World Small Hydropower Development Report 2022

GLOBAL SMALL HYDROPOWER DATABASE
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Head
LIU Heng, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

Coordinators
Eva Krēmere, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).
Oxana Lopatina, International Center on Small Hydro Power (ICSHP).

Data manager
LIU Fangjie, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

Partners
Introduction

The Global Small Hydropower (SHP) Database aims to collect and make easily accessible detailed information on SHP projects worldwide. Currently, the database includes data from 129 countries and territories across five continents (Figure 1). The data included in the database was provided by the contributing authors of the World Small Hydropower Development Report (WSHPDR) 2022.

Our publication provides essential data on small hydropower plants worldwide and offers an overview of the industry. It’s a valuable resource for researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders in the renewable energy sector, with the goal of promoting the development and investment in small hydropower projects globally. It’s worth noting that SHP plants and projects are included in the database according to local definitions, which may differ from the standard definition of 10 MW. To ensure compliance with local regulations on data sharing and respect the privacy of power plant owners and operators, we've decided not to publish a detailed list of plants.

For anyone seeking more information on specific small hydropower plants and projects, we recommend contacting UNIDO or ICSHP directly. Overall, our publication aims to be a comprehensive and informative resource for the small hydropower industry, while also being mindful of the privacy and data regulations of power plant owners and operators.

The database consists of two sections: (1) existing SHP plants and (2) planned and potential SHP projects. While the former reflects the current status of SHP development by country, the latter indicates SHP projects that are under development or are available for investment. However, it should be noted that the status of SHP projects can change and some of the projects reported as planned can already be commissioned.

Figure 1. Number of Countries Included in the Global SHP Database by Region
Our comprehensive database currently contains data on 6,249 existing small hydropower (SHP) plants worldwide, with a combined installed capacity of 24,436 MW. In addition, we have information on 8,860 potential and planned SHP projects, with a combined capacity of 34,208 MW.

Of the existing SHP plants, the majority are located in Northern America, while Southern Asia has the highest number of potential projects (Figure 2). Norway tops the list for the countries with the greatest number of existing SHP plants in the database, with 1,338 plants and a capacity of 2,924 MW. Brazil follows closely with 1,012 plants and a capacity of 5,887 MW, and Switzerland with 509 plants and a capacity of 987 MW (Figures 3 and 4).

Looking at potential SHP projects, India is the leader with 5,062 projects and a capacity of 11,540 MW, followed by Brazil with 686 projects and a capacity of 9,788 MW, and Ireland with 510 projects and a capacity of 35 MW (Figures 5 and 6). Although China is a global leader in terms of SHP development, we were unable to include detailed data on its SHP plants due to unavailability, and hence, they are not present in the database.

Our database offers a valuable resource for researchers, policymakers, and investors interested in the small hydropower sector, providing them with insights into the distribution and potential of SHP projects worldwide.

Figure 2. Number of Existing and Potential SHP Plants in the Global SHP Database by Region
Figure 3. Top 10 Countries in Terms of the Number of Existing SHP Plants in the Global SHP Database

- NORWAY: 1,338
- BRAZIL: 1,012
- SWITZERLAND: 509
- CANADA: 447
- FRANCE: 418
- ARMENIA: 188
- CHILE: 130
- UK: 129
- GREECE: 120
- RUSSIA: 118

Note: The definition of SHP may vary by country

Figure 4. Top 10 Countries in Terms of the Installed Capacity of Existing SHP Plants in the Global SHP Database

- BRAZIL: 5,887
- CANADA: 4,504
- NORWAY: 2,924
- FRANCE: 1,044
- SWITZERLAND: 987
- RUSSIA: 872
- NEPAL: 630
- CHILE: 618
- ARGENTINA: 510
- PERU: 504

Note: The definition of SHP may vary by country
Figure 5. Top 10 Countries in Terms of the Number of Planned and Potential SHP Plants in the Global SHP Database

- **India**: 5,062
- **Brazil**: 686
- **Ireland**: 510
- **Norway**: 400
- **Nepal**: 325
- **Russia**: 307
- **Guinea**: 304
- **Georgia**: 89
- **Burundi**: 83
- **Albania**: 80

Note: The definition of SHP may vary by country.

Figure 6. Top 10 Countries in Terms of the Capacity of Planned and Potential SHP Plants in the Global SHP Database

- **India**: 11,540
- **Brazil**: 9,788
- **Nepal**: 3,399
- **Chile**: 1,680
- **Norway**: 1,190
- **Guinea**: 772
- **Canada**: 653
- **Pakistan**: 620
- **Georgia**: 461
- **Ecuador**: 389

Note: The definition of SHP may vary by country.