

Consultative Workshop on Land Reclamation and Alternative Land Use

RIC Centre, Tongo Fields, Kenema District
Sierra Leone



Foundation for Environmental Security and Sustainability

Executive Summary

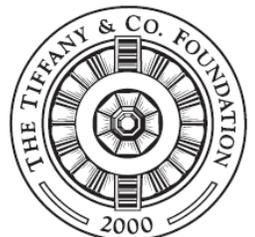
February 2007



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



FOUNDATION for ENVIRONMENTAL
SECURITY & SUSTAINABILITY



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.

President: Ray Simmons

Executive Director: Darci Glass-Royal

This report was produced in 2007 by the Foundation for Environmental Security and Sustainability. The report was prepared by principal writer, Estelle Levin, in collaboration with Ellen Suthers and with editorial assistance from Kelley Lubovich.

Cover photo: Jeffrey Stark. Artisanal mining pits in Ngiehun, Lower Bambara Chiefdom, Kenema District, Sierra Leone.

Acknowledgement

FESS would like to thank the Tiffany & Co. Foundation and the U.S. Agency for International Development for their generous support.

ACRONYMS

DACDF	Diamond Area Community Development Fund
FESS	Foundation for Environmental Security and Sustainability
GOSL	Government of Sierra Leone
IDMP	Integrated Diamond Management Program
LBMC	Lower Bambara Mining Committee
LBYC	Lower Bambara Youth Coalition
MAFS	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
MMR	Ministry of Mineral Resources
MWDP	Muloma Women's Development Project
NADA	Ngoyielahindeh Agriculture Development Association
SWDP	Sinava Women's Development Project
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Tongo Fields is the second largest diamond-producing area in Sierra Leone. Endowed with both alluvial and kimberlite deposits, Tongo Fields became a major hub of artisanal diamond mining during and after the period of conflict from about 1999 to 2002. Tongo Fields is the urban center of the Lower Bambara Chiefdom, one of sixteen chiefdoms in the Kenema district and home to approximately 78,000 people. The issue of land reclamation is a timely one in this region. Acres of land in the Tongo Fields area have been mined extensively, and many mined sites now are virtually unproductive, hazardous to community health and safety, and a waste of potentially arable land. There is local awareness of the need for environmental reclamation, and there are already precedents within the Lower Bambara Chiefdom for reclaiming mined land and planting food crops.

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 Tongo Fields, Kenema district (February 10–11, 2007) and in Koidu, Kono district (February 8–9, 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 Tongo Fields was somewhat different from that in Koidu, since the former community is comprised of a single chiefdom, Lower Bambara, and the latter is comprised of several chiefdoms. 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 Tongo Fields, based on lessons learned from the Koidu workshop. The objectives of the sessions remained the same for each workshop. In Tongo Fields, the workshop was conducted in Krio, with Mande and English translations for clarification when necessary, whereas in Koidu, the workshop was conducted in Krio and English. 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 constituencies 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.

In the interest of accurate reporting in this executive summary as well as the full report of the workshop, the text retains titles used by participants to refer to ministries associated with issues of 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.

TONGO FIELDS WORKSHOP

The Tongo Fields workshop participants represented a broad base of stakeholder groups including: Lower Bambara section chiefs and their representatives, the Lower Bambara Mining Committee, the Kenema District Council, landowner families, two women's development associations, an agriculture development association, youth associations, a farmer's association, the Integrated Diamond Development Program (USAID), and an international donor agency. The workshop was structured to meet a series of objectives that worked toward the goal of having representatives from the group of participants identify and formally acknowledge their various degrees of commitment and support for a project of land remediation in their communities.

Objective One: To develop a common understanding of the concept of land reclamation and consider its importance to the community.

When asked in a plenary session to share their perceptions about the meaning of land reclamation, Tongo Fields participants generally agreed on the concept of land reclamation as a process for returning the land to a more productive state in order to achieve food security, sustainability, and environmental protection. Land reclamation also was seen as something that can provide opportunities for youth and thus prevent out-migration.

To gauge the level of importance attached to land reclamation in the Lower Bambara Chiefdom and to increase understanding of the ways in which the community may be positively or negatively disposed toward reclaiming mined land, the facilitator asked the group: 1) What does the term "land reclamation" mean to you?, 2) What do you see as positive and negative incentives for doing land reclamation?, and 3) What might be the consequences of not doing land reclamation? Participants responded with only positive responses, saying:

Benefits of land reclamation are that it may

- Make the land useful, especially for agricultural and recreational activities.
- Remove some of the health hazards that the mining landscape can produce.
- Bring attention to the issue of access to clean water in the community.

One participant mentioned the importance of considering the spiritual dimension in that destroying land will bring retaliation from God unless the land is reclaimed.

Objective Two: To identify the challenges of land reclamation in alluvial diamond mining communities.

In small-group discussions, participants identified various challenges associated with land reclamation according to five categories: political/structural, economic, social, cultural, and technical. Each group was asked to take one of the categories and identify four or five most important challenges they considered to fall within that category. This instruction was incorporated into the Tongo Fields workshop to help focus the discussions and leave more time than was available in the Koidu workshop for discussion of solutions to the challenges. After each small-group report, there was a short period for discussion amongst all of the workshop participants. The responses were as follows:

Political challenges

The main political challenges participants mentioned were: marginalization, nepotism, selfishness and greed, misinformation, lack of political will, and interference of regional or national politics in local issues.

Economic challenges

One economic challenge identified by participants was the risk that reclamation will deprive certain groups of benefits they receive from the land in its current state. For example, reclamation could prevent miners from getting an income or dispossess a landowning family in order to allocate the land to the community. It was noted that there is a need to prepare the land appropriately so that it can be as productive as possible in its alternative use; for example, through the use of fertilizer. A key economic challenge mentioned was the need to find the finances to do the reclamation.

Social challenges

Participants identified the main social issue as a lack of common interests. For example, they mentioned the competing interests between the chiefs and youths and a lack of faith amongst youths that they would benefit from land reclamation.

Cultural challenges

The main cultural challenges centered on secret society requirements and customs of land ownership in the Lower Bambara chiefdom. One challenge mentioned was the inability of secret society members to participate in reclamation because of the demands owing to initiation ceremonies. Another was the need to do complex cultural ceremonies to purify certain land before reclamation could proceed. Given the inclusive nature of the Mende system of land-ownership, it may take a long time to consult all of the relevant members of the landowning family. It may also be necessary to revisit historical agreements made between landowners and companies.

Technical challenges

Participants highlighted knowledge as a key technical challenge, as well as planning, the availability of tools and equipment, and the threat of natural hazards during operations.

Objective Three: To develop solutions for addressing the challenges of land reclamation.

After having identified sets of challenges associated with land reclamation, participants re-joined their small groups to exchange ideas about possible solutions to the challenges. Each of the small groups reported their perspectives in a plenary session for further discussion.

The main conclusion from these discussions was that there are a number of things any organization attempting to engage in land reclamation should do to ensure a successful outcome. Participants proposed that an organization such as FESS should:

- Carry out comprehensive fact-finding activities.
- Document decisions and agreements.
- Hold sensitization meetings.
- Encourage transparency, honesty, and accountability.
- Ensure community members have equal access to the benefits that accrue from the reclamation and from the newly established alternative use of the land.
- Contract competent local companies to do the reclamation, ensuring that they employ and train local youths to do the work.
- Be mindful of national and regional politics.
- Make the intended alternative land use attractive to the community.
- Engage people with the appropriate technical expertise to do the reclamation and plan the alternative land use well.

Objective Four: To define a process whereby alluvial diamond mining communities may go about identifying land for reclamation.

Participants randomly assigned to four groups were asked to consider how land could be identified for reclamation, by what actors taking what responsibilities, and through what steps in a process. The results of these discussions, shared in a plenary session, were as follows:

Indicators that land is mined-out and suitable for reclamation

- Evidence of expanses of bedrock and/or piles of exhausted gravel.
- Destruction of vegetation.
- An unusual topography with the presence of many pits, piles of overburden, and lakes.
- Depopulation of the mining area and a decrease in or absence of mining activities.
- Existence of other activities such as agriculture in the area.
- Unwillingness of miners to mine the area.
- Consensus among the landowners, youth, diggers, and miners that the land is mined -out.

Key actors involved in identifying the land

- Miners.
- Landowners.

- Chiefdom Council (which includes the paramount chief, town chief, section chief, chiefdom speaker, chiefdom mining committee, youth leader, women's leader, treasury clerk, and ward representative).
- Local councillors.
- Central Government representatives, especially the Ministry of Mineral Resources (MMR), the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS), and the Ministry of Lands and Rural Development.

Responsibilities and/or contributions of the key actors and others

- Chiefs identify mined-out areas and the relevant landowning family; ensure protection of the reclaimed land from any encroachment for example, by forming and enforcing bylaws; and endorse the documentation signed by the landowner.
- Councillors endorse the documentation signed by the landowner.
- The landowning family identifies land for reclamation, gives their approval (or not) for the land to be reclaimed, ensures that no further mining activities take place, and signs the documentation that records the decisions on reclamation.
- Central government representatives from the MMR and Ministry of Lands and Rural Development confirm that the land has not been allocated to any other organization for some other purpose. The MMR helps identify land for reclamation. The Ministry of Lands and Rural Development measures the land and prepares documentation.
- Youths provide the labor for doing the reclamation and are involved in deciding which land should be reclaimed through their representative, who serves on the Chiefdom Council.
- Miners and diggers identify mined-out areas, either by their activities or through consultation.
- Donors provide financial assistance.

Step-by-step process to obtain land for reclamation

- Meet with central government.
- Make courtesy calls to the chiefdom authorities, starting with the town chief if you know which land you would like to reclaim, or the paramount chief if you have yet to identify a potential site.
- Make a courtesy call to the head of the landowning family.
- Hold a community consultation to get approval for reclaiming a particular site and to identify desirable uses for the land after reclamation.
- Arrange documentation to be signed by key actors (the town chief, landowner, and NGOs).
- Organize funding.
- Organize labor.
- Begin reclamation.
- Administer, supervise, and monitor through the community and the field manager.

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

Given the key role of landowning families alongside that of the chiefs in the system of land ownership in the Lower Bambara Chiefdom, the discussions in the Tongo Fields workshop had a somewhat different character than in Koidu, where the land is held in common and the chiefs have final authority as to its disposition.

After having defined a process for identifying land for remediation, participants were divided into three groups: one to define a process for carrying out land reclamation; the second to identify those people who

would have key roles in deciding how land after reclamation would be used; and the third to engage in discussion about what alternative uses could actually be implemented on reclaimed land in the Lower Bambara Chiefdom areas. The group reports and plenary discussion elicited the following points:

Mechanics of land reclamation

- Find sources of funding (donors, government, MMR).
- Consult the community.
- Plan the reclamation (including hiring laborers).
- Do the rehabilitation.

Key decision-makers for how land reclamation proceeds

- Youths, who provide the labor force.
- Chiefs, who supervise the work, maintain law and order, and ensure people do not misuse the reclaimed land.
- Landowners, who know the landscape, demarcate the boundaries, and sign documentation.
- Donors, who give funding and do monitoring.
- Government, which also does funding and does monitoring.
- The reclamation should involve local people as much as possible.

Types of material resources required

- Shovels, wheelbarrows, pick-axes, cutlasses, and power saws for manual labor.
- Caterpillars, bulldozers, and other heavy equipment for mechanized reclamation.
- Finance to pay laborers.
- Other materials including water pumps, petrol, raincoats, rain boots, hand gloves, and medicines (if the work is done in the rainy season).
- Food.
- Pesticides to kill leaches and snakes.
- Stationery and office materials.

Key decision-makers for how to use the land after reclamation

- Authorities (chiefs, youth, and women leaders).
- Landowners.
- People with technical expertise relevant to implementing the reclamation and the alternative use for the land.

Uses for reclaimed land

- *Economic:* Agricultural uses, including rice cultivation, cash crop farming, vegetable gardening, fish farming, and livestock rearing.
- *Social:* Construction of a guesthouse, school, community center, or recreational center.

Participants in the Tongo Fields workshop engaged in an extended discussion on the subject of managing the benefits from reclamation and distributing them between the landowning family and the community. A number of different models for sharing the benefits were suggested. However, the facilitator stated that, if FESS were to initiate a land reclamation project in the Lower Bambara Chiefdom, the issue of beneficiation

would be clarified on a case-by-case basis through negotiations between the community and the relevant landowning family or families, once an actual site and end-use was chosen.

In order to ensure that it is actually the targeted beneficiaries who benefit, the third group of discussants suggested that it be agreed that the land is to benefit the community, not individuals, and that the landowning family and any people who had been farming the mined-out land should be compensated in some way for allowing the land to be reclaimed. The group was also mindful of the potential for funders to seek the return of funds at a later date or to seek to benefit from the use(s) to which the land was put after reclamation. The role of donors was seen as one of monitoring the use of funds.

Objective Six: To determine the commitment of alluvial diamond mining communities to land reclamation and alternative land use practices.

Two to three leaders from each of several community-based stakeholder groups (section chiefs, women, youths, landowners, members of the Lower Bambara Chiefdom Mining, and district ward councillors) 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 Tongo Fields stakeholder commitments document was signed by seventeen community leaders on behalf of six stakeholder groups.

CONCLUSION

The Consultative Workshop on Land Reclamation and Alternative Use held in Tongo Fields, Kenema District on February 10–11, 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 Kenema 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 obtaining and sharing information, land ownership, the role of youths and miners, good governance through transparency and documentation, equitable beneficiation, and the potential for land reclamation to bring food security, sustainability, environmental protection, and development for the sake of future generations.

The Tongo Fields 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 Lower Bambara Chiefdom 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 Kenema district.

APPENDIX I: TONGO FIELDS WORKSHOP PROGRAM

DAY 1

Opening Remarks

Time	Activity	Person
10:00 – 10:05	Prayer, Welcome, and Introduction of Chairman	Daniel Gbondo
10:05 – 10:10	Opening Remarks – Chairman; Project Coordinator, IDMP/PDA/USAID	Daniel Sarmu
10:10 – 10:15	Statement – Lower Bambara Mining Committee	James Farma
10:15 – 10:20	Statement – FESS	Jeffrey Stark
10:20 – 10:25	Closing	Daniel Gbondo

Workshop

10:30 – 11:30	<u>Session 1</u> – Objective 1: Introduce the concept of land reclamation and alternative land use and increase knowledge about its importance in alluvial diamond mining communities. <i>Ellen Suthers</i>
11:30 – 11:45	TEA BREAK
11:45 – 13:15	<u>Session 2</u> – Objective 2: Identify problems associated with land reclamation in alluvial diamond mining fields. <i>John Kanu</i>
13:15 – 13:45	LUNCH
13:45 – 14:15	<u>Session 2</u> (continued). <i>John Kanu</i>
14:15 – 15:45	<u>Session 3</u> – Objective 3: Develop an integrated approach to addressing the challenges of land reclamation. <i>John Kanu</i>
15:45 – 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.
Daniel Gbondo
- 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.
Jeffrey Stark, Ellen Suthers, Daniel Gbondo

APPENDIX II: TONGO FIELDS WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

No.	Name	Designation	Organisation/Institution
1.	Chief Foday M. Bobor III	Section Chief	Fallay Section
2.	David L. Moiwai		Fallay Youth Association
3.	Daniel Sarmu	Project Coordinator	IDMP/PDA/USAID
4.	Kowah Albert Mani	Administrative Officer	IDMP/PDA/USAID
5.	Mary Fofanah	Community Mobilization Officer	IDMP/PDA/USAID
6.	Francis Konuwa	Councillor, Ward 1	Kenema District Council
7.	Jibao A. Moosa	Councillor, Ward 5	Kenema District Council
8.	Chief Juma Momoh	Section Chief	Kojei Ngeiya Section
9.	Ibrahim Jones	Section Representative	Kojei Ngeiyai Section
10.	Haja Josephine Koromanty	Member	Lower Bambara Mining Committee (LBMC)
11.	James B. Farma	Vice Chairman	LBMC
12.	K. B. Gbao	Member	LBMC
13.	Nfa Ali Daramy	Member	LBMC
14.	Wilfred K. Amara	Member	LBMC
15.	Abu F. Brima		Lower Bambara Youth Coalition
16.	Gibrilla Kamara		Lower Bambara Youth Coalition
17.	James Balema Samba	Chairman	Lower Bambara Youth Coalition
18.	James C. Fofanah		Lower Bambara Youth Coalition
19.	Mohamed Fofana		Lower Bambara Youth Coalition
20.	Muctaru Kabba		Lower Bambara Youth Coalition
21.	Fatama Swarray	Member	Muloma Women's Development Project (MWDP)
22.	Kadi King	Member	MWDP
23.	Kadi Sarmu	Public Relations Officer	MWDP
24.	Mariama Bockarie	Chairlady	MWDP
25.	Nancy Gando	Coordinator	MWDP
26.	Amara Williams		National Farmers' Association of Sierra Leone
27.	Morrie Bockarie		National Farmers' Association of Sierra Leone
28.	Murray Lamin		National Farmers' Association of Sierra Leone
29.	Braima Seppah	Treasurer	Ngoyielahindeh Agriculture Development Association (NADA)
30.	Denis K. Mannah	Secretary General	NADA
31.	Swarray Johnny	Chairman	NADA
32.	Chief Amadu Dakonah	Section Chief	Sei Section
33.	Fodei Junisa	Section Representative	Sei Section
34.	Jebbeh Musa	Organizer	Sinava Women's Development Project (SWDP)
35.	Margaret Momoh	Coordinator	SWDP
36.	Miatta Lansana	Member	SWDP

37.	Mohamed Swarray	Secretary General	SWDP
38.	Chief Foday Ansumana	Town Chief	Taninahun
39.	Abu Bakarr F. Kamara		Tongo Youth Association
40.	Goba Magbie	Secretary General	Tongola Youth Association
41.	Abu B. Koroma	Secretary General	UDA
42.	John Gbessay Bangura		World Vision
43.	Sheku Farma		World Vision
44.	Chief Allieu Ansumana	Section Chief	
45.	Lahai Sumaila	Section Representative	

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: TONGO FIELDS STAKEHOLDER COMMITMENTS

Consultative Workshop on Land Reclamation and Alternative Land Use

February 10–11, 2007
RIC Centre, Tongo Fields
Lower Bambara Chiefdom, Kenema District

TONGO FIELDS STAKEHOLDER COMMITMENTS, February 11, 2007

Chiefs

Commitment of section chiefs for land reclamation scheme as follows:

- Land reclaimed must not be mined by anyone. Defaulters will be fined the sum of Le 100,000.00 (one hundred thousand leones) or face imprisonment.
- Gravel extracted from such exercises will be seized or confiscated by local authorities and funds acquired from the proceeds will be allocated to the chiefdom revenue.
- After paying their fines, the defaulter shall fill up the land that they have again opened before being released.
- If the defaulter(s) are not caught on the scene, the chiefs shall use the traditional method to curse him/her/them so that others will refrain from such an act in the future.

Chief Amadu Dakonah
Section Chief, Sei Section

Chief Foday M. Bobor III
Section Chief, Fallay Section

Chief Edward J. Momoh
Section Chief, Korjei Ngieya Section

Women

We are committed to:

- Sensitise the chiefs and community to accept the concept of land reclamation.
- Help the youths fill in the holes.
- Cook if there is food for work and bring drinking water for youth whenever they are working.
- Practise agriculture on the reclaimed land.

Nancy Gando
Lower Bambara Women's Leader

Margaret Momoh
Sinava Coordinator

Youths

- We commit to protect the said area from any intruder.
- We commit to provide labour and youths with technical knowledge.
- Youths should be highly involved in decision-making.
- We commit to also be part of the sensitization body for the needs of the community and authorities to see reason for giving up land willingly.
- We commit to also see that law and order is always maintained at the working site.

James Balema Samba
(Youth Chairman)

Goba Magbie
(Youth Leader, Tongola)

Mohamed Fofanah
(Youth Leader, Kpandebu)

Landowners

We, the landowners of Lower Bambara Chiefdom, believe in the land reclamation process and will be willing to give up our land for reclamation as and when the need arises.

Wilfred K. Amara
Lalehun

Morray Bockarie
Taninahun

Foday Ansumana
Taninahun

Foday Junisa
Lowoma

Chiefdom Mining Committee

We, the Lower Bambara Mining Committee, hereby declare that any mined-out area which is identified will be secured by the task force group of the chiefdom mining committee, such that anybody found mining within the identified area will be prosecuted according to the law of the committee.

James B. Farma
Vice-Chairman

Haja Josephine Kromanty

N'fa Ali Daramy

Councillors

1. We, councillors, Chief Francis Konuwa of Ward One and Jibao A. Moosa of Ward Five have committed ourselves to FESS in the land reclamation process in the Lower Bambara Chiefdom on behalf of our colleague councillors in wards IV, IV, II, and III.
2. We promise to sensitise our communities on the importance of the land reclamation process and the benefits it brings to our people and the job opportunities it will create for the youths and women.
3. Since we are in charge of development for our people/community, we will make sure to buttress FESS's programme and advise on the use of the proceeds accordingly.

Chief Francis Konuwa
Ward One

Jibao A. Moosa
Ward Five



FESS

U.S. Office

8110 Gatehouse Road, Suite 101W
Falls Church, VA, 22042
Tel: +1 (703) 560-8290
Fax: +1 (703) 560-1645

Sierra Leone Office

2 Cockle Bay Lane
Off Aberdeen Road
Freetown , Sierra Leone