

# 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

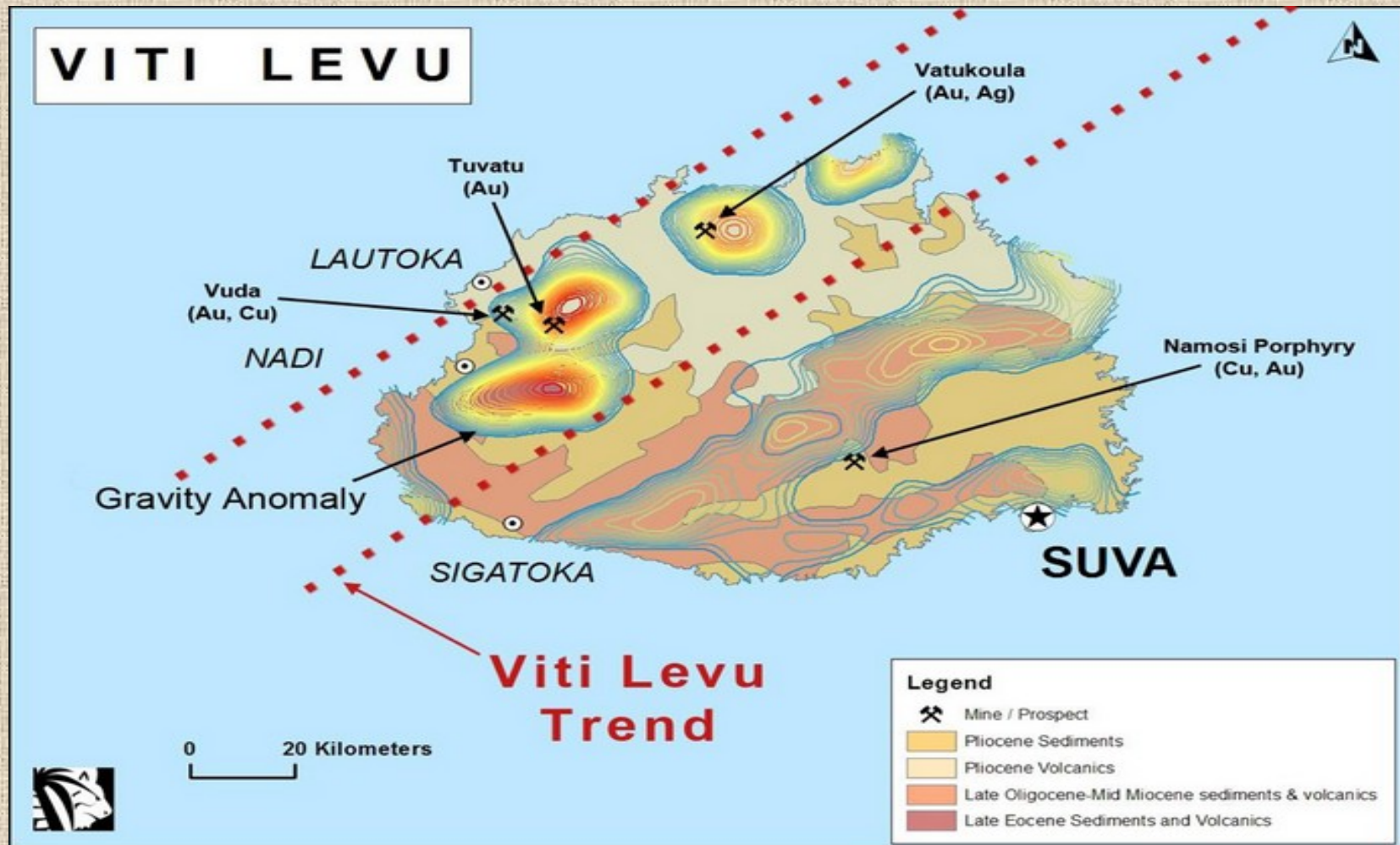


# Mineral Exploration & Mining in Fiji (Background)

- Gold was first reported in 1868
- Mt Kasi Gold Mine opened in 1932
  - ❑ Operated from 1932 – 1946, 1996 – 1998
- 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)

The main image is a wide-angle aerial photograph of the Vatukoula Gold Mine (VGML) complex. The facility is situated in a valley, surrounded by lush green hills. Key features include several large industrial buildings with red and grey roofs, a prominent tall, slender processing tower emitting a plume of white steam or smoke, and a large, dark, sloping area that appears to be a tailings dump or a large-scale excavation site. The foreground shows a dirt road and some sparse vegetation. In the bottom left corner, there is an inset map of Vanuatu. The map highlights the island's coastline and major towns. A yellow box on the map indicates the location of the Vatukoula Gold Mine, situated inland from the town of Tavua. The map also shows the SML 54 area and the surrounding geographical features like the Taumabalevu River and the Nodou River.



# 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 1996 – 1998
  - ❑ 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

➤ Vinaka vakalevu