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Conservation International Public Comment: R-NYSE-2023-09

When you look at a painting, how do you assess its value? The canvass and the paint are worth something. But the valuations of the Mona Lisa or Starry Night are not based solely on the sum of their parts. They hold intrinsic value.

The same is true of nature. Ecosystems provide services from which we all benefit — water we drink, food we eat, clothes we wear, oxygen we breathe. But we also know that when we travel to Victoria Falls in southern Africa or dive into the great barrier reef off the coast of Australia, we feel something. That beauty has value, too.

The ability to trade Natural Asset Companies will finally give conservation investors a chance to fully value our ecosystems, opening new finance flows to areas that most need it. We know that not only does preserving, protecting, and restoring nature enrich our biodiversity, it also boosts livelihoods for local communities and can provide up to one-third of all necessary emissions reductions to combat climate change. The resulting investment in those ecosystems will reap benefits for nature, for climate and for people.

With the interconnected crises of biodiversity loss and climate change escalating, Conservation International applauds the introduction of an innovative, market-based financing mechanism to restore and conserve the world's cherished ecosystems. We are supportive of the Intrinsic Exchange Group's filing and implore the SEC to approve this tool at a critical time.