

Forced to follow:
Indigenous women's
engagements with industry in
New Caledonia

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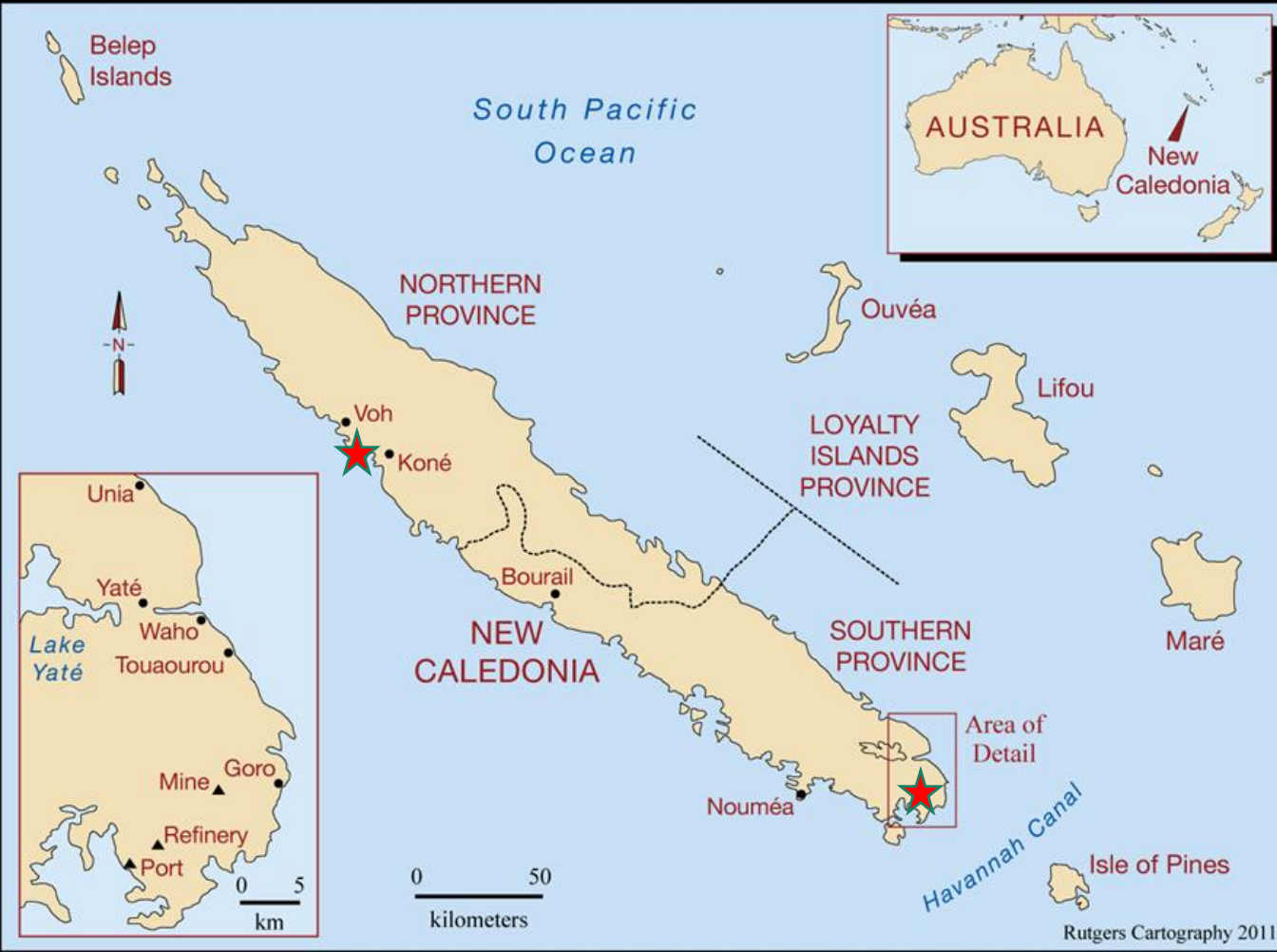
Women and mining

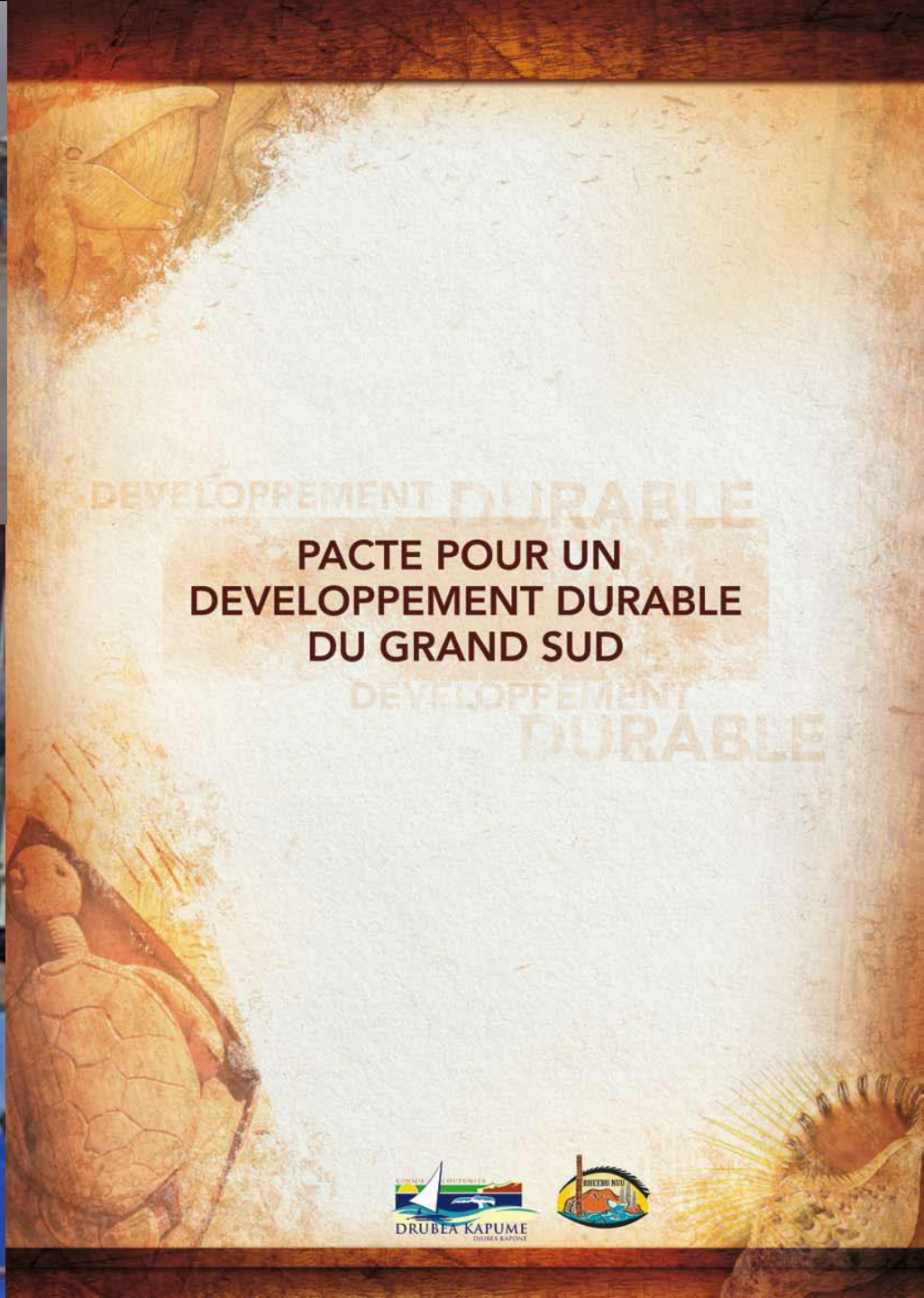


Research questions

- How do indigenous women's socially-conditioned possibilities for engagement with industry help define the wider community's responses?
- How do companies shape women's possibilities for such engagements?

The Northern and Southern Refineries





DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE

**PACTE POUR UN
DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE
DU GRAND SUD**

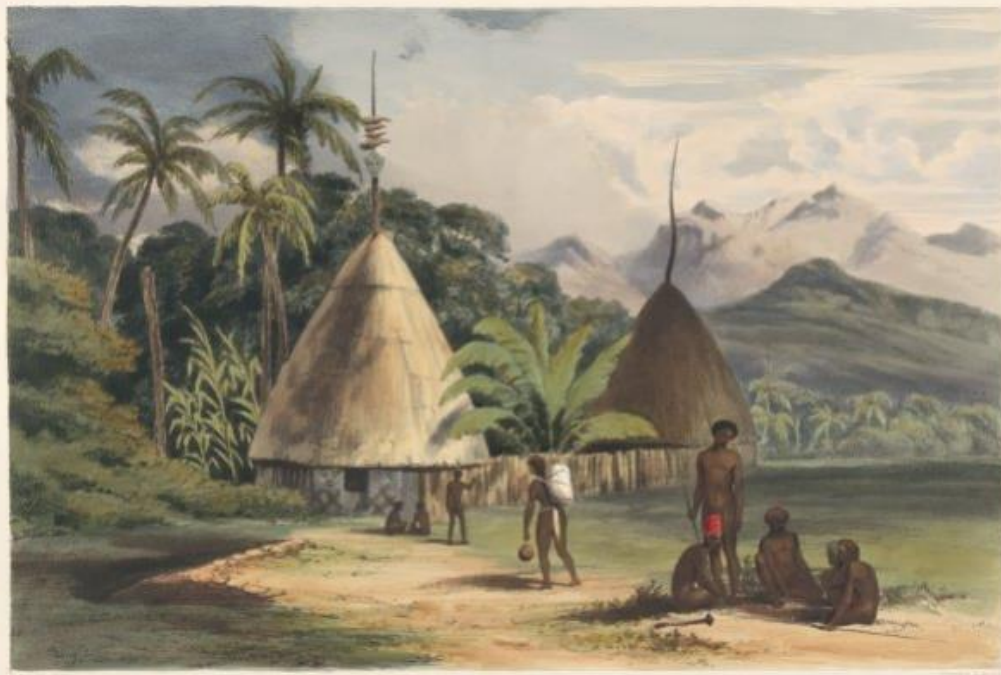
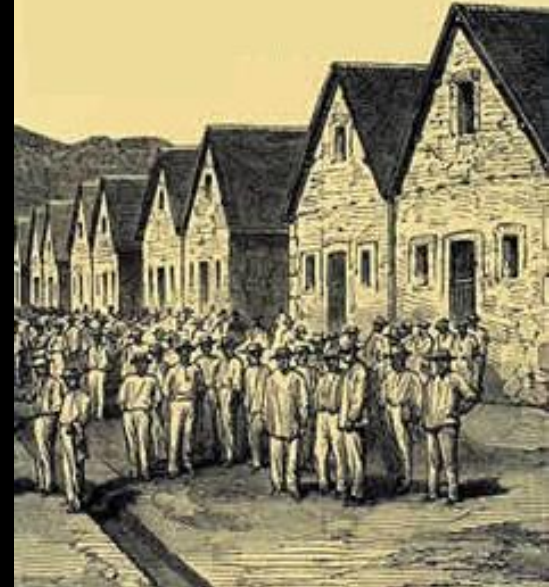
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Kanak women's social positions: Subordination

- Domestic abuse
- Leadership – men only

Le bagne en 1896



Kanak women's social positions: Transformations

- Fighting for rights
- 2000: Law on parity



Wishing for a leader near the Northern Refinery



- “Maybe in the South there are a lot of fishers – men, that is. But here, just women. That’s why.”
- Potential leaders only men



Following the leader around the Southern Refinery

- Forced to follow a senior male leader
- Anger at Pact



KNS's marginalization of women



'One cannot but notice that [the women] don't have any... [chuckles] well, any real impact on decision-making.'

Vale's exclusion of women



- 'Personally, it shocks me, the place of women in Custom.'
- Separate meetings would have been acceptable
- Rhéebù Nùù included over customary authorities' objections

Conclusions

How did Kanak women's possibilities for engagement with the companies affect the wider community?

- Cultural norms prevented women's leadership
- Lack of leadership harmed resistance

How did the companies shape women's possibilities for engagement with them?

- Companies excluded women
- Claimed cultural sensitivity
- Ignored and undermined women's progress
- True cultural sensitivity recognizes cultures' dynamism

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