

# Borderlines

ISSUE 9 • SPRING 2010

NEWSLETTER AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Limited Resources

How natural resources continue to fuel boundary disputes



### 2010 TRAINING WORKSHOPS

The NEW workshop programme now available

### CONFERENCE REVIEW 2009

Review of the 2009 State of Sovereignty Conference



Durham University

# Border resources... and rumours of resources

While the element of national pride and identity remains closely linked with a state's territory, natural resources also remain of vital importance to states around the world. Throughout 2009, the resources of border and peripheral areas often took centre stage in events related to international land and maritime boundaries and limits.



Fisherman off the coast of Azerbaijan in the Caspian Sea, with oil installations just a few miles offshore. The sea bed boundaries in the northern Caspian have been agreed, facilitating major oil and gas operations. However, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Iran have failed to agree boundaries in the southern Caspian and continue to vie for control over hydrocarbon resources and valuable fish stocks. **Image:** Andy Johnstone/Panos

**Resources with high economic value, such as oil and gas, have often played an important role in perpetuating and escalating boundary and territorial disputes. As oil exploration gathers pace in Lake Albert, Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda came to blows over the disputed Rukwanzi Island in 2008 and tensions simmered along other sections in 2009. Tensions between Indonesia and Malaysia rose once again over the Ambalat oil block in the undelimited Sulawesi Sea. Overlapping maritime claims in the Beaufort Sea are preventing Canada and the United States from licensing some of the richest prospective areas for off shore exploration in the Arctic. Even unsubstantiated rumours of oil and gas resources in a disputed maritime or land area can quickly generate political fervour over what may have been previously an unheard of boundary issue.**

However, it is not only oil and gas resources that continue to kindle boundary disputes. The competing claims to Migingo Island in Lake Victoria are linked directly to local fishing resources and have continued to sour relations between Kenya and Uganda throughout 2009. The quality of freshwater resources originating from an up-stream neighbouring state is a perennial issue, as noted by Azerbaijan in 2009. Although recognised as being located in

Cambodia, the Temple of Preah Vihear is an important cultural resource that holds military forces from Cambodia and Thailand locked in a face-to-face stand-off as the boundary around the temple site remains un-marked on the ground.

2009 also saw the deadline for 128 States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea to submit information concerning the outer limits of their continental shelves beyond 200 nautical miles to the UN Commission for the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS). 44 states have now made a total of 51 full or partial individual or joint submissions to the CLCS, and 27 additional states have submitted preliminary information regarding their continental shelves. In several areas there is significant overlap between the submissions, notably the Gulf of Guinea, the Bay of Bengal, the Atlantic Ocean off the eastern Caribbean/northeast South America, and the area of the South Atlantic around the disputed Falkland/Malvinas Islands. Although many submissions were made jointly, it is still unclear exactly how states will divide their overlapping pieces of the continental shelf beyond 200 nm. In addition, as off-shore oil, gas and mining technologies push viable exploration to ever greater water depths, many

states will see much economic potential in these claimed continental shelf areas.

Although they have the power to accelerate tensions, the pursuit of natural resources has also actually encouraged many states to find peaceful solutions to their boundary and territorial disputes. In 2009 the ICJ delimited the maritime boundary between Romania and Ukraine in the Black Sea, allowing the states to allocate concession blocks for gas exploration. After naval confrontations in the Bay of Bengal this year, Bangladesh instituted arbitration proceedings against its neighbours India and Myanmar in order to define maritime boundaries both within and beyond the EEZ limits in the Bay of Bengal. Following China and Japan's 2008 agreement to develop maritime areas around the Chunxiao gas field, joint development initiatives emerged again in 2009 as potential solutions in previously-contested and oil-rich maritime areas between Angola and Congo, and Brunei and Malaysia. Hopefully by approaching natural resources in border areas as being 'shared' rather than 'divided,' neighbouring states will be encouraged to seek peaceful solutions and cooperative arrangements so that these valuable resources can benefit both states, rather than serve as the issues that divide them.

**Front cover image:** Migingo Island in Lake Victoria, currently the source of a dispute between Kenya and Uganda for fishing rights.  
**Image:** Tristan McConnell/ The Times



# The State of Sovereignty conference review

The centrepiece of IBRU's 20th anniversary celebrations in 2009 was the international conference that took place in Durham on 1-3 April on the theme *The State of Sovereignty*. The conference was IBRU's biggest ever, attracting more than 200 participants from 50 countries to reflect on the impact of the geopolitical upheavals of the last twenty years, and to exchange ideas about the meaning and function of sovereignty and international boundaries today and in the decades ahead.

Over the course 26 sessions more than 90 speakers led discussions exploring a wide range of themes from 'failing' states to disputed maritime space to cartographies of sovereignty, and regional issues from the Arctic to the Middle East to Western Sahara. Speakers included leading boundary scholars such as Anthony Asiwaju, Michel Foucher and David Newman; political leaders such as Abdillahi Mohamed Dualeh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Somaliland, and Emhamed Khadad from Polisario in Western Sahara; representatives of boundary commissions, law firms, energy intelligence companies and NGOs; and an encouraging number of up-and-coming young scholars and PhD students. Abstracts of all conference presentations and copies of many of the papers and accompanying PowerPoint presentations can be found on the conference website at [www.durham.ac.uk/ibru/conferences/sos](http://www.durham.ac.uk/ibru/conferences/sos). A number of papers from the conference are being prepared for publication in journals such as *Geopolitics and Marine Policy*.



Guests enjoy a toast at the Gala Dinner held in the Great Hall of Durham Castle.

A key to the success of IBRU conferences over the years has been the blend of scholars and practitioners from diverse backgrounds sharing experiences and insights, and 'SOS' was no exception. Tobias Haggmann from the University of Zurich commented that "This was one of the most inspiring conferences I have attended in recent years, primarily, I think because of the participants coming from so many different countries as well as the mix of academic and non-academic participants." Liesbeth Lijnzaad from the International Law Division of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands noted that "It has been

refreshing to look at contemporary and contentious issues from different angles." One participant even described the conference as "life-changing", and has subsequently taken a career break from banking risk analysis to study boundary issues at Kings College London.

IBRU would like to thank Ophir Energy for sponsoring the conference and all of the speakers and participants for contributing to a memorable and stimulating event. Watch this space for details of IBRU's next conference, which is planned for the spring of 2012....



The participants at the 2009 State of Sovereignty conference



A pre-dinner drinks reception at Durham Castle

## 20th Anniversary Celebration

**Around 40 representatives from governments and partner organisations joined the IBRU team in London on 3rd November 2009 to celebrate 20 years of boundary work and research.**

The lunchtime reception at the Royal Geographical Society was held to highlight the work IBRU has done with governments and organisations around the world to discuss the future of boundaries. Martin Pratt, Director of Research at IBRU, gave a presentation on the

theme "Still the Razor's Edge? The Purpose and Function of International Boundaries in the 21st Century" and led a lively discussion on the challenges that countries are facing in terms of boundary making, border management and territorial dispute resolution.

"The event was a great success and enjoyed by everyone. It was wonderful to come to London and meet so many of our associates who share a common interest in boundary and territorial issues." Pratt commented.

The afternoon emphasised the continuing need for creative responses to a range of challenges, in particular the impact of climate change on boundaries on land and at sea. The participants thanked IBRU for its contribution to minimising conflict associated with international boundaries and encouraged the Unit to continue to develop its research agenda and training activities as it heads in to its third decade.



### IBRU welcomes new staff

IBRU is delighted to welcome Dr Serghei Golunov from Volgograd State University as a visiting research fellow. Serghei has been awarded a prestigious European Union Marie Curie research fellowship and will spend two years in Durham working on border security issues between Russia and the EU.



IBRU also welcomes Liz Kennedy to the team. Liz has joined IBRU as External Relations and Marketing Manager and has a background in business development and marketing. Liz is the first point of contact for all visitors and business enquiries. Liz replaces Astrid Alvarez who has moved to Alumni relations within Durham University. IBRU wishes Astrid every success in her new role.

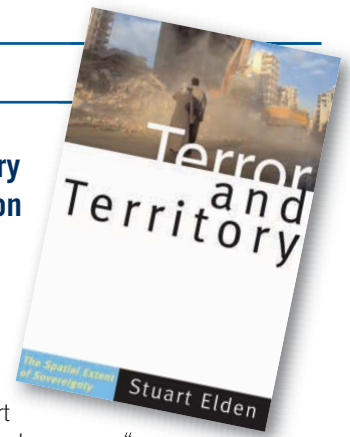


Professor David Campbell has returned as IBRU's Academic Director following the departure of Professor Steve Graham, who is taking up a Chair in Planning and Architecture at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

### Terror and Territory - A new publication

Today's global politics demands a new look at the concept of territory. In *Terror and Territory*, Professor of Political Geography and IBRU Associate Director Stuart Elden shows how the contemporary "war on terror" is part of a widespread challenge to the connection between the state and its territory. Traditional geopolitical analysis is transformed into a critical device for interrogating the post-Cold War world; events in Lebanon, Somalia, and Pakistan; and the wars continuing in Afghanistan and Iraq. This book offers an urgently needed perspective on world events.

Available now from [www.upress.umn.edu/Books/E/elden\\_territory.html](http://www.upress.umn.edu/Books/E/elden_territory.html) For a limited period only, this publication is available with a special discount of 30%. Contact IBRU for more information about how you can take advantage of this offer.



## Training on the road bringing boundary workshops to you

At IBRU we are known all over the world for our practical and informative workshops held every year in the historical city of Durham.

Not only can we offer training in our first class facilities in Durham, we can also conduct training workshops at locations worldwide. IBRU is looking for partner governments or organisations that might be interested in bringing our workshops closer to you. We can deliver customised training workshops directly related to your needs and held in a regional location of your choice, making travel and attendance easier for participants. Popular workshop themes include Maritime Boundary Delimitation, Managing Transboundary Resources and Boundary Demarcation & Maintenance.

If your government or organisation could benefit from one of our bespoke training workshops on a wide range of land and maritime issues, please contact Liz Kennedy.



Out of the training room and in to the field. Delegates taking part in a practical exercise as part of an IBRU workshop



Participants at an IBRU workshop

## Supporting the African Union Border Programme

The African Union Border Programme (AUBP) was established in 2007 to assist governments across Africa in the delimitation and demarcation of their land and maritime boundaries and to support cross-border cooperation initiatives. IBRU has participated in a number of regional workshops organised by the AUBP alongside the African regional organisations, as well as collaborating with the AUBP and the government of Mozambique in the

second International Symposium on Boundary Delimitation and Demarcation held in Maputo, Mozambique in December 2008. This year, IBRU has joined officials, scholars and colleagues from across Africa to assemble a handbook on land boundary delimitation and demarcation for the AUBP. Based on lessons learned from African states' practice and advice from some of the most prominent scholars on African border, the handbook provides a range of advice

and guidelines for aspects of boundary recovery, assembling a boundary commission as well as the survey and technical work involved in boundary demarcation. It is hoped the handbook will serve both as a practical guide for officials engaged in these activities and as a catalyst for African policymakers in addressing boundary problems. The hand book is due to be published in early 2010.



**12-14 April  
2010**

**Venue:**  
Durham University, UK

**Price:** £1650\*  
Including accommodation  
and all meals

# Boundary Dispute Resolution

International boundaries continue to be a major source of friction between neighbouring states. Many land boundaries remain poorly defined and fewer than half of the world's potential maritime boundaries have been even partially agreed. Governments recognise the value of clearly-defined boundaries, yet the political, economic and social complexities of boundary regions often make resolving competing territorial and jurisdictional claims extraordinarily difficult.

Led by experienced boundary negotiators, technical experts and legal advisors, this workshop will provide advice and practical guidance on how to resolve international boundary disputes. Through a combination of lectures and practical exercises, the course will first explore how to overcome deadlock in boundary negotiations. Recognising that an equitable agreement cannot always be reached through negotiations, the workshop will also

examine the benefits and potential drawbacks of third-party dispute resolution mediation, conciliation, arbitration and adjudication.



Bhutan Delegation leader Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk greets Chinese deputy foreign minister Wang Yi at boundary negotiations in Thimphu in 2004 (reproduced with the kind permission of Ugyen Penjor)

**12-14 July  
2010**

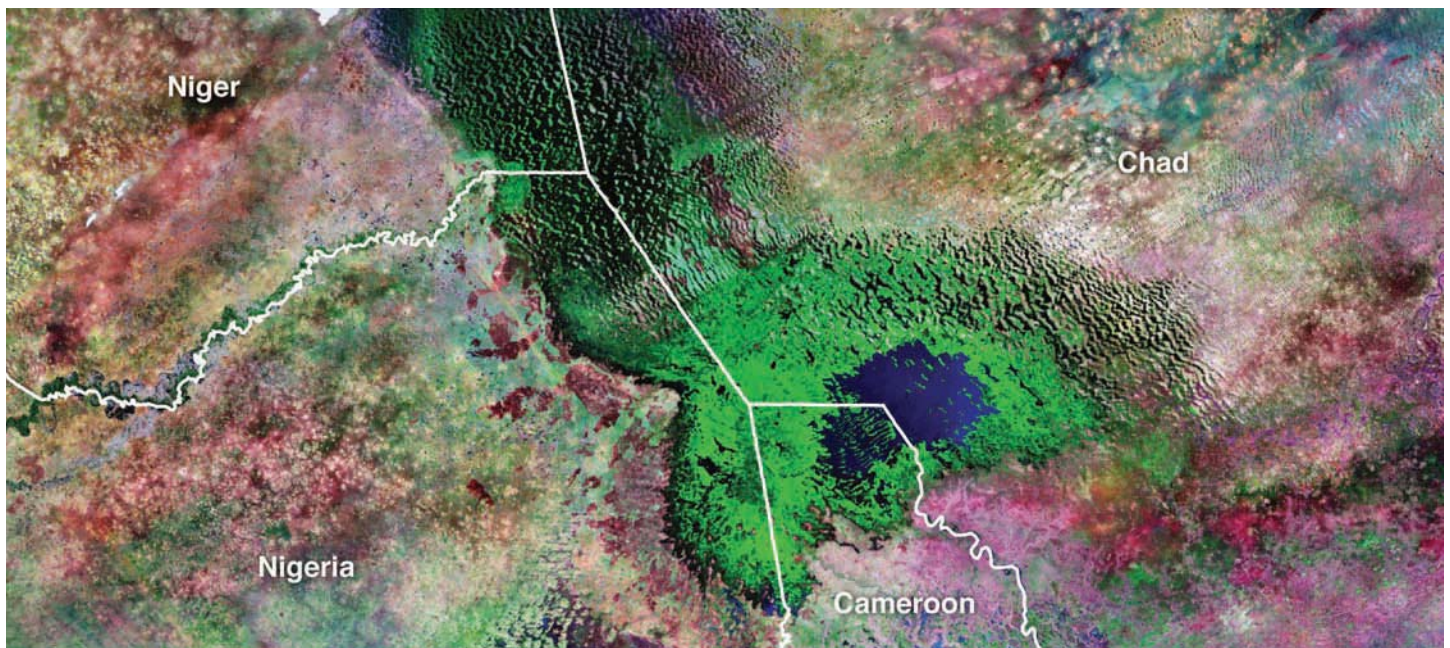
**Venue:**  
Durham University, UK

**Price:** £1650\*  
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# Boundaries and Water

In one form or another, water – or the absence of water – plays a major role in nearly every international boundary setting. Three quarters of the world's land boundaries follow rivers for at least part of their course, and many also pass through lakes and/or swamps, creating numerous practical boundary-making challenges. There are more than 260 international river basins and at least 273 transboundary aquifers, many of which are not being managed or shared responsibly. As UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in 2008: "The consequences for humanity are grave. Water scarcity threatens economic and social gains and is a potent fuel for wars and conflict."

This innovative workshop is designed to assist governments developing effective strategies for the delimitation and peaceful management of transboundary waters. It will highlight relevant international legal frameworks and case law, and examine both good and bad state practice in addressing challenges such as: defining boundaries in rivers, lakes and swamps; ensuring equitable navigational and non-navigational uses of international watercourses; and transboundary groundwater exploitation and management.



Satellite image reveals the shrinking surface water of Lake Chad shared between Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria (Landsat ETM+ image, 2000. Source: Global Land Cover Facility)

21-22  
September  
2010

**Venue:**

Les Fontaines,  
Chantilly, France

**Price:** £1800\*

Including accommodation  
and all meals.

For more information  
on the venue, visit  
[www.les-fontaines.com](http://www.les-fontaines.com)

# Strategies and Tools for Effective Border Management

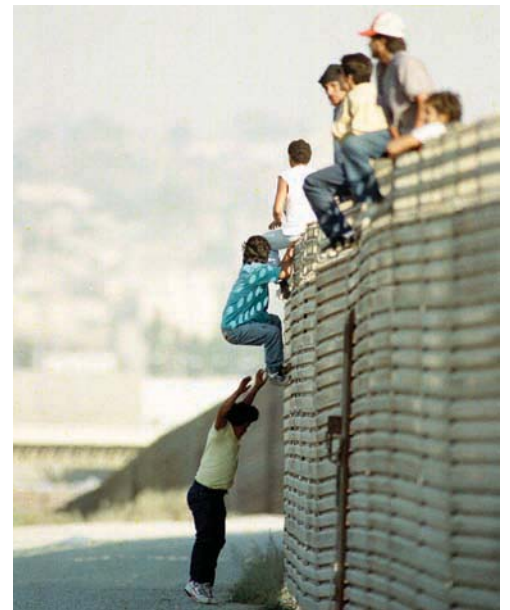
**Managing borders in the twenty first century is a complex and challenging task. It is widely agreed that in a globalising world borders should be as open as possible; yet over the last decade governments have understandably been more anxious than ever to ensure that their frontiers are secured against threats. This innovative workshop is designed to help policymakers and practitioners develop border management strategies which strike the best possible balance between these apparently conflicting goals.**

Led by expert tutors, the workshop will provide practical instruction on a range of topics which are often overlooked elsewhere, including: managing border crossings; monitoring and controlling borders between crossing points; facilitating inter-agency cooperation; managing maritime borders; and environmental and transboundary resource management. While the appropriate use of technological solutions will be explored, the workshop is not intended simply to showcase the latest technology. Rather, participants will be encouraged to adopt an integrated approach to border management which builds efficient institutional mechanisms and maximises the effectiveness of available resources.

This workshop is being organised in collaboration with Capgemini, a global leader in consulting, technology, outsourcing and local professional services.

Capgemini have an international track record, and deep experience in working with our clients to solve their border management problems. They are regarded as thought leaders, with decades of experience in delivering transformation programmes in the public sector.

 **Capgemini**  
CONSULTING . TECHNOLOGY . OUTSOURCING



A group of illegal Mexican immigrants are seen leaping from the border fence to enter the United States, near Tijuana, Mexico

**Image:** AP Photo/Lenny Ignelzi



Les Fontaines, the venue for the Boundary Management Workshop

**To make an enquiry about our workshops, please contact Liz Kennedy**

**Tel: +44 191 334 1965 Email: [ibru-events@durham.ac.uk](mailto:ibru-events@durham.ac.uk) or book online at [www.durham.ac.uk/ibru/workshops](http://www.durham.ac.uk/ibru/workshops)**

\*workshop fees for UK-based participants are normally subject to VAT at 17.5%



Borderlines is the newsletter of the International Boundaries Research Unit at Durham University. It has a readership of more than 3500 boundary scholars, practitioners and enthusiasts around the world.

IBRU works to minimise conflict associated with international boundaries on land and at sea around the world.

Our work is interdisciplinary in approach and global in scope, integrating theory and practice in order to provide:

- Practical expertise in boundary-making, border management and territorial dispute resolution
- Academic leadership in the study of Boundaries and their impact on international relations and border development.

**For more information about IBRU and how we can help your organisation, visit our website at [www.durham.ac.uk/ibru](http://www.durham.ac.uk/ibru).**

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