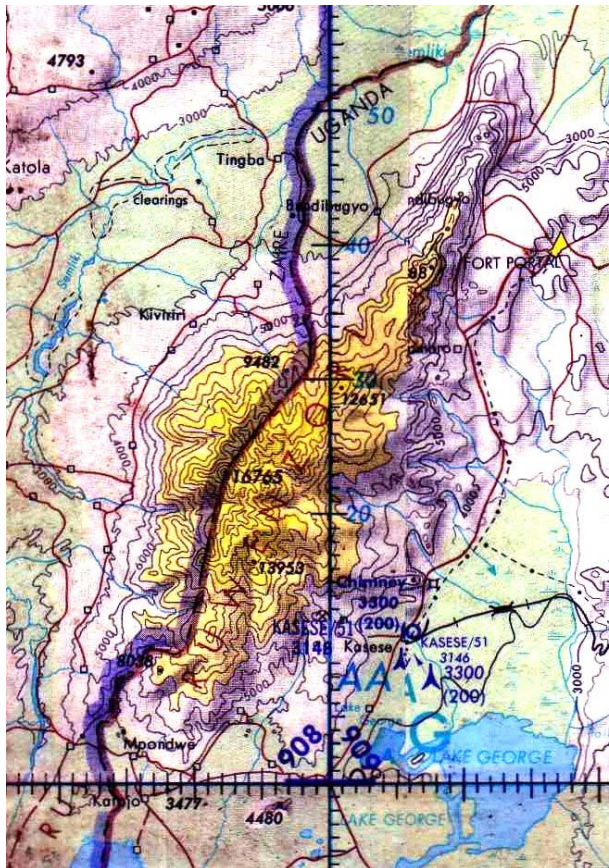
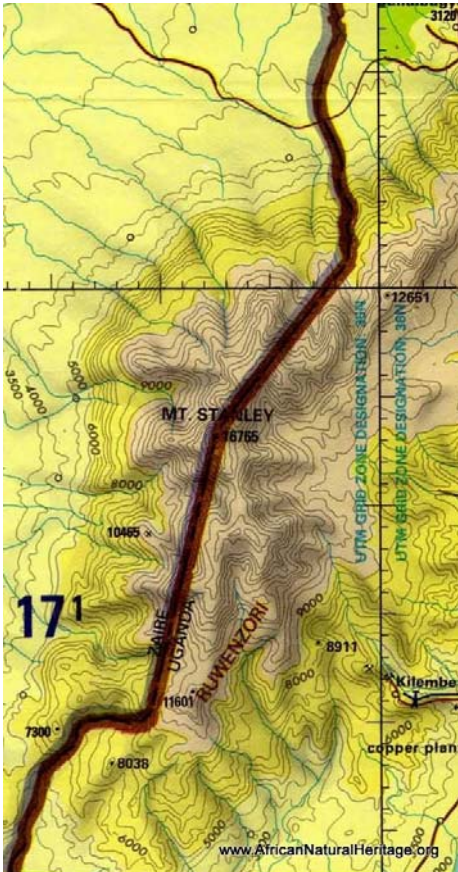
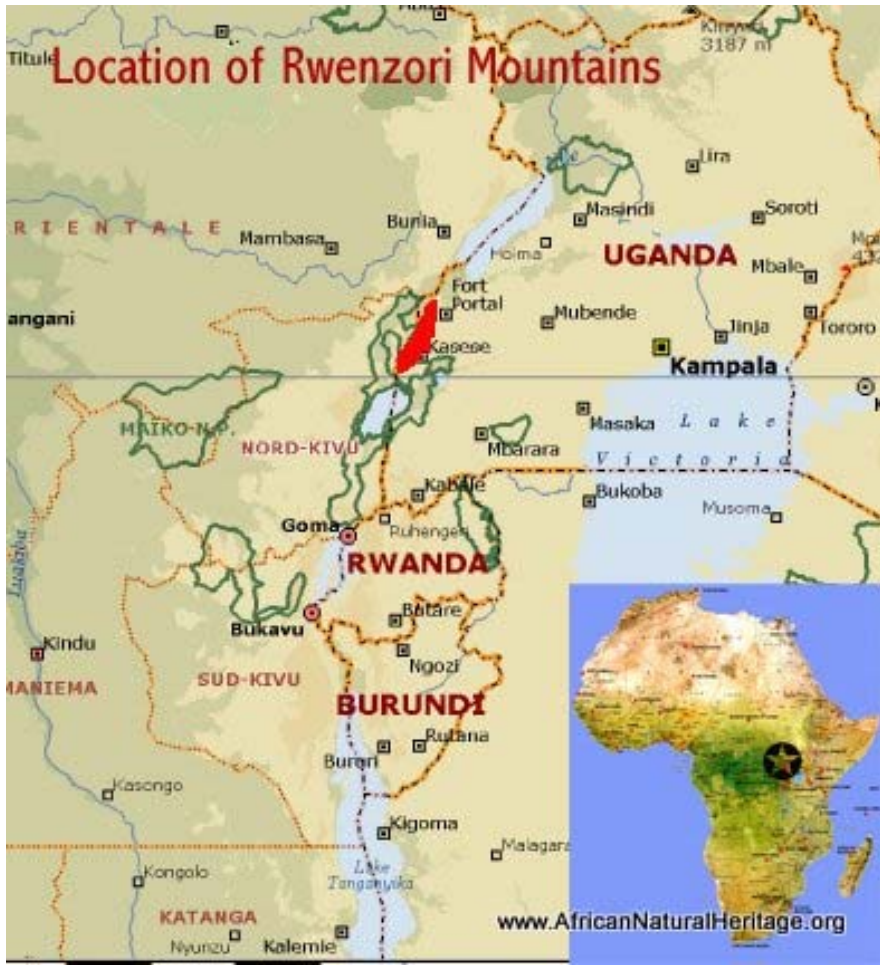


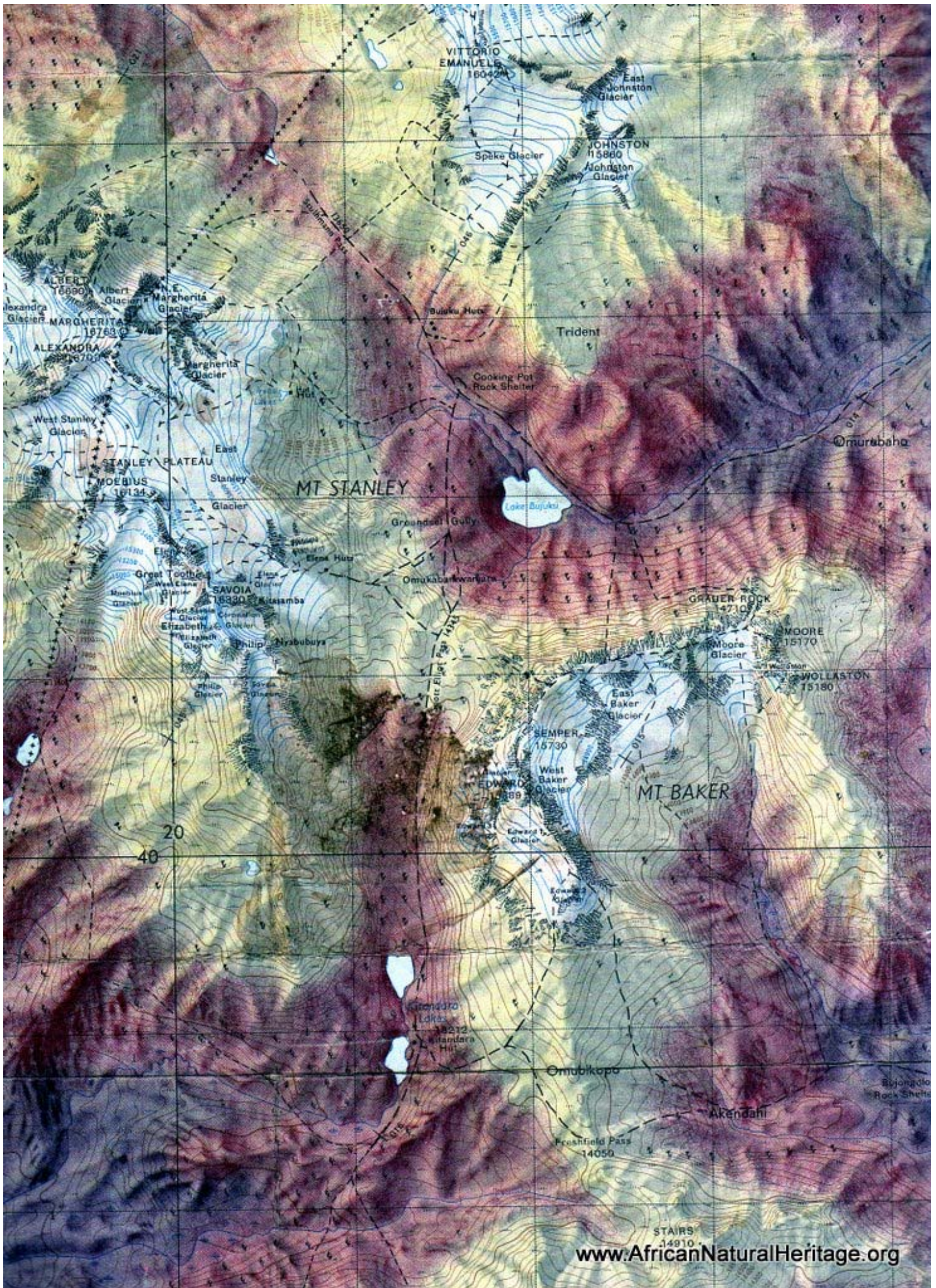
Maps and Satellite Images of the Rwenzori Mountains National Park (World Heritage Site)

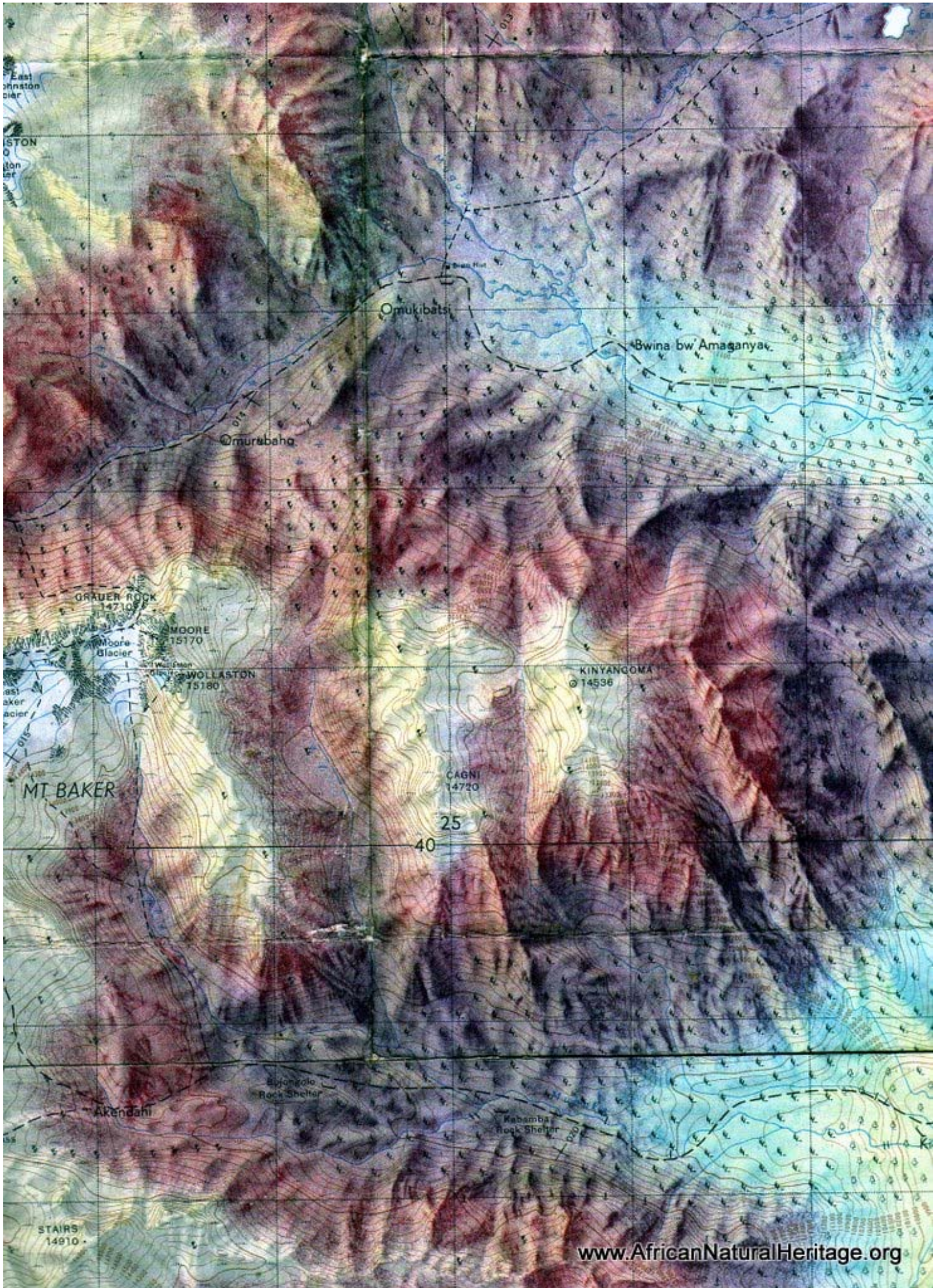




Map of western Uganda and eastern Congo showing the location of the Rwenzori Mountains National Park and road networks in the region (from the Map Studio Road Atlas of Southern and East Africa)

BELOW: Detailed topographic maps of the central Rwenzori from the 1:25,000 scale special hiking sheet, showing the glaciers and climbing routes for the main peaks (Government of Uganda, 1970. No longer in print)







The main features of the 'central circuit' followed by most hikers in the Rwenzori Mountains. Shelter and overnight accommodation is provided by a network of mountain huts around this circuit, so it is not necessary to carry tents. The hike takes 6-7 days. This map courtesy of Lonely Planet's Guide Book 'Trekking in East Africa'. See also the satellite image of the same area below.



Satellite image showing Lake Victoria (centre) and the principal mountains of East Africa, with the Rwenzori Mountains (left), Mount Kilimanjaro (centre right) and Mount Kenya (top right)



Satellite image of western Uganda and eastern Congo, with part of Africa's western (Albertine) Rift Valley, showing the Rwenzori Mountains featured prominently on the eastern flank of the valley. Nearby, some other protected forests can be clearly seen (in dark green), as 'habitat islands' isolated in a 'sea' of cleared, cultivated land.



Satellite image of the Rwenzori Mountain range, seen from the east, with three snow-capped peaks in the centre of the range (note that white areas over lower-lying areas in the right of the image are clouds)



Satellite image of the central part of the Rwenzori Mountain range, viewed from the east. The snow-capped peaks in the top (centre) of the image are Mount Stanley, Mount Speke and Mount Baker. Margarita peak (5,109m, 16,763ft) represents the third highest peak in Africa (only Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Kenya are higher)



Satellite image of the 'central circuit' used by hikers visiting the principal peaks. Lake Bujuku can be clearly seen between the three main snow-capped peaks of Mount Stanley (left), Mount Speke (top) and Mount Baker (centre). A number of mountain huts provide shelter for climbers undertaking the arduous hike around the central circuit. See also the map of the same area (above) from Lonely Planet's guide to Trekking in East Africa.



View of the Rwenzori Mountain range from the north, with the Semliki Forest occupying the floor of the Rift Valley (right of picture).



The southern part of the Rwenzori range, where a major copper mine was operational at Kilembe until the 1970s



The mining town of Kilembe is located just outside the boundary of the park. Although the mine has not been operational for several decades it has recently been awarded to a foreign company with a view to re-opening the mine.



Satellite image of a section of the eastern boundary of the park (which follows the 7,000 feet contour). Land-use pressure along the boundary is much less intense than around other prominent East African mountains (such as Kilimanjaro and Mount Kenya) due to poor soils, as the Rwenzori owes its origins to tectonic uplift rather than volcanic activity.



The small trading centre at Nyakalengija, in the Mubuku Valley, serves as a base for most hiking trips into the central Rwenzori.