

HUMANITARIAN RISKS OF OIL EXTRACTION IN LAKE ALBERT

OVERVIEW

East Africa's Albertine Rift represents significant oil reserves, specifically underneath Lake Albert. Current reports estimate that there are 2.5b barrels of oil underneath the lake and potentially twice that amount in untapped findings. As Lake Albert represents a natural border between Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the international boundary line that runs through the center of the lake has been under dispute since the 2007 discovery of oil. On the Uganda side, Tullow, Total and Chinese National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) share Blocks 1, 2 & 3A in a tri-partite agreement with the Ugandan government. While preliminary exploration contracts have been signed between the Congolese government and various private sector companies, the Congolese government has continuously broken their contractual obligations in order to gain additional resource ownership. While the oil resides underneath the lake, oil companies will be utilizing technology that will allow drilling to occur from the shoreline at a diagonal in order to gain access to the lakebed reserves.

This method of oil extraction has significant humanitarian implications for the villages and refugee camps that lie along the shoreline. Ethnic conflict and human rights violations have plagued the Lake Albert region for decades. With the DRC's Ituri district essentially operating as a shadow state with little oversight from the central government, it has created a vulnerable environment for the populations that live within the oil concessionary plot. Additionally, Uganda hosts a substantial refugee population that has originated from the DRC. While some remain in Uganda's refugee camps, many have become "self-settled" refugees in local villages. Unclear land tenure frameworks in both Uganda and the DRC provide the companies with significant freedom to take advantage of populations that are unable to prove land ownership and thus financial compensation. At present, the concessionary contracts do not specifically address how compensation will be provided, creating significant tension in the region. The Ugandan government hired Strategic Friends International, a Ugandan-based firm, to conduct an assessment of all of the impacted villages and camps, however the results of this study have not been released. Additionally, due to the DRC's 1973 General Property Law and the 1977 Expropriation Law, the state owns all of the land and may remove local communities for state interest. As oil production is set to begin in 2014 on the Uganda side of Lake Albert, it will be increasingly important for the applicable national governments, private sector companies and the international humanitarian community to recognize the destabilizing effect that oil extraction could pose on the region.

METHODOLOGY

This geospatial analysis seeks to determine those villages and refugee camps that will be directly impacted by the presence of oil extraction operations and those camps and villages that are at risk of displacement. The concessionary contract between Tullow, Total, CNOOC and the government of Uganda provides for a 50km "safety zone" outside of the concessionary plot. This zone is provided to allow the companies to ensure the safety of the operation and the local population. However, this safety zone increases the total population that could be potentially displaced.

As private oil companies do not publicize their concessionary plot shapefiles, this analysis includes a digitized and geo-referenced concessionary map, obtained from the Corporate Watch website, in order to analyze those villages and camps that fall within plot and exist around the periphery. This analysis was conducted utilizing the *select by location* and *buffer* tools. Lastly, through manipulating total population data sourced from Columbia University's Socioeconomic Data and Application Center (SEDAC), a zonal statistics exercise was run to extract the population per oil block.

Data Sources

Columbia University's Socioeconomic Data and Application Center (SEDAC), 2014
Humanitarian Response, Common and Fundamental Operational Datasets Registry, 2010
USAID Geographic Information Support Team, 2012
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2012

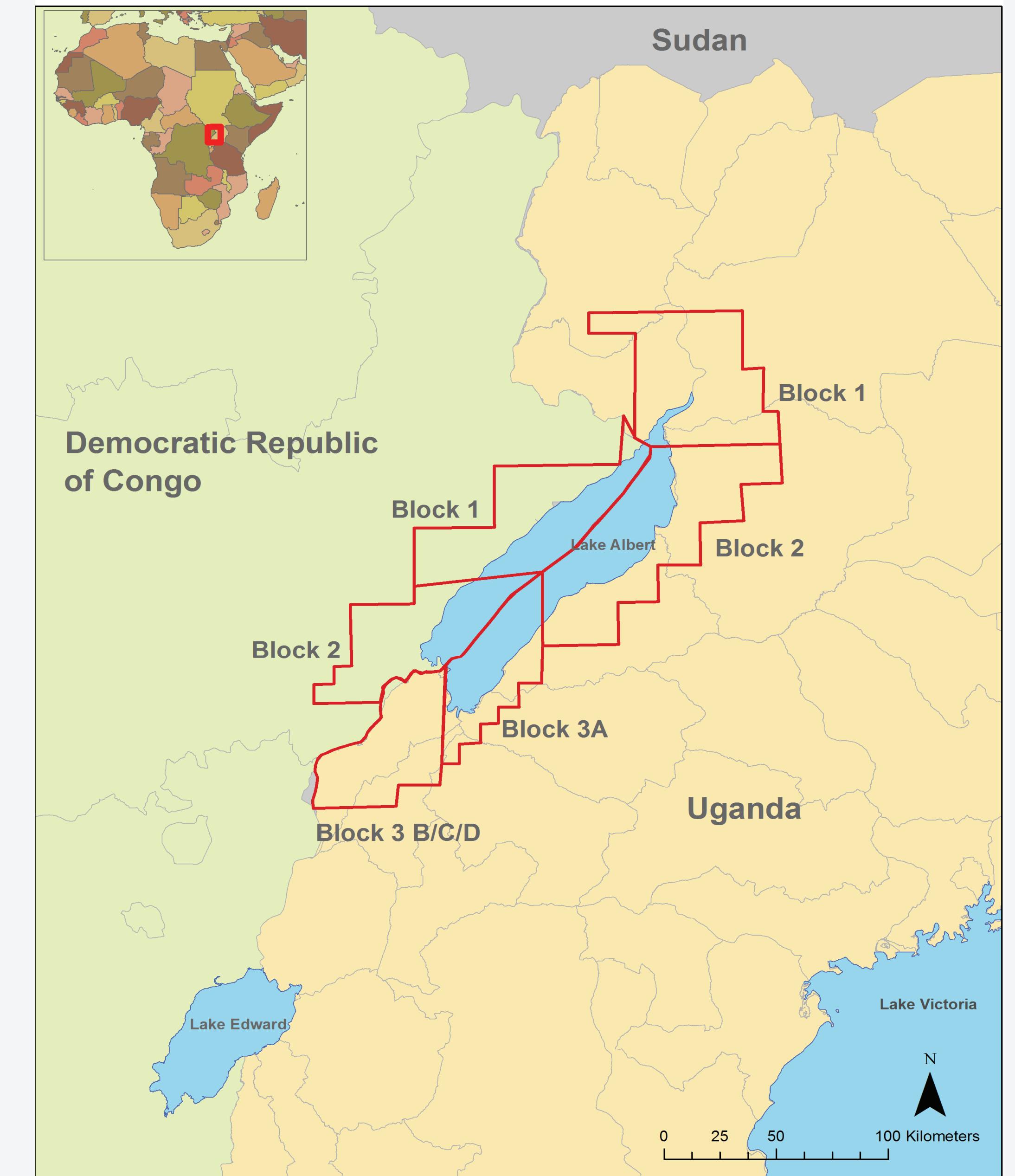
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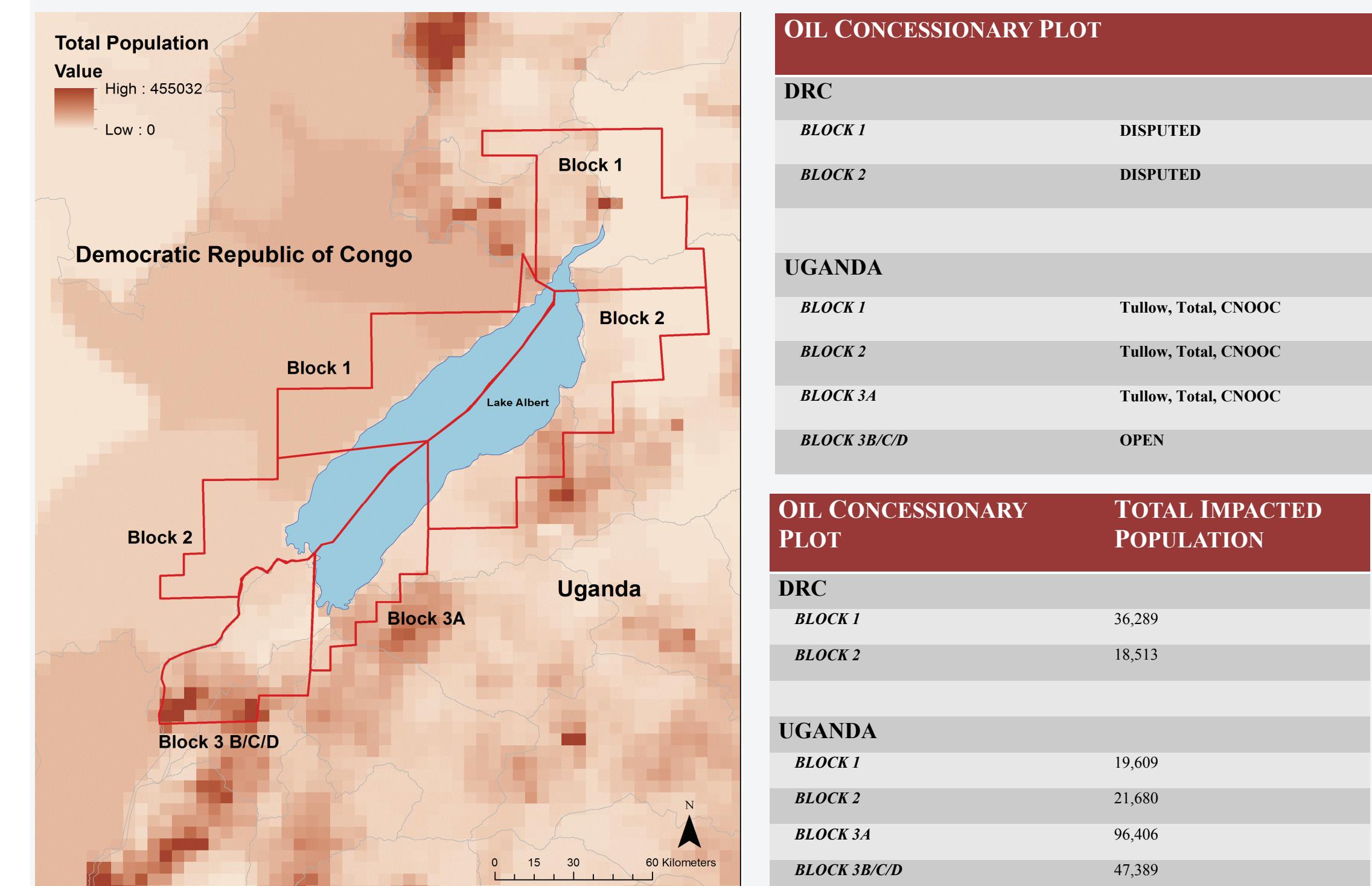
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TUFTS UNIVERSITY

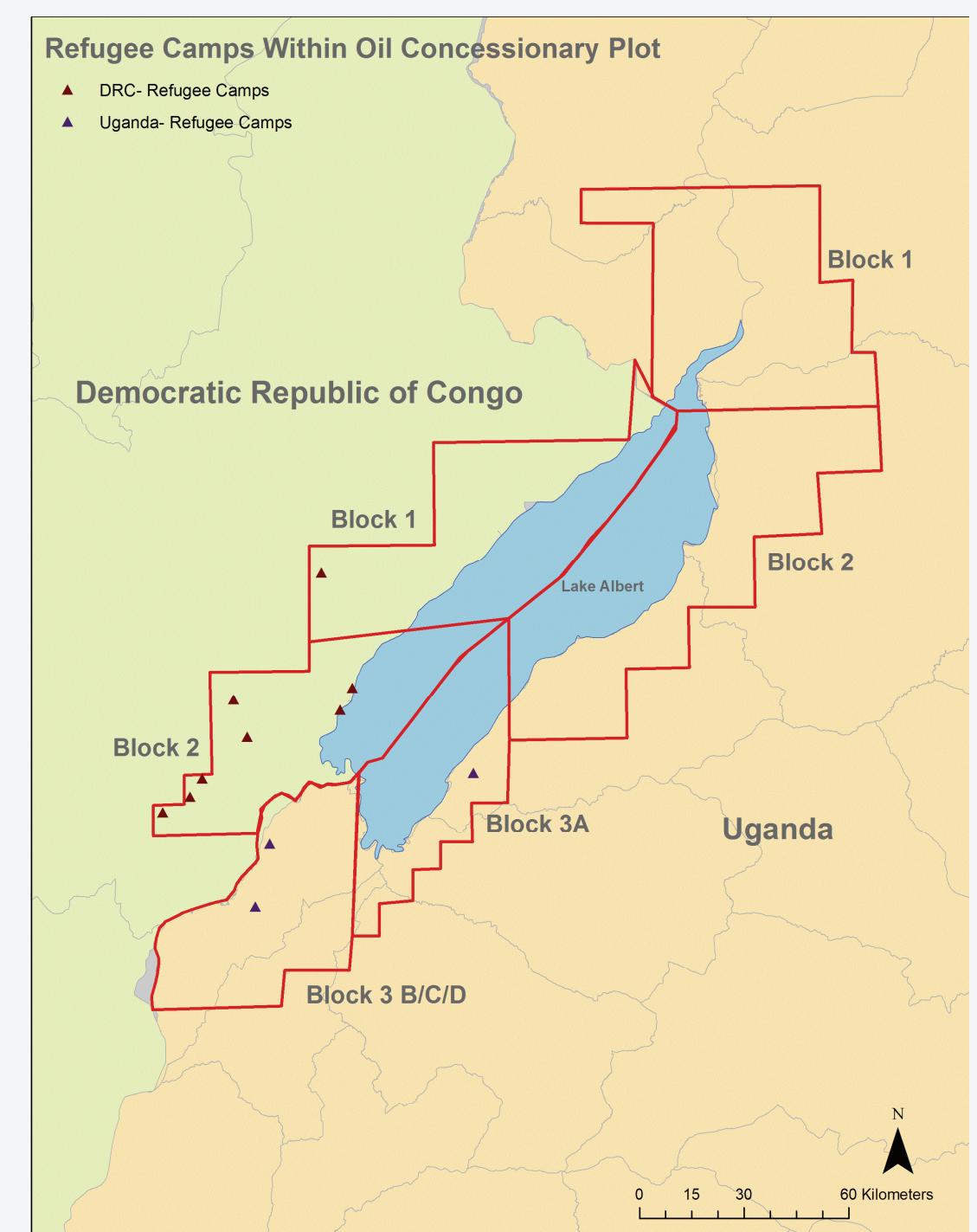
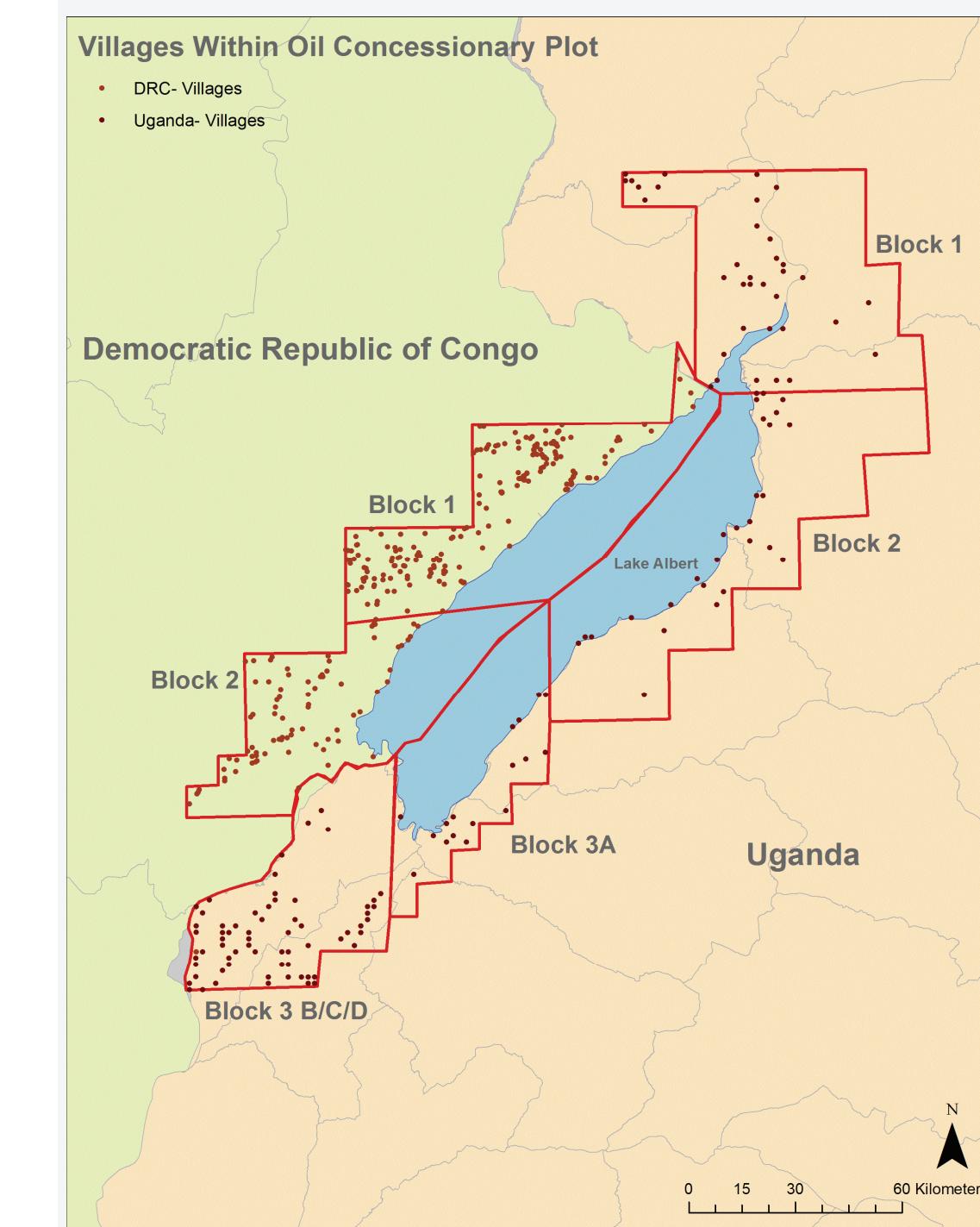
OIL CONCESSIONARY PLOT



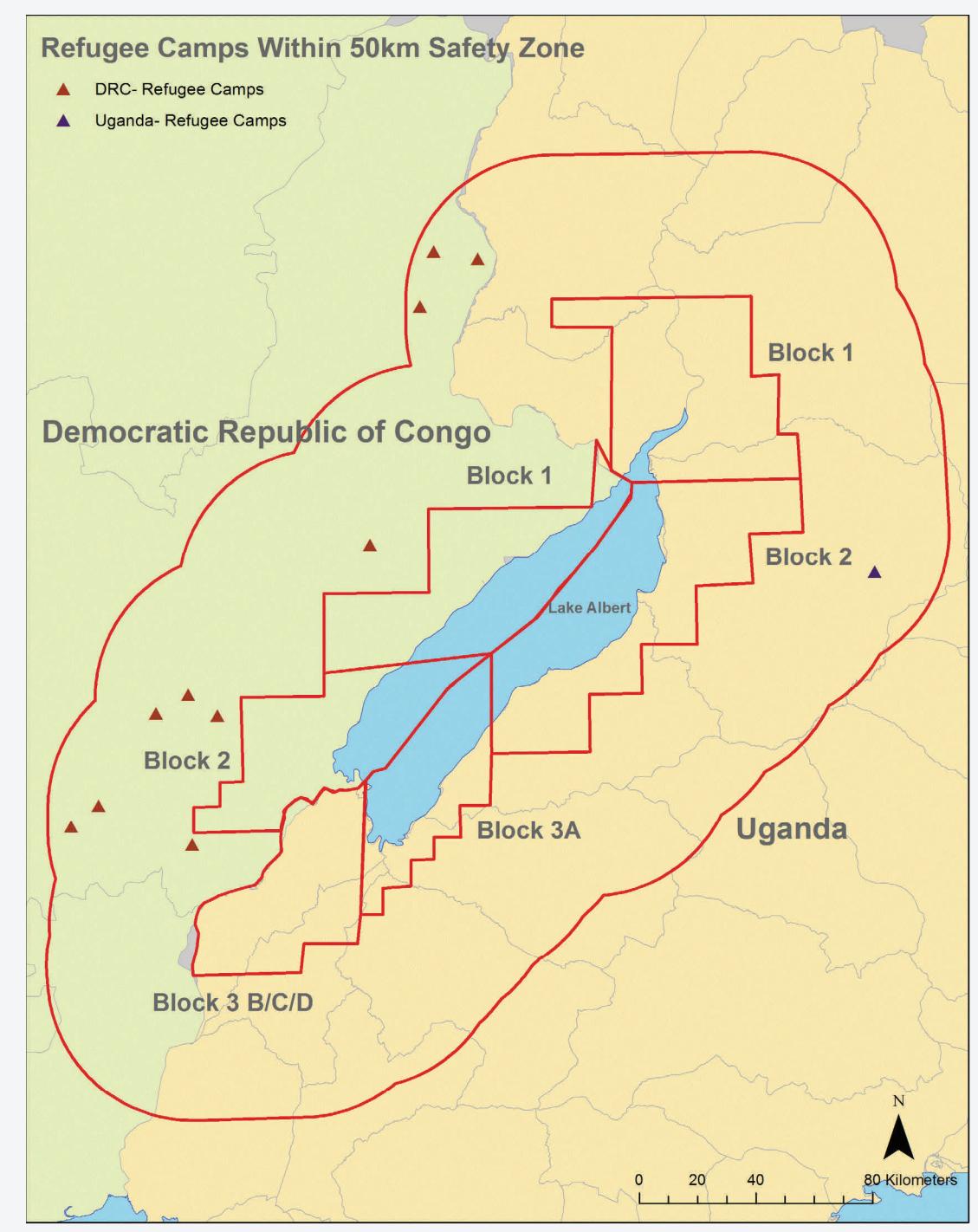
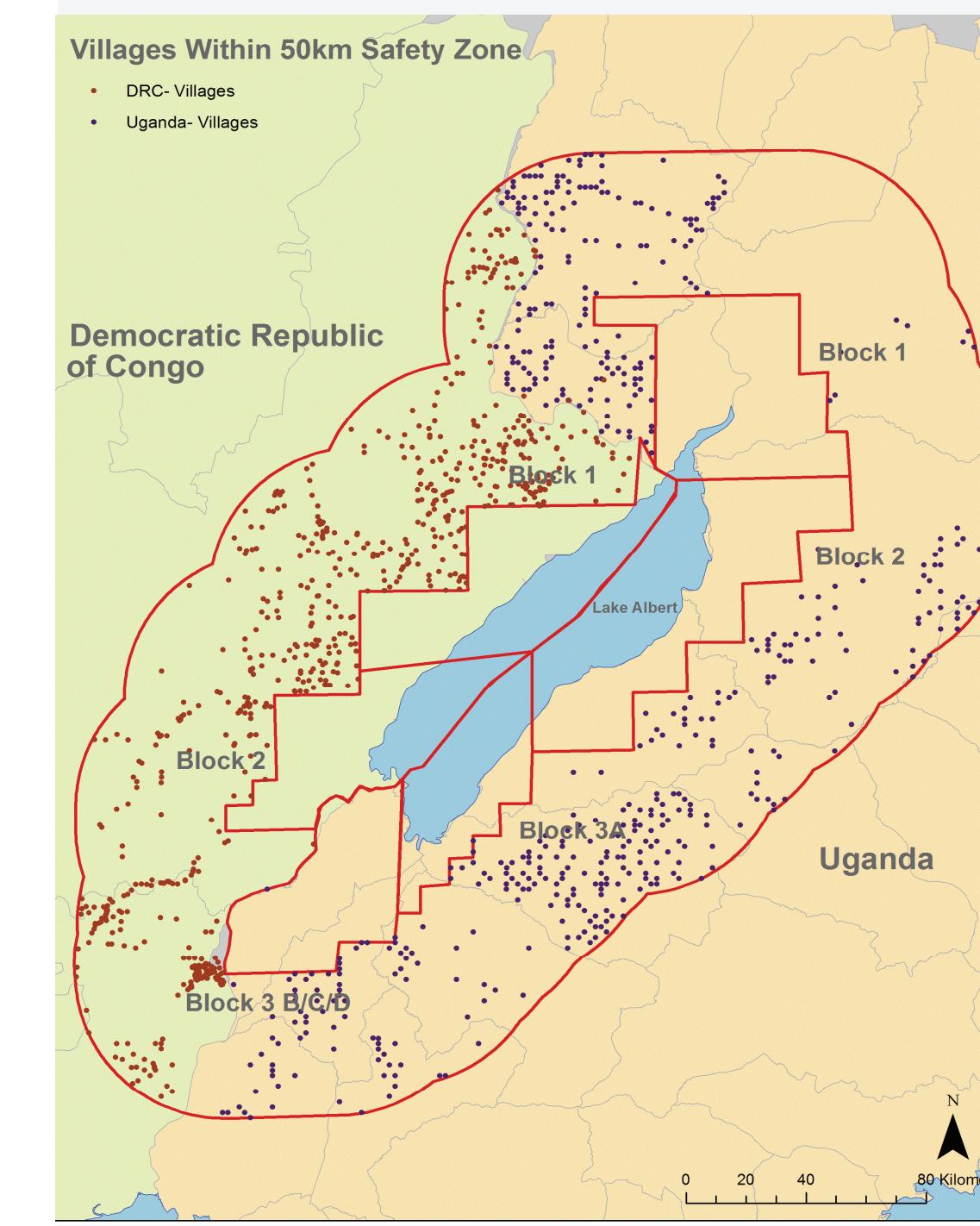
TOTAL IMPACTED POPULATION



DIRECT IMPACT



AT RISK



FINDINGS

| VILLAGES WITHIN CONCESSIONARY PLOT | REFUGEE CAMPS WITHIN OIL CONCESSIONARY PLOT |
|------------------------------------|---|
| DRC 275 | 8 |
| UGANDA 151 | 3 |
| VILLAGES WITHIN SAFETY ZONE | REFUGEE CAMPS WITHIN SAFETY ZONE |
| DRC 660 | 11 |
| UGANDA 524 | 1 |