

Ecuador

Antizana 15 Alpha

Terrestrial Domain



“The glacier monitoring on the Antizana volcano dating back to 1956 is a reference for South America and is fundamental to understand the regional effects of climate change.”

– Bolívar Cáceres, Coordinator Glacier Programme Ecuador, INAMHI



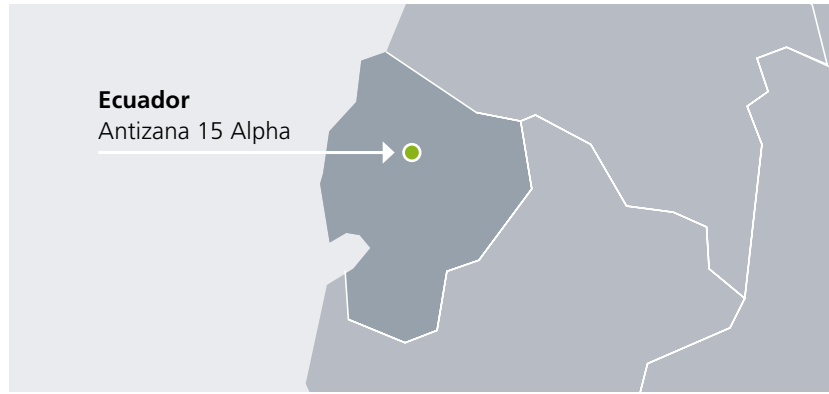
Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Office of Meteorology and Climatology MeteoSwiss
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

CATCOS 
Capacity Building and Twinning for Climate Observing Systems

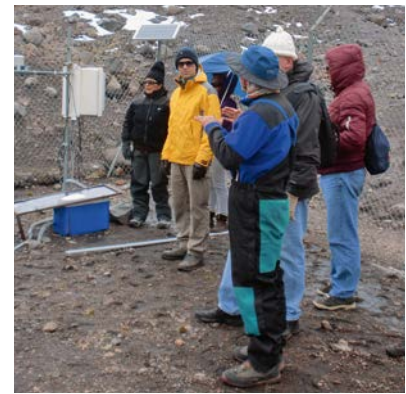
Glaciers in the tropical Andes are known to be particularly sensitive to climate change. Due to the absence of seasonality, ice on the lowest part of the glaciers melts all year round. First aerial observations on the Antizana 15 Alpha glacier date back to 1956, whereas the first direct measurements were carried out in 1994. The glacier's annual mass balance is strongly influenced by the El Niño/La Niña phenomena.



As part of the CATCOS Project, glaciological mass balance monitoring at Antizana 15 Alpha glacier is continued and complemented with new aerial observations. This is possible thanks to the close collaboration of the National Hydrometeorological Service of Ecuador (INAMHI) and the University of Zurich (UZH). The pairing of remote and on-site measuring techniques allows the submission of high-quality data to the designated International Data Center, the World Glacier Monitoring Service (WGMS) in Switzerland.

Glacier Name	Antizana 15 Alpha
Mountain Range	Antizana Volcano
Parameter	Glacier mass balance
Monitoring Network	Global Terrestrial Network for Glaciers (GTN-G)
International Data Center	World Glacier Monitoring Service (WGMS)
Training	On-site support and twinning Regional training course in Bolivia

To ensure the sustainable continuation of observations at the Antizana 15 Alpha glacier, on-site training as well as twinning activities by the Ecuadorian and Swiss partner institutions are performed. The obtained data are analyzed and published in a combined effort in order to inform local stakeholders of the importance of high-quality glacier data. A regional training course on glacier monitoring further enhances the capacities of local scientists in both field and office work.



Federal Office of Meteorology and Climatology MeteoSwiss
 Operation Center 1
 P. O. Box 257
 CH-8058 Zurich-Airport
 international@meteoswiss.ch
 www.meteoswiss.ch/catcos

Picture credits:
 MeteoSwiss (front, right)
 INAMHI (left)