

## DER SOJAKOMPLEX IN NORD-MATO GROSSO (BRASILIEN). EINE POLITISCH-ÖKOLOGISCHE PERSPEKTIVE

### THE SOY COMPLEX IN NORTH MATO GROSSO (BRAZIL). A POLITICAL-ECOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

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#### SUMMARY

Political Ecology as a critical human-environment research field has become an established research perspective within Geography. Starting from the basic idea of a “politicized environment”, the research interest of Political Ecology lies primarily in the political-social dimension of environmental problems. Empirical research usually focuses on concrete environmental conflicts, which are generally investigated using qualitative methods to identify the actors, the interests, and the power relations behind environmental issues.

In addition to introductory conceptual considerations, this article deals with one of the “major” political-ecological research topics: the destruction of the tropical rainforests and savannas. Based on empirical research in the north of Mato Grosso (Brazil) we examine the prevailing destructive societal relationships to nature. In particular, we focus on the local configuration of the Global Soybean Production Network and its socio-ecological implications using the example of the “agribusiness-city“ of Sinop and its surroundings.

**Keywords:** Political Ecology, tropical rainforests, societal relationships to nature, Global Production Networks, soy, Mato Grosso, Sinop, neoliberalization of nature

#### ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Die Politische Ökologie als kritische Mensch-Umweltforschung zählt mittlerweile zu einer etablierten Forschungsperspektive innerhalb der Geographie. Ausgehend von dem Grundgedanken einer „politisierten Umwelt“ liegt das Forschungsinteresse der Politischen Ökologie vor allem auf der politisch-gesellschaftlichen Dimension von Umweltproblemen. Gegen-