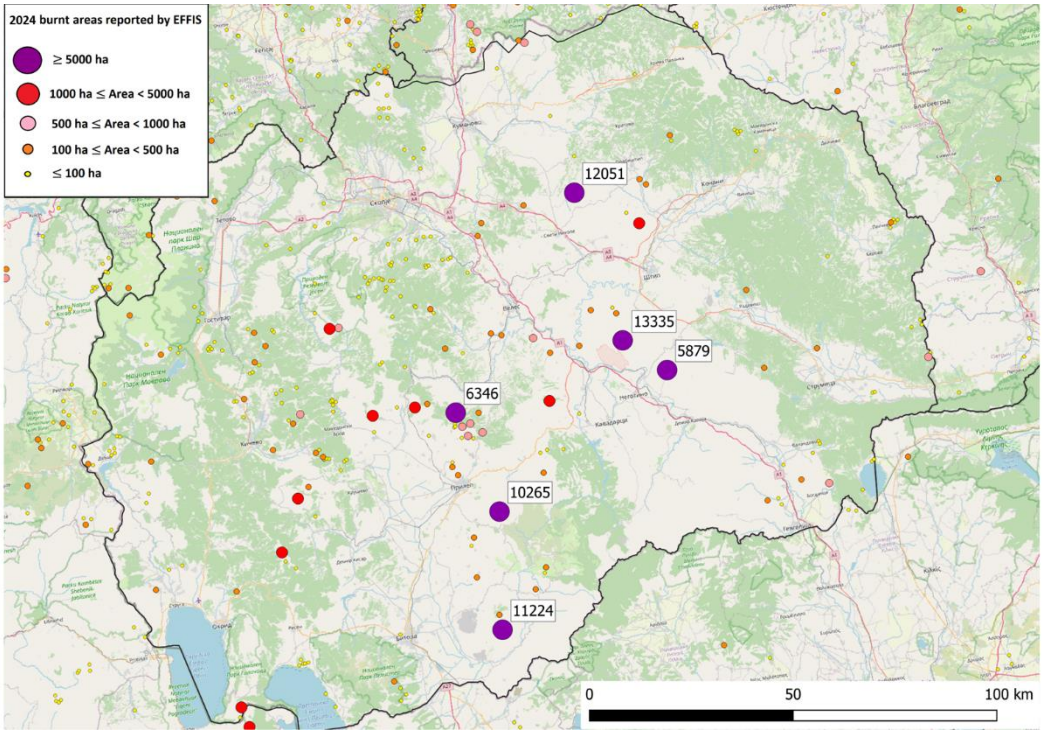

Figure 80. Locations of fires in North Macedonia in 2024.

2.1.24 Norway

The 2024 fire season was quiet in Norway. 42 fires burned 805 ha, mostly in the spring and almost all in Other Natural Land. (Table 20).

Table 20. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Norway by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Broadleaf forest	6	0.75
Coniferous forest	14	1.74
Other Natural Land	774	96.14
Agriculture	10	1.25
Other Land Cover	1	0.12
TOTAL	**805**	**100**

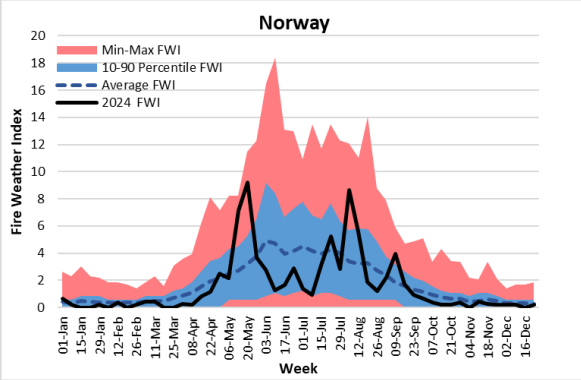

Figure 81. Fire weather Index information for Norway.

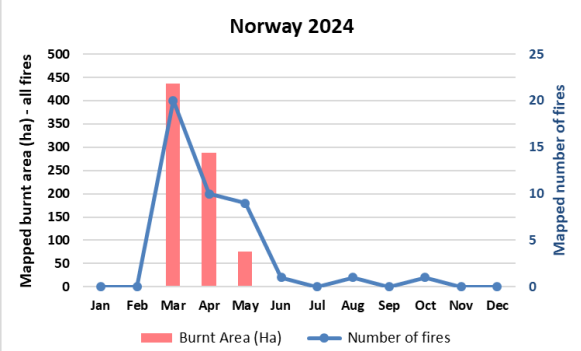

Figure 82. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Norway in 2024.

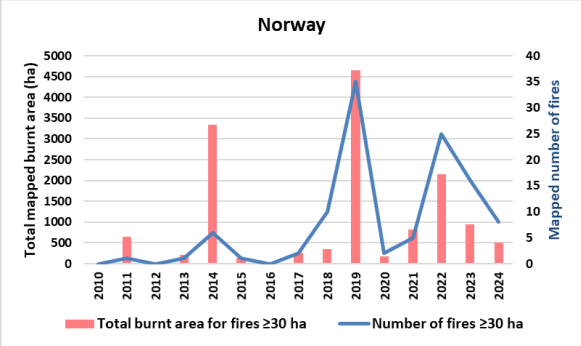

Figure 83. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Norway.

2.1.25 Poland

40 fires were mapped in Poland in 2024, resulting in a total burnt area of 211 ha, similar to the total mapped in 2023. Of this total, around half (113 ha) was on Natura2000 land.

Table 21. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Poland by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Broadleaf forest	13	6.22
Coniferous forest	19	9.09
Mixed forest	9	4.31
Other Natural Land	153	72.73
Transitional	9	4.31
Agriculture	2	0.96
Other Land Cover	5	2.39
TOTAL	**211**	**100**

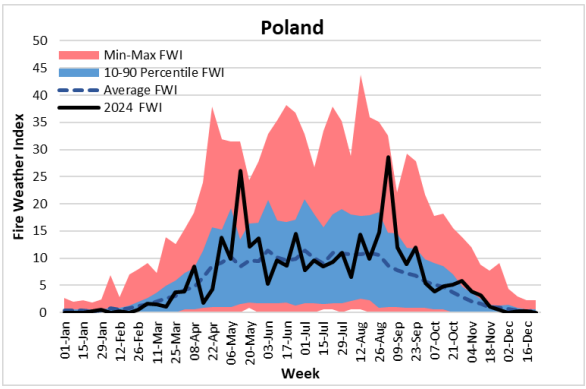

Figure 84. Fire weather Index information for Poland.

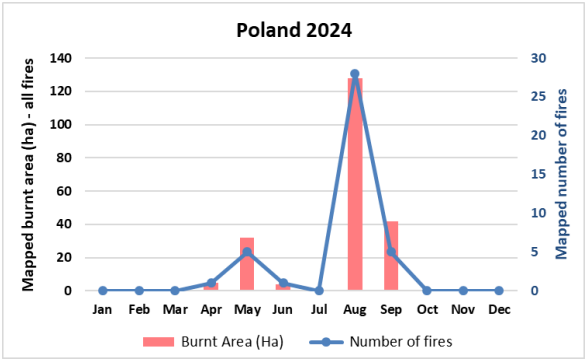

Figure 85. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Poland in 2024.

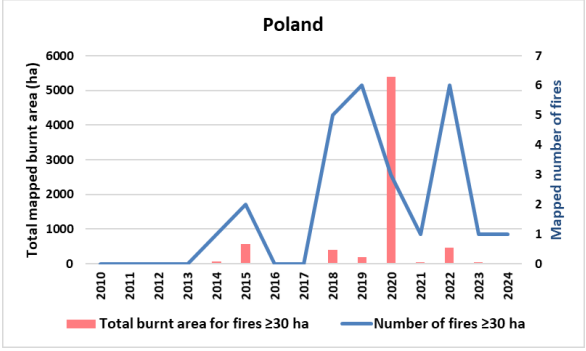

Figure 86. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Poland.

2.1.26 Portugal

In 2024, a total of 147 461 ha was mapped from 735 fires, more than in the previous six years, although still far short of the extreme year of 2017 (Figure 89). Up to September, it had been a quiet year, but nearly 90% of the annual total occurred in that month. The two largest fires mapped by EFFIS in 2024 both occurred in this month: one of over 35 000 ha in Reriz e Gafanhão municipality and a second one over 20 000 ha in Albergaria-a-Velha e Valmaior (Figure 90). 33 other fires exceeded 1 000 ha and a further 12 were mapped over 500 ha. All except one of these very large fires were mapped in September. Around a quarter of the mapped total (36 661 ha) occurred on Natura2000 sites, corresponding to 1.53 % of the total Natura2000 areas in Portugal.

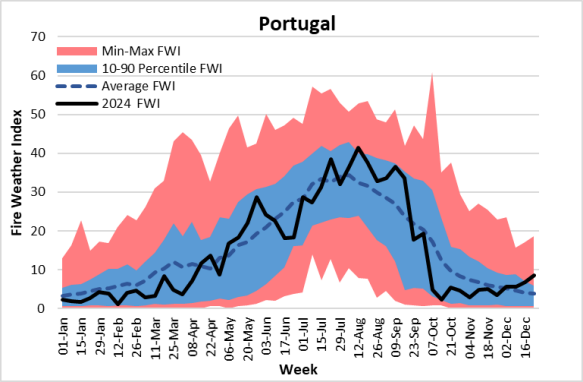

Figure 87. Fire weather Index information for Portugal.

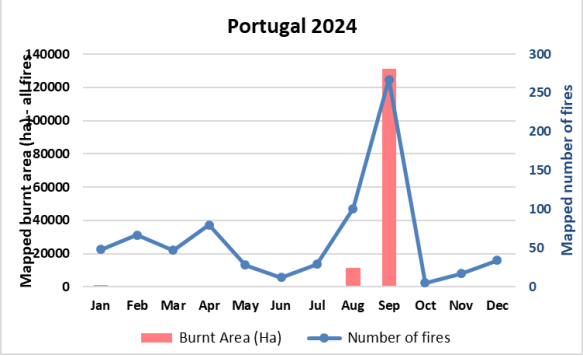

Figure 88. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Portugal in 2024.

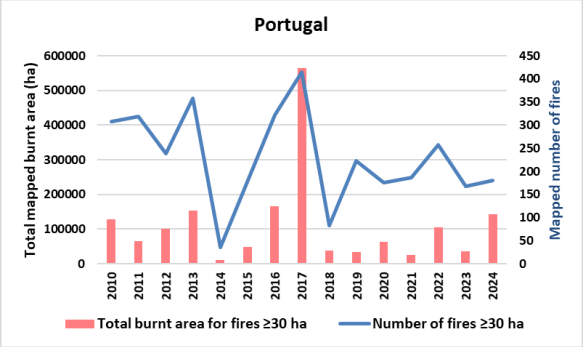

Figure 89. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Portugal.

Table 22. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Portugal by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Broadleaf forest	15357	10.41
Coniferous forest	10799	7.32
Mixed forest	10327	7.00
Other Natural Land	41924	28.43
Sclerophyllous vegetation	207	0.14
Transitional	50792	34.44
Agriculture	16685	11.32
Artificial Surfaces	1344	0.91
Other Land Cover	25	0.02
TOTAL	**147461**	**100**

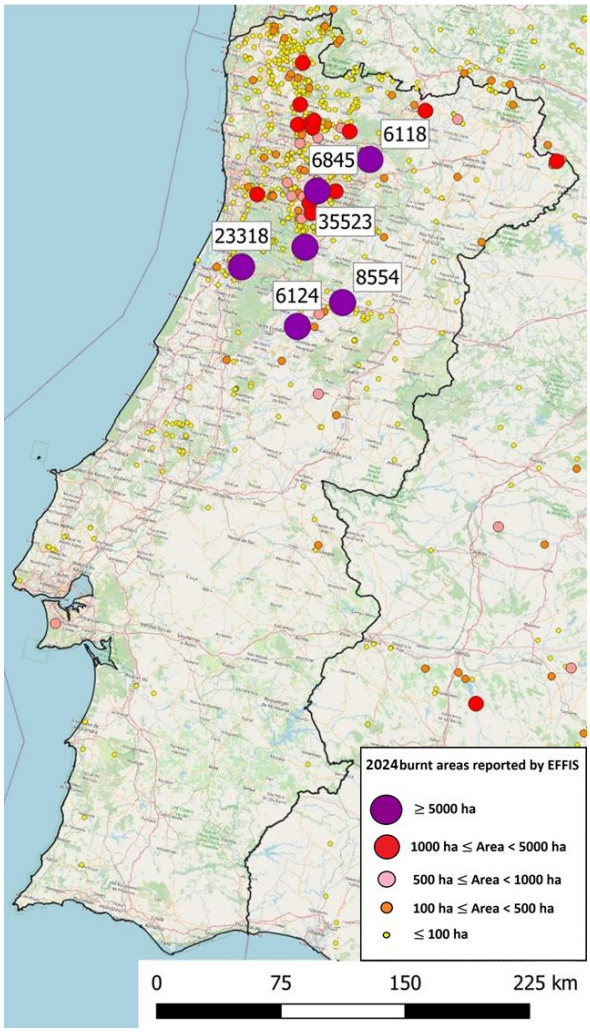

Figure 90. Locations of fires in Portugal in 2024.

2.1.27 Romania

The 2024 fire season in Romania saw an increase in burnt area compared to the previous year. A total of 43 003 ha was mapped from 926 fires, three times the amount recorded in 2023. Most of the damage occurred during the Spring and Summer seasons, when the majority of fires of the year occurred.

The affected Natura2000 sites accounted for around a third of the total at 13 465 ha, in line with the previous year's value which was around 15 700 ha.

Table 23. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Romania by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Broadleaf forest	13392	31.14
Coniferous forest	29	0.07
Mixed forest	324	0.75
Other Natural Land	11159	25.95
Transitional	1424	3.31
Agriculture	16280	37.86
Artificial Surfaces	264	0.61
Other Land Cover	131	0.30
TOTAL	**43003**	**100**

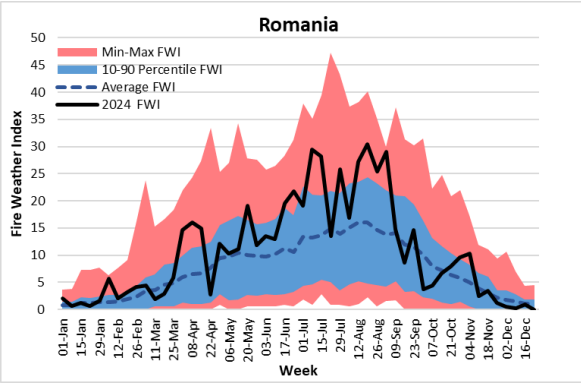

Figure 91. Fire weather Index information for Romania.

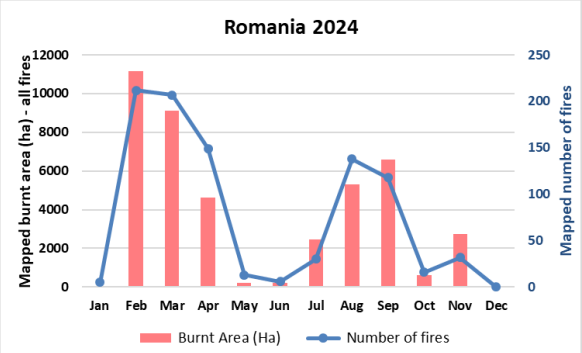

Figure 92. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Romania in 2024.

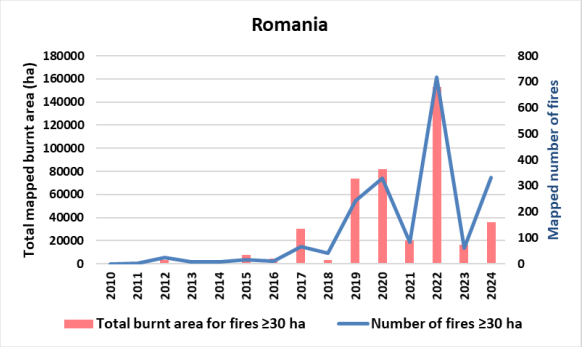

Figure 93. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Romania.

Two fires exceeded 1 000 ha: one in Tulcea province in July and one in Mehedinți in November. Five other fires were recorded as over 500 ha. Unusually, in 2024 the most affected land cover type was Agriculture (38%) with Other Natural Land (usually the most affected land type) accounting for only 26% (Table 23).

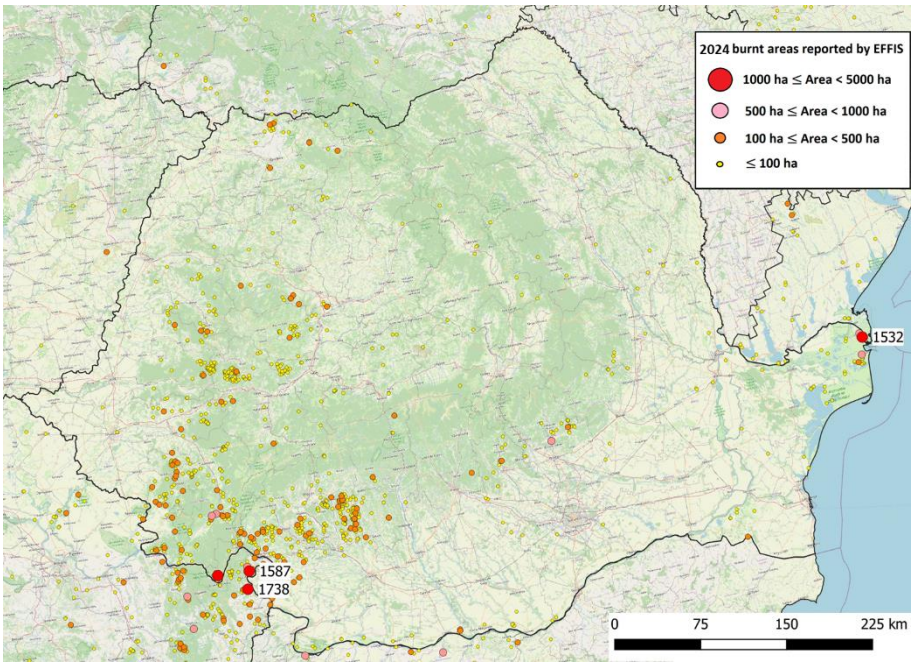

Figure 94. Locations of fires in in Romania in 2024.

2.1.28 Serbia

2024 was the worst year ever recorded for Serbia since the beginning of the EFFIS monitoring. The country was affected by wildfires impacting 43 004 ha from 584 events, significantly above previous years' average of 5 847 ha. The majority of the events took place between February and April and in August. The largest event of the year (5 274 ha) which happened in the Pirotski region in August (Figure 98), is the second largest ever Serbian wildfire in the EFFIS database.

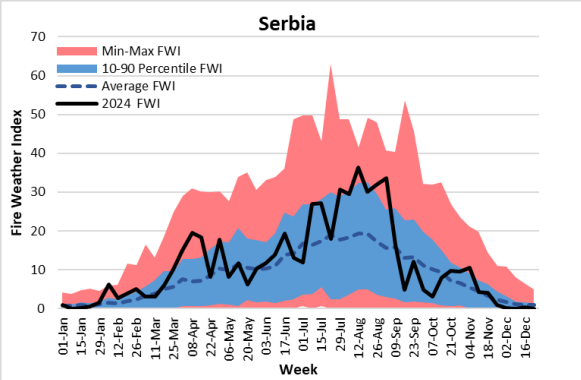

Figure 95. Fire weather Index information for Serbia.

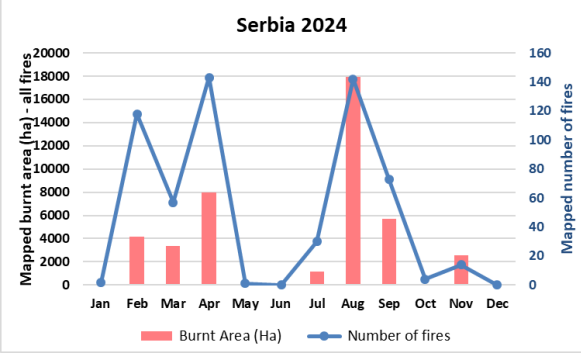

Figure 96. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Serbia in 2024.

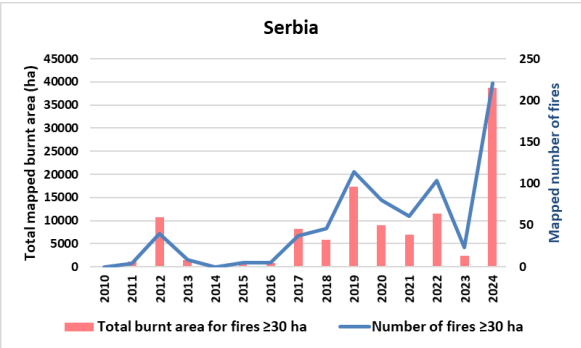

Figure 97. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Serbia.

Table 24. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Serbia by land cover type in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Broadleaf forest	9884	22.98
Coniferous forest	200	0.47
Mixed forest	329	0.77
Other Natural Land	9112	21.19
Transitional	12167	28.29
Agriculture	11284	26.24
Artificial Surfaces	2	0.00
Other Land Cover	27	0.06
TOTAL	**43004**	**100**

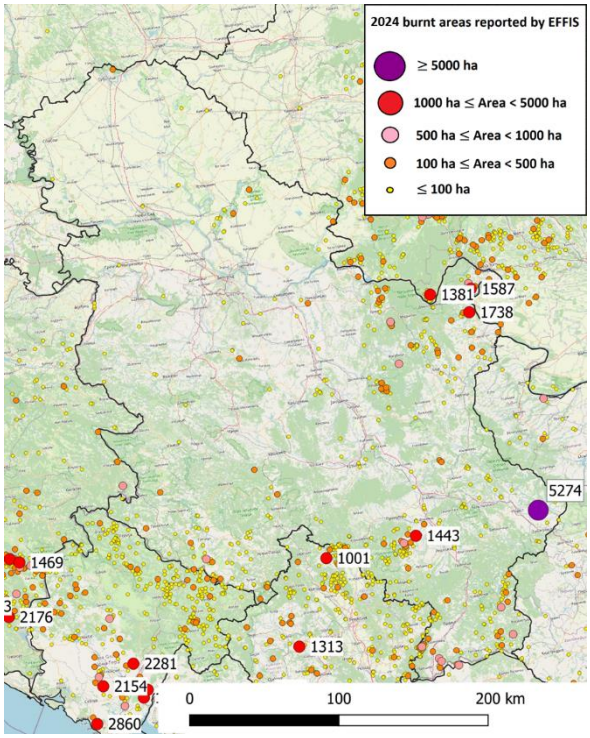

Figure 98. Locations of fires in Serbia in 2024.

2.1.29 Slovakia

Only 2 fires were mapped in Slovakia in late summer 2024 for an overall burnt area of 6 ha.

The Fire Weather Index was mostly at or below average levels except for a short period at the end of the summer.

Table 25. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Slovakia by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Broadleaf forest	3	55.56
Agriculture	3	44.44
TOTAL	**6**	**100**

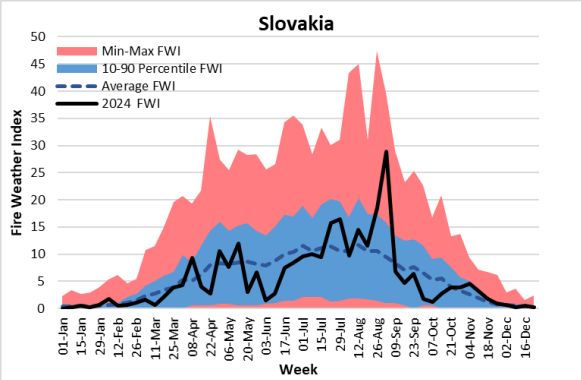

Figure 99. Fire weather Index information for Slovakia.

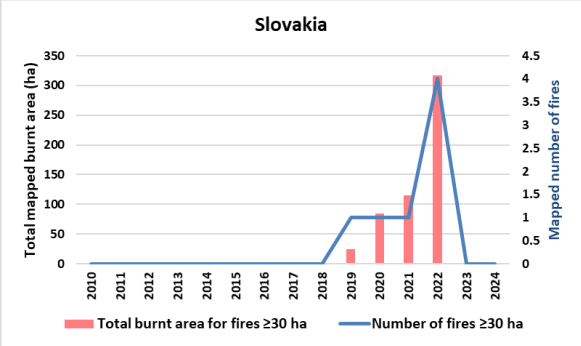

Figure 100. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Slovakia.

2.1.30 Slovenia

As the previous year, just 2 fires were mapped in Slovenia in 2024, covering a total of 79 ha, all in Natura2000 sites and mostly affecting forested land (Broadleaf, Conifer or Mixed).

Table 26. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Slovenia by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Broadleaf forest	20	25.32
Coniferous forest	15	18.99
Mixed forest	10	12.66
Other Natural Land	3	3.80
Transitional	31	39.24
TOTAL	**79**	**100**

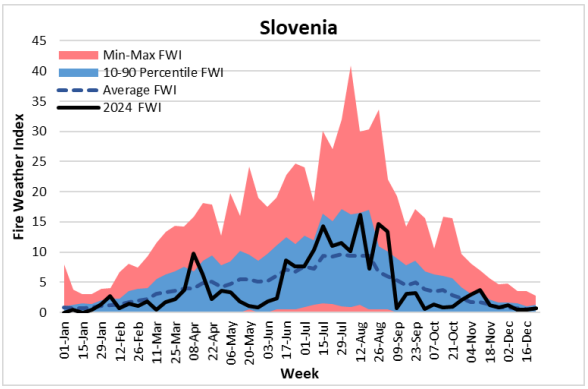

Figure 101. Fire weather Index information for Slovenia.

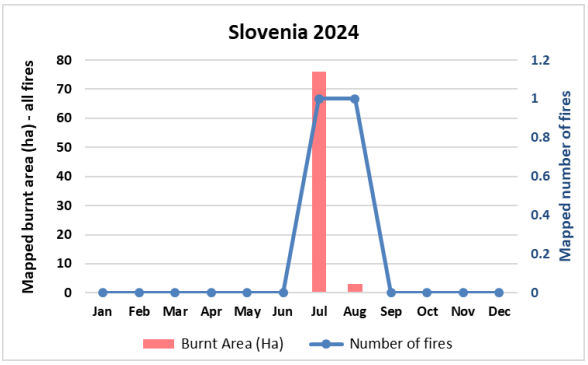

Figure 102. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Slovenia in 2024.

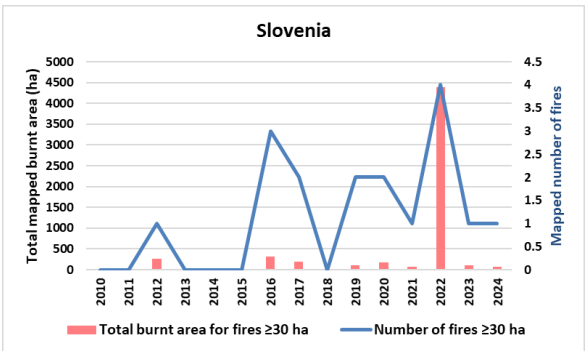

Figure 103. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Slovenia.

2.1.31 Spain

The 2024 fire season in Spain was well below the average. A total of 47 607 ha was mapped from 769 fires, more than 40 000 ha below the previous 23 years' average. The summer months were the most affected, coinciding with high values of the FWI, although the largest fire of the year of 2 471 ha occurred in January in the Cantabria area. The other six fires over 1 000 ha all took place between June and August in central and southern regions.

Table 27. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Spain by land cover type in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Broadleaf forest	3631	7.63
Coniferous forest	2138	4.49
Mixed forest	1479	3.11
Other Natural Land	24292	51.03
Sclerophyllous vegetation	6504	13.66
Transitional	1752	3.68
Agriculture	7582	15.93
Artificial Surfaces	64	0.13
Other Land Cover	165	0.35
TOTAL	**47607**	**100**

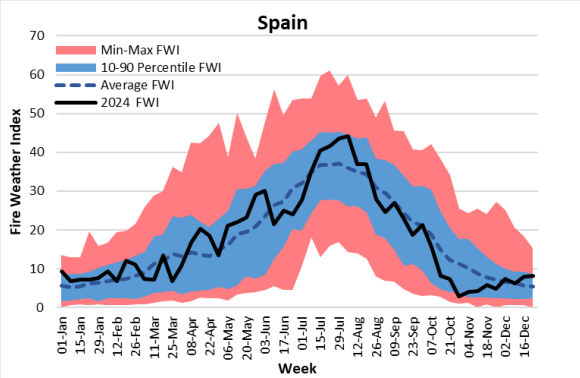

Figure 104. Fire weather Index information for Spain.

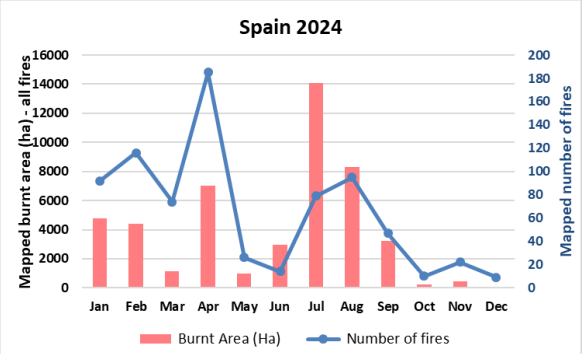

Figure 105. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Spain in 2024.

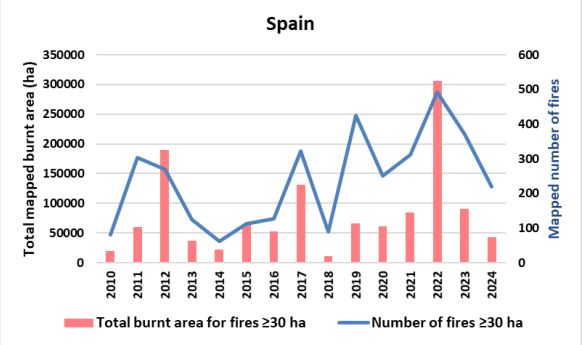

Figure 106. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Spain.

Of the total, 17 982 ha occurred on Natura2000 sites, the third highest amount in EU countries. This corresponds to 38 % of the total area burned and 0.11 % of the Natura2000 areas in Spain.

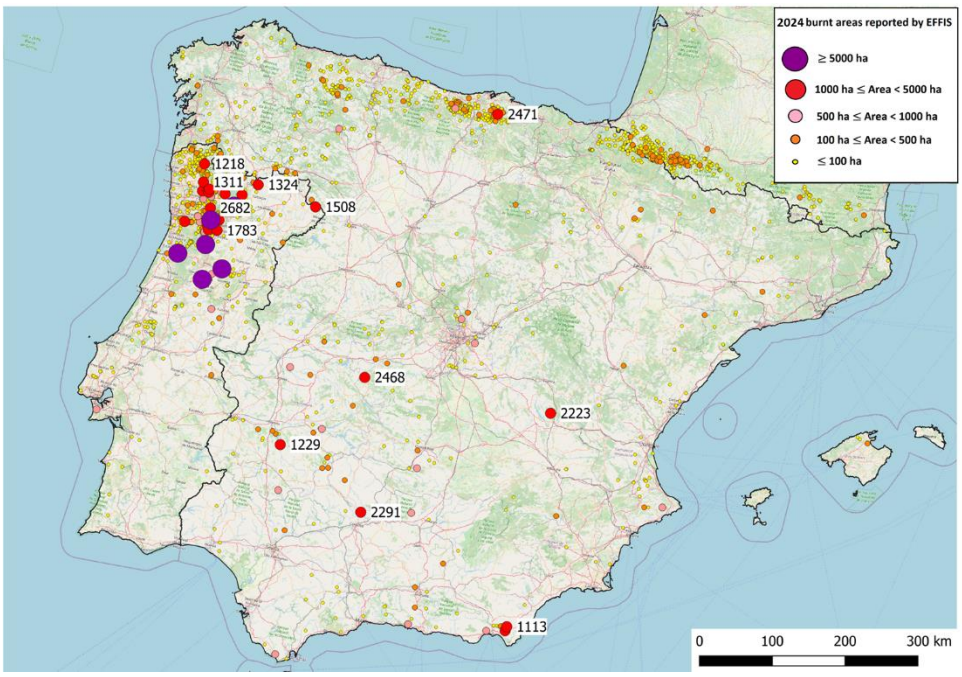

Figure 107. Locations of fires in Spain in 2024.

2.1.32 Sweden

In a light season similar to 2023, 49 fires were mapped in 2024, resulting in a total mapped burnt area of 589 ha, slightly lower than the total recorded in 2023. May was by far the most affected month.

Of the total, 78 ha (13%) occurred in Natura2000 sites.

Table 28. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Sweden by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Coniferous forest	488	82.91
Mixed forest	20	3.42
Other Natural Land	51	8.72
Transitional	7	1.20
Other Land Cover	22	3.76
TOTAL	**589**	**100**

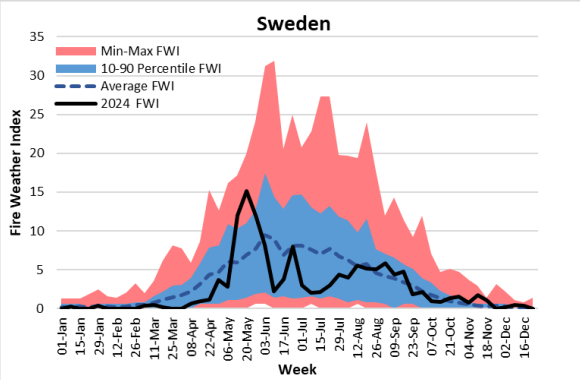

Figure 108. Fire weather Index information for Sweden.

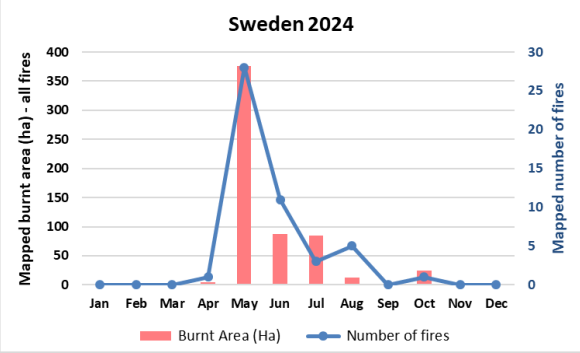

Figure 109. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Sweden in 2024.

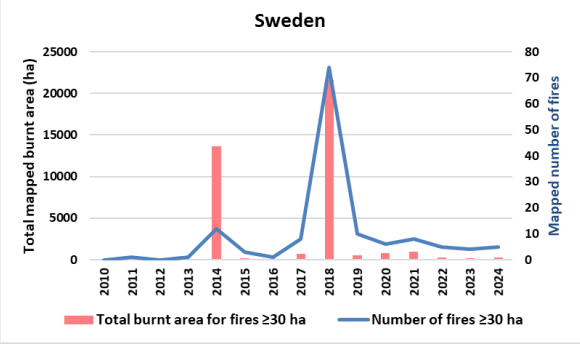

Figure 110. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Sweden.

2.1.33 Switzerland

Only one fire of 3 ha was mapped in Switzerland in 2024. The Fire Weather Index was mainly below the long term average.

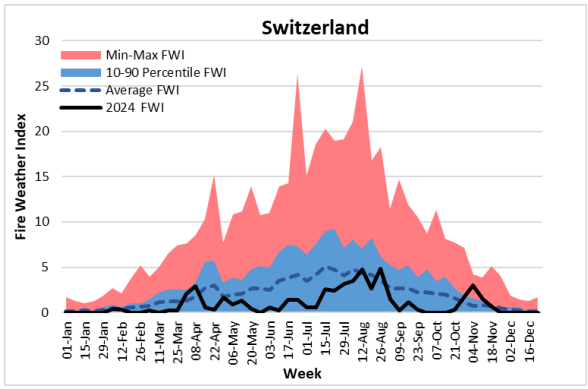

Figure 111. Fire weather Index information for Switzerland.

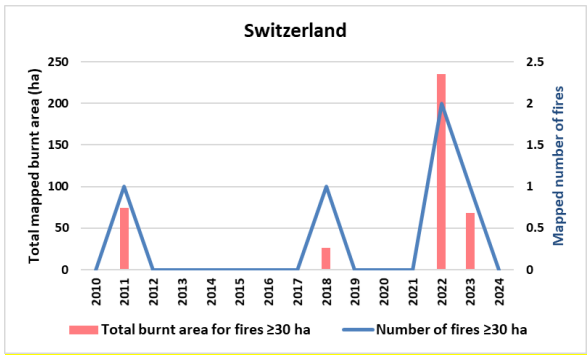

Figure 112. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Switzerland.

2.1.34 Türkiye

The 2024 fire season in Türkiye was the third worst since the beginning of the EFFIS monitoring. The season started in June and resulted in 131 223 ha burnt from 1 663 fires, more than twice the long term average amount of around 46 000 ha.

The largest ten fires of the year were all over 1 000 ha, the biggest one over 7 000 ha. Four of the events in this list took place in the region of Mardin.

Table 29. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Türkiye by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Broadleaf forest	629	0.48
Coniferous forest	12978	9.89
Mixed forest	1613	1.23
Other Natural Land	56080	42.74
Sclerophyllous vegetation	1948	1.48
Transitional	14077	10.73
Agriculture	41757	31.82
Artificial Surfaces	316	0.24
Other Land Cover	1824	1.39
TOTAL	**131223**	**100**

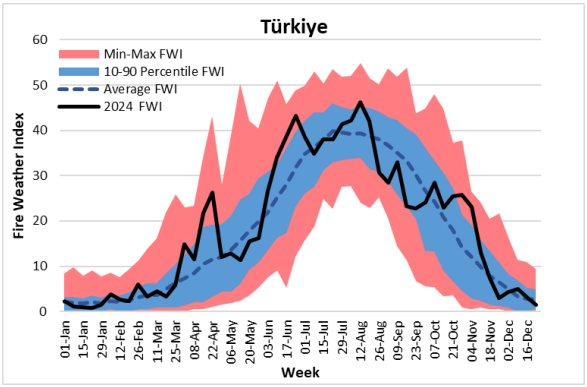

Figure 113. Fire weather Index information for Türkiye.

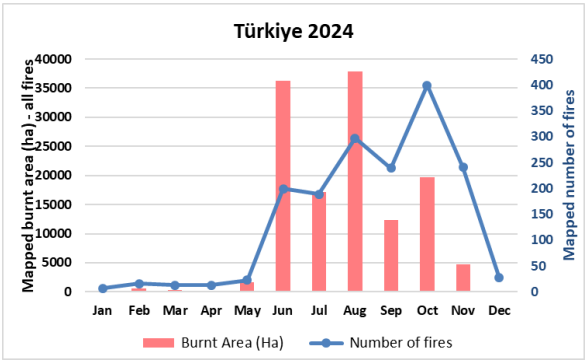

Figure 114. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Türkiye in 2024.

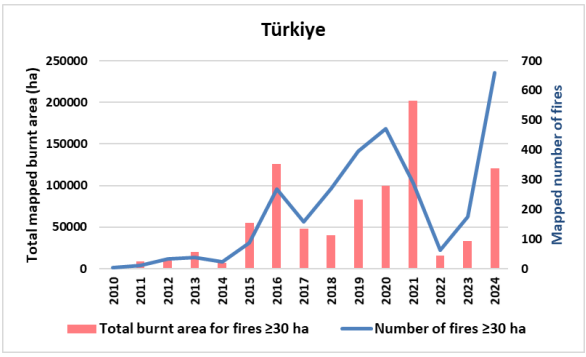

Figure 115. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Türkiye.

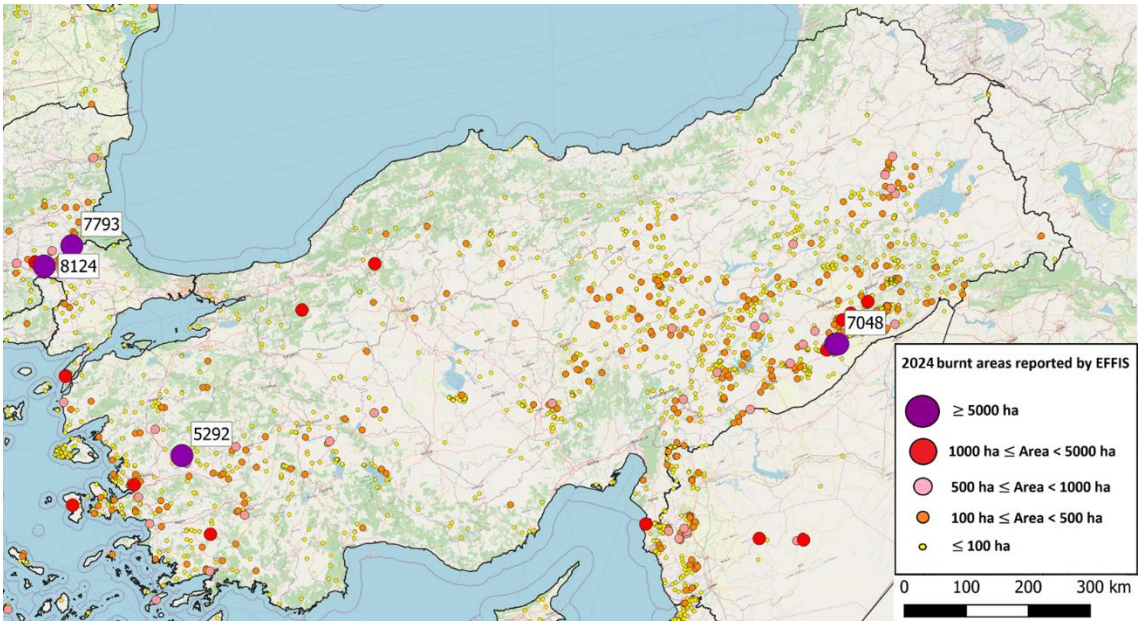

Figure 116. Locations of fires in Türkiye In 2024.

2.1.35 United Kingdom

The total burnt area in mapped in the United Kingdom was 2 497 ha from 39 fires, around one quarter of what was recorded in 2023 and the lowest for seven years. The Fire Weather Index rarely exceeded the average and was well below it for much of the year. As usual, most of the damage occurred in the spring, including the largest fire of the year which covered nearly 500 ha in Scotland.

Around 10% (238 ha) of the total burnt area occurred in protected sites, amounting to 0.01 % of the total protected area of the country.

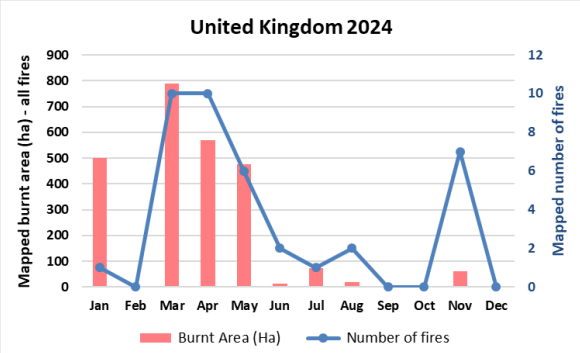

Figure 117. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in the United Kingdom in 2024.

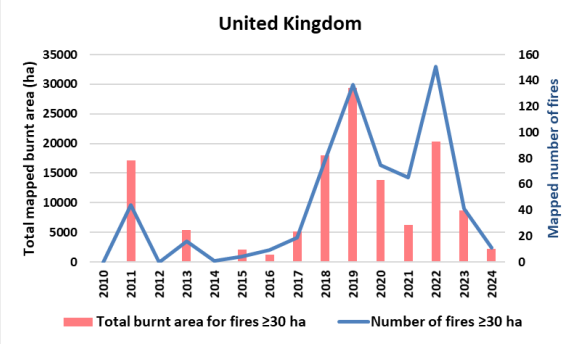

Figure 118. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in the United Kingdom.

Table 30. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in the UK by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Broadleaf forest	31	1.24
Mixed forest	17	0.68
Other Natural Land	2414	96.68
Agriculture	8	0.32
Other Land Cover	27	1.08
TOTAL	**2497**	**100**

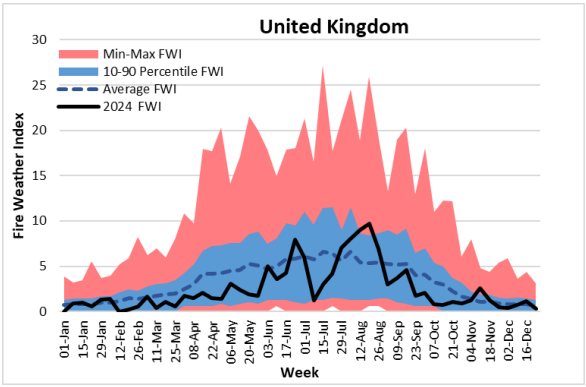

Figure 119. Fire weather Index information for the United Kingdom.

2.1.36 Ukraine

The total number of fires and burnt area mapped in Ukraine in 2024 dwarfed that of all of the other countries, and comprised half of the total mapped across the entire region covered by EFFIS. The mapped total of 965 360 ha from 8 753 fires was equivalent to the entire burnt area mapped across the whole of Europe, Middle East and North Africa in 2023. The majority of the damage occurred in the east of the country near the frontline of hostilities.

Most of the major fires of the year were in the summer months when the Fire Weather Index was also very high, with the largest two exceeding 8 000 ha. However, the most notable feature of the large fires was their sheer number, with a total of 317 mapped fires exceeding 500 ha, of which 110 were over 1 000 ha.

The land cover types most affected were Other Natural Land and Agricultural areas (Figure 123).

Table 31. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Ukraine by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Broadleaf forest	8346	0.86
Coniferous forest	66545	6.89
Mixed forest	182016	18.85
Other Natural Land	374961	38.84
Agriculture	322530	33.41
Artificial Surfaces	8476	0.88
Other Land Cover	2485	0.26
TOTAL	**965360**	**100**

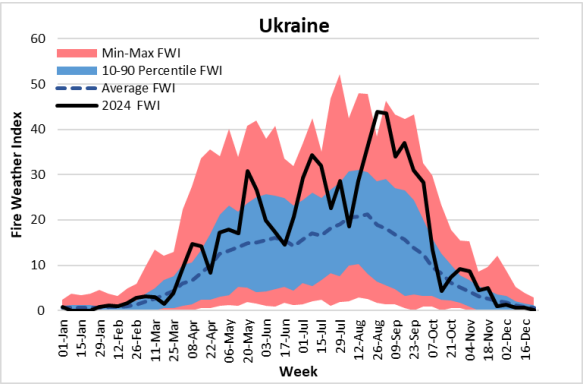

Figure 120. Fire weather Index information for Ukraine.

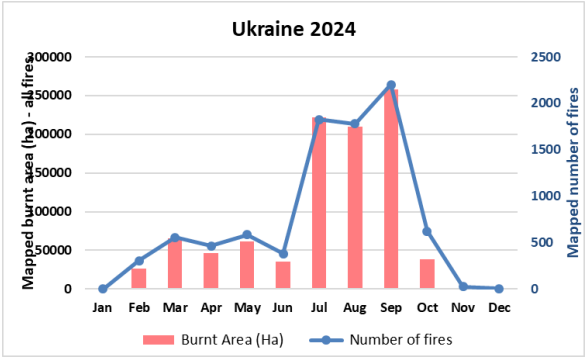

Figure 121. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Ukraine in 2024.

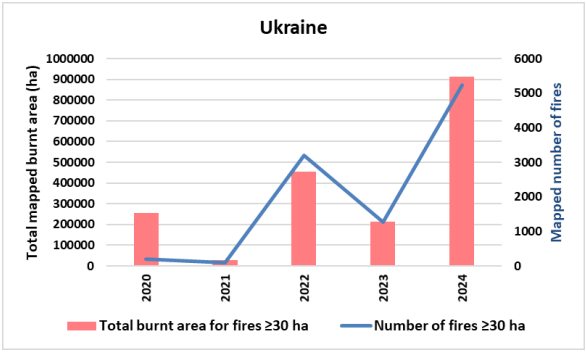

Figure 122. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Ukraine.

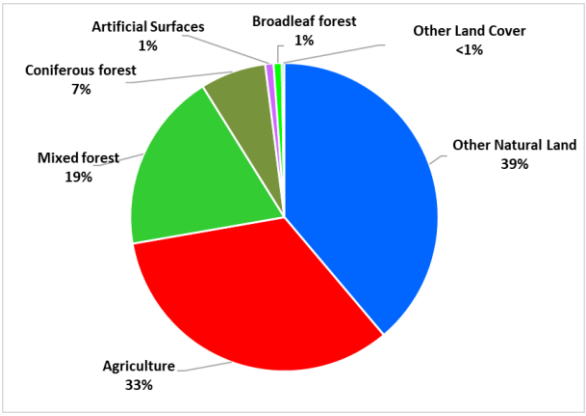

Figure 123. Proportions of land cover types affected in 2024 in Ukraine.

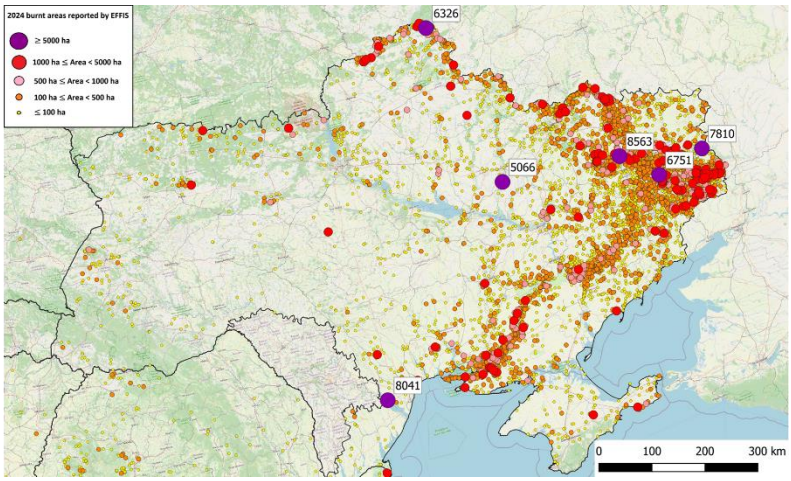

Figure 124. Locations of fires in Ukraine in 2024.

2.2 Middle East and North Africa

Despite ongoing hostilities, the total burnt area mapped across North Africa and the Middle East was one of the lowest ever recorded, at around 72 500 ha, significantly below the average of around 115 000 ha.

For the countries in this section, the Globcover land cover map from ESA was used to split the burnt area into different land type categories, harmonised with CLC terminology.

2.2.1 Algeria

The total burnt area mapped in Algeria in 2024 was the lowest ever recorded by EFFIS. A total of 10 354 ha was mapped from 369 fires. As in past years, the summer season was the peak of the activity, recording around 70% of the total burnt area. There were some large fires: five over 500 ha were mapped, all in late July and August.

Only 15 ha affected protected areas.

The distribution of burnt area by land cover types is given in Table 32.

Table 32. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Algeria by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Broadleaf forest	58	0.56
Coniferous forest	2	0.02
Mixed forest	4905	47.38
Other Natural Land	4171	40.29
Agriculture	1182	11.42
Artificial Surfaces	10	0.10
Other Land Cover	25	0.24
TOTAL	**10354**	**100**

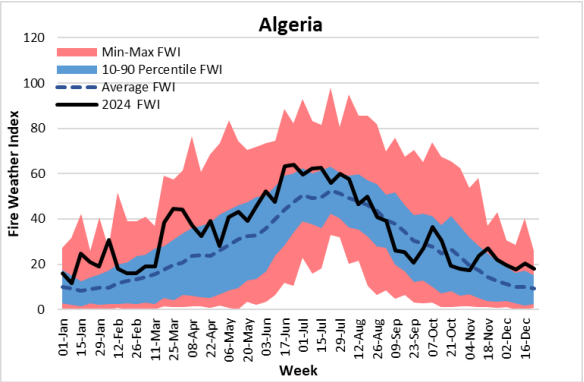

Figure 125. Fire weather Index information for Algeria.

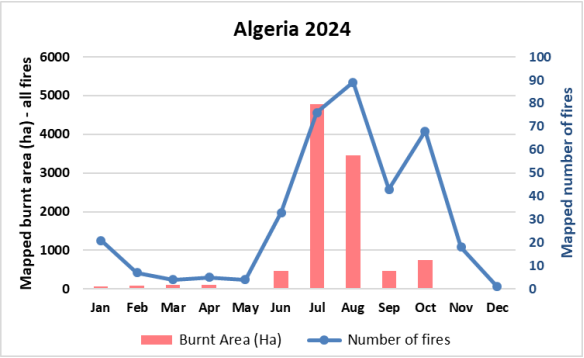

Figure 126. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Algeria in 2024.

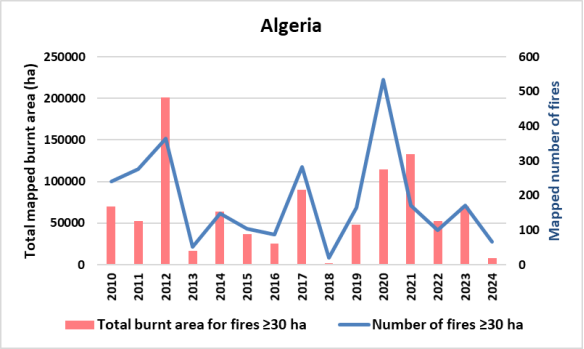

Figure 127. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Algeria.

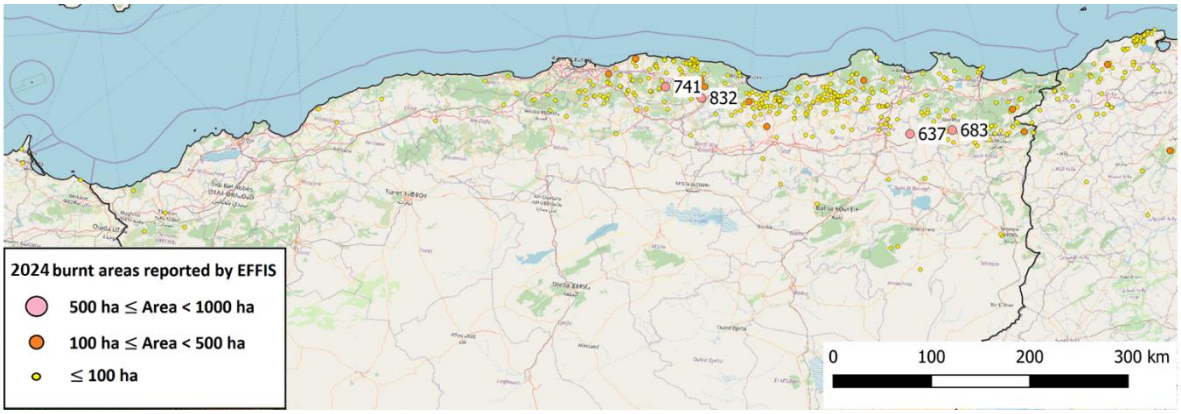

Figure 128. Locations of fires in northern Algeria in 2024.

2.2.2 Israel

2024 was by far the most impactful season ever recorded In Israel, with a total of 17 274 ha burnt in 205 fire events. Almost all of the damage occurred in June and July, including two fires of over 1 000 ha mapped in June and three others over 500 ha in July.

Table 33 presents the affected land cover types. Most of the total burnt area was in Other Natural Land and Agricultural Land.

Table 33. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Israel by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Coniferous forest	27	0.16
Mixed forest	348	2.01
Other Natural Land	9671	55.99
Agriculture	7136	41.31
Artificial Surfaces	90	0.52
Other Land Cover	2	0.01
TOTAL	**17274**	**100**

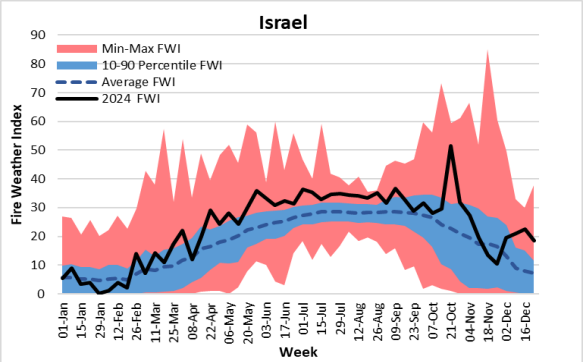

Figure 129. Fire weather Index information for Israel.

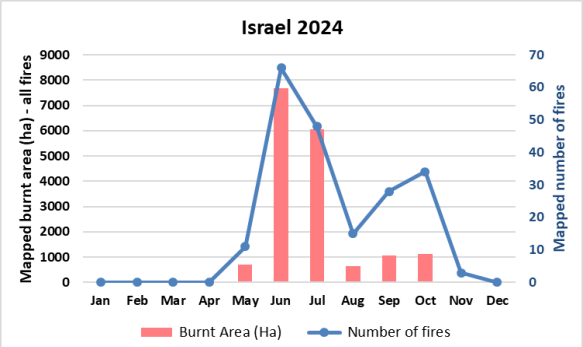

Figure 130. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Israel in 2024.

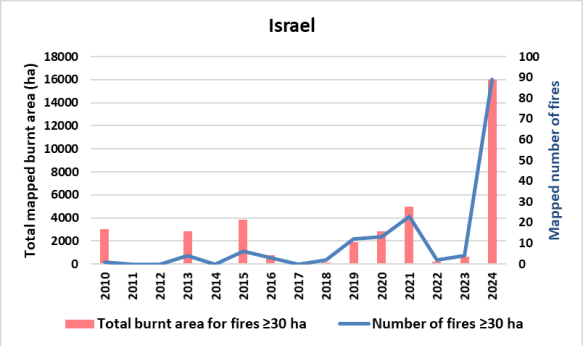

Figure 131. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Israel.

2.2.3 Jordan

In Jordan 49 fires were mapped, resulting in a total burnt area of 1 860 ha between May and August. Table 36 presents the distribution of the mapped burnt area by land cover type.

Table 34. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Jordan by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Coniferous forest	5	0.27
Mixed forest	29	1.56
Other Natural Land	1638	88.06
Agriculture	183	9.84
Artificial Surfaces	5	0.27
TOTAL	**1860**	**100**

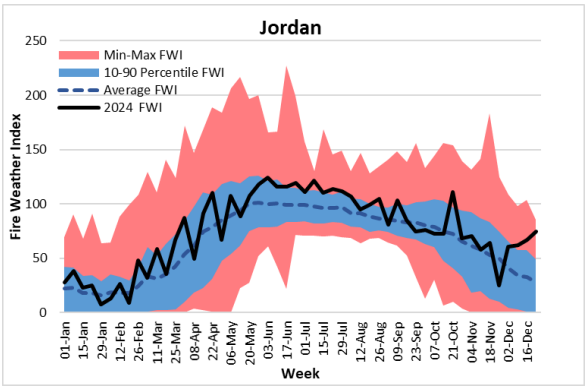

Figure 132. Fire weather Index information for Jordan.

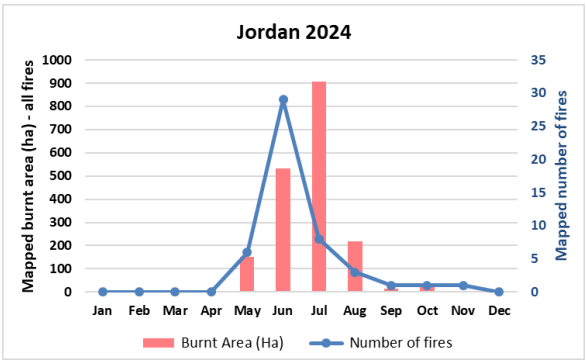

Figure 133. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Jordan in 2024.

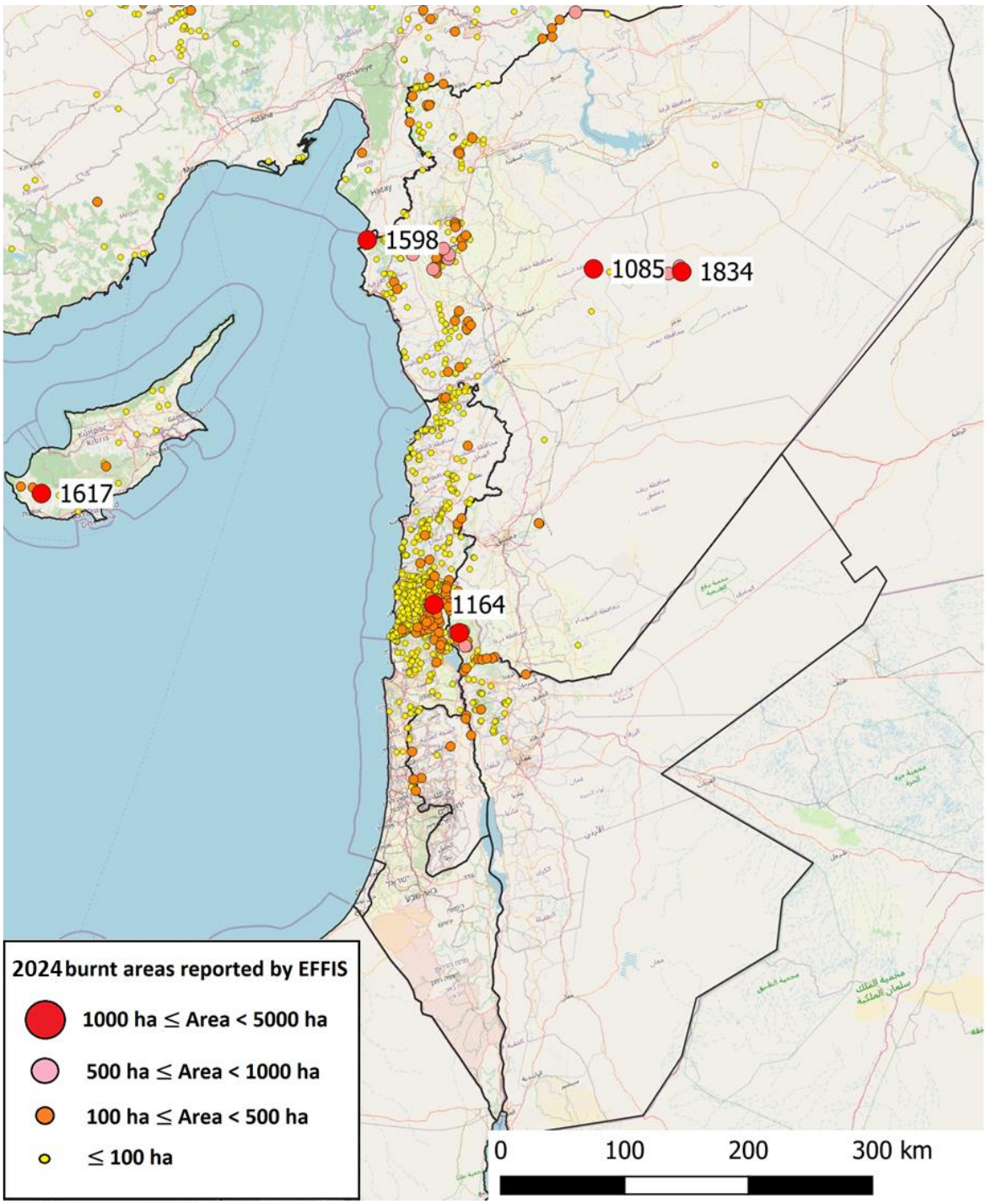

Figure 134. Locations of fires in the Middle East in 2024.

2.2.4 Lebanon

The 2024 fire season in Lebanon was the worst ever recorded in EFFIS, with a total mapped burnt area exceeding the sum of all previous years mapped by EFFIS. 717 fires were mapped between May and November, resulting in a total burnt area of 16 437 ha, mainly concentrated in the southern part of the country. The biggest ones cover a surface of around 300 ha. Table 35 presents the affected land cover types.

Table 35. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Lebanon by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Coniferous forest	519	3.16
Mixed forest	1038	6.32
Other Natural Land	12773	77.71
Agriculture	1758	10.70
Artificial Surfaces	348	2.12
TOTAL	**16437**	**100**

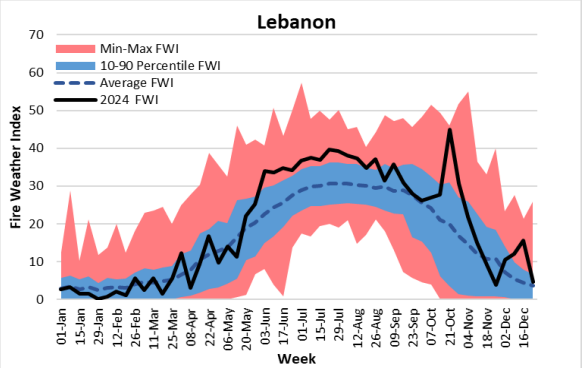

Figure 135. Fire weather Index information for Lebanon.

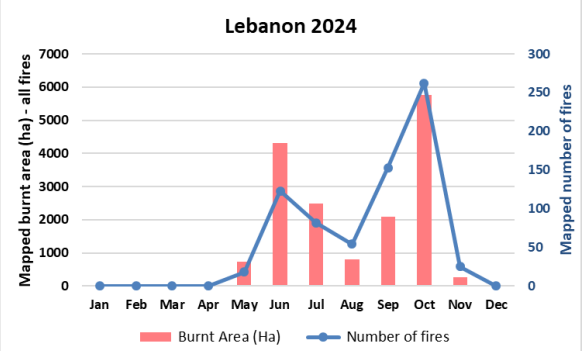

Figure 136. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Lebanon in 2024.

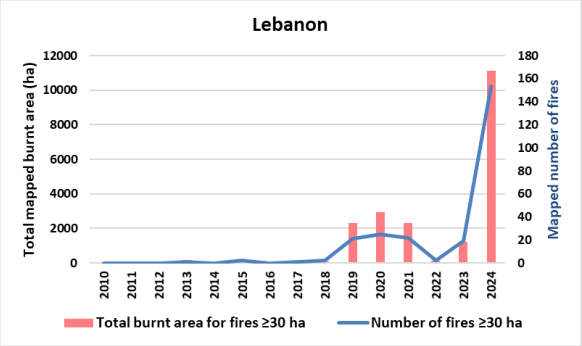

Figure 137. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Lebanon.

2.2.5 Libya

The 2024 fire season in Libya was quiet and similar to that of 2023. 12 fires were mapped, resulting in a total burnt area of 285 ha. Almost all of the annual total came from a single fire of 200 ha in May.

Table 36 presents the distribution of the mapped burnt area by land cover type, and shows that Agricultural land was principally affected.

Table 36. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Libya by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Broadleaf forest	6	2.11
Mixed forest	27	9.47
Other Natural Land	52	18.25
Agriculture	200	70.18
TOTAL	**285**	**100**

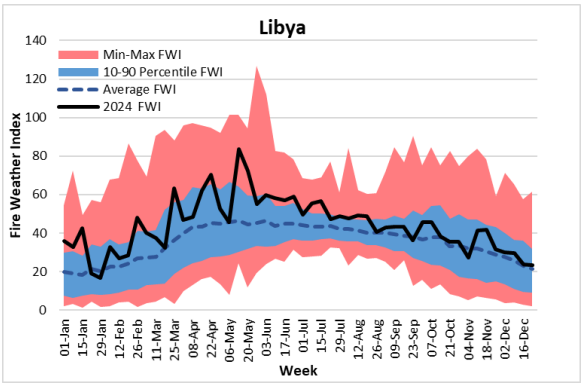

Figure 138. Fire weather Index information for Libya.

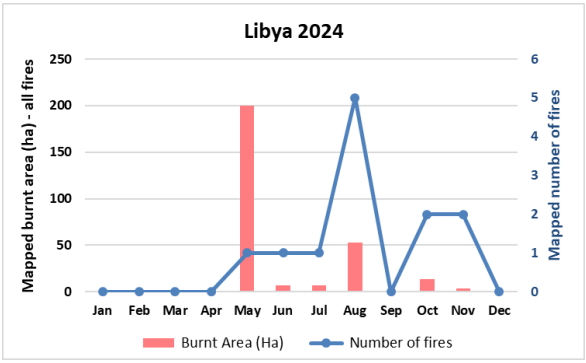

Figure 139. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Libya in 2024.

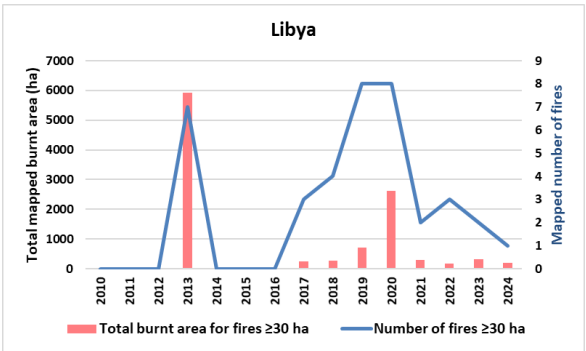

Figure 140. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Libya.

2.2.6 Morocco

After the record-breaking 2022 season, and an average one in 2023, the 2024 season was one of the lowest ever. 73 fires were mapped, resulting in a total of 1 074 ha burnt. Most of the fires occurred in July and August, and none of them was bigger than 200 ha. Less than 10% (96 ha) affected protected areas.

Table 37. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Morocco by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Broadleaf forest	395	36.82
Coniferous forest	107	10.00
Mixed forest	100	9.35
Other Natural Land	107	10.00
Transitional	224	20.84
Agriculture	140	12.99
TOTAL	**1074**	**100**

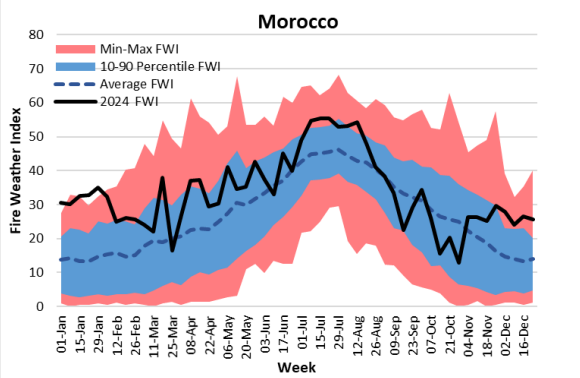

Figure 141. Fire weather Index information for Morocco.

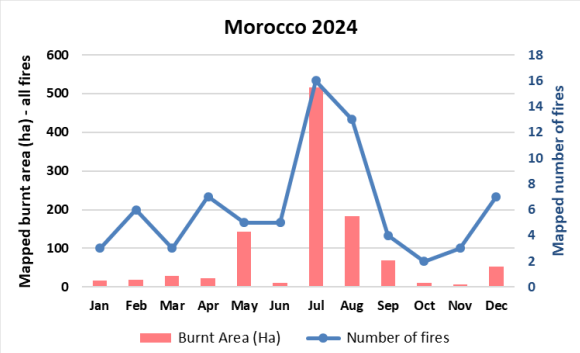

Figure 142. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Morocco in 2024.

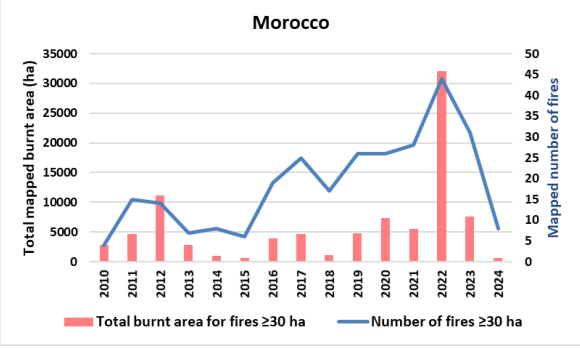

Figure 143. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Morocco.

2.2.7 Palestinian Territory

Twelve fires were mapped in Palestinian Territory in 2024, burning 1 198 ha in total, somewhat more than in the last 4 years. Table 38 presents the distribution of the mapped burnt area by land cover type.

Table 38. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Palestinian Territory by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Mixed forest	5	0.42
Other Natural Land	935	78.05
Agriculture	256	21.37
Artificial Surfaces	2	0.17
TOTAL	**1198**	**100**

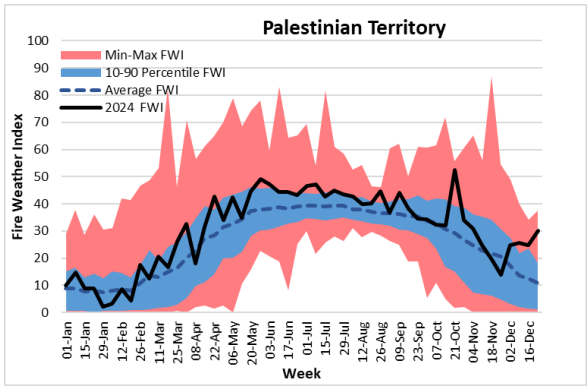

Figure 144. Fire weather Index information for Palestinian Territory.

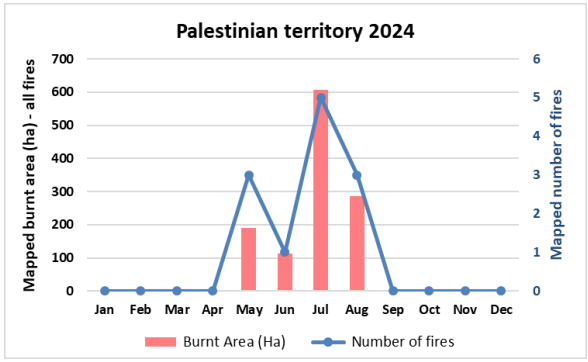

Figure 145. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Palestinian Territory in 2024.

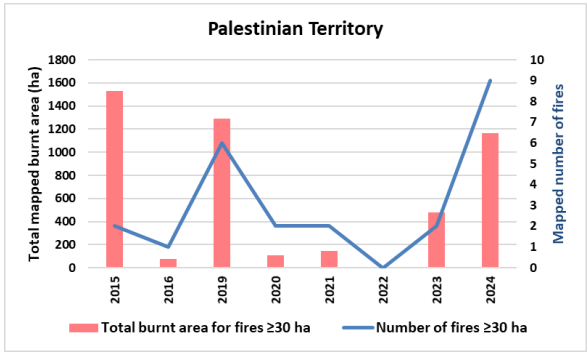

Figure 146. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Palestinian Territory.

2.2.8 Syria

It was a relatively quiet year for fires in Syria. There were 254 fires mapped, from May until November, giving a total burnt area of 22 683 ha. Three of these were over 1 000 ha, affecting the regions of Hamah, Hims and Lattakia.

Table 39. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Syria by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Broadleaf forest	58	0.26
Coniferous forest	2014	8.88
Mixed forest	1516	6.68
Other Natural Land	11856	52.27
Transitional	83	0.37
Agriculture	6477	28.56
Artificial Surfaces	672	2.96
Other Land Cover	7	0.03
TOTAL	**22683**	**100**

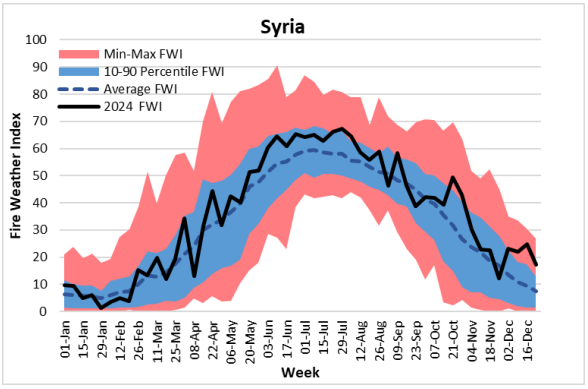

Figure 147. Fire weather Index information for Syria.

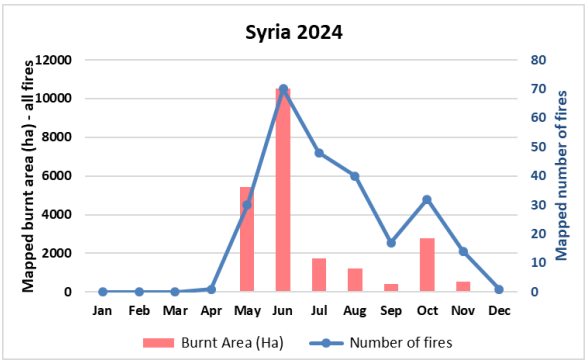

Figure 148. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Syria in 2024.

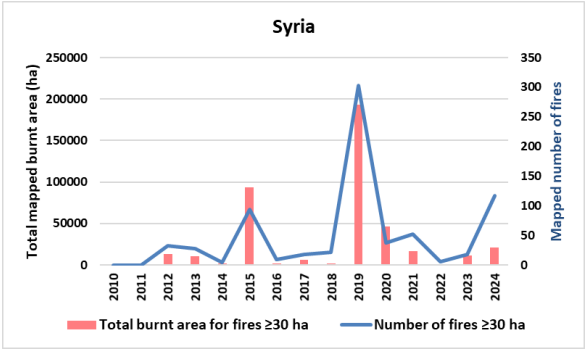

Figure 149. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Syria.

2.2.9 Tunisia

The 2024 fire season was the second lowest recorded since 2010. A total of 1 469 ha of burnt area was mapped from 78 fires between June and November, less than one-fifth the amount recorded in 2023. The major fires took place during the summer season, each affecting no more than 300 ha.

Table 40. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Tunisia by land cover types in 2024.

Land cover	*Area burned*	*% of total*
Broadleaf forest	277	18.88
Coniferous forest	226	15.41
Mixed forest	14	0.95
Other Natural Land	24	1.64
Sclerophyllous vegetation	455	30.95
Transitional	271	18.47
Agriculture	164	11.18
Other Land Cover	37	2.52
TOTAL	**1469**	**100**

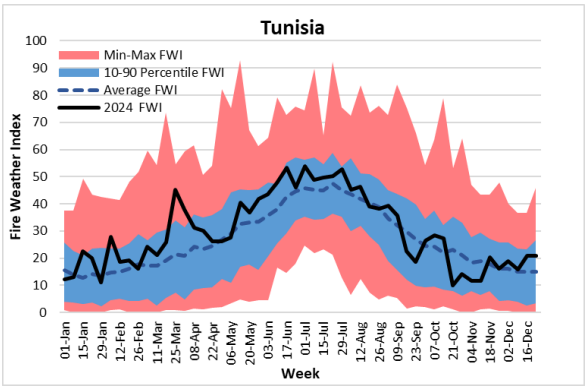

Figure 150. Fire weather Index information for Tunisia.

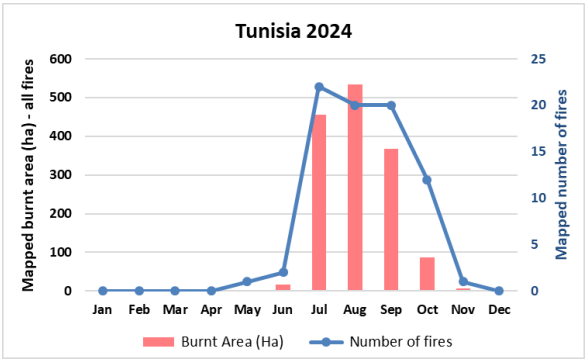

Figure 151. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Tunisia in 2024.

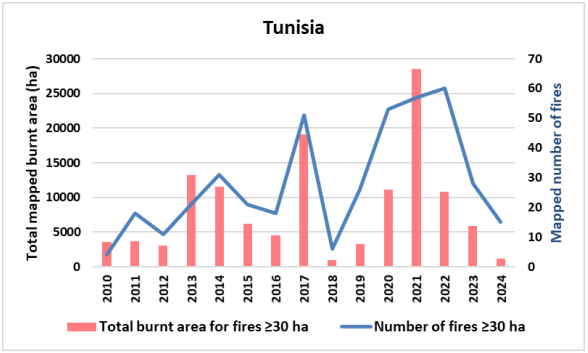

Figure 152. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in Tunisia

2.3 Conclusions

2024 was a transition year, after critical wildfire seasons in the European Union in the previous three years. The 2024 wildfire season in the European Union finished with a total burnt area of 419 298 ha, which is slightly above the average of the period 2006-2023. About 35% of this, i.e. 147 017 ha, occurred on Natura200 sites. However, it is relevant to mention that many wildfires, which caused extensive burnt areas, occurred in the Balkan region, inside and outside the EU territory. It is worth mentioning that a record number of wildfires were mapped in EFFIS in the Ukrainian territory. The distribution of these fires depicts the area of the combat frontline in the war between Ukraine and Russia.

Although based purely on statistics, 2024 may appear overall as an average wildfire year, it included the occurrence of serious wildfire episodes early in the core of the wildfire season, in July, with critical wildfires in some of the Greek islands and in Madeira, in Portugal. The overall trends of wildfires in spring and summer 2024 were on or below average, due to intermittent rainfalls across the Mediterranean region. However, a series of multiple wildfires were ignited in Portugal in September, which resulted in a total burnt area over 100 000 ha in the European Union in just a week.

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List of acronyms

CLC CORINE Land Cover

DWD Deutscher Wetterdienst (Germany's National Meteorological Service)

ECHO European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations

ECMWF European Centre for Medium Range Forecast

EFFIS European Forest Fire Information System

EGFF Expert Group on Forest Fires

ERCC Emergency Response Coordinating Centre

FWI Fire Weather Index

GWIS Global Wildfire Information System

MENA Middle East and North Africa

MIC Monitoring and Information Centre

MODIS Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer

RDA Rapid Damage Assessment

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