

### Third Meeting of the Regional Project Steering Committee for the SOPAC/UNDP/UNEP/GEF Project:

*"Implementing Sustainable Water Resources and Wastewater Management in Pacific Island Countries"*

Rarotonga Island, Cook Islands, 25<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> July 2011

### USP as a regional academic institution

- Established in 1968 to serve the countries of the Pacific
- Serves 12 countries in the South Pacific
- Is jointly owned by the governments of the 12 member countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribatis, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Samoa)
- Has campuses in all 12 member countries, the main campus being at Laucala campus in Suva

### IWRM – Can USP play a role?

- Scientific and Technological assessments:
  - Institute of Applied Sciences (IAS), based at the Laucala campus in Suva carries out on-site and laboratory testing of water, food, and soil samples
  - The Alafua Campus based in Samoa conducts agricultural and soil testing
  - The IAS laboratory has international accreditation to conduct water testing (including micro-biological testing for faecal coliform)
  - The IAS has the regional herbarium (has collections of plant specimens from the region and other parts of the world – staff are trained in identification of these)

### IWRM – Can USP play a role?

- Freshwater ecological studies – for monitoring of stream health, is being undertaken by IAS staff in association with the Environmental Impact Assessments for the proposed multi-million dollar mining project in Namosi, Fiji. IAS is working with Golder Associates of Australia for this EIA.
- Marine ecological studies – water quality and coral reef health (baseline and monitoring purpose) – being undertaken by IAS with Golder Associates of Australia for the Namosi EIA

### A successful Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) project in Fiji

- The Votua Water and Wastewater Management project
  - Multi-stakeholder committees (government, NGOs, local community lead role, international support (NIWA New Zealand))
  - Participatory methods in all aspects and components of the project
  - Scientific and technical support provided by IAS, USP.
  - Constructed wetlands now operating and water quality being monitored monthly by our staff, since June 2011

### Some lessons from the Votua Project:

- The communities are involved in all aspects of the project
  - Identification of the problem (pollution of the inshore waters; inconsistent and insufficient water supply)
  - Identification of strategies to address the problems
  - Inviting stakeholders to assist – academic (IAS/USP); NIWA in New Zealand to provide funds; local people to help in construction of pipelines; digging and planting of nutrient absorbing plants like sedges in the wetlands etc.
  - The community established committees (water committee etc.) to guide the project.

## Concluding remarks



- Make use of your USP centers – if you need scientific and technical assistance, contact us through your USP center staff (mail is sent to and from these centers regularly, depending on flights)

OR email me:  
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Thank you very much  
and vinaka vakalevu

*Dukalesi Bale Tamata*  
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