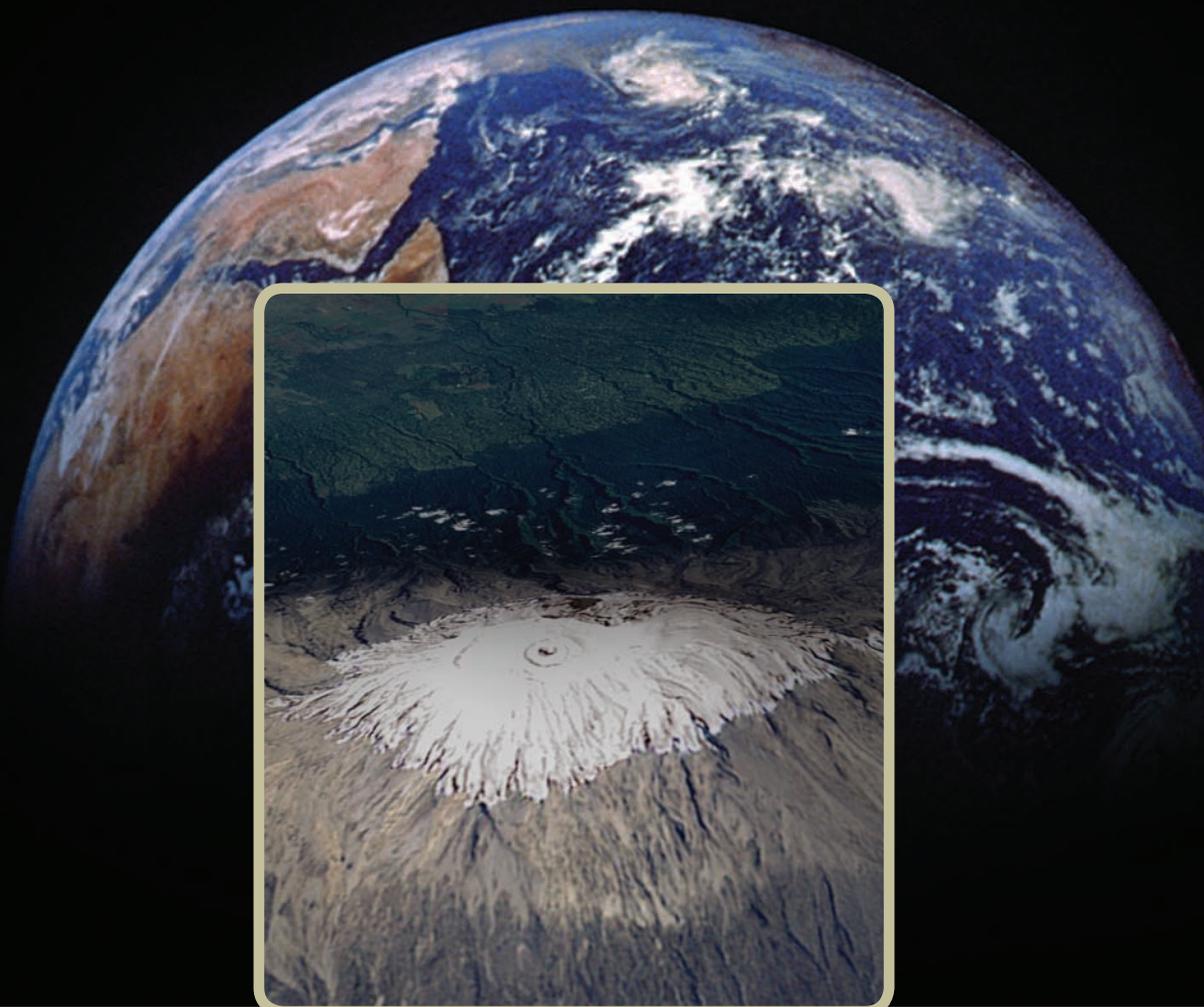


**ON THE VERGE OF EXTINCTION  
CRISIS IN THE ENVIRONMENT**

# **THE SNOWS OF KILIMANJARO**



**Dan Leathers**



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### **A Robbie Reader/On the Verge of Extinction: Crisis in the Environment**

Frogs in Danger

Polar Bears on the Hudson Bay

**The Snows of Kilimanjaro**

Threat to Ancient Egyptian Treasures

Threat to the Monarch Butterfly

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**PUBLISHER'S NOTE:** The facts on which the story in this book is based have been thoroughly researched. Documentation of such research can be found on page 30. While every possible effort has been made to ensure accuracy, the publisher will not assume liability for damages caused by inaccuracies in the data, and makes no warranty on the accuracy of the information contained herein.



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## THE SHINING MOUNTAIN

German missionary Johannes Rebmann followed his African guides over flat, dry land. He was exploring the eastern part of Africa, near the Indian Ocean. Rebmann's guides had told him about a "shining mountain" and the Jagga (or Chaga) people who lived there.

After two weeks, in November 1848, they spotted it. Rebmann wrote in his diary: "This morning we discerned [saw] the Mountains of Jagga more distinctly than ever; and about ten o'clock I fancied I saw a dazzlingly white cloud. My guide called the white which I saw merely 'Beredi,' cold; it was

perfectly clear to me, however, that it could be nothing else but 'snow.' ”

The next year, when Rebmann reported what he had seen in Africa, scientists in Europe didn't believe him. Most people thought that he was lying or crazy. Rebmann said the mountain was very near the earth's **equator** (ee-KWAY-tur). The equator is the imaginary line that circles the earth halfway between the North Pole and the South Pole. Temperatures near the equator are usually very warm. How could the mountain be covered with snow?

As more and more people from Europe explored this part of Africa, Rebmann was proved correct. The shining mountain, called Kilimanjaro (kih-lih-man-JAR-oh), was definitely covered in snow.

Mount Kilimanjaro has become known as one of the most beautiful places in the world. It is a popular place with **tourists** (TOOR-ist). Between 15,000 and 25,000 people climb Mount Kilimanjaro each year. Many other people just come to look at it. Lately,



**When Johannes Rebmann first saw Mount Kilimanjaro, the top was covered in snow. It looked like a shiny white cloud.**

people have noticed that there seems to be less and less snow and ice on the mountain. If all the snow and ice disappears, the lives of many people will be changed forever.

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