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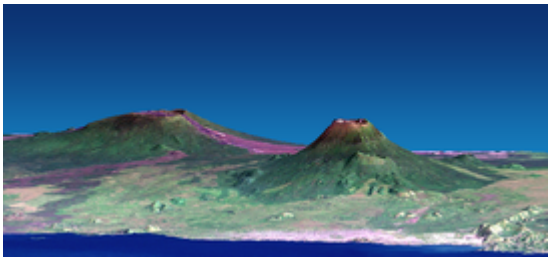
Nyamuragira

Nyamuragira, also known as **Nyamulagira**, is an active shield volcano in the Virunga Mountains of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, situated about 25 kilometres (16 mi) north of Lake Kivu. The name is derived from the Kinyarwanda Bantu verb *Kuragira nyamu*, meaning to *herd animals*; *nyamu* means *animal* or *cows*.

It has been described as Africa's most active volcano[2] and has erupted over 40 times since 1885.[3] As well as eruptions from the summit, there have been numerous eruptions from the flanks of the volcano, creating new smaller volcanoes that have lasted only for a short time (e.g. Murara from late 1976 to 1977).

Recent eruptions occurred on 2 January 2010,[3] 8 November 2011 and 23 May 2021.[4]

Nyamuragira	
	
Nyamuragira (left) and Nyiragongo (right). Vertical scale exaggerated (1.5×).	
Highest point	
Elevation	3,058 m (10,033 ft)[1]
Prominence	784 m (2,572 ft)
Coordinates	1°24′29″S 29°12′00″E[1]
Geography	
Democratic Republic	
Location	Nord-Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo
Parent range	Virunga Mountains
Geology	
Mountain type	Shield volcano
Last eruption	April 2018-Present

Geography and geology

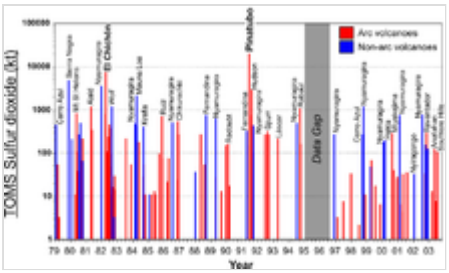
Nyamuragira volcano is an active volcano near the city of Goma in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, situated about 25 kilometres (16 mi) north of Lake Kivu. It is in the Nord-Kivu Province. It is 13 kilometres (8.1 mi) north-north-west of Nyiragongo, the volcano which caused extensive damage to the city of Goma in its 2002 eruption.

Nyamuragira has a volume of 500 cubic kilometres (120 cu mi), and covers an area of 1,500 square kilometres (580 sq mi). It has a low shield profile and contrasts with adjacent steep-sided Nyiragongo volcano.

Nyamuragira volcano is responsible for a large portion of the sulfur dioxide released into the atmosphere by volcanoes.

Recent activity

2010 eruption



Sulfur dioxide emissions by volcanoes, 1979-2003.

At dawn on 2 January 2010 Nyamuragira began spewing out lava flows. There are no settlements close to the volcano, but wildlife officials feared that the eruption may threaten the chimpanzees in the area. Another danger was that the lava could have flowed into the southern sector of Virunga National Park, where there are settlements and villages.[5]

Lava flows from Nyamuragira (upper left) extend to Lake Kivu.

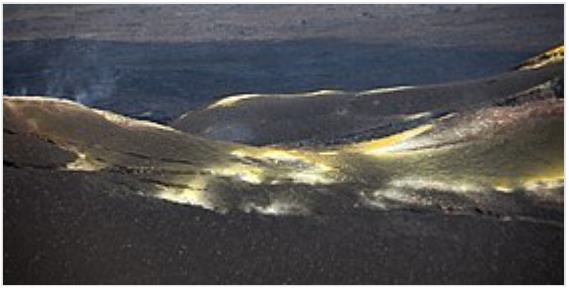
Extensive lava flows from the 2010 eruption can be seen on satellite photographs[6] reaching 25 kilometres (16 mi) south-west to Lake Kivu, about 22 kilometres (14 mi) north-west and 35 kilometres (22 mi) north-north-east.

2011 eruption

The volcano erupted again on 5 November 2011.[7]

That eruption produced a 400-metre (1,300 ft) high column of lava, and it is said to have been its largest eruption in 100 years.[8]

2014 lava lake



Part of crater of Nyamuragira volcano

In 2014, a new lava lake appeared at the volcano for the first time in 75 years. The previous lava lake at the volcano was emptied in the 1938 lava flow. The formation of the new lake occurred between June and August 2014.[9] It reached a depth of 500 metres (1,600 ft). The eruption did not affect the communities in the area but left a lot of ash and air pollution. Sulfate aerosols formed by volcanic sulfur dioxide from the eruptions were observed as far away as over the central Amazon rain forest in South America.[10] By 2018, the lava lake had hardened and the activity appeared to have stopped. Eruptive activity continues during 2021 at the summit caldera.[11]

2021 lava lake

In 2021, a lava lake appeared at the volcano based on a June 11 satellite image.[12]

See also

- List of volcanoes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

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External links

- Smithsonian Institution's Global Volcanism Program: Nyamuragira (https://volcano.si.edu/vol

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- 2006 eruption (https://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20061128/ap_on_re_af/congo_volcano)
- "Congo volcano threat to villages" BBC report with video, 2010 eruption (http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/8438203.stm)
- "Nyamuragira volcano - VolcanoDiscovery" Information, news, videos and photos from the 2011-2012 eruption (http://www.volcanodiscovery.com/volcanoes/africa/nyamuragira.html)
- VolcanoDiscovery news (http://www.volcanodiscovery.com/nyamuragira/news.html)

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