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STATE-MEDIATED LAND GRABBING IN THE GREEN TRANSITION

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The institutional forms of land grabbing have changed due to ecological, financial and geopolitical crises. Governments and corporations have expanded property rights over land in the Global South for more than half a century as a way to acquire reserves of value (Borras et al., 2012; Kato; Leite, 2020; Davis et al., 2015). Recent studies have examined how climate change is interwoven with increasing demand for land (Davis et al., 2015). In this research, we discuss the role of the State in regulating vital resources -land and water- amid rising demand for energy and food, especially protein (Escher; Wilkinson, 2019). In this context, the alignment of national regulatory frameworks with climate and sustainability regimes has intensified the role of the State as mediator in reorganizing access to land and water. As Davis et al. (2015) argue, environmental and energy-security policies in developed countries - particularly those aimed at preserving domestic carbon stocks or expanding agrofuel mandates - are land-intensive and often externalize their territorial requirements to the Global South. The Brazilian case illustrates how this dynamic is

institutionally accommodated: state structures that support the agro-export economy, such as rural credit, land-market regulation and fiscal mechanisms, are recombined under the narrative of sustainable finance. Instruments like the Brazilian Sustainable Taxonomy (MF, 2023) show how the State adapts to climate-regulatory pressures by classifying and legitimizing specific land-use practices, aligning domestic resource governance with the spatial demands of green-growth agendas. Rather than disrupting existing patterns of territorial control, these frameworks reinforce the financialization of land and the export-oriented logic that shaped Brazil's insertion into the world economy (Delgado, 2012; Boyer, 2005). This convergence between environmental policy, financial regulation and market requirements reveals how contemporary land grabbing is co-produced through state-led arrangements that render land and water legible, investable and compatible with climate commitments.

Palavras-chave: land grabbing; state regulation; green finance; commodity frontiers; resource governance.