



European  
Commission

# JRC TECHNICAL REPORT

## Weekly analysis of wildfires in the Amazon region and South America:

October 04 - October 10, 2021

2021



GWIS

Global Wildfire Information System



European Commission > JRC EU Science Hub > DRM > GWIS > Applications > Current Situation Viewer

**Map Options**

- Country Boundaries Layer
- Human Settlement Layer
- Protected Areas Layer
- CCI Landcover

**Forecasts**

FIRE DANGER FORECAST

Source: ECMWF (8 km res.)

Index: Fire Weather Index (FWI)

LIGHTNING FORECAST

Date: 11 Oct 2021

**Rapid Damage Assessment**

Select a date-range

Last 1 Day | Last 7 Days | Last 30 Days

Fire Season

From: 04 Oct 2021 To: 10 Oct 2021

**ACTIVE FIRES**

MODIS  VIIRS

**BURNT AREAS**

MODIS (Last update: 2021-05-31)

MODIS & VIIRS NRT

**FIRE EMISSIONS**

- Black Carbon
- Carbon Dioxide
- Sulfur Dioxide
- Organic Carbon
- Non-Methane Hydro-Carbon
- Total Carbon in Aerosols
- Methane
- Carbon Monoxide
- Nitrogen Oxides
- Particulate Matter

**FUELS**

**Analysis Tools**

GWIS Estimates per Country



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JRC126754

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## Scope of this report and executive summary

This report describes the trends of wildfires in the Amazon in 2021 through the comparison with the fire activity in the region in previous fire seasons. It must be noted that 2019 and 2020 were critical years in terms of fire activity in many of the countries in the region. Seasonality and trends on fire activity in the countries can be found at the [“country profile application”](#) in GWIS. The current report has been produced by the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre (JRC) within its activities on the development of a Global Wildfire Information System (GWIS)<sup>1</sup> and the [EU Project on support to wildfire management in LAC](#). Most of the Amazon region is in Brazil, specifically in the Brazilian Legal Amazon (BLA)<sup>2</sup>, and in other neighbor countries. Figure 1 shows the geographical extent of the countries analyzed in this report.

- In the **Brazil Legal Amazon (BLA)**, within Brazil, a total of 10.95 Million ha (Mha) burnt from January 1 until October 10, 2021. This value is below those of the last six years in the same period. **Last week, 442 fires occurred**, which is below the values of the previous 6 years for the same week.
- **In Brazil, 18.31 Mha burnt from January 1 until October 10, 2021**, with a total of 288,329 ha burnt in the last week. The total burnt area in Brazil is below the values of the previous 6 years in the same period, with the exception of 2018, and number of fires is below that of 2020 (839 fires occurred last week).
- **In Bolivia**, the total burnt area in 2021 (5.33 Mha) is lower than that recorded for 2019, which was a critical year in the country. The total burnt area and number of fires are now also below to the values reached in 2020 up to the same week. 464 fires were recorded last week. Critical fires are still taking place in the southeast near San Ignacio de Velasco, where similar critical fires occurred in 2019, but also close to Santa Ana de Yacuma in the central part of the country.
- **In Colombia**, the total burnt area in the country (2.80Mha) is above the values of 2018 and 2019, but approximately 12% below the values of 2020. The total number of fires since January 2021 is 9,669 the highest value since 2015 for the same period.
- **In Paraguay**, 3.00 Mha burnt since January 1 until October 10, 2021. The area burnt and the number of fires in the last week are below the values in the last 6 years for the same week. The total burnt area in 2021 is above those in 2018 and 2019 but below the values of the severe season of 2020.
- **In Peru**, for the period January 1 until October 10, 2021, the total burnt area (1.98 Mha) and total number of fires (7,396). The current fire season is just below the trend of the worst fire season of the last 6 years (2020) in the country.
- **In Venezuela**, 4.18 Mha burnt in the current year until October 10. The value of the total burnt area in Venezuela is lower than that in 2019 and 2020.
- **In Chile**, 451,497 ha burnt in the current year until October 10, 2021. This value is 51% higher than that in 2020. The number of fires until now (1,717), is the highest value since 2015.
- **In Argentina**, a total of 3.96 Mha burnt since January 1 until October 10, 2021, which is less than half of what burned in 2020. A total of 12,722 fires were mapped this year.
- **In Ecuador**, a total of 295 fires burnt 105,175 ha since January 1 until October 10. These values are similar to the values of the last six years, while the peak of the fire season is just starting.
- **In Uruguay**, a total of 48,487 ha burnt since January 1 until October 10 with 712 ha burnt last week. The total area is larger than the area burnt in 2018 and 2019 but lower than in 2020.
- **In French Guiana** a total of 893 ha burnt since January 1 until October 10, 2021. This value is similar to previous years. 1 fire was recorded last week.
- **In Guyana**, a total of 61,694 ha burnt from January 1 until October 10, 2021, the lowest value from the last six years. 3 fires were mapped last week.
- **In Suriname**, 21 fires burnt a total of 4,558 ha since January 1 until October 10, 2021, a value similar to that of 2018 and lower than 2019 and 2020. One fire was recorded last week.
- This week, it is expected that fire danger conditions will continue to be very high to extreme in eastern part of Brazil, eastern Bolivia, northern Chile and Paraguay, and across Argentina

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<sup>1</sup> <https://gwis.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

<sup>2</sup> The Brazilian Legal Amazon is a geopolitical region in Brazil, established in the article 2 of the complementary law 124, of 2007, that includes 772 municipalities over 9 states. It comprises approximately five million square kilometres, which correspond to 59% of the Brazilian territory ([IBGE, 2019](#))



**Figure 1.** Areas analyzed in this report: Brazil Legal Amazon, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela, Chile, Argentina, Ecuador, Uruguay, French Guiana, Guyana and Suriname

# 1 Wildfires in the Brazilian Legal Amazon Region

Figure 2 shows the trends on the extent of burnt areas and the number of fires since January 1, 2021, produced by the Near-Real Time (NRT) fire analysis in GWIS. The last row shows the evolution of active hot spots (thermal anomalies) detected by the satellite sensor VIIRS. A total of 10.95 Mha burnt in the BLA since January 1 until October 10, 2021, with 0.11 Mha burnt in total during the last week, which is a low value for the same week for the last 6 years. The number of fires recorded in GWIS last week was 442, and the total number of fires up to October 10 is about the average value of the last 5 years. The number of thermal anomalies until October 10, 2021 (558,973) shows a typical trend in the region as compared to the trends in 2019 and 2020. 31,736 thermal anomalies were registered last week.

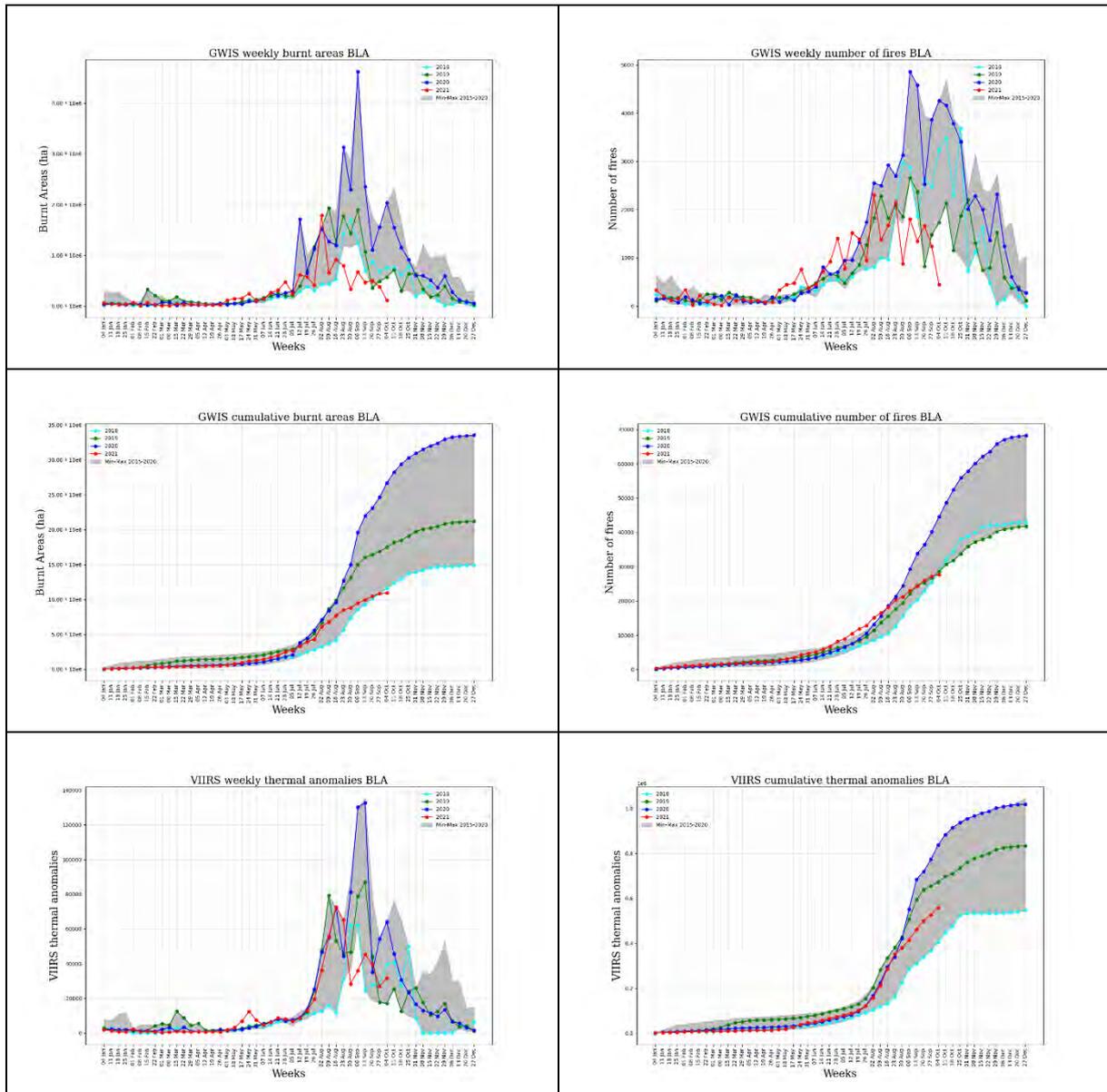


Figure 2 Trend of burnt areas and number of fires as compared to data in the last 6 years.

## 2 Wildfires in Brazil

Figure 3 shows the trends on the extent of burnt areas and the number of fires since January 1, 2021, produced by the Near-Real Time (NRT) fire analysis in GWIS. The last row shows the evolution of active hot spots (thermal anomalies) detected by the satellite sensor VIIRS. A total of 18.31 Mha burnt in Brazil since January 1 until October 10, 2021, below the burnt area of 2019 up to the same date, with a total 288,329 ha burnt in the last week. The number of fires recorded in GWIS in the last week was 839; the total of number of fires up to October 10 is close to the values in 2019 for the same period. The number of thermal anomalies until October 10, 2021 (1,03 M) shows a typical trend in the region. 72,589 thermal anomalies were registered last week.

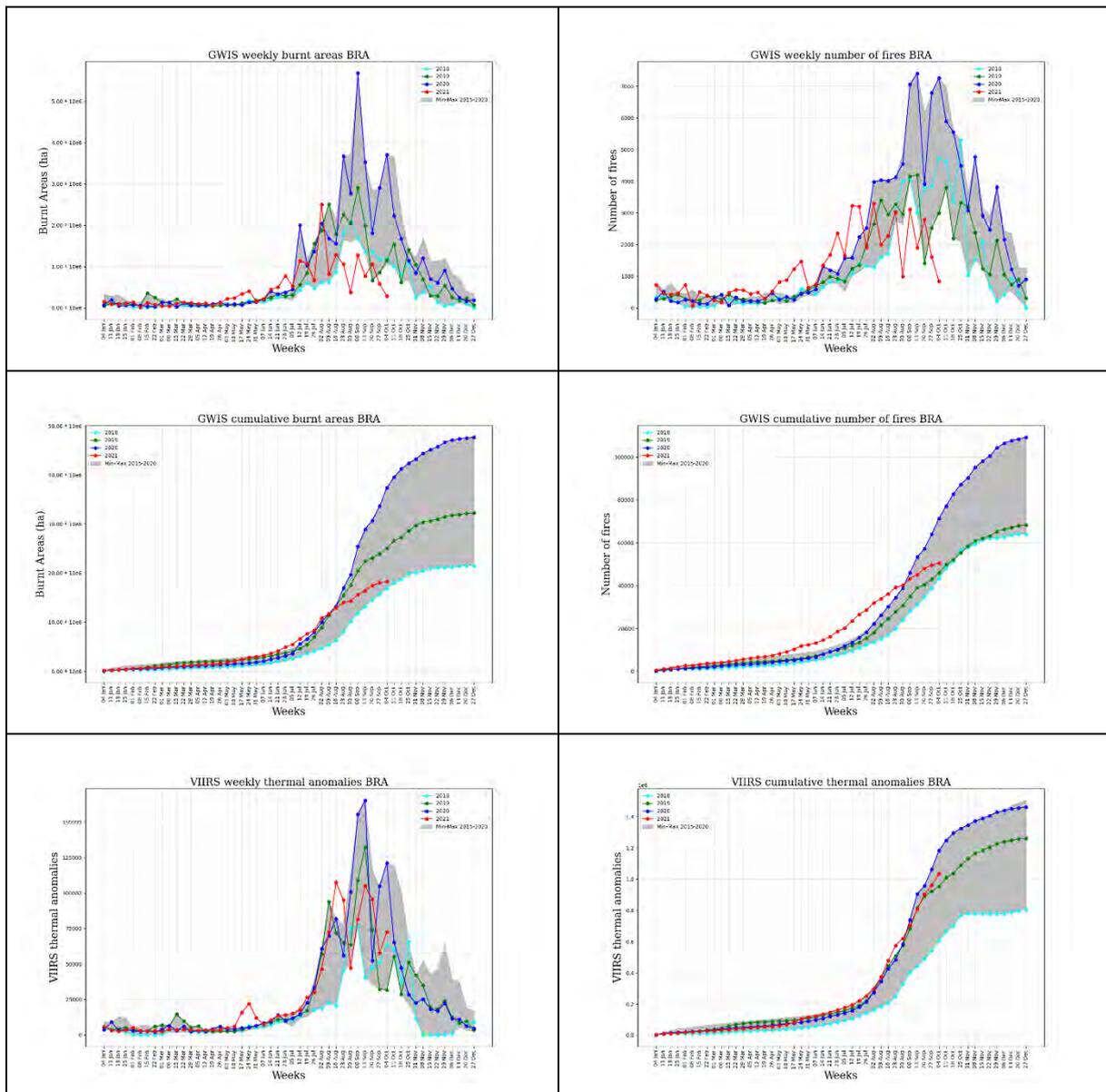


Figure 3. Trend of burnt areas, number of fires and thermal anomalies as compared to data in the last 6 years.

### 3 Wildfires in Bolivia

Figure 4 shows the trends on the extent of burnt areas and the number of fires since January 1, 2021, produced by the Near-Real Time (NRT) fire analysis in GWIS. The last row shows the evolution of active hot spots (thermal anomalies) detected by the satellite sensor VIIRS. A total of 5.33 Mha burnt in Bolivia since January 1 until October 10, 2021, with 173,606 ha burnt in the last week. The cumulative values of burnt areas are higher than 2018 but lower than 2019 and 2020. The number of fires recorded in GWIS in the last week was 464. The trend of number of fires in 2021 is lower than in the year 2020 for the same period. The number of thermal anomalies until October 10, 2021 (228,562) is the second highest value since 2015 for the same period. 15,445 thermal anomalies were detected by VIIRS in the last week. Critical fires are still active in the central part of the country.

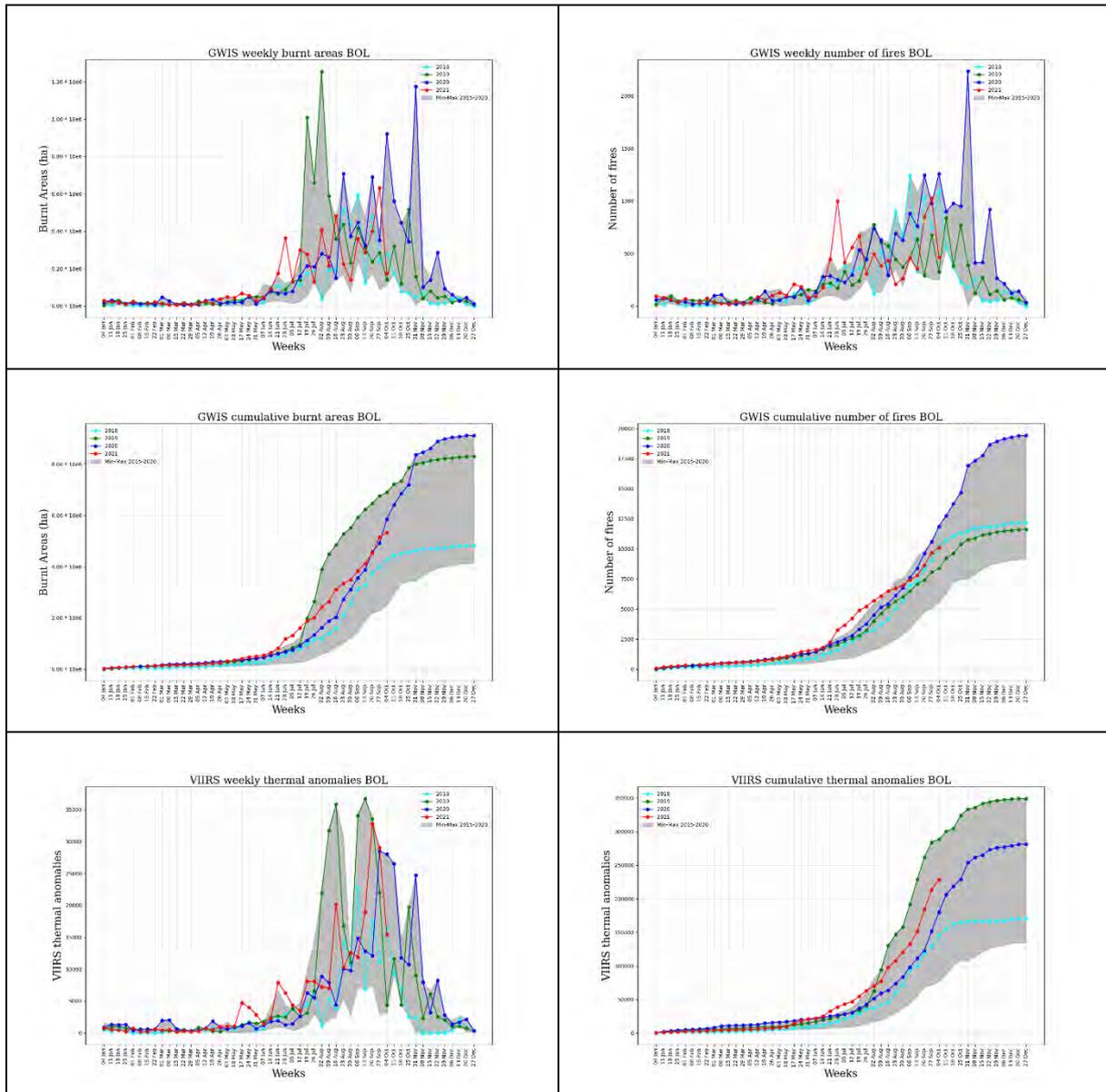


Figure 4. Trend of burnt areas, number of fires and thermal anomalies as compared to data in the last 6 years.

## 4 Wildfires in Colombia

Figure 5 shows the trends on the extent of burnt areas and the number of fires since January 1, 2021 produced by the Near-Real Time (NRT) fire analysis in GWIS. The last row shows the evolution of active hot spots (thermal anomalies) detected by the satellite sensor VIIRS. A total of 2.80 Mha burnt in Colombia since January 1 until October 10, 2021. Approximately 11,045 ha burnt in the country the last week. The number of fires recorded in GWIS in the last week was 54. The number of thermal anomalies until October 10, 2021 (68,155) follows a typical trend in the region with values below of 2019 and 2020. 549 thermal anomalies detected by VIIRS last week.

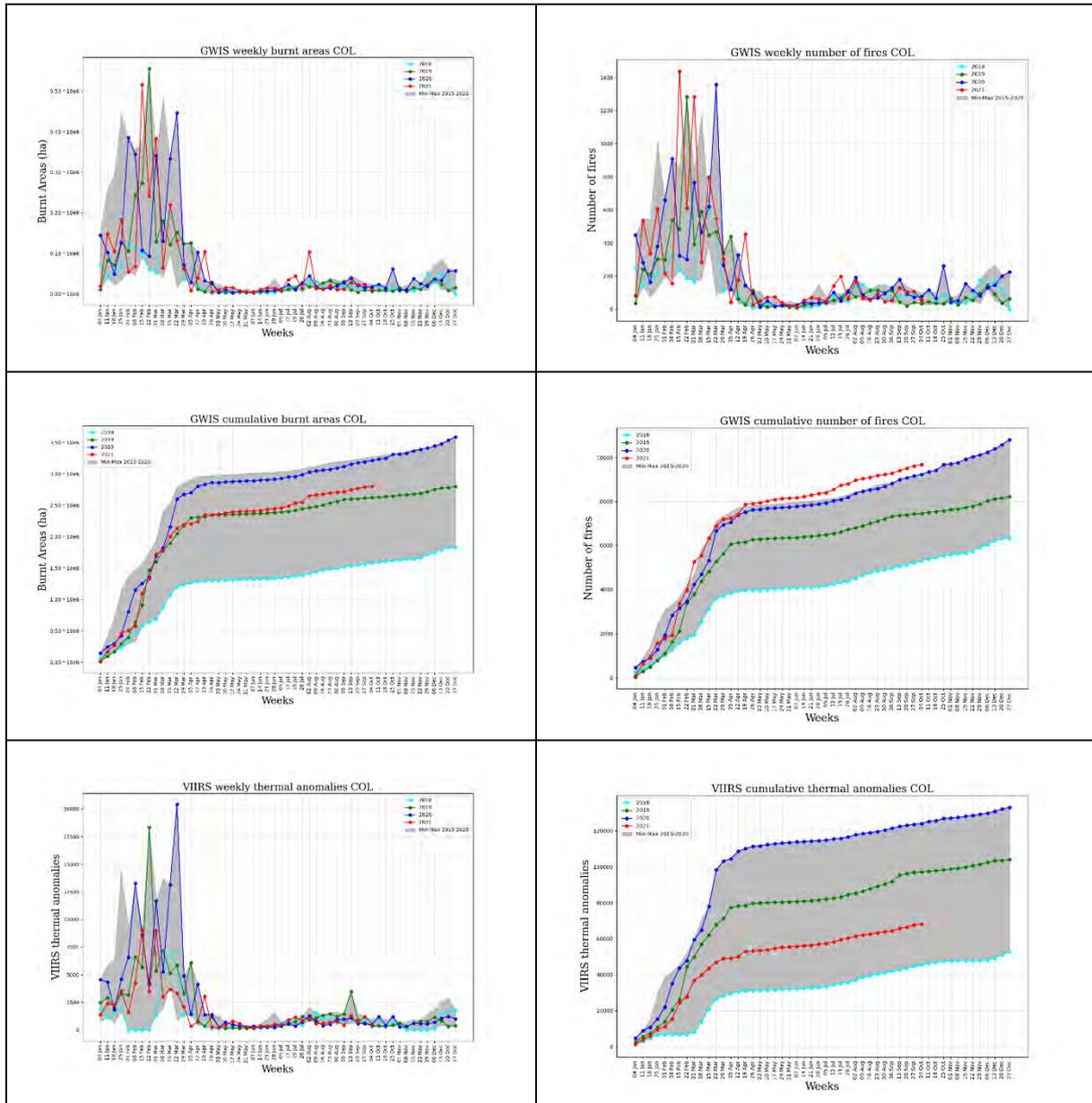


Figure 5. Trend of burnt areas, number of fires and thermal anomalies as compared to data in the last 6 years.

## 5 Wildfires in Paraguay

Figure 6 shows the trends on the extent of burnt areas and the number of fires since January 1, 2021, produced by the Near-Real Time (NRT) fire analysis in GWIS. The last row shows the evolution of active hot spots (thermal anomalies) detected by the satellite sensor VIIRS. A total of 3.00 Mha burnt in Paraguay since January 1 until October 10, 2021. Approximately, 9,160 ha burnt in the country the last week, being this the lowest value for this week in the last 6 years. The number of fires recorded in GWIS in the last week was 35, also the lowest value of the last 6 years for the same week. The number of thermal anomalies until October 10, 2021 (112,119) follows a typical trend in the region. 679 thermal anomalies detected by VIIRS last week.

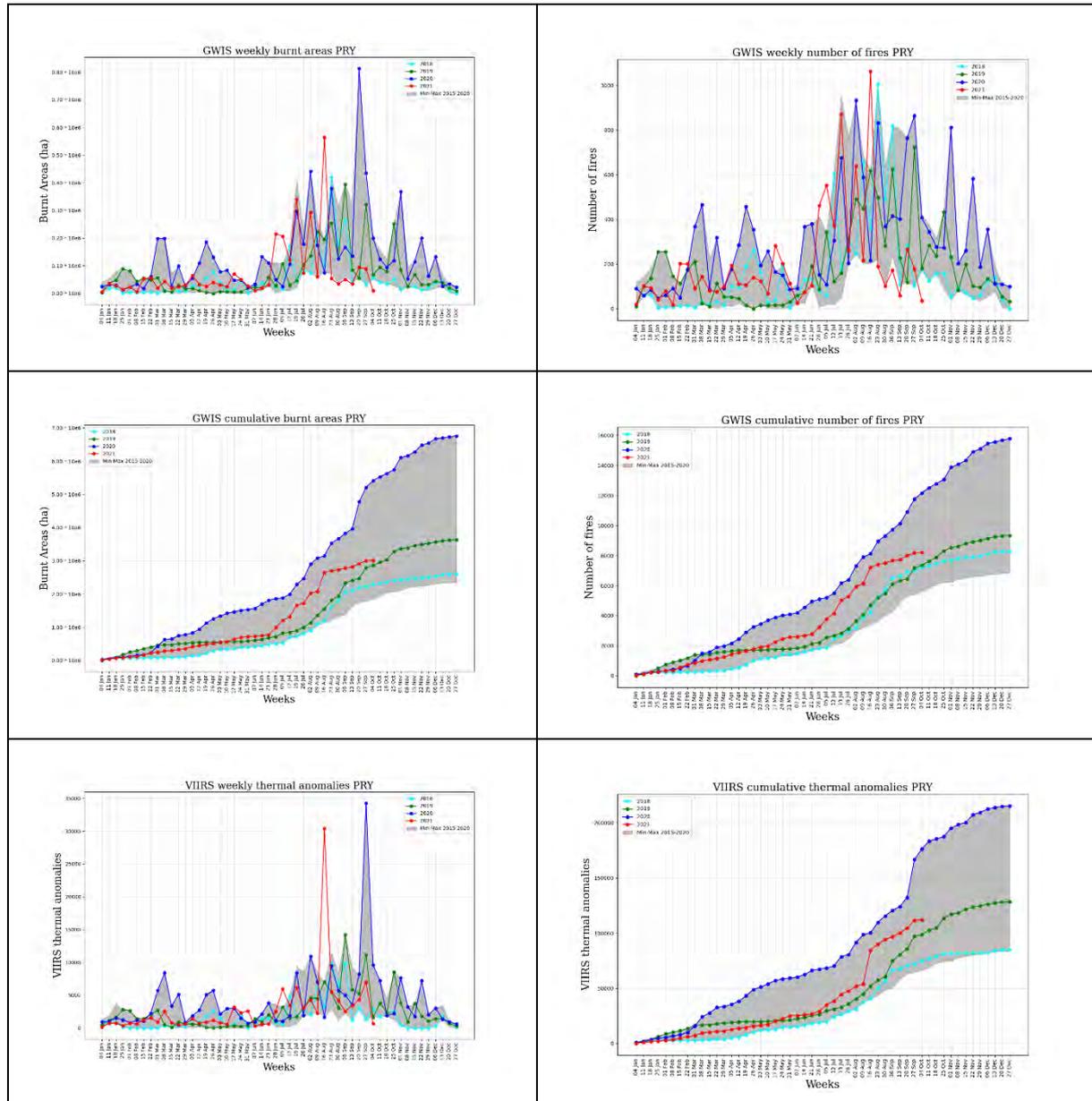


Figure 6. Trend of burnt areas, number of fires and thermal anomalies as compared to data in the last 6 years.

## 6 Wildfires in Peru

Figure 7 shows the trends on the extent of burnt areas and the number of fires since January 1, 2021, produced by the Near-Real Time (NRT) fire analysis in GWIS. The last row shows the evolution of active hot spots (thermal anomalies) detected by the satellite sensor VIIRS. A total of 1.98 Mha burnt in Peru since January 1 until October 10, 2021, the second highest value since 2015 for the same period, lower than 2020. Approximately, 30,113 ha burnt in the last week, the second lowest value of the last 6 years for the same week. The number of thermal anomalies until October 10, 2021 (50,985) shows a typical trend in the region. 1,102 thermal anomalies registered last week, increasing after the last week.

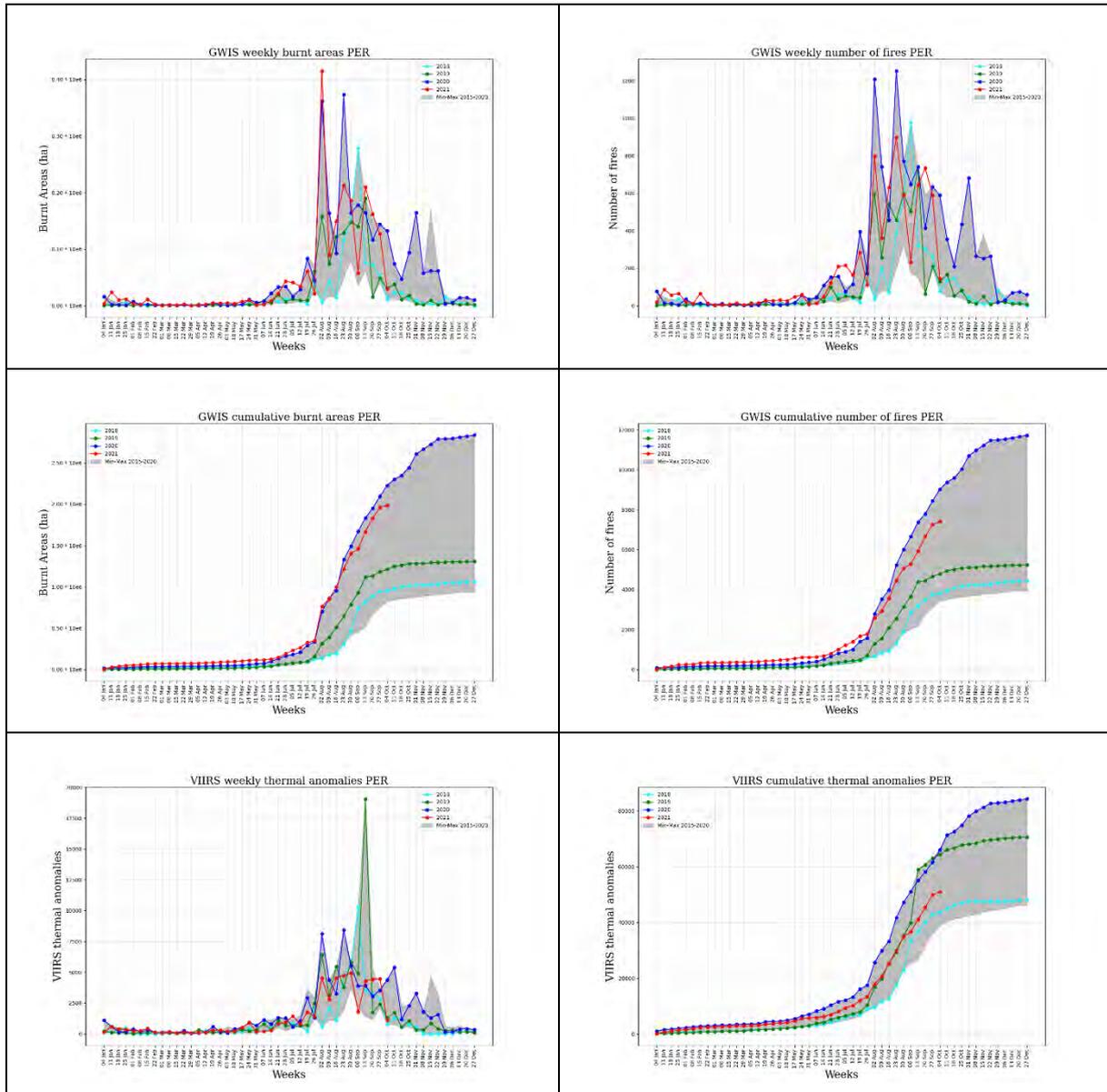


Figure 7. Trend of burnt areas, number of fires and thermal anomalies as compared to data in the last 6 years.

## 7 Wildfires in Venezuela

Figure 8 shows the trends on the extent of burnt areas and the number of fires since January 1, 2021, produced by the Near-Real Time (NRT) fire analysis in GWIS. The last row shows the evolution of active hot spots (thermal anomalies) detected by the satellite sensor VIIRS. A total of 4.18 Mha burnt in Venezuela since January 1 until October 10, 2021, with 7,324 ha burnt in the last week. These values are below the values of 2019 and 2020. The number of fires recorded in GWIS in the last week was 38. The number of thermal anomalies until October 10, 2021 (131,668) shows a typical trend in the region. 1,703 thermal anomalies were recorded by VIIRS during the last week.

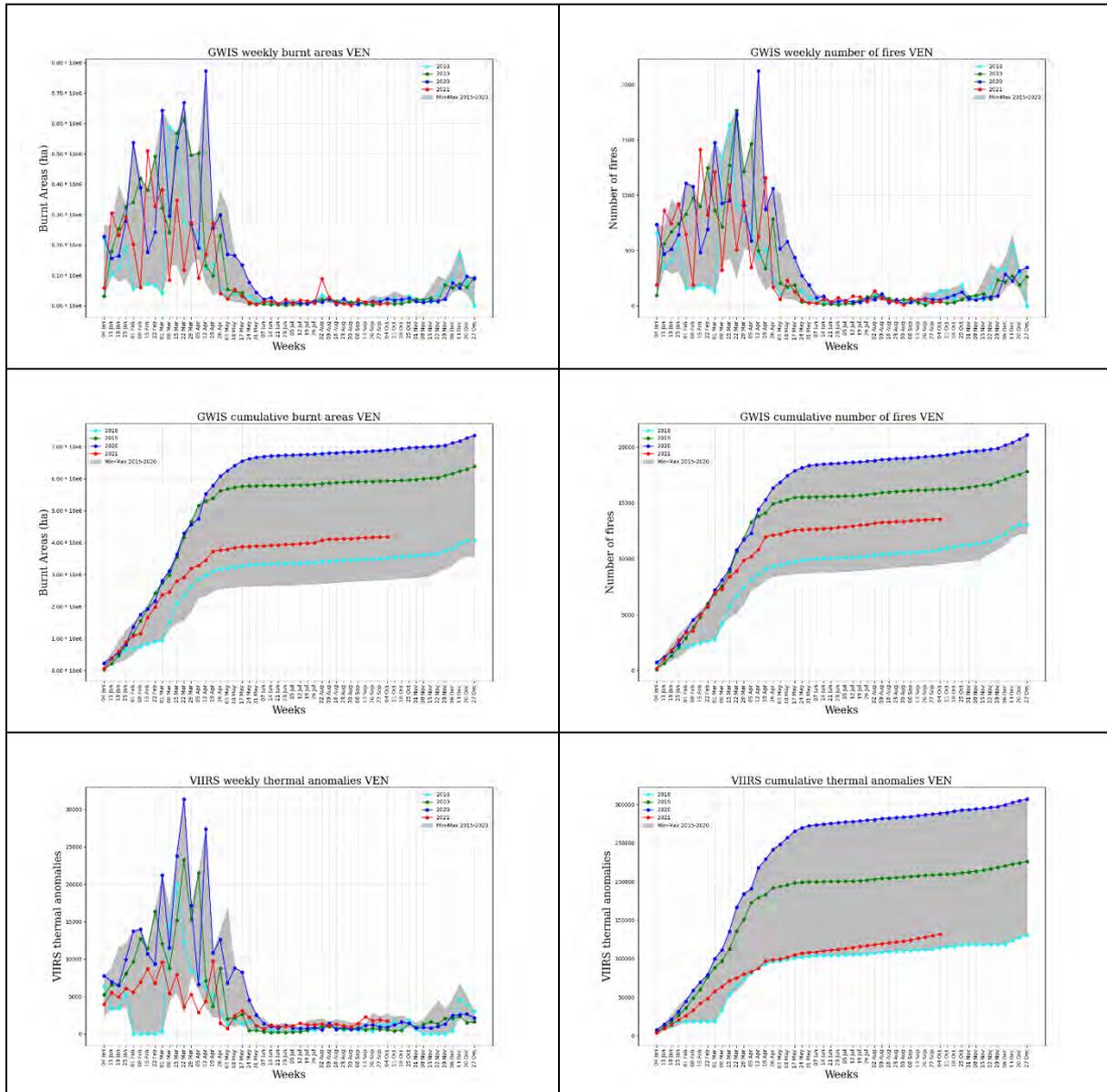


Figure 8. Trend of burnt areas, number of fires and thermal anomalies as compared to data in the last 6 years.

## 8 Wildfires in Chile

Figure 9 shows the trends on the extent of burnt areas and the number of fires since January 1, 2021, produced by the Near-Real Time (NRT) fire analysis in GWIS. The last row shows the evolution of active hot spots (thermal anomalies) detected by the satellite sensor VIIRS. A total of 451,497 ha burnt in Chile since January 1 until October 10, 2021, with 4,104 ha burnt in the last week. The number of fires recorded in GWIS in the last week was 25, while the number of fires remains above the numbers of the last 6 years. The number of thermal anomalies until October 10, 2021 (13,372) shows a typical trend in the region as compared to the trends during previous years. 291 thermal anomalies were detected by VIIRS during the last week, which is similar to the values in the same week during previous years.

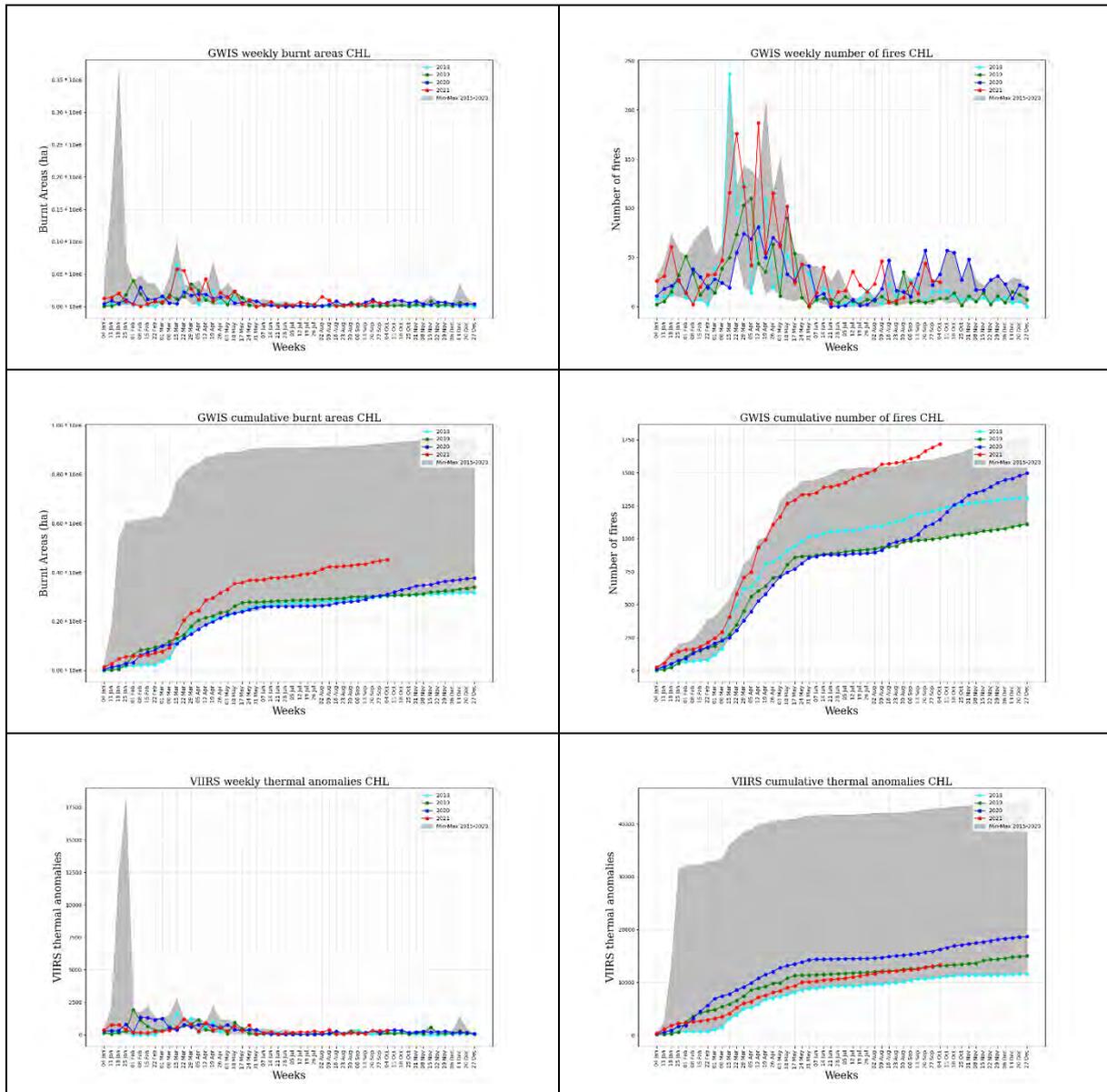


Figure 9. Trend of burnt areas, number of fires and thermal anomalies as compared to data in the last 6 years.

## 9 Wildfires in Argentina

Figure 10 shows the trends on the extent of burnt areas and the number of fires since January 1, 2021, produced by the Near-Real Time (NRT) fire analysis in GWIS. The last row shows the evolution of active hot spots (thermal anomalies) detected by the satellite sensor VIIRS. A total of 3.80 Mha burnt in Argentina since January 1 until October 10, 2021, with 56,297 ha burnt in the last week. These values are one of the lowest in the last 6 years for the same week. The number of fires recorded in GWIS in the last week was 220. The number of thermal anomalies until October 10, 2021 (128,607) shows a typical trend in the region. 3,596 thermal anomalies were recorded by VIIRS during the last week.

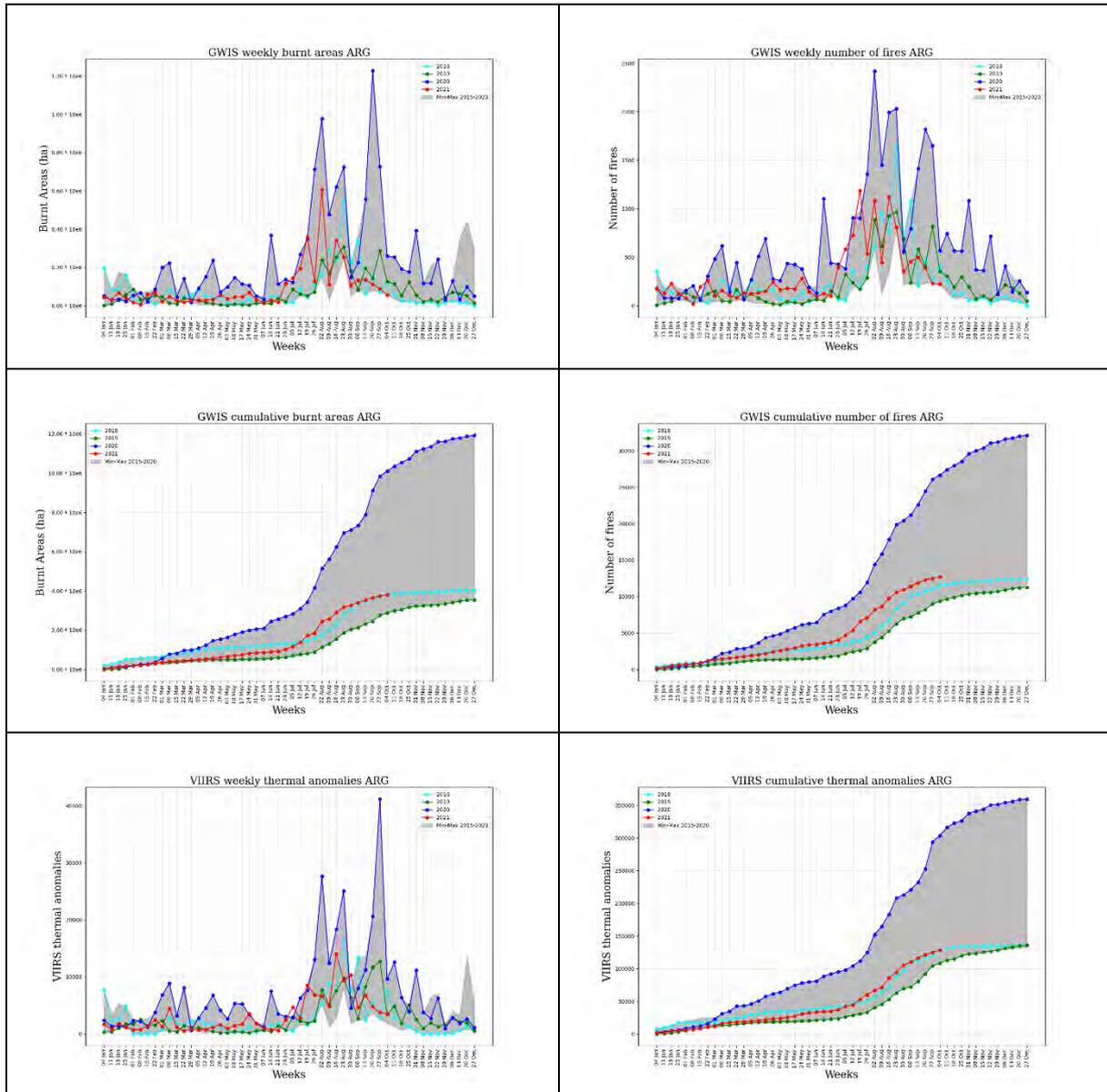


Figure 10. Trend of burnt areas, number of fires and thermal anomalies as compared to data in the last 6 years.

## 10 Wildfires in Ecuador

Figure 11 shows the trends on the extent of burnt areas and the number of fires since January 1, 2021 produced by the Near-Real Time (NRT) fire analysis in GWIS. The last row shows the evolution of active hot spots (thermal anomalies) detected by the satellite sensor VIIRS. A total of 105,175 ha burnt in Ecuador since January 1 until October 10, 2021, with 15,131 ha burnt in the last week. The number of fires recorded in GWIS in the last week was 75. The trends of the areas burnt and the number of fires in the country are similar to those of the previous 6 years. The number of thermal anomalies until October 10, 2021 (3,273) shows a typical trend in the region. 464 thermal anomalies were detected by VIIRS in the last week.

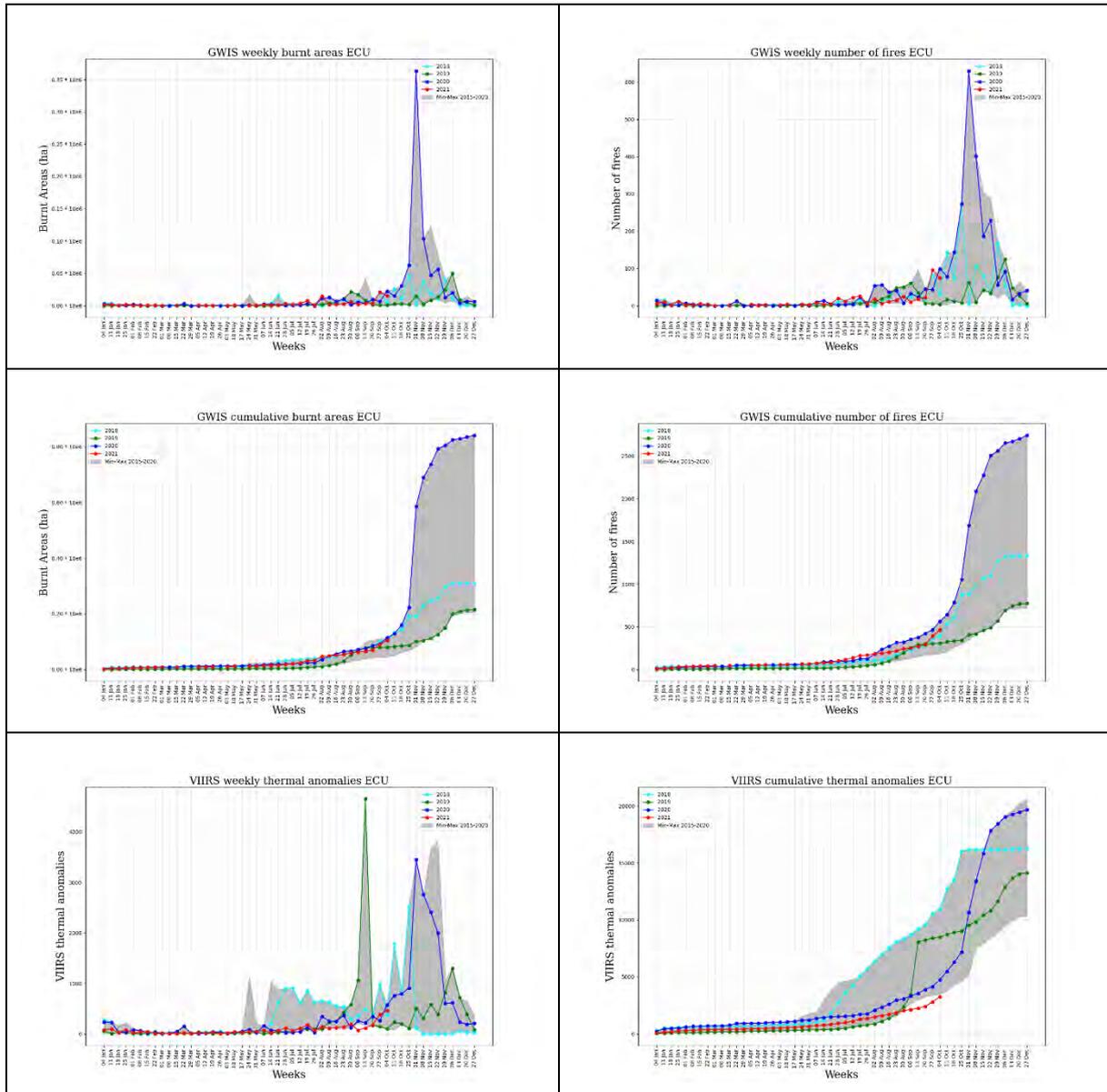


Figure 11. Trend of burnt areas, number of fires and thermal anomalies as compared to data in the last 6 years.

# 11 Wildfires in Uruguay

Figure 12 shows the trends on the extent of burnt areas and the number of fires since January 1, 2021 produced by the Near-Real Time (NRT) fire analysis in GWIS. The last row shows the evolution of active hot spots (thermal anomalies) detected by the satellite sensor VIIRS. A total of 48,487 ha burnt in Uruguay since January 1 until October 10, 2021, with 712 ha burnt last week, which is a low value compared with the same weekly value in the previous year. 88 fires were recorded last week. The number of thermal anomalies until October 10, 2021 (1,808) shows a typical trend in the region.

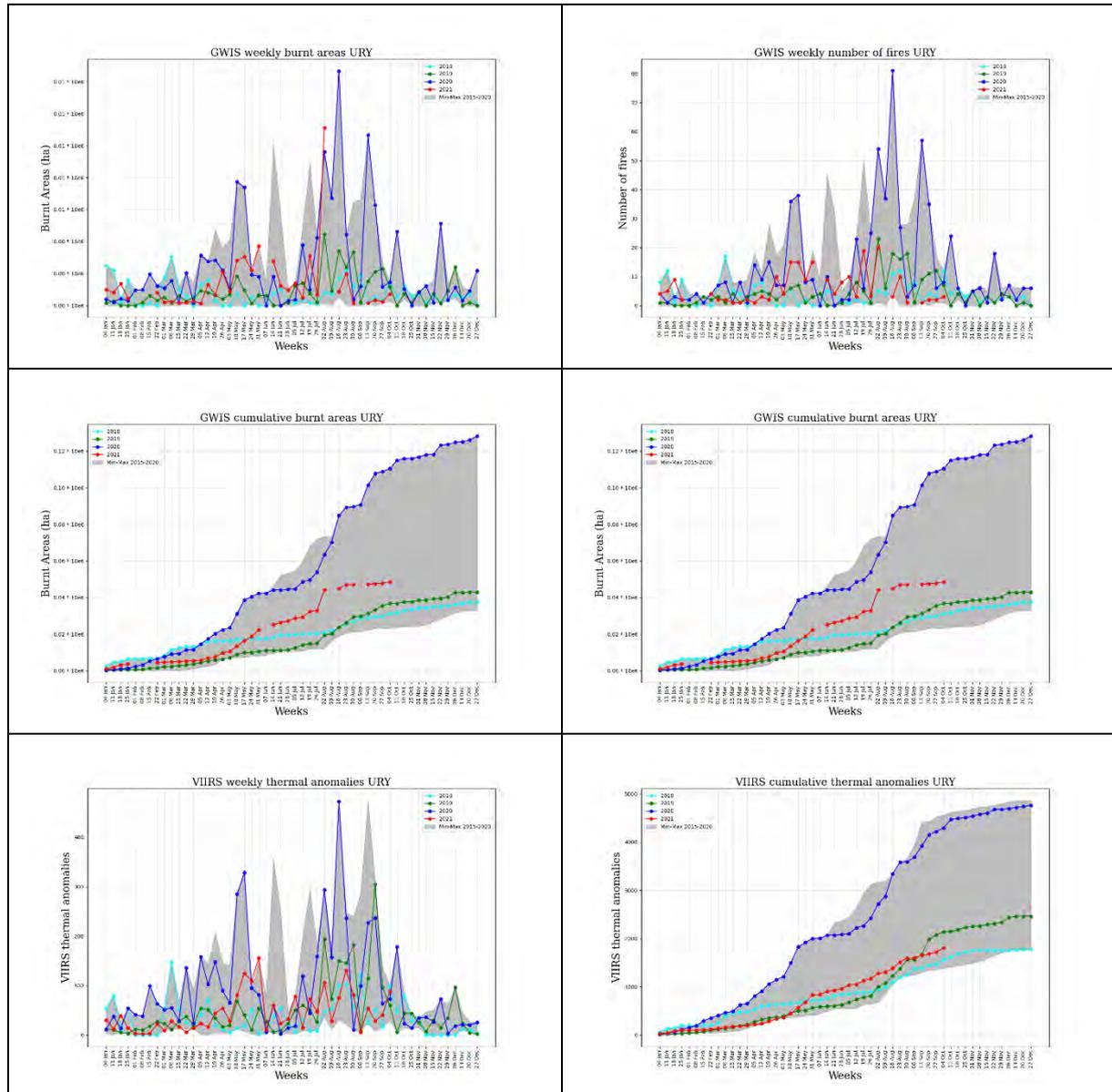


Figure 12. Trend of burnt areas, number of fires and thermal anomalies as compared to data in the last 6 years.

## 12 Wildfires in French Guiana

Figure 13 shows the trends on the extent of burnt areas and the number of fires since January 1, 2021, produced by the Near-Real Time (NRT) fire analysis in GWIS. The last row shows the evolution of active hot spots (thermal anomalies) detected by the satellite sensor VIIRS. A total of 893 ha burnt since January 1 until October 10, 2021, in French Guiana, 1 fire was recorded last week. The number of thermal anomalies until October 10, 2021 (163) shows a typical trend in the region as compared to the trends during previous years. 46 thermal anomalies were detected by VIIRS during the last week, which is similar to the values in the same week during previous years.

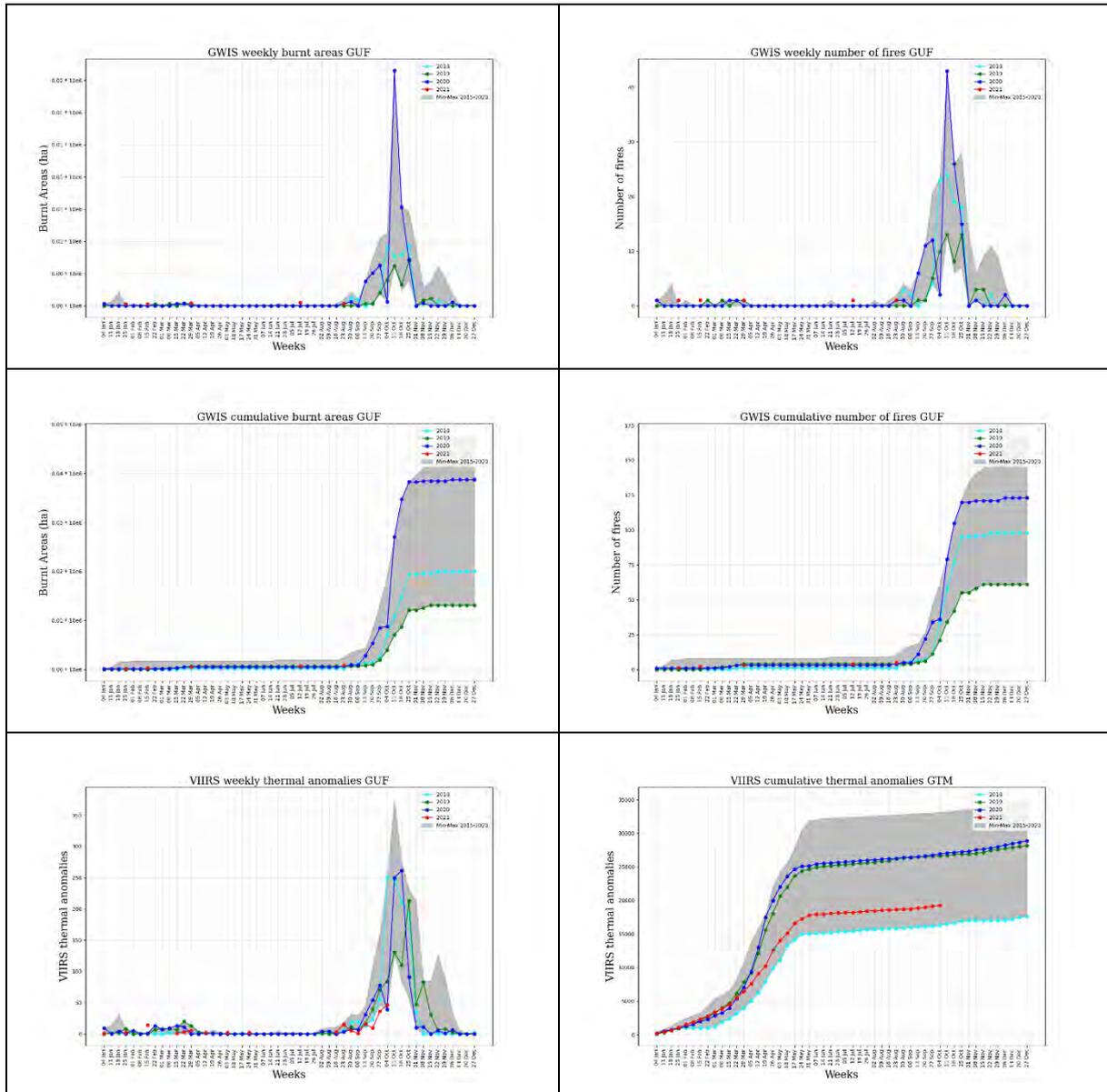


Figure 13. Trend of burnt areas, number of fires and thermal anomalies as compared to data in the last 6 years.

### 13 Wildfires in Guyana

Figure 14 shows the trends on the extent of burnt areas and the number of fires since January 1, 2021 produced by the Near-Real Time (NRT) fire analysis in GWIS. The last row shows the evolution of active hot spots (thermal anomalies) detected by the satellite sensor VIIRS. A total of 61,694 ha burnt in Guyana since January 1 until October 10, 2021, with 621 ha burnt and 3 fires recorded last week. The total number of thermal anomalies until October 10, 2021 (22,594) are the lowest of the last 6 years. 201 thermal anomalies were detected by VIIRS during the last week, which is similar to the values in the same week during previous years.

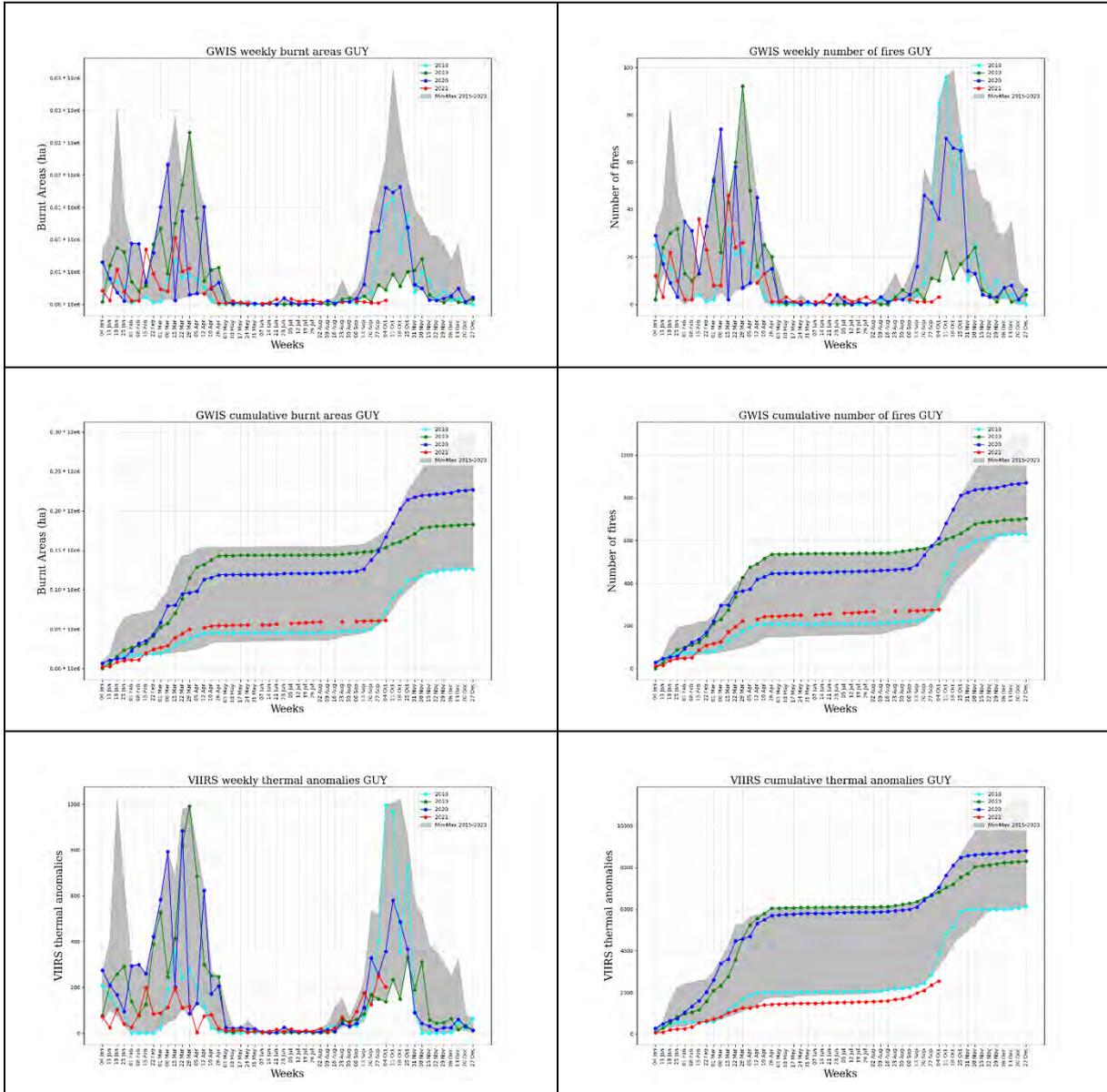


Figure 14. Trend of burnt areas, number of fires and thermal anomalies as compared to data in the last 6 years.

# 14 Wildfires in Suriname

Figure 15 shows the trends on the extent of burnt areas and the number of fires since January 1, 2021, produced by the Near-Real Time (NRT) fire analysis in GWIS. The last row shows the evolution of active hot spots (thermal anomalies) detected by the satellite sensor VIIRS. A total of 4,558 ha burnt in Suriname since January 1 until October 10, 2021. One fire was recorded last week. The total number of fires since the beginning of the year is 21. The number of thermal anomalies until October 10, 2021 (411) shows a typical trend in the region. 103 thermal anomalies were registered last week.

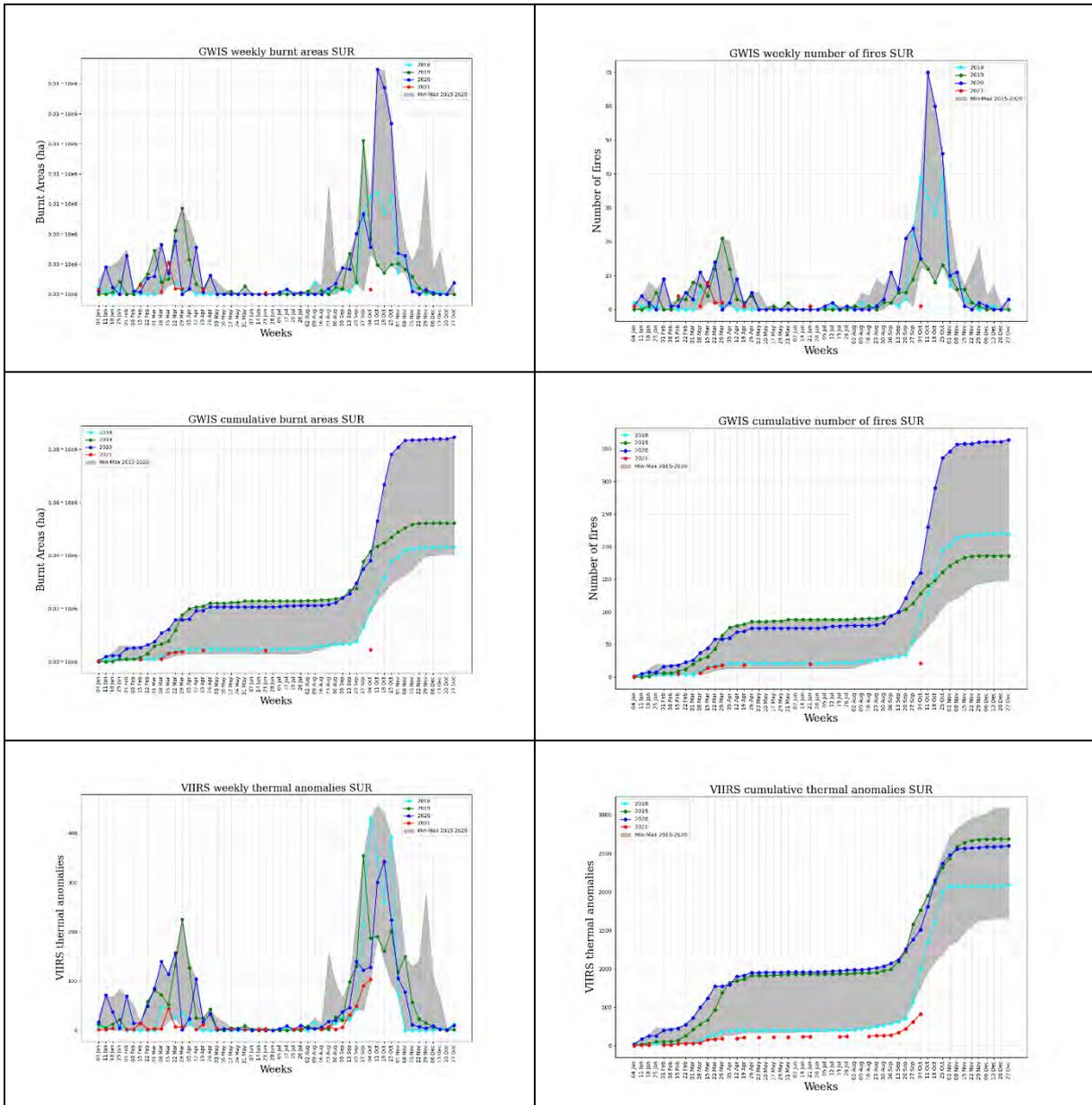


Figure 15. Trend of burnt areas, number of fires and thermal anomalies as compared to data in the last 6 years.

## 15 Fire danger and fire weather forecast in the Amazon region

This section provides information on the fire danger forecast in the Amazon region for the current week. High levels of fire danger facilitate fire ignitions and the propagation of ongoing fires. Figure 16 provides the average fire danger for the week of October 11 to October 17, 2021. This information is based on the daily fire danger forecast that is provided online in GWIS<sup>3</sup>. According to the forecast, it is expected that fire danger conditions will continue to be very high to extreme in eastern part of Brazil, eastern Bolivia, northern Chile and Paraguay, and across Argentina.

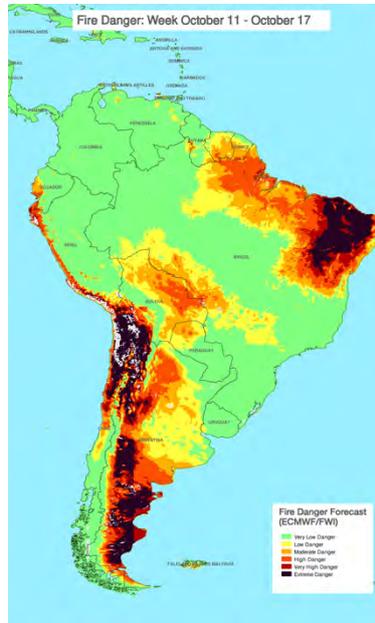


Figure 16. Average Fire danger forecast of the current week, October 11- October 17, 2021.

The weekly weather forecast of temperature and precipitation anomalies are presented in Figure 17. Below average temperatures are forecasted for areas of northern Brazil and eastern Argentina. Above average temperatures are forecasted in Bolivia, north and eastern Brazil, southern Argentina and Peru. The models estimate below average precipitation for next week in Paraguay and southeastern Brazil. An above average precipitation is expected in northern Brazil, while below average is expected in Northern Bolivia.

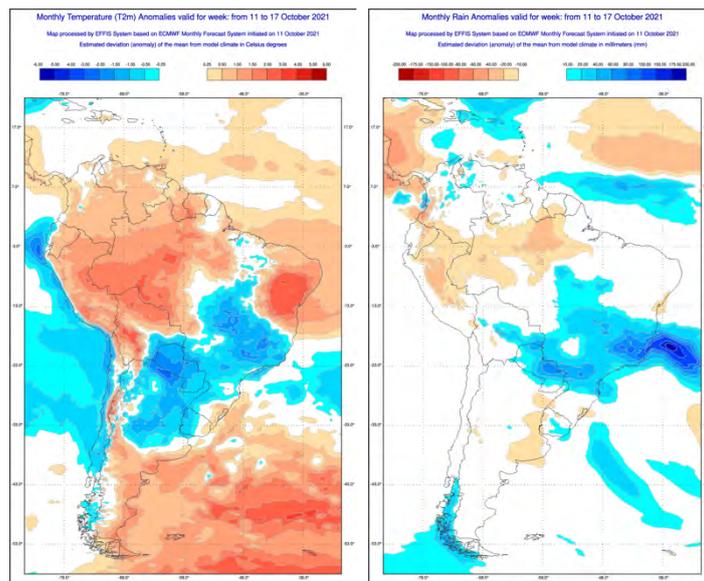


Figure 17. Temperature and rain anomalies of the current week, October 11- October 17, 2021.

<sup>3</sup> [https://gwis.jrc.ec.europa.eu/static/gwis\\_current\\_situation/public/index.html](https://gwis.jrc.ec.europa.eu/static/gwis_current_situation/public/index.html)

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