AFR100 Initiative input to the NBS Coalition for the UN Climate Action Summit:

1. **Title/Heading.**

   The African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) (www.afr100.org)

2. **Context and rationale.**

   Degraded land has a cost both to local people and national economies, contributing to the escalation of natural disasters such as flooding and erosion and exacerbating social conflict as people seek better access to food and water. Restoration of productive landscapes in Africa can help lift people out of poverty, stabilize food production, protect biodiversity, help African economies grow, and contribute to adapting to and mitigating climate change. The African Forest Landscape Restoration (AFR100) Initiative is a country-led effort to restore 100 million hectares of deforested and degraded landscapes across Africa by 2030. The initiative seeks to build on field support, capacity building and policy advice to restore forests and landscapes on the ground, promote large-scale FLR, and leverage additional resources for FLR, share FLR experiences and monitor FLR results. It does so by connecting participating African nations with technical and financial support to achieve large-scale forest landscape restoration (FLR).

3. **An overview of the contribution.**

   The African Union Development Agency (AUDA)-NEPAD Agency has a network of partners across Africa that could provide a perspective from the African Regional point of view. The AFR100 Secretariat works closely with country focal points and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to provide specific details on what is happening on the ground with regards to FLR which would feed into discussions and value addition.

4. **How the contribution leverages living natural systems as a solution to avert climate change?**

   Protecting nature provides significant opportunities to cut emissions dramatically, preserve our planets ability to support life and sustain communities. Halting the destruction of forests is a cost effective and effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) can restore ecosystem services and landscape functionality, boost and stabilize land use productivity and enhance resilience to climate change through the restoration of forests and tree cover outside of forests.

5. **How might the contribution support both climate, mitigation and adaptation as well as other important co-benefits and social, economic and environmental outcomes in coming years? They may include:**

   Improved soil fertility, enhanced agricultural productivity and food security, greater availability and improved quality of water resources, reduced desertification, increased

biodiversity, green jobs, economic growth, and increased climate change mitigation and resilience

6. **Which countries and organizations are involved in the contribution?**

   A network of 27 technical and 12 financial partners (http://afr100.org/content/technical-partners) supports this effort to 28 African countries (http://afr100.org/content/countries).

7. **How have stakeholders (for example local communities, youth and indigenous peoples, where applicable) been consulted in developing the contribution?**

   Stakeholder engagement is a key principle of AFR100. Engaging all relevant stakeholders in the assessment of restoration opportunities and identification, testing and active upscaling of promising FLR solutions is considered key for successful restoration. AFR100 seeks fair and equitable access to land and forest resources for all relevant stakeholders and promotes the rights of local and indigenous communities and women. AFR100 is developing a set of common good practices and principles for FLR, tested tools and guidelines for governance assessments, stakeholder participation, tree tenure and land tenure, and monitoring and other critical aspects.

8. **Where can the contribution be put into action?**

   In the implementation on the ground and scaling-up of FLR in the various 28 African countries

9. **How the contribution will be delivered? How will different stakeholders be engaged in its implementation? What are the potential transformational impacts?**

   Countries propose to join AFR100 by submitting a letter of commitment to the AFR100 secretariat. These letters indicate the types of restoration that governments and other stakeholders seek to implement at scale, and identify how the national commitment to FLR aligns with national policies, initiatives and commitments (NDCs, SDGs, REDD+, FLEGT and others). With technical support from the AFR100 secretariat, countries then inform and engage the appropriate stakeholders, take stock of restoration activities, assess restoration opportunities, identify key success factors, enhance the enabling conditions for FLR implementation at scale and implement restoration activities.

10. **Is this initiative contributing to other Climate Action Summit work streams (industry transition; energy transition; climate finance and carbon pricing; infrastructure, cities and local action; resilience and adaptation; youth and citizen mobilization; social and political drivers; mitigation strategy)?**

    Yes

11. **How does this contribution build upon examples of experience to date? How does the contribution link with different ongoing initiatives?**

    Builds on the experience and progress achieved through the TerrAfrica Partnership and related landscape restoration efforts such as the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI),

African Resilient Landscapes Restoration Initiative (ARLI), the Bonn Challenge and the New York Declaration on Forests

12. What are the mechanisms for funding (with specific emphasis on potential for partnerships)?

Innovative credit tools through blended finance by development funders and philanthropic funds, Results - based financing through impact investors as well as private and public funding such as national budgets.

13. What are the means of stewardship, metrics for monitoring?

Hectares restored, monitored through the Bonn Challenge Barometer of Progress (https://www.iucn.org/theme/forests/projects/bonn-challenge-barometer) and the AFR1000 Tracking progress tool

14. What is the communication strategy?

It is a single coherent narrative that describes a communication solution to a problem: Degradation of Forests, Lands and Ecosystems in Africa and Assessed Restoration Opportunities.

15. What are the details of proponents (indicating the degree of commitment among the countries and organizations that are named)?

The hectares pledged which is currently 113 million hectares under restoration by 2030 (http://afr100.org/content/countries).