

Framework to evaluate community-based initiatives in the context of circular plastic economy



Nui, a young Moken working and living at the recycling centre, is sorting plastic waste, separating the label from the plastic bottle. January 2020. Credits - Marc Krebs

BACKGROUND

- Community-based initiatives can be an effective way to contribute to greater circularity by filling the social equity gap currently prevailing in the Circular Economy (CE).
- Despite the growing emergence of these local initiatives in the circular plastic economy, methodologies suited to evaluate their circularity are lacking.
- This perspective has led to the design of a framework to assess community-based initiatives in the context of the circular plastic economy.
- Following a more inclusive approach to CE, the framework values the contribution of all stakeholders throughout the plastic cycle.

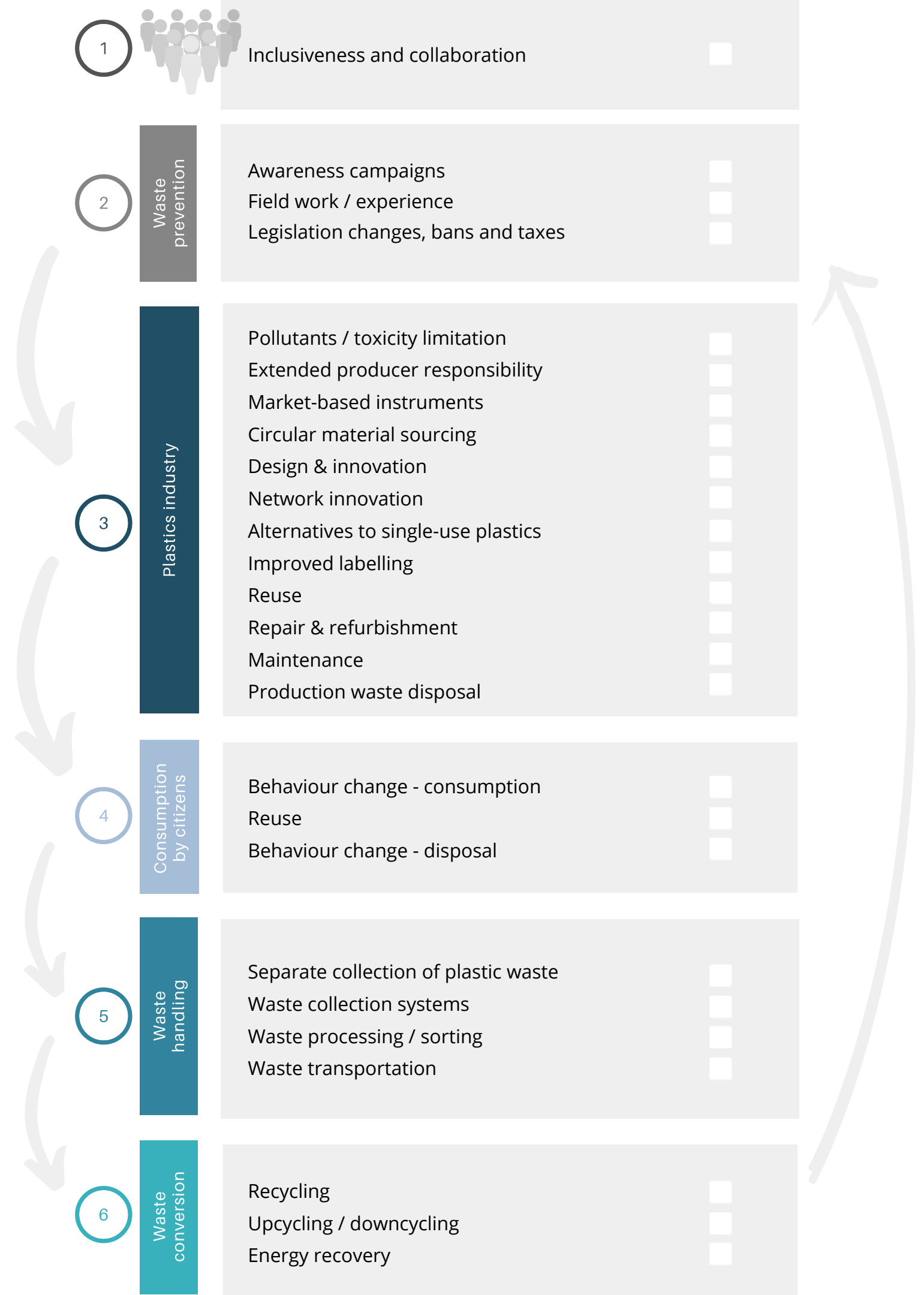


SIX CIRCULAR PLASTIC ECONOMY PRINCIPLES FOR SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY-BASED INTERVENTIONS

- 1 Support the consideration, active engagement and collaboration of all stakeholders throughout the different stages of the plastic cycle
- 2 Trigger a collective and individual shift in consciousness at business and consumer levels through the implementation of social and/or legislative measures
- 3 Strengthen the interaction between the community and the private sector through CE credits or direct collaboration to ensure actors in the plastics industry bear responsibility for their products and potential waste
- 4 Initiate consumers' behaviour changes with regard to consumption, use and disposal of single-use plastic products, contributing to initiating their phase out through replacement by sustainable alternatives
- 5 Implement community-based actions for waste processing and entrepreneurship before it reaches a recycling facility or landfill
- 6 Engage communities in the conversion of plastic waste through inclusive recycling, upcycling/ downcycling and/or energy recovery


METHODOLOGY TO ASSESS THE CIRCULARITY OF COMMUNITY-BASED ACTIONS

- Based on a literature review, the table summarises the most relevant and most commonly cited criteria when referring to CE.
- The approach is particularly useful when assessing the contribution of citizen-based initiatives to CE as it considers dimensions which communities are more often involved in.
- Applied to the IUCN Marine Plastics and Coastal Communities initiatives as case studies, the methodology has successfully measured the circularity of local initiatives and may be used as a systematic way to analyse the potential of engaging in CE through community-based actions.





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 <https://www.iucn.org/theme/marine-and-polar/our-work/close-plastic-tap-programme>

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The full report on the design of the methodology is available upon request



Min, Naing and So, employees of Ranong Recycle, posing for the camera as they are loading the truck with 100kg PET plastic bales. May 2020. Credits - Capucine Paour