

Offshore wind potential in Costa Rica: Boosting a plan towards road map

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TWIND Online Summer School



Delft University of Technology

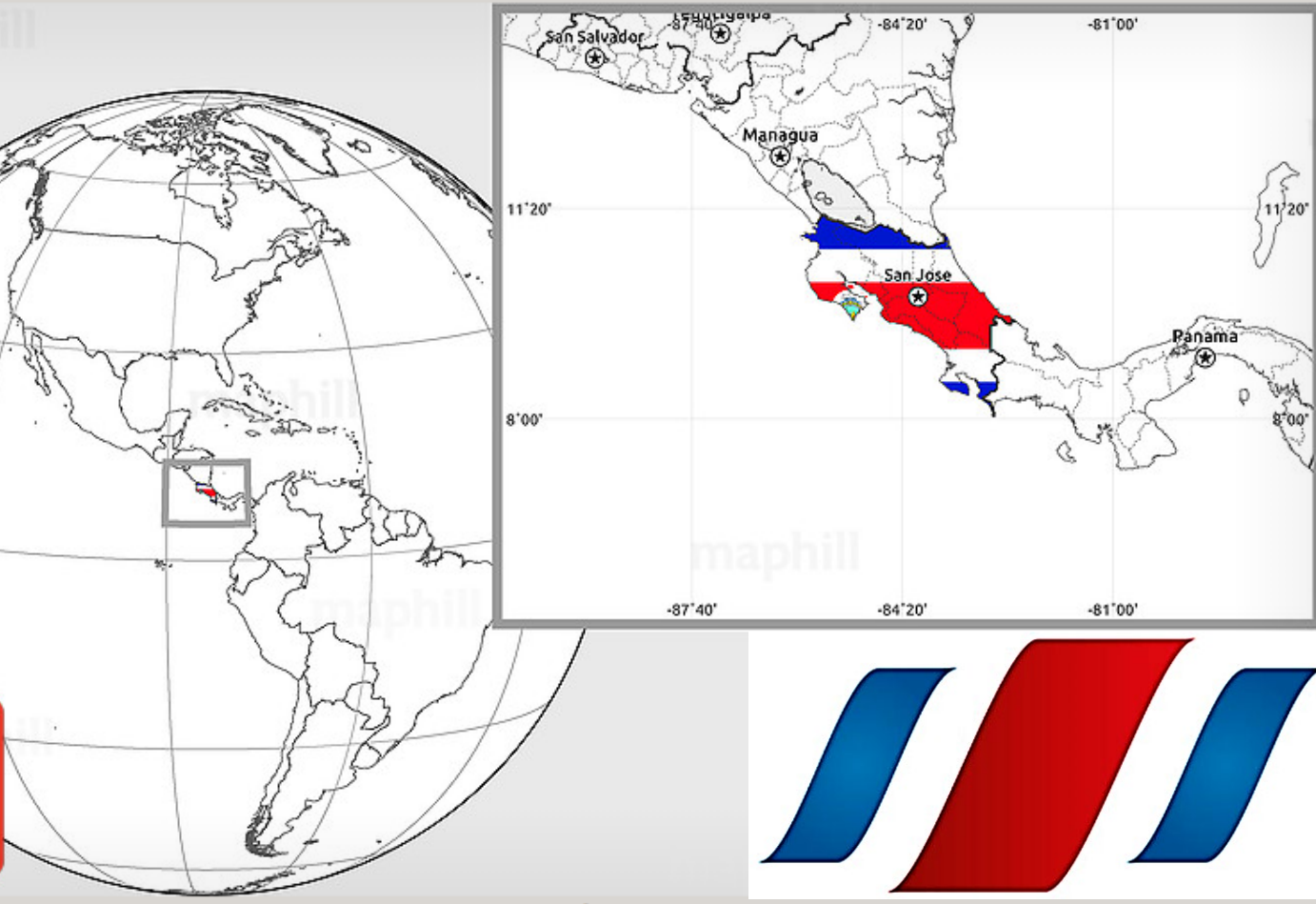
National University of Costa Rica



INGENIERÍA
HIDROLÓGICA
UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL



July, 2021



Milestones of Costa Rica

- ❖ Located in the middle of the Central America tropical belt
- ❖ The country is one of the greenest nations with 27% of its continental and marine territories protected under conservation areas system
- ❖ Currently features greater biodiversity than Europe or North America
- ❖ Although the country is small and it covers only 0.03% of the surface of the globe, it proudly shelters 5% of the existing biodiversity in the entire world.

***Costa Rica a green small country
with big global nature
conservation agenda***



This small emergent economy has shown commitment to renewable energy and the care of the environment, in last five years has achieved near of 100% of its electrical production from renewable energy sources and there is a commitment from the government to maintain and improve these levels



Hydropower



Geothermal



Onshore wind

Installed capacity

The existing electricity matrix is based on onshore sources, in 2020 generated 68.6% from hydropower, 17% wind, 13.5% geothermal and 0.84% corresponds to biomass plus solar.

Target: resilient energy matrix

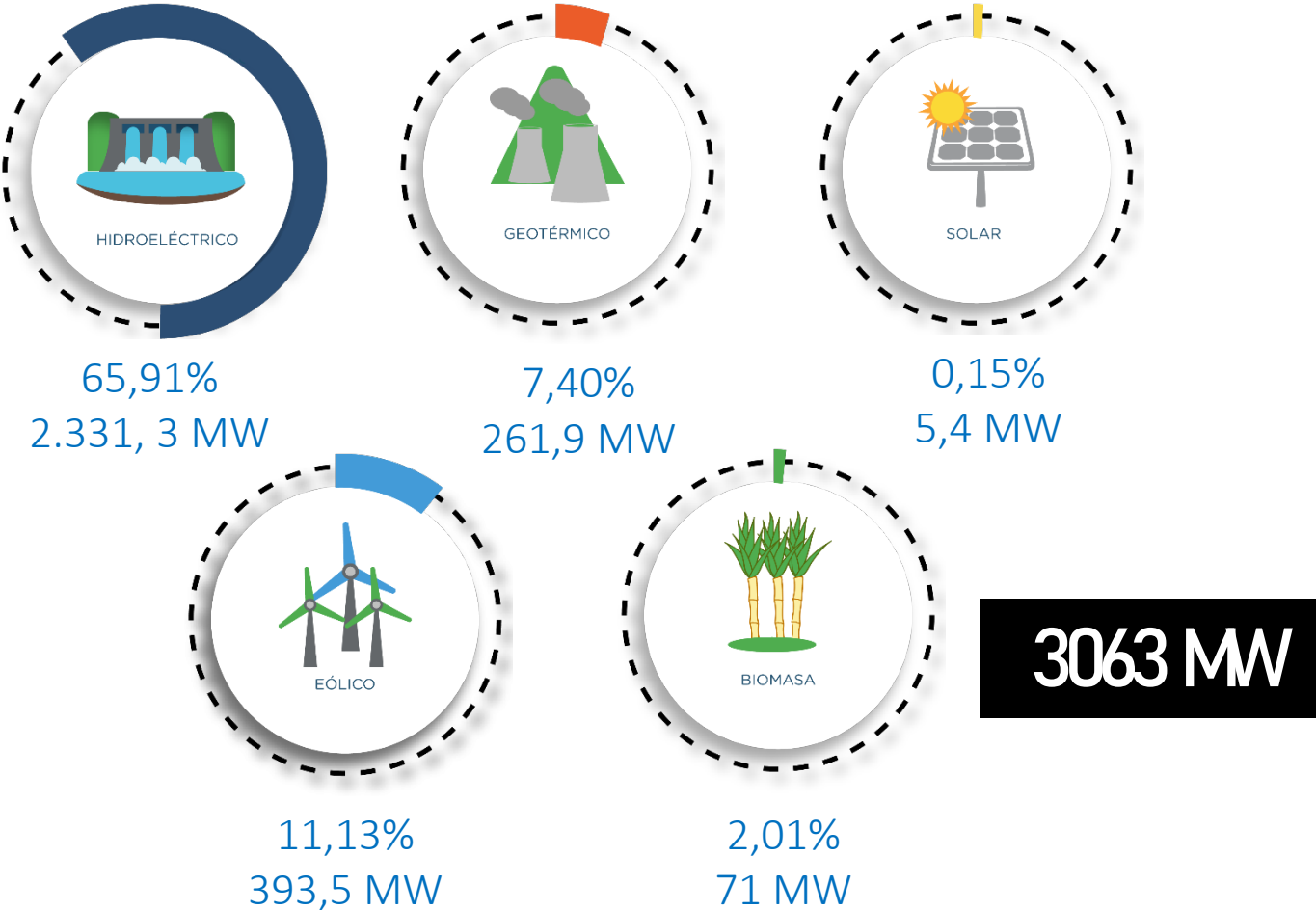
Based on this evidence, Costa Rica is at the forefront of environmental sustainability, climate action and driving the energy transition. The commitment is to keep producing almost 100% of its electricity from renewable energy.

Offshore energy

Offshore renewables should play a bigger role in diversifying its electricity mix, incorporating marine energy solutions, boost coastal economic dynamization and enhancement the creation of innovative job opportunities.

Electricity portfolio: diverse, sustainable, resilient, low cost and almost all the country with access to grid.

CONTINENTAL INSTALLED CAPACITY



OFFSHORE INSTALLED CAPACITY

10 times





Costa Rica represents a core zone with thousands of megawatts of non-conventional offshore energy available in the Pacific and the Caribbean coasts.



INSTITUTO COSTARRICENSE DE ELECTRICIDAD
GERENCIA DE ELECTRICIDAD
PLANIFICACION Y DESARROLLO ELECTRICO



PLAN ESTRATEGICO PARA LA PROMOCIÓN Y
DESARROLLO DE FUENTES DE ENERGIA RENOVABLES NO
CONVENCIONALES
2016-2035

Since 2012

Offshore wind is part of the non-conventional energy portfolio of Costa Rica

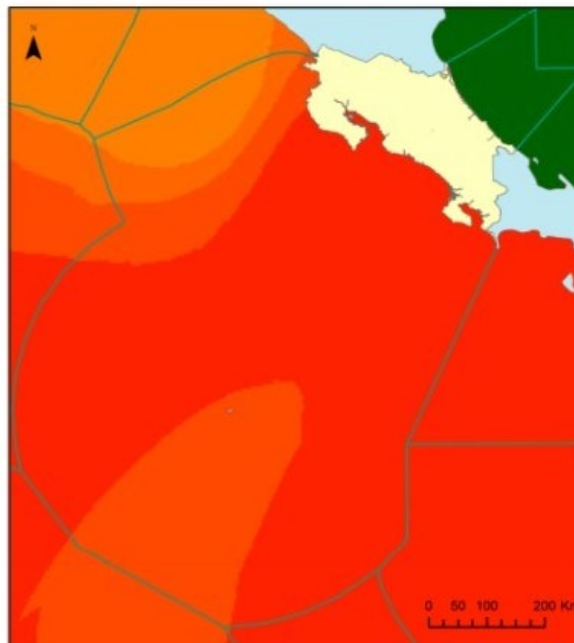
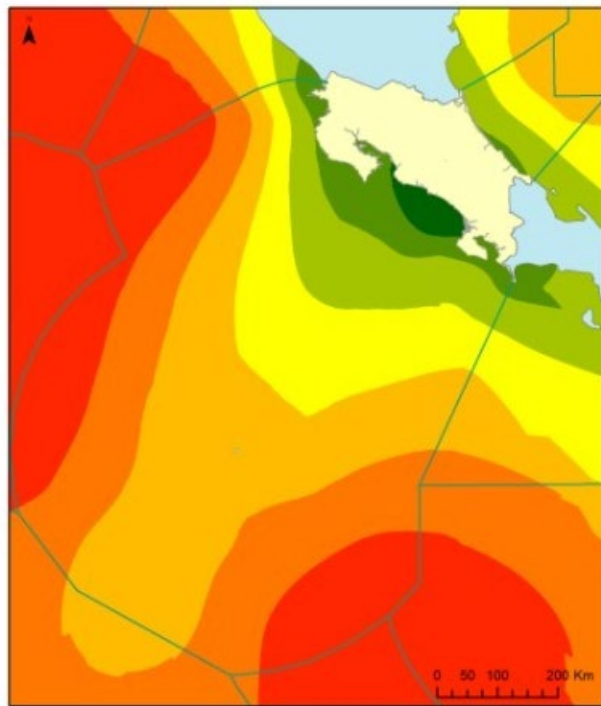


INSTITUTO COSTARRICENSE DE ELECTRICIDAD
GERENCIA DE ELECTRICIDAD
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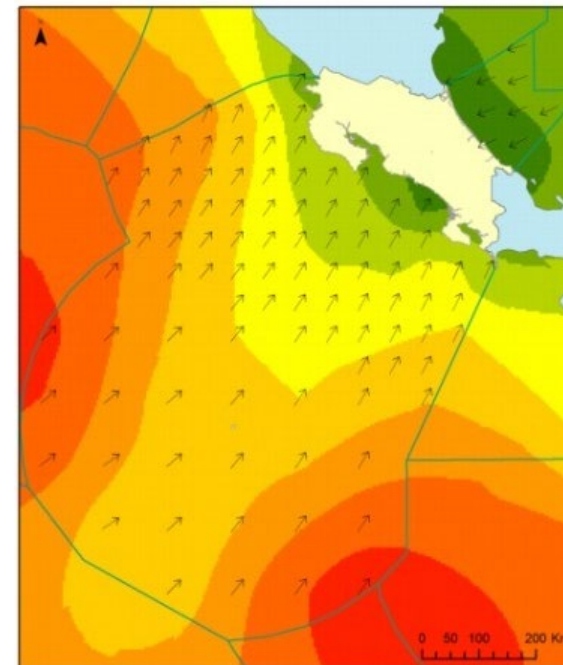
*PLAN OPERATIVO DE PROYECTOS PARA LA
PROMOCIÓN Y DESARROLLO DE FUENTES
RENOVABLES NO CONVENCIONALES
2016-2019*

First study of marine energy was carried out, by WAVEC, in 2013



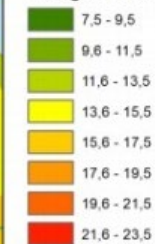
Zona Económica Exclusiva de Costa Rica

Periodo de pico (s)



Zona Económica Exclusiva de Costa Rica

Energía de las olas (kW/m)



↑ Dirección de pico



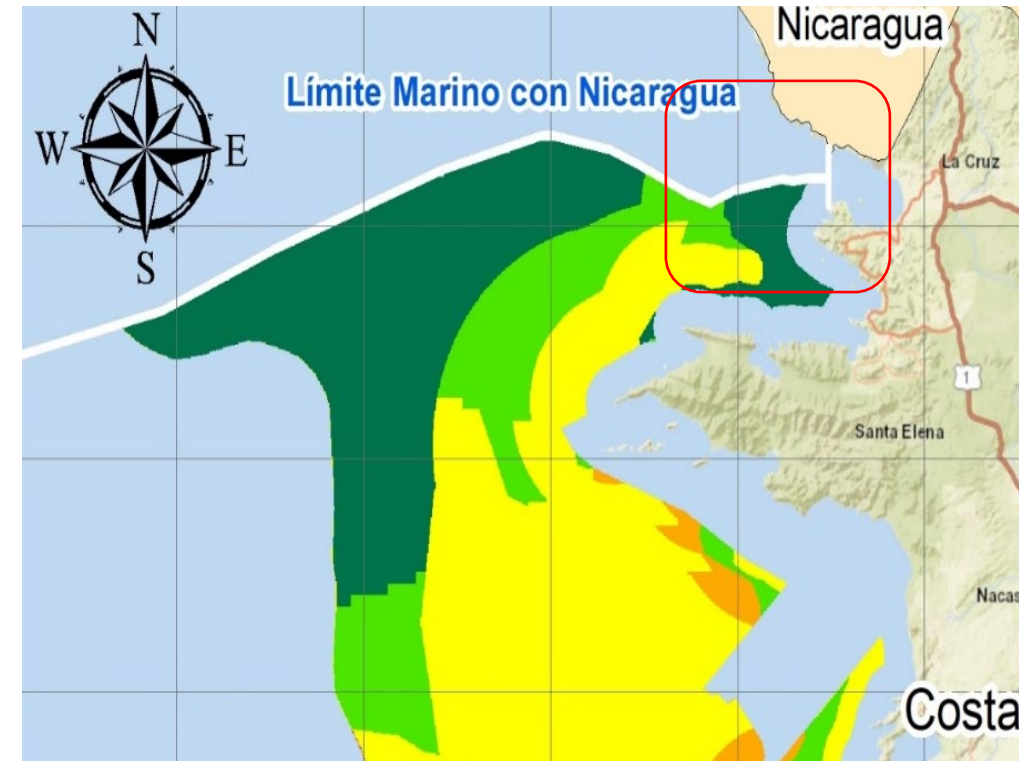
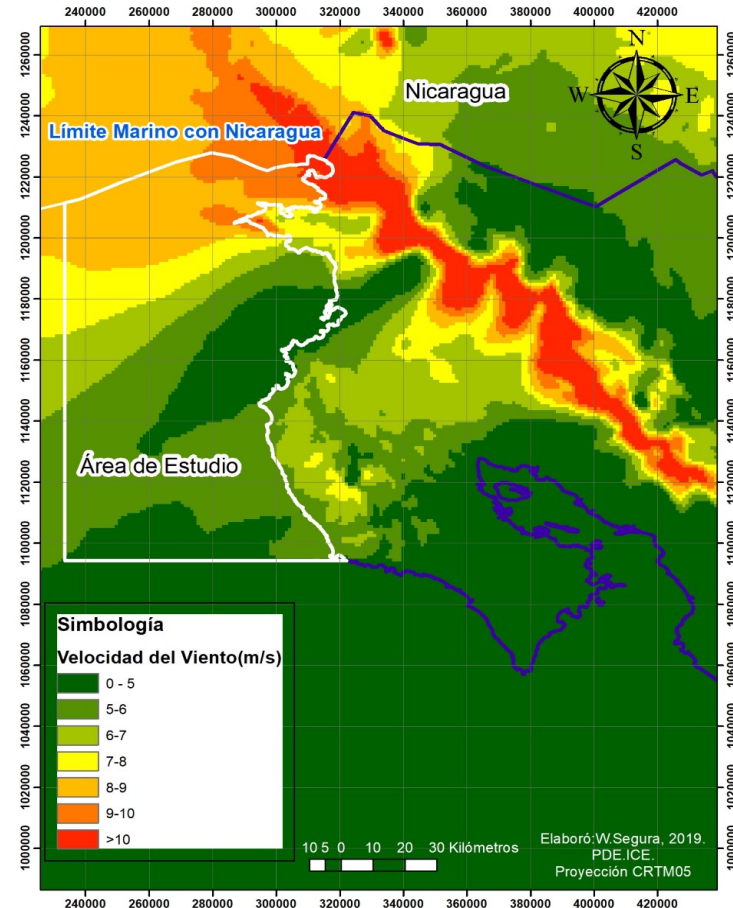
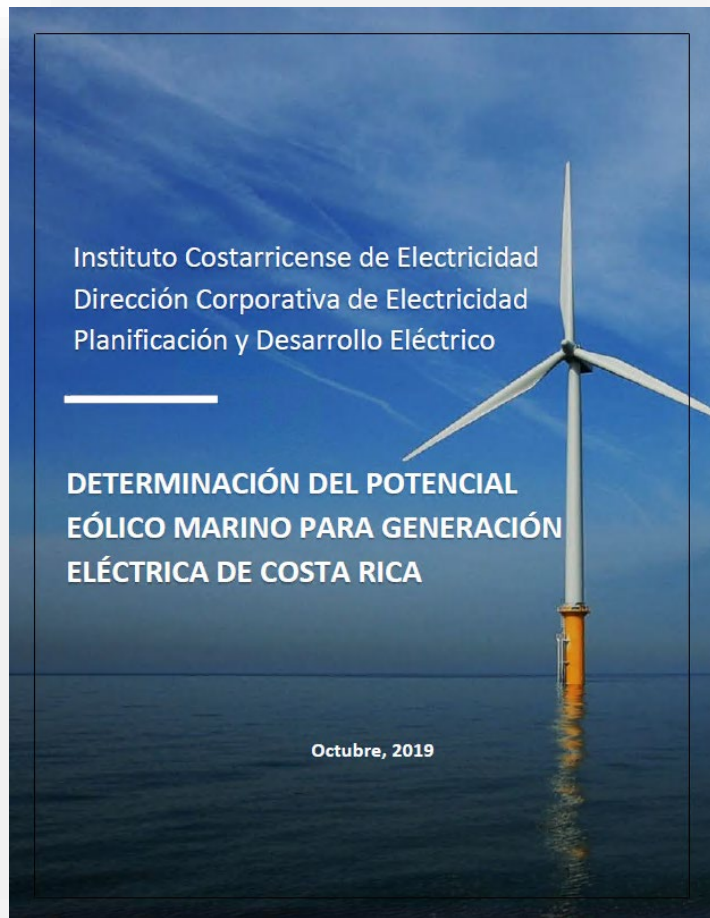


2018: START THE RESEARCH ON OFFSHORE WIND POTENTIALS

**ONLY IN OFFSHORE WIND:
INEXPLOITED 14 GW**

2 GW from waves+currents and tides

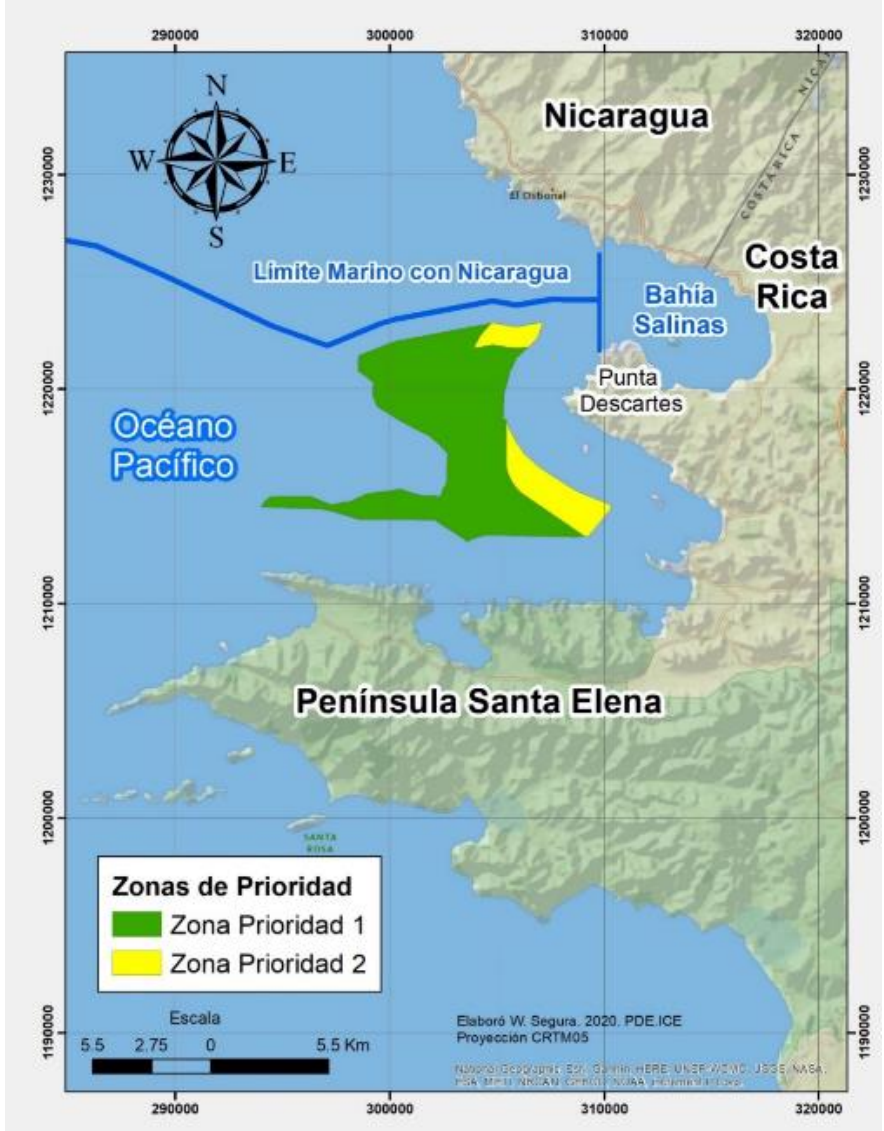
2018-2020 research shows a marine band in the North of Pacific



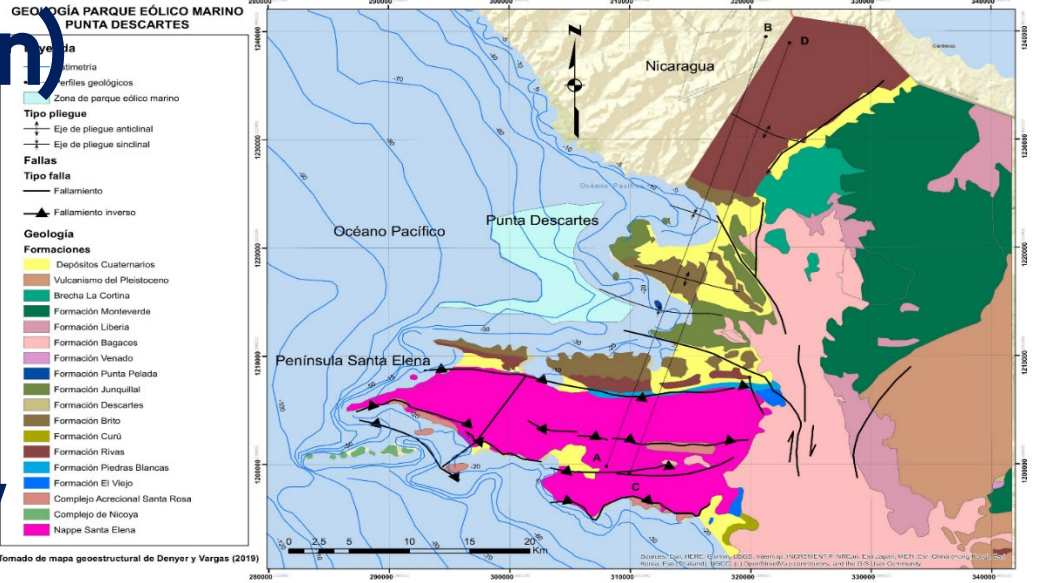
Area of study

Floating and fixed bottom wind turbines

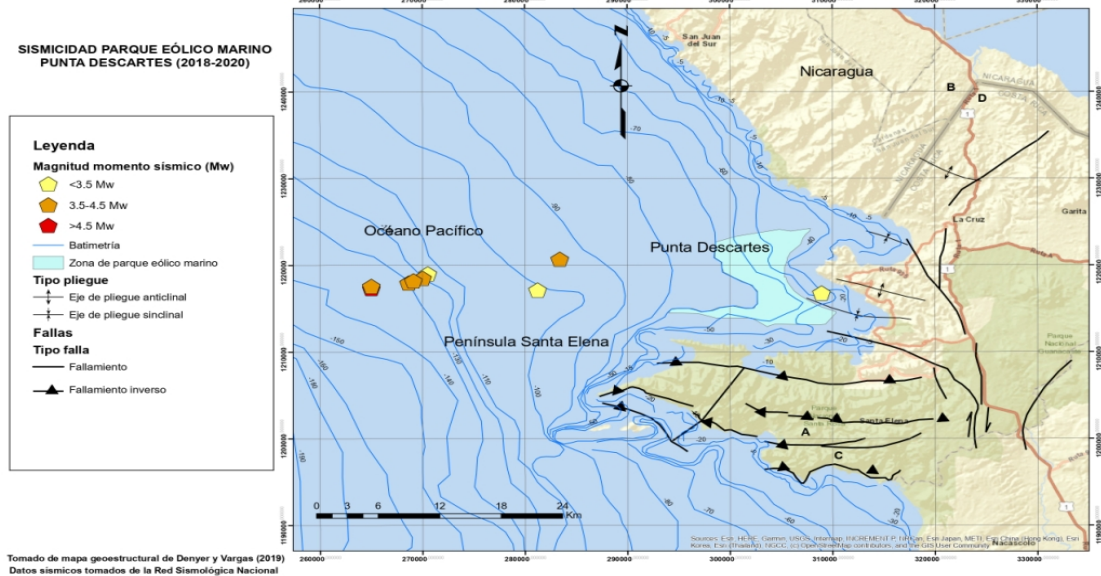
Meta-ocean investigations (supply chain)



Infraestructure
Consenting process
Environmental viability
Grid
Transmission



Geological research



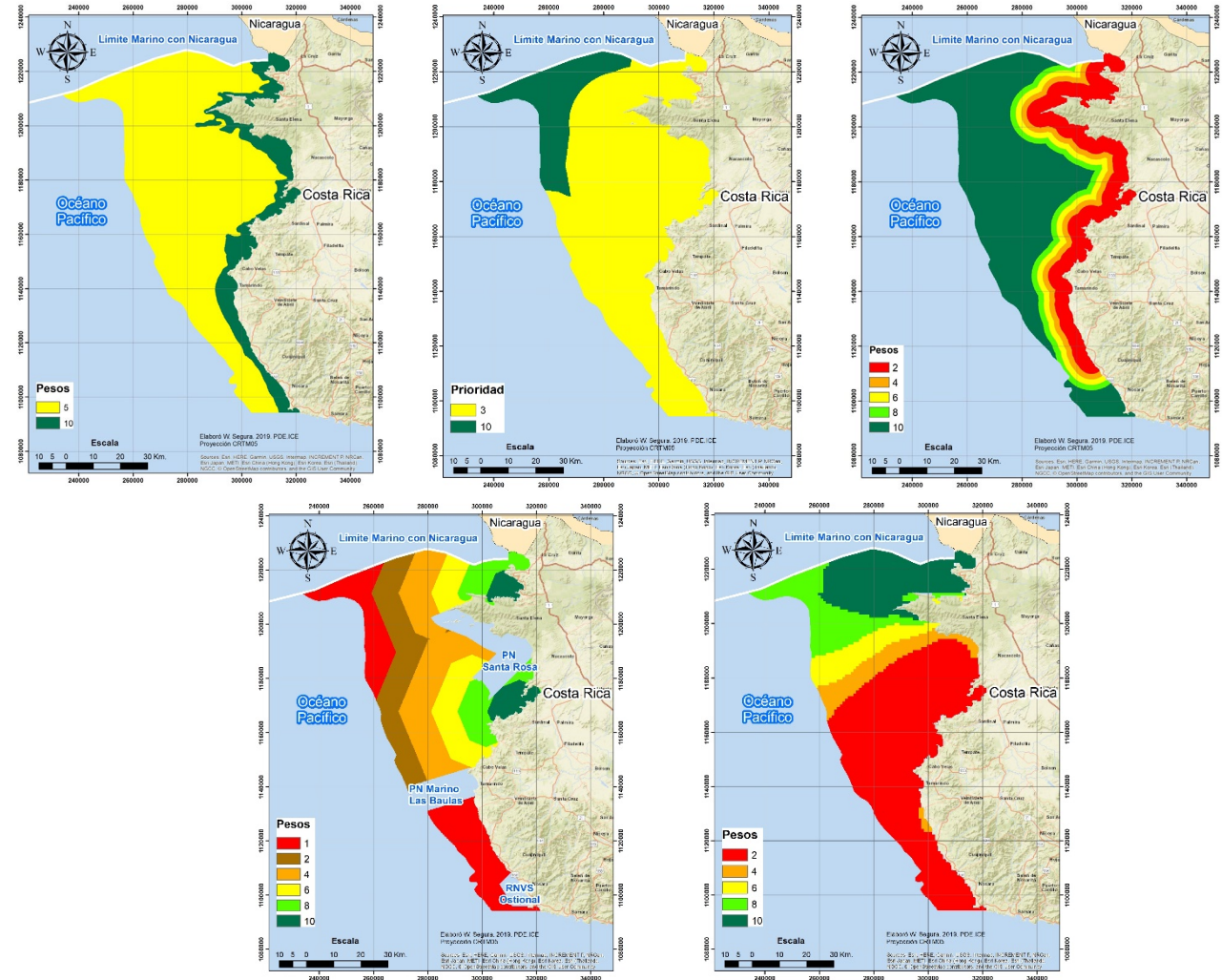
Geophysics analysis

Environmental, economic
and social restrictions

Priorization of offshore wind areas by multicriteria análisis

Criteria selected:

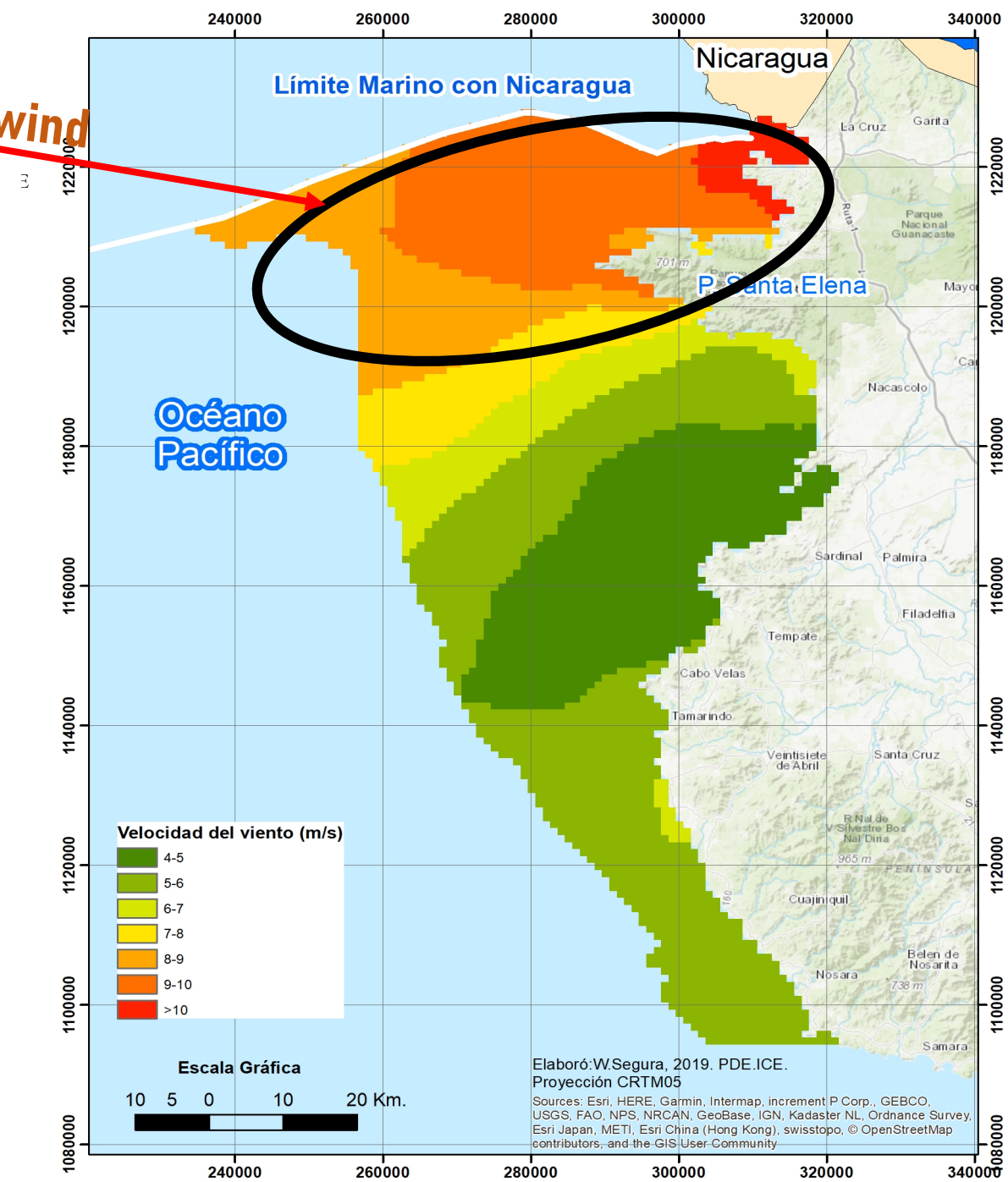
- Bathymetry profile
- Environment conditions
- Landscape perspective
- Social-economy frame
- Wind speed analysis



Cluster with superior offshore wind speed (8-10 m/s)

Profile of offshore wind speed, at 120 meters high.

Using field data from monitoring tower in Salinas bay and satelital information in the study area



Exploitable energy area

Wind power density model:

$$\frac{1}{2} \rho \sum_{j=1}^c f(V_j) V_j^3$$

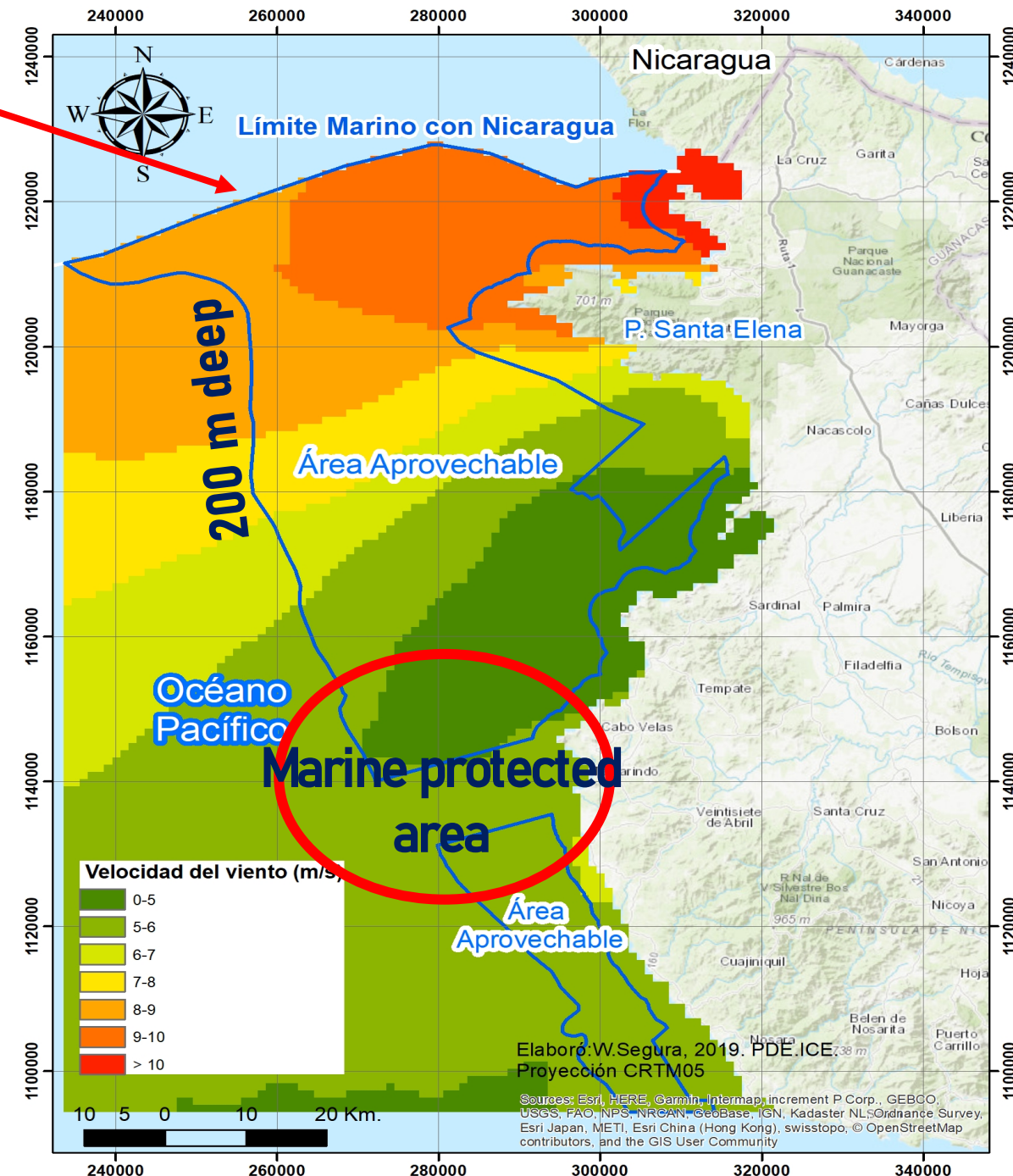
Where, ρ is mean air density, j is the index of wind speed class, c is the number of wind speed classes, V_j is wind speed of the j th class, and $f(V_j)$ is probability density function of V_j .

Technical potential: 14 400 MW

Annual energy: 59 058 GWh/y

Power factor: 34%.

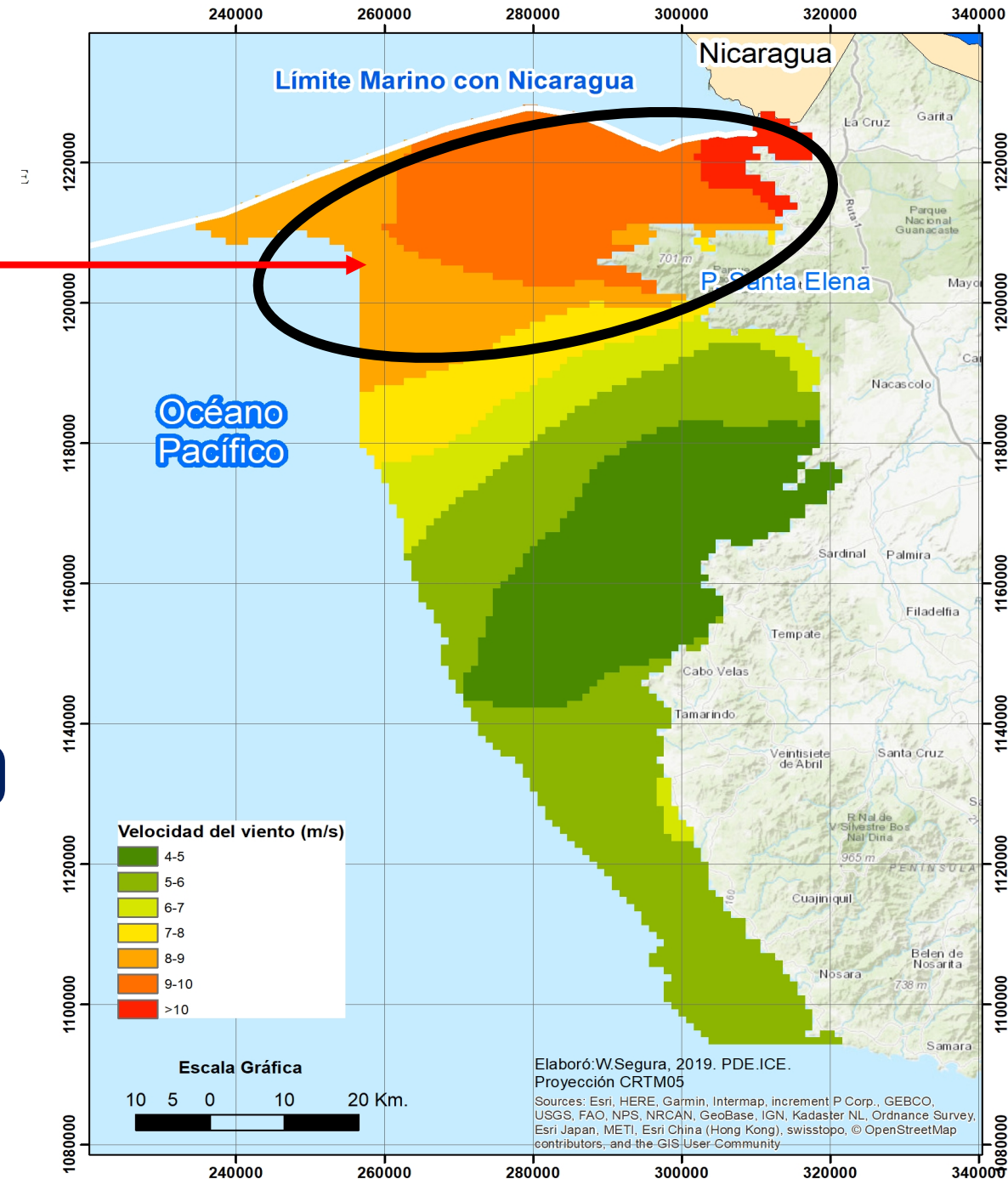
Border line with
Nicaragua



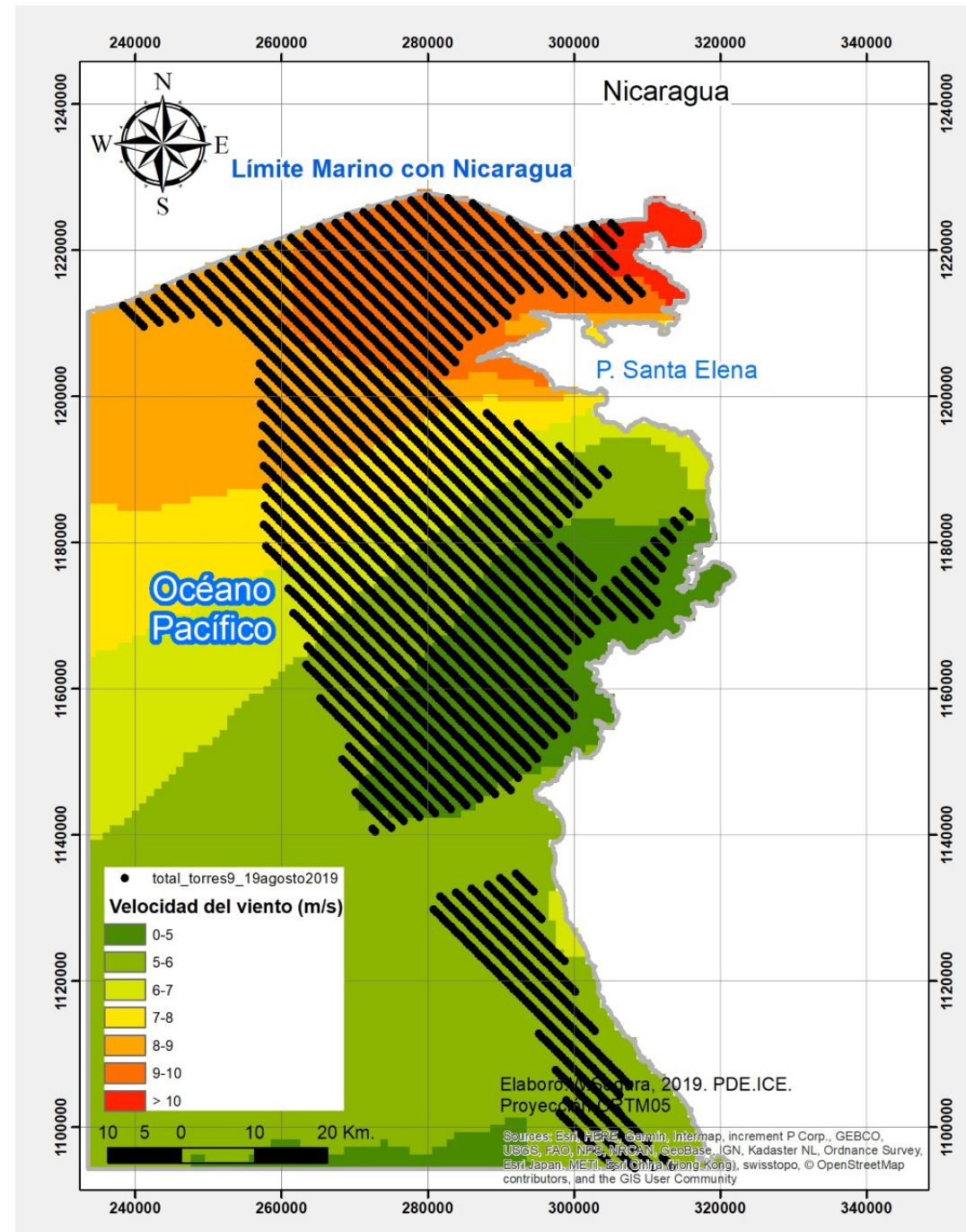
Permant plume, with superior offshore wind speed (8-10 m/s)

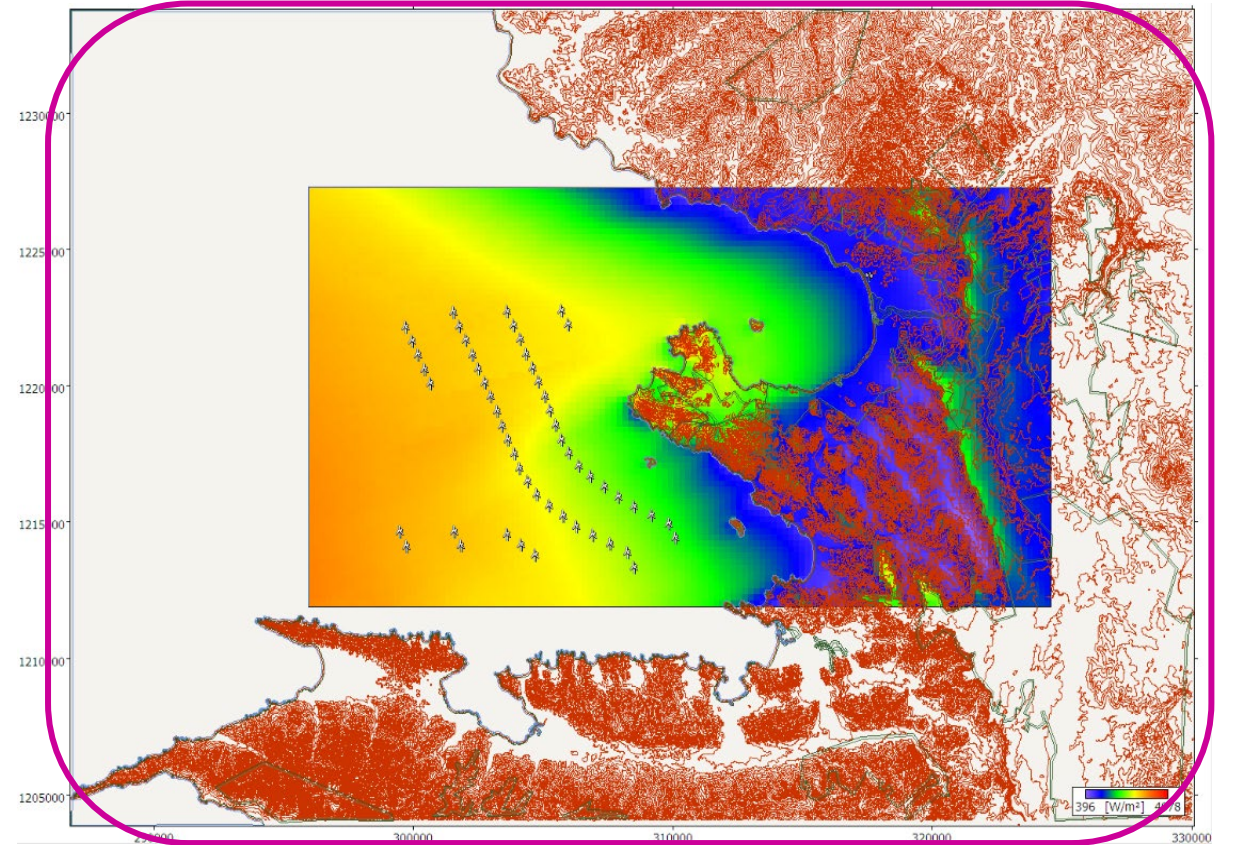
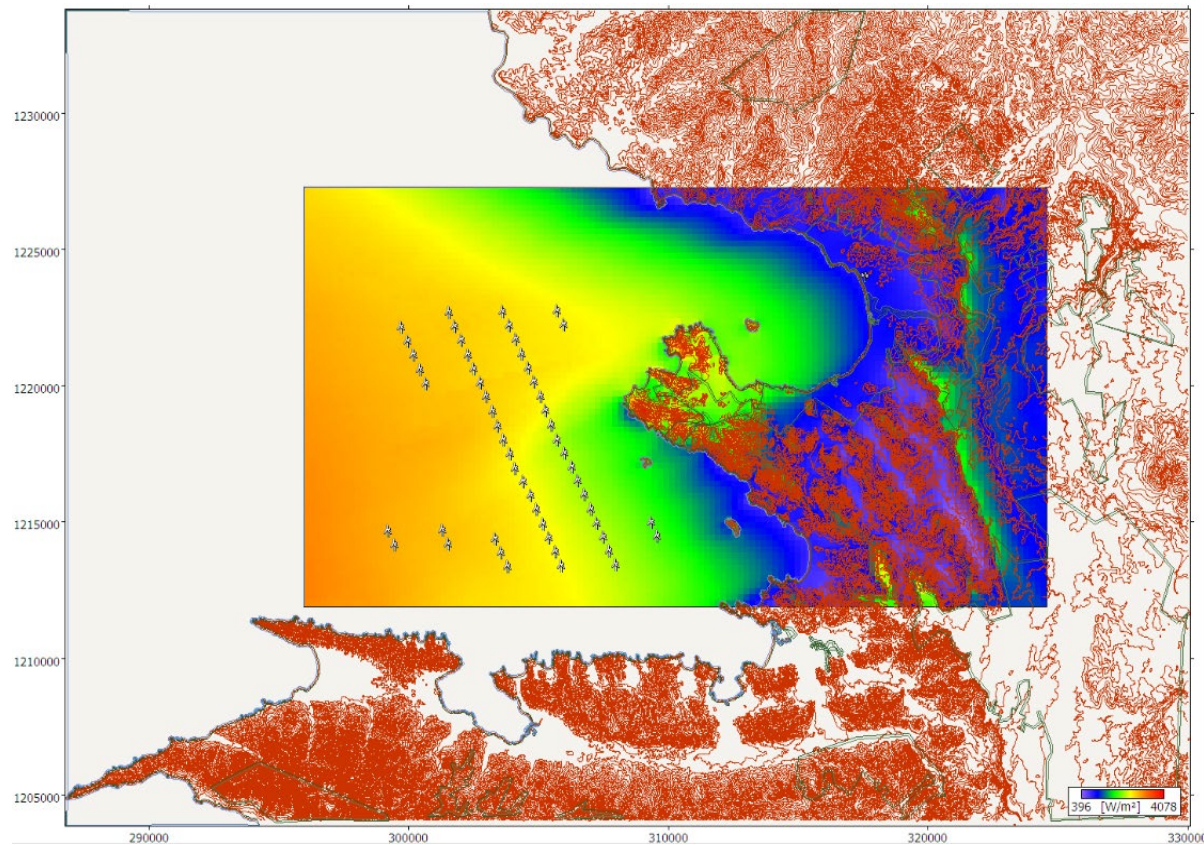
The power factor is higher than 50%

Technical potential is near of 4 780 MW and the annual energy production is 21 519 MW



Technical potential: 14 400 MW





Fixed bottom wind turbines

Technical potential: 540 MW

Annual energy: 2 986 GWh/y

Power factor: 63.1%.

MILESTONES

Marine energy potentials, 2013



Offshore wind potentials 2019

PAMEC 2020



PAMEC 2020
Pan American Marine Energy Conference
Costa Rica

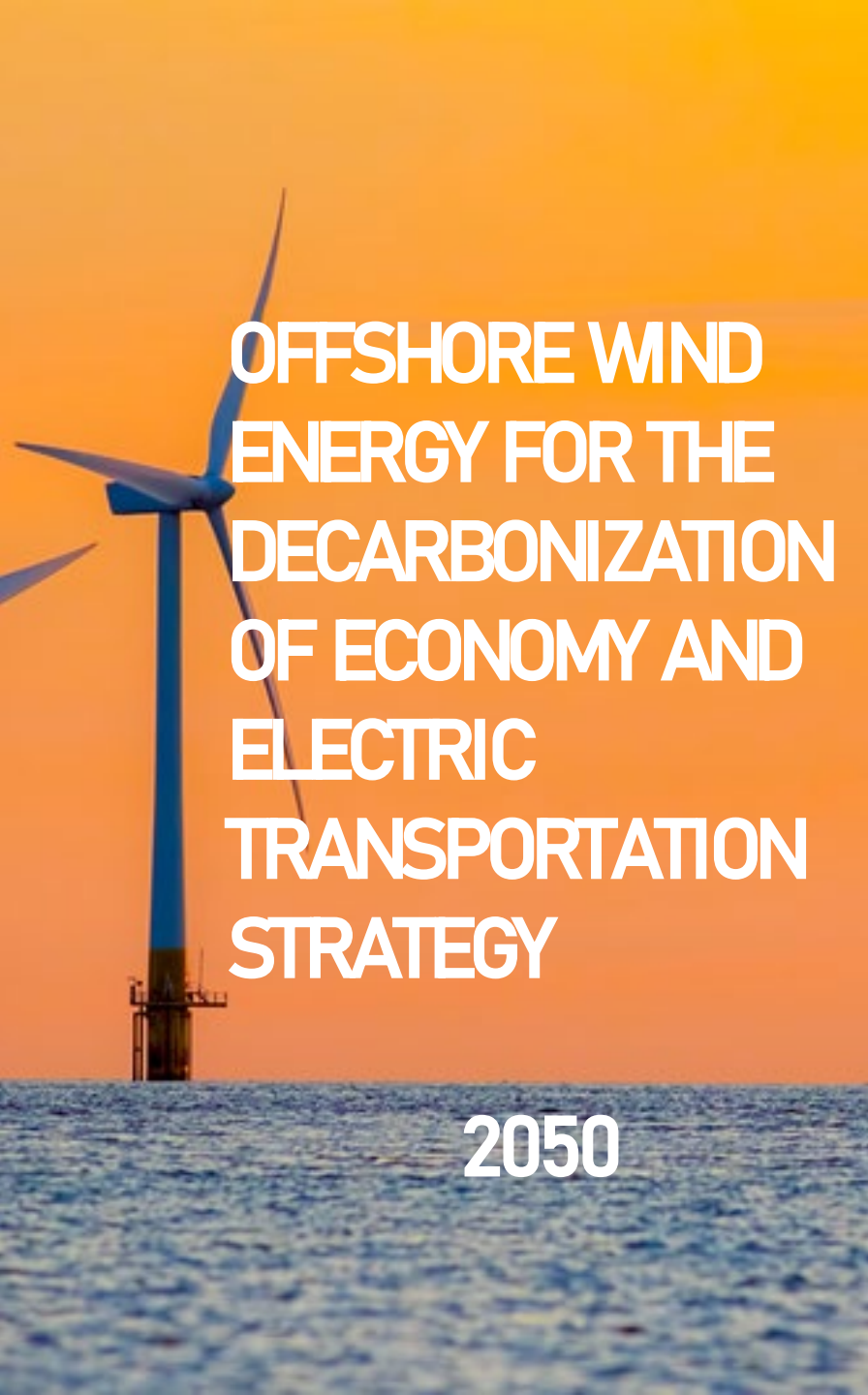
Punta Descartes offshore wind Project (phase of identification) 2020



Road map with GWEC 2021



BOOSTING THE ROAD MAP

A blue offshore wind turbine stands in the ocean under a bright orange sky. The turbine's three blades are visible, and its structure extends from the water's surface.

OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY FOR THE DECARBONIZATION OF ECONOMY AND ELECTRIC TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY

2050

Compliance with the Paris Agreement requires the transformation of national economies to meet net-zero carbon dioxide emissions by mid-century.

To accomplish this, countries need to define long-term decarbonization strategies. The nation been working to ensure total power generation from clean energy sources, as well as supporting the economy to meet net-zero carbon dioxide emissions by 2050.

Aiming to ensure country's resilient paths, offshore wind might play a bigger role in diversifying its electricity mix and incorporating marine energy solutions, boost coastal economic and innovative job opportunities.

Challenges

National plan of decarbonization requires installing 4.4 GW more of renewable power plants by 2050



Opportunities

Offshore energy, particularly, offshore wind will play a major role in this plan



NATIONAL TEAM SUPPORTING OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT





INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT: ALL IBEROAMERICA

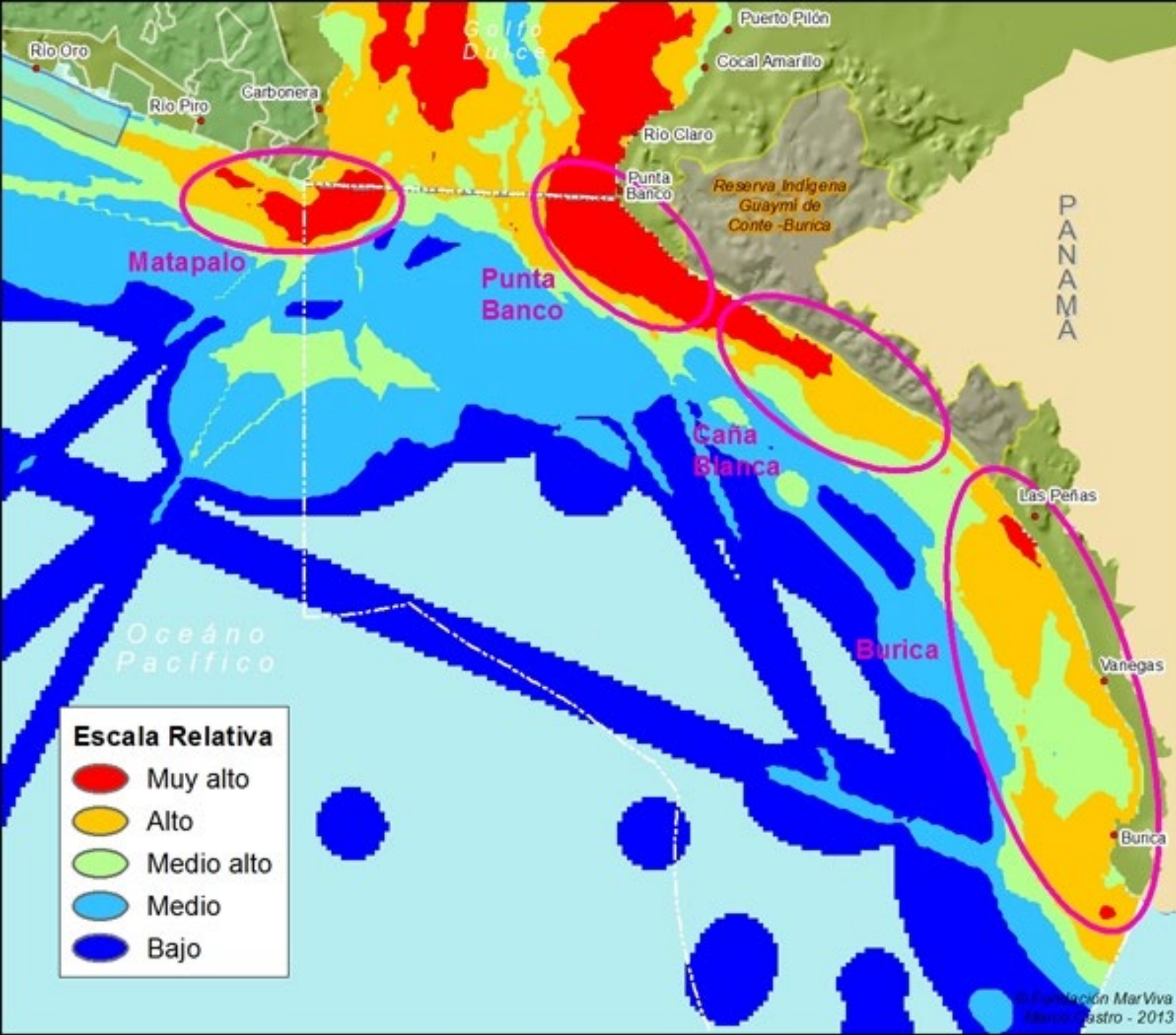
- Energy efficiency
- Grid in all the country
- Oceanography
- Numeric modelation
- Infraestructure (onshore)
- Marine ecology
- NGOs vinculates
- Marine planning
- Basic ports infraestructure
- Blue economy plan
- Marine and coastal planning



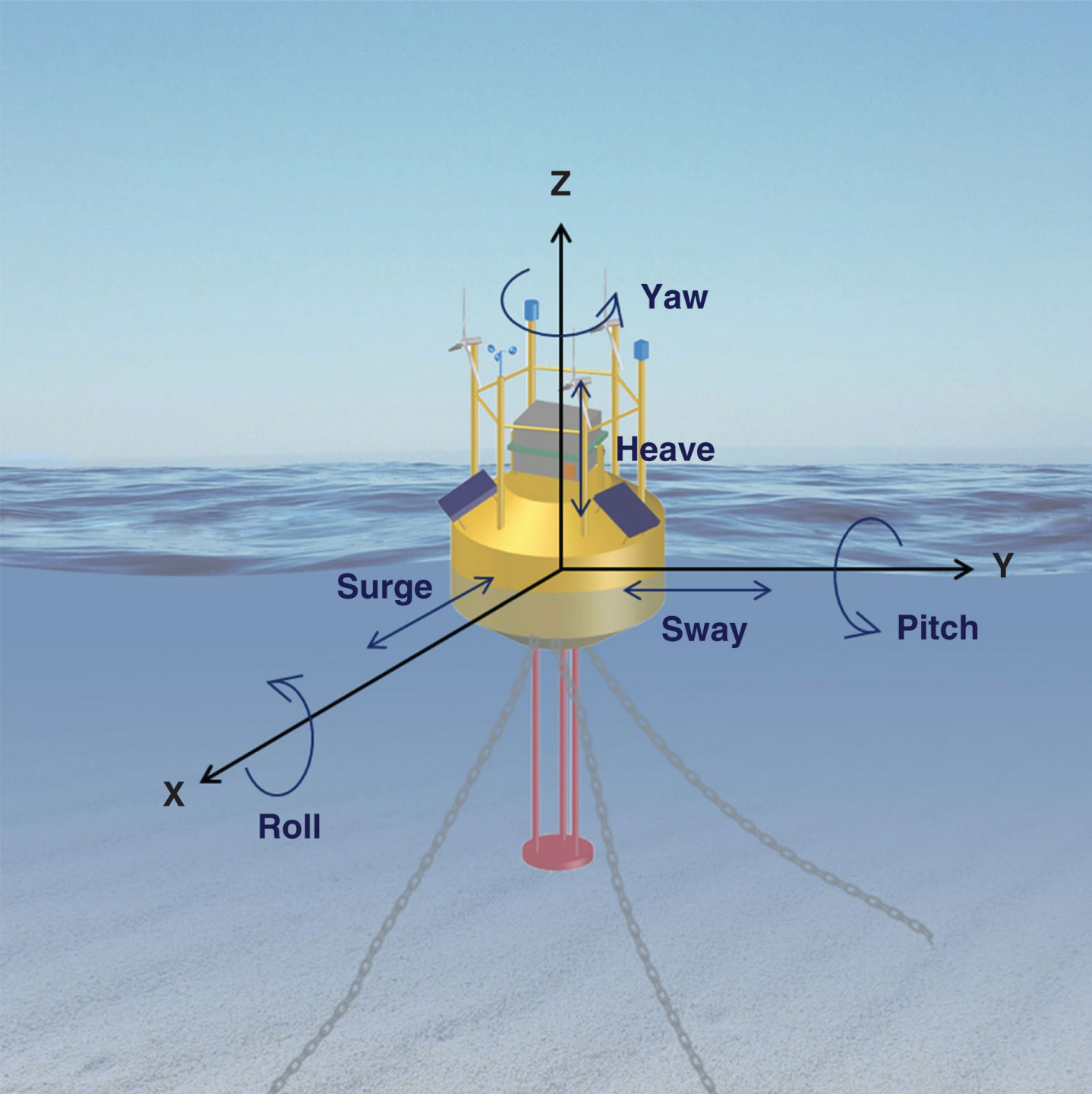
Strengths for boost the offshore wind plan



Nexts steps
and gaps
to
overcome



Offshore wind
plans in the
marine
governance
plans



Field data base

**Floating lidar as an
advanced offshore
wind speed
measurement
technique**

Coastal infrastructure





New
generation of
experts in
offshore wind
supply chain



**MUCHAS GRACIAS
THANKS**