

## FROM THE EDITORS

**J**n the last fifteen to twenty years, two predominant environmental law issues have arisen. The first issue concerns the protection of internationally fabled species and ecosystems, and the second is the increasing use of alternative dispute resolutions in managing environmental disputes. The articles featured in this issue of *Environs* explore these areas.

With the fall of Communism and the opening of borders to international trade, the wildlife of the former Soviet Union face new threats. The Siberian tiger is one such animal. Endemic poverty in the Russian Far East, the indifference of the Russian government, a demand for tiger parts and pelts and a demand for Russian timber products in East Asia have caused this majestic animal to decline in numbers and in range of habitat. **Kai-Ching Cha** explores the biological niche of the Siberian tiger, the threats to its existence, and the possibility that the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity may save it from extinction.

Elsewhere in the world, the destruction of forests poses danger to Earth's species diversity and climate. The devastation of the Amazonian rainforest in Brazil by ranching, mining, agriculture, and logging threatens both to wipe out the region's rich biodiversity and to contribute to global warming through a reduction in carbon dioxide-absorbing foliage. **Diana Eitman** examines the causes of rainforest destruction, how the Brazilian government has been unsuccessful in arresting the damage, and how programs of exchanging Brazil's massive foreign debt in return for rainforest protection may help to preserve the rainforest.

In the United States, the increasing popularity of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) has led to its increased use in environmental disputes. **Robert Zeinemann** thoughtfully discusses benefits and liabilities of public environmental mediation and provides practical guidance for professionals in the mediation field.

As we finish our term as the editors of *Environs*, we hope that you have enjoyed the wide variety of topics presented in the last year. We encourage you to look forward to more splendid articles in years to come.

Dan Kelly  
Managing Editor



Chad Firetag  
David L. Herman  
Co-Editors in Chief

SPRING 2001





# ARTICLES

## CAN THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY SAVE THE SIBERIAN TIGER?

By  
Kai-Ching Cha\*

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### INTRODUCTION

On June 5, 1992, the Convention on Biological Diversity (the “CBD”) opened for signature at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.<sup>1</sup> By June 4, 1993, the CBD had received 168 signatures, and on December 29, 1993, it entered into force and became effective.<sup>2</sup> The ratification of the CBD marked the commitment of the interna-

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\* Kai-Ching Cha is a third-year student at King Hall School of Law, University of California, Davis. Ms. Cha holds a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from Brown University. She would like to thank Professor Michael J. Glennon for his assistance with this Article.

<sup>1</sup> See Convention on Biological Diversity, *An Introduction to the Convention on Biological Diversity* (visited Nov. 11, 2000) <<http://www.unep.ch/bio/bio-intr.html>>.

<sup>2</sup> See *id.*