



Plastic Busters CAP

DEVELOPING A NETWORK OF REVERSE VENDING MACHINES AT CABO DE GATA-NÍJAR NATURAL PARK & UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

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Mediterranean e-course on marine litter monitoring & mitigation

17 & 19 January 2023, 10.00 – 14.00 CET

Where is Cabo de Gata?

- Cabo de Gata-Níjar Natural Park, Biosphere Reserve & Geopark is located at the very southeastern point of the Iberian Peninsula, in Spain.
- The semi-arid conditions and the volcanic landscape and very well preserved underwater ecosystems has made the area a very popular place during the summer season in the whole country
- It is a very unique and important area in Spain, home of a important population of steppe birds, very well preserved *Posidonia oceanica* meadows, and the best preserved outcrops of Submarine volcanism of the western Mediterranean area.
- This situation implies a big challenge with waste management and a problem with marine litter



Facing the problem

Due to the high numbers of visitors every year, and specially during the summer season, a huge amount of litter is abandoned in beaches every week, coves and the countryside, which generates a big problem. **Most of the litter left on the beaches are beverages bottles and tin cans.**

Redirecting people to places where they can leave the bottles was our priority, so we thought that Reverse Vending machines, with a small prize as incentive, could be a useful tool.

Obviously this is not a total solution, but maybe, it could help in some places that are very crowded during the summer.



Our pilot action



We wanted to:

Involve the three municipalities that configures the MPA: Almería, Níjar y Carboneras

Make something useful and attractive not only for the visitors but the local residents

Through the prizes, encourage people to carry with them the litter and leave it on the machines

And finally, to make some noise about the Marine Little Issue at the MPA!!!!

Our Masterplan

We wanted to:

First step: find the Reverse Vending Machine, it was very very difficult

Second step: get the Natural Park Small Business Association involved

Third step: Select the places and meet with all the stake holders

Happy ending: all working and people recycling

All seemed easy for us, but it was definitely not that easy.

The comeback to reality Masterplan

Preliminary study to have a real picture of the problem at the MPA

Search for the RVMs, decide not to buy or rent a new one

Found some RVMs from another project that could be updated and used

Launch a tender for the update of these RVMs

Launch another tender for the external consultant

Lots of videocalls with the entrepreneurs, to explain and reach and agreement

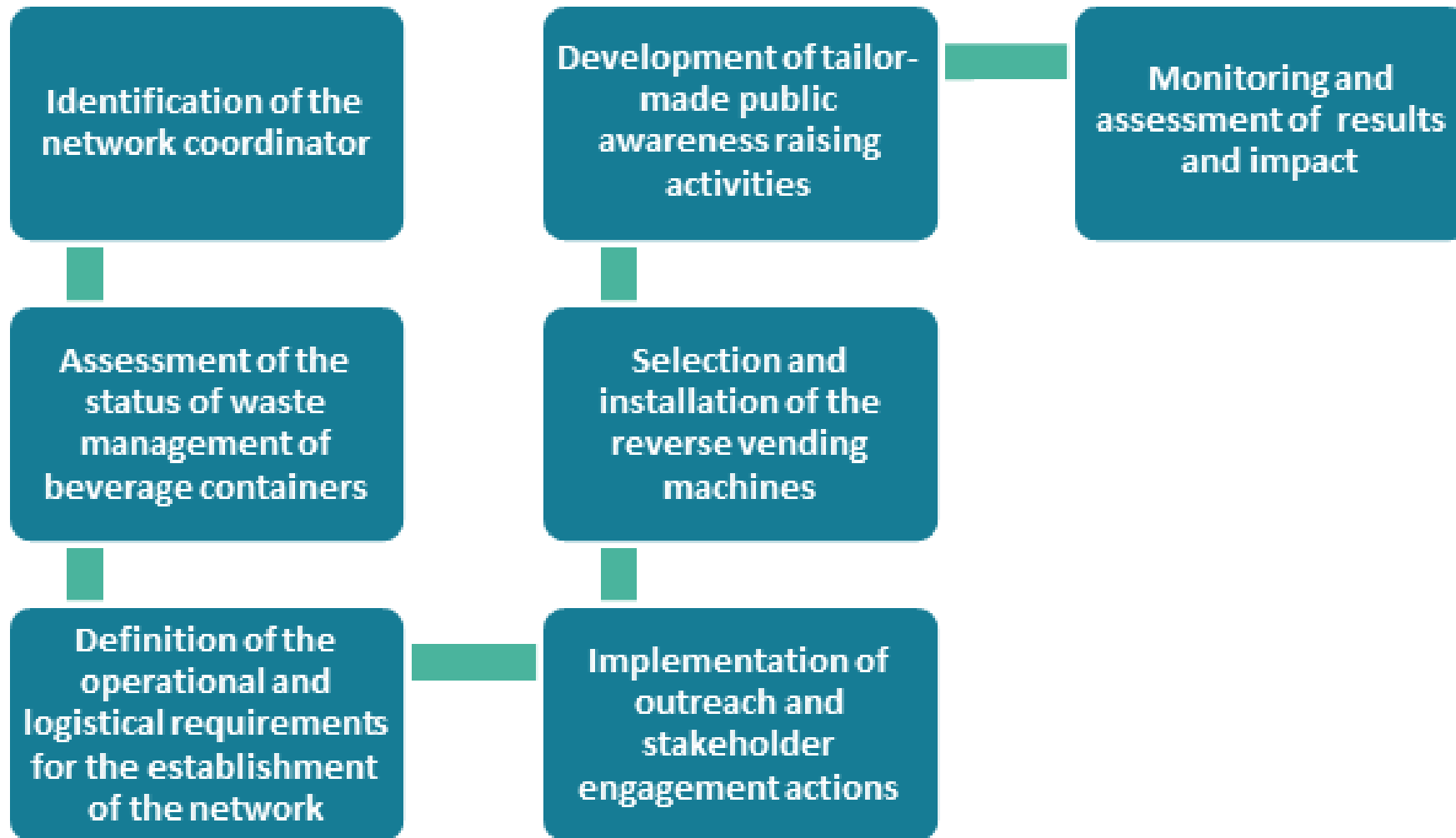
More videocalls to explain everything to the municipalities

The RVM are finally sent to Cabo de Gata and we establish one in Carboneras castle, one at the Amoladeras Visitors Center and one in the Touristic information point at San José

Final Report on results- still to be made, the RVMs are working!!!



The comeback to reality Masterplan



AND FINALLY...



El Parque Cabo de Gata-Níjar (Almería) a de entrega envases que darán descuentos



El presidente de Asemparna, Francisco García, la delegada de Desarrollo Sostenible, Raquel concejal del Ayuntamiento de Almería, Margarita Cobos, en el punto de reciclaje instalado en I Amoladeras. - JUNTA DE ANDALUCÍA
ALMERÍA, 27 Ago. (EUROPA PRESS) -

El Parque Natural Cabo de Gata-Níjar (Almería) ha iniciado una prueba piloto llevará a cabo hasta finales de septiembre a través de tres máquinas destinadas a la recuperación de envases de bebidas que, a cambio, entregarán a los visitantes tickets de descuentos canjeables en los diferentes establecimientos de la zona adherido al proyecto.

La acción se desarrolla en el marco del proyecto europeo Plastic Busters M



Almería | Provincia Almería | El Ejido | Adra | Almanzora | Levante | Roquetas de Mar | Ag

Una iniciativa piloto cambiará envases de bebidas por descuentos Cabo de Gata

Se instalarán máquinas en las que depositar los residuos en distintos puntos del parque natural en Almería capital, Níjar y Carboneras



CONSIGUE DESCUENTOS DEVOLVIENDO TUS ENVASES

Puntos de entrega de envases

Castillo de San Andrés, Carboneras
Oficina de información turística, San José
Centro de Visitantes: Las Amoladeras

Prueba piloto para prevenir las basuras marinas generadas por envases de bebidas

Parque Natural Cabo de Gata-Níjar

Escanea el código QR para saber más y localiza los comercios donde canjear tus tickets

En el marco del proyecto:
interreg Project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund
Mediterranean
PLASTIC BUSTERS Níjar

Implementado por:
Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production
Agència de Residus de Catalunya

Colaboran:
ASEMPARNA
ent
wonderko

Junta de Andalucía
Comunidad de Agrupación, Desarrollo, Pesca y Sostenibilidad
https://cabodegata-nijar.es/2021/07/13/proyecto-plastic

ALMERÍA CIUDAD
Ayuntamiento de Níjar
Ayuntamiento de Carboneras

The result so far

Performance indicator	End of September	Middle of October	End of October
Number of beverage containers collected	6400	7600	8400
Number of businesses involved	12	12	12
Number of reverse-vending-machine-related vouchers used	94	178	184
Number of individuals making use of the vouchers	19	91	96

Main difficulties



Find the RVMs was a huge challenge!!!!

Choose the perfect location for the RVMs because they have special needs

Reaching an agreement with the small businesses, they all want to participate but not in the same way. The role of Asemparna was crucial.

The maintenance and insurance issue, also the role of Wondereko & ENT was very very important for the development of the pilot.

Most of the problems appeared before the RVMs arrived to the MPA, once here, all has been more or less under control and people are happy!!!

LESSONS LEARNED



In Spain, it's right now very difficult to establish this kind of actions, the market for RVMs is small and is very expensive to buy or rent one. There more or less only a enterprise to buy or rent.

The problem with the litter and the management of this kind of waste was also tricky, we sorted it somehow.

The involvement of the local administrations, local stakeholders and a proper way to "sell" the action is also very important.

Once you solved all these things, people are very happy, and all turns easier so don't give up!!! And finally... never trust the wind.

And... What 's next?

- We are going to keep the RVMs
- The reception from the locals and visitors was amazing, so we are on the good direction
- Many of the small businesses are learning a very good lesson about trying new circular economy strategies.
 - It 's a win/win situation for everyone: MPA, businesses, municipalities.. The circular economy is in fashion!!
- A bigger network would be desirable, but maybe things are changing in Spain and seems like the government wants to change the status quo



Thanks!!

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“ For a litter FREE Mediterranean

