

Kenya

Mount Kenya

Atmospheric Domain

“It is now common knowledge that airborne aerosols affect many aspects of human health and the environment. There is, therefore, the need for the observation of air quality parameters like aerosols.”

– James G. Kongoti, Director KMD



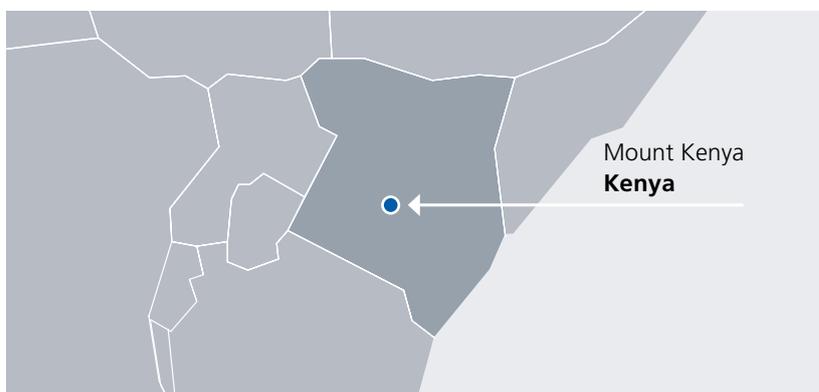
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CATCOS 
Capacity Building and Twinning for Climate Observing Systems

On the upper slopes of Mount Kenya, the Kenyan Meteorological Department (KMD) has been measuring meteorological parameters since 1999. At the same time, the site hosts a Global Station of the Global Atmosphere Watch network. It is the only atmospheric monitoring station located near the equator in Africa measuring carbon dioxide and various trace gases. Due to the remote location, it contributes to a regional understanding of air pollution transport.



As part of the CATCOS Project, measurements at Mount Kenya are complemented with aerosol observations through a close collaboration between KMD and the Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI) in Switzerland. Once the new measuring equipment is installed, standard procedures for operation and quality control are applied. This ensures the submission of high-quality data to the designated International Data Center for aerosols.

Station Name	Mount Kenya (MKN)
Coordinates	0.06°S 37.29°E
Elevation	3'678 m.a.s.l.
Parameter	Aerosols
Monitoring Network	Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW)
International Data Center	World Data Center for Aerosols (WDCA)
Training	On-site support and twinning Working stay in Switzerland

In order to support the sustainable continuation of aerosol observations, particular emphasis is put on capacity building of local partners. On-site training, remote support and a working stay in Switzerland foster the exchange of knowledge between the Kenyan and Swiss partner institutions. In this respect, local station operators and scientists are trained to further develop the capacity in data processing and analysis.



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