

**RWENZORI MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK UGANDA
& PARC NATIONAL DES VIRUNGAS, CONGO
1:100,000 (A1 SIZE) WITH INSETS AT 1:65,000**

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Many tropical mountains have evidence of glaciation at the LGM, and some show traces of both previous and later glaciations. Except in the Andes, few are now glacierised. The three major East African mountains have all these features and they are especially well developed in the Rwenzori Mountains. This map displays in an exceptionally detailed way the moraines, tills and valley forms of three Pleistocene and two Holocene glaciations. Complementing this are inset maps at a larger scale showing the extents of the rapidly retreating glaciers at different dates in the last century.

The earliest glaciation of which there is evidence was in the nature of an ice cap with an extent of about 500 km² (about half of the area of the National Parks), before the major valleys had been excavated. This has left spreads of till and frontal moraines on present-day interfluves in some parts of the mountain. At the LGM the greatest extent of the glaciers is marked by a belt of about 72 pairs of large valley moraines which show that ice covered about 260 km². Lesser Holocene glacier extensions occurred several thousand years ago and again recently in perhaps the 'Little Ice Age'. Careful estimations of the ELA indicate that on these occasions it formed a domed trend surface at about 4,000 m a.s.l., tilted down towards the East. Since the latter the glaciers have been retreating fast. A century ago they covered nearly 8 km², half a century ago they covered 4 km², and a decade ago they covered less than 2 km². This retreat has occurred not only at their termini but also round the margins of the accumulation area, and there have been major losses by thinning. At this rate it seems unlikely that they will survive many decades longer.

The back of the map is entirely covered with information including a more detailed account of the glaciers and glaciations; tables of glacial chronology; records of precipitation; detailed maps of the retreat of selected individual glaciers; maps and sections showing estimated Equilibrium Line Altitudes; and photographs of the main peaks at different dates.

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