

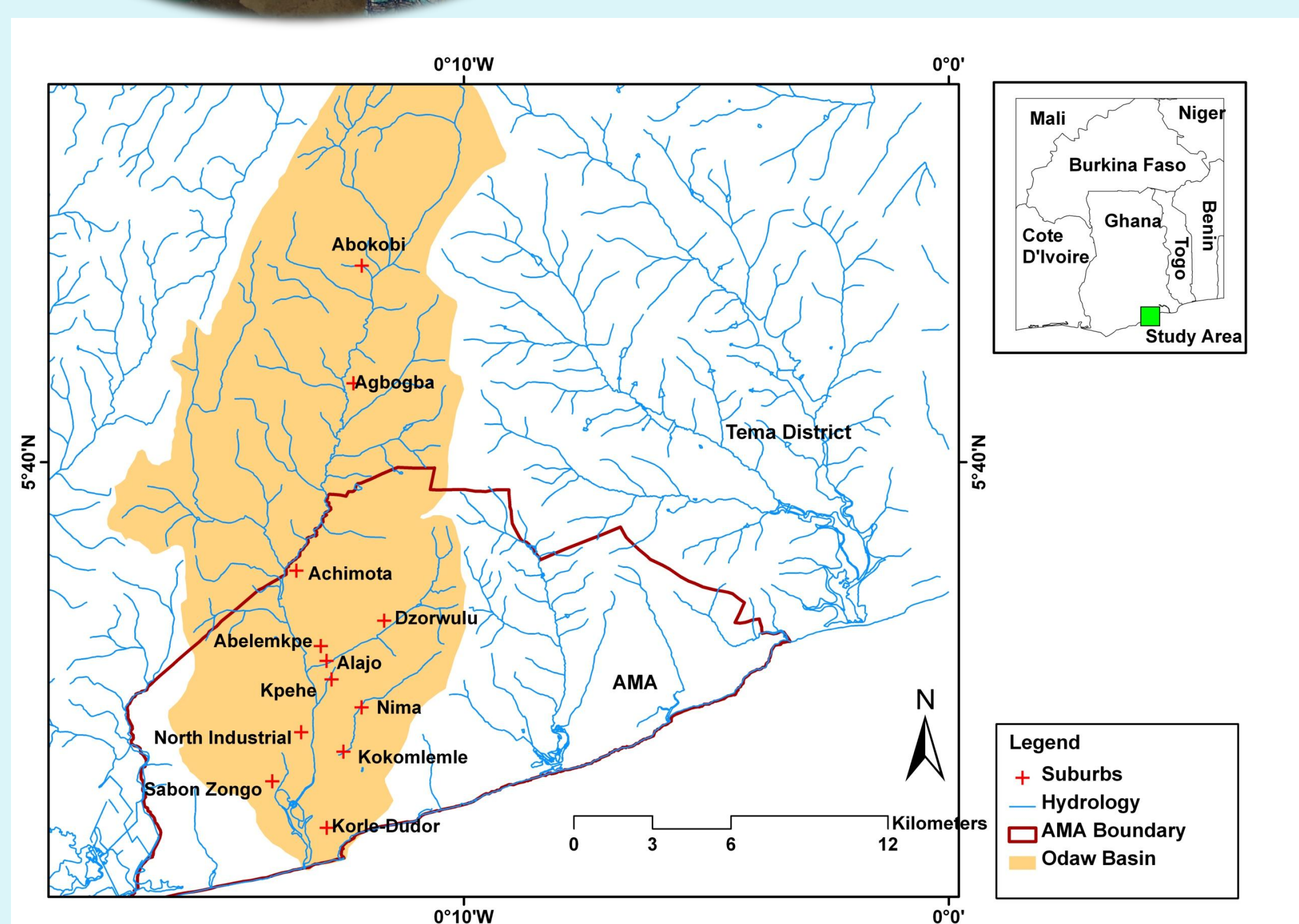
Improving Urban Water Quality for Livelihoods Enhancement in the Odaw-Korle River Catchment of Accra, Ghana

Background and Objectives

The research sought to understand the interrelationship between water for livelihoods, and attitudes to water and the environment, which constrain the use of surface water for various purposes in the urban context.

Methodology and Research Activities

- Ten selected communities reflecting different urban contexts - peri-urban; high income; middle income; and low income categories
- Focus group discussions; 443 households questionnaires; interviews .
- Water samples from five locations analyzed over a period of time.



Map of Odaw-Korle River Catchment showing study communities



Findings

- **Varied access to water across communities:** less than 30% of households in peri-urban communities had tap water supply but this was over 70% for high income communities. Middle and low income communities were in between.
- **Contribution to household income:** 43% of households engaged in water-dependent occupations but less than 10% of households derived 90% of income from such use. About 17% derived at least 50% of their income from water.
- **Varied attitudes to pollution across income classes:** Environmental pollution was low in peri-urban and high income areas but high in middle and low income communities.

Recommendations

- Improve access to water in the worst served areas ie peri-urban, middle and low income communities, and support water dependent livelihoods
- Change in attitudes towards water and environmental pollution, is possible through organized efforts within communities.
- A user friendly approach to regulation and fee payment by Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) will help poor households comply, and avoid widespread pollution by solid waste.



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