

A Hook in the Sand



This is a story of climate change in the Pacific Islands,
and a call to act before it's too late.

Māui is a hero of the Pacific.
He tamed the sun.
He pulled the islands from the sea.

But this danger is different.
The reefs are dying.
The seas are rising.
The storms are growing stronger.

And this time, it's us.

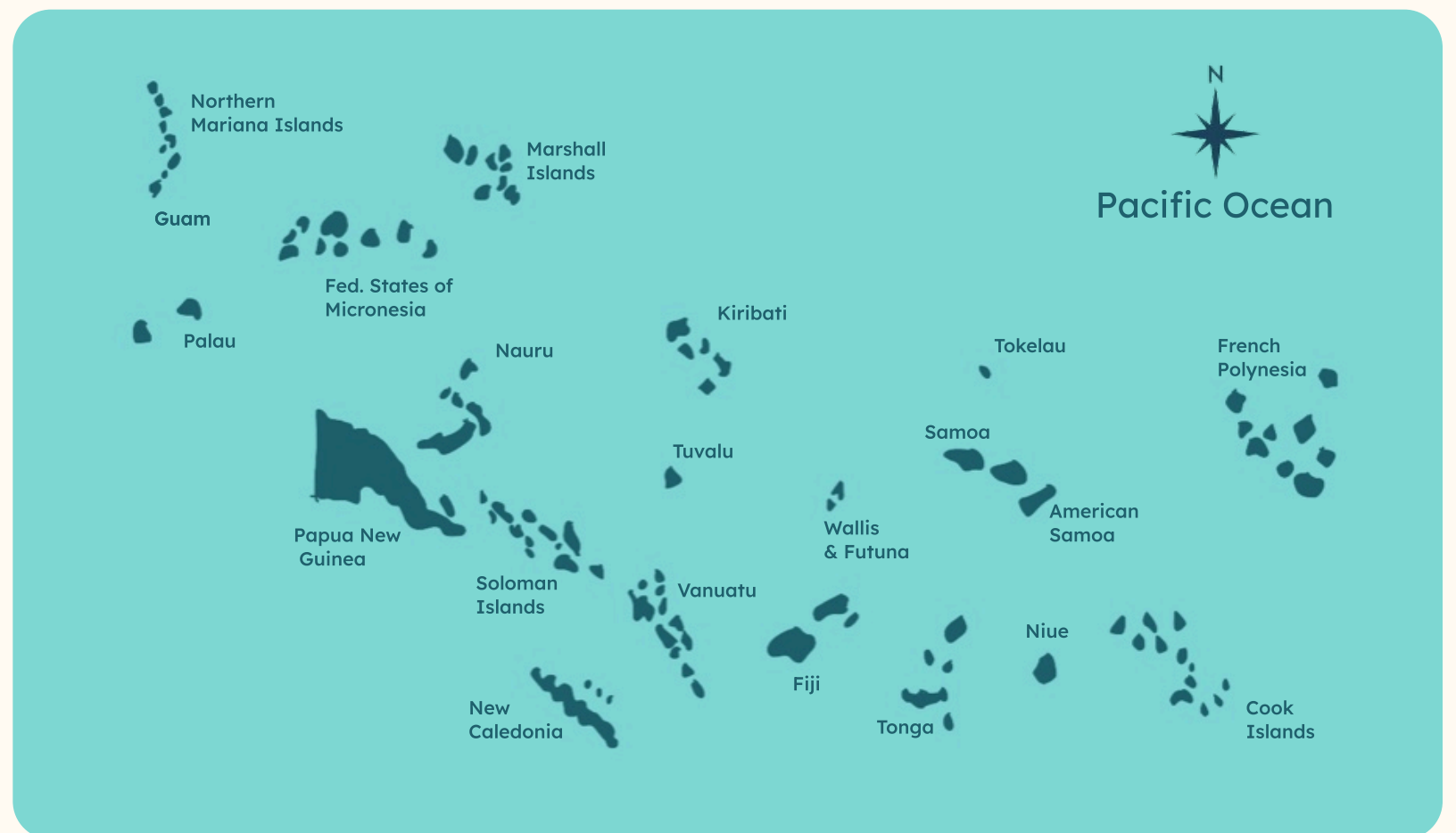
Māui can't undo what humans have set in motion.
But he left his magic hook in the sand,
for the islanders to lift the islands,
and for the world to help calm the planet.



1 The Pacific Heats Up

The Pacific Islands

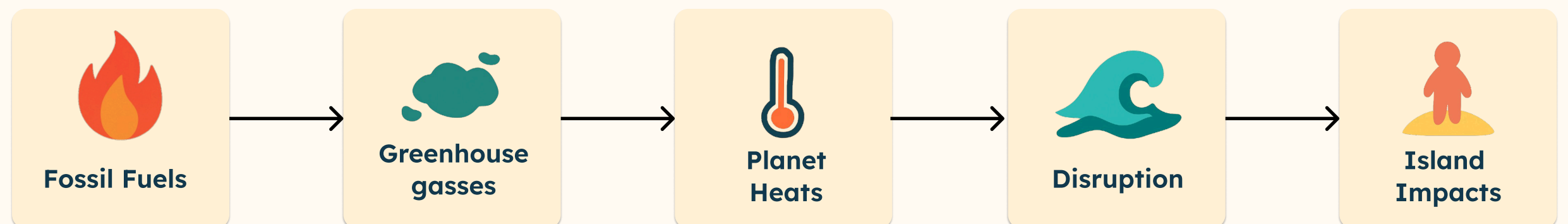
Scattered across the Pacific Ocean, the Pacific Islands span thousands of kilometres. Small in land, vast in ocean, culture, and resilience.



Map of Pacific Islands
(not to scale)

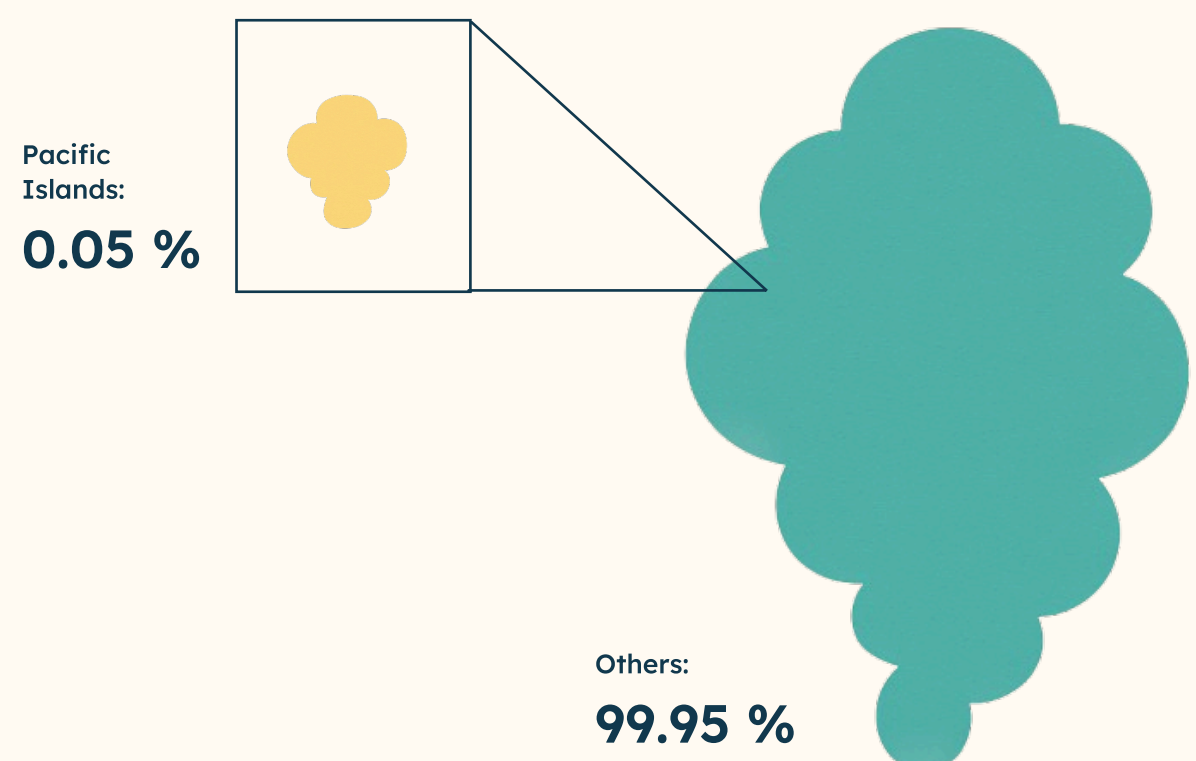
What We've Set in Motion

Globally, fossil fuel use pumps greenhouse gases into the sky. These gases trap heat. That heat crashes into the Pacific Islands, fading reefs, fleeing fish, fiercer storms, and sinking shores.



They didn't light the fire

Pacific Islanders produce just 0.05% of the world's greenhouse gases, yet they face some of the harshest consequences of climate change.

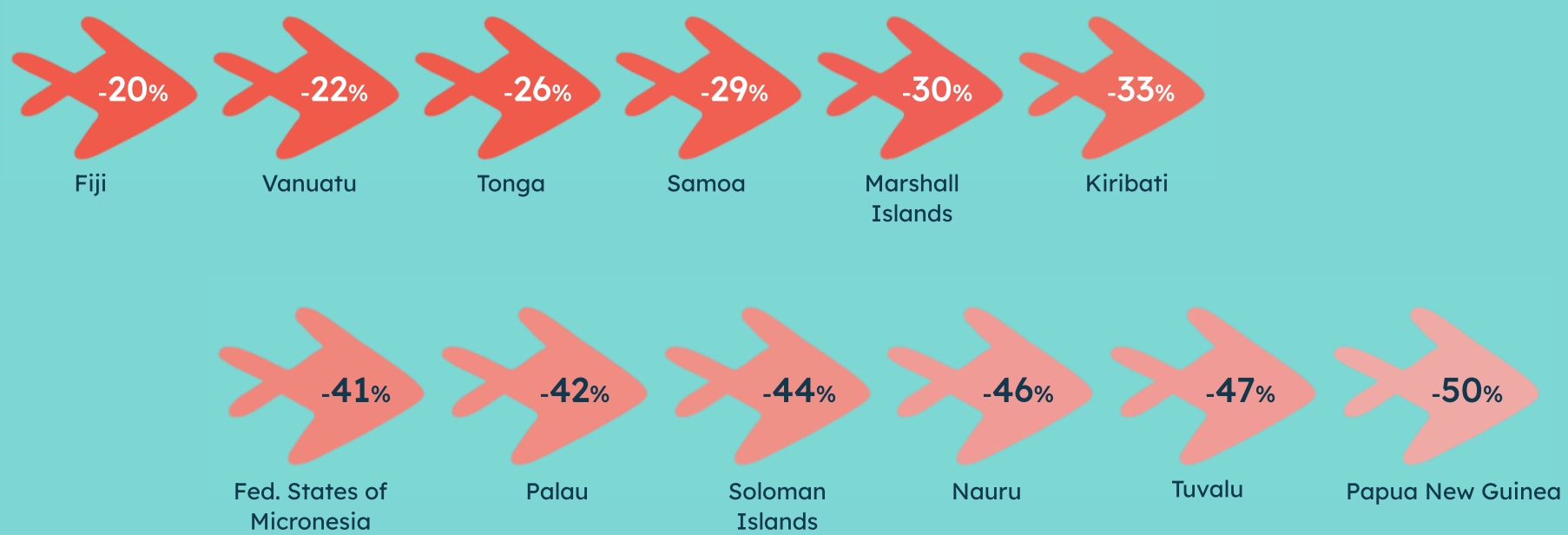


Share of Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions
(2023)

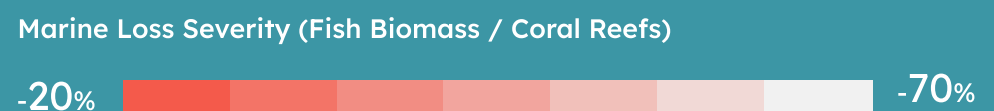
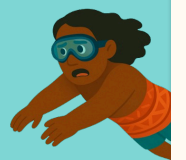
2 The Reef Goes Quiet

Where Have all the Fish Gone?

By 2100, many Pacific nations face emptier fishing nets and may lose 20% to 50% of their reef fish.



Projected Fish Biomass Decline
(2100, RCP 8.5 scenario)



The Reef That Used to Sing

Between 2000 and 2020, marine heatwaves turned once-lively coral reefs ghost-white. **Bora Bora alone suffered nearly half of all bleaching events** in this region.

1 Coral = 1 Bleaching Event
Coral size = Reef cover (% of area)
Smallest: 3%, Largest: 73%

12 Events
Viti Levu
Fiji



44 Events
Bora-Bora
French Polynesia



10 Events
Vanua Levu
Fiji



24 Events
Others

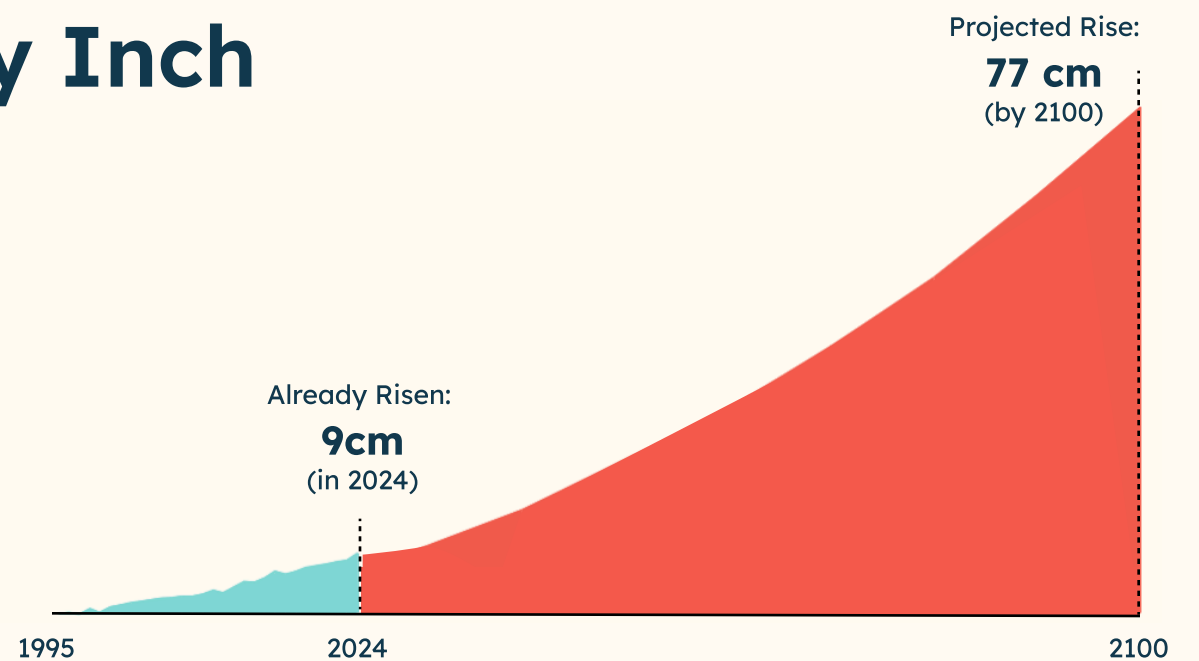


Major Coral Bleaching Events
(>7.5% Bleached, 2000–2020)

3 The Water Creeps Closer

The Sea Remembers Every Inch

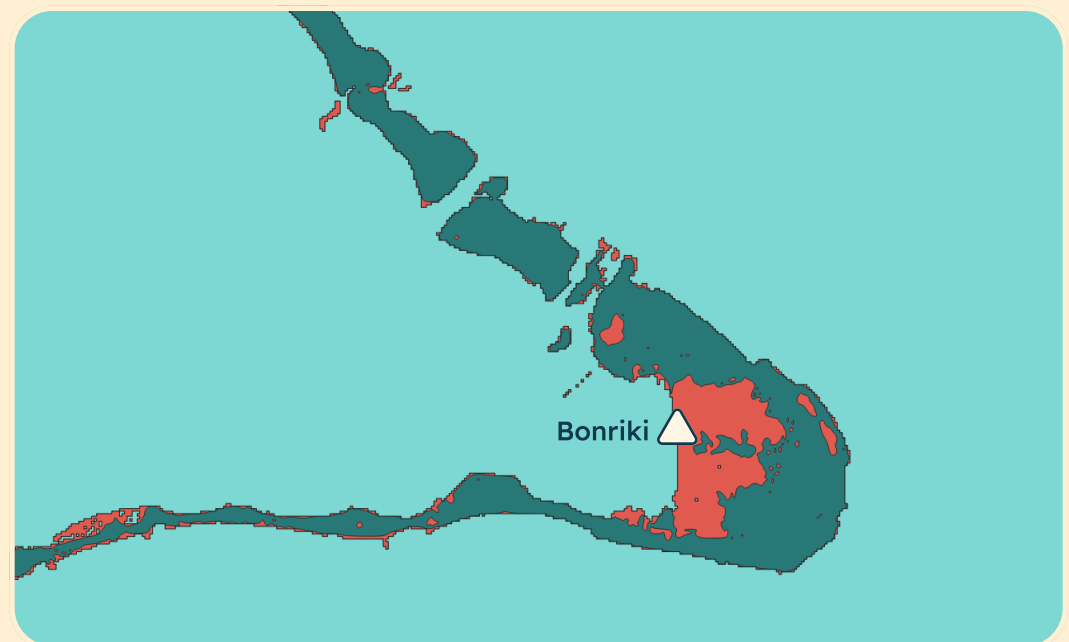
The ocean doesn't stop at the reef.
Sea Levels are also rising.
And it keeps coming, sadly.
Māui's powers can't hold back this sea.
So seawater eats away at the land.



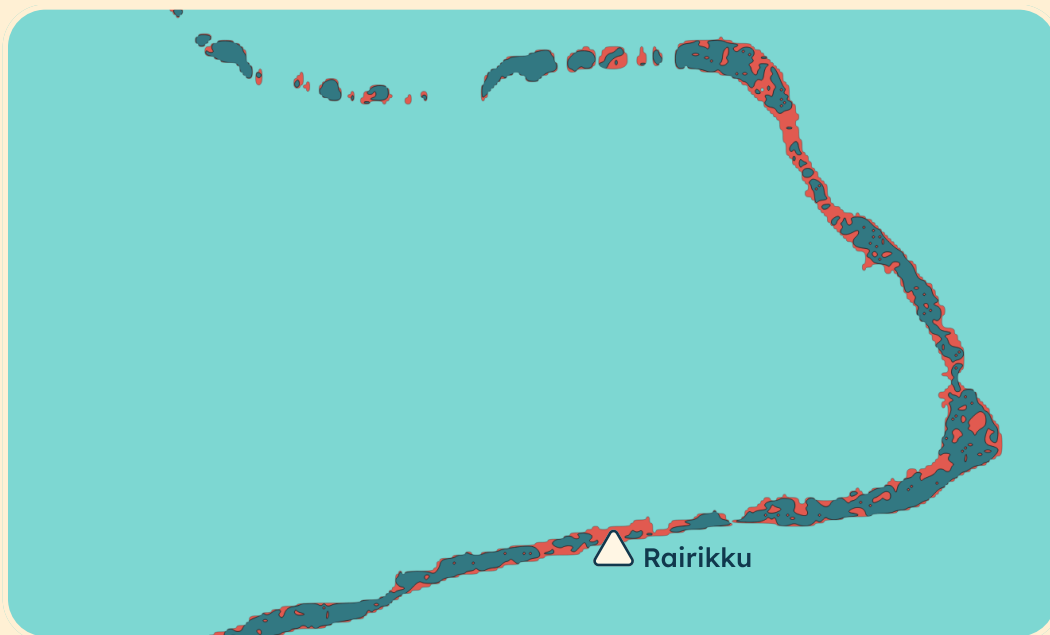
Observed and Projected Global Sea Level Rise
(1995–2100, baseline 1995, RCP 8.5 Scenario)

Flood Lines Turn Front Lines

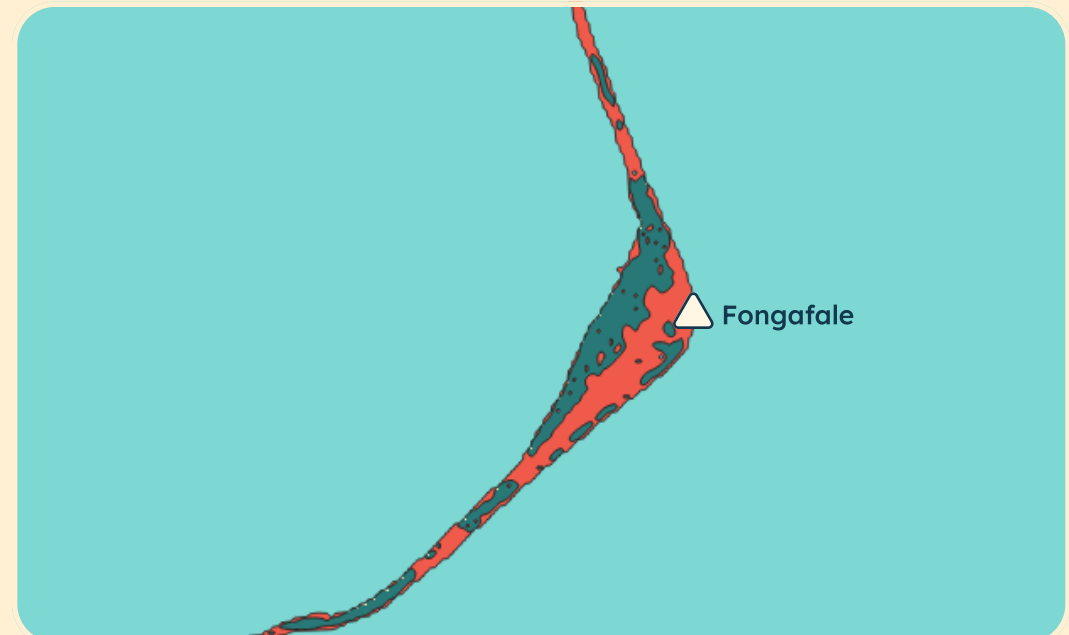
Capital cities like Majuro, Tarawa, and Funafuti also
face extreme coastal inundation.
Entire communities may be forced inland.



Tarawa, Kiribati



Majuro, Marshall Islands



Funafuti, Tuvalu

Projected Coastal Inundation: Majuro, Tarawa & Funafuti
(2100, RCP 8.5 Scenario)

4 Sky Cracks Open

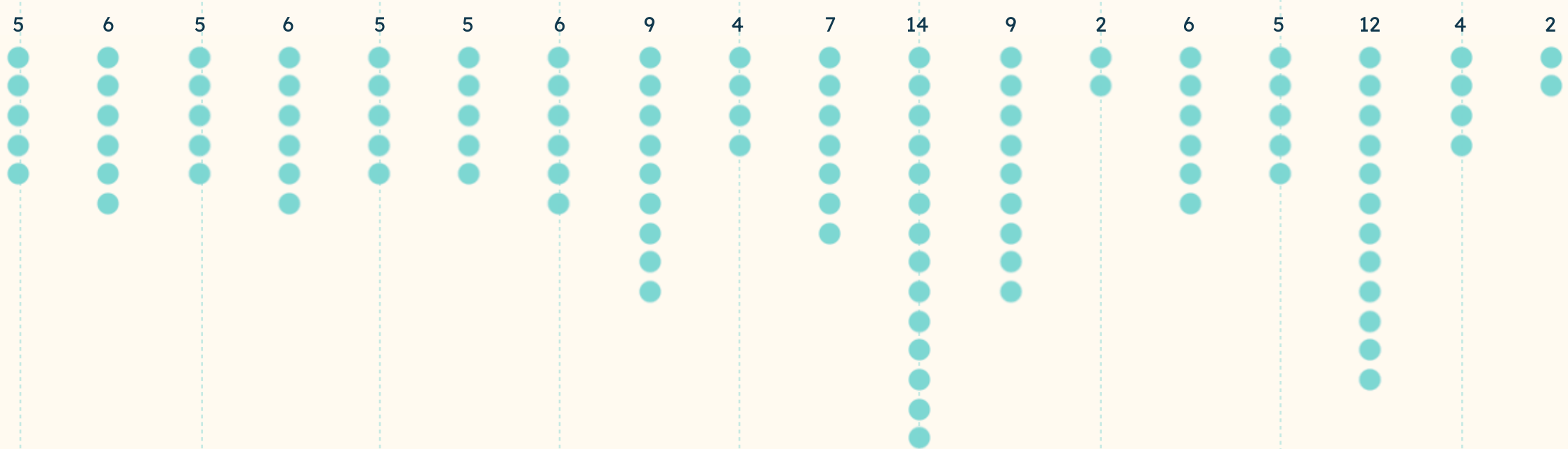
Timeline shared across all charts

2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022

Living Between Climate Disasters

Floods, cyclones, mass movement, and drought **disasters come without pattern**, and they never stop.

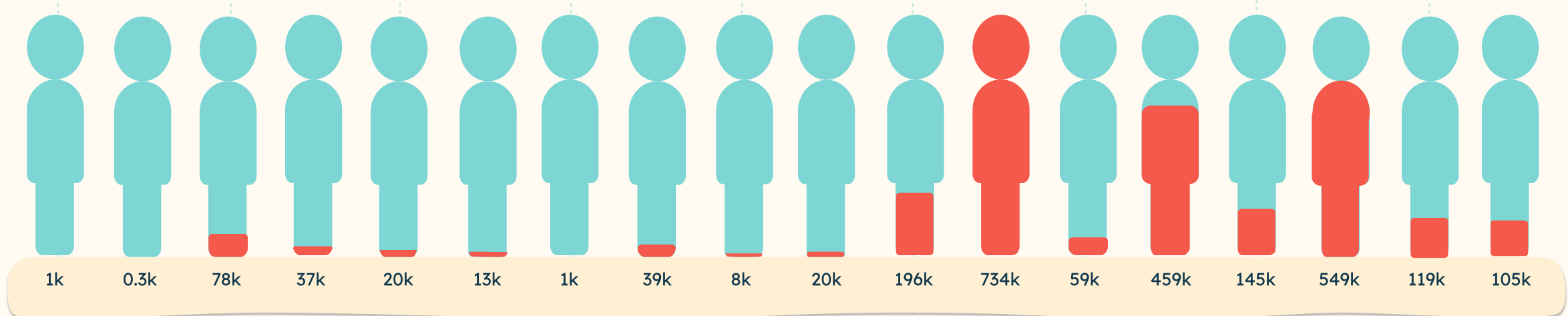
1 dot = 1 disaster event



Disaster Occurrences (2005-2022)

Every year, **more people are caught in harm's way**.

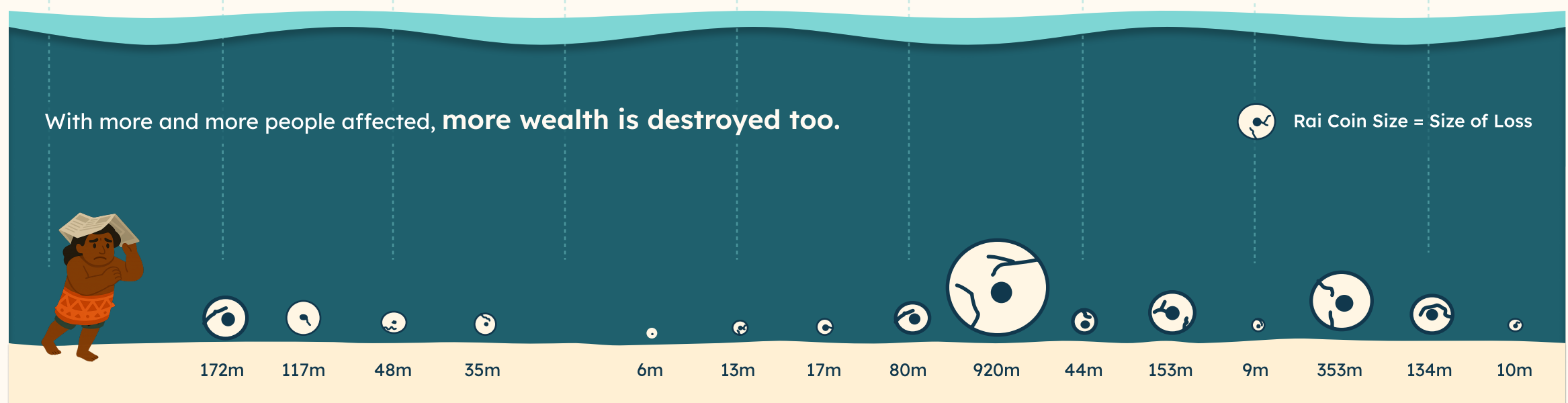
More Red = More People



Number of People Affected by Disaster (2005-2022)

With more and more people affected, **more wealth is destroyed too**.

Rai Coin Size = Size of Loss



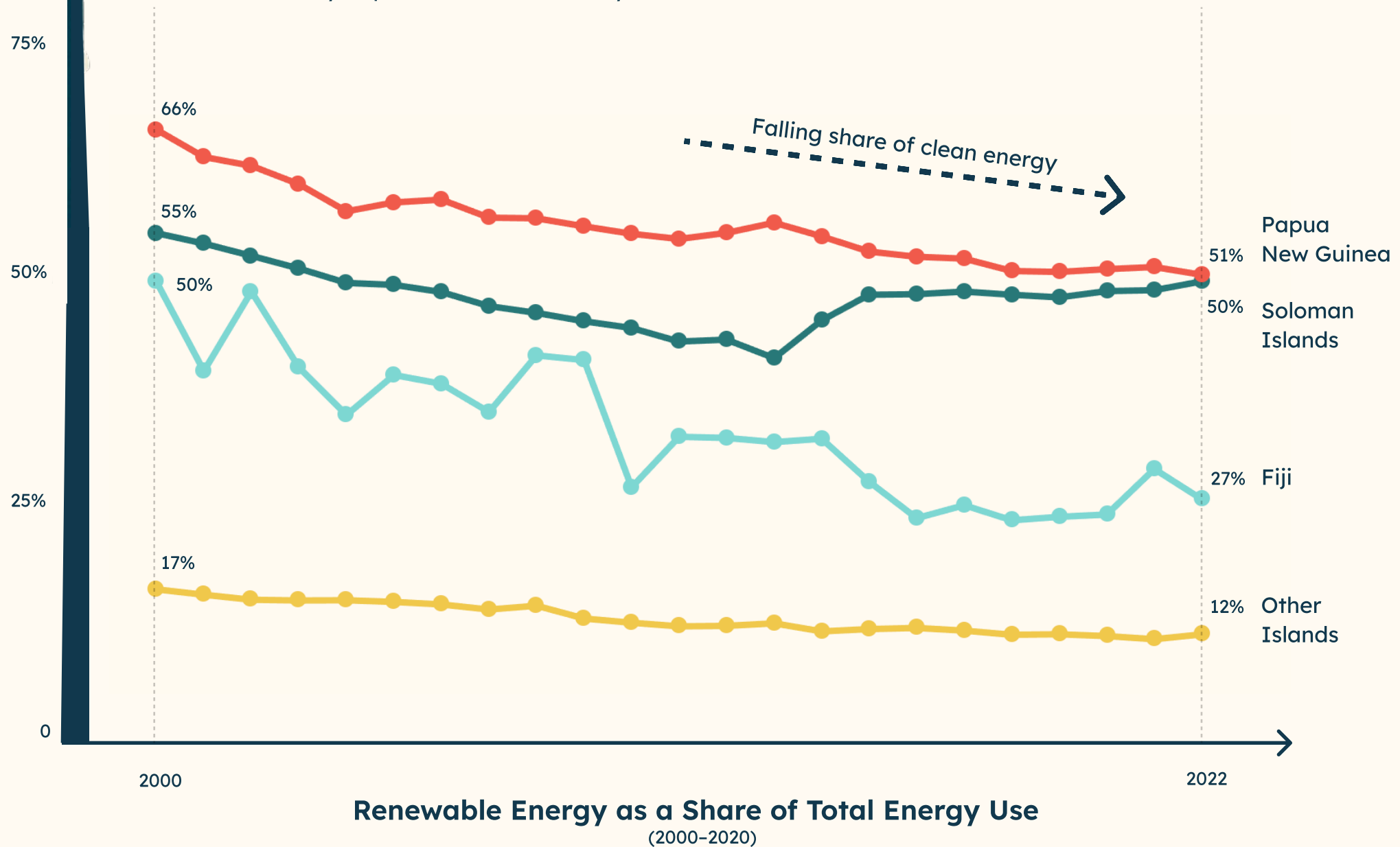
Economic Loss from Disasters (2007-2022, USD) No data available for 2011

5 Working with the World



Slipping off the Clean Energy Path

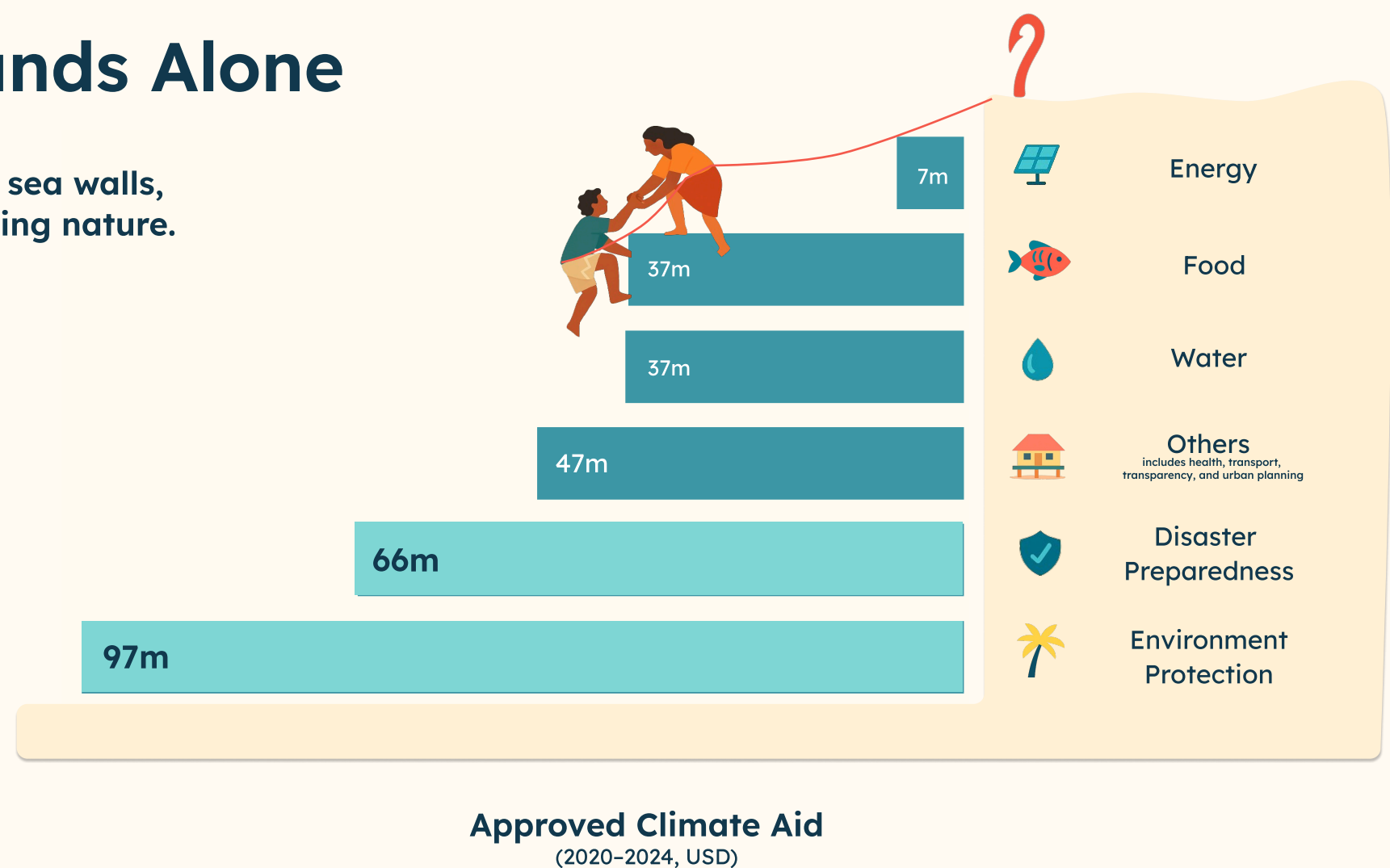
Even the Pacific's strongest renewable users now rely less on clean energy. It's sadly a quiet backslide and they're not alone.



No Island Stands Alone

The Pacific isn't standing still. Global aid is helping to build sea walls, protecting homes, and restoring nature.

But no wall can stop the heat. We must keep cooling the planet, and pushing the world to act.



Lifting the Hook Together

**Māui Leaves the Hook.
The Islanders do the lifting.**

This won't be fixed overnight.
But the magic hook is still here,
and if the world lifts with them,
we can pull the planet back from the heat.

This is the heart of the Blue Pacific 2050 Vision
Pacific Island nations leading with strength,
and the world standing with them.



Data Sources

Share of Global Greenhouse Emissions

EDGAR Community GHG Database, version EDGAR_2024_GHG (2024), European Commission, JRC, and IEA

Projected Fish Biomass Decline

Fierro-Arcos D., Novaglio, C., Clawson, S.G., & Blanchard J.L. (2024). Shiny app to explore FishMIP climate change projections by country and marine regions.

Novaglio, C., Fierro-Arcos D., Clawson, S.G., Blanchard J.L. & FishMIP (2024). Data and code used to produce maps and projections in FAO Technical Paper 707

Major Coral Bleaching Events

Van Woesik, Robert & Kratochwill, Chelsey. (2022). A global coral-bleaching database, 1980–2020. Scientific Data. 9. 10.1038/s41597-022-01121-y.

Observed and Projected Global Sea Level Rise

NASA. (n.d.). Sea level: Satellite data, 1993–present. NASA Climate Change: Vital Signs of the Planet. <https://climate.nasa.gov/vital-signs/sea-level/>

Projected Coastal Inundation: Majuro, Tarawa & Funafuti

NASA Sea Level Change Team. (n.d.). Sea Level Projection Tool. NASA. <https://sealevel.nasa.gov/tools/interactive-tools/sea-level-projection-tool>

Kulp, S. A., & Strauss, B. H. (2019). New elevation data triple estimates of global vulnerability to sea-level rise and coastal flooding. Nature Communications, 10, 4844. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-019-12808-z>

Disaster Occurrences

Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED). (n.d.). EM-DAT: The International Disaster Database. Université catholique de Louvain. <httpsh://public.emdat.be/data>

Number of People Affected by Disaster

Pacific Community (SPC). (n.d.). Blue Pacific 2050: Ocean and Environment (Thematic Area 6). Pacific Data Hub – Stats. <https://stats.pacificdata.org/>

Economic Loss from Disasters

Pacific Community (SPC). (n.d.). Blue Pacific 2050: Ocean and Environment (Thematic Area 6). Pacific Data Hub – Stats. <https://stats.pacificdata.org/>

Renewable Energy as a Share of Total Energy Use

Pacific Community (SPC). (n.d.). Blue Pacific 2050: Ocean and Environment (Thematic Area 6). Pacific Data Hub – Stats. <https://stats.pacificdata.org/>

Approved Climate Aid

Climate Funds Update. (n.d.). Data dashboard. Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung & ODI. Retrieved July 24, 2025, from <https://climatefundsupdate.org/data-dashboard/>