Social Impacts of Mining / Mineral Exploration - Fiji

Vatukoula Gold Mine, Mt Kasi Gold Prospect, Namosi Copper Prospect examples.
Scope

- Introduction
- Background – Mining in Fiji
- Social Impacts Case Studies
- Vatukoula Gold Mine
- Mt Kasi Gold Prospect
- Namosi Copper Project
- Summary
Mineral Exploration & Mining in Fiji (Background)

- Gold was first reported in 1868
- Mt Kasi Gold Mine opened in 1932
- Vatukoula Gold Mine opened in 1934
  - 1934 – 2006
  - 2007 – Present
- Currently 4 Mining Leases, 1 Permit to Mine
- Vatukoula, Wainivesi, Nawailevu, Ba Delta
- Nasaucoko (PTM)
Vatukoula, Namosi Location
Vatukoula Gold Mine (VGML)
VGM Social Impacts examples

- Employment / Labour
- Housing / Accommodation
- Education / Training
- Health
- Way of Life
- Compensation (Landowner)
Social Impacts

- Employment / Labour
  - First time for Labour to be sourced from within Fiji & Rotuma
  - Recruitment done from the 14 provinces & Rotuma
  - Involved internal migration within Fiji on a big scale
  - Changed the lives of the workers forever
VGM (Contd)

- Unionism – early e.g. of union for welfare of workers
- Most active, popular & strong union
- Longest duration strike – 1991 to present
- “Vatukoula” break – 2 hours lunch break
- COMPENSATION
- Compensation policy non-existent back then
- Non-issue as land is freehold
Housing / Accommodation

- Different from rural setting
- Health & hygiene issues
  - Low standard housing
  - Overcrowding
- Informal Settlements
- Closure of the Mine 2006
- Community / Population with no employment
- Social Impacts
VGM (contd)

- Education / Training
  - Schools for children
  - Industrial training for workers
    - Best apprenticeship

- Health
  - Provision of medical facility at the mine
  - Health concerns on working environment of underground mine

- Way of Life
  - Changed forever / Mine settlement lifestyle
  - Social dislocation
Mining Potential

- Mt. Kasi
  - 240,000 oz Gold
  - Tender process completed
  - Award of SPL to Newcrest Exploration (Fiji) Ltd
Mt Kasi

- Native Land – Native landowners
- Village near the Mine
- Recruitment not as widely done as VGM
- Labour no. not as high as VGM
- Mining Camp with workers & no informal settlement
- Compensation – non-issue in 1930’s
  - An issue in future development
Namosi Project (Namosi Joint Venture)
Waisoi Camp
Namosi Copper Project

- NJV – SPL1420 (Namosi)
  - Low grade Copper/Gold but high volume
    - >1BT
  - Pre-feasibility in progress
  - ESIA TOR consultation completed
  - 70kt/a Cu and 50 kt/a Au
Namosi Copper

- Namosi Joint Venture (NJV)
- Not a mine
- Pre-feasibility phase of Exploration (Advanced Exploration Phase)
Social Impacts

- Employment / Labour
  - Not as high at the moment in exploration
  - Demand will be high if it goes to Mining Stage
  - Forecasted to reach 2000 maximum labour force

- Housing / Accommodation
  - Not much issues at the moment

- Education / Training
  - Provision of education / training assistance through funding by NJV
Namosi Copper Project

- Health
  - Provision of Doctor at site
  - Provision of emergency assistance to landowners

- Cultural
  - Opponents and supporters
  - Land boundaries clarification
  - Youth vs Old Population

- Way of Life
Namosi (contd)

- Landowner Issues
  - Employment
  - Land ownership
  - Land boundary
  - Degradation / Loss of land
  - Environment
  - Compensation
SUMMARY – Social Impacts

- Positive and negative
- Intended and unintended impacts
- Landownership affects social impacts
  - VGM – less LO issues
  - Namosi – high LO issues
- Conflict
  - Sources of conflict
- Unity & Cooperation – sources of unity
Thank you for Listening

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