



## IUCN Statement at the at the Great Green Wall Ministerial meeting held on 7 September 2020

1. The Great Green Wall is a valuable flagship initiative to address land degradation and poverty reduction in Africa. Its unique strength comes from the political support from Heads of State and their vision of restoring nature to build resilient economies and accelerate sustainable development in the region. As a strong support of Land Degradation Neutrality, IUCN provided support to the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD, which led to LDN target setting in the majority of the countries of the GGW. The Great Green Wall should be a priority investment for all actors to help deliver LDN targets.
2. The Sahel is a vast region with diverse communities of land users, different land uses, and many valuable ecosystems. The Great green Wall give us an opportunity to restore and enhance this diversity – by restoring degraded forests, grasslands and agricultural lands, and sustainably using precious land and water resources.
3. Most people in the Sahel region – in fact 87% of them – depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, including both crop farming and pastoralism. In the last few decades, agriculture has often contributed to land degradation and has undermined the resilience of land managers. The Great Green Wall is showing us how we can reverse this; how sustainable agriculture can drive restoration and contribute to sustainable growth. IUCN actively supports scaling up good practices in sustainable land management, through agroecological approaches, through sustainable pastoralism, and through forest landscape restoration.
4. To support the goals of the Great Green Wall, IUCN is working with our State and non-State members to implement two major programme areas:
  - a. First, bringing together the key actors in different sectors with the different land users to address the inter-related challenges of food and water security, climate change, disaster risk reduction while promoting human well-being
  - b. Second by mobilizing private investment to support land users to scale up sustainable land management – including investments by financial service providers, off-takers and other actors in both primary and secondary value chains