



Investment **Fiji**

SECTOR PROFILE

MINING & GROUNDWATER

MINING & GROUNDWATER SECTOR

The geographical and geological setting of Fiji has attracted multinational exploration companies to invest and successfully prospect for mineral deposits including gold and mineral water.

Fiji is in the south-western Pacific and is a volcanic group of islands consisting of more than 300 islands with a fascinating geological setting within the Pacific Rim of Fire. Such setting generates various types of mineral deposit systems such as high sulphidation, low sulphidation and porphyry systems. World metal demands have escalated 17 proponents exploring on land and 1 proponent exploring offshore for certain commodities such as gold, silver, copper, alumina and manganese to cater for the market demand.

The total area explored on land is 320,484.12 Ha and 294,800 Ha is explored

offshore on the North Fiji Basin along the Triple Junction setting. High prospective areas of the regional geological settings generate 41 special prospecting licences that are viable for sustainable exploitation that is driven with the changes in commodity prices. The current active gold mine has a mineral resource volume of 4.1million ounces of gold with current mineral reserve of 750,000 ounces of gold, which has been producing for 85 years. Two current projects have been granted mining leases with mine life of 21 years which will enhance the push for developments on the other high grade prospects in the region.

Potential for Mineral & Groundwater Resources

The potential for expansion of a mineral sector in Fiji is quite promising given its geological formation and location in the Pacific. Groundwater resources on the other hand, show significant potential for mineral water production. Fiji currently has 53 companies (2015 est.) exploring for potential mineral deposits on land covering a total area of 746,877.07 ha (2015 est.). However, the interest for evaluating offshore deep sea minerals has attracted few companies and two companies have been granted approval to conduct exploring for deep sea minerals.





OPPORTUNITIES

- Fiji is a consistent exporter of minerals, primarily gold for close to 85 years now.
- The value of mineral water exports in 2017 was FJD\$221 million while the value of gold exports was FJD\$107 million.
- The geographical and geological setting of Fiji at the edge of the Indo- Australian plate and current commodity prices (like gold) has attracted multinational exploration companies.
- The success of water exports has further given confidence to entrepreneurs to develop bottling plants indicating market growth potential for groundwater from Fiji.
- With the increasing global conscience for green productivity and renewable energy, the sector is primed for further growth with a number of international companies applying for rights to explore for geothermal resources.
- Emerging technologies for offshore or undersea mining, with companies actively lobbying government for opportunities to pioneer a new age of mineral exploration and production- minerals from the sea.



INCENTIVES

TAX FREE REGION - WHO WILL QUALIFY FOR THIS INCENTIVE?

This incentive is available to a newly incorporated entity engaged in a new business established in the following areas:- Vanua Levu – included Taveuni, Rabi, Kioa and other islands generally included for government’s administrative purpose as being in the Northern Division. Also Rotuma, Kadavu, Levuka, Lomaiviti, Lau and Nausori-Lautoka region (from Nausori Airport side of the Rewa River (excluding township boundary) to the Ba side of the Matawalu River.

Any company may apply to the Minister for Finance in a prescribed form for an operating licence.

TAX EXEMPTIONS AVAILABLE

The income of any new activity approved and established between:

1. 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2018 for Rotuma, Kadavu, Levuka, Lomaiviti & Lau
2. 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2018 for East of Viti Levu (Korovou to Tavua region)
3. 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2018 from the airport side of the Rewa Bridge excluding the town boundary of Nausori, up to the Ba side of the Matawalu River shall be exempt from tax as follows:
 - Capital investment from \$250,000 to \$1,000,000, for a period 5 consecutive fiscal years; or
 - Capital investment from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000, for a period of 7 consecutive fiscal years; or
 - Capital investment above \$2,000,000 for a period of 13 consecutive fiscal years.



WHY INVEST IN FIJI?

Fiji's renowned culture of hospitality and resourcefulness delivers exceptional value for investors. There are many examples of commercial success resulting from investment ventures by international partners. Fiji offers a compelling investment proposition and has a stable political environment that encourages economic growth and development. Continued investment in infrastructure, education and training have implications not only for the attractiveness of Fiji as a location to investors, but also for the quality of inward investment. Investment Fiji is witnessing a growing interest from large multinationals.

Economic stability is essential for attracting significant inward investment; with Fiji having both low levels of inflation and positive GDP growth

since 2010. There has been a sharp rise in confidence of the domestic private sector and foreign investors with new bank lending for investment purposes rising consistently. Fiji is also the regions foremost trading hub with excellent shipping routes across the Pacific Islands. Fiji has spent a total of \$11 billion worth of road infrastructure and 1,200 bridges, 47 jetties, 5 commercial ports, 25 local and 2 international airports.

Fiji has a business friendly tax structure that supports innovation and investment with 20% corporate tax and a lower rate of 10% for companies listed on the South Pacific Stock Exchange. The Fijian Government has announced a number of incentives and pro-growth policies to attract investments and encourage economic growth that is stable and sustainable. Government plans to increase per capita income by fourfold over the next 20 years.

The continuous enhancement of infrastructure, growth of our tourism industry, advantages of a young population, a first class English-speaking workforce, natural flair of services, conducive business environment and low entry costs are key ingredients of Fiji's continued success.

INVESTMENT FIJI

Investment Fiji was established as the Economic Development Board (EDB) in 1980 and is guided by the Foreign Investment Act. A statutory organization, Investment Fiji operates independently as the marketing arm of the Fiji Government, providing services and assistance to promote, and stimulate investments and exports. As such, Investment Fiji carries out three primary roles, Investment Promotion, Investment Facilitation and Export Promotion.

The Investment team provides in depth market intelligence, identifies potential investment projects and assists investors and delegations by arranging suitable meetings and introductions - in addition to promoting Trade and Investment opportunities overseas.

The purpose of the Investment Facilitation team is to provide post-establishment after-care facilitation services enabling and assisting both foreign and local Investors in establishing their business and providing information, support and assistance during the growth phases - and through to developmental support to retain investment, encourage follow-on investment and achieve greater economic impact.

The purpose of our Trade and Export team is to increase exports in general, but particularly of entities, whose products and services add value, allow for import substitution and contribute to employment.



POSITIVE
ECONOMIC GROWTH SINCE 2010



96%
LITERACY RATE



40 & UNDER
69% OF TOTAL POPULATION



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