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## Leaching of alumina from local clays by acid precipitation

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Leaching of alumina from three local clays of Ukpok, Auchi and Udi was carried out using three different acids (HCl, H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and HNO<sub>3</sub>) as precipitants. The leaching process involved preparation of the clay sample, dissolution in acid solution, precipitation of basic aluminium sulphate from the filtrate and the use of EDTA titration method to obtain the alumina yield. The effects of process parameters (acid concentration, particle size, leaching temperature and acid to clay weight ratio) on alumina extraction were investigated. Factorial design of experiment techniques was used in the assessment of the influence of experimental factors on the final results. Clay characterization was also carried out on the different clay samples. The highest yield of 36.96% was obtained from Auchi clay with HNO<sub>3</sub> yielding more alumina than HCl and H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>.

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