



THE DMSP

THE DISTRICT MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM

Jan-March, 2025

PUJEHUN DMSP SUPERVISES THE RE-MAPPING AND SURVEYING OF MALEN CHIEFDOM

Since March 2011, Socfin Agricultural Company (SAC) has faced daily conflicts over a 50-year lease for 18,000 hectares of land in Malen chiefdom, Sierra Leone. Landowners claim the company acquired more land than agreed upon, leading to disputes over lease payments. To address this, Civil Society Organizations suggested a comprehensive land survey to verify landowners and the land size in use by the company.

The survey was conducted by GEODATA Firm in 2024, involving landowners and independent bodies including CSOs and the DMSP. The survey revealed the company had 19,000 hectares instead of 18,000 and reduced the number of landowners receiving lease payments from 6,000 to 444, ensuring fair compensation and addressing social and economic needs.



KABIA DISTRICT PARAMOUNT CHIEFS SOLIDIFY TIES WITH THE DMSP

A Multi-Stakeholders' Platform provides a valuable forum for bringing together stakeholders with diverse interests and expertise to address complex land and mining issues collaboratively and inclusively, leading to more sustainable and equitable outcomes for all parties involved. The DMSP in Kambia has made significant progress since its formation nearly a year ago, with ongoing meetings and engagements to achieve its objectives.

The Council of Paramount Chiefs in the district could play a crucial role in advancing the cause of land rights and justice for community members. While the new land laws have altered their role as custodians of the land, they remain influential, especially in communities with strong traditional ties. Paramount Chief Alusine Alimamy Sorie Sankoh 2nd of Gbinleh Chiefdom, Kambia district, has pledged his unwavering support to the DMSP's activities. He emphasized the importance of ensuring that communities benefit fairly from their land and stressed the significance of the bond between people and the land.

DMSP BRIEFS LAND COMMISSIONER ON LAND GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN PORT LOKO DISTRICT



The newly appointed Commissioner General of the National Land Commission, Mr. Abu Bakarr Foray Musa, recently met with the Port Loko District Multi-Stakeholder Platform (DMSP) at the Ministry of Social Welfare Conference Hall in Port Loko City.

Commissioner Musa was warmly welcomed by the executive members of the DMSP. He explained that his visit aimed to familiarize himself with the DMSP and understand the Commission's operations and collaborations in the District.

During the meeting, Commissioner Musa emphasized his dedication to working closely with the DMSP to address land governance issues, disputes, and promote equitable land management in Port Loko District. He highlighted the importance of strong partnerships to ensure transparent and inclusive land administration.

The DMSP also outlined challenges faced, including limited resources, logistical constraints, and the need for stronger ties with government agencies. In response, Commissioner Musa pledged the Commission's support to address these challenges and enhance collaboration with the DMSP.



KONO DMSP STEERING COMMITTEE SETS COURSE FOR DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT

On Monday, March 31, 2025, the Steering Committee of the Kono District Multi-Stakeholder Platform (DMSP) convened a strategic planning meeting at the residence of Paramount Chief Alie Musa along Main Kainkordu Road. Chief Alie Musa, who also serves as the paramount chief representative on the Kono DMSP, graciously hosted the gathering. Key stakeholders in attendance included the Paramount Chief, the District Security Coordinator from the Office of National Security (ONS), the Country Head of RESOLVE, the District Facilitator of the Kono MSP, and the District Communications Officer.

The primary objective of the meeting was to develop a roadmap for addressing a backlog of official complaints submitted to the DMSP. Mr. Sahr S. Joe, District Facilitator and head of the Kono MSP Secretariat, outlined several key priorities:

- Scheduling settlement sessions to resolve pending complaints,
- Establishing an Integrated Settlement Committee,
- Planning community radio programs to raise awareness about the platform's work, and
- Identifying next steps to strengthen stakeholder collaboration.

Paramount Chief Alie Musa pledged his full support for the initiative, stressing the need for timely responses to community concerns—particularly to prevent land-related disputes. One critical issue identified for immediate intervention was the ongoing lease rent collection dispute between the Koidu New Sembehun City Council and the Gbense Chiefdom Council, which had been previously flagged by the ONS and reported to the District Security Committee (DiSeC).





STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY TIES: MIRO FORESTRY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE DISTRICT MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS PLATFORM

In a significant move toward enhancing collaborative land governance and promoting sustainable land use, MIRO Forestry Company SL Ltd participated in the inaugural monthly meeting of the District Multi-Stakeholder Platform (DMSP) held in Magburaka. The gathering brought together a diverse group of participants, including representatives from the National Land Commission, local authorities, civil society organizations, community leaders, and private sector stakeholders.

MIRO Forestry's presence was not only acknowledged but warmly appreciated by fellow attendees, who commended the company for its proactive commitment to transparency, accountability, and constructive dialogue on land-related issues.

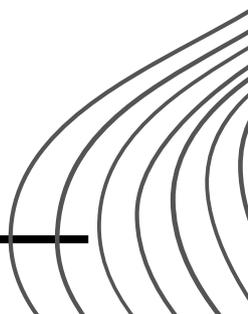
During the meeting, MIRO's representative reaffirmed the company's dedication to responsible investment practices and expressed a strong desire to contribute meaningfully to a collaborative platform that fosters trust and shared decision-making.



"Our attendance today underscores our commitment to participatory land governance," the representative emphasized. "We firmly believe that regular engagement with communities and stakeholders is essential for long-term success and mutual benefit."

The meeting was marked by an atmosphere of optimism, collaboration, and shared responsibility. As the DMSP continues its monthly engagements, the early and enthusiastic involvement of companies like MIRO Forestry points to a promising future for sustainable development and stronger community-investor relations nationwide.

our attendance today underscores our commitment to participatory land governance





DMSP AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS CONVENE IN FREETOWN TO STRENGTHEN INCLUSIVE LAND GOVERNANCE

At least 71 participants representing various stakeholders in the land governance sector—including the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning, and Paramount Chiefs—gathered at the New Brookfield Hotel in Freetown on March 18th and 19th, 2025, for a two-day technical workshop. The event focused on enhancing mutual understanding of the Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) initiatives at both national and decentralized levels.

The workshop was jointly hosted by the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning, the National Land Commission, and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN-FAO). It brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including representatives from the eight District Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (DMSPs), civil society actors, members of the Sierra Land Administration Project, a representative from the German Embassy in Sierra Leone, and the coordinating CSOs of the DMSPs.

In his opening statement, UN-FAO Sierra Leone Representative, Mr. Saeed A. Bancie, thanked attendees for their participation. He highlighted that land is not merely an economic asset but also the foundation of culture and livelihoods. Mr. Bancie emphasized the importance of inclusive participation in addressing pressing issues such as climate change and land degradation. He also noted that the workshop offered a valuable opportunity for stakeholders to share experiences and insights from the DMSPs and the Ministry's Technical Working Group. "By the end of this workshop, a wealth of knowledge will be generated that will help shape common objectives and collective actions to advance inclusive land governance in Sierra Leone," he said.

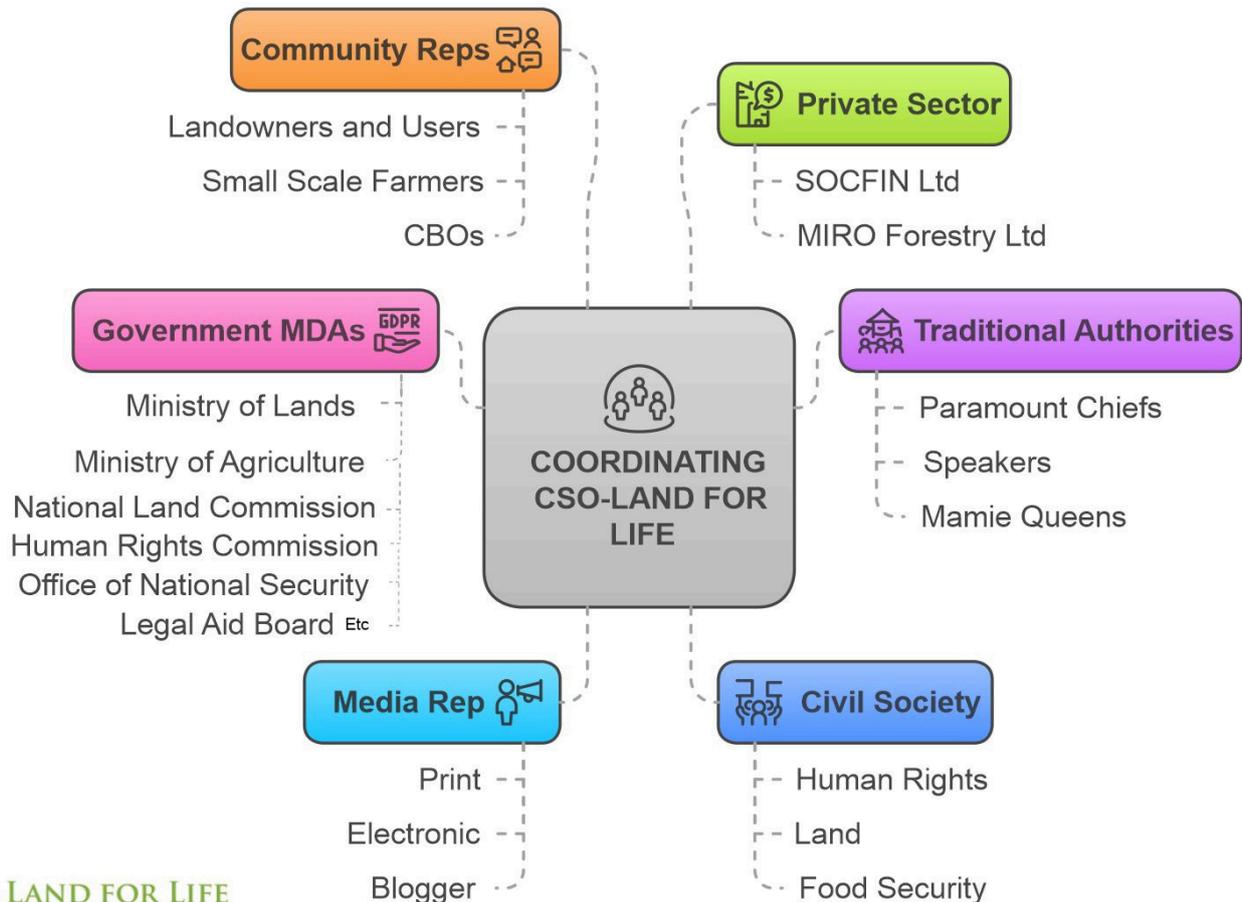
Dr. Turad Senesie, Minister of Lands, Housing and Country Planning, underscored the importance of a Multi-Stakeholder Platform given the complex challenges in the land sector. He reiterated the Ministry's commitment to developing supportive land governance and affordable housing policies. The Minister acknowledged ongoing support from FAO and other partners and highlighted key milestones, including the enactment of the Customary Land Rights Act and the National Land Commission Act in 2022. He emphasized the need for continued collaboration to ensure that land governance efforts are responsive to the needs of the country.

During the workshop, each DMSP presented updates on their activities across various districts, sharing both their achievements and the challenges they face. The workshop ended with a plan to follow up actions at the national and district level.



THE DMSP STRUCTURE

STRUCTURE OF THE DISTRICT MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM



DMSPs are located in the following:

- Bombali
- Bo
- Kambia
- Kenema
- Kono
- Port Loko
- Pujehun
- Tonkolili