Chapter 6
Strategic Implementation of Green Public Procurement in the City of Buenos Aires

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ABSTRACT
As public procurement systems around the world continue their modernization process, many countries are including a new objective in their reform efforts: the implementation of public policies in the procurement process. This has been a growing trend in Latin America, where countries have shown leadership in incorporating public policies into their modernization plans, being a perfect example is the introduction of green public procurement standards. There is particular interest in incorporating sustainability in public procurement at the sub-national level where governments are directly responsible for the provision of citizen services. In the case of Argentina, the Government of the City of Buenos Aires is at the forefront of public procurement modernization, leading the country in green public procurement strategies. This chapter explores the principles and global trends that have influenced the City of Buenos Aires in implementing green public procurement and provides insight on the economic rationale and potential benefits for one of the largest metropolitan regions in LAC.

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INTRODUCTION

Promoting environmental sustainability is a mainstay of any National Development Program in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). Among many approaches to implement this priority, incorporating sustainability standards to public procurement (Green Public Procurement-GPP) has become relevant because of its potential to support the achievement of this policy objective.

Government expenditure in LAC countries still constitutes a significant part of GDP, thus its potential to create incentives to promote sustainable economic sectors and corresponding practices. Currently, the adoption and implementation of GPP standards in public procurement legislation is an inherent part of any reform effort in the LAC region.

This has not only been happening at the national level. Sub-national governments such as states, provinces and municipalities throughout the region have also been increasingly active in incorporating GPP practices into their public procurement as the benefits are more immediate and direct at this level. Municipalities and local governments have a great potential for positive environmental impact as they are usually in charge of procurement of services such as public transportation, electricity and garbage disposal, which have significant scope for implementing GPP criteria. A key example of this is the City of Buenos Aires, which stands out as one of the pioneer cities to implement GPP in Argentina and the LAC region.

PRINCIPLES OF GPP THAT INFLUENCED THE CITY OF BUENOS AIRES

Governments, international organizations and think tanks have developed a variety of different definitions of GPP, in many cases included within the overall broader framework of sustainable procurement. However, there are common concepts and definitions across all of them, which include Value for Money (VfM), life cycle of goods and services, and environmental sustainability over time in the provision of goods and services.

DEFINITIONS OF GPP

Some definitions that have served as reference to the City of Buenos Aires are:
Strategic Approach to Tourism Development in Namibia
[www.igi-global.com/article/strategic-approach-to-tourism-development-in-namibia/174386?camid=4v1a](www.igi-global.com/article/strategic-approach-to-tourism-development-in-namibia/174386?camid=4v1a)

Pass, Fail, or Incomplete?: Analyzing Environmental Education in Nova Scotia's Sixth Grade Curriculum
Elizabeth Spence, Tarah Wright and Heather Castleden (2014). *Handbook of Research on Pedagogical Innovations for Sustainable Development* (pp. 210-228).
[www.igi-global.com/chapter/pass-fail-or-incomplete/103508?camid=4v1a](www.igi-global.com/chapter/pass-fail-or-incomplete/103508?camid=4v1a)