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DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER: BOTSWANA'S FIGHT AGAINST THE RESOURCE CURSE

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Botswana has often been hailed as the "Jewel of Africa," due to its abundance of diamonds and developmental success. Botswana's remarkable success is unique since most resource rich countries have retarded economic development. This retarded development is known in economics as the resource curse. Discovering why Botswana has managed to escape the resource curse is the purpose of my research. I use World Bank data to compare Botswana to its neighbors in southern African, including countries both with and without natural resource abundances. The results show that Botswana has generally experienced a higher standard of living than its neighbors and has had a less corrupt and more efficient government. These results suggest that by combating corruption and having an efficient government, Botswana has been able to escape the resource curse, and has become a possible model for development for other resource rich countries.