

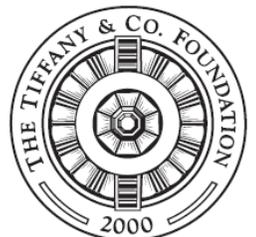
Consultative Workshop on Land Reclamation and Alternative Land Use

Satta Kumba Amara Resource Centre, Koidu, Kono District
Sierra Leone



Foundation for Environmental Security and Sustainability

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The **Foundation for Environmental Security and Sustainability (FESS)** is a public policy foundation established to advance knowledge and provide effective solutions to key environmental security concerns around the world. FESS conducts extensive field research in combination with data analysis to produce policy-oriented reports and recommendations that address environmental risks to stability.

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Cover photo: Jeffrey Stark. Artisanal mining pits in Tankoro Chiefdom, Kono District, Sierra Leone.

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ACRONYMS

ADAGMA	Alluvial Diamond and Gold Miners Association
CKY	Coalition of Kono Youths
DACDF	Diamond Area Community Development Fund
FESS	Foundation for Environmental Security and Sustainability
GOSL	Government of Sierra Leone
IDMP	Integrated Diamond Management Program
KDC	Kono District Council
KNSCC	Koidu/New Sembahun City Council
KOWONET	Kono Women's Organization Network
MAFS	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
MMR	Ministry of Mineral Resources
NMJD	Network Movement for Justice and Development
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

INTRODUCTION

The Kono District has been the principal hub for diamond mining in Sierra Leone since the minerals were discovered in alluvial deposits there in 1930. Of the fourteen chiefdoms in the Kono District, six traditionally have been considered diamondiferous. Recently, four additional chiefdoms were identified as diamondiferous. Much of the land already has been mined extensively, and many mined sites now are virtually unproductive, hazardous to community health and safety, and a waste of potentially arable land. The issue of land reclamation is a timely one in this region. Over the years, Koidu has grown from a small agricultural village with just a few hundred inhabitants to become a major population center and the capital of Kono District, with about eighty thousand inhabitants. There is local awareness of the need for environmental reclamation in many parts of the Kono District, notably in the vicinity of Koidu town where numerous tracts of land have been damaged by mining.

The Foundation for Environmental Security and Sustainability (FESS) is a public policy organization that works with governments, civil society organizations, and international donor organizations to address environmental issues that have implications for political stability, social peace, livelihoods, and sustainable development. Supported by a grant from the Tiffany & Co. Foundation's Environment Program and core funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), FESS is initiating a project to work with diamond mining communities in Sierra Leone to improve environmental conditions after mining and to increase livelihood opportunities. A primary objective of the project is to establish one or more demonstration sites to serve as models of effective and sustainable land reclamation. The overall goal is to define and implement a process for conducting environmental reclamation and establishing alternative uses for mined-out land that may be replicated throughout Sierra Leone and implemented in other alluvial diamond mining communities in Africa.

In the interest of initiating a community-based, participatory project on land reclamation, FESS has been working to develop a body of knowledge about Sierra Leonean diamond mining communities and an understanding of local orientations toward land reclamation. Between November 2006 and February 2007, FESS held a series of consultative meetings with national and local leaders in Freetown and in the Kono and Kenema Districts to discuss land remediation and explore possibilities for implementing a project. Through these discussions, it became clear that in order to have an effective and sustainable land reclamation project, there must be shared understanding and commitments from all stakeholders and broad-based support from within the communities at large.

In February, 2007, FESS conducted multistakeholder workshops in Koidu, Kono District (February 8–9, 2007) and in Tongo Fields, Kenema District (February 10–11, 2007) to assess the interest in and feasibility of implementing a land reclamation project in these areas. Each of the workshops included approximately 45 invited participants who represented a range of stakeholder groups. The composition of the workshop in Koidu was somewhat different from that in Tongo Fields, since the former community is comprised of several chiefdoms and the latter is comprised of a single chiefdom, Lower Bambara. This is one factor that accounts for the two workshops taking on different characters while the program agendas were essentially the same. Another factor is that the facilitators made a few adjustments in the structuring of activities in the Tongo Fields workshop based on lessons learned from the Koidu workshop. The objectives of the sessions remained the same for each workshop. In Koidu, the workshop was conducted in Krio and English, whereas in Tongo Fields, the workshop was conducted in Krio, with Mande and English translations for clarification when necessary. To ensure that each report is relevant to the respective workshop participants, as well as to provide the opportunity to compare outcomes, each workshop report is published as a separate document.

Each workshop consisted of two full days of plenary and small-group discussions. Participants shared ideas and negotiated differences of opinion as they worked to build a common understanding of what land reclamation might mean for their communities and what would be required of the various stakeholders for a land reclamation initiative to be successful. The workshop facilitation methods aided in the process of

consensus building, where checking and rechecking at incremental points in the program ensured that what was reported and officially recorded did, in fact, reflect fully and accurately the contributions that individuals made in the various discussions. In this manner, an atmosphere of trust and cooperation was developed such that by the end of each workshop, representatives of the various stakeholder groups came forward freely to make and sign detailed commitments on behalf of their stakeholder groups in support of land reclamation in their communities. The workshops not only served as exercises in project planning, but also contributed to building experience in community decision-making along the lines of democratic principles. This is a significant achievement and a strong first step in the implementation of a project intended to reclaim mined-out land through broad-based community support and participation for the benefit of the community as a whole.

KOIDU WORKSHOP REPORT

This report presents a record of the proceedings of the Consultative Workshop on Land Reclamation and Alternative Land Use held on February 8–9, 2007 at the Satta Kumba Amara Resource Centre in Koidu, Kono District in Sierra Leone. The Koidu workshop participants represented a broad base of stakeholder groups including: paramount, section, and town chiefs of three chiefdoms; district and town/city councils; youth, women's, and artisanal miners' organizations; government ministries; the United States Agency for International Development (USAID); a non-governmental organization; and radio and newspaper agencies.

The workshop was structured to work to meet a series of objectives that worked toward the goal of having representatives from the group of participants identify and formally acknowledge their levels of commitment toward undertaking land remediation in their communities. The report discusses each of the workshop sessions and their objectives, which were as follows:

Session 1: To discuss the concept of land reclamation and alternative land uses and share knowledge about its importance in alluvial diamond mining communities.

Session 2: To identify challenges associated with land reclamation in alluvial diamond mining fields.

Session 3: To develop an integrated approach to addressing the challenges of land reclamation.

Session 4: To consider how to provide opportunities for people living in alluvial diamond mining communities to be involved in the process of identifying land for reclamation.

Session 5: To solicit community input into other economically viable uses of land in alluvial diamond mining communities.

Session 6: To determine the commitment of alluvial diamond mining communities to land reclamation and alternative land use practice.

The report is formulated so as to reflect as accurately as possible the workshop process and what was said in the sessions. For each session, the report gives the main issues that were raised, followed by a box containing 'highlights' of the principal findings. The report summarizes the recommendations that participants made for undertaking a project in environmental reclamation in their communities.

In the interest of accurate reporting in this full report as well as the executive summary of the workshop, the text retains titles used by participants to refer to ministries associated with land and environment. In some instances, these titles are either outdated or only partially correct. The institutions whose functions are relevant to land reclamation include the Ministry of Land and Country Planning and the National Commission for the Environment and Forestry, the result of a recent reorganization.

The workshop program is attached as Appendix I; the participant list is attached as Appendix II; and the document of formal commitments made by community leaders in support of land reclamation is attached as Appendix III.

OPENING REMARKS

After a prayer, welcome, and introduction by FESS Field Representative Daniel Gbondo, the workshop began as a plenary meeting with introductory statements by three representatives of the Koidu community: Mayor and Councillor of Koidu/New Sembahun City Council Mary Musa; Chairman and Councillor of the Kono District Council Sahr Tamba; and Tankoro Chiefdom Paramount Chief Paul Ngaba Saquee V.

The speakers made the following points:

- Ten chiefdoms within Kono District are recognized as diamondiferous, four of which have been designated as such just recently.
- There is a difference between mined-out and worked-out areas. Mined-out areas are areas that are considered to be completely exhausted of diamonds; worked-out areas still have pockets of diamonds. Reclamation should focus on mined-out, not worked-out, areas because people, “especially chiefs,” believe that worked-out areas could still have “seriously big diamonds trapped in those swamps.”
- The valleys are plagued with pits and upland areas have lost topsoil due to mining.
- Mined-out land is aesthetically unpleasing.
- Environmental reclamation has the potential to alleviate land scarcity and food security.
- Reclaimed land should be used for agriculture.
- Attention has been given to the issue of land reclamation over the years, but without any proper answer and/or action.
- Some proportion of artisanal mining licenses fees are supposed to go to land reclamation.
- In Kono District, land is communally owned but held in trust by the paramount chiefs for the people. The paramount chief will necessarily play a very important role in the reclamation process.
- All members of the communities must also be involved in the process, especially women and youths.

The final opening statement was made by FESS Director of Research and Studies Jeffrey Stark, who spoke about the Foundation for Environmental Security and Sustainability and its interests in helping communities to improve environmental conditions and livelihood opportunities after mining. The opening ceremony concluded with an explanation by Daniel Gbondo of the objectives and format of the two-day workshop.

Highlights

The speakers described how mining damages the land, making it unproductive and aesthetically unpleasing. Land reclamation is desirable, as it can convert the land to productive use and contribute to development and food security. However, reclamation brings its own challenges. First, it is necessary to distinguish between worked-out and mined-out land. Reclamation should only be carried out on land that community members agree is mined-out. Second, political backing is vital if land reclamation efforts are to succeed. Finally, all members of a community must be involved in the land reclamation process. The speakers welcomed FESS’s interest in facilitating a land reclamation project and voiced their willingness to assist.

SESSION ONE: Developing a common understanding of the concept of land reclamation and its importance to the community.

The first session laid the foundation for all of the subsequent discussions on the workshop topic of land reclamation and alternative land use. The two objectives of this session were: 1) to assess and build knowledge of land reclamation after alluvial diamond mining in this community; and 2) to gauge the level of interest in actually undertaking land reclamation.

Posed to all of the participants in a plenary session were the following questions:

1. What does reclamation mean to you?
2. What are positive and negative incentives for doing land reclamation?
3. What may be the consequences of not doing land reclamation?

Land reclamation was described by participants as:

- Returning the land to its natural landscape prior to mining.
- Rehabilitating land is a temporary measure on a continuum toward reclaiming land. Land reclamation, however, cannot bring the land back to 100% of its original state.
- Bringing the land back to another alternative livelihood, i.e., putting it into a different state to get life beyond mining for the next generation.
- Giving the land back to the people.
- Transforming a “hazardous, desolate economic liability into a social and economic asset” so as to reduce tension over scarce land in the long term.
- Taking land that has been destroyed back to productivity.
- Restoring land that has been damaged, to be used for some other purpose such as building or agriculture.
- Bringing a form of “development that looks to the future” through a project in sustainable development.
- Maximizing the use of the land by all members of the community. It is important that when the land is reclaimed, the community (not just the miners) can benefit.
- Bringing the land to a state where it will be useful to the community in terms of agriculture, social activity, and so on. This may mean not returning the land to its original state.

Highlights

Two divergent opinions emerged on the outcome to be expected from land reclamation. For some participants, the purpose of reclamation is to return the land to its original state, as it was prior to mining. As one participant pointed out, this could mean returning it to a state that is not useful to the community. The majority interpretation of land reclamation seemed to be to transform the land into some other economically or socially productive use that would benefit the community at large, not just certain groups in the community. In the same vein, some participants saw land reclamation being linked to sustainable development and conflict prevention.

Benefits that participants associated with land reclamation are that it would

- Provide more land for agriculture and other uses.
- Ensure that people who do not normally have access to land, such as women and youths, would be able to access land for cultivation, housing, and social activities, such as providing a playing ground for youths and children.

- Increase the space for children to play and reduce the risk of children drowning and having accidents.
- Provide an opportunity for unsuccessful miners to undertake an activity, such as agriculture, that they will be able to do successfully. The implication was that this would benefit miners' self-confidence and well being.
- Create youth employment and help build skills and capacities to bring about industrial development.
- Reduce health hazards by removing breeding grounds for mosquitoes.
- Increase the monetary value of land for sale.
- Reduces land scarcity/increase the supply of land. This will increase productivity which will increase national economic output, employment, and income. It will also improve human livelihoods and increase human capacity.
- Improve food security. "The more land we reclaim, the more lives we can sustain."
- Allow for effective town planning, rather than the more chaotic, ad hoc urban growth that is currently occurring.
- Bring diverse benefits, as enumerated by a participant: "Socially, it maximizes community use which reduces tension; economically it can create employment and so can reduce youth dissatisfaction; physically, it can improve the sightline and health; emotionally, it will reduce the current anger in a lot of people that Kono is being overlooked for development; and psychologically, it can create peace of mind and contentment, allowing people to focus on future development rather than being frustrated with how things are today."
- Prevent conflict between landowners and irresponsible mining companies.
- Bring peace and stability. "When we have enough land and people have access to land, then the chances of conflict are minimized."
- Restore authority to the original landowners. "In some places, like in Sierra Rutile, when we went there on a field trip, I found out that there was a chief in that land and after they relocated them [residents] to another region or section, he was no longer chief. But ... after the mining, when they have reclaimed those lands, then that particular chief will be restored to power."
- Provide an opportunity to restore some of the original species of vegetation which were removed from the land, to restore the soil, and to increase livelihoods. Without restoring the vegetation, the result may be desertification and changes in the local climate.
- If it restores the original vegetation, then this can also support the continuation of traditional medicines.
- Restore the ecosystem, as this is important for people's existence.
- Sustain life and maintain the gaseous cycle by reclaiming the land with plants.
- Conserve soil.
- Help prevent landslides.
- If it involves reclaiming the land with forests, then some of the original species, such as leopards, may return.
- Improve the aesthetic beauty of the land.
- "If we reclaim land, we are doing what God said."

Disadvantages participants associated with land reclamation

- If you reclaim land that people think is not mined out, then you will face problems.
- If you are not careful how you reclaim the land, i.e., if you put in a plantation of foreign trees or if you even leave the land to the wilderness, you may deprive the area of its original vegetation which would sometimes be used for traditional medicines.
- If reclamation is not carried out sensitively, you can alter chiefdom boundaries and create tensions between neighboring chiefdoms. There is an example in Kono District where a river was the traditional boundary line between Gbense and Tankoro. The river was diverted for mining and the land that had belonged to one of the chiefdoms became part of the other chiefdom.

- If you do not give precedence to original plant species and if you do mono-cropping, you create degeneration of the soil. Reclamation should involve the re-introduction of original plants and grasses.
- If we reclaim the Koidu Holdings (mining company) site, we could lose the water source that will supply the township.

Highlights

Participants considered the main benefits of land reclamation to be that it would: protect the environment, create economic opportunities, reduce social marginalization, improve the capacity of youth, improve food security, reduce social tensions, eliminate certain physical and health hazards, protect indigenous activities, ensure orderly planning and development, prevent conflict, and appease God. The discussion helped build agreement among the participants on the overall utility of doing land reclamation and set out clearly the various benefits that different stakeholders could receive if they permit reclamation to take place. Thus, the discussion became an important resource for stimulating political will and community support for reclamation projects.

The main disadvantages of doing land reclamation, according to participants, depend on what land is identified and how the reclamation is done. The discussion brought attention to the importance of establishing community agreements on whether the land identified for reclamation is mined-out and ensuring that the reclamation process takes into account the value of traditionally valued physical features, such as plant species and chiefdom boundaries.

SESSION TWO: Identifying the challenges of land reclamation in alluvial diamond mining communities.

The participants separated into five groups for each to discuss one of five categories of challenges (political/structural, economic, social, cultural, and technical) associated with the process of implementing land reclamation projects. Each small group designated a rapporteur who presented the results of their discussion to the full group of participants. After each small-group report, the workshop facilitator gave the group members an opportunity to add comments and clarifications and then opened up a plenary discussion. The small-group reports are presented in Table One below.

Table One: Challenges associated with land reclamation

Group One: Political/structural challenges	
Rapporteur: Sahr J. Gbondo	
1.	<i>Political will/legal environment:</i> A reclamation fee is paid to government as part of the licensing procedure. The politicians have an “underground agenda” regarding land reclamation; in other words, they seem to have a conscious agenda to <u>not</u> do reclamation.
2.	<i>Willingness of traditional authorities:</i> Often the chiefs are against land reclamation.
3.	<i>Cultural Challenges:</i> Some areas are sacred ground for Poro or Bondo society activities.
4.	<i>Unrealistic Expectations:</i> These expectations (political) have to be managed.
5.	<i>Lack of alternative employment</i> for people still mining on mined-out land.
6.	<i>Spoiler Mentality:</i> In the case, for example, of Koaquima, lots of people do not want reclamation there. Because it is by the road, people believe they can attract investors (supporters/ financiers) such as the ñikoñikos and jeweler men (diamond peddlers and illegal dealers).
7.	<i>Expatriate interests</i> (decision making): That is, the big investors influence land reclamation in the sense that they believe the areas where they will be mining contain diamonds, so they can influence the community people to believe diamonds are still there. An example is the problem of the

Kaisambo site. Some people believe that mining will occur there again.

8. *Vested interests*: For example, youths, chiefs, and the Ministry of Mineral Resources. For instance, there are areas around Koidu where people still think there are diamonds, and chiefs and youths have interests in these areas. They will not want to hear about reclamation of those places where they believe the land still contains diamondiferous materials.
9. *Traditional boundaries*: These have to be respected in the process of land reclamation.
10. *Land tenure*: After reclamation, who will own the land? Who will make the decisions about the land?
11. *Use of reclaimed land*: Who will make the decisions about this: the community, the local authorities, or central or local government?
12. *Decentralization*: There remains a lack of clarity on the policy, governance, and roles that the local councils should take on land reclamation.
13. *Ownership of land by women or others*.
14. *Transparent and equitable access to land*.
15. *Political and legal impact of transition from alluvial artisanal mining to deep mining companies*: For example, the River Bafi has been mined by artisanal miners and alluvial mining companies. If these areas are now going to undergo deep mining (by mining companies), how is this transition going to be? Who is going to decide? Who is going to conduct the Environmental Impact Assessment to determine how the impact of the mining will affect the communities?

Group Two: Economic challenges

Rapporteur:

1. Reclamation could be hindered by miners who still believe there are diamonds in the degraded land, as was the case for Kaisambo.
2. Reclamation by individuals and companies could be difficult due to lack of funds, especially if they have not made a profit. So some areas are left abandoned.
3. Issuances of mining licenses by chiefdom authorities could be undermined by reclamation. (When a piece of land is designated for reclamation and made ineligible for mining licenses, the chiefs lose the potential income they would obtain from granting licenses on that land).
4. Communities have not been receiving reclamation fees from the Government of Sierra Leone. The group supported the statement from one of its members that, "We believe if these communities had been getting these monies, we would be in the position to reclaim some of these mined-out lands and there would be no need for us to be gathered here today."
5. Fish farming and other hydro-related activities could be hindered if all areas are covered in the process. For example, at Koidu Holdings (mining company), there are bubbles created as a result of kimberlite mining. This generates water that will be transported by pipe to a main tank at Tankoro, to be run from there. Assuming we decide to reclaim the entire land, we will not have this water.
6. Reclamation of land for economic uses, such as market gardening, could create social tensions within communities. It is difficult to demarcate borders.
7. Reclamation influences unemployment. Reclamation could create unemployment amongst miners who had been working the land.
8. Reclamation could be expensive.

Group Three: Social challenges

Rapporteur: Mariama Baryoh

1. Men will want to dominate the rights and wants of women.
2. Tendency for authorities to marginalize society in the process.
3. Conflict over ownership of reclaimed land.
4. Tendency to use land for purposes other than social; for example, for recreation centers, schools, health centers, etc.
5. No level of awareness among affected communities of the importance of reclamation; a need for sensitization.
6. No concerns expressed by affected communities for the use of funds for the rehabilitation.
7. Lack of knowledge that land reclamation will bring job opportunities that are sustainable.
8. Ownership of land. Who owns the land: government, paramount chiefs, or the community?

Group Four: Cultural challenges

Rapporteur: Rebecca Kamara

1. Reclamation of mined-out areas cannot restore the loss of cultural and traditional values (e.g., social cohesiveness) caused by mining.
2. Reclamation does not guarantee original cultural rights to the land in question.
3. Loss of original landmarks and boundaries leads to forced migration of cultural communities and other cultural environments.
4. Loss of cultural values (e.g., sacred bushes) cannot be restored.
5. Land reclamation cannot restore the negative migration effects of mining on the original community, thereby leading to a loss of cultural uses of the area.

Group Five: Technical challenges

Rapporteur: Tamba P. Bona

1. Identifying possible areas.
2. Getting the consent of the authorities.
3. Sensitizing the communities.
4. Creating bylaws (in a document).
5. Involving people with technical and local know-how (e.g., on topography and soil).
6. Timing (season) of implementation.
7. Logistics (tools and machinery).
8. Soil survey (soil samples for laboratory analyses, e.g., for agriculture).
9. Matching the soil to the agricultural use.
10. Having the appropriate expert once the land use has been decided by the community.
11. Mechanical land reclamation does not replace the soil as well as manual reclamation.

Plenary Discussion Points*Group One: Political/structural challenges**Land governance*

- The councils have responsibility for development, even on lands that are owned by the traditional authorities. For example, a participant explained, “The land belongs to the chiefs and they give that land to the people to build houses, but it is the council that has to ensure the houses are properly planned.”
- In other cases, the council may own the land outright.
- When we do land reclamation, we need to take the long-term view, which means that if the district council needs land for specific development projects, then the tenure of that land must be negotiated between the councils and the traditional authorities.
- In the Local Government Act, one of the responsibilities of the local councillors is the protection of human settlement and the environment. But the Ministry of Mineral Resources (MMR) retains responsibility for environmental issues relating to mining, making the councillors powerless to do anything in this regard. The local councillors felt that this function and the funds for this should be devolved to local government.
- The paramount chief of Tankoro Chiefdom asserted that when land is reclaimed, ownership returns to the chiefdom. The councils are “partners in development and we would always be prepared to let them have access to land when they need it for environmental purposes.” The chairman of the Tankoro Chiefdom Agriculture Committee later added, “There are really no issues regarding ownership. Either it is within the councils or within the chiefdoms. So if you want to use that land, you prevail upon the chiefs to give you the land. ... We just need collaboration between them [the councils and the chiefs] to ensure that lands within the jurisdiction of the city council are appropriately allocated to whoever wants them. So we go back

to tradition. It is actually far simpler than we are making it. We are not here to change jurisdictions and regulations over land.”

Access to land for women

- There was contention in the plenary discussion around the right and ability of women to access land. It was agreed that some chiefs are more progressive, while others still require women to have a male guarantor before they can be given land by the chiefdom. One woman from Gbense claimed that the chief there is refusing to give her elderly mother documents for the land she has traditionally farmed. As the mayor put it, “Because of the cultural structure of our communities, in the past it was not right for a woman to own land. If, as a woman, you want to rent or build a house, it has to be under a man’s name. When your husband dies, we assume that automatically we possess what your husband has but when you look at our traditional homes you become the wife of your husband’s younger brother. You do not automatically take over that plantation; it is one of the brothers who will take over. This varies from community to community.”
- Some women do not know that they are entitled to own land independently of men. The women need to be sensitized too.
- Not enough women are coming forward and asking to own land independently.
- Sometimes the issue is not with the chiefs denying women use of the land, but other community members. A female participant remarked, “Last year people in the area (not the chiefs) told me to stop building, but this year I told them I am from Gbense, I am entitled to land, I am going to build before the rains, and I do not have problems with that. They understand.”

Large-scale mining companies

- Environmental reclamation after the deep mining companies have left is going to be a problem. There will need to be collaboration between the chiefs, authorities, and Freetown (i.e., central government).
- The reclamation policy is not enforced, due to lack of political will.

Group Two: Economic Challenges

Which land?

- We should only reclaim areas that have been completely mined out.

Lack of funding

- Laws can be put in place to help address the issue of lack of funds.

Responsibility for doing reclamation and governance issues

- To reclaim land should be the responsibility of central government, not the companies that have paid a rehabilitation fee to central government. Government has failed us in this respect. We expect reclamation to come under local councils.
- The Ministry of Mineral Resources (MMR) Mines Engineer Jonathan Sharkah made the following points:
 - Rehabilitation funds from the central government will be available starting from next week; that is, the week of February 12 – 16, 2007.
 - To a participant’s questions of where the money for reclamation is kept, how much money is going to be used, and over what time period, Mr. Sharkah responded that money has been

- collected since 2004 and that the fee was increased from Le. 100,000 in 2005 to Le. 200,000 in 2006, so there would not be a lot of money in the reclamation fund yet.
- Since last year, small- to large-scale companies have ceased paying rehabilitation fees and are now obliged to reclaim land as they go. If they do not, the government can close them down.
 - If companies go bankrupt, the government has a right to seize their assets and sell them to pay for the costs of reclamation.
 - If the chiefs issue licenses in areas identified for land reclamation, the miners who mine there will be kicked off the land by the central government, as they will be mining illegally.
 - Congo Creek should be reclaimed now. In 2002, there were more than 5,000 people working there. Now there are only 500 people.
 - A participant responded, “Central government is screwing local government (on the point of the land reclamation fee). I still have skepticism as this has been going on for eight years and nothing has happened yet.”
 - A local councillor suggested that the responsibility for managing environmental reclamation should be devolved from the MMR to the local councils.
 - FESS should not presume that because the Government is doing something about environmental reclamation that there is no need for other actors in this area. The Government is extremely unlikely to be able to reclaim all of the land that is mined out.

Licensing

- It would be irresponsible to allow someone to mine if the gravel is exhausted.
- With regard to the loss of income from surface rent and development fees paid to the chiefdom authorities, earmarking land for reclamation reduces the number of acres available for licensing. Money from the Diamond Area Community Development Fund (DACDF) is allocated to a chiefdom based on the proportion of licenses that the chiefdom holds out of the total number of licenses issued within its district.
- There is a law that allows the MMR to revoke a license whenever it wants. If a decision is made that land is to be reclaimed, the licenses can be revoked.
- Land eligible for reclaiming is unlikely to have any licenses on it anyway. Most mining on mined-out land is done by youths who are “moonlighting,” i.e., illegally mining.

Fish farming

- Concern was expressed that in the event fish farming is pursued as a potential use for reclaimed land, there would be fear of contamination of fish stocks from toxins produced by mining.

Group Three: Social challenges

- Creating agriculture creates sustainable job opportunities for youth.
- Land reclamation should be the concern of the paramount chief and the community. If Freetown (central government) gets involved, there will be more problems.
- There must be some documentation between the chiefdom authorities and the people who intend to reclaim the land.
- One participant claimed that if the land is used for a social (rather than economic) end, then the community will benefit more.

Ownership, a point of contention

- A participant argued, “When we talk of ownership, we need to strengthen the minds of our paramount chiefs ... they should work in the interests of the people.”

- Some of the participating chiefs and elders emphasized that once land is reclaimed, it reverts to the chief's care (as custodian of the land). They suggested that ownership should be no cause for concern.
- Other participants asserted that ownership of land is potentially a social problem. There have to be protocols put in place to deal with potential problems that might arise from situations such as a chief dying or people coming forward with claims that the land belongs to their family.
- A participant asked whether a miner who has mined the land owns it. The mines engineer stated that a miner only owns the land when he has a license to mine it; otherwise, it is the chiefdom that owns the land.
- There are certain areas around the River Bafi where people's houses were demolished during mining activities. Will those people get the land back?
- There is a need for sensitization of affected communities about the importance of reclamation.
- The issue of ownership is likely to be controversial, so people need to be fully aware that those who owned the land before the mining will own the land after reclamation; and those who did the mining will not own the land after the mining has stopped. As one participant said, "Without sensitization you will create conflict."

Group Four: Cultural challenges

- Most of the miners come from other areas, and so most of the cultural practices of the Kono people are being disturbed.
- If there is active mining in a Poro bush, will the land be restored as a Poro bush or will it be transformed to some other use?
- "We can only restore the activities, but the values we had in that original land, we cannot restore them again."
- "There were things done in the 1920s that were valuable to this society, but those things have been removed. For you to bring them back is impossible."
- Trying to restore cultural values in mining communities is "like shutting the gate after the horse has bolted."
- "The reclamation of mined-out areas cannot merely restore all the things that people were doing before."
- One participant expressed the view that land should not be reclaimed to restore cultural values and activities, but for some agricultural or alternative (economic) use.

Group Five: Technical challenges

- One member of this group asserted that soil surveys are needed to restore the soil fertility, but there is no laboratory in Sierra Leone to do soil analysis. Another participant stated that a soil survey would be a waste of money, since "even the red soil mined out by the miners could be planted up."
- It is a technical challenge to get the appropriate knowledge and expertise involved to prepare the land suitably for the intended use. For example, "If you are going to build a road or houses on the reclaimed land, you need a civil engineer."
- Manual land reclamation is better if the land is to be used for agricultural purposes, since the way you placed the soil while you were excavating it is the same as the way you would replace it (top to bottom, bottom to top).

Highlights

The main conclusions of this session are that any organization attempting to do land reclamation must do the following to ensure a successful outcome:

- *Document decisions and agreements* in order to be transparent and prevent future conflict.
- *Hold sensitization meetings* to: a.) raise awareness, especially amongst women, youths, chiefs and the affected communities; b) generate political will, especially among authorities; and c) generate commitment to the process from all stakeholders.
- *Encourage transparency, honesty and accountability* in all decision-making on the selection of land, employees, and beneficiaries.
- *Ensure community members have equal access* to the benefits of doing land reclamation (e.g., employment opportunities) and benefits from the use of the land after reclamation.
- *Take the long-term view* when planning the alternative land use.
- *Be mindful of national and regional politics*, which are as important as local politics in determining the success of the program.
- *Make the alternative land use attractive to the community*.
- *Bear in mind that a social use may bring more benefits* to the community than an economic use of the reclaimed land.
- *Have people with the appropriate technical expertise* to do the reclamation and plan the alternative land use well.

SESSION THREE: Developing an integrated approach to addressing the challenges of land reclamation.

This session was planned as a plenary discussion for the participants to look at all of the challenges (political/structural, economic, social, cultural, and technical) associated with land reclamation that were generated in Session Two and consider how to integrate them into a workable approach for undertaking a reclamation project. The facilitator proposed that the entire group consider in turn each of the five categories of challenges, identifying the relevant stakeholders and their responsibilities with respect to how they could address the challenges and the expected potential outcomes. Participants questioned whether it was more efficient to discuss the issues in sequence or to set out the steps of the process to do land reclamation and then consider the issues that arise. Ultimately, the group started the discussion as the facilitator had planned, with a focus first on the identified political challenges. The session time period ended just as the group was moving on to consider the other four categories of challenges. Table Two shows the results of the discussion on how to address the potential challenges:

Table Two: Developing an integrated approach to political/structural challenges in land reclamation

Challenges	Stakeholders	Responsibilities	Outcome
Political will/legal environment.	Chiefs, central government, councils.	Enforce policies and laws, create laws and bylaws.	Compliance, land reclamation.
Cultural challenges / traditional boundaries.	Chiefs, communities, Government of Sierra Leone (GOSL).	Protect political boundaries, implement boundaries, select land, do sensitization.	Equitable use of land, maximize community participation.
Access to land, land ownership, land tenure	Chiefs.	Make decisions on land use and fair distribution,	Community use of the land.

system.		make land available for reclamation.	
Vested interests & employment.	GOSL, communities, chiefs, youths, diggers / miners, supporters.	Divest oneself, get consensus, do sensitization.	Alternative use of the land would be made possible.
Decentralization.	Councillors, local authorities, the GOSL.	Make land reclamation possible, support and facilitate the process.	Better environmental conditions, more land reclaimed, employment created from the reclaimed land.

Plenary Discussion Points

- It is important to involve all stakeholders in the process and identify what each is supposed to do.
- The issues need to be simplified so that the process can be more easily monitored and evaluated along the way.
- The accurate identification of land is also important.
- Drawing attention to the issue of vested interests, participants cited the experience of the proposed youth community piles (for community access to mine tailings) as an example of where vested interests superseded community interests.

Highlights

Participants proposed a number of solutions to the political challenges identified in the previous session: 1) all stakeholders must be involved in decisions around land reclamation; 2) the process must be monitored and evaluated along the way; 3) the land must be accurately identified (as mined-out); and 4) people with vested interests must put the community first by divesting themselves of the land. Chiefs, local councils, and the Government of Sierra Leone were identified as the key actors to address the political challenges.

Given that the task set for this session of the workshop was not completed in Koidu, Sessions Two and Three were conducted somewhat differently in the Tongo Fields workshop. There, each small group was asked to identify the four or five most important challenges they associated with each category and to report in a plenary discussion. The groups then re-formed to discuss possible solutions to the challenges they had identified and reported the results in another plenary discussion. This structure approach was less time consuming and resulted in a more comprehensive picture of an integrated approach to the challenges of land reclamation.

SESSION FOUR: Defining a process whereby people living in alluvial diamond mining communities may be involved in identifying land for reclamation.

After the facilitator introduced the objective of this session, one of the participants, Tankoro Chiefdom Agriculture Committee Chairman Komba Alpha Kpetewama, took the floor and expressed his opinion that knowing the intended land use before attempting to identify the land makes it more likely that land will be obtained for reclamation. He proposed that, “If we have a clear message of what we are going to accomplish...and who is going to benefit, then these become compelling reasons to release the land. If there are overriding community benefits to be derived from the areas, individuals may give up their land and even their licenses for the greater good.” Dr. Kpetewama raised a number of key questions that he felt would need to be answered in order to: 1) bring the community on board and ensure the success of a

reclamation project; and 2) aid in the process of land identification and acquisition. Dr. Kpetewama posed the following questions, with commentary:

- *What will the land be used for?* The intended use of the reclaimed land will either facilitate or block access to the land.
- *Who will be the beneficiaries?* For example, they may be households, people that are food insecure, urban areas, farmers, men, and women.
- *What is the developmental goal?*
- *What will be the benefits to the target population?* For example, the benefits may be increased incomes, food output, and national food security, as well as reduced food deficiency and reduced conflict.
- *What is going to happen to the livelihoods of the people there once the project has been completed?*
- *How do you make individuals give up land?*
- *How can local objectives be linked to national objectives?* For example, contributing to the amount and quality of agricultural produce or building structures in the area would contribute to national development. Increasing domestic food production would save foreign exchange and allow the country to import more foreign capital goods to aid development.

Dr. Kpetewama made the argument that knowing the intended use of the land after reclamation and its local and national benefits prior to sensitizing the community would help convince members of the community to allow environmental reclamation to happen on their land. Not all of the participants agreed that this was the order in which the issues should be taken up. It was felt that if a project is to be fully participatory, the community should be involved in decisions as to what alternative land uses might be desirable. After these points were made, the facilitator proceeded with the session.

Session Four was designed to have participants engage in discussion to define a process whereby alluvial diamond mining communities may go about identifying land for reclamation. Participants were randomly assigned to four groups, with each group asked to answer the same four questions:

1. How would you determine that a piece of land is mined-out and suitable for reclamation?
2. Who do you think should be involved in the identification of land for reclamation?
3. What do you think should be the step-by-step process to obtain land for reclamation?
4. What are the responsibilities and/or contributions of the main actors and other players?

The outcomes of these discussions are presented in Table Three.

Table Three: Identifying land for reclamation in Kono District

Group One Rapporteur: Komba Kpetewama	Group Two Rapporteur: Admire Yorpoi	Group Three Rapporteur: Pastor Gbonde	Group Four Rapporteur: Edna Bondu Bona
<p>1. How would you determine that a piece of land is mined-out and suitable for reclamation?</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Lack of active mining activities. b. Existence of other activities, such as gardening. c. Decrease in demand for licenses. d. Confirmation by residents and grassroots interest groups. e. Geological reports of the area. f. Site visit involving a multipurpose, technical team to determine suitability (visit to the area with mines officials, agricultural experts, etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Information and/or technical advice from the MMR, as well as the miners and diggers. b. The land is completely exhausted and abandoned. c. No more surface rents or licenses are issued for the piece of land. d. All the key players, i.e., chiefs, miners, diggers, and the MMR, agree that the place is mined out. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Depopulation of the mining area. b. Absence of gravel. c. Licenses are no longer demanded. d. Refusal to issue mining licenses by the MMR. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Reduced mining activity. b. Confirmation by local authorities and the MMR. c. Information from MMR that the land is no longer productive for mining purposes. d. When the land is used for alternative activities (e.g., agriculture).
<p>2. Who do you think should be involved in the identification of land for reclamation?</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. MMR, Mines Division. b. MMR, Geological Survey. c. Ministry of Housing and Environment (to be told if the land should be used for building or agriculture). d. Local authorities: councils, chiefs, and community leaders. e. Relevant affected communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. MMR. b. Chiefs. c. Youths. d. Mining communities. e. Miners/diggers. f. Councils. g. Sierra Leonean police (security). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. MMR. b. Miners/diggers. c. Chiefs. d. Residents of the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Town chiefs. b. MMR. c. Ministry of Lands, Housing and Environment. d. Paramount chiefs. e. MAFS. f. Environmentalists. g. Tenants on the land before mining. h. Local councillors.

3. What do you think should be the step-by-step process to obtain land for reclamation?			
<p>a. Visit the MMR for technical information.</p> <p>b. Visit local authorities (chiefs).</p> <p>c. Visit site for identification.</p> <p>d. Discuss findings with stakeholders, including the relevant affected communities.</p>	<p>a. MMR.</p> <p>b. Councillors.</p> <p>c. Paramount chiefs of the affected chiefdoms.</p> <p>d. Town chiefs of the community.</p> <p>e. Community meeting for sensitization and consultation.</p>	<p>a. MMR.</p> <p>b. Paramount chief.</p> <p>c. Town chief.</p> <p>d. Local council.</p> <p>e. Consultative meeting with mining community and stakeholders.</p>	<p>a. Consultative meetings with key actors.</p> <p>b. Site visits.</p> <p>c. Approval from authorities.</p> <p>d. Technical advice from the MAFS, environmental experts, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Environment, and country planning officials.</p> <p>e. Community sensitization and mobilization.</p>
4. What are the responsibilities and/or contributions of the main actors and other players?			
<p>a. MMR.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide accurate information on the area and on government policy. • Contribute technical people and services. <p>b. Ministry of Housing and Environment and the MAFS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide accurate information and specialists. <p>c. Local authorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide accurate information. • Do community sensitization. • Chiefs are custodians of the land and can make land available. <p>d. Community people, youths, and middlemen.</p>	<p>a. MMR.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give technical advice. • Identify mining chiefdoms. <p>b. Chiefs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify mined-out areas. • Inform/sensitize the affected communities. • Form and enforce bylaws. <p>c. Councils.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate/monitor the reclamation process. • Help in the sensitization of the communities. <p>d. Youths.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide human resources (workforce). • Maintain laws. 	<p>a. MMR and other line ministries (environment, agriculture, etc.).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpret policy matters with regards to mining. • Ensure mined-out lands are reclaimed. • Identify mined-out lands. • Advise on land reclamation. • Allocate concessions to industrial companies. <p>b. Paramount chiefs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Custodians of the land. • Allocation of mining land starts with them. • Formulate bylaws to ban mining in mined-out areas. <p>c. Town chiefs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give information to Paramount chiefs. • Reinforce bylaws. • Sensitize local communities. <p>d. Local councils</p>	<p>a. Town chief.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirms availability of land and offers the land for reclamation; • Leads you to the paramount chief for final approval. <p>b. MMR.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirms that land is completely mined out. • Stops issuing mining licenses. <p>c. Technical experts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give necessary advice as to what activity is to be carried out on the land. <p>d. Paramount chief.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives final approval. • Ensures protection of the land from any encroachment. <p>e. Prior tenants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation and willingness to give up the land. <p>f. MAFS.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide labor, goodwill, and support services. <p>e. Relevant affected communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitization process. <p>e. Mining communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readiness in giving up the land. • Labor. • Maintain law and order. <p>f. Miners/diggers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain law and order. • Identify mined-out areas. • Provide labor. <p>g. Security (Sierra Leone Police).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforce law and order (should there be a conflict over the land). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise on development. • Reinforce chiefdom bylaws. • Sensitize communities. • Arrange consultative meetings with mining communities. <p>e. Miners and mining communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help to sensitize and disseminate information about mined-out lands and land reclamation. • Help to carry out land reclamation (skilled and unskilled labor). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil survey to determine suitability of land. • Facilitate development of the land for agriculture. • Oversee cultivation of the land. <p>g. Ministry of Lands, Housing and Environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides technical advice for infrastructural development. • Provides financial support for reclamation from funds accrued from rehabilitation fees. <p>h. Local councillors.</p>
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After each group reported the results of its discussion, the facilitator gave group members the opportunity to make comments and clarifications before opening up a plenary discussion.

Plenary Discussion Points

Group One

- Environmental issues are the responsibility of the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Environment. This is why housing appears in the list of key actors.
- It is important to go to the various ministries to get as much expert technical advice and information as possible so that you are in a better position to identify which land is most suitable for reclamation. Ultimately, you want to involve a multi-purpose, technical team.
- The functions of the various ministries are interrelated on the issue of land.
- The Ministries must also be involved because they have their own provisions, policies and administrative responsibilities in relation to the issue of land. They also work as a network so, “you have to contact them to avoid a backlash.”
- When it comes to determining the land use after reclamation, if the purpose is agriculture, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security can determine the species of tree that should be used.

Group Two

Role of the police

- The police should be involved in order to provide security should there be conflict over land designated for reclamation.
- The vice-mayor asked what the role of chiefs will be if the police are considered responsible for security. The head of the Coalition of Kono Youths clarified that a chief can arrest but not detain people; he can only hand them over to the police, who have the right to detain people.
- Participants agreed that the police are not a full stakeholder, but would need to be involved as and when the need arises. Consequently, they should not be involved in the decision-making process about which land to reclaim, but should be sensitized that this process is going on so they can handle any conflict appropriately. This is important for proper planning.

Information and advice from diggers

- There was some discussion on the ability of diggers to give technical advice on which land should be reclaimed. A participant pointed out, “When the diggers themselves refuse to mine somewhere, then you know it is a good place to reclaim. If diggers believe they can still get number 10s (very small diamonds) there, they will want to mine it. They have not been to school and they do not have technical minds, but in their own way they can tell you something.” Another participant asserted that just because diggers are not mining somewhere does not mean that there are no diamonds there. Another stated that even the technical people cannot be absolutely sure that the diamonds are entirely exhausted. Finally, participants agreed that diggers should be consulted for information based on their experience, but not for technical advice.

Designating land

- According to the mines engineer, “There is no area which is completely exhausted or mined out. But you have to come to a limit as to when to reclaim it. That limit is determined by whether or not people are making demands to mine that land.”

Group Three

- The section chiefs should be involved as well as the paramount and town chiefs because they also are involved in giving licenses.
- Each chiefdom has a person who is responsible for demarcating the mining plots. This person should also be consulted, since he can give you information about the land.

Group Four

- During the plenary discussion, participants added local councillors to the list of stakeholders, with the acknowledgement that they should be involved even if their role is not clear at the present time.
- The mines engineer emphasized that no land is completely abandoned; therefore, the measure of suitability is when there is reduced activity on the land.

Highlights

This session functioned on two levels. First, it allowed participants to identify the parameters for guiding the identification of land as suitable for reclamation, the key actors who would be involved, and the roles they would play in reclamation. Second, it provided an opportunity for the community to have broad representation for its various stakeholder groups and for its community leaders to have direct involvement in defining a process for how to identify land to be reclaimed. In this way, the session had value beyond the data that was produced, especially in relation to the participatory element that is fundamental to the whole concept of the project.

SESSION FIVE: Soliciting community input into other economically viable uses of land in alluvial diamond mining communities.

Session Five directed the focus of the workshop from the process of identifying land to the mechanics of how to actually remediate the land and how to reach decisions regarding viable use(s) of the land after remediation. The participants separated into two groups for discussion. Group One focused on a set of questions on how to go about reclaiming land for alternative uses, while Group Two considered a set of questions related to decisions about what alternative uses could be implemented on reclaimed land.

Group One: How can we go about reclaiming land?

1. What are the activities?
2. What resources are required?
3. Who are the actors (key/others)?
4. What are their responsibilities and/or contributions?

Group Two: What alternative economic and/or social uses can be implemented on reclaimed land?

1. Who decides what to do with reclaimed land and why?
2. What are the short-term economic and/or social uses of reclaimed land?
3. What are the medium and long-term uses?
4. Who should be the target beneficiaries of the outcome of the economic and social uses of reclaimed land?
5. What are recommended steps to ensure that the outcome of alternative land use benefits the target group(s)?

Each of the two group reports was followed by a plenary discussion.

Group One: How can reclamation be done and by whom?

Rapporteur: Edna Bondu Bona

1. Activities

- Assess the nature of the land (topography),
- Assess the size of land,
- Identify the type of equipment (mechanical) or tools (manual) needed, and
- Locate and obtain the equipment or tools.

2. Resources

- Human (skilled and unskilled labor),
- Materials (machines, fuel for mechanical; shovels, hoes, food for manual), and
- Finance.

3. Key decision-makers

- Ministry of Mineral Resources (MMR),
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS),
- Ministry of Lands, Housing and Environment,
- Local authorities, and
- Youths.

4. Responsibilities of key decision-makers

- MMR provides policy interpretation and implementation.
- Local authorities (chiefs, local councils) facilitate the process and make decisions regarding land use.
- MAFS conducts land assessment and needs survey and participate in implementation process.
- Ministry of Lands, Housing and Environment conducts an Environmental Impact Assessment.
- Youths provide labor.

Plenary Discussion Points

- A participant said: “It should not be that women continue to think they are just here for cooking so people can eat. This will make us continue to be lazy. Why can we not take part in those activities you see women doing in some African countries, where women can drive Caterpillars (bulldozers)? We can do this if we get the training.”
- The decision to do manual or mechanical reclamation is determined by the topography of the land, the size of the land, and the intended use.
- In the consultative meeting, it would be useful to have the original plan of the land which specifies what the land was used for before it was mined. This would help to prevent boundary conflicts and save time.

Group Two: What are potential alternative economic and/or social uses for reclaimed land in this area?

Rapporteur: Edward Abu Musa

1. Who decides and why?

- The community decides, because it is the community that will be using it. They are the beneficiaries.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, because the Ministry has technical know-how.
- Ministry of Lands, Housing and Environment because of their knowledge/expertise on the environment.

2. Short-term uses

Short-term uses

- Growing vegetables, cereals, and tubers.
- Horticulture.
- Aquaculture.
- Recreational centre/playing field.
- Secret society practices.

3. Medium- and long-term uses

Medium- and long-term uses

- Tree crop planting.
- Animal husbandry.
- Skills training center.
- Recreational center.
- Housing.
- Tourist centers.

4. Target beneficiaries should be

- Communities in the area and the
- External community (the ones coming to benefit from what will be done).

5. Recommended steps to ensure that the outcome of alternative land use benefits the target group(s)

- Communities will be involved throughout the project implementation.
- Activities on the reclaimed land will be community initiated and community driven.
- Project management committee will include women and youth of the community.
- Bylaws and a memorandum of understanding will be developed and shared.
- Community projects, not individual projects, will be set up.
- A team and mechanism for monitoring and evaluation will be set up.

Plenary Discussion Points

- Short-term uses are not necessarily one time activities, but uses that quickly bring some tangible results.
- The management committee should have management training.

Highlights

This session prompted participants to think about the practicalities of doing reclamation and choosing an appropriate land use after reclamation. Participants raised some technical and political issues they felt were important. For example, Group One recognized that factors such as the condition of the land resulting from how it had been mined (with heavy machinery or hand-held tools) as well as its topography and size would influence the type of equipment and other resources needed to undertake reclamation. It was generally agreed that land should be reclaimed with the same type of equipment as had been used to

mine the land. It was also asserted that the intended use for the land would also determine the degree of mechanization required to do reclamation. For example, if the reclaimed land is to be used for agriculture, artisanal reclamation would allow for greater care in filling pits so as to return the topsoil last. Group Two strongly emphasized the importance of involving the community in decisions around land use and in having proper management of the reclamation process that would include: a project management committee; the documentation of decisions; monitoring and evaluation; and transparency in decisions and activities.

SESSION SIX: Determining the commitment of alluvial diamond mining communities to land reclamation and alternative land use practices.

Two to three leaders of each of several community-based stakeholder groups (chiefs, women, elders, councils, youth, and locally resident employees of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and the Ministry of Mineral Resources) met separately during Session Five of the workshop to discuss and reach agreement on the commitments they were willing to make toward reclaiming land in their communities. In the final plenary session, the leaders of each group came forward in turn to read aloud the list of commitments they had created on behalf of their respective stakeholder groups. After members of each group were given an opportunity to make additions or clarifications, the floor was opened for comments. Then the workshop facilitator read aloud the finalized list of commitments for each group and its leaders came forward in turn to sign a commitments document. The Koidu stakeholder commitments document was signed by fifteen community leaders on behalf of the seven stakeholder groups.

Highlights

To a large extent, the willingness of each stakeholder group to make these commitments is a testimony to the success of the workshop. This willingness demonstrates that over the two-day workshop, activities of discussion, negotiation, and decision-making along the lines of democratic principles of inclusion helped build a consensus on what land reclamation means to communities of the Kono District and what this would require from the various stakeholder groups in order to be successful. The reaching of consensus was aided by the style of workshop facilitation that involved checking and rechecking at various stages to ensure that what was reported by participants and officially recorded did, in fact, reflect the specific points and general opinions expressed in both the small-group and plenary discussions. In this way, trust and cooperation developed among the participants such that leaders of the various stakeholder groups were assured of support when they signed the commitments document on behalf of their respective groups. The workshop served as an exercise in project planning and in community-based, participatory decision-making that represents a strong first step towards reclaiming mined-out land in the Kono District.

CONCLUSION

The Consultative Workshop on Land Reclamation and Alternative Use held in Koidu, Kono District on February 8–9, 2007 engaged about 45 community leaders in a process to consider what land reclamation means, identify potential benefits of land reclamation, identify challenges and possible solutions for the challenges associated with land reclamation, define the process for identifying land suitable for reclamation and for deciding the future use for the reclaimed land, and to build commitments among the various stakeholders to support the reclamation of mined-out land in the Kono District.

The workshop was an exercise in community sensitization and participation in decision-making around planning for environmental reclamation. The participants negotiated agreements on challenging aspects of land reclamation as it relates to land ownership, the need for good local governance of the reclamation

process, and the goal of ensuring equitable beneficiation from both the reclamation process itself and from the use of the land after reclamation. Participants recognized that land reclamation has the potential to increase food security, address scarcity of productive land, mitigate hazardous conditions on mined-out land, and contribute to the prevention of conflict through economic and social development in the region.

The Koidu workshop provided a process through which community members and their leaders and team members of FESS reached a common understanding of what reclamation of mined-out land would involve in this area of Sierra Leone. The workshop constituted an important step in creating political backing for a land reclamation project, as demonstrated by the signed commitments made by the stakeholders in the final session. The culmination of the workshop in the form of a commitments ceremony was a clear indication to the Koidu community and the FESS team that there is both broad-based backing for a land reclamation project and an identified mechanism of community cooperation that will help ensure its success as an effective and sustainable effort toward improving environmental conditions and stimulating productive non-mining livelihood activities in the Kono District.

APPENDIX I: KOIDU WORKSHOP PROGRAM

DAY 1

Opening Remarks

Time	Activity	Person
09:00 – 09:05	Prayer, Welcome, and Introduction of Chairperson	Daniel Gbondo
09:05 – 09:25	Opening Remarks – Chairperson, Mayor, Koidu/New Sembahun City Council	Mrs. Mary Musa
09:25 – 09:35	Statement – District Council	Sahr Tamba
09:35 – 09:45	Statement – Paramount Chief	P C Paul Ngaba Saquee V
09:45 – 10:00	Statement – FESS	Jeffrey Stark
10:00 – 10:05	Closing	Daniel Gbondo

Workshop

10:10 – 11:10	<u>Session 1</u> – Objective 1: Discuss the concept of land reclamation and alternative land use and share knowledge about its importance in alluvial diamond mining communities. <i>Ellen Suthers</i>
11:10 – 11:25	TEA BREAK
11:25 – 12:55	<u>Session 2</u> – Objective 2: Identify challenges associated with land reclamation in alluvial diamond mining fields. <i>John Kanu</i>
12:55 – 13:40	LUNCH
13:40 – 14:10	<u>Session 2</u> (continued). <i>John Kanu</i>
14:10 – 15:40	<u>Session 3</u> – Objective 3: Develop an integrated approach to addressing the challenges of land reclamation. <i>John Kanu</i>
15:40 – 15:50	BREAK
15:50 – 16:30	<u>Session 3</u> (continued).
16:30	END OF DAY 1

DAY 2

- 09:00 – 10:00 Recapitulation of the previous day’s discussions.
John Kanu
- 10:00 – 11:30 Session 4 – Objective 4: Provide opportunities for people living in alluvial diamond mining communities to be involved in the process of identifying land for reclamation.
Daniel Gbondo
- 11:30 – 11:45 TEA BREAK
- 11:45 – 12:15 Session 4 (continued).
Daniel Gbondo
- 12:15 – 13:45 Session 5 – Objective 5: Solicit community input into other economically viable uses of land in alluvial diamond mining communities.
Daniel Gbondo
- 13:45 – 14:30 LUNCH
- 14:30 – 15:00 Session 5 (continued).
Daniel Gbondo
- 15:00 – 16:30 Session 6 – Objective 6: Determine the commitment of alluvial diamond mining communities to land reclamation and alternative land use practice.
Daniel Gbondo
- 16:30 – 16:35 BREAK
- 16:35 – 17:00 Session 6 (continued).
Daniel Gbondo
- 17:00 – 17:15 Recapitulation of workshop and closing remarks.
Jeffrey Stark, Ellen Suthers, Daniel Gbondo

APPENDIX II: KOIDU WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

No.	Name	Designation	Organization/Institution
1.	Tamba Amara	Chairman	Alluvial Diamond and Gold Miners Association (ADAGMA)
2.	Komba Kainjama Suku-Tamba		ADAGMA
3.	Hannah K. Charles	Financial Secretary	Coalition of Kono Youths (CKY)
4.	Rebecca Y. Kamara	Deputy Chairperson	CKY
5.	Sahr Nyamba Ngauja	Secretary General	CKY
6.	Edward Abu Musa	Chairman, Works and Management	CKY
7.	Mohamed Jabbie	Chairman	CKY
8.	P C Alhaji S.C.N. Kono-Bundor	Chairman	Council of Kono Paramount Chiefs
9.	Finda Moiwa		Eastern Radio, Kono District
10.	Ibrahim Tamba Fanday	Reporter	Eastern Radio, Kono District
11.	Sia Foyoh	Reporter	Eastern Radio, Kono District
12.	Fengai Bockarie	Section Chief	Gbenseh Chiefdom
13.	Ansumana Baba Turay	Project Coordinator	IDMP/PDA/USAID
14.	Joe Fayia Nyuma	Chief Administrator	Koidu/New Sembehun City Council (KNSCC)
15.	Daisy Bona	Councilor	KNSCC
16.	Komba Timothy Matturie	Deputy Mayor and Chair, Development Committee	KNSCC
17.	Rev. M. K. Gbundema	Chairman, Lands and Environment Committee	KNSCC
18.	Mary Musa	Mayor and Councilor	KNSCC
19.	Sahr M. K. Gbondo	Councilor	Kono District Council (KDC)
20.	Komba N. C. Bockarie	Councilor	KDC
21.	Tamba A. Mbayoh	Councilor	KDC
22.	Komba David Sandi	Deputy Chairman and Councilor	KDC
23.	Moses Amara	Councilor	KDC
24.	Sahr Tamba	Chairman and Councilor	KDC
25.	Sia Alice Bockarie-Torto	Chief Administrator	KDC
26.	Tamba Allieu	Deputy Chief Administrator	KDC
27.	Mariama Baryoh	Chairlady	Kono Women's Organization Network (KOWONET)
28.	Admire Yorpoi	Women In Need of Development Representative	KOWONET
29.	Isatu Njebuva	Kono District Cooperative Representative	KOWONET

30.	Teresa Aruna	Basa yi Wandima Women's Cooperative	KOWONET
31.	Veronica Kumba Dauda	Secretary General	KOWONET
32.	Emmanuel Nyokeh		Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS), Kono District
33.	Tamba P. Bona	Head, Land and Water Development Unit	MAFS, Kono District
34.	Salihun Yayah	Forest Ranger and Farmer Field School Officer	MAFS, Kono District
35.	Jonathan Sharkah	Mines Engineer, Kono District	Ministry of Mineral Resources
36.	Patrick Tongu	Coordinator	Network Movement for Justice and Development
37.	Sylvester Banga	Reporter	New Citizen Newspaper
38.	Edna Bondu Bona		Nimikoro Chiefdom
39.	Sahr Allieu Kanesie		Nimikoro Chiefdom
40.	Abdulai M. S. Kamara	Chairman	Nimikoro Development Committee
41.	Dr. T. Alpha Kpetewama	Chairman	Tankoro Agricultural Committee/Peace Diamond Alliance
42.	Esther Kandeh	Women's Group Leader	Tankoro Chiefdom
43.	Fatu Yongai		Tankoro Chiefdom
44.	P C Paul Garba Saquee	Paramount Chief	Tankoro Chiefdom
45.	Sahr Bundor	Youth Leader	Tankoro Chiefdom
46.	Christine Sheckler	Country Program Coordinator	USAID

FACILITATORS

Daniel Gbondo - FESS, Freetown, Sierra Leone
John Kanu - IDMP/PDA/USAID, Freetown, Sierra Leone
Jeffrey Stark - FESS, Falls Church, VA, USA
Ellen Suthers - FESS, Falls Church, VA, USA
Norberto Villar - FESS, Falls Church, VA, USA

RAPPORTEUR

Estelle Levin - FESS Consultant, Cambridge, England

CONTACT PERSONS

FESS Field Representative - Daniel Gbondo 076.536367
FESS Program Manager - Ellen Suthers 076.578157
FESS Director of Research and Studies - Jeffrey Stark 076.578158

APPENDIX III: KOIDU STAKEHOLDER COMMITMENTS

Consultative Workshop on Land Reclamation and Alternative Land Use

February 8–9, 2007
Satta Kumba Amara Resource Centre
Koidu Town, Kono District

KOIDU STAKEHOLDER COMMITMENTS, February 9, 2007

Chiefs

- We the chiefs will be ready to give land to FESS for reclamation.
- We the chiefs will be committed to resolve issues that arise.
- We shall inform our communities to raise funds for the support of the youths.
- We are willing to work with all stakeholders.
- We will bring together all local family land owners and sensitise them about the reclamation and gains/benefits to us.
- We chiefs will monitor all activities and enforce the bylaws.
- We chiefs present here will take all the above commitments to the Council of Paramount Chiefs for discussion and their hopeful agreement.

Chief Fengai Bockarie
Section Chief, Gbenseh

Chief Sahr Allen Kanesie
Senior Town Chief, Njaiama,
Nimikoro

Women (KOWONET)

- We will advocate for the involvement of women in land reclamation processes (decision-making).
- We will facilitate the mobilisation and sensitisation of women to be actively involved in the implementation processes, especially in providing labour, through cooking, fetching water and other agricultural activities (including farming, animal husbandry).
- We will provide first aid treatment for labourers.
- We will ensure benefits received from land reclamation are equally and fairly distributed.
- We will ensure women's right to protection at the operation site, especially no violence against women, no sexual exploitation, and no abuse and misuse of power by stakeholders and donors.
- We will provide basic skills training for women in identified areas.
- We will conduct adult literacy.
- We will involve grassroots women in income generation activities, such as microcredit and vegetable gardening.

Mariama Bayoh
Chairlady

Veronica K. Dauda
Secretary General

Community Elders

Our commitment to land reclamation and to alternative land use is demonstrated as follows:

- We have participated in the two-day workshop.
- We are willing and ready to provide land for reclamation and be a major stakeholder in the process.
- We are prepared to sensitize and secure the cooperation and participation of our communities in all stages of the process.
- We are willing to help establish appropriate guidelines for equitable use for reclaimed lands.
- We will ensure the benefits derived from the use of reclaimed lands are fairly distributed among the target beneficiaries.
- We will ensure that gender and other issues, conflicts associated with land reclamation are fairly and satisfactorily addressed.
- We will ensure that the alternative use of land maximises the benefits accruing to beneficiary communities.
- We will ensure that reclaimed land will not be used to promote private interests.
- We will ensure that if reclaimed land is not used for the approved purposes, it shall be reverted back to the chiefs for reassignment.
- We will ensure that the process is all-inclusive and self-sustaining in the longer term.
- We will establish appropriate bylaws for reclaimed land use to prevent abuse.

Dr. Komba Alpha Kpetewama
(Tankoro Chiefdom)

Abdulai M. S. Kamara
(Nimikoro Chiefdom)

Mrs Fatu Yongai
(Tankoro Chiefdom)

Local (District and Town) Councils

- We will support the initiative of land reclamation and alternative land use.
- We will participate fully in the designing and enforcement of bylaws and policies on land reclamation and alternative uses.
- We will sensitise the local communities on the importance of land reclamation.
- We will design and implement projects on land reclamation.
- We will monitor and evaluate all projects on land reclamation and alternative land use within councils' jurisdictions.
- We will fund future projects on land reclamation.
- We will in some cases decide on what activities are to be carried out or decide the alternative land use.
- We will with the commitments made here on behalf of Kono District Council and the Koidu/ New Sembehun City Council, we as councillors vow that all commitments will be fully accorded and the documents will be taken and presented here to our councils where the chairman or mayor and chief administrators and councillors will consider giving clear approval of our undertakings here this afternoon.

Tamba A. Mbayo
Kono District Council

Komba T. Matturie
Koidu/New Sembehun City Council

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

- We will provide technical manpower before and during implementation.
- We will organise training programmes for communities in the management of reclaimed land for agricultural use to ensure sustainability (food security).
- We will provide viable seeds and other planting materials for agricultural programmes on reclaimed land.
- We will provide technical services for the use of reclaimed land, e.g., afforestation, reforestation, fish pond construction, water control management, horticulture, etc.

Emmanuel Nyukeh
District Forest Officer

Tamba P. Bona
Head, Land and Water Development

Coalition of Kono Youth

- We will accept the decision when the technical team declare the land as mined-out.
- We will take the lead in the sensitisation of the reclamation process.
- We will mobilise labour, both skilled and unskilled.
- We will take a role in monitoring and evaluation.
- We will help in the protection of reclaimed land.
- We will use the land for alternative purposes, e.g., farming, recreational centres, skills training centres etc.
- We will take part in the decision-making process with regards reclamation of mined-out areas.
- We will commit that this document will be taken back to the youth forum for final approval.

Mohammed Jabbie
Chairman

Sahr Bundor
Tankoro Chiefdom Youth Leader

Sahr Nyamba Ngaujah
Secretary General

Ministry of Mineral Resources

On behalf of the MMR, I, Jonathan A. Sharkah, Mines Engineer, express the commitment to provide all the necessary technical input into the land reclamation process as the need arises.

Jonathan A. Sharkah
Mines Engineer



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