

The political ecology of resource formalisation in Burkina Faso

Environment, nature, resources, ecology... how are these concepts used and help us understand the contemporary “ecological crisis”? This question is explored through the ways resources, such as fuelwood, gold, shea, pastures..., are constructed through sustainable development policies and interventions. Of particular interest are policies aiming to “formalise” resource rights in contexts of both, resource extraction (e.g. mining), and conservation (e.g. community-based forest management). This project pays attention to the construction of symbolic meaning of resources, and to the material distribution of resource access that take shape in the midst of these policies. It aims to enhance an understanding of the contested, and sometimes violent, politics that emerges as sustainable development policies are rolled out.

Keywords/Suchbegriffe

Forest resources, goldmining, formalisation reforms, legal pluralism, political ecology

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Funding source(s) / Unterstützt durch

Political geography unit, UZH

Duration of Project / Projektdauer

2014 - present