



# Our Changing Climate

## Retreating Rwenzori Glaciers

The Rwenzori range is located at the equator on the Democratic Republic of the Congo-Uganda border in East Africa. The entire range consists of six ice-capped mountains and is about 120 km (75 miles) long and 65 km (40 miles) wide with Margherita Peak its highest point at 5 109 m (16 762 ft). A study of the mountains has revealed that the glaciers are in massive retreat and are receding tens of meters each year. A century ago they covered nearly 6.5

km<sup>2</sup> (2.4 square miles) of the mountains. Now less than 1 km<sup>2</sup> (0.3 square miles) of ice remains). The study found a clear trend of increasing air temperature to be the main cause. If the trend continues these glaciers will disappear within the next two decades. The Rwenzori Range is known for its diverse vegetation ranging from tropical rainforest to alpine meadows, and for its animal population including forest elephants, several primate species, and many endemic birds.