



The Impact of Climate change on Glaciation, in the Rwenzoli mts National Park, Uganda.

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Rwenzori Mountains National Park commonly referred to as “Mountains of the Moon”, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Uganda, known for its vegetation, ranging from tropical rainforest through alpine meadows to snow; and for animal population, like forest elephants, primates and endemic birds. However a subject of concern is the impact of climate change on Rwenzori’s glaciers. In 1906 the Rwenzori had 43 glaciers distributed over 6 mountains with a total area of 7.5km². Now, less than half of these survive, on only 3 mountains, with an area of about 1.5 km². Similarly the area covered now by ice and snow is less than 4km², while in the earliest glaciations, it covered half the area of the Rwenzoli mts (996 km²). Consequently the vegetation has changed, the soils are acidic and infertile and some parts have been modified by tuff spread from the explosion craters, creating a need to invest in climate change mitigation technologies.

Key words: Climate change, Glaciation, Rwenzoli mts National Park, Uganda