



Decline of Tropical Glaciers in East Africa

[Source: DTE](#)

Recent analysis of high-resolution satellite images for the years 2021-2022 has revealed a concerning trend of **disappearing ice in Africa**, particularly in the **tropical glaciers of East Africa**.

- Tropical glaciers in East Africa, including those in the **Rwenzori Mountains (Uganda / Democratic Republic of Congo), Mount Kenya (Kenya), and Kilimanjaro** (Tanzania), all within 3° latitude of the equator have significantly reduced in size.
- Kilimanjaro has retained only 8.6% of its glacier area since 1900, Mount Kenya 4.2%, and the Rwenzori Range 5.8%.
 - Studies indicate that more than 90% of the modern glacier extent in East Africa has disappeared by the early 2020s.
 - **Mount Kilimanjaro** is the tallest mountain on the African continent and the **highest free-standing mountain in the world** (5,895 meters above sea level).
- The study underscores the critical importance of **tropical glaciers as indicators of climate variability and climate change**, emphasizing the urgent need for further research and conservation efforts in the face of this environmental challenge.
- Tropical glaciers are typically located near the **Equator and within the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ)**, making them sensitive to climate variations.
 - The ITCZ is where the trade winds of the Northern and Southern Hemispheres converge near the equator.

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