

Small Wind for Sustainable Rural Development: Assessing the Market Presenter: Alfred Alsop, University of Strathclyde

Small wind turbines are growing in recognition as a means for rural electrification, and for meeting sustainability and poverty reducing targets set by the UN. The technology undoubtedly has a contribution to make to widening global energy access and improving the quality of life for many of the 1.2 billion people currently living without access to modern sources of energy. However, identifying where this technology is appropriate, within this context, remains a challenge for small wind stakeholders. This poster presents a small-wind market assessment methodology that has been developed to inform governments and supranational entities of specific regions which are most likely to benefit from investment in this particular technology. The market assessment methodology developed uses a robust experience-based ranking system for the countries under consideration. Significant factors to the successes of previous small wind initiatives are taken into account, and expert judgement is used to define the relative importance of these factors. The research presented was performed in collaboration with Wind Empowerment, a global network of researchers and practitioners for locally manufactured small wind turbines, and has previously been presented at Wind Empowerment's biannual conference in Cutral-Co, Argentina.

Figure 1 shows the results for the countries under consideration, divided by criterion category, where a score of 1 indicates a location perfectly fulfils all applied criteria.

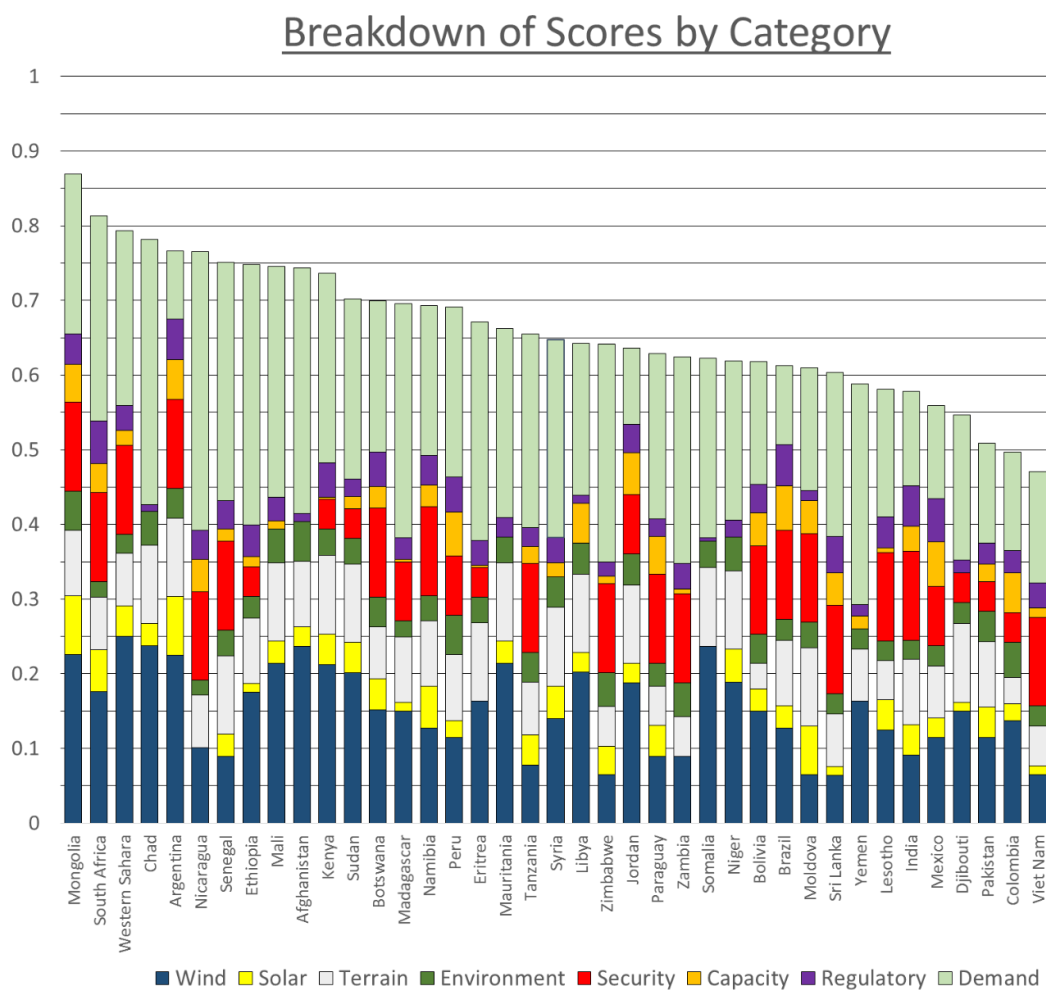


Figure 1: A breakdown of country scores by criterion category.