

# Consultative Workshop on Land Reclamation and Alternative Land Use

RIC Centre, Tongo Fields, Kenema District  
Sierra Leone



Foundation for Environmental Security and Sustainability

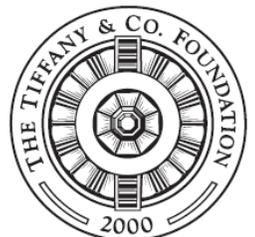
February 2007



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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 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.

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## 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
NMDC	National Diamond Mining Company
SLST	Sierra Leone Selection Trust
SWDP	Sinava Women's Development Project
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

## 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 seventy-eight thousand 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 about 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 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.

## **TONGO FIELDS WORKSHOP REPORT**

This report presents a record of the proceedings of the Consultative Workshop on Land Reclamation and Alternative Land Use held on February 10–11, 2007 at the RIC Centre, Tongo Fields, Kenema District in Sierra Leone. The workshop participants represented a broad base of stakeholder groups including: Lower Bambara section chiefs and their representatives, the Lower Bambara Mining Committee, Kenema District Council, landowner families, two women’s development associations, an agriculture development association, youth associations, a farmer’s association, the Integrated Diamond Management Program (USAID), and an international donor agency.

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 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 a 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 two representatives of the Lower Bambara Chiefdom of Tongo Fields: Integrated Diamond Management Program Project Coordinator Daniel Sarmu and Lower Bambara Mining Committee Vice Chairman James Farma.

The speakers made the following points:

- Mining may bring wealth into a community if diamonds are found. However, mining also creates big holes, damages the ground, and destroys what was there before the mining began.
- It is important that today's mining communities make land useful for future generations. If you do not remediate mined-out land, your children and grandchildren will not be able to use it. As one speaker said, "Your child is supposed to be the one person in life who has to respect you. If you leave to your child damaged ground, he will ask himself, 'What did my parents leave for me, why did they damage the ground?' This is not progress."
- One of the speakers said, "God gave people two things to use: a brain and land. The brain is the sense that God gave to man. Years back, we used to defend the land because we knew the importance of that land."
- As there are different ways to understand land reclamation, the purpose of the workshop is to discuss this and allow everyone to present their own views.
- There are political, social, technical, and cultural problems associated with land reclamation. For example, the biggest problem in this process may be determining if land is actually mined out. Land ownership may be another source of arguments and tension.
- The President has previously requested that the chiefdom elders protect Lower Bambara and do something about the devastation caused by mining.
- The Government has been taking the rehabilitation fee that comes as part of the mining licensing procedure, but has not been implementing any remediation schemes.
- The Lower Bambara Mining Committee offered FESS its support and assistance. Women's groups also offered assistance to help reclaim the land.
- The community of Lower Bambara will help FESS identify mined-out areas.

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 pointed out that mining may bring wealth, but it also damages the land, making it dangerous and unproductive. Land reclamation is desirable as it can convert the land to a productive use, thereby leaving a positive legacy for future generations and pleasing God. However, reclamation brings its own political, social, technical and cultural challenges. For example, the issue of land ownership is likely to complicate the process. The speakers welcomed FESS's involvement in the issue and demonstrated willingness to help them proceed with facilitating a land reclamation project in the Lower Bambara Chiefdom.

### **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 the 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 the original God-given environment.
- Being essential for achieving food security. One participant said, "If it is properly maintained, the fertility of the land will be returned and people will forever be able to feed themselves from the land."
- Returning the land to productivity.
- Achieving sustainability for life.
- Creating opportunities for the youth so that they can come back to the villages and begin to use the land.
- Preventing or reversing environmental degradation.
- Broadening the economic base to ensure a sustainable economy.
- Making land that was useless useful.

*Benefits participants associated with land reclamation were that:*

- Unremediated land is characterized by large holes that are filled with water and insects. Reclaiming the land protects communities from water-borne diseases, such as malaria, as well as from drowning accidents.
- Land reclamation makes the land useful again. People can grow rice, cassava, or trees, or even build houses.
- Aside from putting the land back into agricultural use, it can be used for fish ponds, roads, or a recreational center. In one location, a recreational center was built in the terraced land and it has a swimming pool and play center for children.
- Mined-out areas are currently used as water facilities, but they are problematic for the reasons detailed above. If the land is reclaimed, the communities may be able to obtain piped water.

- Land is a natural gift from God. For every negative thing that we do, like destroying land, something negative must happen to us. People should start thinking of reclaiming land as soon as they have destroyed it.

### **Highlights**

Participants considered land reclamation to be a process for returning the land to a more productive state in order to achieve food security, sustainability, and environmental protection. Land reclamation can also provide opportunities for youths and so prevent out-migration. Benefits of land reclamation were conceived of as being centered on making the land useful, especially for agricultural and recreational activities, removing some of the health hazards that the mining landscape can produce, and bringing attention to the issue of access to clean water in the community. One participant mentioned the importance of considering the spiritual dimension that destroying land will bring retaliation from God, unless the land is reclaimed.

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.

### **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 group was asked to identify what it considered to be the most important four or five challenges for the assigned category. After each group report, the workshop facilitator gave the group members an opportunity to add comments and clarifications and then opened up the discussion to all participants.

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

The five small groups re-formed to discuss possible solutions for each of the challenges they had identified in Session Two. After each small-group report, other group members made comments and clarifications and then a plenary discussion followed.

The outcomes of Sessions Two and Three are presented together in Table One.

**Table One: Identifying challenges and solutions associated with land reclamation**

Issues	Solutions	Discussion Points
<b>Group One: Political/structural challenges</b>		
Rapporteur:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Marginalization of actual landowners by the stakeholders.</li> <li>2. Nepotism; i.e., appointing and giving work or benefits to people who do not actually deserve them.</li> <li>3. Selfishness and greed by people in authority who want more benefits than the actual beneficiaries.</li> <li>4. Lack of proper information-sharing with the actual landowners.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Marginalization</i>: You have to involve all actual landowners in the process of reclamation.</li> <li>2. <i>Nepotism</i>: There must be a proper screening exercise to find people to do the land reclamation. The community, not just the chiefs, should be involved in screening and selecting people for the job.</li> <li>3. <i>Selfishness and greed</i>: Benefits will be shared equitably among beneficiaries. People who do not deserve benefits should not receive them.</li> <li>4. <i>Misinformation or political will</i>: There must be prepared workshops and meetings on land reclamation right down to the grassroots level, instead of “having someone coming to tell me that land reclamation is coming.”</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Politics external to Lower Bambara are also important and can operate at the district, regional, or national level. For example, if there is someone in a high position in politics in Freetown who is not supportive of the project, then this person may block the project.</li> <li>• At times, the land may not be owned by anyone in authority, so it is hard to motivate the authorities to disseminate information and inform the actual landowners.</li> <li>• Documentation of the process is important for the future, but also to ensure transparency. All officers involved in the reclamation should sign the documentation and it should be distributed.</li> </ul>
<b>Group Two: Economic challenges</b>		
Rapporteur: Abu Bakar		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stopping income for the miners who might want to mine the reclaimed areas.</li> <li>2. Access to the reclaimed land and the fertility of the land (i.e., needs fertilizer).</li> <li>3. Allocation of the reclaimed land to the community means dispossessing the land from landowning families.</li> <li>4. Water control regime for agricultural production.</li> <li>5. Financing.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The reclamation process should also be the basis for income generation. Thus, develop income generating land-use projects for youth and female farmers.</li> <li>2. [No solution given].</li> <li>3. Get the commitment of all stakeholders: miners, little donors, local authorities, farmers’ associations, Ministry for Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS), and the chiefdom mining committee.</li> <li>4. Reclamation should take into account the development of water sources in order to</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reclaimed land is supposed to benefit more people than just the miners. However, miners may see reclamation as an economic threat and resist it.</li> <li>• Because of this threat, it is perceived that it has even been a problem to declare land as worked-out or mined-out because people feel there are a greater percentage of people who will not directly benefit.</li> <li>• There is some debate about whether access to the reclaimed land is an</li> </ul>

	<p>tackle the threat of desertification.</p> <p>5. The people who really want to do land reclamation should make some contribution to support the process. Government support is also possible through mining levies and the Diamond Area Community Development Fund.</p>	<p>economic challenge or not. As consensus could not be reached, the issue was dropped.</p>
<p><b>Group Three: Social challenges</b> Rapporteur: Goba Maglie</p>		
<p>1. Competing interests between young people and the chiefs.</p> <p>2. The issue of corruption and evidence of diamonds.</p> <p>3. Individual differences.</p> <p>4. Disunity and lack of common interests</p>	<p>1. Hold a meeting to sensitize the people about land reclamation.</p> <p>2. Encourage honesty, transparency, and accountability among all leaders of land reclamation.</p> <p>3. The intended land use should be attractive to the community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people believe they will not get any benefits from land reclamation.</li> <li>• Lack of sensitization leads to corruption.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Group Four: Cultural challenges</b> Rapporteur: David Moiwai</p>		
<p>1. Secret societies impede implementation. For example, participation in Poro and Bondo initiation ceremonies would prevent some people from taking part in the reclamation.</p> <p>2. Performing complex cultural ceremonies. For example, certain land needs purification before venturing into it so as to appease the traditional God</p> <p>3. The land tenure scheme is such that land is owned by the community and families, not by individuals. This means that it can take a long time to involve all of those who should be involved in the decisions on reclamation, and that it is easy to overlook people.</p> <p>4. Ancestors have leased land to investors and companies for long-term use. If this land is to be reclaimed, these original agreements should be revisited.</p>	<p>1. Awareness-raising of secret society members that development counts a lot to humanity, i.e., with special emphasis on land reclamation and environmental issues for sustainable development.</p> <p>2. Attractive packages for traditional leaders to use libations to appease the gods as custom demands.</p> <p>3. Consultation/involvement of all family members taking cognizance of ancestral representation before signing land reclamation documents.</p> <p>4. Investigate the history of the landowning families' concerns and completely involve local authorities/government (get complete documentation, including from ministries).</p> <p>5. Encourage permanent farming instead of shifting cultivation, using crop rotation and fertilizer to maintain soil fertility.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The land tenure system is such that in order to involve all of the stakeholders, many people will have to be contacted. If you do not involve everyone, then people who feel left out might jeopardize the process.</li> <li>• Mining has happened in some sacred places; e.g., in the Lowoma area where there is mining in the Bondo bush.</li> <li>• Agriculture is a cultural issue. For example, shifting cultivation is cultural.</li> </ul>

<b>Group Five: Technical challenges</b>		
Rapporteur: Daniel Sarmu		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Technical know-how (skills) especially when it comes to the intended use of the land.</li> <li>2. Availability of basic technical tools for reclamation and the knowledge of how to use them.</li> <li>3. Planning and staffing pattern, i.e., getting the best people to do the job.</li> <li>4. Managing natural hazards during the operations; for example, coping with floods.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contract competent local companies who will have on their mandate to employ and train local youths to do the work.</li> <li>2. [No solution given.].</li> <li>3. Set a standard employment pattern that is based on transparency, competence, and commitment; e.g. advertise with information on the basic criteria they are looking for and then train people.</li> <li>4. [No solution given.].</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the contractor builds the capacity of the youth, this increases their potential and brings sustainable development.</li> </ul>

## Highlights

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

- *Engage in comprehensive fact-finding* to ensure that the history of ownership, boundaries, and land use is properly understood.
- *Document all decisions and agreements* in order to be transparent and prevent future conflict;
- *Hold sensitization meetings* to: 1) prevent marginalization of any stakeholder; 2) raise awareness, especially amongst youth, women, miners, landowners, and members of the secret societies; 3) generate political will, especially among authorities; and 4) 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 reclaimed 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*, which are as important as local politics in determining the success of the program.
- *Make the alternative use of the land after reclamation attractive to the community.*
- *Have people with the appropriate technical expertise* to do the reclamation and plan the intended land use well.

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

Session Four was designed to have participants engage in discussion to define a process through which 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 are the responsibilities and/or contributions of the main actors and other players?
4. What do you think should be the step-by-step process to obtain land for reclamation?

The outcomes of these discussions are presented in Table Two.

**Table Two: Identifying land for reclamation in the Lower Bambara Chiefdom**

<b>Group One</b> Rapporteur: Abu B. Koroma	<b>Group Two</b> Rapporteur: James B. Samba:	<b>Group Three</b> Rapporteur: Mary Fofanah	<b>Group Four</b> Rapporteur: S.K. Amara or Denis Momoh
<p><i>1. How would you determine that a piece of land is mined out and suitable for reclamation?</i></p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The presence of many pits and overburdens.</li> <li>b. The area contains many pits and lakes.</li> <li>c. Unusual topography.</li> <li>d. Expanse of bedrock.</li> <li>e. Destruction of vegetation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. There are fewer miners operating in the area and they are no longer finding diamonds.</li> <li>b. Mining is no longer taking place on the land, and there is petty agriculture going on.</li> <li>c. “If the people abandon the gravel and you see three, four, or five piles around...I’d let it be reclaimed, if it was my land.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Landowners and laborers (diggers and youth) play a vital role in determining whether land is suitable for reclamation because they know the land best.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Physically, the land contains many pits.</li> <li>b. No miners have visited the land in search of diamonds for a long time.</li> <li>c. People may be practicing agriculture on land.</li> </ul>
<p><i>2. Who do you think should be involved in the identification of land for reclamation?</i></p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Miners, because they know where the diamonds are and where they are not.</li> <li>b. Landowners, because they know the number of people who go to the land so they will know if the population has reduced.</li> <li>c. Farmers, because if they are mining land that was previously mined, it suggests it is a mined-out area.</li> <li>d. Chiefdom community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Landowners.</li> <li>b. Chiefdom council (paramount chief, town chief, section chief, speaker, mining committee, head of youth, head of women’s issues, treasury clerk, and ward representative).</li> <li>c. Local authorities (councillors).</li> <li>d. Government (Ministry of Mineral Resources).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Ordinary people can tell if there is active mining on the site or not.</li> <li>b. The landowner and diggers know the detail of the land.</li> <li>c. Local authorities ensure documentation is straightforward and transparent so no-one can deny anything.</li> <li>d. Donors provide financial assistance.</li> <li>e. Ministry of Mineral Resources, Ministry of Land, and the Mining Committee know everything about mining. The</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Town chief identifies the head of the land-owing family.</li> <li>b. The head of the landowning family takes a decision based on his consultation with the rest of the family members.</li> </ul>

		land ministry prepares the documents and measures the land.	
<b>3. What are the responsibilities and/or contributions of the main actors and other players?</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The landowners have to make sure that no further mining activities take place on the land.</li> <li>b. The authorities (chiefs) should make by-laws in connection with the identified land, which should state that anyone who mines in reclaimed land is wrong.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The landowner has to decide whether he is willing to give up the land for reclamation. The people seeking to do the reclamation should call on the actual landowners, discuss the issues, and convince them of the importance and necessity of doing land reclamation so it is in their heart to do so.</li> <li>b. Chiefs can create more backing to guarantee the place.</li> <li>c. The government has the right to give the land to another group so if you haven't spoken to them that that can be a problem.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Youths provide labor.</li> <li>b. Landowners identify land for reclamation and sign the document.</li> <li>c. Donors provide money and technical aid.</li> <li>d. Local authorities endorse a memorandum from the landowners with permission to reclaim.</li> </ul>	See above.
<b>4. What do you think should be the step-by-step approach to obtain land for reclamation?</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Meet the national government.</li> <li>b. Meet the chiefdom authorities.</li> <li>c. Meet the landowners.</li> <li>d. Organize finance and labor.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Meet the paramount chief, then the section chief, then the town chief, then the community, then the landowners.</li> <li>b. Arrange documentation.</li> <li>c. Find funding.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Courtesy calls to authorities.</li> <li>b. Sensitization.</li> <li>c. Site selection.</li> <li>d. Source funding.</li> <li>e. Source labor.</li> <li>f. Administration, supervision, and monitoring by the community and field manager.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Chiefs.</li> <li>b. Head of landowning family and other family members.</li> <li>c. Prepare the declaration document.</li> <li>d. Key actors (town chief, landowner, and NGO) sign the document.</li> <li>e. Look for finance to buy tools and pay workers.</li> <li>f. Reclamation starts.</li> </ul>

After each group had reported the results of its discussion, the facilitator gave group members the opportunity to make comments and clarifications before inviting discussion from the entire group of participants.

### **Plenary Discussion Points**

#### ***Group One***

- The landowners own the land. If you do not talk to them, the reclamation will certainly fail.

#### ***Mined-out areas:***

- It was agreed that land is only mined out if there are pits filled with stagnant water, the population of miners has decreased, and there is some evidence of agriculture there.
- An area is mined out if you see a very large quantity of people going past the site to mine in another place, if there are only a few people using it, and especially if there are people using the water in the pits to wash.
- If you see that people have been able to change the land to some other activity, such as agriculture, then you know that it is a place for reclaiming.
- The miners help identify mined-out land by ceasing to mine there: “You just have to ask them to go and work on a piece of land and then they will tell you that they won’t work there because there are no diamonds there.” On the other hand, “If the miner wants to mine a site, then it means it is not mined out” because people believe that diamonds are still there.

#### ***Group Two***

#### ***Youths:***

- The miners are not actors in the identification process, because they normally do not tell the truth as to where the land is diamondiferous.
- The youths are the most stubborn group and must be involved in order to prevent them going to the reclaimed land at night to mine it.
- A chief said the youths should not be involved in the decision-making, but afterwards as the workers.
- Only youths who are part of the landowning family should be involved in decision-making.
- There should always be a youth representative present in the decision-making.
- The youth leader is a member of the local authorities anyway, so the youths are already involved in the decision-making in this way and should not be singled out.
- The chieftom mining committee needs to be involved, because they oversee all the mining activities.

#### ***Group Three***

- There was some disagreement as to the involvement of the donors in identifying land for reclamation. Some participants felt that the donors supply funding and should not be involved in identifying the land; the locals identify the land. Others felt the donors should be involved from the beginning of the process, including in identifying the land as the identification process has budgetary implications and it is the donors who are providing the financing. They also bring knowledge and can help catalyze the process.

### ***Group Four***

- The head of the landowning family will need time to consult the entire family, as the family is likely to be very large and spread throughout the country.
- Apart from the role he plays in the town, the town chief represents the interests of the section chief and the paramount chief. So, even if you go to the paramount chief, he will refer you to the town chief. From him you go see the section chief, and then the paramount chief.
- The key actors include the youth, head of the landowning family, councillors, town chief, section chief, paramount chief, and government officials including the Ministry of Land and the Ministry of Mines.

#### **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 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 three groups for discussion. This represented a departure from the Koidu workshop structure, to account for the significant role of the landowning families in the process of land reclamation and alternative uses for the land. Group One focused on how to go about reclaiming land for alternative uses; Group Two considered the process of decision-making regarding what alternative uses could be implemented on reclaimed land; and Group Three focused on the issue of beneficiation for the entire community.

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

1. What are the activities involved?
2. Who should be involved?
3. What should be their roles and responsibilities?
4. What resources are required?

#### ***Group Two: How is it determined what will be done with the land once it is reclaimed?***

1. Who decides what is to be done with the reclaimed land?
2. What are the economic and/or social uses of reclaimed land?
3. Who do you think should be the beneficiaries of the outcome of the economic and/or social use of reclaimed land?
4. What recommendations would you make to ensure that the outcome of alternative land use benefits the target group(s)?

**Group Three:** *What needs to happen to ensure that the people who are supposed to benefit actually do benefit from land reclamation?*

The small-group reports to the plenary session were as follows:

**Group One:** *How can reclamation be accomplished and by whom?*

Rapporteur: Abu Brima

*1. Activities involved*

- Sources of funding (donors, government, the MMR);
- Community consultation;
- Planning the reclamation (including hiring laborers); and
- Actual rehabilitation.

*2. and 3. Key decision-makers and their responsibilities*

- Youths provide labor force.
- Chiefs supervise the work and maintain law and order and ensure people do not misuse the reclaimed land.
- Landowners know the landscape; demarcate the boundaries; sign documentation.
- Donors give funding and do monitoring.
- Government does funding and does monitoring.

*4. Resources required*

- Manual labor need shovels, wheelbarrows, pick-axes, cutlasses, and power saws.
- Mechanized reclamation requires caterpillars, bulldozers and suchlike.
- Finance to pay laborers.
- Other materials include 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.

**Plenary Discussion Points**

- Through community consultation you are able to get local contributions in the act of reclamation.
- If the land is to be used for agriculture, one way to fertilize the soil that is natural and sustainable is to plant nitrogen-fixing trees, rather than using artificial fertilizer, as another participant had suggested.

**Group Two:** *How is it determined what is to be done with the land once it is reclaimed?*

Rapporteur: Dennis Momoh

*1. Decision-makers for what to do with reclaimed land*

- Landowners.
- Technical people, who have knowledge of proper plant types.
- Authorities (chiefs, women, and youth leaders), as they have to be involved in this decision because at the end of the day they have control over it.

## 2. *Economic and social uses of reclaimed land*

### Economic

- Swamp/upland rice farming.
- Farming cash crops which can grown on dry land and do not need surface fertilizers, such as cocoa, palm trees, coffee, and timber.
- Vegetable gardening.
- Fish ponds.
- Animal husbandry.

### Social

- Football fields/recreational centers.
- Community centers.
- Schools.
- Guesthouse.

## 3. *Target beneficiaries of the economic and/or social uses of the reclaimed land, some proposals*

- The landowners to get 60 percent and the community to get 40 percent;
- The landowners to get 40 percent and the community to get 60 percent for a period of time, before the landowners regain full or majority ownership of the land and its produce.

## Plenary Discussion Points

The rapporteur for Group Two suggested that the reclaimed land should be used for social uses if it is not suitable for economic uses.

Discussion primarily centered on the issue of fair beneficiation. Group Two had presented a model for providing 60 percent of any product from the reclaimed land to the landowners and 40 percent to the community. The facilitator pointed out that the landowners are part of the community, so they would be seen to benefit twice. The group stated that they chose this model on the presumption that the landowners would not give up their land willingly as they would feel that they would be losing out by handing over their land for reclamation.

Group Two had also presented a model that gave the majority to the agricultural association tending the land: otherwise, it would be hard to encourage people to plant and take care of the crop. The facilitator suggested another model might be to give the community use of the land for a set period of time before the land is passed back to the landowning family. He also raised the point that the model chosen would have to suit the end-use. For example, if a guest house was built and then this reverted to the original landowners after a number of years, this might be seen to be unfair. He also pointed out that this issue of beneficiation is possibly incendiary.

The vice chairman of the Lower Bambara Mining Committee, James B. Farma, pointed out that if the community and donor agencies reclaim land that is currently lying wasted, then the land should belong to the communities. Mr. Farma suggested that the landowners would be able to receive royalties, but that the question of percentages would create problems. Thus, a model for transferring ownership for public utility is the payment of royalties to the relevant landowning family. One participant took the view that landowners do not own land outright but are just the natural survivors. He asserted that the community should have preference because, "The community has the right to whatever land is in the community ... (and) if the land is destroyed it should come down to the community and they should take it back ... The community is the bigger set." Another participant pointed out that most of the landowners are also people of authority or chiefs, saying, "If you are a master in the community, whenever development comes for the community, you need to make sure the community benefits."

The workshop participants agreed that the actual details of individual versus community beneficiation would be discussed at the community consultation meetings and dealt with on a case by case basis, but that the FESS project was to be for community benefit.

**Group Three: *What needs to happen to ensure that the people who are supposed to benefit actually do benefit from land reclamation?***

Rapporteur: David Moiwai

This question was not assigned to a small group for discussion in Koidu, but was added in Tongo where landowning families play a major role in the decision-making process involving what land may be reclaimed.

*Recommendations*

- Donors, landowners, and the community should negotiate with landowning members for some agreeable token (cash) to free the land specifically for community use.
- All major stakeholders, i.e. donors, landowners, community and local authorities, should have some common consensus that the land to be reclaimed belongs to the community and not to individual family members.
- Donors should monitor the use of proceeds from reclaimed land.
- Funds given by donors and used for reclaiming land should not be refundable for the foreseeable future.
- Funds derived from the reclaimed land should be meant for projects that benefit the community rather than individuals under the supervision of donors.
- In the case where donors are interested in the proceeds from the reclaimed land, they should apply to the community for their approval.

**Discussion Points**

- The cash to be offered to landowners is not a bribe to make them succumb to a document or to force them to accept the reclamation; it is a traditional gift to appease them.
- The community has the preference in terms of the benefits from the land, but the landowners could get some privilege to appease them.
- A Councillor pointed out that people should not lay emphasis on the benefits the landowning families should gain, because there is a legitimacy question over boundaries that have existed since after the days of the Sierra Leone Selection Trust (SLST) and the National Diamond Mining Company (NDMC). Because of this, no one family can actually authoritatively say that this is their land. Furthermore, the customs around benefits from land differ in [Lower Bambara chiefdom] sections where the NDMC mined and where it did not mine.
- If you want to reclaim a particular site, but people are already practicing agriculture there, then these people must be consulted also.

**Highlights**

Participants 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. The facilitator suggested that 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 alternative land use is chosen.

Considering the issue of how to ensure that the targeted beneficiaries are the ones who actually benefit, Group Three suggested that it be agreed that the land is to benefit the entire 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. Group Three also was mindful of the potential for funders to seek the return of funds at a later date or to seek to benefit from the alternative use conducted on the reclaimed land. The role of donors was seen to be in monitoring the use of funds.

### **SESSION SIX: Determining 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 (chiefs, women, youths, landowner families, Lower Bambara Mining Committee, and Kenema District Council) 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.

#### **Highlights**

To a large extent, the willingness of each stakeholder group to make these commitments is testimony to the success of the workshop. It demonstrates that two days of opinion-sharing, negotiating and democratic decision-making helped build a consensus as what land reclamation means for Lower Bambara and what it will require from the different stakeholders in order to be successful. This was aided by a particular style of facilitation that involved checking and rechecking at various stages of each session to make sure that what people reported, and what was officially recorded, actually reflected what individuals in the groups had understood from the discussions on the one hand, and reflected the general opinion of the plenary on the other. In this way trust and cooperation were built amongst the participants, so much so that the stakeholders were confident enough to make the commitments attached herewith. The workshop served as an exercise in project planning and thus contributed to building capacity amongst participants along the lines of democratic principles, which is an achievement in and of itself, and a strong first step towards reclaiming mined-out land in Lower Bambara.

### **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 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

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Person</b>
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 Seppeh	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

## **RAPPOREUR**

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  
Tongo Fields, Kenema District

### TONGO FIELDS STAKEHOLDER COMMITMENTS, February 11, 2007

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#### Chiefs

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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.

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Chief Amadu Dakonah  
Section Chief, Sei Section

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Chief Foday M. Bobor III  
Section Chief, Fallay Section

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Chief Edward J. Momoh  
Section Chief, Korjei Ngieya Section

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#### Women

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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.

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Nancy Gando  
Lower Bambara Women's Leader

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Margaret Momoh  
Sinava Coordinator

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## Youths

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- 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.

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James Balema Samba  
(Youth Chairman)

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Goba Magbie  
(Youth Leader, Tongola)

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Mohamed Fofanah  
(Youth Leader, Kpandebu)

## Landowners

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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.

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Wilfred K. Amara  
Lalehun

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Morray Bockarie  
Taninahun

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Foday Ansumana  
Taninahun

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Foday Junisa  
Lowoma

## **Chiefdom Mining Committee**

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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.

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James B. Farma  
Vice-Chairman

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Haja Josephine Kromanty

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N'fa Ali Daramy

## **Councillors**

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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.

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Chief Francis Konuwa  
Ward One

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Jibao A. Moosa  
Ward Five







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FESS

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