

Transformation of Rural and Urban Areas in Latin America and The Caribbean

Opportunities for Collaborate Partnerships to Advance Green Growth



The time is right to link environmental innovations in Latin America and the Caribbean with the power of collaborative partnerships to catalyse broadly supported strategies for green growth.

Countries, provinces, and cities in Latin America and the Caribbean have been at the forefront of innovative environmental policies and sustainable environmental management systems. Collaborative partnerships are emerging as a powerful vehicle to scale up promising local solutions and advance green growth. Linking these two trends can be a catalyst for green growth.

The region has introduced environmental innovations that are less polluting, more resource efficient, and socially inclusive. Cities have created alternative mass transit systems¹ and introduced comprehensive long-term planning.²

Rural areas have been the focus of new payment for environmental services schemes.³ New public-private water funds have restored watersheds supplying drinking water,⁴ thus addressing important linkages between rural landscapes and cities.

As the examples illustrate, green solutions that can lower the environmental footprint of products, services, and lifestyles exist in many instances. Moreover, they could be sources of inspiration elsewhere on the planet. But in most cases uptake of these solutions is advancing too slowly.

Collaborative partnerships between the public and the private sectors are emerging as an effective approach to identify, demonstrate, and scale up green solutions. Public-private collaborative partnerships are now being recognized as critical for mobilizing decision-makers and the investments needed to tackle these challenges and thereby achieve green growth.⁵ Nearly 1400 partnership actions were recorded at the Rio+20 Earth Summit and more partnerships emerge each year.⁶ In fact, most sustainability issues today have one or more collaborations working on them to achieve pragmatic solutions. The Global Green Growth Forum (3GF) is leading the way in advancing such collaborative partnerships to achieve green growth (Box 1).

BOX 1. THE GLOBAL GREEN GROWTH FORUM

The Global Green Growth Forum (3GF) is a platform to advance collaborative partnerships to accelerate the transition to a green economy. 3GF's mission is to explore, promote, and demonstrate how better collaboration among leading businesses, investors, think-tanks, experts, international organisations and governments can effectively realise the potential for long-term inclusive green growth. Partnerships are being launched in areas where markets and government action on their own have not been able to solve intractable challenges.

Green growth in Latin America and the Caribbean can be achieved if production and consumption patterns that meet the needs of citizens and businesses can at the same time reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy and resource efficiency, and avoid the degradation of the natural capital that underpins all economic development. To be sustained over the long-term, this growth must be inclusive, providing affordable access and services to all segments of society. Numerous studies project that a transition to a green economy can boost economic development worth trillions of dollars over the next 15 years worldwide.⁸

This paper examines three questions that explore the promise to advance green growth by linking existing local environmental innovations in Latin America and the Caribbean with the power of collaborative partnerships:

- How can cities, rural areas, and their linkages drive green growth?
- Which collaborative public-private partnerships could be scaled for accelerating this green growth?
- How can these partnerships help meet sustainability goals?

How Can Cities, Rural Areas and Their Linkages Drive Green Growth?

Since both *cities* and *rural areas* are drivers of economic growth, they will be essential building blocks for green growth strategies in Latin America and the Caribbean. And any inclusive green growth strategy has to acknowledge and promote strong *urban-rural linkages*.

Cities: Engines of Development and Innovation

In 2015, half a billion people lived in urban areas of Latin America and the Caribbean, about 80 percent of the region's population.⁹ The share of people living in cities is expected to rise to 83 percent by 2030.⁹ Urban areas are, because of their size, the engines of the economy. The region's 40 largest cities, for example, produced about one third (\$US 842 billion per year) of its gross domestic product.¹⁰

This large market and growing demand represents an opportunity for green growth. Boosting the quality and efficiency of basic urban services such as energy, water, sanitation, and waste, will be at the centre of greening the region's cities. To achieve cleaner, more efficient, more resilient and inclusive green growth in cities will require finding green solutions that address a number of challenges such as:¹¹

- Identifying new clean energy sources to satisfy growing demand spurred by changing lifestyles.
- Addressing the challenge of the world's fastest growing motorization rates (4.5 percent per year).
- Ensuring access to urban services to all segments of society.

- Increasing the compactness of cities and reducing urban sprawl.
- Decreasing exposure to natural disasters and climate change risks.

Table 1 summarizes some of the key objectives for inclusive green growth in urban areas.

Rural Areas: The Foundation for Sustainable Economies

The region's rural areas provide the natural capital that supports economic development. Its natural assets are of great national, regional, and global importance:¹²

- The world's most extensive tropical forest area is in the Amazon region.
- Five countries in the region are among the world's top ten most biodiverse.
- A third of the world's freshwater resources and four of its largest rivers are in the region.

About 47 percent of the region's land area is forested and 37 percent of the land is used for agriculture (with three quarters of that land being used for meadows and pasture).¹³ Almost half of the region's exports come from rural areas and include food, livestock products, and raw materials.¹¹

TABLE 1. KEY OBJECTIVES FOR INCLUSIVE GREEN GROWTH IN URBAN AREAS

	Urban Development	Energy	Urban Transport	Water Supply and Sanitation
Clean	Expand urban services without increasing pollution and emissions.	Promote an affordable but low carbon composition of technology and fuel mix in generation capacity.	Manage demand for automobiles, and promote non-motorized modes (walking, bicycles) that are low-emission.	Expand sanitation coverage and share of sewage that is treated.
Efficient	Redefine city design and shift incentives toward greater density.	Increase efficiency in production, supply and use of energy.	Strengthen public transport with financially sustainable networks and competitive services.	Manage water as a scarce natural resource, reducing water losses.
Resilient	Reduce vulnerability of urban assets and services to natural disasters and climate change impacts.	Increase system resilience, for instance by interconnecting systems to spread hydrological risk.	Engineer transit systems for greater resilience to natural disasters.	Increase resilience of water services to anticipate and respond to droughts and floods.
Inclusive	Expand city infrastructure and basic urban services to slums and poor communities.	Provide universal access at affordable prices.	Strengthen public transport to promote inclusion and access.	Provide universal urban household connections with regular availability and high quality service.

Source: Ijjasz-Vasquez, E.J., 2013.¹¹

Achieving inclusive green growth in rural areas will require increasing agricultural production on the existing agricultural area and making agricultural value chains more efficient and climate smart. Green growth can capitalize on reversing land degradation and forest loss (e.g. to safeguard the Amazon, which is the region's source of moisture and freshwater and the world's largest carbon sink).¹¹ Increasing transport by rail and waterways and improving the efficiency of the trucking industry can green the rural transport system which currently is dominated by trucks (outside of Brazil about 90 percent of freight is moved on roads).¹¹ Moreover, providing access to basic services and markets would ensure economic and social inclusion of rural communities and indigenous peoples living traditional lifestyles. Table 2 summarizes some of these objectives for inclusive green growth in rural areas.

Peri-Urban Areas and Small Towns in Rural Areas: The Importance of Strong Urban-Rural Linkages

To achieve green growth in Latin America and the Caribbean, the close interaction between cities and the surrounding countryside needs to be recognized and carefully managed. Peri-urban areas and small and medium sized towns in rural areas connect rural inhabitants and

urban centres, markets, and services.¹⁵ Strong urban-rural linkages ensure mutually reinforcing development across rural, peri-urban, and urban areas and balance access to resources, services and economic opportunities.¹⁶

Urban-rural linkages run both ways. Growing cities, for instance, require land for housing, industry, and transportation infrastructure. They rely on nearby watersheds for their water supply and wastewater management. And most urban areas rely on rural landscapes to help meet demand for food, fibre, and other environmental services. Conversely, rural areas rely on cities for economic growth through markets, supply chains, and flows of people and money.

In addition, economic growth in rural areas can be accompanied by urban economic growth. One case example is the Upper Valley of Río Negro and Neuquén in Argentina, where fruit tree farmers were linked by railway to Buenos Aires. Here farmers needed agricultural inputs, cold storage and processing, which resulted in the emergence of small urban centres following the railway.¹⁷

Table 3 highlights objectives for inclusive green growth advancing strong urban-rural linkages.

TABLE 2. KEY OBJECTIVES FOR INCLUSIVE GREEN GROWTH IN RURAL AREAS

	Agriculture and Other Land Uses	Agriculture	Rural Transport and Access to Markets
Clean	Reduce environmental footprint of agriculture by reducing (and reversing) deforestation.	Promote climate smart agriculture.	Reduce local environmental and social footprint, including the induced effects of transport infrastructure construction and operations.
Efficient	Maintain trajectory of high output growth without expansion of the environmental footprint from production.	Adopt widespread efficient agriculture practices (water, nutrient, agro-chemicals).	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by moving toward more efficient modes and practices of freight transport.
Resilient	Restore degraded land and encourage diversity of land use across landscapes to provide resilience.	Maintain productivity in the face of changing climatic conditions – while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.	Engineer transport assets according to changing requirements for resilience, particularly in flood prone areas.
Inclusive	Ensure inclusion of rural communities and indigenous peoples in ecosystem restoration and integrated landscape management.	Focus on smallholder competitiveness, including logistics and access to markets.	Include local communities in investment and operations decisions; and focus on expanded access – including transport services and logistics – for rural communities.

Sources: Ijjasz-Vasquez, E.J., 2013¹¹ and Scherr et al., 2012.¹⁴

Which Collaborative Public-Private Partnerships Could Be Scaled for Accelerating Green Growth?

Collaborative partnerships unite diverse actors in the pursuit of common goals. They can support companies and governments in removing market, technology, policy and institutional barriers to progress and thereby cross tipping points of change. Both cities and rural areas provide promising entry points to launch public-private partnerships to advance green growth. Likewise, partnerships that bridge rural and urban areas and strengthen urban-rural synergies have great potential.

Partnerships to Promote Sustainable Urban Areas

About 65 percent of Latin America's economic growth to 2025 is projected to come from 198 large cities.¹⁹ Within the next 20 years, the region's demand for electricity will almost double, with the greatest share coming from urban areas.¹¹ Cities will drive growth in wastes, housing, transport, and water use. Businesses can create new green growth opportunities by capitalizing on this demand and associated shifts in consumption patterns and lifestyle changes by urban inhabitants.

Hence, partnerships that encourage better urban management that reduces, recycles, or reuse wastes and materials are a priority. They will save energy and have positive environmental impacts. Likewise accelerating low carbon and energy efficient buildings are a promising area. Similarly, improvements in urban transport will result in a positive energy and pollution reduction balance. Finally, reducing water loss will increase the efficiency of water use and of energy use for pumping and treatment. For each priority area technologies and business models exist that provide green growth solutions.

Potential for scaling partnerships advancing sustainable urban areas include:

- **Unlock the value of waste and promote a circular economy.** While 93 percent of the urban population in the region were covered by some solid waste services,²⁰ cities consistently face the challenge to avoid and reduce waste and secure financing for waste infrastructure, which is capital intensive. The 3GF partnership on *Integrated Waste Management System* is an example of a partnership that unlocks the value of waste. Promising solutions exist for additional partnerships that redirect waste streams and un-

TABLE 3. KEY OBJECTIVES FOR INCLUSIVE GREEN GROWTH ADVANCING STRONG URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES

	Food	Water and other Ecosystem Services	Energy
Clean	Identify opportunities for resource recovery and encourage short supply chains within city-region food systems.	Expand the treatment of human, industrial and agricultural contamination of water resources in urban areas and invest in natural infrastructure to filter pollutants.	Advance renewable energy sources (solar, hydro, geothermal, wind) and link to regional grids.
Efficient	Encourage efficient agricultural production, transport, and processing.	Adopt economic incentives to induce efficient allocation and use of water and other resources.	Establish smart grid and smart meter systems that integrate energy efficiency and conservation as central goals.
Resilient	Encourage multiple and diverse sources of food within city region.	Include climate impacts on hydrology in water resource pricing and planning.	Create regional energy systems that link multiple types of sources of renewable energy (solar, hydro, geothermal, wind).
Inclusive	Provide business and other support to include small-holders in new enterprise and marketing opportunities in food value chains within city region.	Include local communities in water resource management decisions as well as payment for environmental services schemes.	Include communities in peri-urban areas and medium sized towns in viable mini-grid systems if connection to main grid is too costly.

Sources: Adapted and based on: RUA Foundation and ICLEI, 2013;¹⁸ Ijjasz-Vasquez, E.J., 2013.¹¹

derutilised resources from one industry or activity to another. Separating and reusing wastes represents a considerable opportunity. For example, less than three percent of solid waste generated in the region's cities is separated at the source, with Mexico City (Mexico) and Santiago (Chile) reporting recycling rates of 10 and 11 percent, respectively.¹¹ Successful business models, using global climate or other green financing, can also be developed for converting waste to energy, as has been demonstrated for São Paulo's (Brazil) Bandeirantes Landfill.²¹

- **Accelerate low-carbon and energy efficient buildings.** If new financing opportunities in the low-carbon development sector can be secured and suitable contracting arrangements crafted, cities could capitalize on opportunities to boost energy efficiency in both commercial and residential buildings.²² Improved lighting, better insulation, and other energy efficiency technologies all represent new business opportunities, reduce costs for consumers, and lower greenhouse gas emissions. Partnerships are needed to integrate policies and investments to address challenges such as financing energy efficiency in new build construction or retrofitting for energy efficiency in existing building stock. In addition to the existing 3GF partnership on *Building Efficiency Accelerator*, partnerships can build on and further advance upon achievements such as the 2008 Buenos Aires programme to reduce energy consumption in 100 public buildings²³ and Mexico's *Green Mortgage*, a housing finance programme developed by the Institute for the National Workers' Housing Fund (*INFONAVIT*) to encourage energy efficient systems and technologies for low-income households.²⁴
- **Establish sustainable urban transport systems.** To counteract traffic congestion and unhealthy air pollution from cars, collaborative public-private partnerships can scale up financially sustainable transport systems that offer competitive and inclusive public transport services. These partnerships will benefit from extensive experience with bus rapid transit and bus corridors in 61 Latin American cities.²⁵ The International Energy Agency has proposed a tenfold increase in bus rapid transit globally to achieve its two-degree climate change scenario,²⁶ and there is strong regional support to advance sustainable transport.²⁷ Partnerships can focus on actions that avoid unnecessary motorized travel,

shift goods and people to the most efficient transport modes, and improve the technology and operational management of transport services.²⁸ An additional important element of sustainable transport systems will be the promotion and support for walking and cycling, with required investments in infrastructure, communication support, and new business models that spur a change in attitudes and lifestyles.²⁹

- **Increase water use efficiency and reduce water loss.** Reducing urban water leakage worldwide could provide up to \$170 billion in resource benefits by 2030.³⁰ In Latin America and the Caribbean, about 38 percent of the water is unaccounted for.³¹ Collaborative partnerships to reduce urban water loss need to overcome considerable barriers to change such as lack of quantitative information on water loss, a financing gap to make necessary water infrastructure upgrades, and political opposition to adopt appropriate pricing mechanisms for water.

Collaborative partnerships can facilitate actions such as standardized assessments of water usage and loss, design of incentive schemes to reduce leakage, development of model performance-based contracts to address water loss, securing of new water technologies, and sharing of successful experiences with other municipalities. Both the work by the *Water Leakages Learning Network*, a 3GF global partnership that scales up water saving solutions in cities, and the efforts by the *2030 Water Resources Group*, which has been active in Peru and Mexico on improving water management, can be the starting point for more region-specific efforts.³²

BOX 2. 3GF PARTNERSHIPS PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE URBAN AREAS

- Building Efficiency Accelerator is a network of businesses and NGOs providing tools, expertise, technical and financial capacity to sub-national governments to accelerate improvements in energy efficiency in buildings.
- Water Leakages Learning Network aims to scale up water saving solutions in rapidly growing cities through performance-based contracts, where technology providers are paid through the savings they create.
- Integrated Waste Management System unlocks value in the waste management and recycling supply chain through demonstration sites, best practice roadmaps and creating an enabling environment.
- Waste, Polymers, and Packaging is a network of influential cities, reverse logistics companies, consumer goods manufacturers, and retailers developing a roadmap for plastic packaging in the circular economy.
- Industrial Symbiosis brings together companies from different sectors to raise awareness of industrial symbiosis and identify business opportunities and avoid waste in a circular economy.

Partnerships to Promote Sustainable Rural Areas

The following partnership areas address important rural challenges. The areas can contribute to green growth because they affect a large number of people or a large geographic area in the region. Green technologies, business models, and coordination approaches exist. Partnerships are needed, and can develop solutions, to overcome location-specific market, policy, and institutional barriers.

Potential for scaling up partnerships advancing sustainable rural areas include:

- **Restore degraded land, improve livelihoods, and sequester carbon.** About 200-450 million hectares of forest and agricultural land in Latin America have been classified as suffering from some level of land degradation.³³ Restoring these lands increases their value and productivity for land owners and creates new opportunities for restoration businesses. And if degraded lands are restored at large scale, it can help restore ecosystem services, contribute to food security and biodiversity, and reduce the need to expand agriculture into forest and savannah ecosystems.

Public-private partnerships restoring degraded land can build on the political momentum created by *Initiative 20x20*, launched at the UNFCC COP20 in Lima in December 2014. *Initiative 20x20*, a country-led effort that is new on the 3GF platform, seeks to restore 20 million hectares of land in Latin America and the Caribbean by 2020.³⁴

- **Improve fuel efficiency of the freight sector and rural transport systems.** The transport sector in Latin America and the Caribbean contributes to more

than a third of the greenhouse gas emissions and is growing rapidly.³⁵ Rural and regional transport can be a major contributor.³⁶ The carbon intensity of road transport can be reduced by making more cost-effective and fuel-efficient alternatives available such as rail or inland waterways, by improving road quality, and by using less energy-intensive material and construction methods to build new transport infrastructure.

Another strategy is to increase the fuel efficiency of existing transport modes, such as Brazil's "green trucking" strategy that seeks to boost the efficiency of its logistics and transportation industry.¹¹ Partnerships between shippers, carriers, and technology companies offer opportunities for collaborative efforts to save costs for and reduce the environmental impacts of the trucking industry.¹¹ For instance, the fuel efficiency of existing truck fleets can be increased by providing truck owners and transport users with incentives to measure and lower their fuel usage.

BOX 3. 3GF PARTNERSHIPS PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE RURAL AREAS

- Initiative 20x20 intends to restore 20 million hectares of land in Latin America and the Caribbean by 2020.
- Global Forest Watch is a near real-time forest monitoring system that unites satellite technology, data sharing, and human networks around the world to fight deforestation.

Partnerships to Promote Strong Urban-Rural Linkages

Potential for scaling partnerships to strengthen urban-rural linkages for food, water, and energy include:

- **Build resilient city-region food systems.** Cities are increasingly paying attention to urban food security and are looking for opportunities to enhance access to nutritious food, generate employment and income, reduce a city's ecological foot print, and adapt to climate change. For instance, over the past decade, Belo Horizonte (Brazil) has strengthened its city-region food system.¹⁸ The city has established a multi-stakeholder forum on urban and peri-urban agriculture, promoted farmers markets and organic food fairs, prioritized procurement of peri-urban agriculture products, supported urban agriculture, provided food and nutrition assistance to schools, and engaged in other supportive efforts.

In 2013, ICLEI, a coalition of over 1,000 cities, towns and metropolitan areas, launched *Cityfood*, a network to promote such innovations of more resilient urban food systems.¹⁸ The network seeks to increase awareness about the benefits of city-region food systems, overcome limited standardized data on the impacts and associated benefits of urban agriculture and food systems, and find new ways to close local and international financing gaps to promote resilient city-region food systems. Additional collaborative partnerships are needed to accelerate these efforts and scale up successful demonstrations at the national and regional level. The 3GF partnership on *Food Loss and Waste*, a multi-stakeholder process developing a global standard for measuring food loss and waste, can support building such food systems in Latin America and the Caribbean.

- **Promote integrated urban water management.** Water supply, sanitation, waste management, drainage management, and flood control in a city all are interlinked by hydrological flows. In addition, a city's water services depend on land and water management actions in its rural watersheds. Water utilities and their municipal governments are increasingly interested in supporting an integrated urban water management approach that accounts for these linkages. This requires coordination across and engagement with city sector institutions, utilities responsible for sanitation, waste and energy services, their clients, and water resource and environmental management institutions at the regional or national level.³⁷ The 3GF partnership on *Water Resources Management 2030*, a platform engaged in analyses and coalition building to catalyze

sustainable water sector transformations, can share its experiences for new partnerships.

Translating integrated urban water management into practical action within a watershed is a complex challenge requiring multi-stakeholder collaboration. Additional partnerships are needed to advance knowledge platforms that help make the business case for location-specific actions on integrated urban water management. For instance, improving sanitation and solid waste management creates business opportunities and direct benefits for household health and urban living conditions. City-wide benefits, for example, include improved groundwater quality by avoiding pollution and reduced flooding by removing drain blockages. In many instances integrated urban water management can be less expensive than a business-as-usual sectoral approach.³⁷ Other possible partnership actions include establishing demonstration sites (e.g., for recycling wastewater or for water-sensitive urban design) and setting up resilient water services that anticipate and respond to droughts and floods without significantly compromising services.³⁷

- **Establish water funds.** Water funds seek to protect and restore ecosystems within watersheds to ensure provision of clean water to cities and villages.⁴ Latin American companies are already investing in these funds to reduce supply chain and operational disruptions caused by water scarcity, floods, or poor water quality.³⁸ The *Latin American Water Funds Partnership*—launched by The Nature Conservancy, the FEMSA Foundation, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Global Environment Facility in 2011 and new on the 3GF platform—aims to establish at least 32 functioning water funds across the region within five years.³⁹ The partnership engages the private and public sectors and civil society.
- **Advance regional energy integration.** Promising opportunities for collaborative partnerships to promote energy security and reduce environmental impacts can be realized by advancing more regional energy integration (electricity and gas) and encouraging greater use of non-hydroelectric renewables (solar, wind, geothermal).¹¹ 3GF is now taking steps to establish a new partnership with focus on grid integration in the Latin American region. Partnerships can also take advantage of the momentum created by the *Connect*

2022 initiative, launched at the Sixth Summit of the Americas in Cartagena, Colombia in 2012, with the aim of universal electricity access in the Americas by 2022.⁴⁰ Likewise the *Central American Electrical Interconnection System (SIEPAC)*, the first major regional transmission system in Latin America, demonstrates the feasibility and potential of connecting 37 million consumers to a common regional grid.⁴⁰

In addition, combining regional electricity integration with smart grid technologies will facilitate the integration of a higher level of distributed renewable energy generation (e.g., rooftop solar) without affecting electric grid stability.⁴⁰ The emergence of smart grid experiments is well underway, as can be witnessed in Brazil. In April 2013, the biggest power distribution company in

Latin America announced a smart grid demonstration targeting a large number of metropolitan customers. Moreover, Brazil's federal government launched *Inova Energia*, a \$US 1.4 billion plan aimed at catalysing innovation in the electric sector including smart grid development.⁴¹

Important action areas for partnerships are developing regulatory policies, agreed upon by multiple stakeholders, which facilitate new hydropower investments under stronger financial conditions and more comprehensive environmental and social safeguards.¹¹ Both distributed micro-grids and centralized power solutions will be key for green growth. To reduce investment risks, companies will require incentives to invest in power generation and grid upgrades.

BOX 4. 3GF PARTNERSHIPS PROMOTING STRONG URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES

- Water Resources Management 2030 engages in fact-based, analytical approaches and coalition building initiatives that help governments to catalyse sustainable water sector transformations.
- Green Bonds for Water promotes more sustainable water management approaches through qualifying standards for water "green" bonds.
- Natural Capital Protocol aims to provide clear guidance on how businesses can assess their impacts and dependencies on natural capital, and manage these better.
- Energy-Water Nexus explores opportunities for smarter action around water and energy use by taking a nexus approach and maximizing impact through effective data management. Food Loss and Waste Protocol, a multi stakeholder process, is developing a global standard for measuring food loss and waste in a consistent, credible and transparent manner.
- Water Funds, a partnership led by The Nature Conservancy, finance new systems supporting the maintenance of clean water sources, enhancing ecosystems, and advancing community economic development.
- Regional Power Grid Integration and Renewable Energy is a potential partnership to support Latin American countries and companies to integrate their power grids and reduce entry barriers to renewable generation.

How Can These Partnerships Help Meet Sustainability Goals?

This paper makes the case for the opportunity and need to scale existing 3GF partnerships and develop new collaborative partnerships that advance successful green policy innovations and management systems to achieve green growth. Such partnerships in turn would engage the public sector, civil society, think-tanks, international organisations and private companies in joint contributions to attaining global climate and other sustainability goals.

Both urban and rural areas are entry points for proposed public-private collaborations to advance green growth. Likewise a set of partnerships is focusing on stronger urban-rural linkages. All discussed collaborative partnerships can help to meet the new proposed global sustainability goals (Box 5):

- **Promote sustainable urban areas.** Unlocking the value of waste and promoting a circular economy, accelerating energy efficient buildings, and reducing water loss in urban water delivery systems, all are partnership areas that have proven solutions and can be linked to established 3GF partnerships. The region also has successful experiences with private-public partnerships in these sectors. In addition, new 3GF partnerships promoting sustainable urban transport could emerge from Latin America and the Caribbean, building on the region's leadership on this issue.

Reducing waste and improving resource efficiency lowers expenses for companies and consumers and provides public benefits. For instance, more energy efficient buildings contribute to lower greenhouse gas emissions (SDG 13) and more sustainable cities (SDG 11). Or partnerships advancing sustainable urban transport would reduce greenhouse gas emissions (SDG 13) and improve the inclusiveness and liveability of cities (SDG 11).

- **Promote sustainable rural areas.** Restoring degraded lands has high-level political support with *Initiative 20x20* and is supported by private investment of \$US 365 million.³⁴ Greening the rural transport system including the trucking industry has potential as a new 3GF partnership area.

Depending on the type of rural landscapes being restored, the sustainability benefits would vary. Partnership actions would contribute to food security (SDG 2), restore terrestrial ecosystems (SDG 15), and help store carbon and reduce climate change vulnerability (SDG 13). Similarly, partnerships that advance greening of rural transport would reduce greenhouse gas emissions (SDG 13) and contribute to inclusive economic growth by boosting market access (SDG 8).

- **Promote strong urban-rural linkages.** The described partnership areas—water funds and regional energy integration—are new scalable partnership opportunities on the 3GF platform. Both will require leadership from water and energy utilities and strong government and investment support. Likewise, advancing integrated urban water management can be linked to existing 3GF partnerships. City region-food systems are a promising new partnership area for 3GF, but still lack broad awareness, region-specific economic evidence, and tools and funding support that accelerate successful demonstrations.

Sustainability benefits would vary with each partnership area. For instance, partnerships addressing solid waste, sanitation, and drinking water would support more liveable cities (SDG 11), improve availability of sanitation (SDG 6), boost sustainable water management (SDG 6), make urban life more safe (SDG 11), and contribute to healthier lives (SDG 3).

In summary, the proposed partnerships would help catalyse economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve the environment. As a result, they would set Latin America and the Caribbean on an accelerated path toward green growth.

BOX 5. PARTNERSHIP PRIORITY AREAS AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The regional 3GF meetings, organized in Africa, Latin America, and Asia during 2015, and the priority areas discussed at them are closely aligned with the international discussions leading to new climate and sustainability goals. In September 2015, the UN summit is expected to adopt the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the UNFCCC COP21 is expected to lead to a new climate deal in December 2015. These global commitments will guide green growth and sustainable development priorities over the next 15 years.

3GF is an action-oriented platform for implementing these new commitments. The next 3GF global summit, to be held in Copenhagen in April 2016, will provide an opportunity to strengthen and scale collaborative public-private partnerships in support of these goals.

The partnerships discussed in this paper would directly contribute to six of the new goals being proposed by the United Nations Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals:

- SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
 - SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
 - SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
 - SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
 - SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
 - SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.
- Depending on action areas chosen, these partnerships also would support more generally the following goals:
- SDG 1: End poverty in all its form everywhere.
 - SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
 - SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
 - SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
 - SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.
 - SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

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