



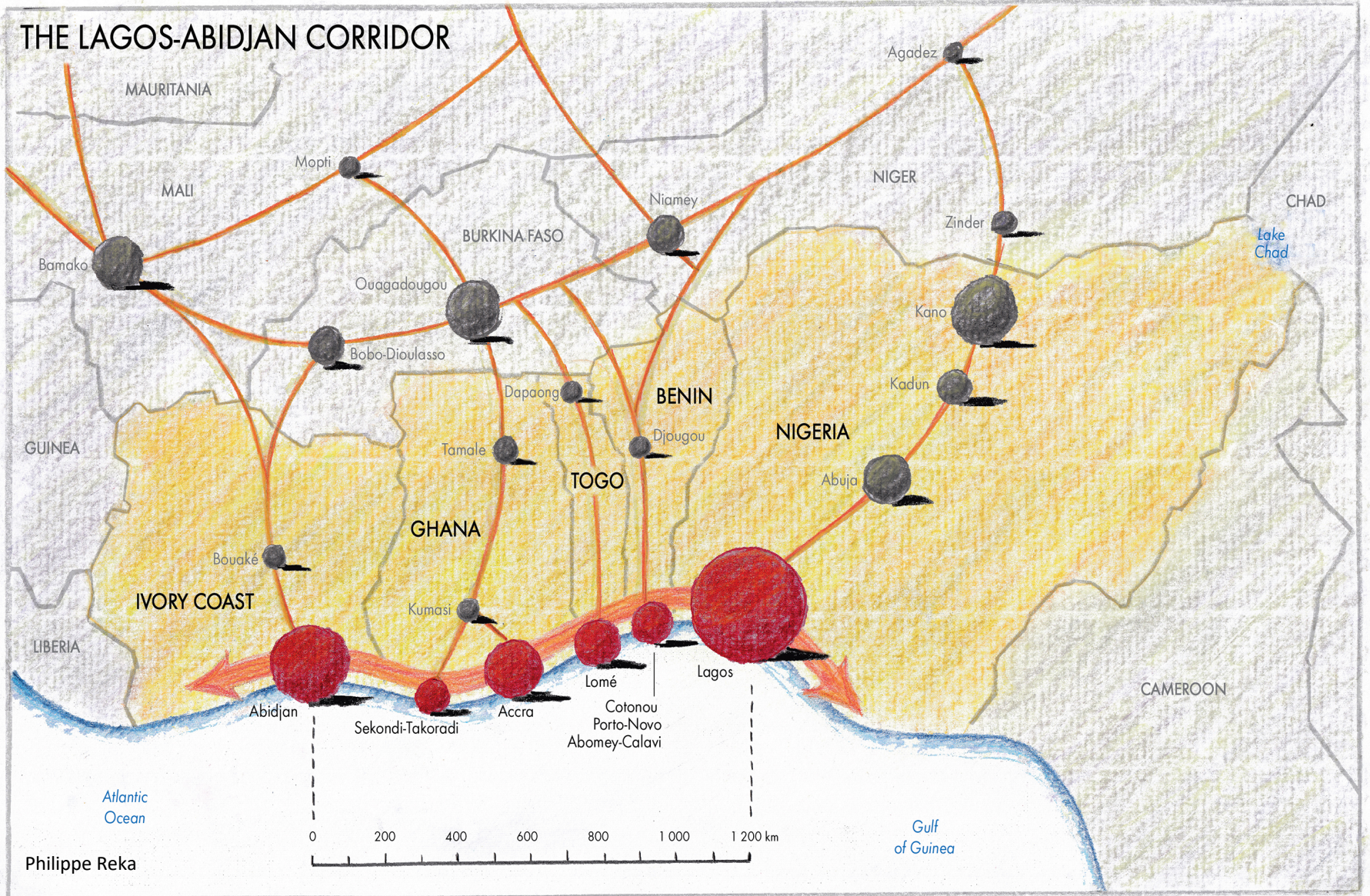
# RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION IN W. AFRICA ANY CHANGES POST COVID-19?

KNOMAD SEMINAR – 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH

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# THE LAGOS-ABIDJAN CORRIDOR





## MIGRANT DRIVEN URBANISATION IS OCCURRING OUTSIDE OF CITIES

How is migration transforming the urban fabric along the Lagos-Abidjan corridor?

“the extent of in-situ urbanisation across Africa also challenges the influence still attributed to rural exodus and residential migration in driving urban growth”  
Africapolis OECD 2020

Requires thinking beyond the framework of the arrival city.  
I.e. in the West African context – the Zongo

Ex: trans-local urbanisation through remittances

What are the consequences of movement along the corridor, both in terms of how places are being reconfigured, and the kind of urban possibilities this is generating?





## MIGRANT ARE DOING BETTER THAN NATIVES

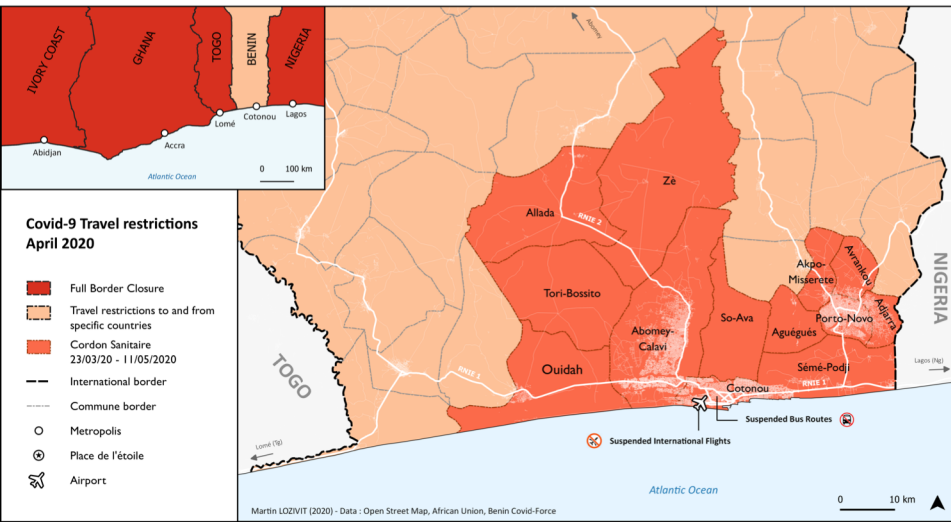
Locals fare no better than new arrivals to the city  
(Beauchemin & Bocquier, 2003)

Urban integration concerns everyone, be them migrants or natives. I.e. even those with strong place bonds struggle to access urban amenities.

INSAE Census 2012 Benin migrants have

- better employment opportunities
- higher levels of education
- improved housing conditions
- owned a wider range of material goods.





# THE NIGERIAN BORDER CLOSURE & COVID

Closure of the Nigerian-Beninese border in August 2019  
The Covid-19 Pandemic April 2020

Nigerian border closure: Implemented without warning to the neighbor states, and in violation of regional trade treaties within the ECOWAS region

“We have saved millions of dollars and realized that we do not need to import rice. We have achieved national food security. We have limited the importation of drugs and the proliferation of firearms that was threatening our country” President Buhari



Alice Hertzog

# THANKYOU

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