

4-SPECIFIC ASPECTS

Customary society is based on **clans** that form tribes within customary districts which are part of customary areas. The **clan council**, an integral part of the **customary social system**, rules on questions relating to the clan's assets. The council is often consulted, in particular regarding inheritance, name changes, adoption, etc.

As far as civil law in New Caledonia is concerned, in accordance with **article 75 of the Constitution**, people who have Kanak customary civil status are governed by "custom" for civil matters. There are therefore two types of civil status in New Caledonia, one of common law and the other of specific civil status. Specific civil status for native citizens was established by decree dated June 21, 1934, to encompass customary procedures for certain acts, such as marriage and adoption.

Specific status, which later became "customary civil status" is currently governed by a deliberation dated April 3, 1967, supplemented by the organic law of March 19, 1999, which precisely defines and structures this status.

The legislators' intent was to take into account Kanak identity within the political and social organisation of New Caledonia. Civil status encompasses two definitions - the people it applies to and the matters it covers.

Mayors, as registrars, are responsible for keeping customary civil status registers. Three elements determine the identity of citizens under customary civil status : paternal surname or family name, Christian name(s) and the individual or Melanesian first name. The latter is of particular importance under customary law, especially in relation to land rights within a clan. With regard to land, the existence of a "master of the land" clan is generally accepted, from whom the majority of families making up the clans or tribe originally received a concession, being the land they live on and cultivate.

► **Clan.** Group of families sharing a founding ancestor of a site, from which the members of the clan have dispersed along a specific itinerary. The clan is a patrilineal unit ; names are handed down through men. At marriage, the woman is necessarily from another clan ; she bears the name and retains her own genealogical and spatial attachments. The clan is subdivided into lineages.

► **Clan council.** Comprises representatives of each family group in the clan. There are also other councils :

- Council of clan chiefs : by deliberation dated December 10, 1981, it was decided that in every tribe where a council of clan chiefs could be created, it would replace the existing council of elders.
- District council : in certain districts, it brings together the tribal chiefs from the same district ; it is mainly an informal structure.
- Customary area council : see 3.2.

► **Customary social system.** It comprises :

- the family or lineage, comprising individuals with the same surname, claiming a common ancestor ;
- the clan, functional structure grouping all lineages of a same root and led by a clan chief ;
- the tribe, recognised as a traditional community by decree dated December 24, 1867, giving tribes legal status ;
- the district, a purely administrative invention that more or less respects the areas of influence of each high chief.

► **Article 75 of the Constitution.** Coexistence of two types of civil status is recognised in the 1958 French Constitution which declares that "all citizens of the Republic who do not have common law civil status will retain their personal status until they relinquish it".

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- [2] Sénat coutumier de la Nouvelle-Calédonie, données relatives au statut particulier.
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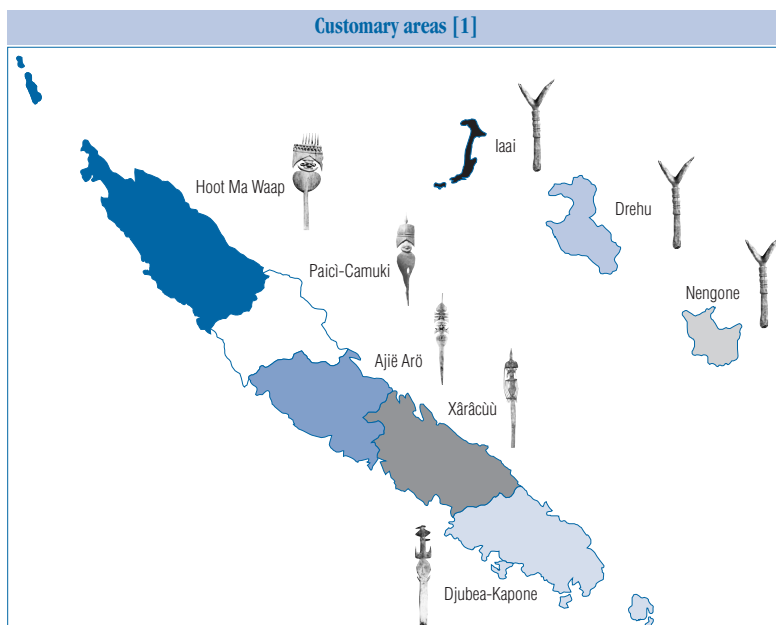
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4.1 CUSTOMARY SOCIETY (1)



Customary society [2]

AREA	INSTITUTION	REPRESENTATIVES
New Caledonia	Customary senate	Customary senators
Customary area	Area council	District high chiefs
Customary district	District council	Tribal chiefs
Tribe	Council of clan chiefs	Clan chiefs
Clan	Clan council	Representatives of family groups

Births, deaths, marriages by civil status [3]

	Marriages				Births				Deaths			
	Customary Number	%	Common Law Number	%	Customary Number	%	Common Law Number	%	Customary Number	%	Common Law Number	%
1981	237	32.5	492	67.5	2 141	53.4	1 871	46.6	479	52.5	433	47.5
1985	224	28.2	570	71.8	1 949	53.4	1 702	46.6	434	48.7	457	51.3
1990	216	24.4	671	75.6	2 247	50.8	2 172	49.2	484	52.2	444	47.8
1995	270	30.9	605	69.1	1 990	46.5	2 294	53.5	473	46.4	547	53.6
2000	299	30.1	696	69.9	2 107	45.8	2 492	54.2	517	48.0	560	52.0
2001	247	26.7	678	73.3	1 989	45.6	2 373	54.4	521	46.1	610	53.9
2002	208	23.0	697	77.0	1 928	45.6	2 296	54.4	565	50.4	556	49.6
2003	213	24.4	660	75.6	1 864	45.2	2 263	54.8	545	48.6	576	51.4
2004	248	27.7	647	72.3	1 657	41.4	2 346	58.6	530	47.5	586	52.5
2005	275	29.3	665	70.7	1 660	40.4	2 446	59.6	558	48.9	584	51.1

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The **tribe** is an administratively recognised structure of Melanesian society. The decree dated December 24, 1867 granted tribes legal status : “it forms a legal entity with ownership attributes, now and always organised in a form that is specific to the status of the indigenous population”. The decree of 1898, although confirming the legal existence and autonomy of the tribe in article 21, considerably modified the features of Kanak society. Article 19 states : “the Territory of New Caledonia and Dependencies is divided into indigenous districts. Each district is made up of tribes under the authority of a high chief appointed by the governor”. Over time the administration had less and less involvement in the designation of customary authorities and the appointment of chiefs returned to the practice of **custom**. The administration then simply records the designation of a customary authority.

According to the 1996 census (no questions relating to tribes were asked in the 2004 census), there were 341 tribes (slightly less than three-quarters on the Mainland, the rest in the Loyalty islands) living in 160 **indigenous reserves**. 80 443 Melanesians declared themselves as belonging to a tribe, but not necessarily residing there. In all of New Caledonia, 28.7% of the population lived in a tribe.

Since 1978, a vast land reform programme has been implemented, firstly by direct Territory intervention, then from 1982 to 1986 by the Lands Office, a State public establishment. Since 1986, **ADRAF** has pursued land purchases to develop **customary lands**.

The organic law strongly reaffirms Kanak ties with the land, stipulating in article 18 that customary lands are inalienable, non-transferable, non-exchangeable and cannot be seized. In 2005, these lands covered 487 444 hectares, being one-quarter of New Caledonia’s entire land area.

▶ **Tribes.** See 4.3.

▶ **Custom.** Specific rules and behaviours of Melanesian society. To offer custom, or perform a customary gesture, signifies compliance to the formal obligations under these rules. The term also designates the object materialising the custom, such as an offering.

▶ **Indigenous reserves.** Native lands, officially declared inalienable, defined by colonial authorities and on which native communities were gradually settled as European land colonisation progressed. A reserve can be occupied by one or more tribes, and is administered under the tribe’s customary structures.

▶ **ADRAF.** Rural Development and Land Improvement Agency. Established by law dated July 17, 1986, it began as a territorial public establishment, however article 94 of the 1988 referendum law and decree of August 16, 1989 modified its statutes and redefined the agency’s mission, which then became a State public establishment. Article 27 of the organic law provides for its transfer to New Caledonian responsibility by a State Council decree, upon proposal by congress.

▶ **Customary lands.** Comprising indigenous reserves, lands attributed to GDPL and lands attributed by territorial authorities or public land authorities, as part of the notion of ties to the land.

▶ **GDPL.** Created in 1982, a Specific Local Legal Entity is only found in New Caledonia, reconciling civil law and customary organisation in the transfer of lands to the Kanak community. Legal entity status was recognised in 1985 and confirmed by article 95 of the 1988 referendum law. A decree dated August 16, 1989, defines constitutional formalities. Since 1989, about 750 GDPL have been created, 298 of them have received attributions within the land reform framework.

SOURCES

[1] INSEE-ISEE, données relatives au recensement de la population de 1996.

[2] Direction des Infrastructures de la Topographie et des Transports Territoriaux (DITTT), données relatives aux superficies des communes.

[3] Agence de Développement Rural et d’Aménagement Foncier (ADRAF), données relatives aux terres coutumières.

[4] Agence de Développement Rural et d’Aménagement Foncier (ADRAF), Rapports annuels, 1998-2005.

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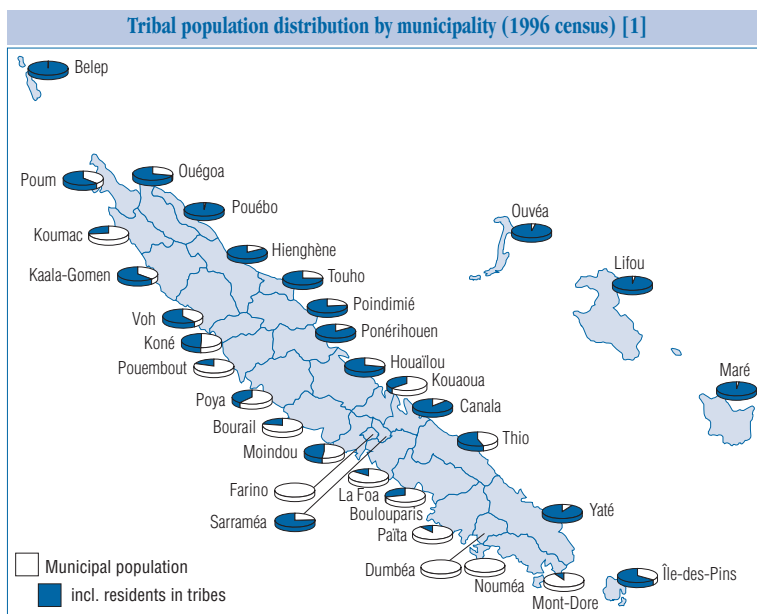
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4.2 CUSTOMARY SOCIETY (2)



Surface area of customary lands by municipality and province in 2005 [2 and 3]

	Surface area of customary lands	Municipal land area	Proportion of customary lands (%)		Surface area of customary lands	Municipal land area	Proportion of customary lands (%)
Belep	5 861	6 950	84	Ouvéa	16 186	65 680	25
Boulouparis	5 829	86 560	7	Ouvéa	13 210	13 210	100
Bourail	6 646	79 760	8	Païta	4 920	69 970	7
Canala	13 693	43 870	31	Poindimié	21 585	67 310	32
Dumbéa (a)	284	25 460	1	Ponérihouen	15 885	70 730	22
Farino (a)	59	4 800	1	Pouébo	6 778	20 280	33
Hienghène	36 456	106 880	34	Pouembout	6 717	67 430	10
Houaïlou	19 133	94 060	20	Poum	7 254	46 940	15
Île-des-Pins (L')	13 441	15 230	88	Poya	14 812	84 580	18
Kaala-Gomen	14 977	71 820	21	Sarraméa	2 073	10 640	19
Koné	21 306	37 360	57	Thio	10 942	99 760	11
Kouaoua	3 604	38 300	9	Touho	8 699	28 300	31
Koumac	3 238	55 000	6	Voh	19 750	80 490	25
La Foa	6 236	46 400	13	Yaté	2 033	133 840	2
Lifou	114 986	120 710	95	Loyalty islands province	192 366	198 090	97
Maré	64 170	64 170	100	Northern province	235 933	985 980	24
Moindou	4 848	32 190	15	Southern province	59 145	673 480	9
Mont-Dore (Le)	1 834	64 300	3	New Caledonia	487 444	1 857 550	26
Nouméa (a)	-	4 570	-				

(a) No tribes settled in this municipality.

Units : hectare, %

Summary of land acquisitions and attributions [3 and 4]

	Territory (1978 to 1982)	Lands Office (1982 to 1986)	Territorial ADRAF (1986 to 1988)	State ADRAF (1989 to 2005)	Total
Acquisitions	50 669	50 414	21 704	34 169	156 956
By transfer of public domain	21 927	-	-	3 400	25 327
By purchase of private properties	28 742	50 414	21 704	30 769	131 629
By purchase cost of private properties (thousand Euros)	7 189	12 302	6 863	21 335	48 319
Attributions	25 971	2 081	9 344	102 213	139 609
To increase indigenous reserves	19 094	-	-	-	19 094
For clans	6 877	2 081	-	-	8 958
For (GDPL) Specific Local Legal Entity	-	-	576	83 796	84 372
For individuals, companies, institutions	-	-	8 768	18 417	27 185

Unit : hectares unless otherwise stated

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4.3 Tribes

(Municipality code) (a)	Tribe (b)	N° of individuals (c)	(Municipality code) (a)	Tribe (b)	N° of individuals (c)	(Municipality code) (a)	Tribe (b)	N° of individuals (c)			
LOYALTY ISLANDS PROVINCE											
(15)	Atha	176	(20)	Ouloup-St Gabriel	248	(12)	Galagaoui	24			
(20)	Banout	429	(15)	Padawa	406	(22)	Galilee	102			
(15)	Cengeite	289	(15)	Patho	250	(10)	Gamai	208			
(15)	Ceni	45	(15)	Penelo	352	(07)	Ganem	154			
(14)	Chépénéhé	1 200	(15)	Peyece	61	(31)	Gatope	136			
(15)	Cuaden	94	(14)	Qanono Sinoj	805	(04)	Gélirma	592			
(14)	Doking	546	(15)	Rawa	172	(23)	Goa	340			
(14)	Dozip	516	(15)	Rô	349	(27)	Gohapin	514			
(14)	Duélulu	1 210	(14)	Saint Paul	76	(08)	Gonde	217			
(14)	Eacho	139	(14)	Siloam	395	(08)	Gouaraoui	69			
(15)	Eni	354	(15)	Tadine	808	(08)	Gouareu	207			
(20)	Eot-St Joseph	603	(20)	Takedji	305	(23)	Goyetta-Nimbayes	445			
(20)	Fayaoue	383	(15)	Tawainedre	329	(23)	Grochain	126			
(20)	Fayawa	105	(15)	Tenane	259	(23)	Grondu	202			
(20)	Gossanah	282	(20)	Téouta-Ounes	337	(04)	Haouli	85			
(20)	Guei	252	(15)	Thogone	181	(07)	Haut-Coulna	101			
(14)	Hanawa	140	(14)	Thuahaick	373	(22)	Ina	127			
(14)	Hapetra	652	(14)	Tiga	401	(08)	Kamoui	69			
(14)	Himeleck	683	(14)	Tingeting	455	(08)	Kaora	92			
(15)	Hnadide	66	(14)	Traput	541	(08)	Kapoué	19			
(14)	Hnadro	120	(15)	Tuho	505	(08)	Karagreu	132			
(14)	Hnaeu	265	(15)	Wabao	473	(30)	Koe-Ponandou	284			
(15)	Hnainèdre	168	(20)	Wadrilla	544	(33)	Koh	152			
(14)	Hnapalu	320	(20)	Wakat	181	(30)	Kokingone-Pouiu	224			
(14)	Hnasse	289	(15)	Wakone	270	(11)	Koniambo	267			
(15)	Hnawayetch	429	(15)	Wakuarory	356	(33)	Konoyes-Sahoue	76			
(14)	Hunete	303	(14)	Wassagne	192	(10)	Kourou	92			
(14)	Inagod	274	(14)	Wedumel	605	(08)	Kua	130			
(14)	Joj	60	(20)	Weneki	339	(04)	Kuine	130			
(15)	Kaewatine	63	(14)	Wiwatul ou Hunoj	693	(07)	Le Kouloué	97			
(14)	Kedeigne	635	(14)	Xodé	458	(23)	L'Embouchure	231			
(14)	Krinata ou Tiole	262	NORTHERN PROVINCE					(07)	Lewarap	187	
(14)	Kumo	383	(33)	Amon-Kasiori ou Ouéna	251	(07)	Lindéralique	175			
(15)	Kurine	234	(11)	Ateou	232	(19)	Manghine St Ferdinand	85			
(15)	La roche	665	(08)	Bâ	303	(08)	Mé	51			
(20)	Lekine	313	(26)	Baaba	79	(33)	Mea-Mebara	162			
(15)	Limite	175	(11)	Baco	535	(08)	Meareu	60			
(14)	Luecilla	628	(10)	Baguanda	164	(33)	Mechin	113			
(14)	Luengoni	424	(19)	Balagam	11	(08)	Medaouya	57			
(15)	Mebuet	549	(10)	Baoui-St Pierre	169	(04)	Mehoue	622			
(15)	Medu	135	(07)	Bas-Coulna	187	(08)	Meomo	73			
(15)	Menaku	212	(22)	Bayes	141	(04)	Mérénémé	414			
(14)	Mou	895	(08)	Boeareu	51	(04)	Mia ou Cui	156			
(20)	Mouli	756	(11)	Bopope	212	(23)	Moneo	369			
(14)	Mutchaweng	254	(08)	Boreare	76	(27)	Montfaoué	282			
(20)	Nanéméhu	52	(26)	Bouarou	156	(23)	Mou	197			
(14)	Nanémuhata	338	(19)	Bouelas	85	(04)	Nakéty Mission	644			
(14)	Nang	346	(31)	Boyen	219	(04)	Nanon-Kénérou ou Le Caillou	263			
(14)	Natchaom	426	(07)	Caavatch	110	(22)	Napoémien	232			
(14)	Nathalo	828	(33)	Caynon	47	(26)	Narai	71			
(15)	Netché	1 095	(24)	Colnett	97	(11)	Neami	243			
(20)	Nimaha	211	(30)	Congouma	242	(08)	Néaoua	171			
(20)	Ognahut	211	(08)	Coula	242	(08)	Nearia	67			
(20)	Ognat-St Thomas	406	(24)	Diahoué	376	(23)	Neavin	229			
(20)	Ouassadieu	279	(04)	Emma	340	(23)	Neboueba	73			
(20)	Ouenghé	191									
(a) See 2.1, municipality codes. (b) Tribes recorded in 1996 census. (c) Persons declaring tribal belonging in the 1996 census, not necessarily living there.											
NB : spellings of tribe names may vary.											

4-SPECIFIC ASPECTS

New Caledonia has a remarkable linguistic diversity, with 29 **vernacular languages** across the archipelago.

Kanak languages, related to the other languages of Oceania, form the eastern division of the family of Austronesian languages. This Austronesian family, that also includes the group of languages from south-east Asia, encompasses a linguistic area from Taiwan to New Zealand, and from Madagascar to Easter Island, with the sole exceptions of Australia and a part of New Guinea.

Melanesian languages are not as diverse in their grammatical structures as they are in the way sounds are used to form and differentiate words. They are derived from a single mother tongue that has evolved in New Caledonia over several thousand years, during which external influences and migration have only played a small role in their differentiation.

More recently, foreign vocabulary has entered every language. An example is the evidence of English in the Loyalty islands, mainly because English-speaking missionaries arrived there before French-speakers. The various Kanak languages can be divided into 6 groups : far North, Northern, Central, Southern, far South and Loyalty islands. Some are under grave threat of disappearing for lack of speakers.

Linguistic areas cover restricted zones, along each side of the Mainland's central mountain range.

On the Mainland, in the absence of natural barriers to exchange, each linguistic community is close to its neighbours to the extent that family, clan or political groups are constantly crossing language borders.

Over and above the importance given to Kanak languages under the Noumea Accord, the organic law provides for the establishment of a Kanak Languages Academy by the **customary senate**, following recommendations from the **customary council**.

► **Vernacular languages.** *Languages only spoken within an often restricted community. Languages specific to a country. In New Caledonia, according to the source of information, the number of languages varies between 27 and 30, some of them could be regarded as dialects, such as "Mea", "Numèè-Kapone" and dialects of Voh-Koné.*

► **Customary senate and customary councils.** *See 3.2 and 3.3.*

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[1] ORSTOM, *Atlas de la Nouvelle-Calédonie*, Nouméa, 1981.

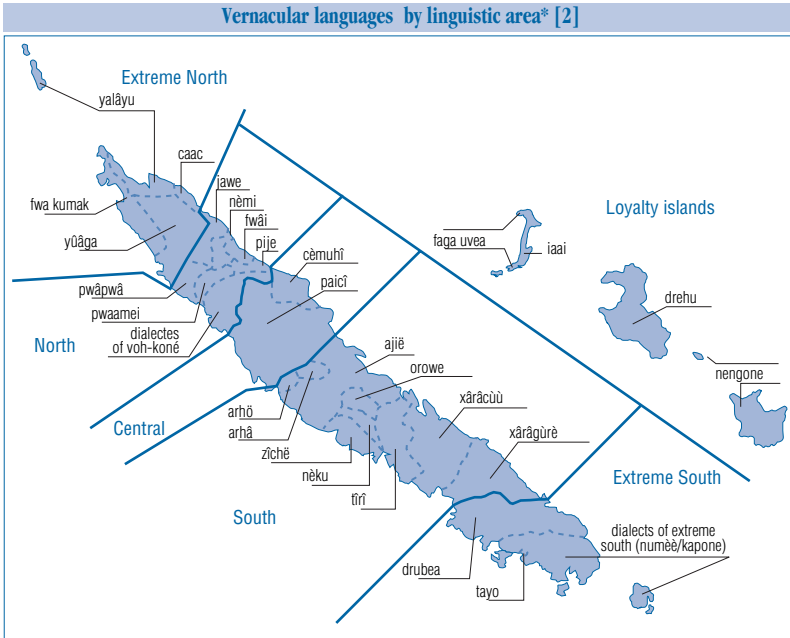
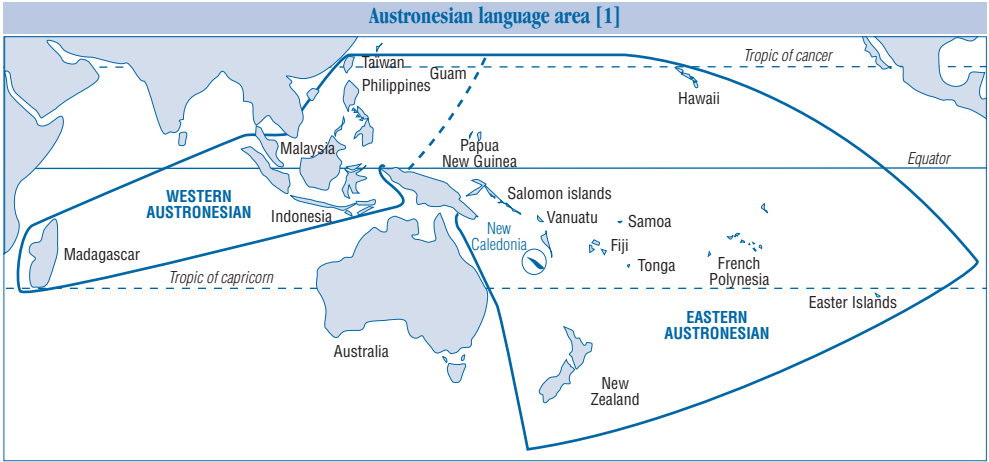
[2] Agence de Développement de la Culture Kanak (ADCK), données relatives aux langues vernaculaires.

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SEE ALSO

Revue Mwa Vée, ADCK, Nouméa.

4.4 VERNACULAR LANGUAGES (1)



* Boundaries for the various languages are only indicative.

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Through translations of the bible and other religious writings, some languages had set and accepted written forms (ajië, drehu, iaai, nengone, paicî). However the majority of Kanak languages remained unwritten for a long time. Furthermore, the written languages were more for reading purposes, which explains the lack of post-evangelisation literature.

According to the 2004 census, there were 62 648 speakers of Kanak vernacular languages in New Caledonia. Of these 22.4% lived in the Loyalty islands province, 35.5% in the Northern province, and 42.1% in the Southern province. Slightly more than one in five speakers of vernacular languages lived in Noumea.

Of the 29 identified languages, the three most spoken are Drehu (13 249 speakers), Nengone (7 958 speakers) and Paicî (6 056 speakers).

A ministerial decision in 1991, made official in 1992, introduced the local languages into the baccalauréat curriculum. The organic law confirms the importance of these languages in education, stating in article 215 that "Kanak languages are recognised as languages in teaching and culture".

By January 1, 2006, eight vernacular languages were being actively taught. The Jules Garnier and La Pérouse Public Senior High Schools have taught Drehu since 1992 and Nengone since 1994. Paicî is taught at the Poindimié Senior High School, Ajië and Drehu are taught at the Do Kamo Private Senior High School. In 2005, 655 Senior High school students followed classes.

In junior high schools, vernacular languages appeared as early as 1986-1987. 2 359 pupils were taught in 2005.

At the primary education level (nursery & primary schools), under provincial jurisdiction, the situations are more contrasting. In public schools, across the three provinces, Kanak languages were taught to 5.5% of students in 2005.

Kanak languages and culture are also included in tertiary education programmes.

► **Speaker.** Person aged 14 years or over, speaking one or more vernacular languages.

► **Senior high schools.** Teaching of four regional Melanesian languages (Ajië, Drehu, Nengone, Paicî) became official in 1992, and these languages were introduced into secondary education Baccalauréat oral and written examinations.

► **Junior high schools.** Kanak languages are formally included in the curriculum and teachers' timetables. Eight languages are regularly taught : Ajië, Drehu, Nengone, Paicî, Iaai, Xârâciüü, Yuanga and Nêlêmuwa.

► **Primary education.** A letter from the Minister of Education in 1990 (CAB/5-n°1759 dated 28 February) established a framework for the teaching of mother tongues at primary education level.

At pre-school level, initiation to school is provided for in the mother tongue, followed by progressive learning of French. In junior school, a quota of hours is dedicated to the learning of mother tongues. In 1992, the Loyalty islands province set up a programme called EILM (Integrated teaching of mother tongues) run in all public and private schools. In 2006 it became ELCK (Teaching of the Kanak island languages and culture). In 1991, the Northern province started up the PHAX programme, named after the initials of the four customary areas (Paicî-Cêmuubi, Hoot Ma Wap, Ajië-Arbô, Xaraciüü-Xââgurèè) ; in the Southern province, 14 schools have had a qualified teacher in Kanak languages since April 2006.

► **Tertiary education.** Native languages and cultures are taught in the public and private Teacher Training Colleges (IFM & ENEP) in the "Melanesian languages and civilisation" and "Melanesian culture and literature" subjects. Since 1999, a Bachelor of Arts in "regional languages and culture" has been available at university. It is specialised in Oceanian languages, with initiation/reinforcement in one of the four Kanak languages that are options in the baccalauréat curriculum (Paicî, Ajië, Drehu, Nengone).

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[2] Vice-Rectorat, données relatives à l'enseignement des langues vernaculaires, Nouméa.

Délibération n°2006-44-API du 17 mars 2006 portant approbation sur la généralisation des langues et de la culture kanak dans les écoles en fonction des réalités linguistiques et culturelles de la province des îles Loyauté.

Délibération n°310-2005-APN du 21 décembre 2005 modifiant la délibération n°70-2002-APN du 26 avril 2002 à la prise en compte des langues et cultures à l'école.

Décret n°92-1162 du 20 octobre 1992 relatif à l'enseignement des langues et dialectes locaux et Arrêté du 20 octobre 1992 modifiant l'arrêté du 18 avril 1988 modifié relatif aux langues régionales des lycées, pour y introduire les langues mélanésiennes, JONC n°6880 du 24 novembre 1992, Imprimerie Administrative, Nouméa.

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Vice-Rectorat : www.ac-noumea.nc ; Université de la Nouvelle-Calédonie : www.univ-nc.nc

4.5 VERNACULAR LANGUAGES (2)

Speakers of vernacular languages aged 14 and over by province and municipality of residence [1]

	1996	2004	Variation
Belep	586	612	4.4
Boulouparis	391	522	33.5
Bourail	988	1 020	3.2
Canala	1 888	2 267	20.1
Dumbéa	1 686	2 777	64.7
Farino	18	36	100.0
Hienghène	1 394	1 710	22.7
Houailou	2 320	2 708	16.7
Île-des-Pins (L)	992	1 053	6.1
Kaala Gomen	885	922	4.2
Koné	1 512	1 713	13.3
Kouaoua	708	857	21.0
Koumac	566	539	-4.8
La Foa	492	455	-7.5
Lifou	5 970	6 291	5.4
Maré	4 042	4 703	16.4
Moindou	200	178	-11.0
Mont-Dore (Le)	2 155	2 465	14.4
Nouméa	11 577	14 206	22.7
Ouvéa	982	996	1.4
Ouvéa	2 366	3 038	28.4
Païta	818	1 328	62.3
Poindimié	2 285	2 615	14.4
Ponérihouen	1 486	1 684	13.3
Pouébo	1 394	1 518	8.9
Pouembout	239	282	18.0
Poum	654	626	-4.3
Poya	951	936	-1.6
Sarraméa	252	339	34.5
Thio	1 078	1 207	12.0
Touho	1 201	1 224	1.9
Voh	858	1 063	23.9
Yaté	632	758	19.9
Province des îles Loyauté	12 378	14 032	13.4
Province Nord	19 907	22 271	11.9
Province Sud	21 281	26 345	23.8
Nouvelle-Calédonie	53 566	62 648	17.0

Units : number, %

Numbers of speakers* aged 14 or over by vernacular language [1]

	1996	2004
Far North group		
caac	890	1 005
yaläyu	1 522	1 694
fwa Kumak	847	739
yüäga	1 992	2 124
Northern group		
jawe	729	635
nëmi	768	911
pwäpwä	16	84
fwäi	1 131	1 550
pwamei	219	210
pije	161	184
dialects of voh-koné (a)	993	980
Central group		
cëmuhi	2 051	2 139
paicî	5 498	6 056
Southern group		
ajië	4 044	5 051
arhâ	35	59
arhò	62	264
orowe	587	355
nëku	221	320
tîrî (a)	558	481
zichè	4	3
xârâcùù	3 784	4 816
xârâgürè	566	632
Far South group		
drubea	946	1 154
dialects of the far south (numèè-kapone)	1 814	1 582
tayo	609	376
Loyalty Islands group		
nengone	6 377	7 958
drehu	11 338	13 249
iaai	1 562	2 464
faga uvea	1 107	1 614
Undetermined	5 761	5 355

* a speaker can speak two languages.

(a) groups have been re-organised for 1996 ; for instance, Méa was incorporated into Tirî.

Unit : number

Vernacular languages taught in high schools at beginning of 2006 school year [2]

	Junior high schools		Senior high schools	
	Private	Public	Private	Public
Ajië	Junior high schools – Nédvin and Do-Néva (Houailou)	Junior High Schools – Bourail, Wani (Houailou), Portes de Fer (Nouméa) and Kouaoua annexe	Senior high school – DoKamo (Nouméa)	///
Drehu	Junior high schools – Havila, Hnaizianu and Hnathalo (Lifou)	Junior high schools – Wé (Lifou), Mariotti, Baudoux, Kaméré and Portes de Fer (Nouméa)	Senior high schools – DoKamo (Nouméa) and Apollinaire Anova (Païta)	Senior high schools – Greater Nouméa, La Pérouse and J. Garnier (Nouméa), Islands Multi-Course High School (Lifou)
Iaai	Junior high schools – Eben (Ouvéa)	///	///	///
Nengone	Junior high schools – Tareme (Maré)	Junior high schools – Tatine and La Roche, (Maré), Kaméré and Portes de Fer (Nouméa)	Senior high school – DoKamo (Nouméa)	Senior high schools – Greater Nouméa and La Pérouse (Nouméa)
Nëlémwa (a)	Junior high schools – Boaouva Kaleba (Poum)	///	///	///
Paicî	Junior high schools – Tyé (Poindimié) and Téouty (Ponérihouen)	Junior high schools – Koné, Poindimié, Portes de Fer and Népou annexe	///	Senior high school – Poindimié
Xârâcùù	Junior high schools – Francis Rouge (Thio) and Do Mwa (Canala)	Junior high schools – Canala	///	///
Yüäga	Junior high schools – Baganda (Kaala-Gomen)	///	///	///

(a) Nëlémwa is a variant of Fwa Kumak.