



UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE
FACULTÉ DES SCIENCES



NEWS CLIMATE RISK & EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

Risk assessment and stakeholder requirement in Goma, DR Congo(East Africa)

Charles Balagizi

Goma Volcano Observatory

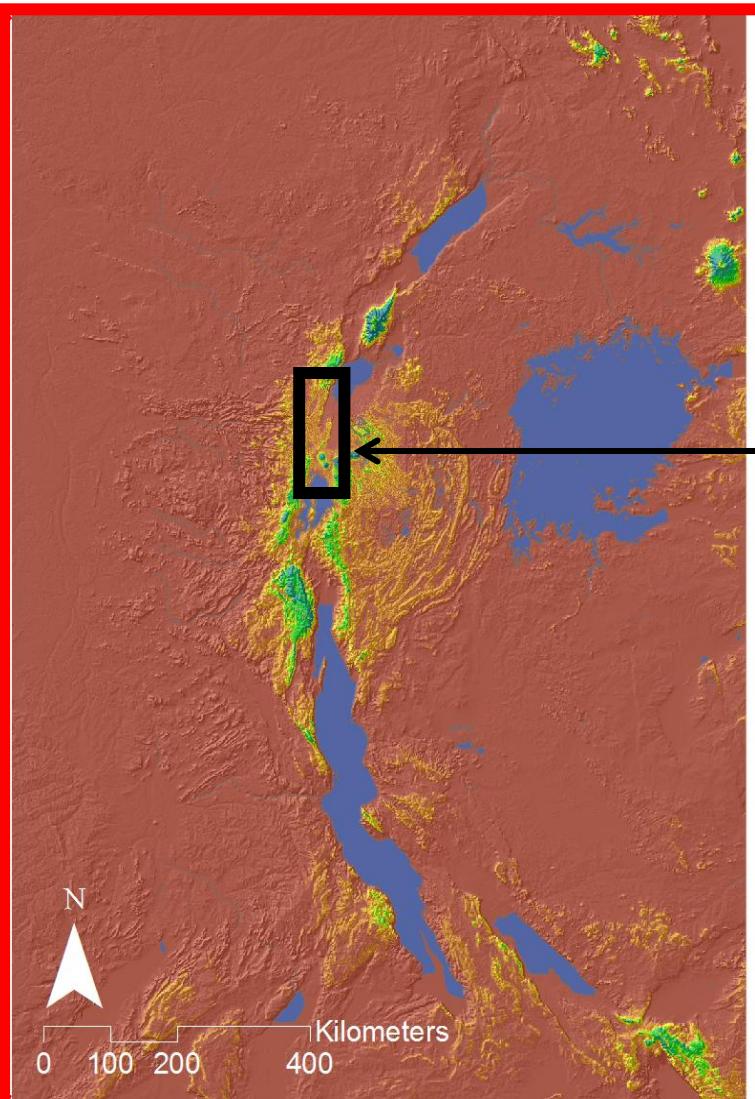
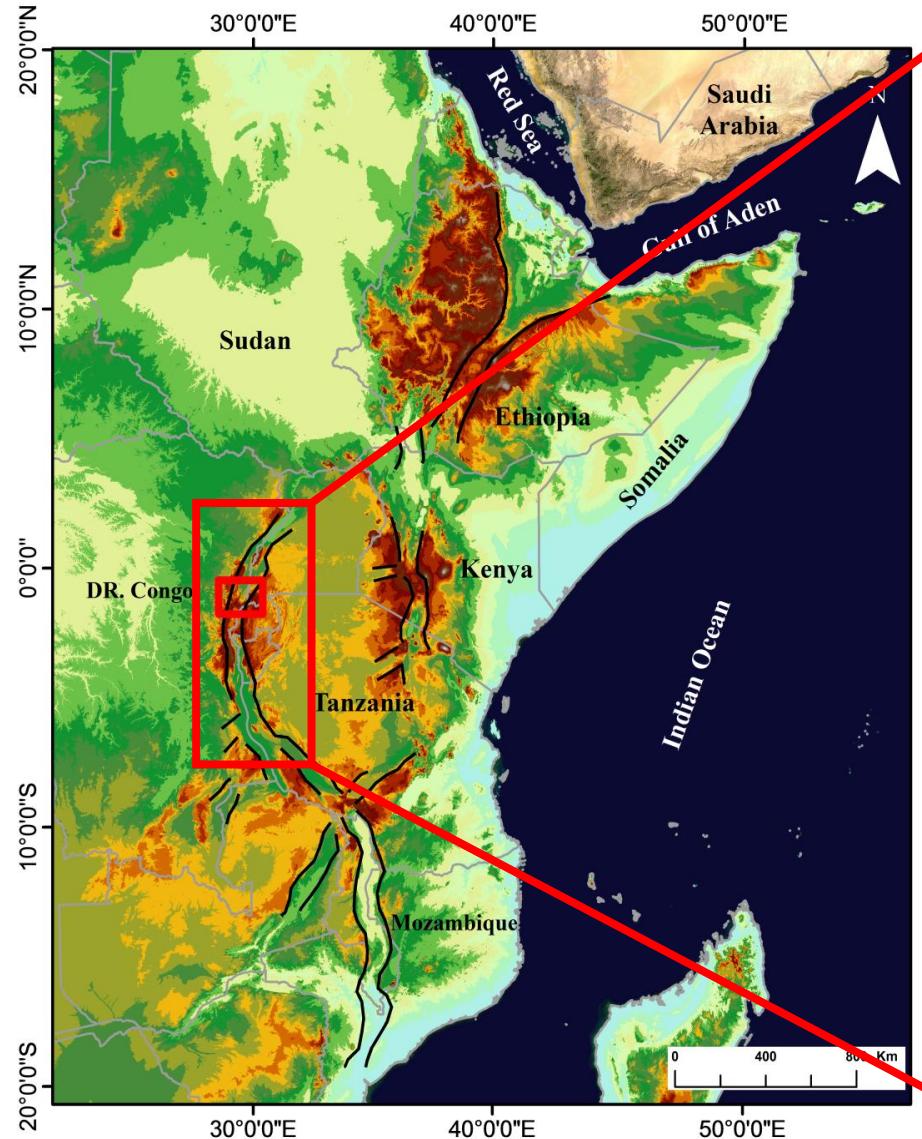


Scientific Assembly
June 29 - July 4, Geneva, Switzerland
sa2025.iaavceivolcano.org



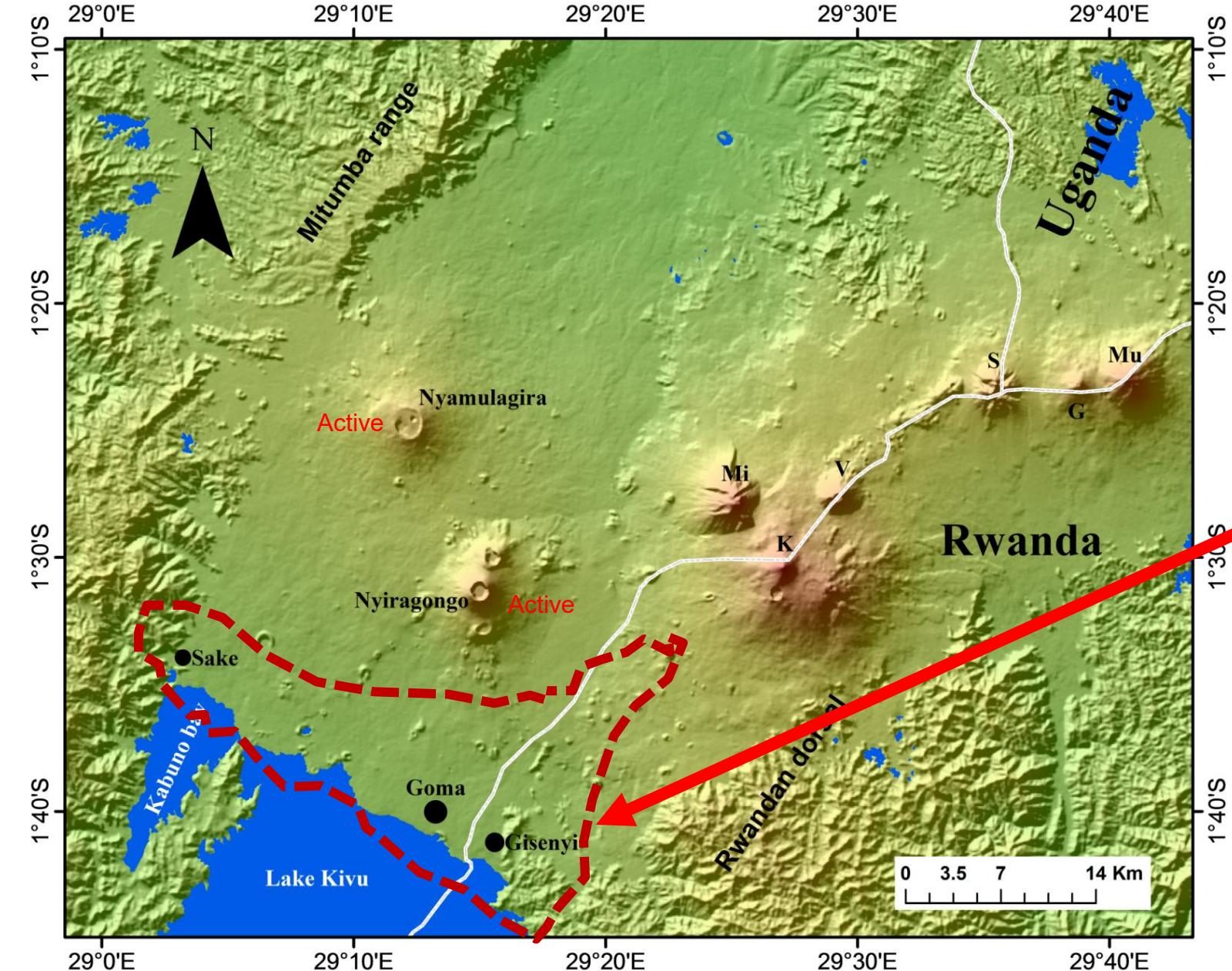
Advancing Volcanic Hazards in Early Warning For All Workshop 2025—Geneva July 7-9, 2025

1. Location of the Virunga Volcanoes and lake Kivu basin



The Virunga Volcanic Province is located in the western branch of the East African Rift, on the borders between DR Congo, Rwanda and Uganda

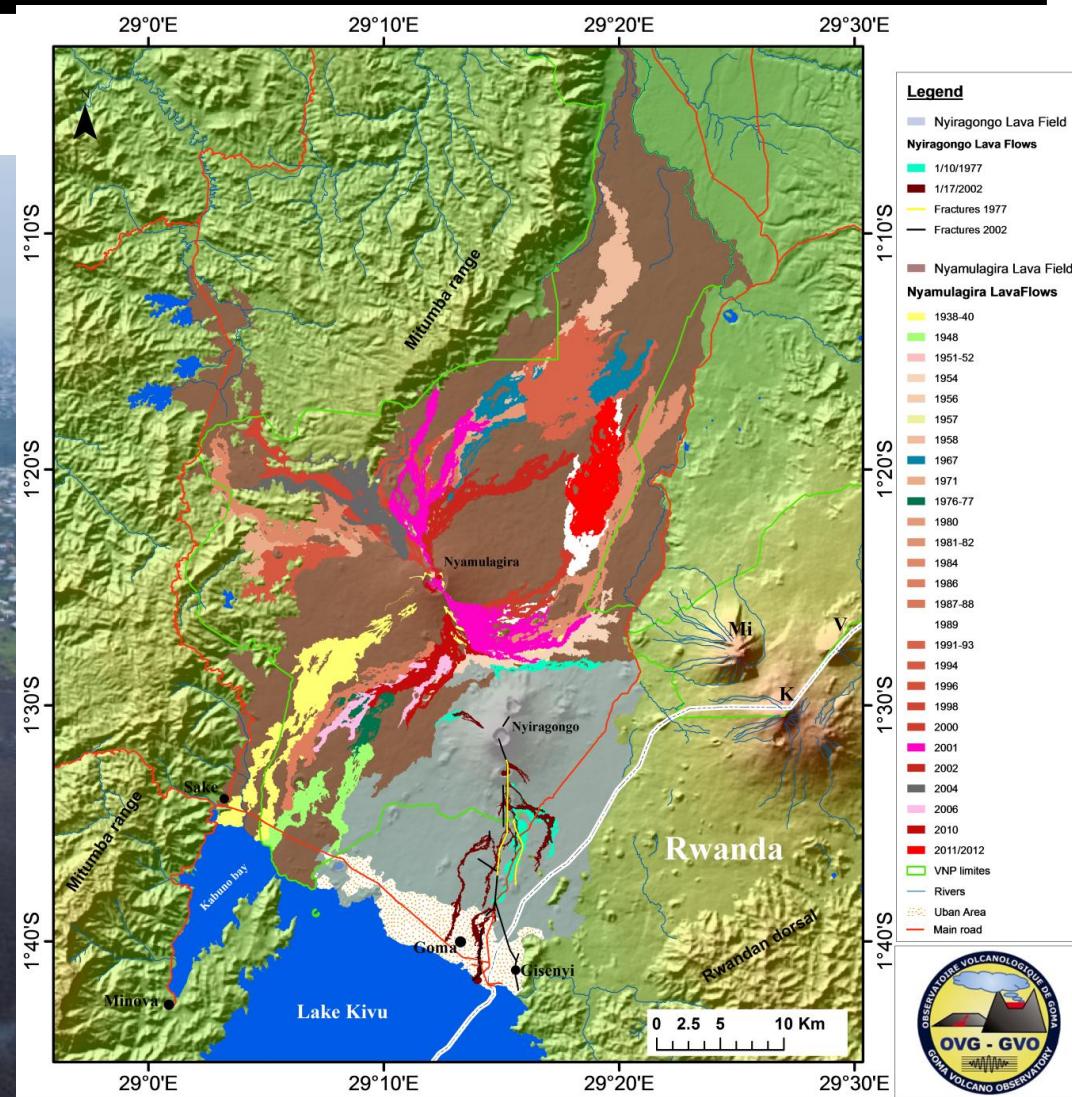
Virunga Volcanic Province and Lake Kivu basin



The volcanic field is a highly populated with cities and villages built on active volcanoes and are home for more than 2.5 millions on both Rwandan and DRC sides

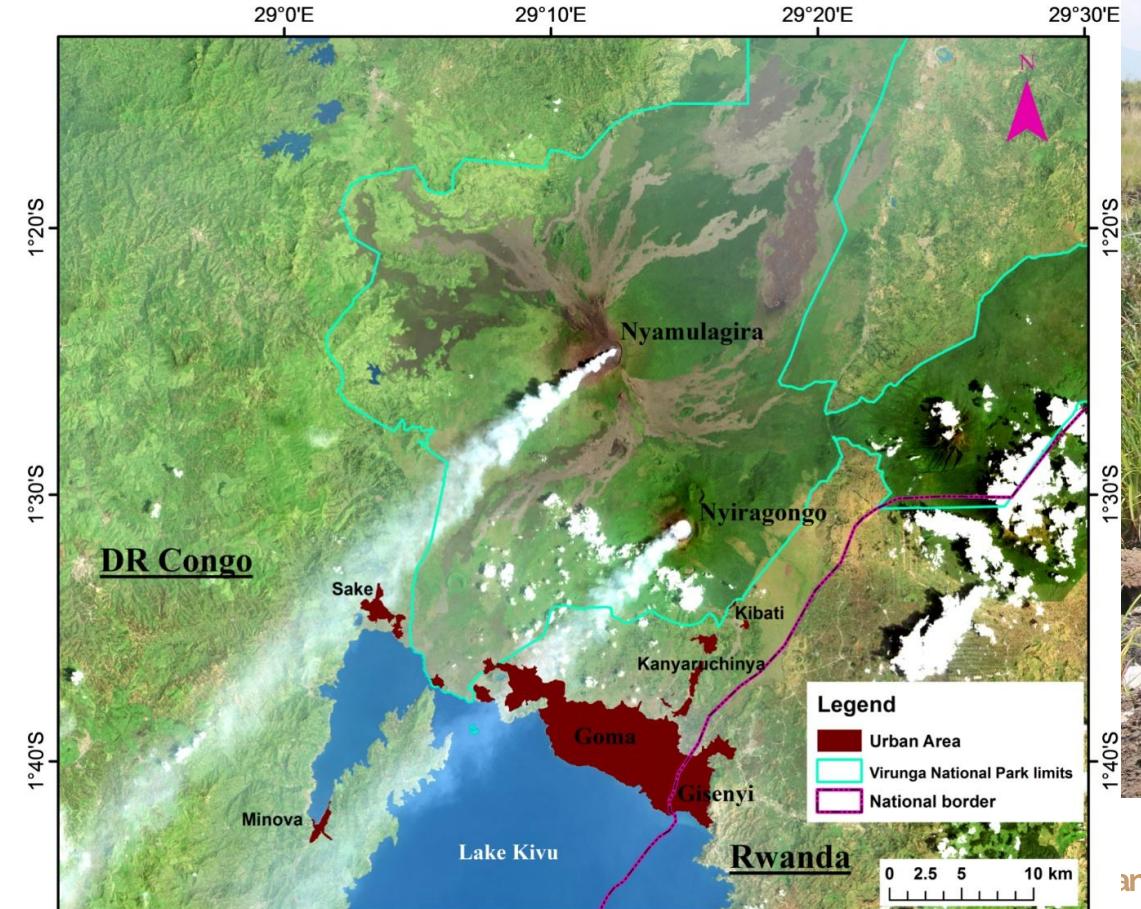
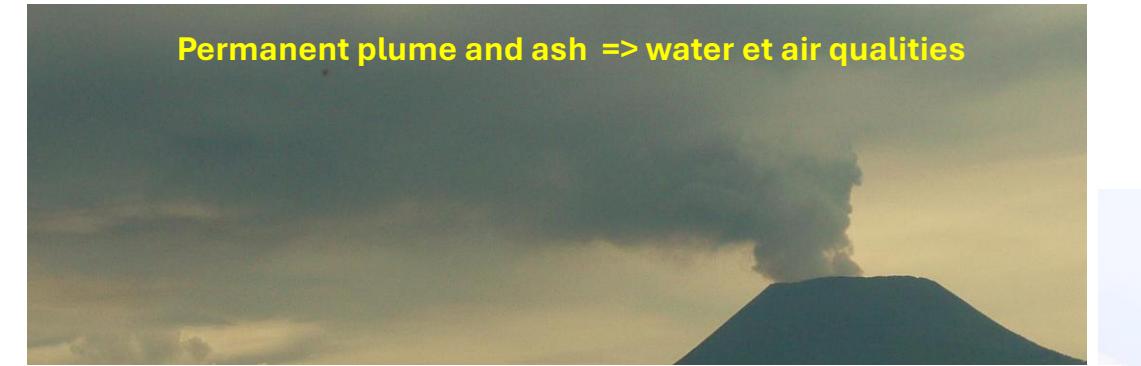
2. The Virunga is a multiple natural hazards zone

(i) Volcanic hazards: lava flows



(i) Volcanic hazards: Gas and ash hazards

Permanent plume and ash => water et air qualities



Mazuku, CO, diffuse



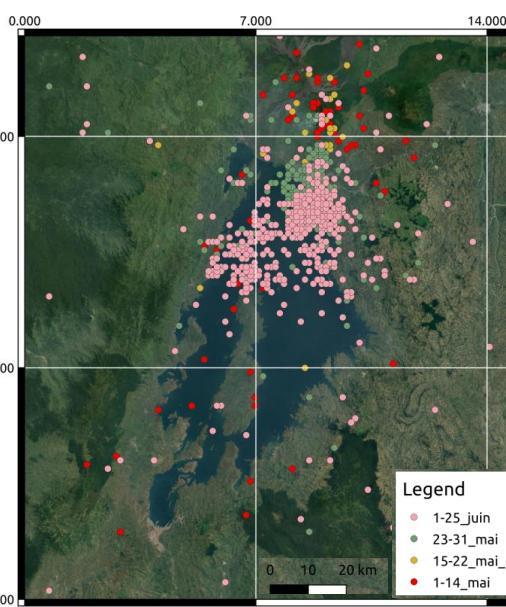
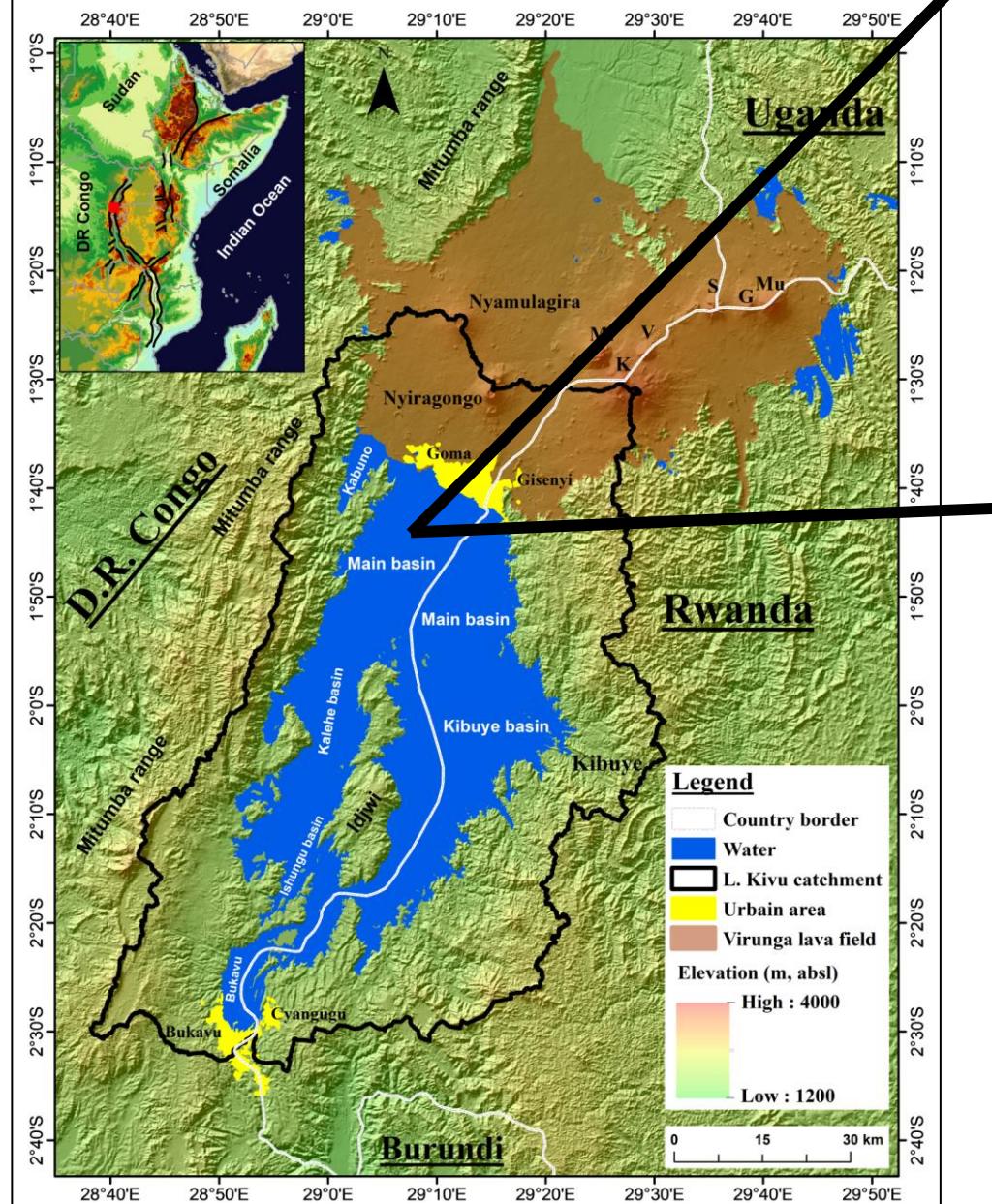
(i) Volcanic hazards: reduced water quality (rain, surface and groundwater)



Example of water pollution impacts
on human health (dental fluorosis)



(ii) Gases dissolved in lake Kivu

CO₂ and CH₄-rich deep waters

Strong seismicity during the 2021 eruption, and that gave fear for eruptive vents to open inside the lake



(iii) Earthquake hazard, as a tectonically active region

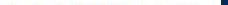


(iv) Landslides and floodings as a mountainous et tropical region with earthquakes



Opinion Sport  The Guardian

Americas Asia Australia Middle East Africa

public  This article is more than 5 months old

More than 400 people now confirmed dead after flooding in DRC

About 5,500 people still missing after intense floods and landslides

More than 400 people now confirmed dead after flooding in DRC



3. Institutions involved in Risk management in the DR Congo

National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction

The specific case of volcanic Risk Management in DR Congo



Etapes de la Préparation suite à une alerte crédible d'éruption Possible			
N°	Activités	Par qui?	Quand ?
	Renforcer l'Observatoire Volcanologique de Goma en équipements de surveillance	Ministre de la Recherche Scientifique et partenaires	Toutes les phases
1	Identifier, évaluer et préparer les sites d'accueil, points de rassemblement en cas d'imminence d'une éruption	Gouverneur de Province, Protection civile, Croix-Rouge, la PNC, CNR, UNHCR, Cluster Logistique, OIM	En phase Jaune et Orange
2	Faire un mapping de stock d'urgence disponible	Ministère sectoriel, Clusters humanitaires	En phase jaune et Orange
3	Sensibiliser les populations sur les précautions à prendre en cas d'une éruption et organiser des exercices de simulations	Ministère de l'intérieur, Gouverneur de Province, Protection Civile, Croix-Rouge, MONUSCO, PNC et FARDC, Société Civile	En phase Jaune et Orange

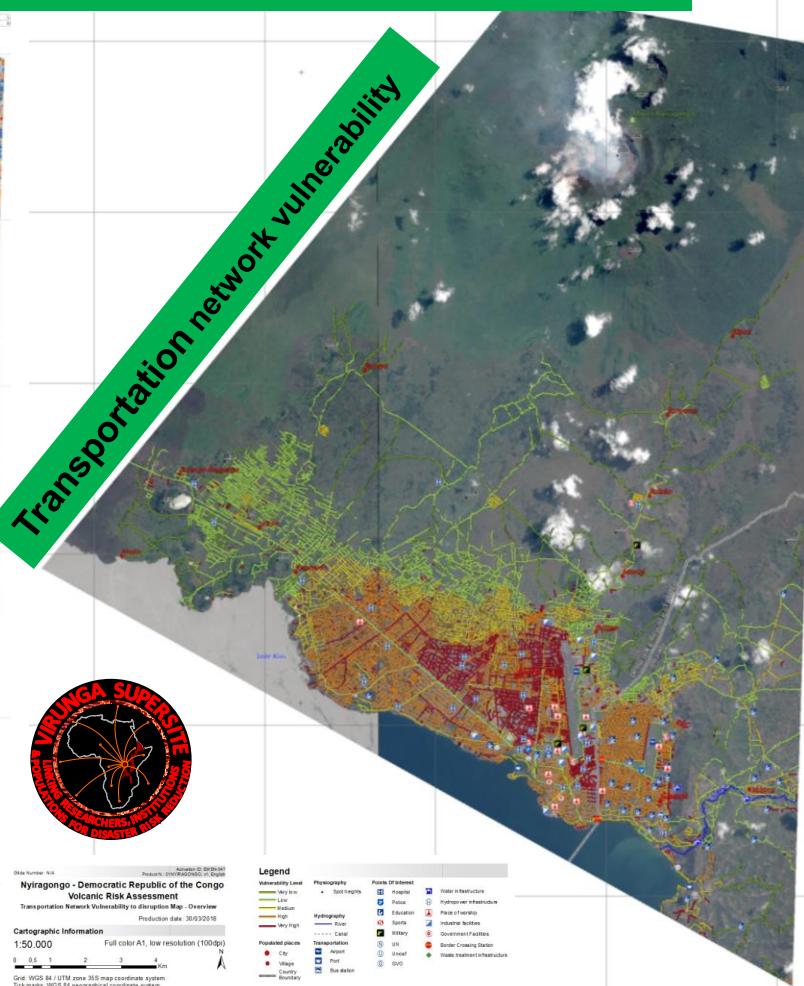
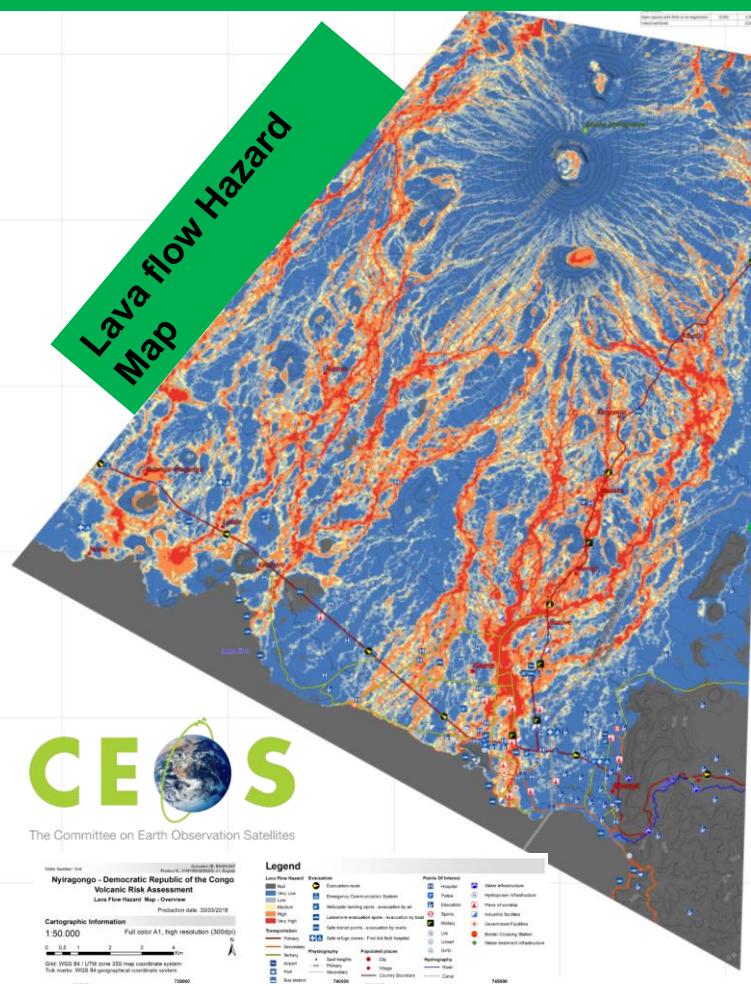
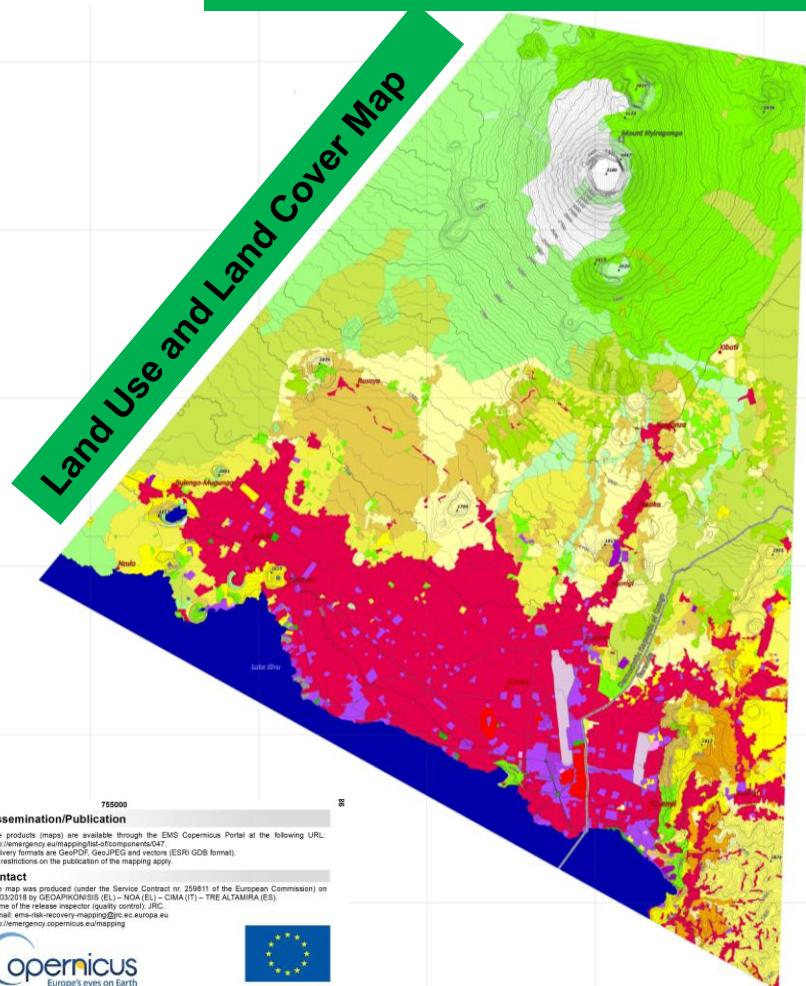
Premières semaines		
1	Déployer une mission conjointe d'évaluation rapide des besoins humanitaires dans les zones de crise	1 ^{er} Ministre : Ministre de l'intérieur, Ministres en charge des affaires humanitaires, Santé, Genre, économie, plan, partenaires
2	Apporter de l'assistance d'urgence aux sinistrés	1 ^{er} Ministre : Ministres en charge des affaires humanitaires, Santé, Genre, économie, plan, partenaires
4	Réviser si besoin, le plan d'urgence.	Ministère de l'intérieur, Ministre de la recherche scientifique et Ministre des affaires humanitaires
5	Réquisitionner et Déployer le personnel additionnel requis en cas de besoins	1 ^{er} Ministre, Gouverneur de Province et chaque organisation

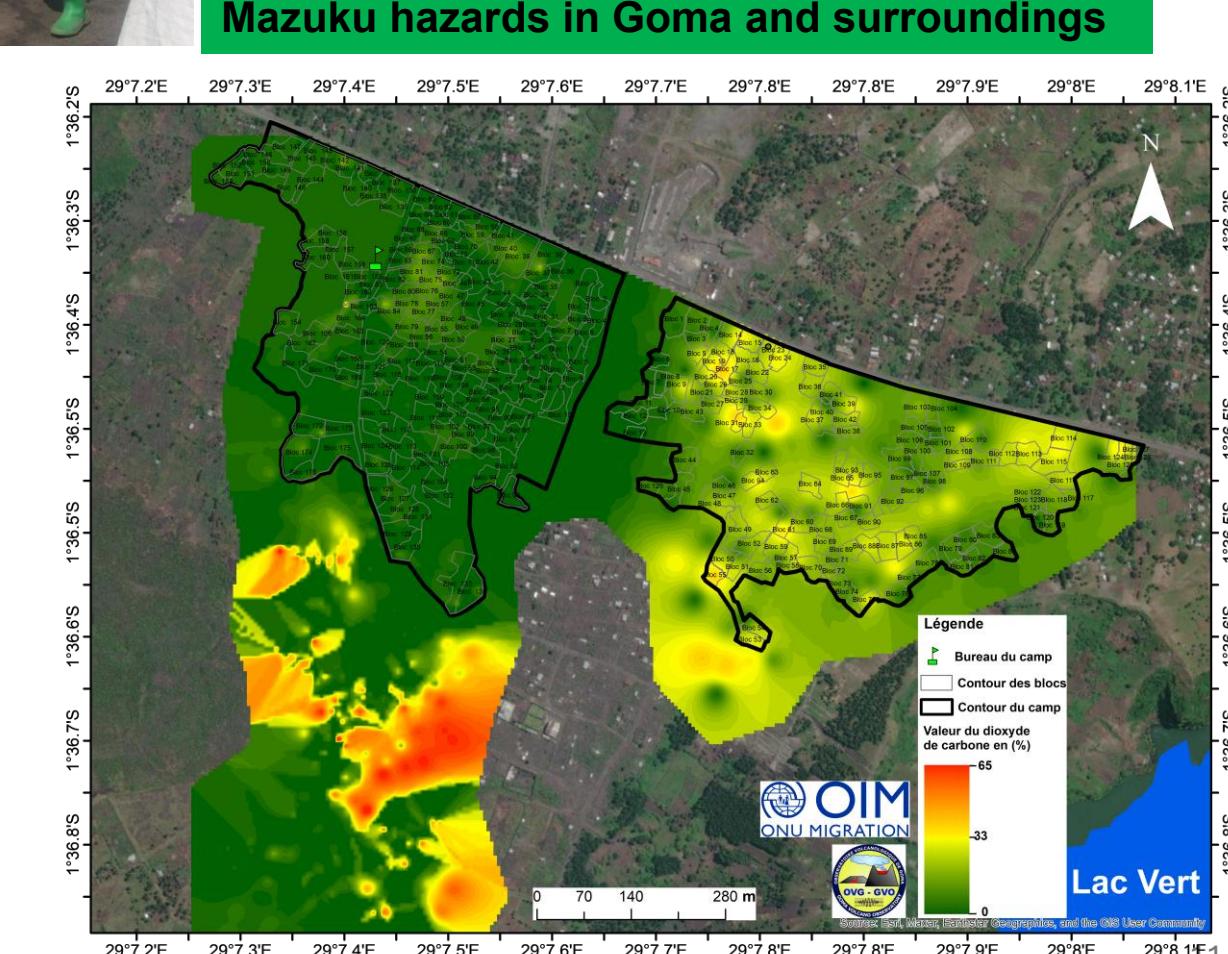
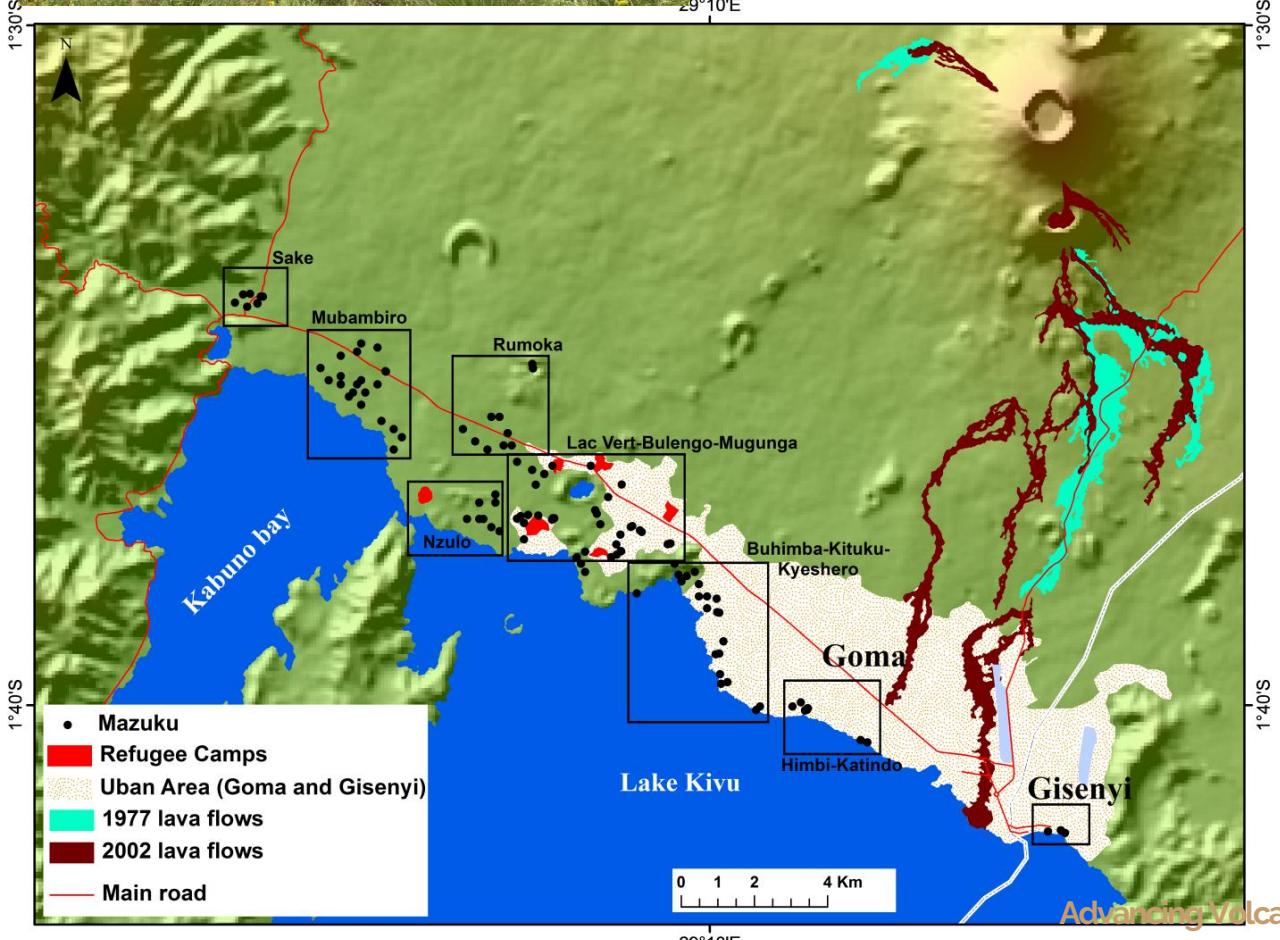
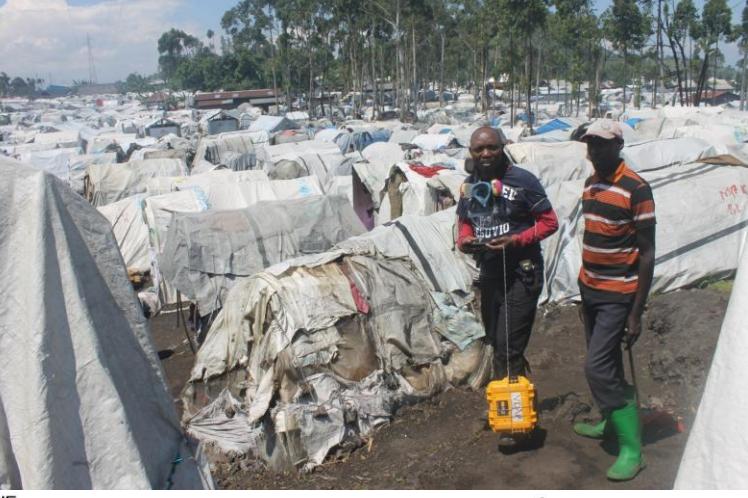
Premières 24h		
1	Informer les autorités nationales sur l'imminence de l'éruption volcanique	Ministre de la Recherche Scientifique, OVG et Gouverneur de Province
2	Déclarer l'urgence, activer les sirènes d'alertes pour autoriser l'évacuation de la population.	Ministre de l'intérieur et Goupro NK
3	Mise en place de la cellule de crise au niveau national et provincial	1 ^{er} Ministre et Gouverneur
4	Mobiliser et déployer les équipes de secours et de gestion de l'évacuation de la population	Ministre de l'intérieur, de la défense, de la santé et le Gouverneur
5	Alerter les partenaires et les pays voisins de la RDC concernés par l'éruption volcanique et ses impacts	Président de la République, Ministre des Affaires étrangères et Gouverneur de Province

4. Roles of the Goma Volcano Observatory

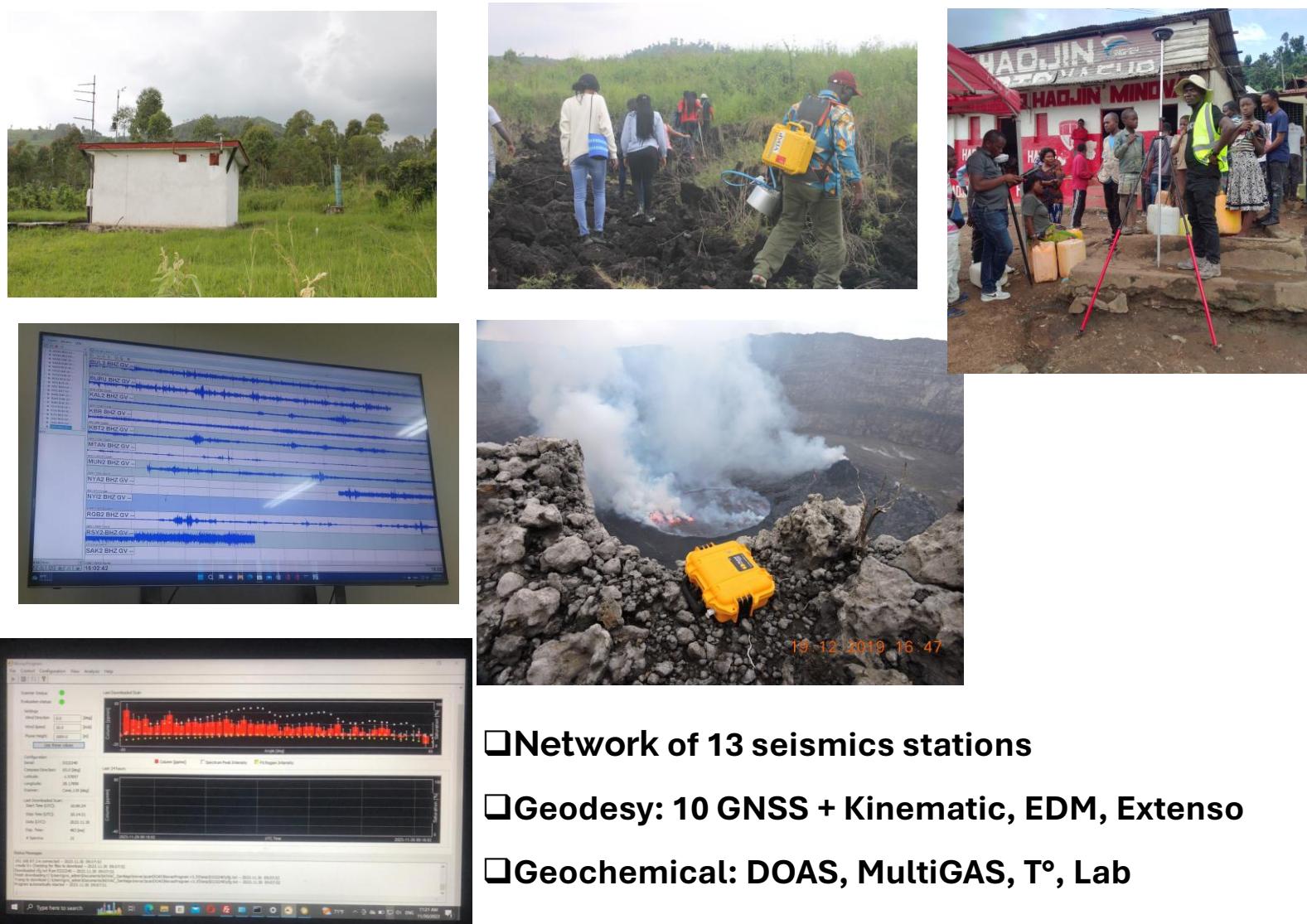
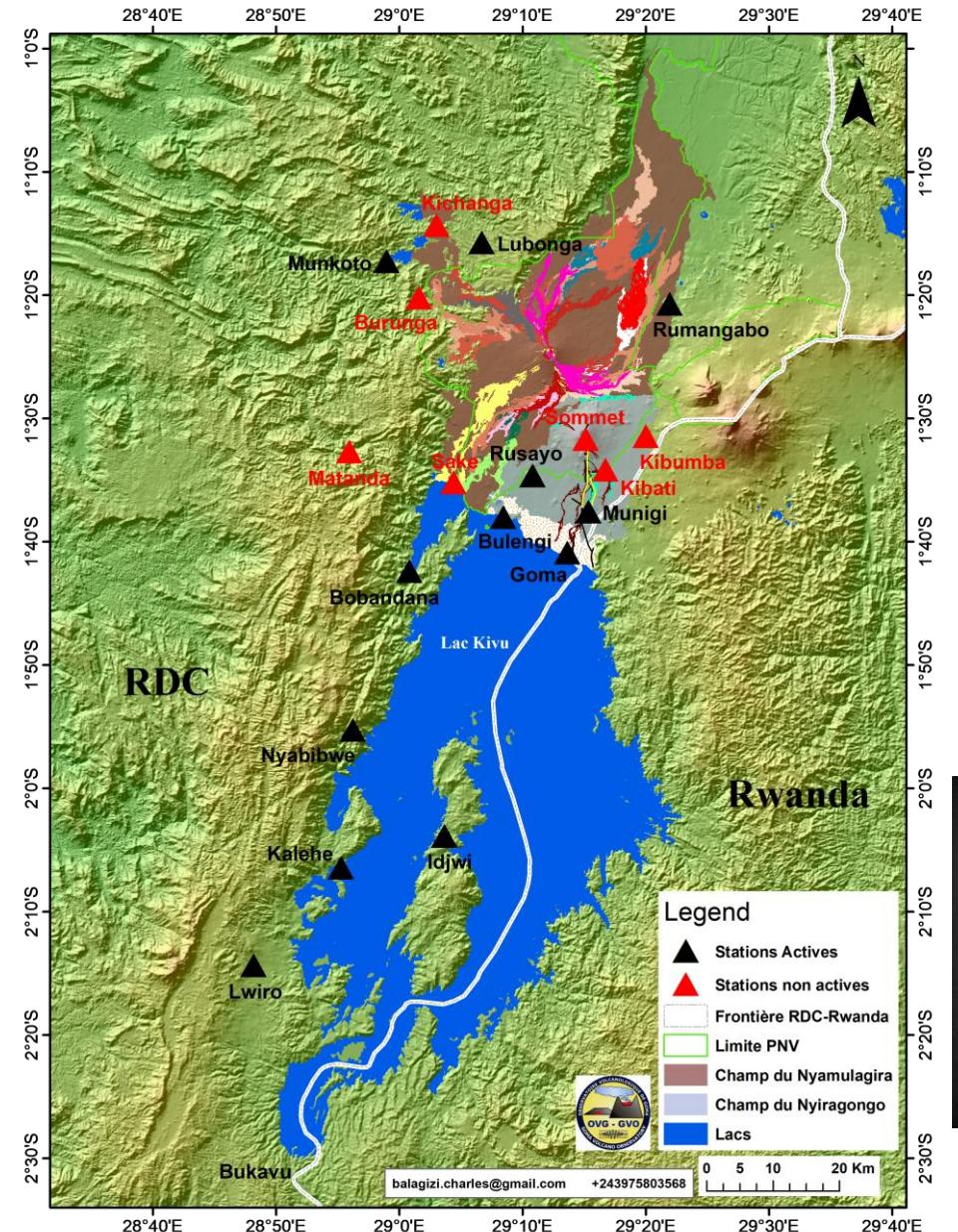
4.1. Hazard assessments – hazard maps

pre-disaster situation analysis concerning a potential eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano located near the city of Goma



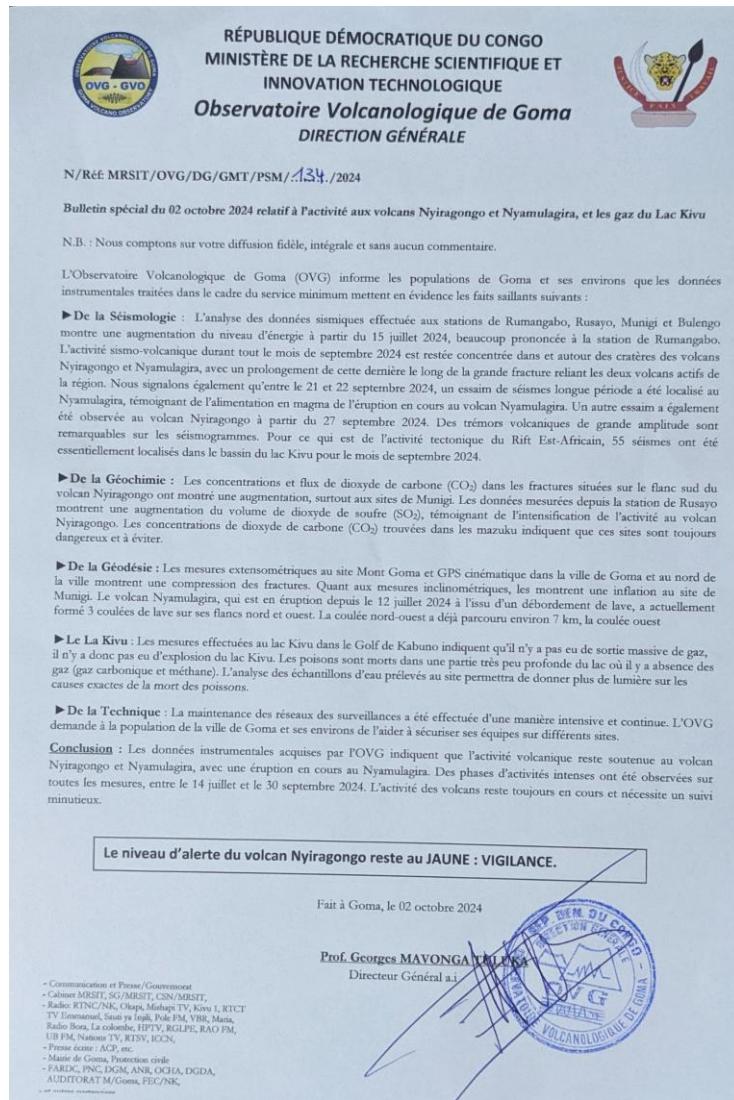


4.2. Monitoring of volcanoes and lake Kivu: seismic, geodesic and geochemical



- ❑ Network of 13 seismics stations
- ❑ Geodesy: 10 GNSS + Kinematic, EDM, Extensio
- ❑ Geochemical: DOAS, MultiGAS, T°, Lab

4.3. Communication: hazards information and early warning dissemination



Training of community leaders on early warning



Volcanic hazards and warning signs



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5. Importance of collaboration and partnership



VDAP and INGV are of great support, they have been providing support to the GVO: equipment donation and training of GVO scientists and technicians, support in data processing and interpretation

GEO GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATIONS

GSNL

HOME ABOUT SUPERSITES OPEN DATA OUTREACH

GSNL > SUPERSITES > PERMANENT SUPERSITES > VIRUNGA SUPERSITE

Virunga Supersite

Supersite Objectives

Further to the GSNL general objectives, the Virunga Supersite has the following specific objectives:

1. capacity building of local scientists;
2. increase, on a fair basis, international collaboration for the monitoring of the Virunga active volcanoes and the Lake Kivu with the aim of preventing the related risks;
3. access Earth Observation satellite data, for the monitoring and understanding of the volcano processes;
4. identify possible funding sources and obtain resources to develop GVO monitoring and scientific capacities.

Supersite Coordinator

Charles Balagizi
Goma Volcano Observatory
BIO-Orcid
BIO Research Gate

esa **DLR** **CEOS** **cnes**

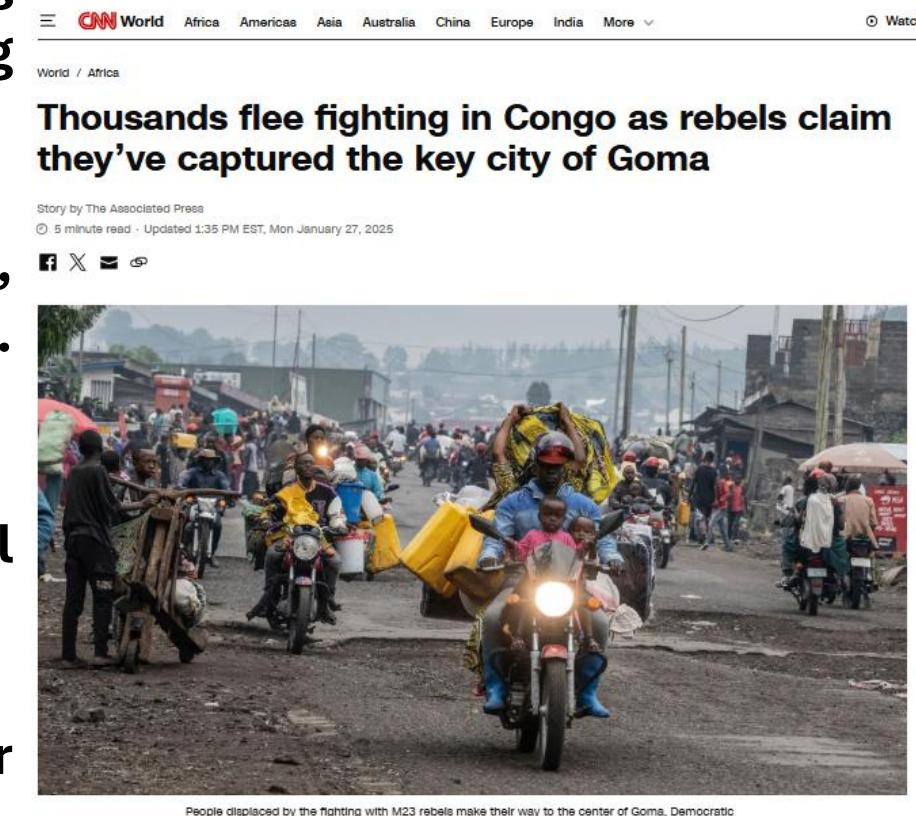
The CEOS space agencies



Virunga Supersite, a GEO-GSNL initiative provides access, free of charge, to Multi Temporal of satellite imagery and processing to support volcanic hazards and volcano monitoring + equipment donation

6. Operational challenges & needs— future perspectives

- The Goma Volcano Observatory plays a central role in the Early Warning System for all in Goma and around, going from disaster assessment, monitoring as well as warning dissemination and communication
- The Virunga is conflict-laden zone in the past 3 decades, this has strongly affected our operational capacities.
- There is strong need for capacity development of local scientists
- There is strong need for infrastructures development for ground-based data collection, processing and storage
- Funding is needed to finance our daily activities





**Thanks for your attention
Aksanti sana!**





WMO



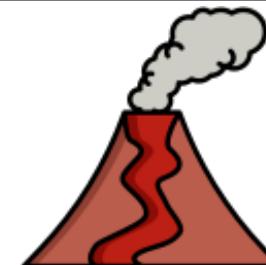
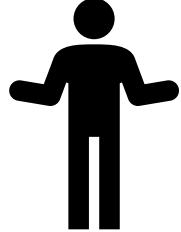
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UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

Early
Warnings
for All

Living on the Edge of an Active Volcano: Enhancing Warning Dissemination & Preparedness — Lessons from Goma's Volcanic Risk Initiatives



Mafuko Nyandwi B and al.

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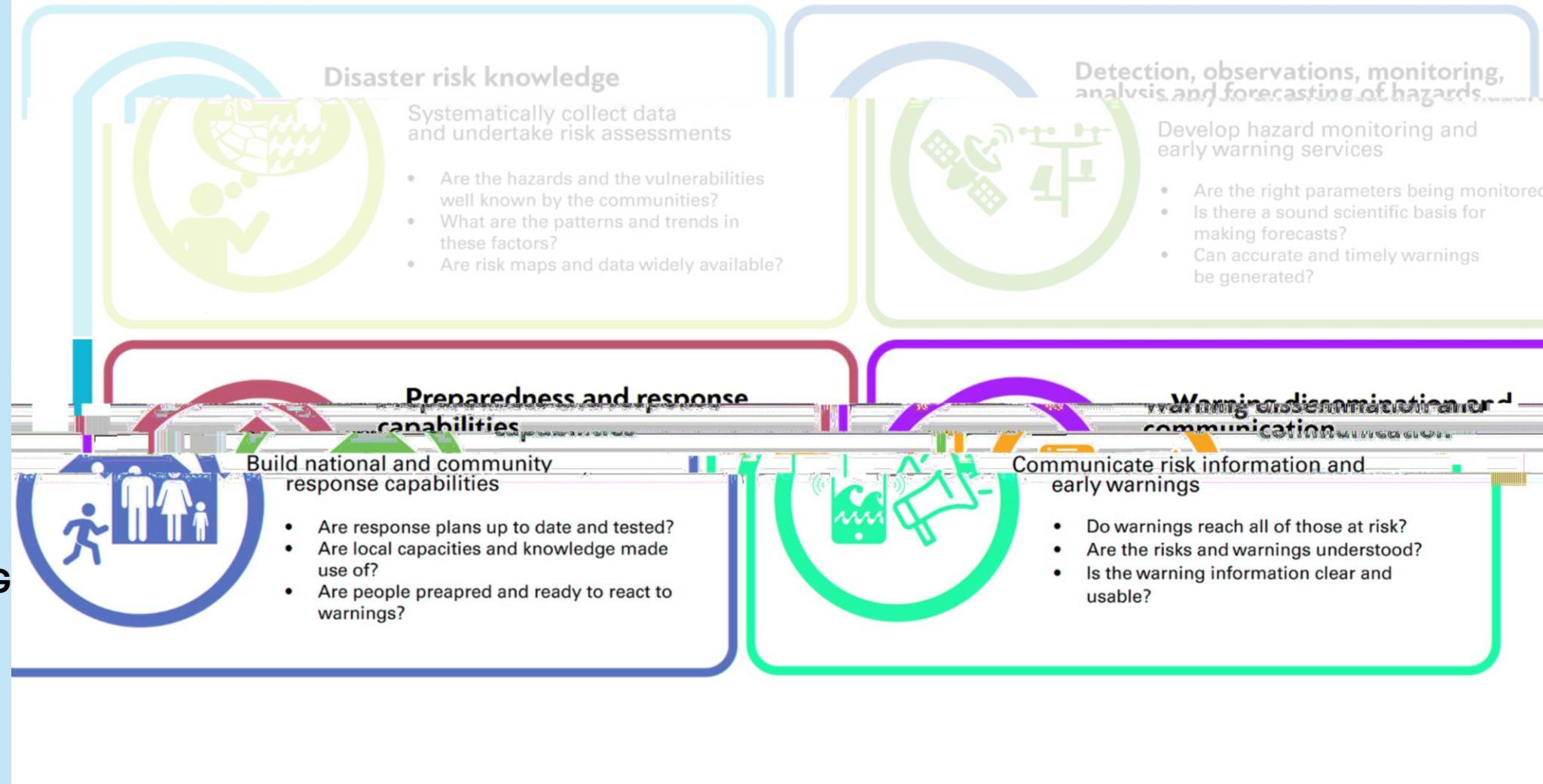
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KEY NOTES

Why this talk?



School of volcanology and disaster
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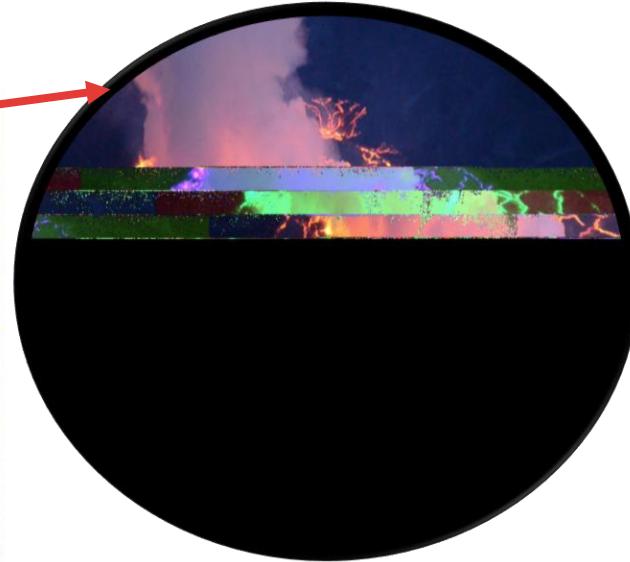
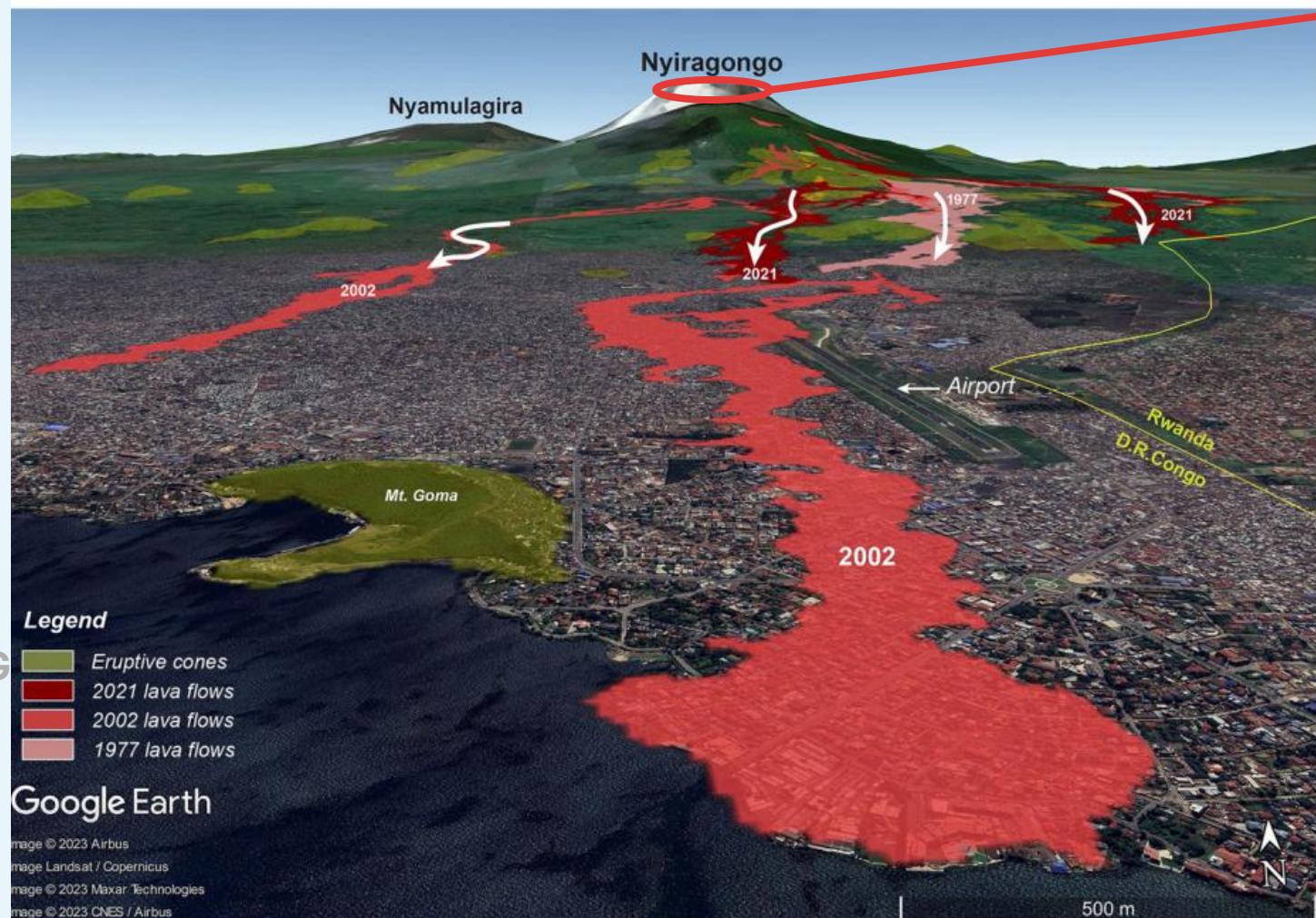
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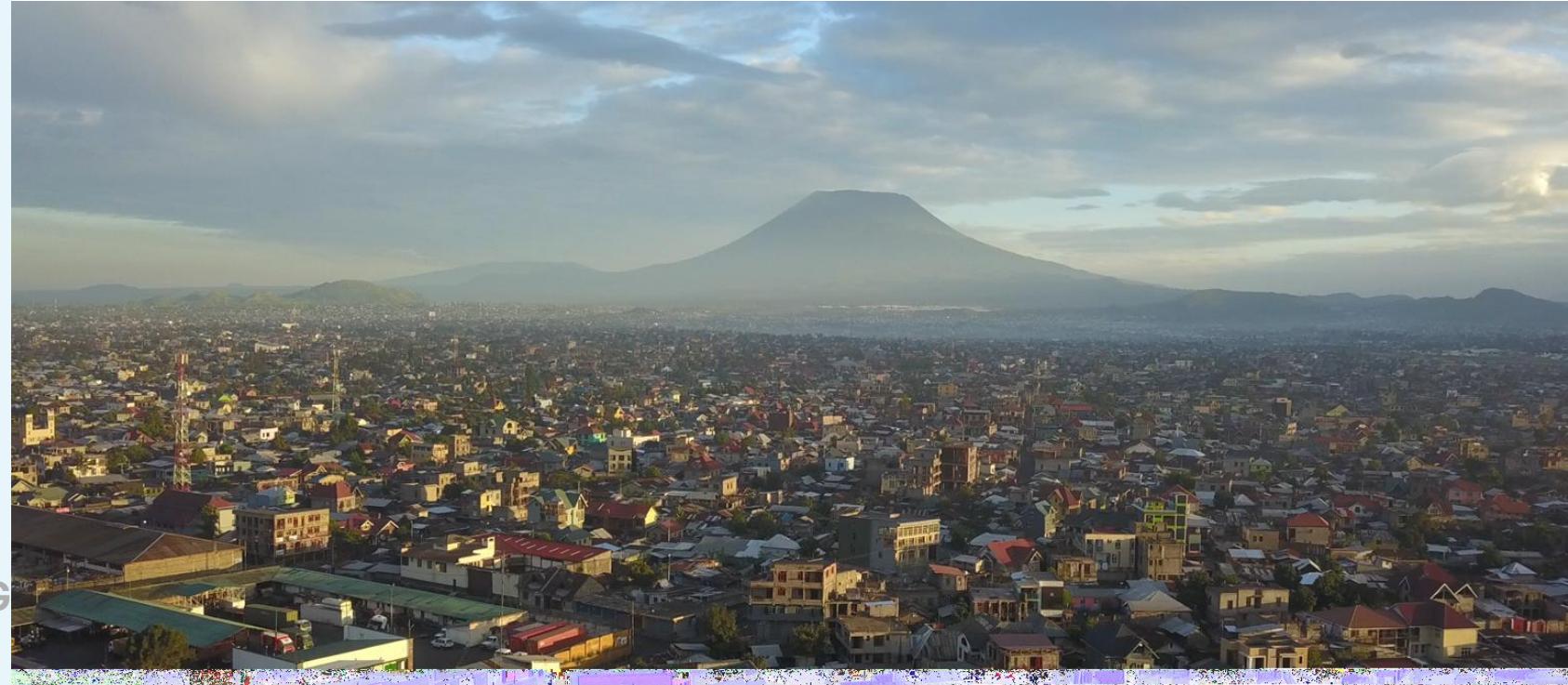
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Goma...

- More than 1 million inhabitants



- Humanitarian HUB
- Affected by armed conflict in the last 3 decades
- Data scarcity
- Poor risk communication
- Low trust in DRM actors



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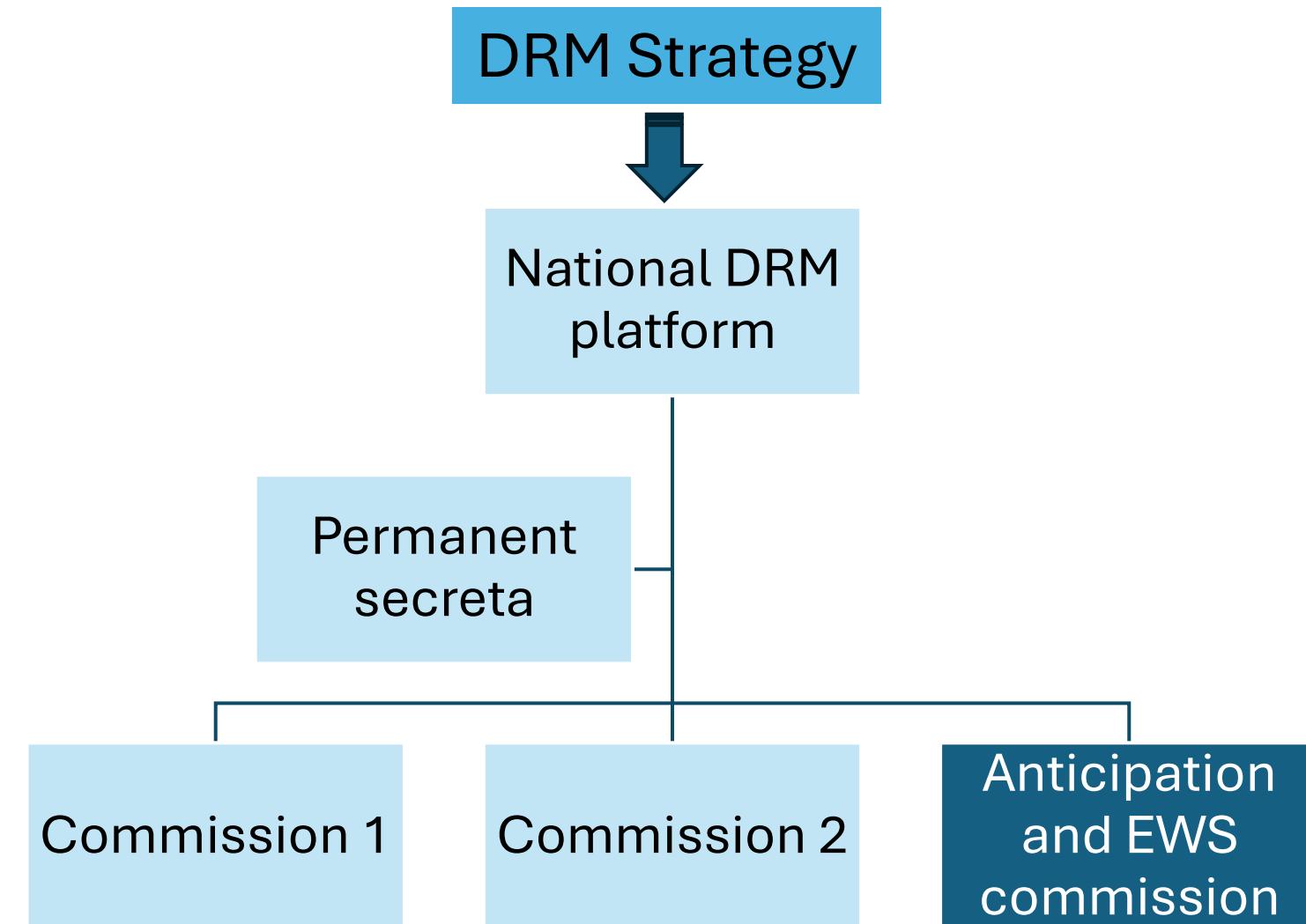
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KEY NOTES

Plans...

1. At the national level



in progress of implementation



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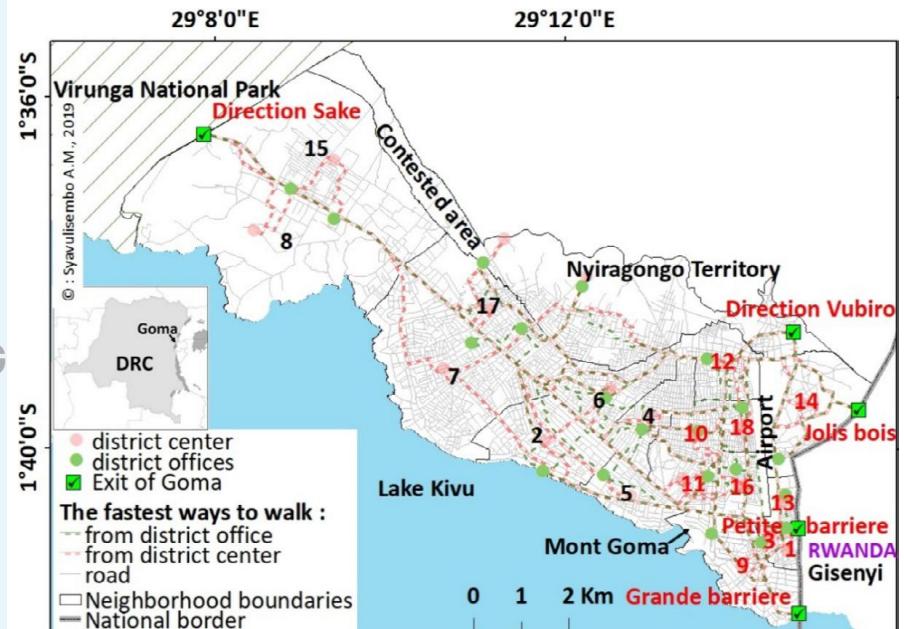
ACTION

Plans...

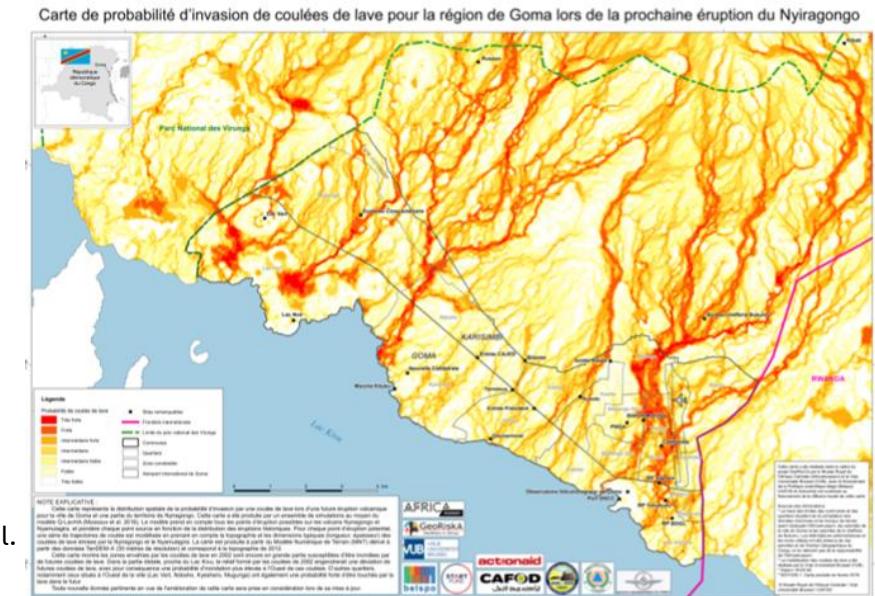
2. At district level



The 2021 eruption occurred without an updated
contingency plan
&
No well-disseminated evacuation and hazard maps



Syavulisembo & a
2025



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PRACTICE: Are local capacities and knowledge made of use?



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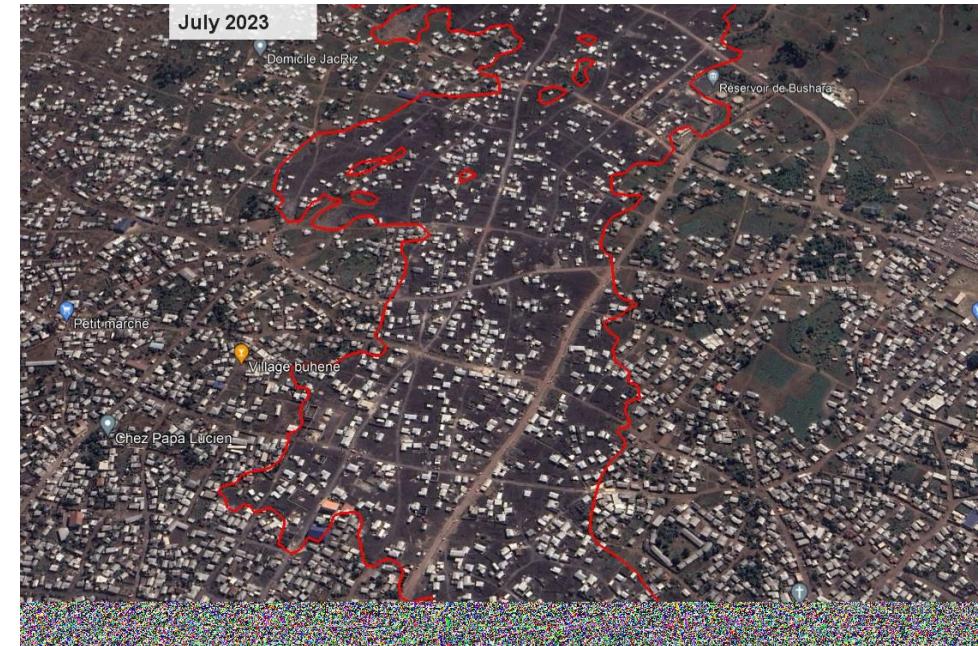
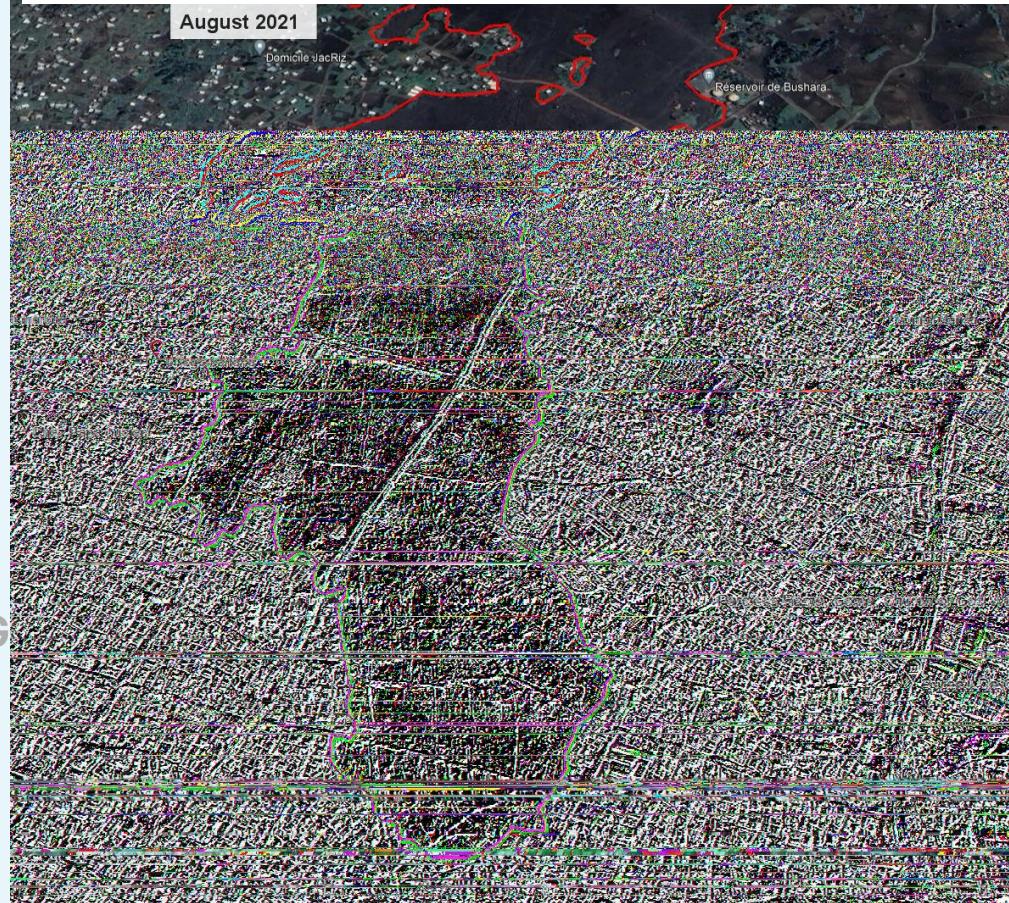
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PRACTICE: Are local capacities and knowledge made of use?

Preservation of the community ties was a priority than risk assessment: Effective EWS practices need to consider local context practices



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KEY NOTES

ACCESS: Do warning reach all of those at risk?

Without warnings : **self-evacuation**

unfortunately among panicking understand everyone
signs catching without sroke sitting rushed everyone
often live short telling rumblings phones yes
rapid flaring yetcircuit son put prepared impression
direction crossed mountain noticed northern nothing
show lives quickly large towards month usualtime pot turned much
term of sawing population neighbours experience shortly
networks surprised to buhene indeed atmosphere thoughtnormal pace
solar tell resting living say coming started light food playingwatched
nging slowly intense dust like happening rumours
past close burning day smoke told confirmed kind
right burning colleague look heard red flame
ater owing around lot city shines music
ried that increased around colour knew hospital thunder
ancy actually full informed north harvestingmunigi
kihisi duty town going gather
ises others just crater clouds kyeshero
huge hill worknow find worse fences
turning new electric fall left house
appeared believe roof inform phone shouting
shout darkness found got assured big caught
confirmation friend heal fields confirm way saying
nyiragongo social shouting unusual asked call
get looking neighbourhood neighbour road back part ash
headed still cables caused moving concluded buene night
information preparing sand didnt goma visible move
warning ianuar necessities eclipse relatives
warning ianuar necessities eclipse relatives

With warnings : **Mandatory-evacuation**

knew lava
rise thursday sounded lake
move neighbourhood danger
became alert information great
friends telephonemorning young even
followed received market always neighbours population
message friend learned facebook
page evening front night media evacuation
announced stations brother gave
radio night social news ordered
gas neighbour son said still radios siren
governor also neighbour
also neighbour alerted city
neighbour around sent sake local
evacuate period minutes got may erupting
anywhere northeast broadcast spoken

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- ➡ ACTION

KEY NOTES

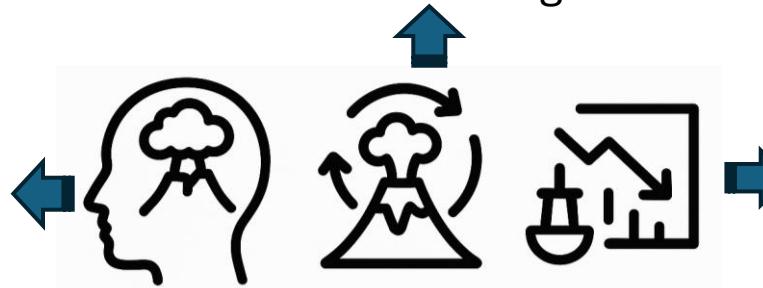
ACCESS: Are the risks and warnings understood?

Is not the information per se that determines whether people act to address their risk. Rather, decisions to act are determined by how people interpret the information. (Paton et al. (20208)

Heuristics guide judgment when risk information is scarce

2°. Normalization Bias

"Used to the Danger"

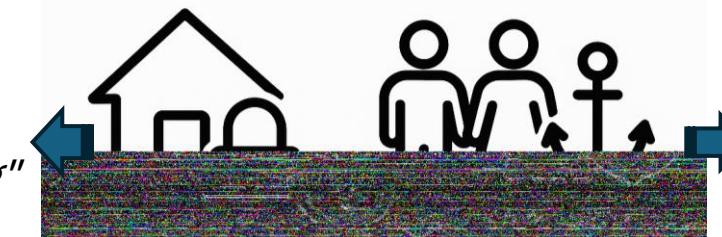


1°. Availability Bias

"Past Events = Present Risk"

3°. Adjustment Bias

"I've Seen This Before"



4°. Outcome Expectancy Bias

"Better Stay than Lose Everything"

5°. Anchoring Bias

"Can't Leave Without Them"

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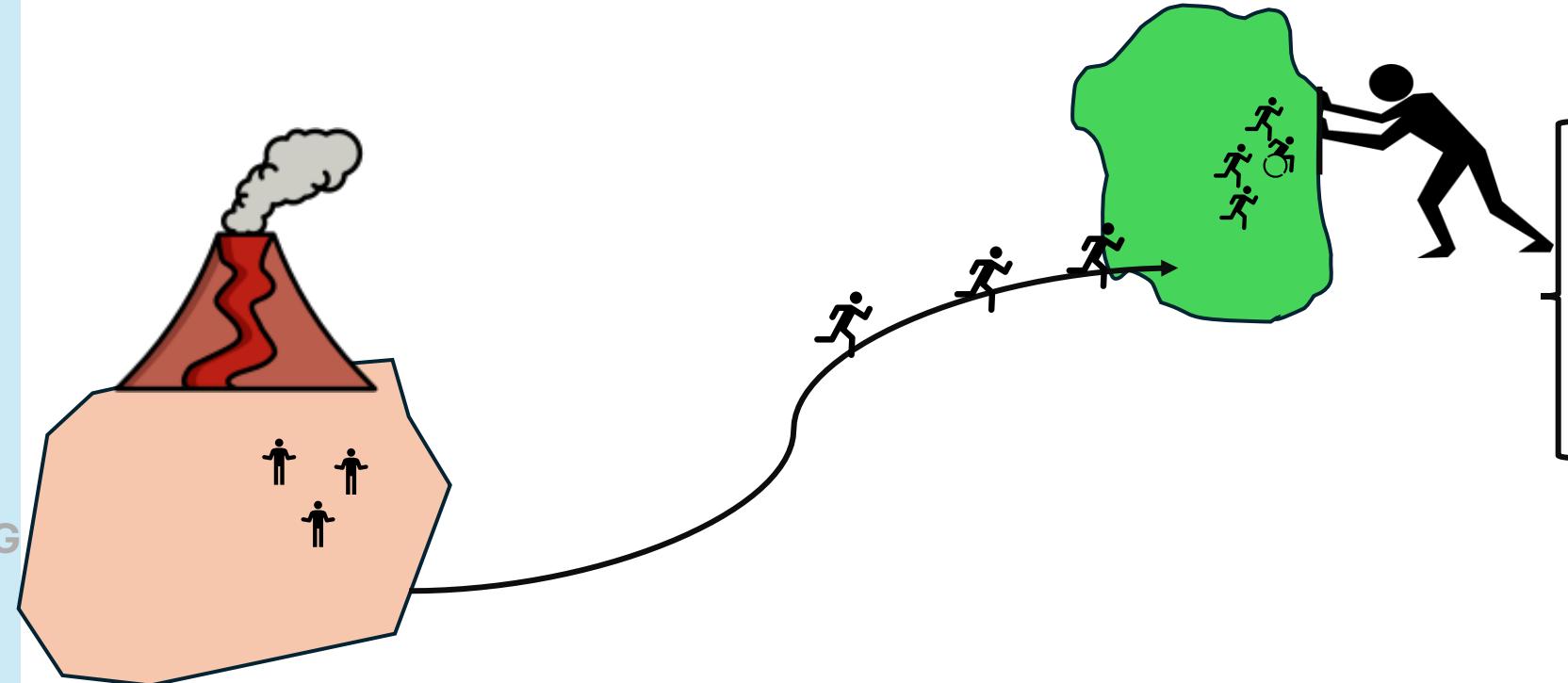
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ACTION: Is the warning information clear and usable?

(a) Reasons for returning early to Goma



PUSH factors

- Poor shelter organisation
- Limited freedom
- Reduction of wellbeing
- Lack of resources

Mafuko Nyandwi. B, & al, (2023)
in JVGR



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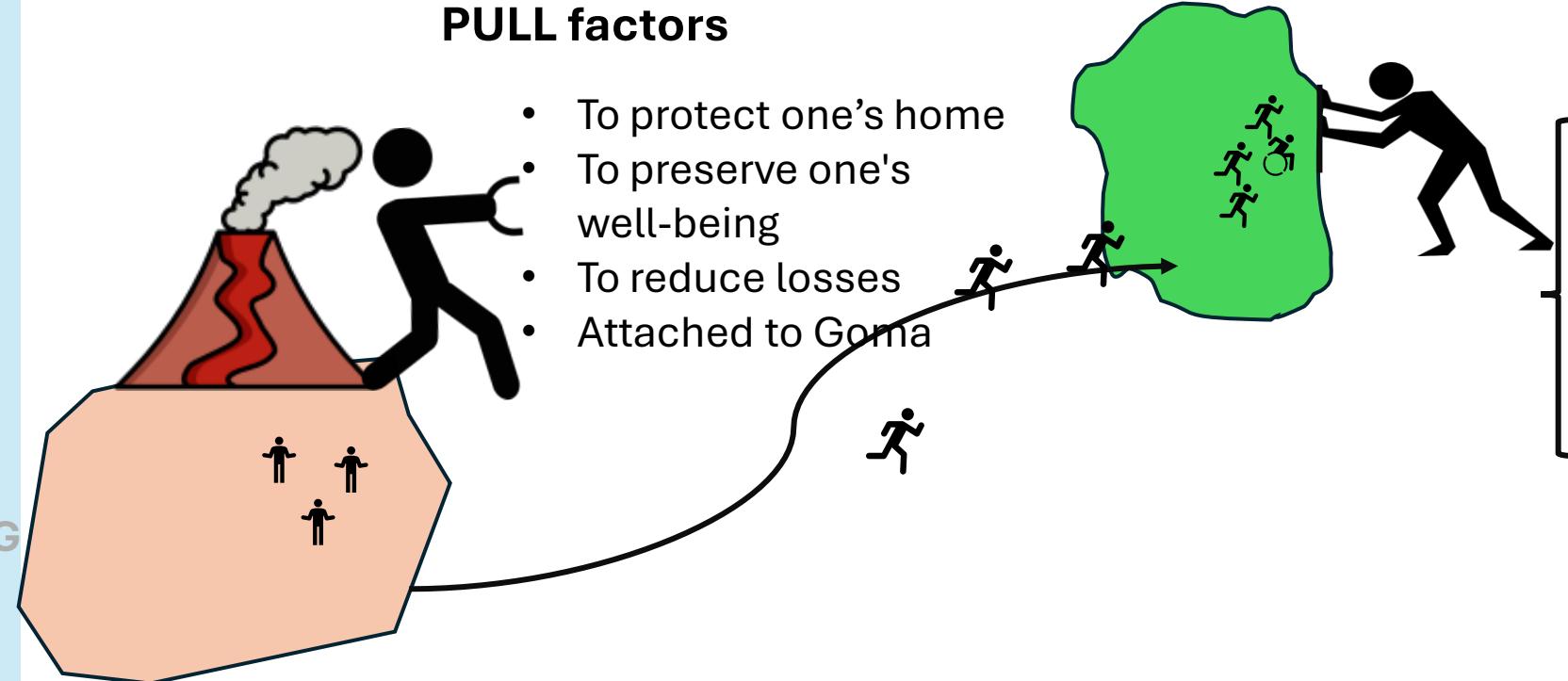
KEY NOTES

ACTION: Is the warning information clear and usable?

(a) Reasons for returning early to Goma

PULL factors

- To protect one's home
- To preserve one's well-being
- To reduce losses
- Attached to Goma



PUSH factors

- Poor shelter organisation
- Limited freedom
- Reduction of wellbeing
- Lack of resources

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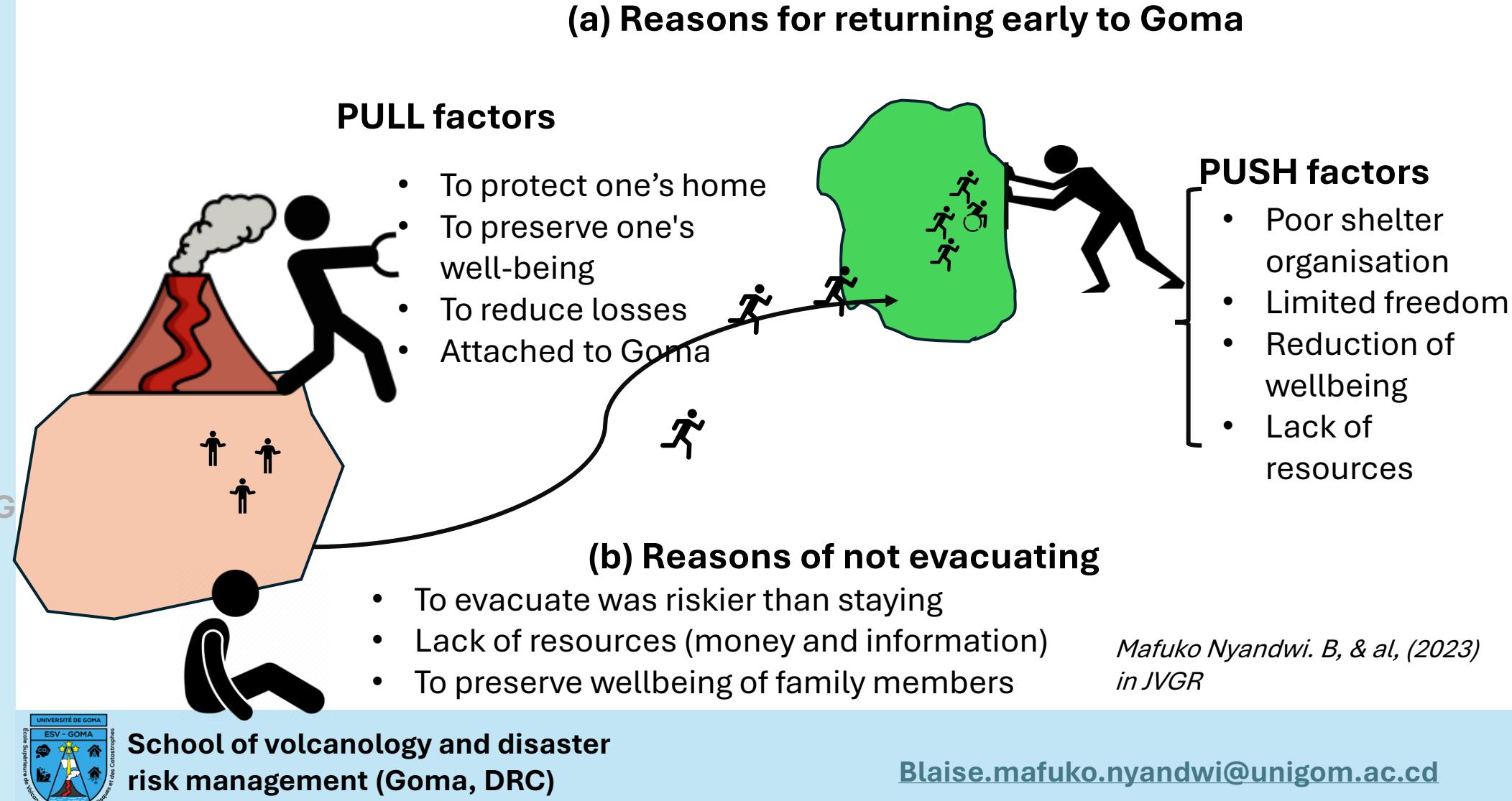
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ACTION: Is the warning information clear and usable?



Take-aways

- **Need to improve risk knowledge among locals:** Natural processes are not well understood by the community
- **Effectiveness requires preparation:** Various materials (e.g., hazard maps, alert protocols) need regular updating and proactive dissemination
- **Co-created solutions are essential:** Effective early warning implementation must consider local context and local informal warning dessemination

Thank you very much!



More details:

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