TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION 1

1.1 Background of the study 1
1.2 Land use and land cover: definitions and concepts 4
1.3 Importance of land use and land cover 6
1.4 Degradation of vegetation 12
1.4.1 Causes of deforestation and degradation of woodland 13
1.4.2 Effects of deforestation 13
1.5 Need for land use and land cover mapping 17
1.6 Remote sensing and land use and land cover mapping. 18
1.7 Remote sensing and land use/land cover change detection 20
1.8 Ecological factors and land use/land cover change 21
1.9 Land use and land cover mapping in Ghana 22
1.10 Problem of land use and land mapping in Ghana 23
1.11 Objectives 26
1.11.1 General objectives 26
1.11.2 Specific objectives 26
1.12 Research questions 27
1.13 Hypotheses 27

2 LITERATURE REVIEW 29

2.1 Image type and land use/ land cover mapping 29
2.1.1 LANDSAT images (MSS and TM 4 and 5 Systems) 31
2.1.2 Mapping capabilities of MSS and TM data 34
2.1.3 Spatial and temporal resolutions (LANDSATs 1-5) 36
2.1.4 LANDSAT 5 Thematic Mapper (TM) 36
2.1.5 LANDSAT 7 37
2.1.6 Seasonality of images 38
2.1.7 Band combinations for displaying TM data 39
2.2 Classification scheme 40
2.3 Geometric correction of images 44
2.3.1 Satellite type and magnitude of distortion 45
2.3.2 Geometric correction techniques 45
2.3.3 Accuracy of spatial registration 47
2.4 Atmospheric correction of images 48
2.5 Field campaign 49
2.6 Image stratification 49
2.7 Digital classification 52
2.7.1 Unsupervised classification 53
2.7.2 Supervised classification 55
2.7.3 The hybrid classification technique 57
2.7.4 Training samples 58
2.8 Post classification enhancement 59
2.9 Accuracy assessment 60
2.9.1 Statistical methods for thematic accuracy 60
2.10 Change detection 63

2.10.1 Image overlay....64
2.10.2 Image differencing....64
2.10.3 Change vector analysis....65
2.10.4 Classification comparisons....66
2.10.5 Principal component analysis....66
2.10.6 Use of vegetation indices....66
2.10.7 Factors affecting vegetation indices....69
2.11 Rainfall and vegetation 75
2.12 Soil fertility and vegetation 79

3 BIOPHYSICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT....82

3.1 The biophysical environment 82
3.1.1 Location and extent of the Upper West Region....82
3.1.2 Climate 83
3.1.3 Geology and physiography....84
3.1.4 Vegetation....86
3.1.5 Soils 93
3.2 Socio-economic environment 95
3.2.1 Economic development of the Upper West Region....95
3.2.2 Population....96
3.2.3 Land use and farming systems....103
3.2.4 Settlements and infrastructure....108

4 LAND USE AND LAND COVER CLASSIFICATION....110

4.1 Materials 110
4.1.1 Data type....110
4.1.2 Seasonality of images....111
4.1.3 Classification scheme....111
4.2 Methods 114
4.2.1 Band combinations for displaying TM Data....115
4.2.2 Geometric correction....116
4.2.3 Atmospheric correction or normalization of images....118
4.2.4 Field reconnaissance visit....119
4.2.5 Image stratification....119
4.2.6 Classification....121
4.2.7 Post-classification enhancement....128
4.2.8 Accuracy assessment....128
4.3 Results and discussion 129
4.3.1 Classification results....129
4.3.2 Extent of land use and land cover classes....137
4.3.3 Accuracy of the classification: 2000....139
4.3.4 Distribution of land use/land cover categories....141

5 LAND USE AND LAND COVER CHANGE ASSESSMENT....144

5.1 Change detection methods 144
5.2 Results and discussion 145
5.2.1 Farmland/bare land or constructed surface....146

5.2.2 Closed woodland/riparian vegetation....148
5.2.3 Open savannah woodland with shrubs and grasses....149
5.2.4 Mixture of grasses and shrubs and scattered trees....150
5.2.5 Water body....152
5.3 Dynamics of land use and land cover change 154

6 ASSESSMENT OF CAUSES OF LAND USE AND LAND COVER CHANGE 156

6.1 Methods 156
6.1.1 Soil sampling and analysis....156
6.2 Results of soil fertility assessment 159
6.2.1 Soil chemical properties: Closed savannah woodland....161
6.2.2 Soil chemical properties: Open savannah woodland....162
6.2.3 Soil chemical properties: mixture of grasses and shrubs....163
6.2.4 Soil chemical properties: Farmland....164
6.3 Comparison of the soils under the different land cover types 166
6.4 General fertility status of the soils 170
6.5 Analysis of the rainfall of the Upper West Region 173
6.6 Rainfall and soil fertility evaluation for crops grown in the Upper West Region (Sys, 1985) 177
6.7 Population and land use and land cover of the Upper West Region 180
6.8 Causes of decline of savannah woodland 186

7 SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS....194

7.1 Summary 194
7.2 Conclusion 199
7.3 Recommendations 201

8 REFERENCES....203

9 APPENDICES....221