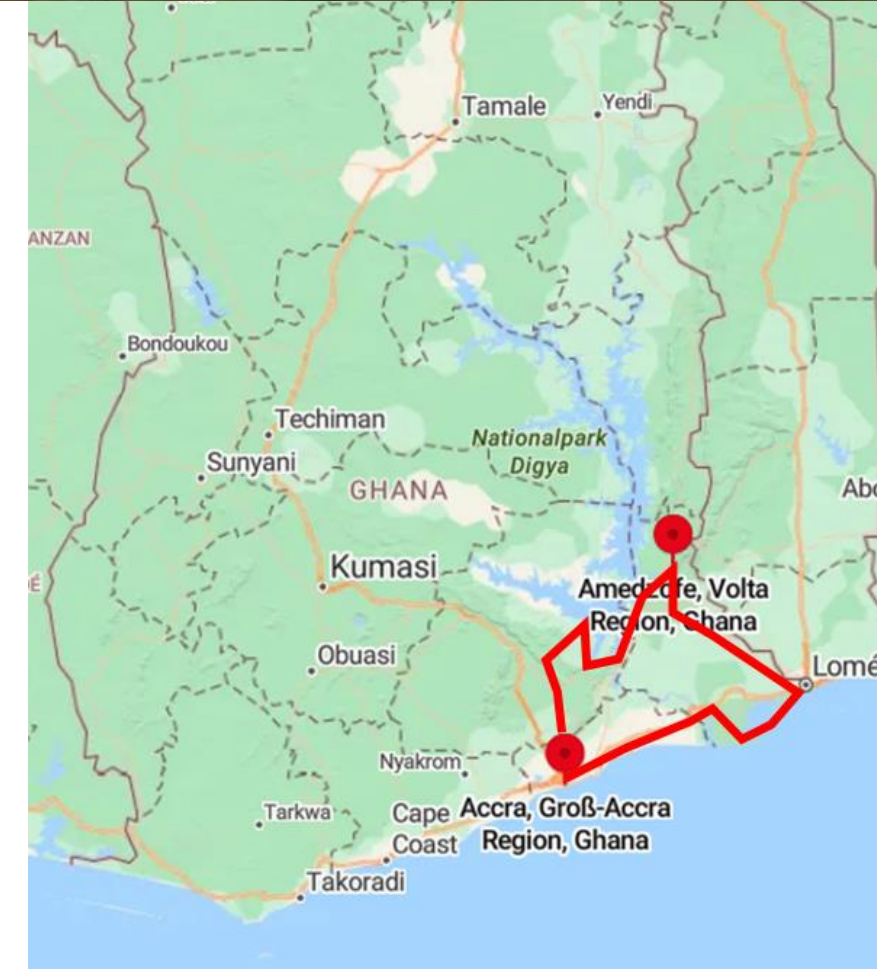


# Ghana on the Move – IMPRESSION ON A FIELD STUDY ON ENVIRONMENT & TRANSLOCALITY

## GHANA

Ghana is a country in West Africa with 30 million inhabitants. Christians, Muslims and people of animist faith live together peacefully. Ghana is democratically consolidated and acts as an important anchor of stability in the region. Since 2010, the World Bank has included Ghana in the group of lower middle-income countries. Despite the upswing in the past decade, the Ghanaian economy still depends heavily on the export of few products such as gold, oil and cocoa. The fluctuating world market prices for these goods have a significant impact on the country's economic situation. A central challenge for the country is the growing social and regional inequality. Especially the northern parts of the country are disconnected from the development of the economically strong coastal region and cities (BMZ 2023). Due to the global economic crisis and a national debt crisis, inflation was 32% in 2022 and the national currency, the cedi, lost 40% of its value against the US\$ (Worldbank 2023). The role model state of Ghana is therefore now in a deep structural crisis.



## EXKURSION AND FIELD RESEARCH

After an intensive preparatory seminar in winter semester 2022/23 and the development of independent scientific questions under the direction of the Chair of Anthropogeography, we left for Ghana on 9 March 2023. First, we spent a few days in the capital Accra on a city excursion. On the way to the Volta region in the southeast of the country, we visited the most important port of the country in Tema and (as a representative of one of many slave castles) the Fort Printzenstein in Keta. There we also dealt with the topic of climate crisis and coastal protection. Via the regional capital Ho we arrived at our research site Amedzofe. After ten days of field research, we visited the economically and energy-politically important Volta Reservoir and the Akosombo Dam.

With this picture exhibition we would like to share our most important impressions with you and take you on a small geographical tour through Ghana.

## MIGRATION AS A LIVELIHOOD-STRATEGIE

Migration is part of everyday life in West Africa and Ghana. Contrary to the widely held image of a dominant West African-European migration nexus, 90% of international migration from West Africa takes place within the region (UN DESA 2020). Moreover, internal migration is a key livelihood strategy. In Ghana, migration corridors are clearly pronounced: there are migration movements from rural areas to the closer and also more distant urban centers. Rural-to-rural migration, especially from the drier areas of the north to the climatically more favorable areas, e.g. the fertile Ashanti region, also plays a significant role.

## MITRA|WA: MIGRATION & TRANSLOCALITY IN WEST-AFRICA

The study trip to Ghana took place within the framework of the BMBF project "Mitra|WA: Migration and Translocality in West Africa". This international research project (with partner universities from Ghana, Burkina Faso and Nigeria) explores the drivers, structures and processes of migration and the associated impacts on rural and urban areas. The focus is on better understanding challenges at the social, political and environmental levels, such as land use, changing gender relations, the growth of urban agglomerations and environmental change, as well as migration and climate change, and developing recommendations for action for political actors and other stakeholders.

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## RESEARCH ON MIGRATION AND TRANSLOCALITY

In order to explore the meaning of migration and translocal processes in different areas of life, we worked on the following topics in six groups in Amedzofe:

**GENDER | EDUCATION | AGRICULTURE |  
COMMUNICATION | HOUSING.**

With a translocal approach that focuses on the interconnections between place of origin and destination, we worked with quantitative and qualitative methods. We wanted to find out which structures and processes of rural-urban migration exist and what effects translocal migration has on the village of Amedzofe and its inhabitants.



**Photographies:** Lena Thurl, Dr. Stefanie Wehner, Johannes Listl, Georgios Emmanouilidis, Leonie Hohlfeldt

**Texts:** Lena Thurl, Dr. Stefanie Wehner, Johannes Listl, Georgios Emmanouilidis, Leonie Hohlfeldt, Falk Ostendorp, Christian Ungruhe, Jonas Wagener, Ronja Bohnenkämper

**Concept and Poster:** Georgios Emmanouilidis, Dr. Stefanie Wehner

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