



Lake Albert Oil, a “Resource Curse” for Uganda?

**Friday 27 April 2012
9:30am-11:30am**

Johns Hopkins SAIS
Bernstein Offit Building, BOB 500 Auditorium
1717 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Forum Details:

In the early 2000s, Uganda was searching for domestic petroleum reserves in response to rising oil prices. In September 2002, the first exploration well was operating and in July 2007, it was estimated that two billion to six billion barrels of recoverable oil rested in the Albertine Graben. The first major oil discoveries in the Great Lakes hold out the prospect to spur economic development in Uganda and in the region. With the first oil production expected to start next year in Uganda, observers have raised concerns about the effects of oil on governance, the environment and local communities. The Great Lakes Policy Forum will discuss the progress of efforts to help ensure that Uganda can escape the “resource curse”, which has often been associated with large oil findings, and look at the challenges that have since emerged.

Speakers:

Joel Barkan

Professor Emeritus of Political Science, University of Iowa; Senior Associate, CSIS Africa Program

Alan Gelb

Senior Fellow, Center for Global Development

Peter Veit

Project Manager, Equity, Poverty and Environment Initiative, World Resources Institute

Discussant:

Dr. Joshua B. Rubongoya

Professor, Political Science, Roanoke College

Moderator:

Raymond Gilpin

Director, Sustainable Economies Center of Innovation, U.S. Institute of Peace

Bios:

Joel Barkan

Joel Barkan is professor emeritus of political science at the University of Iowa and senior associate with the CSIS Africa Program. A specialist on issues of democratization and governance across Anglophone Africa, he served as the first regional democracy and governance adviser for eastern and southern Africa at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) from 1992 to 1994. Since then, he has straddled the worlds of academe and policy by consulting extensively for USAID, the UK Department for International Development, the UN Development Program, the National

Democratic Institute, the National Endowment for Democracy, and the World Bank. Dr. Barkan has been a visiting fellow at the U.S. Institute of Peace (1997–1998), the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (2001–2002), and the University of Cape Town (2004–present). He has written extensively on African politics and economic development, and on democracy and governance, including articles in *Foreign Affairs*, the *American Political Science Review*, *Current History*, *Journal of Democracy*, and *World Politics*. He has also appeared on multiple occasions on Al Jazeera, CNN, BBC, France 24, NPR, and PBS. Barkan received his A.B. from Cornell University and his Ph.D. in political science and African studies from the University of California at Los Angeles. His latest book is *Legislative Power in Emerging African Democracies* (Lynne Rienner, 2009).

Alan Gelb

Alan Gelb is a senior fellow at the Center for Global Development. He had previously been Director of Development Policy at the World Bank; prior to this Chief Economist for the Africa Region (where he directed a major study “Can Africa Claim the 21st Century?” and Staff Director for the 1996 World Development Report “From Plan to Market”. His main recent areas of work have included the special development challenges of resource-rich countries, aid and development outcomes, and the application of biometric ID technology to development.

Peter Veit

Peter Veit is Project Manager for the Equity, Poverty and Environment initiative in the Institutions and Governance Program. His recent work has focused on a range of environmental governance matters, particularly environment/democracy and environment/human rights links. For more than 15 years, he has conducted research and written on community-based natural resource management, environmental decentralization, environmental advocacy, and other environmental accountability matters. He has undertaken long-term field research in a number of African countries, including in Sierra Leone as a Fulbright Scholar, where he conducted research on household variability in agricultural strategies and practices; and, in Rwanda as Director of the Karisoke Mountain Gorilla Research Center, where in the 1970s he studied the reproductive practices of mountain gorillas. He has also held a range of research and teaching positions at the University of California campuses at Santa Cruz and Davis.

Dr. Joshua B. Rubongoya

Dr. Rubongoya is Professor, Political Science at Roanoke College. He recently published the first book-length study of politics in Uganda since Yoweri Museveni took power twenty years ago. The book examines the ways by which a new regime authenticates its right to govern after a violent authoritarian state makes a constitutional power transition impossible. Rubongoya analyzes the strategies used by Museveni and the National Resistance Movement (NRM) to reconstruct the state and reestablish legitimate authority. *Regime Hegemony in Museveni's Uganda* examines the serious mistakes in policy which undercut political legitimacy and blocked the transition to liberal democracy in Uganda. He has also taught at the University of Makerere in Uganda. He has written different publications on politics in Uganda.

Raymond Gilpin

Raymond Gilpin directs USIP's Center for Sustainable Economies (CSE), one of the Institute's Centers of Innovation. He leads the Institute's work on analyzing relationships among economic actors during all stages of conflict (including prevention, mediation, resolution and post-conflict). In doing so, he collates sound practices from practitioners and experts, and designs appropriate capacity-building and tools for conflict environments. He teaches the Economics and Conflict course at the USIP Academy and manages the Web-based International Network for Economics and Conflict.

Before joining the USIP, he served as: academic chair for defense economics at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies at the National Defense University; director for International Programs at Intellibridge Corporation (now part of Eurasia Group); senior economist at the African Development Bank Group; research director at the Central Bank of Sierra Leone and an economist at the World Bank. He holds a doctorate from Cambridge University in Economics and an Executive Certificate in international finance and capital markets from Georgetown University.

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