CARDUCHI

CONSULTING · LONDON

SAMPLE EXTRACT



KURDISTAN'S OIL & GAS SECTOR REPORTS

Gwer–Hamdaniya *Block*

A political, social, environmental and security risk assessment

Kurdistan Region of Iraq

01

ABOUT THIS REPORT

An extreme-risk operating environment, mapped from the ground up

Carduchi Consulting rates the Gwer-Hamdaniya block as extreme risk on political, social and security grounds, with medium environmental risk.

60	3 / 4	2–3	4
PAGE FULL REPORT	CATEGORIES RATED EXTREME	WEEKS OF FIELDWORK	RISK CATEGORIES ASSESSED

This extract previews a field-based assessment prepared for an international oil company considering entry into the block. It straddles Hamdaniya district (Ninewa) and Gwer sub-district of Makhmour (Erbil), deep inside territory disputed between Baghdad and Erbil.

The full report combines open-source research with on-the-ground fieldwork and interviews with officials, tribal leaders, community representatives and civil society.

> *"The area has become a microcosm of Iraq's broader identity conflicts."*

The assessment reflects conditions at the time of fieldwork (late 2019). Carduchi can update any section to current conditions on request.

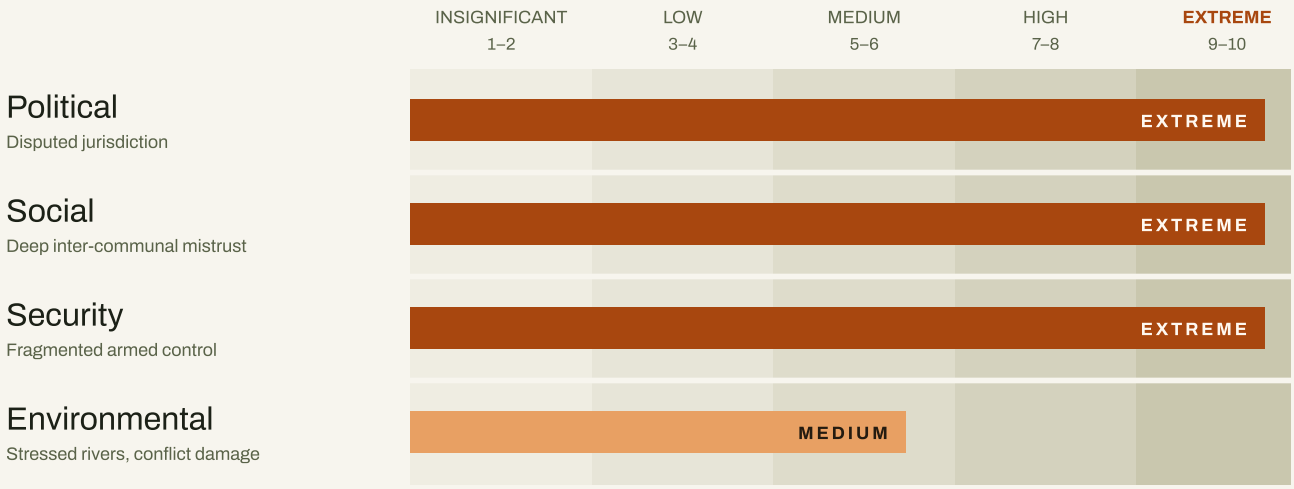


The block (shaded) runs from the outskirts of Mosul to the Great Zab. Base map © OpenStreetMap contributors.

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RISK SNAPSHOT

Three of four risk categories rate extreme



Carduchi Consulting risk scale, 1–10. Ratings reflect conditions at the time of fieldwork.

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KEY FINDINGS

Political

EXTREME

After the Islamic State was driven out in 2016, competing armed groups filled the vacuum. The regional government lost military control of most of the area in 2017, so a KRG-awarded contract is likely to be challenged on the ground and by Baghdad.

Social

EXTREME

One of Iraq's most diverse and most scarred areas. Arabisation, insurgency and the 2014 invasion left contested land claims, incomplete returns and deep mistrust. Armed groups are among the main employers.

Security

EXTREME

Security is fragmented by sub-district with no single chain of command. Some armed-group leaders are subject to US sanctions, creating legal exposure for any operator that must deal with them.

Environment

MEDIUM

Residents rely on the Great Zab and Tigris for drinking water and irrigation, so any pollution will face intense scrutiny. Wildfires, unexploded devices and unlicensed refineries add to the baseline.



A village in the block destroyed in the war with the Islamic State. Carduchi fieldwork.

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CONTEXT

Five decades of upheaval shape the block today

1960s–90s — **Arabisation**
State resettlement policies redraw the demographic map and seed lasting land disputes

2003 — **Regime change**
Kurdish forces take control; the Baghdad–Erbil territorial dispute begins

2014 — **Islamic State invasion**
Most residents flee; towns, homes, farms and infrastructure are destroyed

2016 — **Liberation**
The area is retaken; competing armed groups fill the security vacuum

2017 — **Baghdad–Erbil confrontation**
The regional government loses control of most of the block area

2019 — **Carduchi field assessment**
Field teams map control, communities and risks across the block

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SAMPLE EXTRACT

No single authority controls the block

Jurisdiction is contested, administration is split between two provincial systems, and security is a patchwork of state forces and locally recruited armed groups.

1 **Jurisdiction**
Contested between federal and regional government

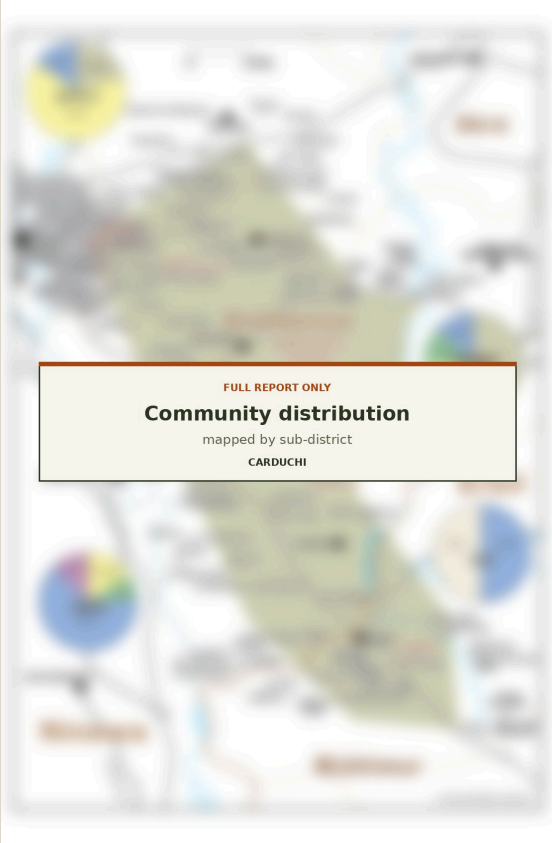
2 **Administration**
Two provincial systems, offices and records

3 **Security**
State forces and locally recruited groups

4 **Communities**
Overlapping land and residency claims

↓

Incoming operator
Needs a strategy for every layer



Community distribution and control by sub-district are mapped in the full report, with profiles of each actor and its likely stance towards an operator.



Agricultural plains in Gwer sub-district, photographed during Carduchi fieldwork.

> *Any operator will face two administrative systems and several armed actors with competing agendas.*

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INSIDE THE FULL REPORT

Sixty pages of field intelligence

01 **Executive summary & recommendations** — sanctions, jurisdiction, conflict sensitivity, anti-corruption

02 **Block overview** — contract, participation history and operator background

03 **Political environment** — control by district, party and armed-group affiliations

04 **Social environment** — demographics, tribes, inter-communal relations, economy

05 **Environment** — rivers, wildfires, explosive remnants, oil pollution

06 **Security risk assessment** — militancy, communal violence, crime, war

07 **Stakeholder profiles** — political, military, tribal and community figures

08 **Refinery annex** — licensed and unlicensed topping plants on the Gwer road

METHODOLOGY

Each category is scored 1–10 against defined indicators, combining field observation, open-source research and expert interviews. The full report is available in English.

SCORE	RATING	MEANING
1–2	Insignificant	Negligible impact
3–4	Low	Rare, manageable
5–6	Medium	Intermittent risk
7–8	High	Frequent, persistent
9–10	**Extreme**	Disruption, staff safety

REQUEST THE FULL REPORT

Confident decisions start with *clarity*

The full report, an updated assessment, or a bespoke study of another block or asset in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region is available on request.

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