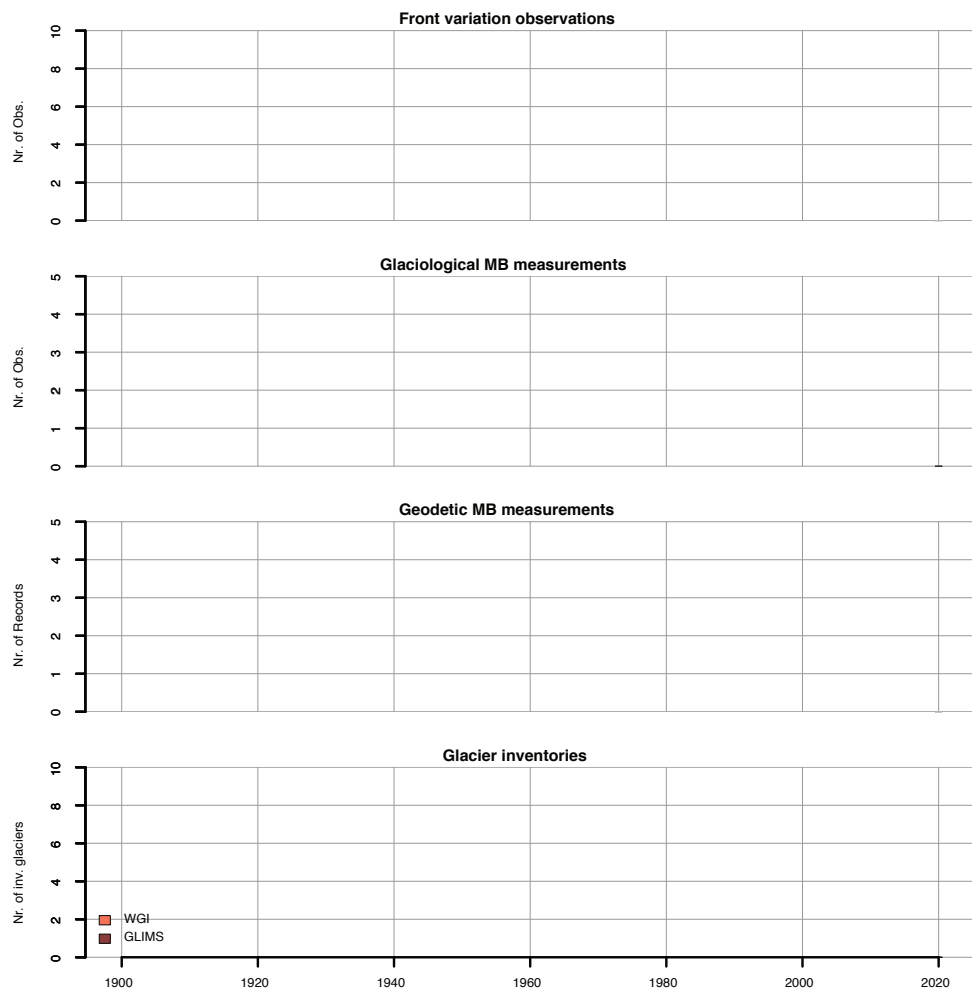


GLACIER MONITORING: JAPAN

Glaciers are lacking in Japan, but the country has a long history in monitoring perennial ice patches.

Available series



In Japan, no glaciers exist, but perennial snow patches. Some of these are monitored and for one a continuous long-term mass balance series exist. No additional information on front variation or inventories is available.

Key statistics

	Front Variation	Mass Balance	Thickness Change
total glaciated area:	0 km ²		
total coverage WGI:	--		
total coverage GLIMS:	--		
Number of series:		73	
Average length [years]:		59	
Average number of observations:		41	

Present state

Monitoring of perennial snow patches.

Ice patches monitored.

No mass balance measurements available except for Hamaguri Yuki ice patch.

No front variation or geodetic observations available.

No inventory available.

Future potential/needs

Continue national monitoring activities and coordination with other countries.

Continue long-term measurement programme at Hamaguri Yuki.

Continue long-term measurement programme at Hamaguri Yuki, evaluate monitoring of other ice patches.

Encourage the use of remotes sensing data for assessing ice patch changes in length and volume.

Compile inventory with remote sensing for 20th/21st century.

Spatial distribution of series

Japan has no glaciers, but perennial snow patches occur on the highest peaks (often volcanoes) around the country. For one snow patch, Hamaguri Yuki, a long-term observation series is available.

