



Our Changing Climate

Vanishing Ice Cap of Mt. Kilimanjaro

Mt. Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain, is located 300 km (186 miles) south of the equator in Tanzania. The surrounding forest belt has a rich diversity of ecosystems and hosts a very large diversity of species, but of greater concern are the glaciers atop the mountain.

In 1976 glaciers covered most of the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro, yet by 2000 the glaciers had receded alarmingly. An estimated 82 per cent of the icecap

that crowned the mountain when it was first thoroughly surveyed in 1912 is now gone, and the remaining ice is thinning as well—by as much as a metre per year in one area. If recession continues at the present rate, some projections suggest the majority of the remaining glaciers on Kilimanjaro could vanish in the next 15 years. Mt. Kilimanjaro's disappearing glaciers are believed to be linked to climate change.