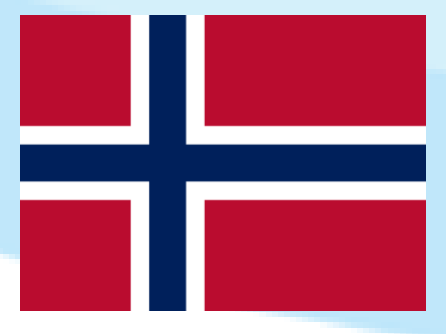
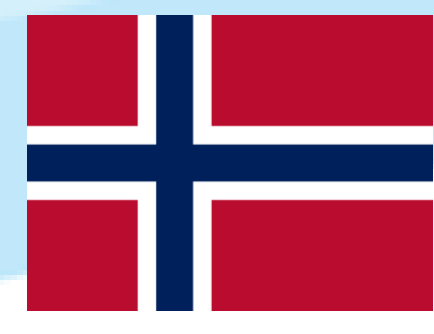


The importance of further research on the implementation of a Bottle Deposit System in South Africa



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Introduction

Plastic bottles are a contributing factor to ocean plastic waste. The *bottle deposit* ('*pant*') system in Norway is an effective and well-recognised recycling scheme for plastic bottles. Prior research on cross-country differences in consumer behaviour towards plastic bottles in the current context is limited.

Objectives

- To examine **differences in behaviour** between consumers in **Norway** and **South Africa** in relation to **plastic bottles**.
- Investigate a Norwegian '**best-practice**' model, as a **potential means of reducing any systemic barriers** to recycling behaviour in South Africa.

Methodology

- A **literature review** was conducted on fields such as: the impact of marine plastic waste, consumer behaviour, and the plastic waste problem in both countries.
- Primary data** on consumer plastic bottle purchasing and recycling behaviour was collected through an **online survey**, distributed to residents of coastal cities in Norway and South Africa.

Key study areas



Results

- There are **behavioural differences** between South African and Norwegian consumers.
- Systemic challenges** may hinder recycling behaviour in South Africa.
- The '*pant*' system could be a **valuable tool** in increasing the recycling rate for plastic bottles in South Africa, thereby reducing marine plastic waste.
- Both countries **support** the use of **taxpayer money** to implement deposit systems.



Potential Challenges

- Will current recycling **infrastructure** in South Africa be able to handle increased volumes?
- Are **all** drinking bottles recyclable?
- Will the **start-up costs** be viable and practical in such a large country?
- Is there a **regional compromise**?

Conclusion

- Both consumer groups appear positive to recycling plastic bottles. However, South Africans report more **practical challenges**, such as **limited access to recycling facilities**.
- We found that the '*pant*' system in Norway serves as both a **motivator** and **facilitator** for recycling plastic bottles. Implementation of a similar scheme in South Africa could be an effective way to **boost recycling rates**.
- To explore the **viability** of a bottle deposit system in South Africa, we suggest that a small-scale, **pilot program** should be initiated. However, further studies should be performed to more robustly assess both the appetite for- and practicalities of such a measure.

Future Intent



- Publish academic article(s)
- Seek additional funding for more robust data collection
- Disseminate results to all relevant stakeholders for maximum impact on management strategies to combat plastic bottle pollution