Apr 14th, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Diamonds are Forever: Botswana's Fight Against the Resource Curse

Meara Dibadj
Illinois Wesleyan University

Michael Seeborg, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc
Part of the Economics Commons

Dibadj, Meara and Seeborg, Faculty Advisor, Michael, "Diamonds are Forever: Botswana's Fight Against the Resource Curse" (2012). John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference. 2.
http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2012/oralpres4/2

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by The Ames Library, the Andrew W. Mellon Center for Curricular and Faculty Development, the Office of the Provost and the Office of the President. It has been accepted for inclusion in Digital Commons @ IWU by the faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.
©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.
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.