

Review of "A century of ice retreat on Kilimanjaro: the mapping reloaded" N.J. Cullen et al.
doi.10.5194/lcd-6-4233-2012

General comments

I find this a solid, thorough and in general well written paper that deserves to be published in TC. The authors give a detailed assessment of the maps and image sources of the glaciers of Kilimanjaro. The glaciers in Kilimanjaro may not have a big importance on a global scale as they represent very little area and volume, but much work has been done and indeed it will be of interest to others. The authors also deserve praise for providing all their map data to GLIMS so they are available for others to use, excellent!

RESPONSE: We appreciate the positive feedback and look forward to posting the mapping products onto GLIMS once the review process is completed. We have made the following changes to the manuscript based on the specific comments and suggested technical corrections.

Specific comments

The paper is well written, but could be even better with adding some commas before but (check all occurrences), fewer adjectives and cut/break up some of the very long sentences. I find also the use of the same references over and over a bit too much, C2273 could be done differently, although the authors clearly seem to know the literature and give proper credits to previous work.

Action: We have made some minor revisions to the text based on the above suggestions.

4238, extremely valuable, a bit too much to use extremely I think, remove, explain the data source, not conclusions here see also 4244

Action: We have made the suggested changes.

4239, 10-11, was it nos also used for the extent?

Action: It was and we have changed this sentence to ensure readers are fully aware of this.

4240, 27, how can it be replaced if it was not used, just say therefore not used or not used.

Action: Text changed.

4244, here extremely valuable is repeated... 4245, honours?

Action: We have removed "extremely" but have retained "honours".

4248, 7-10, could be rewritten and shortened to clarify the message

Action: We agree and have shortened this sentence.

4253, the conclusion section could be shortened, and be less talkative and more direct. no need to have reference here (remove all or most), everything should already be

referred to. Motivation should have been stated in the introduction, acknowledgements placed in the acknowledgements and so on.

Action: The motivation that is reflected on in the Conclusion is also in the Introduction. We think it is critical to make readers aware that early, past work on Kilimanjaro is important to our present understanding, and do not believe this statement is appropriate in the acknowledgements. In this context, we do believe it is still useful to provide the references that we have in the Conclusion. Thus, we have not made the suggested changes to the conclusion.

4259, what does formally mean hear, seems odd, suggest to remove.

Action: Text changed.

4260, table not so easy to read, but maybe this is due to the TCD layout 4262, fig 2. years instead of periods

Action: The formatting of the Table will be re-examined and the suggested text change has been made.