

Determining the Feasibility of a Plastic Reduction Certification Program

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Who Are We?



Overview



Plastic Pollution



International Practices



Business Interviews



Consumer Surveys



Cost Analysis



Recommendations

Our Project Goal



To determine the feasibility of a plastic reduction program in Costa Rica for restaurants, cafes, and other businesses, and to provide MarViva with recommendations to develop the most effective and successful program that they can.



Plastic Pollution



Every year, 8 million tons of plastic
go into our oceans.

Only 6% of plastic in Costa Rica is
recycled.



Microplastics have been found in over 100 marine species



Consuming plastic disrupts feeding patterns and behaviors



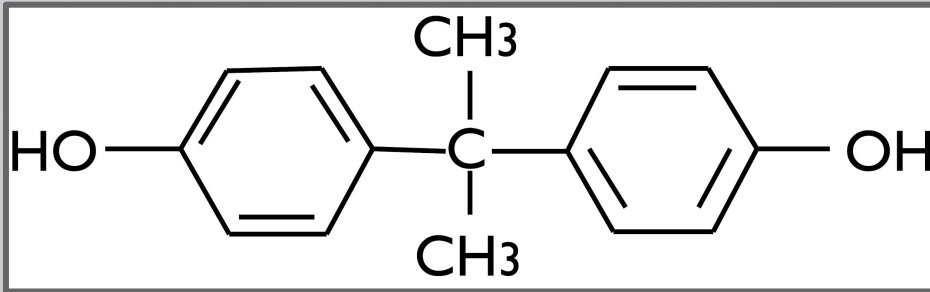
Plastic in the ocean absorbs bacteria and contaminants



Additives give plastics their unique properties



Nanoplastics can pass through biological membranes



Chemicals like BPA damage the endocrine system

International Practices

of Reducing Single-Use Plastic



1 European Union:
New Restrictions on Single-Use Plastics

2 Taiwan:
Blanket Ban on Single-Use Plastics by 2030

3 Netherlands:
First Plastic Free Supermarket Aisle

4 Britain:
25-Year Environmental Plan

5 Costa Rica:
Estrellas de Mar Certification Program

6 California, USA:
The Surfrider Foundation



**International
Practices**
of Reducing Single-Use Plastic

International Practices: *Most Effective Strategies*

**Governmental
Support**

**Frequent
Follow-Ups**

**Most
Effective
Strategies**

**Gradual
Implementation**

**Community
Involvement**

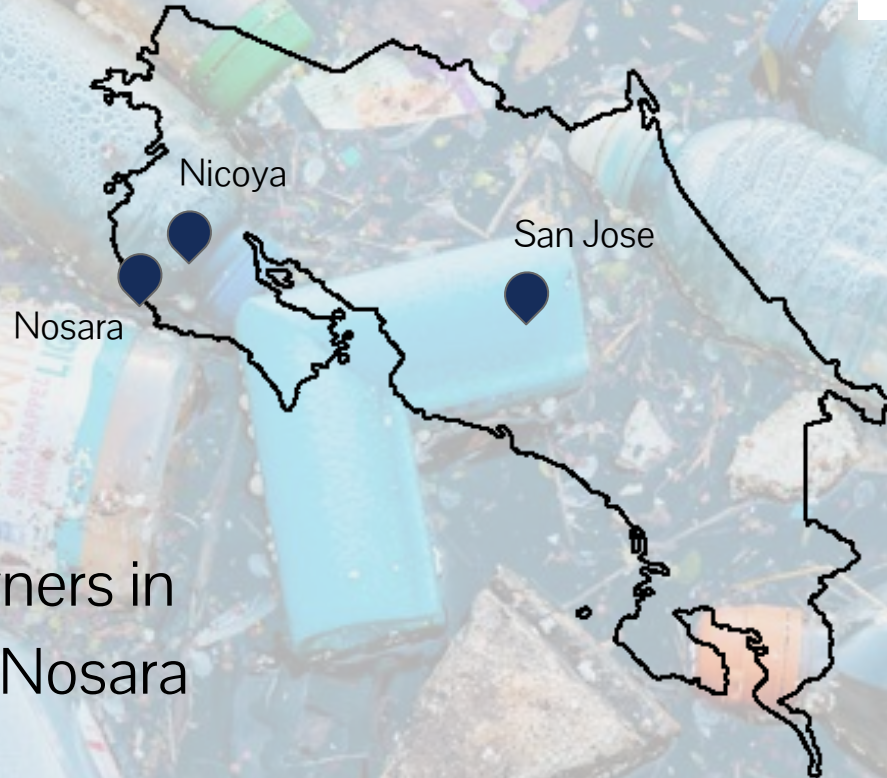


Business Interviews

Business Interviews



#CHAO
PLÁSTICO
DESECHABLE



8 interviews with
different restaurant owners in
San Jose, Nicoya, and Nosara

Pre-Existing Plastic Reduction



- Straws
- To-go boxes
- To-go cups
- Utensils
- Bags



Interview Outcomes



Plastic
Reduction
Efforts



Suggestions
for
Certification



Thoughts
on
Conservation



Biases
and
Recommendations



Consumer Surveys

Surveyed **125** people

7 different businesses in San Jose, Nicoya and Nosara

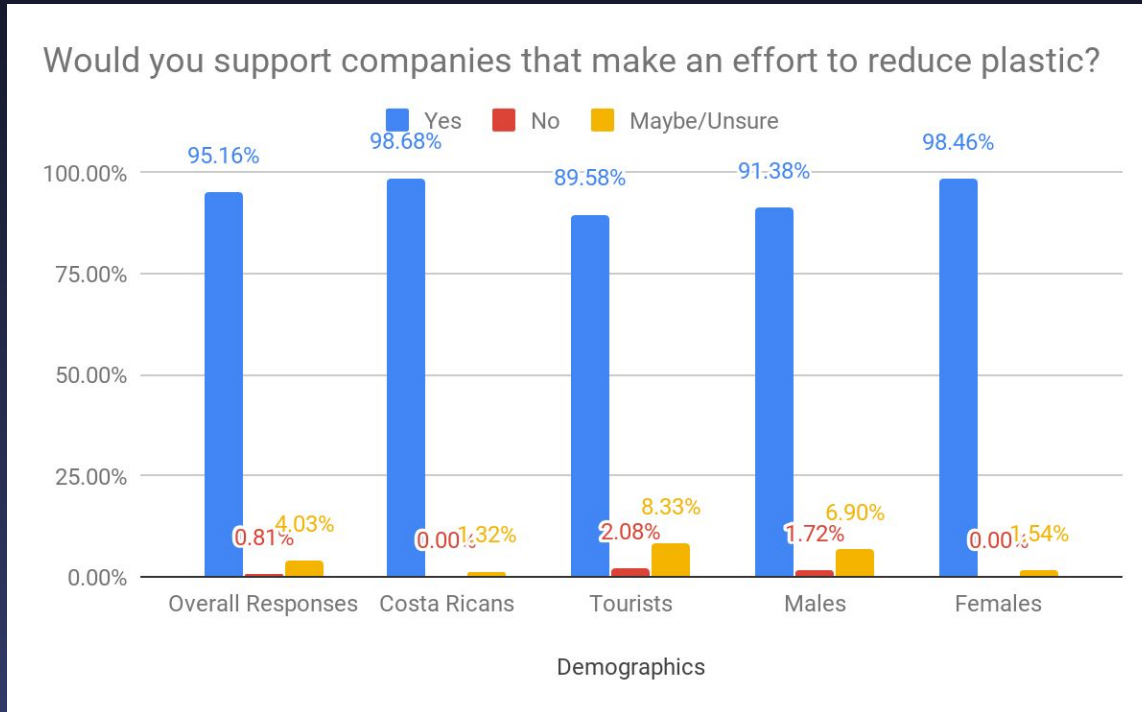
Survey Methods

Research Questions

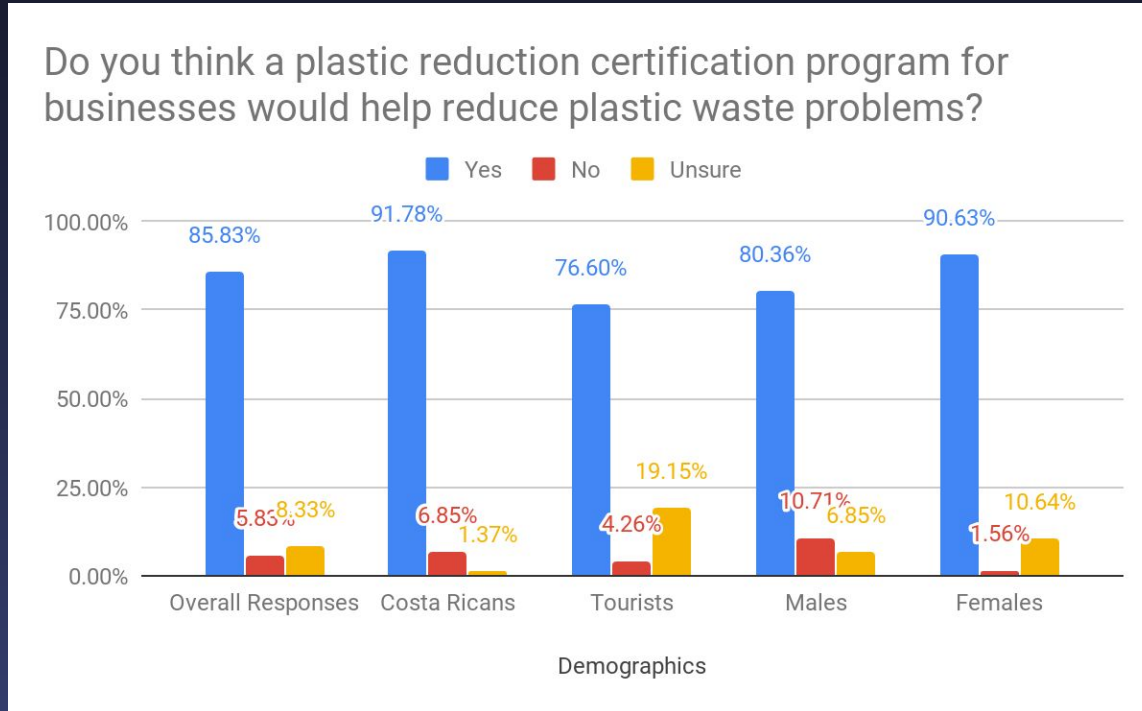
- Consumer's Personal Plastic Use
- Business Plastic Use
- Potential Solution
- Demographic Information



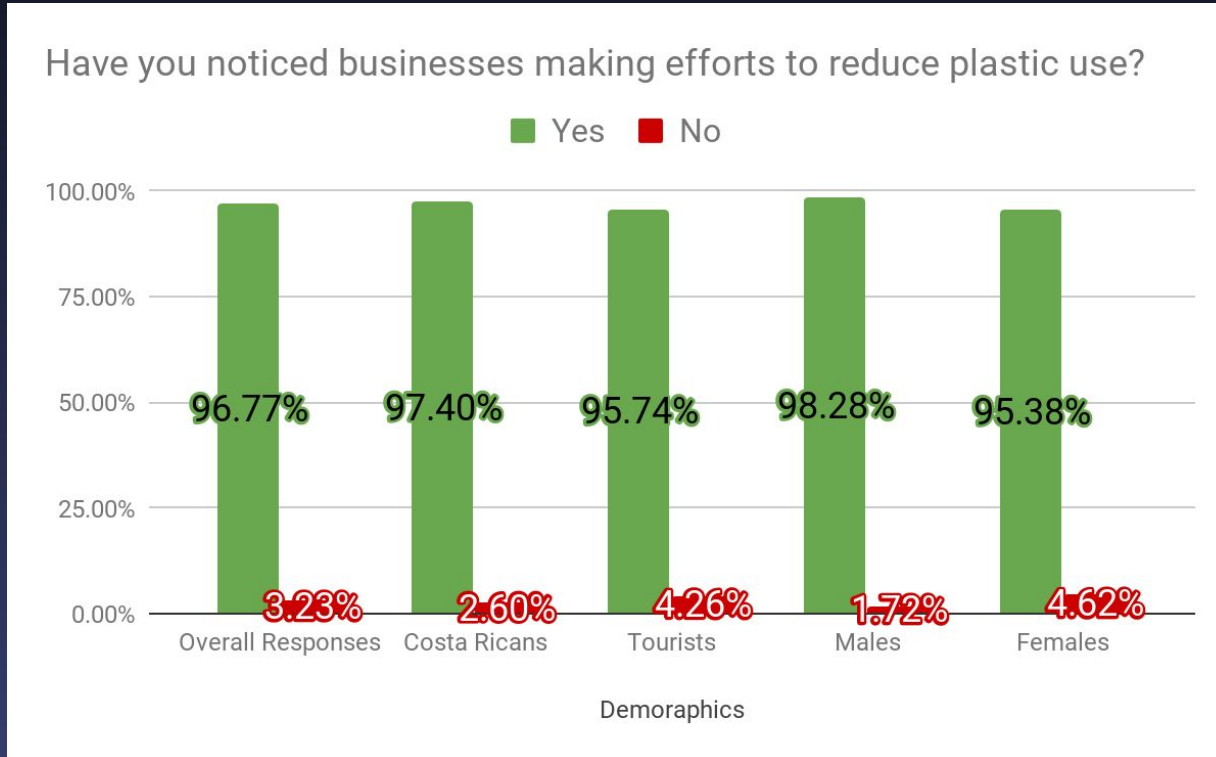
Supporting Businesses that Reduce Plastic Use



Support for a Program that Reduces Plastic Waste



Noticing Business Efforts to Reduce Plastic





Cost Analysis

Cost Analysis

Bamboo straws are **7 times more** expensive than plastic

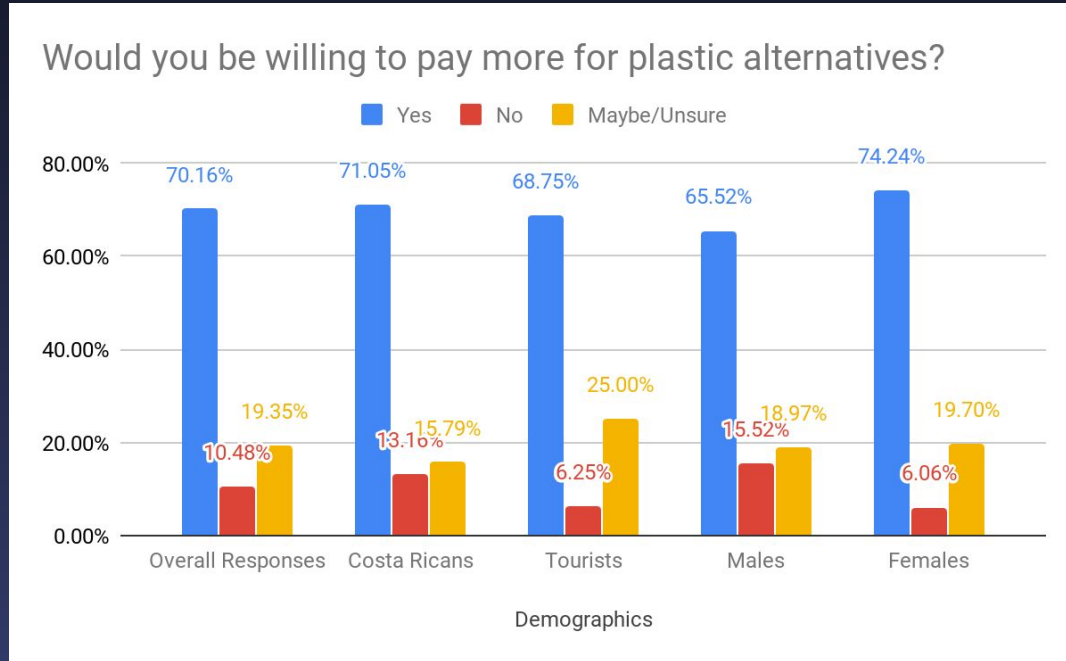


Biodegradable to-go container are about **31 colones more** than styrofoam per container

Biodegradable coffee lids are **20% less** than plastic lids



Willingness to Pay for Alternatives





Recommendations

Recommendations

1 *Expanding Public Awareness Campaign*

2 *Broader Spectrum of Restaurants*

3 *Incorporate Key Characteristics*

4 *Future Direction*

FINAL DELIVERABLES

1. Consumer Survey Data Sheet
2. Findings Outline
3. Research Paper
4. This Presentation



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¡Gracias!

¿Preguntas?



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