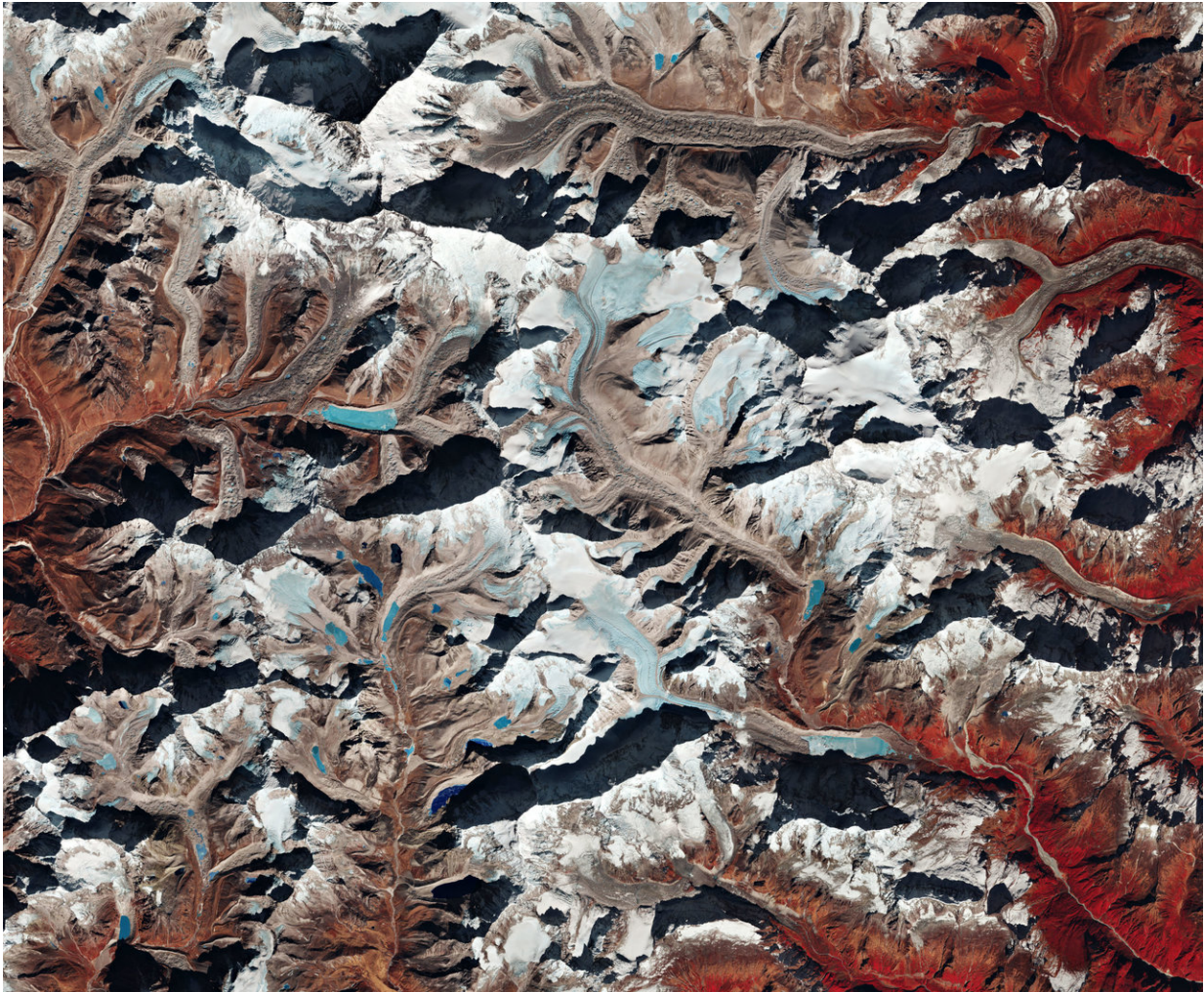


Image: Mount Makalu, Himalayas

June 15 2018



Credit: contains modified Copernicus Sentinel data (2017), processed by ESA,
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Mount Makalu in the Himalayas is pictured in this Copernicus Sentinel-2B image from 9 December 2017.

At 8485 m high, Makalu is the fifth highest mountain in the world. The iconic pyramid-shaped mountain can be seen just to the right of the centre of the image. It is situated on the border between Nepal and China, about 19 km southeast of Mount Everest, which is in the top left of the image.

Because of the [mountain](#)'s knife-edge ridges and its remote position, which leaves it exposed to the elements, it is viewed by many as one of the world's most difficult mountains to climb.

Nevertheless, Swedish explorer, mountaineer and [climate](#) campaigner, Carina Ahlqvist, led a climb this year to raise awareness of climate change and to support ESA's Climate Change Initiative. During the expedition, scientists collected measurements to help validate data from the Copernicus Sentinel-1 radar mission that are used to study natural hazards such as rock falls and landslides in mountainous regions. The team also surveyed the Barun glacier, which lies at the base of Makalu, to help understand its history and therefore the past climate in this [region](#).

Unfortunately, Carina was struck with snow blindness and had to be evacuated just 300 m from Makalu's summit. She is now safe and well and the data collected during the expedition are being used to further understand the dynamics of this remote region and how it is being affected by [climate change](#).

Provided by European Space Agency

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