

INTRODUCTION TO SITING STUDY AND MAPS

A high-level analysis described in Figure 1 of the Albanian territory aimed to find potentially suitable areas to install Wind Power Plants (WPP). The results of this analysis are documented in the Wind Siting Study [Rel. 19133659.12856 Wind Siting Study FINAL.doc].

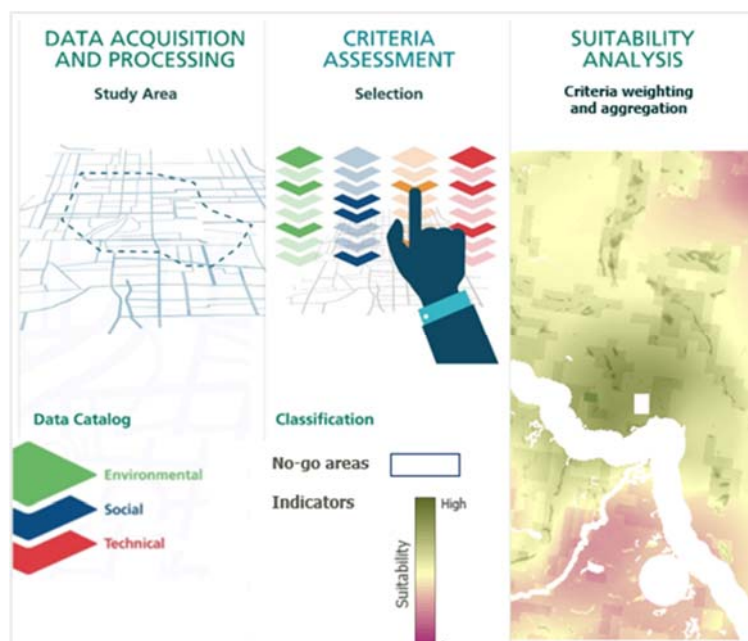


Figure 1 : from data to suitable areas

This study identified No-Go Areas, where siting of WPP is not considered suitable and a suitability map, identifying areas where WPP could be considered suitable and assigning a degree from High (most suitable) to low (least suitable). A summary explanation of the study, with a specific focus on the maps is provided below (Figure numbers refer to the Siting Study).

DATA ACQUISITION AND PROCESSING

Using a Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis, based on GIS data collected from public international websites or provided by national public entities (ATD, OST and ERE), and GoldSET Spatial tool, a set of environmental, technical and social criteria were identified to assess the potential suitability of the territory to accommodate a WPP.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

The analysis consisted in mapping **no-go areas (constraints)** and **indicators** to develop a **Suitability map for WPPs**. No-go areas represent extremely sensitive areas or conditions of natural, human, and technical concern where the feasibility is technically unachievable, or the environmental or socio-economic impact of the project would be unacceptable. Constraints in a siting model are simply overlapped and merged to generate **a map of no-go areas where siting of WPPs is unsuitable (Figure 8 and Appendix B)**. A portion of land is a no-go area even if it is crossed by just one constraint.

SUITABILITY ANALYSIS

All the land that falls outside the no-go areas is **potentially suitable for siting a wind farm**. Furthermore, that land has a degree of suitability given by the Suitability analysis, the multicriteria heat map that is the weighted combination of all indicators **(Figure 9 and Appendix C)**.

Further analysis of the most suitable sites (top 20%) by area and average wind speed is available in the Siting Study (Appendix E and Appendix F).

The Suitability map and the complete set of indicators and no-go areas are provided as GIS files. These deliverables are available to be used to identify the No-Go Areas and to undertake a more in-depth analysis to locate the most reliable areas where siting a Wind Project will ideally meet and best trade-off the goals of sustainability, according to the scale and consistency of available data sources considered and according to the study limitations.