

*Net long tae
doh mus klin.*

*No matter how
long the night is,
the day is
sure to come.*



SIERRA LEONE

NEW FIELDS • NEW HORIZONS

Only a year ago, acres of land were covered with deep, contaminated pits. Now vibrant fields of rice, vegetables, and oil palm seedlings stand tall to support workers and their families, now and into the future.

The people of Sierra Leone are realizing significant economic and social benefits from their new livelihoods, while also restoring their most precious resource—their land.

Photography: Bill Brennan
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“I WISH TO PARTICULARLY
EXPRESS OUR PROFOUND
GRATITUDE TO THE
FOUNDATION FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY
AND SUSTAINABILITY (FESS)
FOR CHOOSING MY CHIEFDOM
AS THE LOCATION OF ONE OF
ITS DEMONSTRATION SITES...
FOR US, THIS PROJECT IS NOT
ONLY ABOUT CHANGING THE
ENVIRONMENT. IT IS ALSO
ABOUT CHANGING LIVES AND
BUILDING COMMUNITIES.”

PARAMOUNT CHIEF
PAUL N. SAQUEE V



SIERRA LEONE'S SOILS HAVE RICH
AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL



A PRESENT-DAY MINER SIEVES FOR DIAMONDS
USING ARTISANAL TECHNIQUES THAT HAVE
BEEN PRACTICED FOR 75 YEARS



BUCKETS STACKED UP AND READY TO BE USED
IN ARTISANAL DIAMOND MINING



A GROUP OF DIAMOND MINERS BEFORE
A LONG DAY'S WORK



DIAMOND MINERS WORK THE EDGE OF A LARGE PIT



HANDHELD MINING SIEVES USED FOR
SORTING STONES



A MINER CARRIES HIS TOOLS TO WORK



TWO MINERS SET OUT ON THE LONG DAILY
WALK TO THE DIAMOND PITS



A CHILD WALKS ACROSS LAND
DEVASTATED BY MINING



LAND CHURNED UP AND ABANDONED
AFTER MINING



CHILDREN PLAY IN ABANDONED MINING PITS
NEAR THEIR HOMES



YOUNG BOY IN A TRADITIONAL SIERRA
LEONEAN INDIGO SHIRT



ENTRANCE TO KOIDU TOWN, A MAJOR
MINING CENTER



WOMEN TRANSPORT LOCAL PRODUCTS
TO MARKET



PEOPLE PERUSE THE MANY SMALL SHOPS THAT
LINE KOIDU'S MAIN STREET



WOMEN CARRY CASSAVA LEAVES AND
BANANAS ALONG A KOIDU ROAD



A SIERRA LEONEAN GIRL CARRIES
LOCAL GOODS



A GROUP OF YOUNG GIRLS AND BOYS
GATHER TO PLAY



A YOUNG SIERRA LEONEAN GIRL



HAND TOOLS USED FOR LAND RECLAMATION



WORKERS HEADING TO A RECLAMATION SITE
TO BEGIN THE ARDUOUS PROCESS OF FILLING
ABANDONED PITS AND RESTORING LAND



TOOLS USED TO CLEAR BRUSH THAT
HIDES MINING HOLES AND MAKES FOR
DANGEROUS TERRAIN



APPROACHING A VAST MINED-OUT AREA PRIOR
TO RECLAMATION



TOOLS USED TO MINE LAND ALSO ARE USED
FOR RECLAMATION



A FORMER MINER WORKS TO CLEAR BRUSH



MEN LEVELING THE LAND TO PREPARE
FOR PLANTING



WOMEN AND MEN WORK TOGETHER TO
RESTORE LAND



PICKAXE WITH A HAND-WHITTLED HANDLE,
USED TO LOOSEN SOIL



WORKERS BREAK DOWN MOUNDS FORMED
DURING THE COURSE OF DIAMOND MINING



A MAN HAULS LOAD AFTER LOAD OF DIRT
TO FILL IN A MINING PIT



A MAN CONTINUES THE PAINSTAKING TASK OF
LEVELING EARTH TO PREPARE FOR PLANTING



A YOUNG SIERRA LEONEAN BOY



A WOMAN SUPPORTS WORKERS BY CARRYING
DRINKING WATER TO RECLAMATION SITE



TWO WORKERS BREAK FOR A TRADITIONAL
LUNCH OF RICE AND PALM OIL SAUCE



A CHILD JOINS WORKERS FOR LUNCH



A MAN EATS FOOD PREPARED AND
DELIVERED BY LOCAL WOMEN



A YOUNG SIERRA LEONEAN CHILD



RICE READY FOR HARVESTING



A WOMAN AND MAN WORK TOGETHER
TO HARVEST RICE



A SIERRA LEONEAN MAN PAUSES DURING
THE RICE HARVEST



A WORKER GATHERS RICE FROM A
NEWLY RECLAIMED FIELD



A WOMAN HARVESTS RICE



A WOMAN DISPLAYS A SHEAF OF
FRESHLY HARVESTED RICE



WOMEN AND MEN PLAY TRADITIONAL SIERRA
LEONEAN INSTRUMENTS TO CELEBRATE THE
HARVEST



THE HARVEST BRINGS FOOD AND SEEDS
FOR THE FUTURE



RICE STANDS TALL ON NEWLY RESTORED LAND
THAT ONCE WAS PITTED AND UNUSABLE



WORKERS WALK PAST THEIR NEW FIELDS AS
THEY LEAVE FOR THE DAY



FESS REPRESENTATIVE SURVEYS THE
VISIBLE PROGRESS



FESS IS CREATING NEW FIELDS AND NEW
HORIZONS IN SIERRA LEONE



FESS

FOUNDATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY & SUSTAINABILITY

The Foundation for Environmental Security & Sustainability (FESS) is a public policy foundation established to advance knowledge and provide practical solutions for key environmental security concerns around the world.

FESS combines empirical analysis with in-country research to construct policy-relevant analyses and program recommendations to address environmental conditions that pose risks to national, regional, and global security and stability.

FESS contributes to greater public understanding of environmental security issues through research, outreach, publications, workshops, and project implementation.

PRINCIPAL BIOGRAPHIES

RAY C. SIMMONS - PRESIDENT

Ray Simmons is the President and a founding director of the Foundation for Environmental Security & Sustainability (FESS). Mr. Simmons is a noted environmental scientist. Prior to FESS, Mr. Simmons worked extensively in both the public and private sector in the field of environmental security, including assignments as an oceanography officer in the United States Navy, where he served in a number of scientific, operational, and policy tours, including Executive Assistant to the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Director of the multi-agency United States National Ice Center; U.S. Department of Defense lead to the Environmental Working Group of the U.S.-Russia Gore/Chernomyrdin Commission; and as a Brookings Institute Fellow in the Office of the Majority Leader of the United States Senate. Mr. Simmons has directed and participated in a number of international studies, consulted widely for the U.S. government on policy and implementation issues, and authored a number of papers and lectured widely on the subject of environmental and natural resources security. He holds an undergraduate degree in oceanography/physics from the U.S. Naval Academy and a Master's of Science degree in physical oceanography from the Florida State University.

DARCI GLASS-ROYAL - CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Darci Glass-Royal is the Executive Director, Chairman of the Board, and a founding director of FESS. She is a recognized expert in national security and policy concerns in vulnerable states and holds degrees in both economics and public policy. Prior to FESS, Mrs. Glass-Royal served as an independent advisor to senior U.S. government policymakers on issues of evolving environmental and natural resource threats to regional stability. Mrs. Glass-Royal has extensive experience in Africa and Asia and has developed a number of critical resource and conflict mitigation programs for multilateral, government, and corporate institutions. Through strong outreach to interdisciplinary experts within the private sector, academia, and nongovernmental organizations, Mrs. Glass-Royal has developed innovative environmental security programs for policymakers around the world, as well as authored numerous reports on the strategic implications of environmental and natural resource management in specific countries and regions.

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United States Agency for International Development

USAID works in agriculture, democracy and governance, economic growth, the environment, education, health, global partnerships, and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries to provide a better future for all.

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Paramount Chief Paul N. Saquee V, Tankoro Chiefdom,
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Kono District

Paramount Chief Alimamy M. Farma, Lower Bambara
Chiefdom, Kenema District

Section Chief Foday M. Bobor III, Lower Bambara
Chiefdom, Kenema District

Seppah Family, Ngiehun Community, Lower Bambara
Chiefdom, Kenema District

Tankoro Chiefdom Agricultural Committee

Bumpeh Town Executive Committee

Residents of the Kono and Kenema Districts



8110 Gatehouse Road, Suite 101W • Falls Church, VA 22042