

UPSTREAM CIRCULAR INNOVATION FOR LATIN AMERICA



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[Access the recording of the session here](#)



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Tools that Shape
the Future

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Regulatory
Changing Moves

3

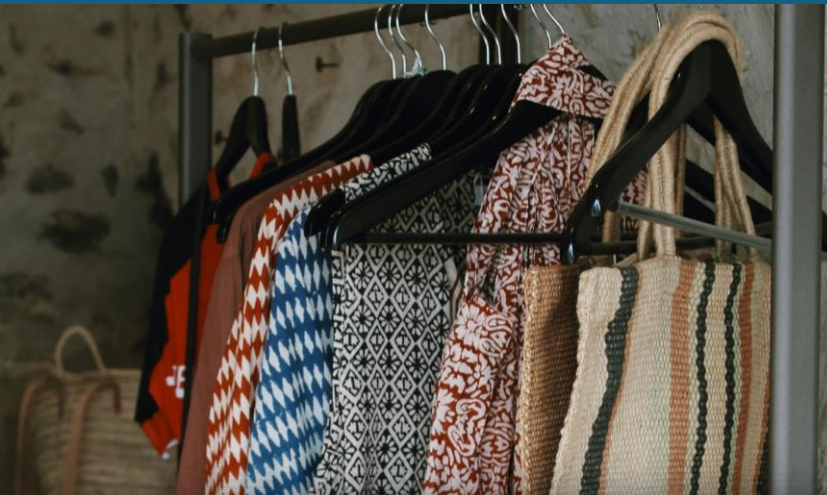
Stories that
Inspire

4

Voices that
Connect



Circular economy starts not at the bin... but at the blueprint



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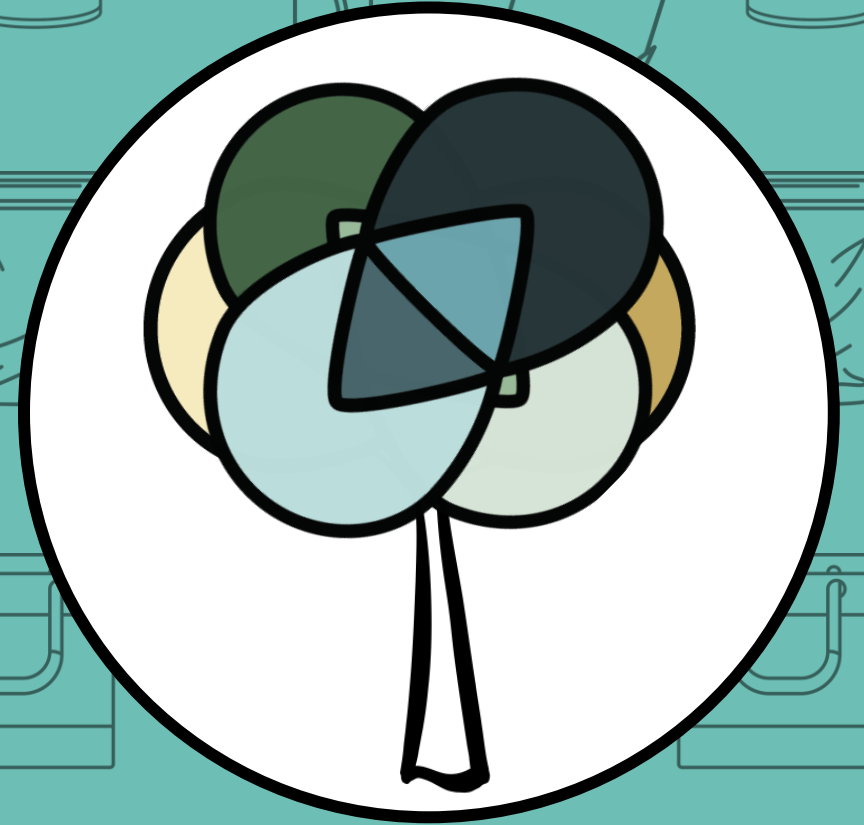
Tools that Shape the Future

CAJALAB

Colombia's tool for packaging innovation

Jennifer Villalba Technical advisor at GIZ

Leonardo Forero consultant at PMTech



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CAJALAB: Colombia's tool for packaging innovation



CajaLab's
Excel Tool



CajaLab
Guide



Why CajaLab?

Eco-
designing
packaging
or choosing
circular
packaging
is not an
easy
decision

Ellen MacArthur
Foundation

Sustainability
Packaging Coalition

Cradle to Cradle

Golden Design Rules

PREVENT Waste
Alliance

Up to 80%

Product's **ENVIRONMENTAL** impact is

DETERMINATED

By decisions made in the

DESIGN phase



74
References
consulted



6
Workshops in
major cities

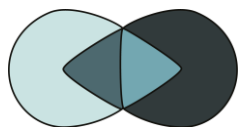


+55
Companies,
universities
and experts

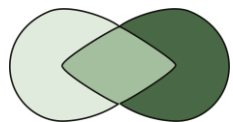


+25
Interviews

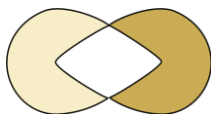
Category



**ECO-DESIGN
FOR REDUCE**

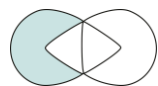


**ECO-DESIGN
FOR REUSE**



**ECO-DESIGN FOR
ENABLE RECOVERY**

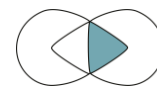
Innovation Strategies



Eliminate
materials



Use of
renewable
materials



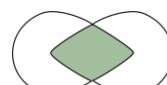
Use of
recycled raw
materials



Process
efficiency



Refill



Returnability



B2B Return
and reuse

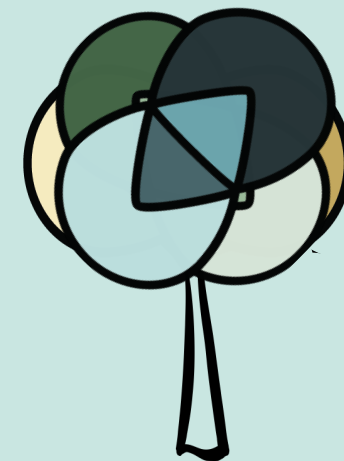


Design for
recyclability



Design for
compostability

“A tree: nature’s
perfect model of
circular economy”



Each innovation
measure includes:

- ✓ Ease of application
- ✓ Guiding questions
- ✓ Resources required
- ✓ Actors
- ✓ Indicators
- ✓ Communication tips

Applying CajaLab with 12 companies

4 different sectors

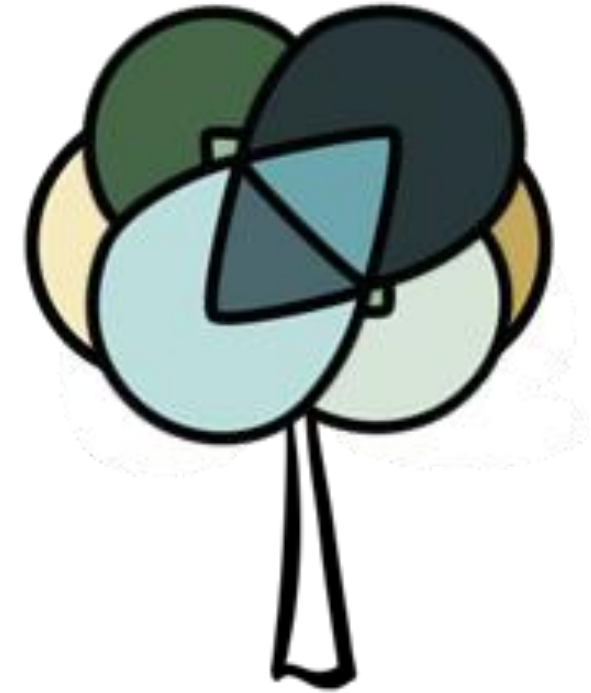


- Identification of the **key product or reference** to intervene
- Evaluation of applicable **circularity strategies**
- Engagement of **internal departments and key stakeholders**



CajaLab as a tool for circular innovation

- Enables **reassessment of existing initiatives** from new angles
- Triggers **strategic questions** around eco-design and systems thinking
- Supports **documentation and traceability** of innovation
- Raises awareness among **non-technical profiles**



CajaLab doesn't just diagnose — it connects, guides, and builds a circular vision.



Computer Refurbishment

Guide as a Driver and Success Case for Business Models
Leonardo Enrique Rodríguez Gómez, C.E. O. & Innovation leader



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Why promote innovation in the Circular Economy?

Impact of Computer Refurbishment

Environmental

Up to 90% less CO₂ vs. manufacturing new equipment

Reduces e-waste by ~92%

Economic

30–50% savings compared to new equipment

Global market expanding: \$12.6 billion USD by 2032

Social

Improves access to technology in vulnerable areas

Colombia: +2.4 million refurbished devices delivered to public education

Sources

Global E-Waste Monitor (2020, 2024)

ADEME (France, 2022)

Fraunhofer Institute (2023)







Refurbed, Cranfield University

Computers for Education Program (Colombia, 2019)










What is the tool?

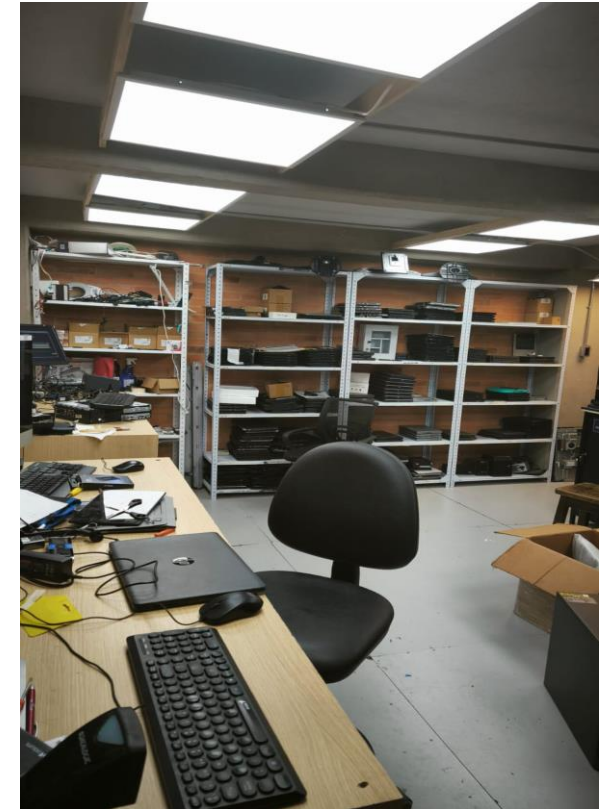
A practical and technical guide that allows you to:

-  Diagnose: Evaluate the functional, aesthetic, and technical condition of used computers.
-  Securely erase data. Ensure privacy by complying with international standards (NIST 800-88, DoD 5220.1-R).
-  Repair and recondition: Standardize cleaning, upgrade, repair, and quality control processes.
-  Deliver equipment ready for a new life. Define optimal conditions for storage, packaging, and response.
-  Design reconditioning laboratories. Includes technical criteria, workflows, and operational safety.
-  Impact: Turn waste into useful assets, reducing digital divides and supporting circular models.



What did this tool facilitate?

-  **Process Standardization** Defines clear phases: diagnosis, secure erasure, reconditioning, testing, delivery.
-  **Improved reconditioning quality** Ensures the functional, aesthetic, and safety conditions of each reconditioned device.
-  **Information Security** Integrates data erasure protocols backed by international regulations.
-  **Data-driven decision-making** Documents the status of equipment and allows for evaluating costs, times, and reconditioning feasibility.
-  **Design of efficient technical spaces** Provides guidelines for creating or adapting laboratories with specialized areas and secure workflows.
-  **Replicability and scalability** Facilitates the adoption of the model in other organizations, territories, or WEEE value chains.
-  **Result:** A practical, adaptable, and technical tool that improves the efficiency and viability of circular models.



Case Study

- ✂ **Standardization of reconditioning processes** Allows for the organization and application of uniform technical procedures in all phases of reconditioning.
- 📄 **Preparation for certification under NTC 6352-2** Aligns practices with the requirements of the Colombian technical standard for reconditioning EEE.
- 🌱 **Preparation for obtaining the Green Seal** Contributes to compliance with environmental criteria to validate sustainable and responsible processes.
- 🔌 **Expansion to other electrical and electronic devices** Provides technical and methodological foundations to replicate the model in other types of WEEE.
- 📊 **Market analysis in Colombia** Provides input to understand trends, potential demand, and distribution channels for reconditioned equipment.
- 🛒 **Definition of commercial parameters** Establishes initial guidelines for sales in physical and virtual stores, under a circular business model.



LLEGO LA TEMPORADA ESCOLAR

ESCRITORIO
Desde \$700.000

LAPTOP
Desde \$500.000

TODO EN 1
Desde \$600.000








CON REVIVNE APROVECHA NUESTROS DESCUENTOS ESPECIALES Y COMIENZA EL AÑO CON PIE DERECHO CON COMPUTADORES REACONDICIONADOS A UN PRECIO BAJO Y CON EQUIPOS DE ALTO RENDIMIENTO.

¡EQUIPATE MIENTRAS CUIDAS EL PLANETA!

Reviven

@REVIVENBYECOINDUSTRIA

Next steps

-  **Successful launch: physical store and virtual site active.** First stage of marketing underway with traceability, a circular seal, and an educational approach.
-  **Publish the tool as a replicable guide.** Available for adoption by other managers, companies, and governments in Latin America.
-  **Technical training and certification.** Development of training modules on reconditioning, regulations, and green seals.
-  **Path to NTC 6352-2 certification.** Advance the technical and operational requirements to obtain national certification for reconditioning of EEE.
-  **Impact monitoring and continuous improvement.** Measurement of key indicators: quality, recovery, circularity, technological access.
-  **Scaling to other EEE.** Adapt the tool to appliances, lighting, or other electronic waste.
-  **Strategic partnerships for expansion.** Consolidate public-private cooperation to promote circular economy models in Colombia and the region.



Designing the Circular Room

A Practical Guide for lodging services

Katherin Tabares, Director of Productivity & Competitiveness at Fenalco



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What is the Circular Economy Room Manual?

Guides hotels in redesigning rooms with circular principles

Structured in 5 phases:

1. Diagnosis
 2. Circular design
 3. Operational transition
 4. Monitoring & KPIs
 5. Guest engagement (QR, signage, incentives)
- . Adaptable to regional contexts (coast, highlands, urban)



Implementation

FENALCO enables:

1. Replication in retail & services sectors
2. Training in AI + circularity
3. Public-private pilots (ProUSAR Fund)
4. Licensing & monetizing methodologies

Hotels can:

1. Start with one model room
2. Measure environmental & economic impact
3. Lead in sustainable tourism (Zuana & BioHotel cases)

Call to action

Why this matters globally:

- The Circular Room Manual is a **scalable model** for other Global South economies.
- Integrates **AI, circularity, and local adaptation** — ideal for replication in tourism, retail, and real estate sectors.

What we seek:

- Partnerships with universities, cooperants, climate tech startups, and multilateral agencies
- Collaboration to adapt, fund, and expand the model in other territories
- Open innovation ecosystems for sustainable commerce

"A circular room is only possible when the entire value chain is transformed."

From Hotel as Consumer to Hotel as Circular Ecosystem

Key Productive Linkages:

- Suppliers of circular inputs (textiles, furniture, cleaning products)
- Sustainable designers and architects
- Committed hotel operators
- Waste managers and recyclers
- Local circular economy enterprises

Expected Outcomes:

- Effective waste reduction
- New sustainable business opportunities
- Activation of regenerative local economies



**Download the circular room
manual by scanning the QR code.**



Regulatory Changing Moves



Voluntary EPR models in the textile sector

Leading to a regulatory approach in Colombia

Ruben Goldszajn, Director of Sustainable Production and Consumption at the National Business Association of Colombia, ANDI

1

El primer paso para transformar tu ropa en nuevas historias comienza contigo:

¿Cómo participar?

- 1.** Selecciona las prendas y artículos de hogar que ya no uses, sin importar su estado.
- 2.** Asegúrate de que estén limpias y secas para evitar contaminar otras prendas.
- 3.** Acércate a nuestro contenedor más cercano y deposítalas.

Con tu entrega aseguras un manejo **responsable** de tus prendas, priorizando la sostenibilidad en cada etapa.

¡ESCANEA Y ENCUENTRA NUESTROS CONTENEDORES!

¿Qué recibimos?

¿Qué NO recibimos?

tugo
muebles y objetos

una segunda vida un hilo a la vez

Solo recibimos prendas limpias

NO VESTIDOS DE BAÑO **NO ROPA INTERIOR** **ESCANEA Y CONOCE MÁS**

¡DONA AQUÍ!

2

Derribemos mitos:

¡La ropa usada no es vieja ni sucia! Son prendas únicas, listas para empezar nuevas historias contigo.

Cada prenda pasa por estrictos procesos de selección para asegurar los estándares de calidad:

- Revisión general:** Descartamos prendas con manchas, mal olor o roturas.
- Puntos críticos:** Verificamos desgastes, motas, costuras adicionales o rotos.
- Detalles y accesorios:** Revisamos estado y funcionalidad de botones, cierres y adornos.

Algunas prendas se ofrecen a la venta para impulsar el consumo sostenible

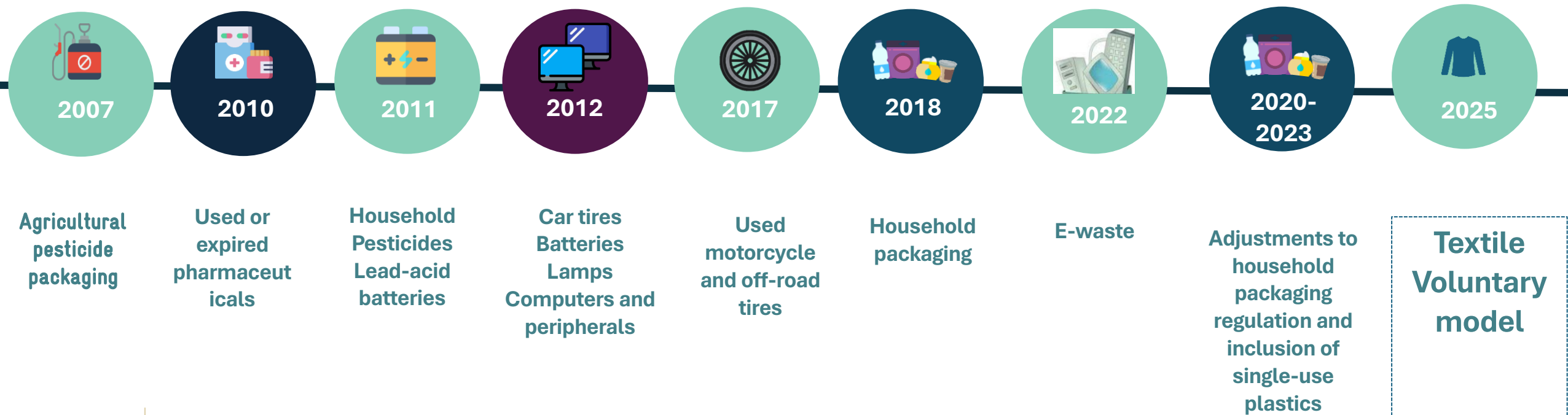
Importante: Los ingresos generados se destinan a sostener nuestra iniciativa, cubrir los costos de recolección, almacenamiento, transporte y reciclaje.

¡La ropa usada es moda con propósito!

Da paso a la ropa de segunda mano y encuentra esa prenda única que transformará tu closet



Driving Circularity in Colombia: The Regulatory Evolution of EPR Schemes



ANDI's Crucial Role in Shaping Colombia's EPR Regulatory Framework



Colombia's Textile Circularity in Figures



174.411Ton

Textiles put
on the
market
annually



45%

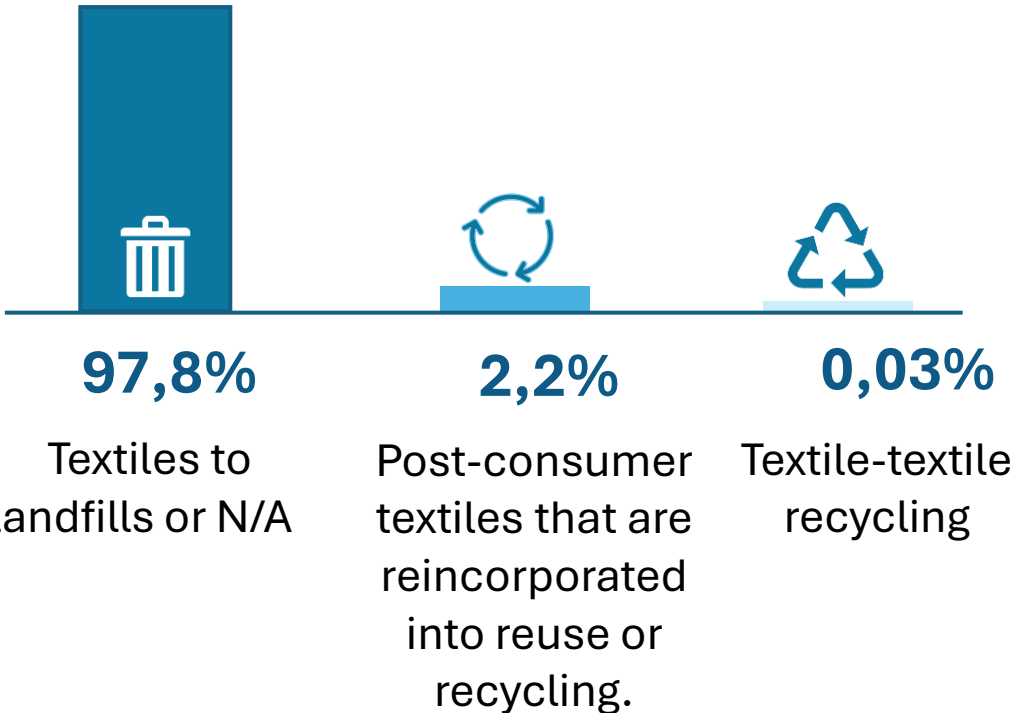


Mainly in Bogotá
and Medellín



63%

Fabrics are
imported from
India and
China



79%

Donate unused/unwanted clothes



59%

Don't think about caring for the environment
when buying clothes



53%

Thinks second-hand clothes are dirty

Sources: [Textile Sector Baseline. 2024](#) / [Study "The World of Second-Hand Clothing". RADDAR, 2024.](#)

RENOVAMODA – Voluntary EPR pilot for textiles

Objective: the first textile post-consumer management program in Colombia under an EPR scheme

SCOPE

-  **6** months
-  **15** containers
-  **Over 10 tons**
(98% reused, recycled, or recovered)
-  **2** main cities
-  Clothing, household linen and workwear



COMPANIES



RENOVAMODA – Next steps

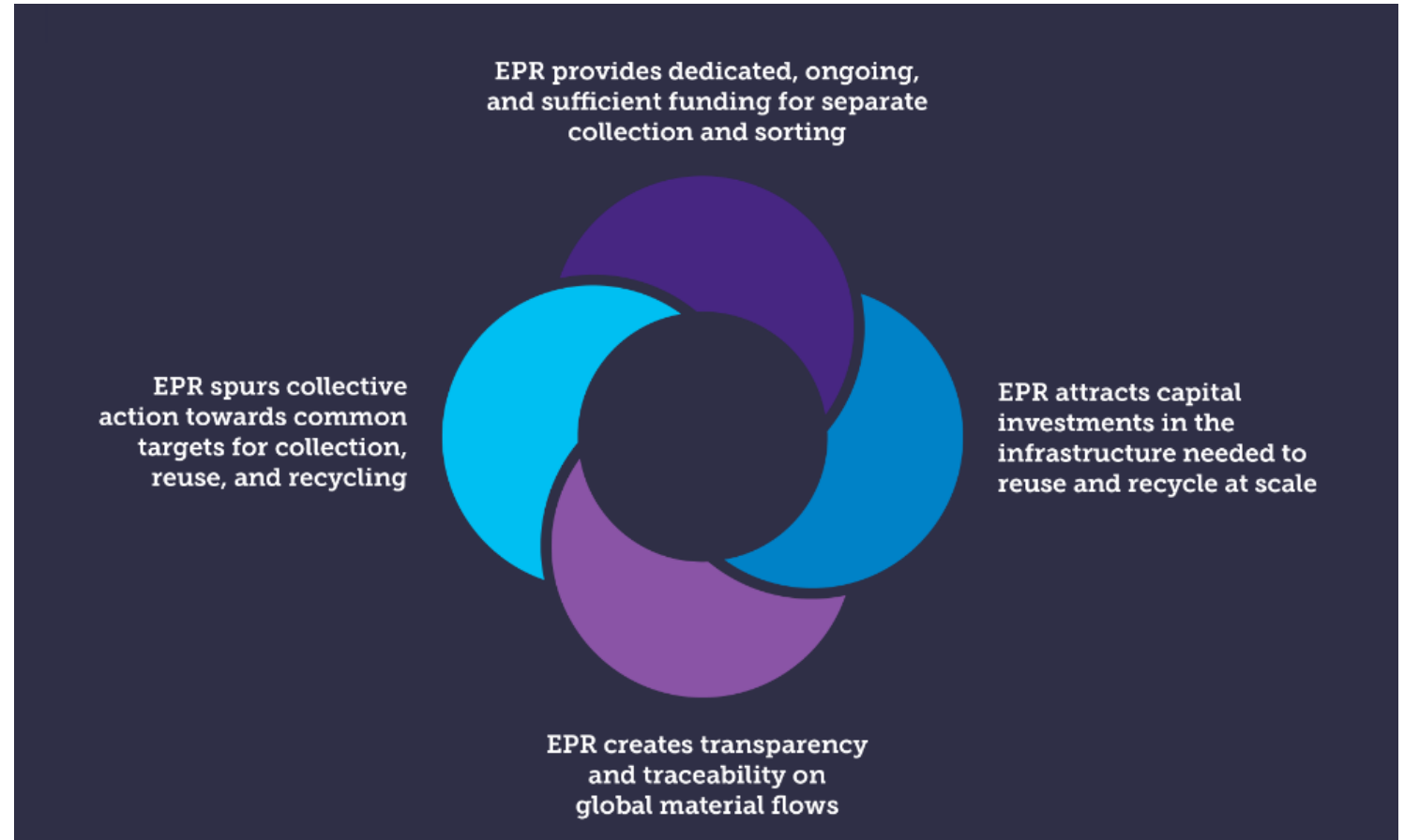


WORKING GROUPS

Producers and
waste residues

Reverse logistics
and traceability

Close the loop
and innovation



Source: <https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/epr-policy-for-textiles>



Textile Circularity Roundtable: The Path Toward EPR

Comprised of

Ministerio de Ambiente y
Desarrollo Sostenible
Ministerio de Comercio,
Industria y Turismo
ANDI
Fenalco
Colombia Productiva
Secretaria de Ambiente



Priority Topics

- Policies and regulations on circularity
- Circularity best practices
- Responsible consumption habits
- Capacity building

In the process of regulation

Integrated and collaborative work

The importance of connecting public and private sectors

Laura Florez, Director of the Plastic Research Institute in Colombia ICIPC



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ICIPC – Plastics Research Institute in Colombia

- 32 Years of Foundation
- Private non-profit initiative
- Support of industry's research needs
- Training
- Laboratory services
- Certification: PCR content and ecodesign
- Focus: Plastics and Rubber



Background

- Legislation in Colombia – Prohibition of Single use plastics
- Alternative substitutes – Biodegradable plastics: “Grey” areas, definition of “degradation under environmental conditions”
- Need to support regulation:
 - Definition of biodegradation standards
 - Tests to be conducted in the industry
 - Map “who is who” in the country
 - Experts available



Goal

- To produce an interest group with an academic network
- Consultation experts who have worked both in Colombia and Outside
- Develop unbiased information to support decision making by the environment industry
- Avoid commercial interests
- GIZ: Support in the National Roundtable, logistics and Govern Policies development
- Information custody
- Reliable and neutral partner



Activities

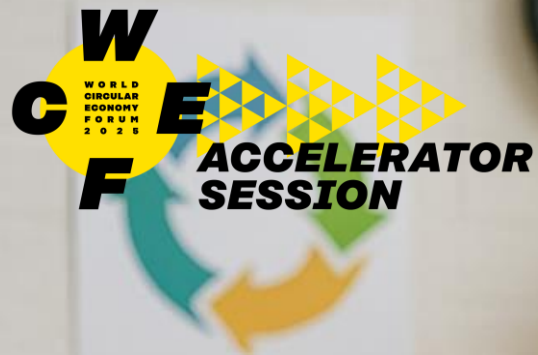


Knowledge Alliance Colombia and Germany



**Wuppertal
Institut**





Stories that Inspire





Tronex: Lithium battery remanufacturing

Circular innovation for e-mobility

Federico Vasquez, Director of special projects at Tronex

TRONEX®



Implemented by





IS

R

REFURBISHMENT

WE AIM TO SOLVE FOUR PROBLEMS TO THE WORLD

1. End-of-Life Battery Management: Unlocking Hidden Value

(seeing value where others see waste.)

2. Cell-Level Diagnostics: Precision Battery Health Assessment

(Precision Software and Hardware for Unlocking Battery Cell Insights)

3. Second-Life Battery Remanufacturing: Engineered for Peak Performance

(Designing and Manufacturing Batteries to Exceed Industry Standards)

4. End-of-Life Cell Valorization: Reclaiming Resources, Closing the Loop

(Materials not suitable for second-life applications are recovered for raw material utilization)



- Identification of end-of-life mobility batteries (electric vehicles, scooters, bicycles).
- Logistical coordination with manufacturers, distributors and recyclers, safe logistics and classification by state and origin.
- Prevention of environmental and safety risks in transportation and storing.

2. Precision Battery Health Assessment

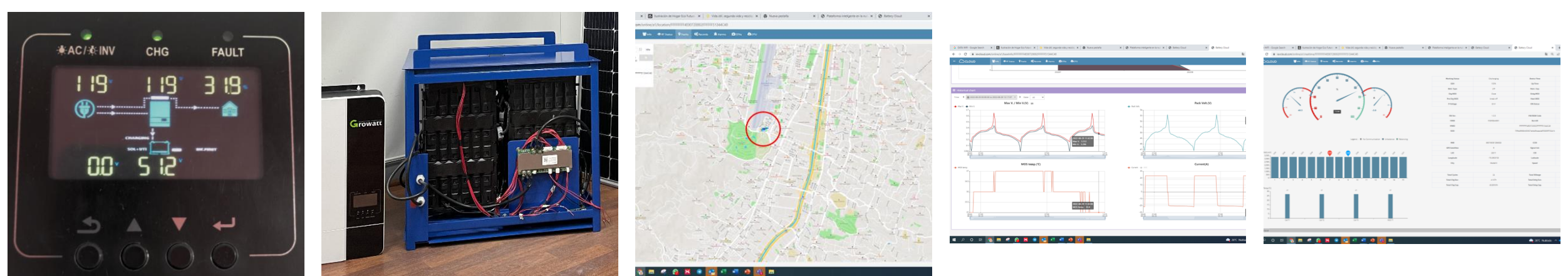
a. Preliminary Diagnosis and Disassembly

Evaluate functional status and separate reusable parts with technical standards.

- Visual inspection, basic voltage testing, and usage history review.
- Safe separation of modules and cells.
- Minimization of risks and maximization of recovered value.



2. b. Detailed Diagnosis Cell by Cell



- Capacity, internal resistance, and impedance spectroscopy testing.
- Detection of physical, chemical or electrical faults.
- Precise selection of cells suitable for second life.

3. Second-Life Battery Remanufacturing

a. Design of New Second Life Batteries

- Strategic selection of balanced cells.
- Customized configurations according to application (telecommunications, renewable energy).
- BMS system integration for control and safety.



3. b. Final Assembly and Validation

Technical execution that closes the loop and ensures operational functionality.

- Cell, BMS, and enclosure integration.
- Performance, safety, and durability testing.
- Preparation for its second life in new applications.
- Use of the brand RECOBATT



4. VALORIZATION, RECYCLING AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY OF BATTERIES



REPROCESSING AND MATERIAL
RECOVERY OF LITHIUM, COBALT, AND
NICKEL (THROUGH A STRATEGIC
PARTNER)



REDUCTION OF HAZARDOUS WASTE
AND CARBON FOOTPRINT .



ACTIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE
CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND
SUPPORTING ENERGY TRANSITION

A Secure and Environmentally Responsible Path to Battery Second Life

TRONEX

Integra en sus procesos los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, impactando positivamente en la sociedad, que van desde la fabricación de pilas, su distribución, hasta el cierre de ciclo de vida de los productos, mediante programas posconsumo, pasando también por el diseño de proyectos de energía y soluciones para la industria que aporten a la economía y al desarrollo del país.

ODS PRIORIZADOS



Xiclo: Reusable system for packaging

Circular innovation for delivery

Ana Maria Villegas, CEO and Co-Founder at Xiclo

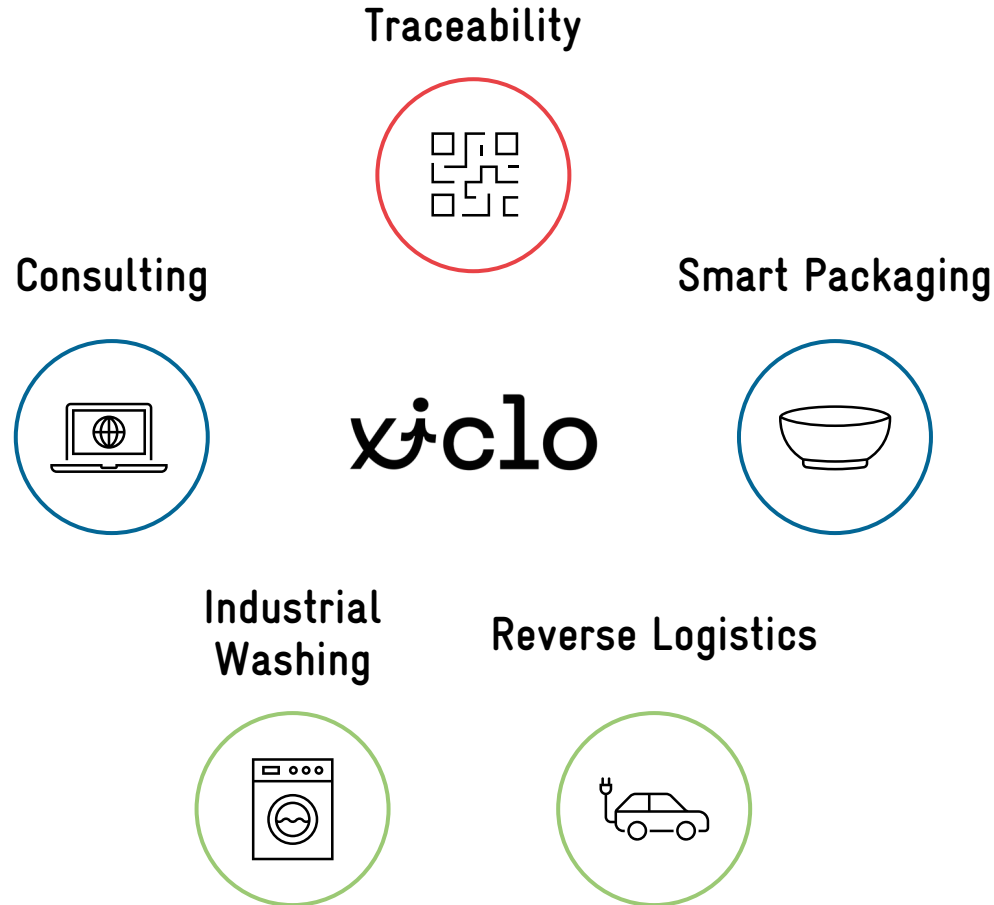
xiclo



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Xiclo develops technology to make reuse scalable



Xiclo has managed to maintain, on average, a rate of return of

98%

Demonstrating the effectiveness of the system

TAKAMI – Scaled and Organic Adoption



The partnership with Takami began in 2024 with a pilot in its brand Osaki. Although access required the Xiclo App, user receptiveness was high. Interestingly, expansion was not driven by the company, but by users themselves, who requested the system in other brands. This demand led Takami to scale up the system strategically, integrating it into its delivery channel, removing tech barriers and enhancing the user experience.



411 kg Waste avoided

1.540 L Water saved

Reuse scalability is not just about technology but about listening to users and adapting to real operations.

EL CORRAL – On-site Consumption Pilot

The Xiclo pilot at El Corral tested the system in a high-traffic, fast-paced setting for 6 months. Although it was implemented in a single location and only for milkshakes, the pilot achieved 340 uses, showing strong scalability potential. The main barriers were the app download requirement and lack of staff incentives. These insights led to the development of the Tap&Reuse model, which removes tech friction and improves the user experience in quick-service environments.

6,8 kg

Waste
avoided

6 kg

CO₂ emissions
avoided

In high-turnover settings, adoption relies on frictionless user experience, clear staff incentives, and seamless integration into daily operations.



JUAN VALDEZ – First Closed Ecosystem



In partnership with ANDI, Juan Valdez launched the first closed-loop pilot for reusable cups: a coffee bar operating 100% with returnable cups. Designed for a controlled setting with recurring users, the pilot recorded over 8,200 uses in 8 weeks, with strong staff engagement. Each cup averaged 12.44 uses, proving operational and environmental efficiency without digital traceability. High user satisfaction (NPS >9) and perceived environmental value led the brand consider to expand the model to other institutional bars.



53,6 kg Waste avoided

12,44 Uses per cup

Institutional settings with recurring habits are ideal for reuse. The pilot highlighted the need to communicate hygiene standards, enhance cup design, and plan traceability for future scaling.

D´CASA – Reuse Model in Meal Plans

The pilot with DCASA validated Xiclo's effectiveness in collective dining contexts with high usage frequency. Without the need to download apps or register, the system integrated seamlessly into the daily meal plan operation. In just a few weeks, over 7,000 uses were recorded, proving that recurrence and operational simplicity are key to success in these environments.

141,9 kg Waste
avoided

126 kg CO₂ emissions
avoided

In meal plans, recurrence is key to ensuring the operational and financial sustainability of reuse systems.



CORONA SUNSET – Reusable Cups in Large-Scale Events

The Corona Sunset Festival in 2023 was the first massive event in Colombia to implement reusable cups not intended as souvenirs. With 6,000 attendees, a return scheme based on user trust was piloted, with 5,400 cups in rotation and an on-site return logistics system managed by Xiclo. The operation included collection bins, mobile return points, and a temporary washing station installed at the venue. The experience was supported by educational actions, social media campaigns, and staff training.

65 kg Waste
avoided

405 kg Reusable packaging
kept in circulation

Large-scale events are viable settings for reuse when combined with on-site logistics, cleaning infrastructure, and effective communication before, during, and after the event.



PÁRAMO
LAB

ABInBev

Corona

ProUSAR

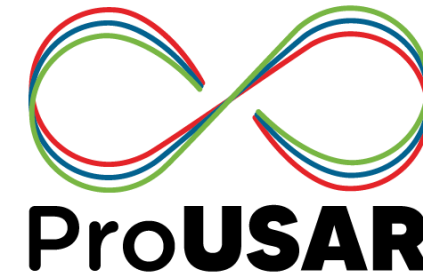
cooperación
alemana
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

Implemented by
giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

The support of the ProUSAR

The ProUSAR project has been a key ally in consolidating the Xiclo system. Its support enabled us to:

1. Connect with strategic partners
2. Fund pilot projects that helped us understand the market
3. Strengthen our technology through specialized technical assistance
4. Expand our packaging inventory to scale operations
5. Increase the visibility of our solution as a national sustainability provider
6. Access results-based payment schemes thanks to the achievements obtained



Unlike other general financing mechanisms, ProUSAR deeply understands the challenges of traceability, reusability, and circularity in packaging. This understanding has been decisive in supporting technical solutions from early stages, upstream in the value chain.

Hotel Zuana Beach Resort: Circular Tourism Experience

Sustainable responsibility, generating new experiences
Carlos Balcázar, Director of Continuous Improvement and Sales – Zuana



Implemented by



Hotel Zuana Beach Resort: A Circular Tourism Experience

The goal:

Build a **More Sustainable Hospitality Model** at Zuana Beach Resort

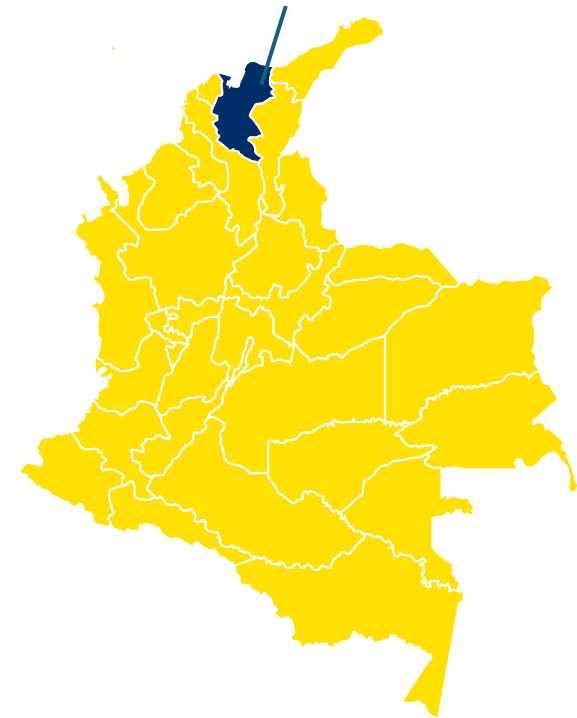


Exclusive 5-star family resort that participated in ProUSAR's

“Circular Hotel Room Pilot Project”

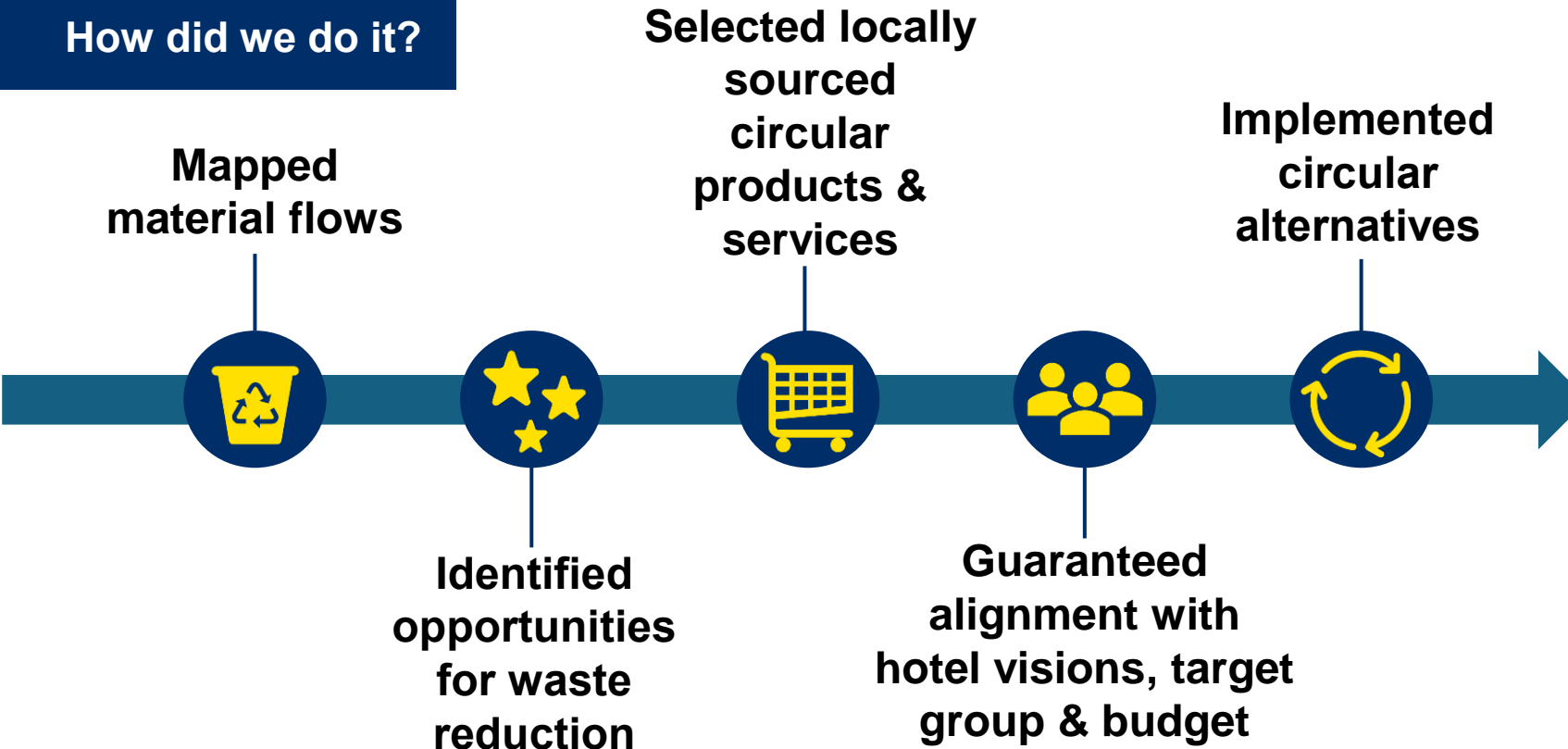
From Sep '24 – Feb '25

**Santa Marta,
Colombia**



Hotel Zuana Beach Resort: A Circular Tourism Experience

How did we do it?



From Waste to Value

How we started...



We understood that most waste in the hotel sector is generated due to **mismanagement, lack of knowledge about alternatives & general culture.**



At Zuana, we were initially sceptical about the circular hotel room due to **expected high costs of**



implementation (f. ex. for initial investments, such as recycling facilities or recollection mechanisms).

Limited understanding of circular economy principles beyond recycling of plastic, metal or carton.



We slowly expanded our concept of **sustainability**: sustainability is not only environmental, it also means **social and economic development.**



Shifted mindset: used items are no longer only waste, but **waste can be a social & economic resource and a motor for development**



From Waste to Value

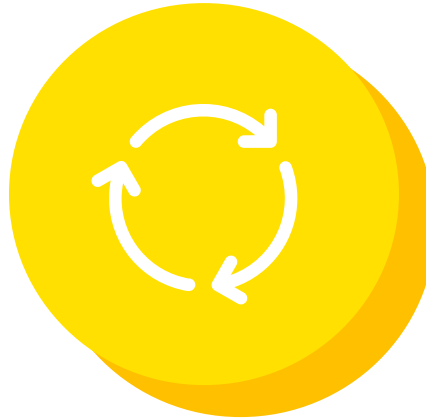
The 3 Rs of a Circular Economy

Reduce



- Eliminate
- Rethink
- Reduce

Reuse



- Reuse
- Repair
- Recondition
- Remanufacture
- Reconvert

Recycle



- Recycle
- Recover

From Waste to Value: Our Circular Room



Textiles



Selection of a provider for the adequate handling of **textile waste**



Procurement of **mattresses** with a **modular design**



Optimizing products' life cycle through **adequate cleaning, reparation, and storage**



Up- and downcycling of used textiles.



Sales and donation of used textiles



Packaging



Installation of a **refill station for drinking water**



Purchase of **reusable and returnable packing** (shampoo dispensers)



Purchase of packaging made from **renewable, recycled or recyclable** material



Adequate handling of **single-use plastic products**



Promotion of a **culture of separation** at the source



Electronics



Shared use of **irons by guests**



Implementation of an **automization system** for A/C



Purchase of **energy-efficient** electronics



Preventive maintenance



Purchase of electronic equipment with recycled material

Our Circular Initiatives

Installation of water refill stations & refillable amenities



Communication material



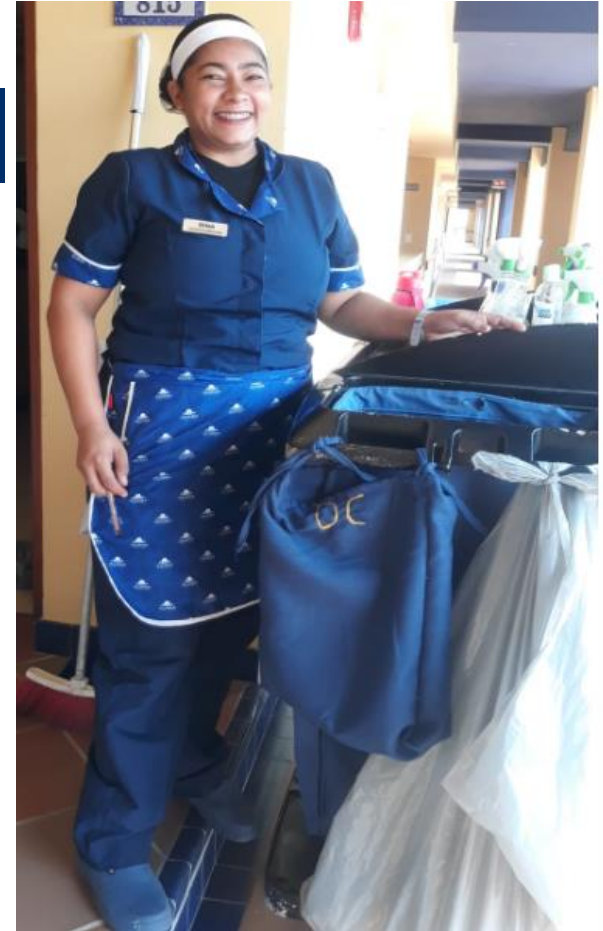
Used textiles transformed into...



Decorative baskets



Cleaning cloths



Bags for waitress trolleys & broom and mop protectors

Challenges

- Limited availability of **local sustainable suppliers**.
- **Insufficient data** on material flows.
- Need for **better internal tracking systems**.
- Key learning: **Sustainability and circularity as a holistic strategy**.



Fundación Urumo
upcycling used
textiles



Building Community Partnerships

Our local allies



Our impacts

- Built **alliances** with local textile, packaging & e-waste recyclers.
- **34 tons of waste reintegrated** into the productive cycle (27% increase)
- **Extended product life** through reuse and remanufacturing
- **Substituted single-use items** with refill systems and reusable packages
- **Improved energy efficiency** with smart systems
- **6 tons of food waste** transformed into fertilizer
- Promoted **socioeconomic inclusion** with Fundación Urumo



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