The authors have adequately addressed my comments. However, I believe that some concerns remain, particularly regarding the spatial maps in Figures 3a, 3b, and 6b. In Figure 3a, the color differences in the ranges of 0–0.6 and above 2–3 appear difficult to distinguish. Similarly, in Figure 3b, the color representation in the range of 6–10 appears nearly black, obscuring potential variations within this interval. A similar concern applies to Figure 6b.

Although the authors thoughtfully reviewed these figures with a colorblind co-author and a digital filter, color vision deficiencies are highly variable. To ensure universal accessibility, I recommend updating these figures using a colorblind-friendly palette or adding distinct visual cues to improve the differentiation of values.

These are minor, presentation-related concerns and do not affect my overall assessment of the scientific content. I recommend acceptance of the manuscript after this minor revision.

We thank the reviewer for this final comment. We have updated the colour bars such that there is now more distinction in the highlighted ranges. We have also put the new figures through a colourblind filter and confirm they are suitable.

Figure 3 has been updated as seen below. The contrast between 0-0.6 and 2-3 in Figure 3a has been improved and DRR has been corrected to DDR. The colour bar used in Figure 3b now incorporates a third colour to make the sequential increase in drought duration clearer and to add more contrast across the 6-10 range.

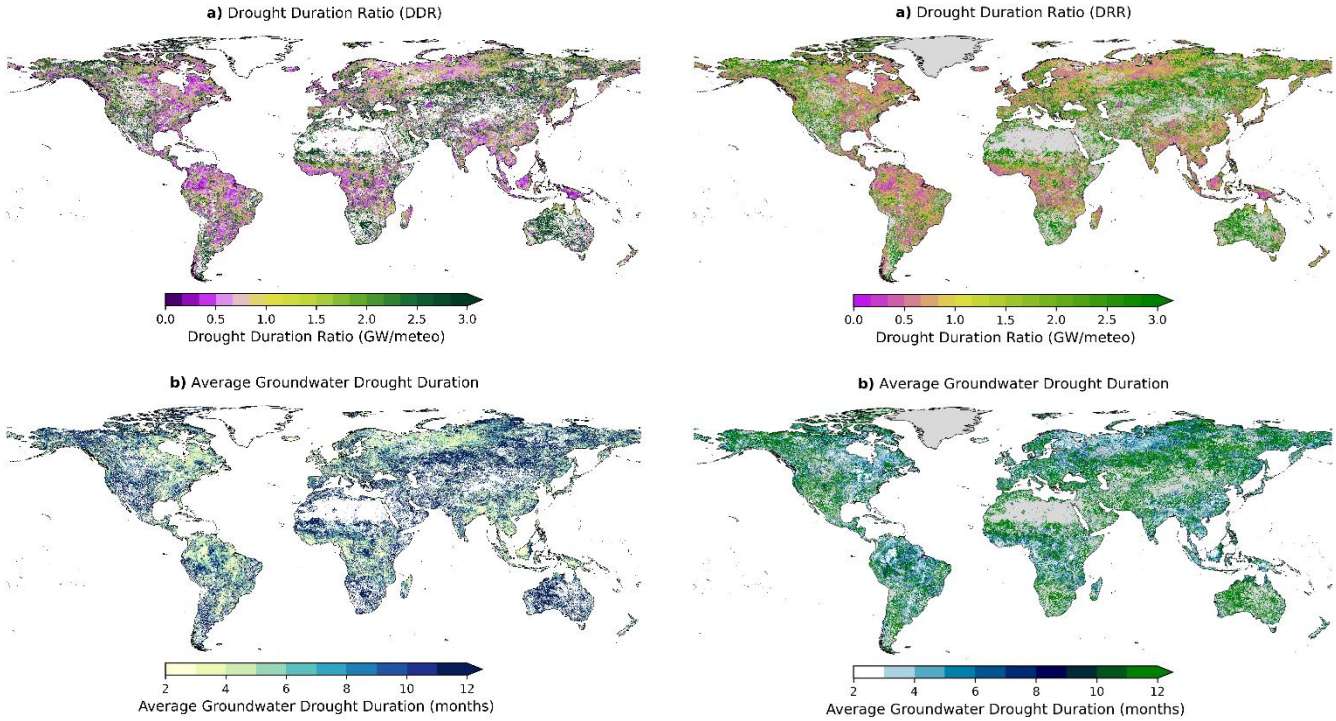


Figure 1. Left: updated Figure 3 using colour bars with increased contrast. Right: old plots from original manuscript.

We have also updated the colour bar used in Figure 6b to improve the contrast between low and high values.

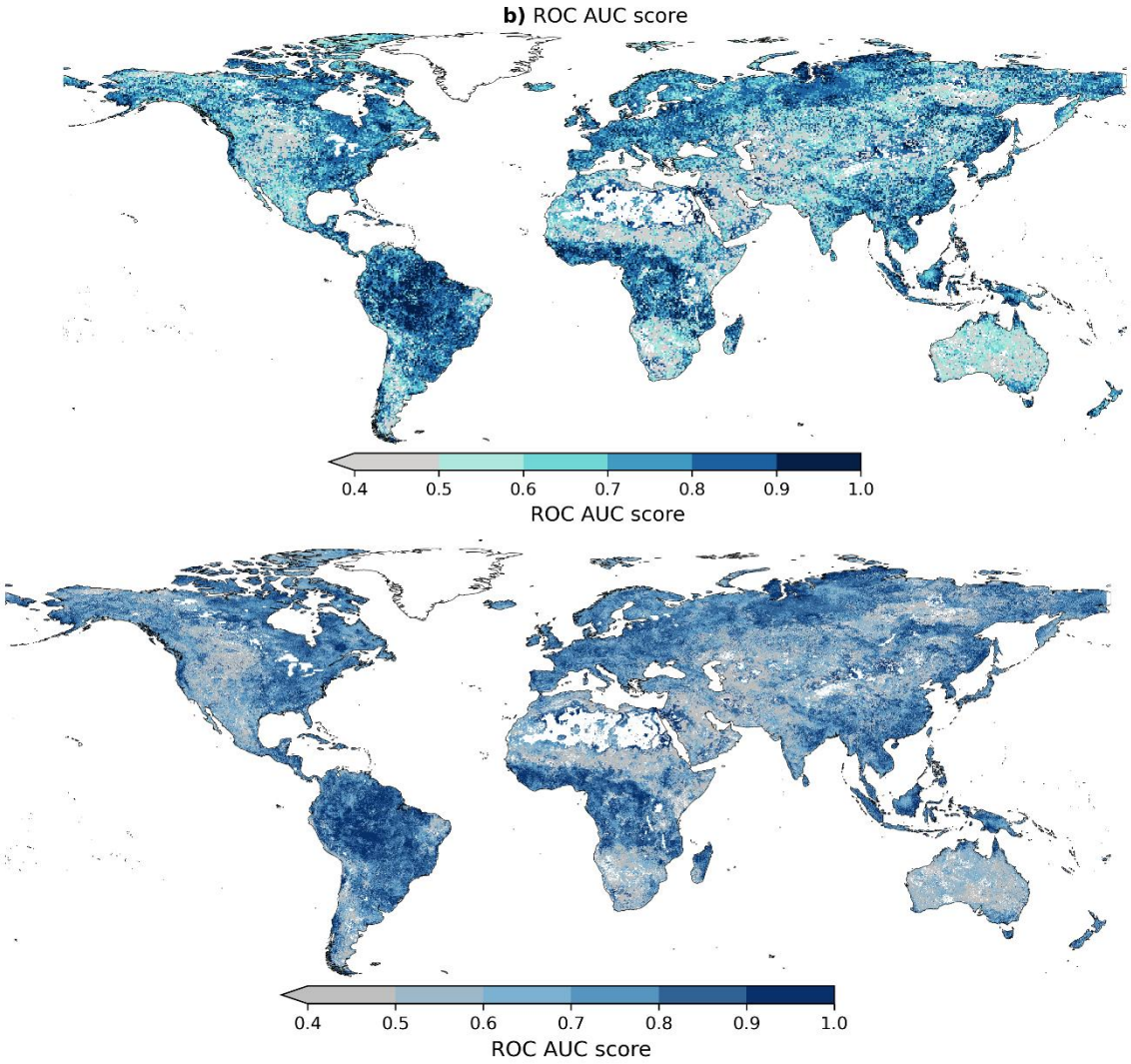


Figure 2. Top: Updated Figure 6 including new colour bar with increased contrast between high and low values. Bottom: old plot from original manuscript.