

CARDUCHI CONSULTING

KURDAMIR BLOCK

A comprehensive, field-researched geopolitical and energy intelligence due diligence risk assessment of the Kurdamir block for prospective operators and investors.

GEOGRAPHIC & POLITICAL CONTEXT

1. REGIONAL FRAMEWORK

Located in the Garmian region of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), Kurdamir block sits roughly 90km southeast of Kirkuk [cite: 3].

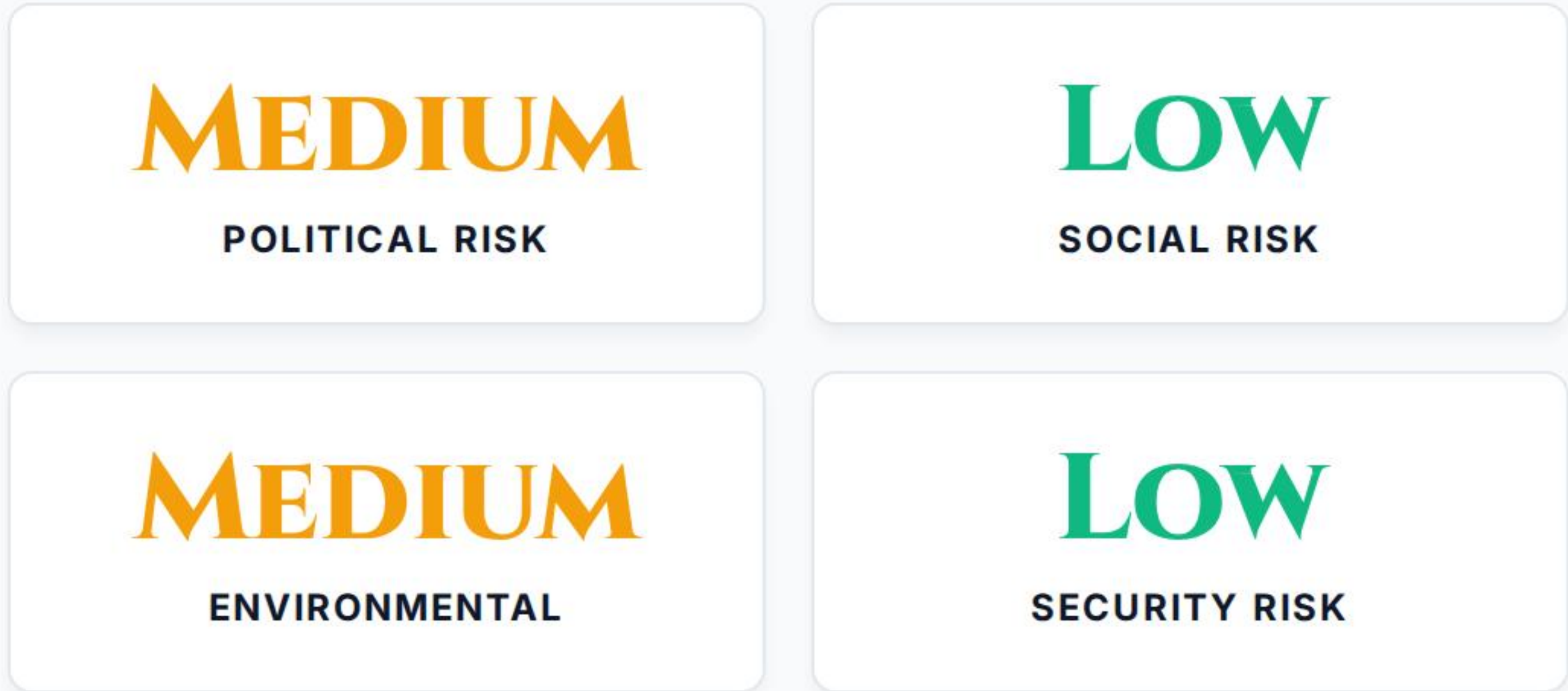
The sparsely populated area was severely affected by the Ba'athist Anfal campaign of 1986–1988, which leaves a legacy of systemic underdevelopment [cite: 3].

2. ADMINISTRATIVE DISCONNECT

The block lies firmly within territory controlled by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), specifically the faction led by senior politburo member Mahmoud Sangawi [cite: 3].

However, licensing and oil policy are directed from Erbil by the rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), creating structural friction [cite: 3].

RISK SNAPSHOT MATRIX



ASSET-LEVEL RISK ASSESSMENTS

Political: Medium — National KDP-PUK rivalry over hydrocarbon control, compounded by intra-PUK factional competition for local contracts [cite: 3].

Social: Low — Highly homogenous population; however, risk is projected to escalate rapidly once active operations and associated hiring resume [cite: 3].

Security: Low — Interior Garmian location provides relative isolation from active frontlines, though dormant militant sleeper cells persist [cite: 3].

SIGNIFICANT DISCOVERED RESOURCE

MASSIVE HYDROCARBON PROFILE

The Kurdamir block holds substantial discovered, yet undeveloped resources [cite: 3].

Independent 2C estimates stand at **366 million barrels of oil**, 55 million barrels of condensate, and **1.794 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of gas** [cite: 3].

The asset has seen no active operations since 2016 due to a long-running political and contractual stalemate over gas monetization, contractor selection, and regional pricing [cite: 3].



DEMOGRAPHICS & SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT



ETHNIC HOMOGENEITY

The population is entirely ethnic Kurdish and Sunni Muslim, with none of the volatile sectarian or ethnic divisions seen in other contested blocks [cite: 3].



TRIBAL STRUCTURE

Societal structures are organized principally around the **Jaff** and **Sheikh** tribal confederations, who hold substantial local influence [cite: 3].



AGRARIAN LIVELIHOODS

Residents live in small, scattered villages. Livelihoods are heavily dependent on subsistence farming and livestock herding, with minimal private industry [cite: 3].

HISTORICAL OPERATOR ENGAGEMENT

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"HISTORICALLY, COMMUNITY ATTITUDES TOWARD INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS HAVE BEEN POSITIVE, BUT EXPECTATIONS OF EMPLOYMENT AND DIRECT LOCAL INVESTMENT REMAIN INCREDIBLY HIGH."

— Garmian Regional Field Survey, detailing previous friction and occasional road-blocking protests [cite: 3]

POLITICAL & CONTRACTING RISKS



PUK FACTIONALISM

The block operates in Garmian where internal factional divisions have a direct impact on operations, causing severe delays in procurement [cite: 3].



BRIBERY & COMPLIANCE EXPOSURE

This local pressure creates material bribery, corruption, and competitive-conflict exposures that require rigorous compliance protocols [cite: 3].



CONTRACTING UNDER PRESSURE

Local operators face heavy pressure to award support contracts exclusively to local factions and affiliated companies (such as Nokan Group, Qaiwan Group, and Sangaw Oil Company) [cite: 3].



STRATEGIC MITIGATION NEEDED

Operators must implement robust third-party auditing and anti-corruption policies before committing physical capital to the ground [cite: 3].

INSULATED SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

LOW ACTIVE FRONTLINE EXPOSURE

The interior position of the Kurdamir block within the Kalar district provides significantly more isolation than neighboring districts like Kifri [cite: 3].

However, Islamic State sleeper cells remain a persistent risk in southern Garmian, illustrated by sporadic attacks in surrounding regions [cite: 3].

In response, security presence and checkpoints are tightly managed, minimizing overall risk to industrial personnel and operations [cite: 3].



REPORT SCOPE & ARCHITECTURE



CONCESSION HISTORY

Detailing WesternZagros's disputed 2019 acquisition of Repsol's interest and subsequent field-by-field development impasses [cite: 3].



SECURITY & INSURGENCY MAPPING

Analysis of KRG deployment capabilities, Asayish checkpoint frameworks, and dormant cell vectors in Garmian [cite: 3].



SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILING

Tracking village-by-village populations, tribal allegiances of Jaff and Sheikh clans, and expectations regarding the revival of operations [cite: 3].



ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS

Practical strategies for navigating KDP-PUK tensions, preventing local contracting disputes, and establishing environmental baselines [cite: 3].

SECURE THE INTELLIGENCE LICENSE

Minimize PUK-KDP exposure and local contracting barriers within the Garmian Administration.



CORPORATE INQUIRIES

contact@carduchi.com



UNITED KINGDOM

+44 (0) 7882 933905



INTELLIGENCE PORTAL

www.carduchi.com