

Lifeline on the Edge

What looks small on a map can loom large at the edge.

There is no single Pacific edge.
Different islands reach the edge for different reasons.

HOW TO READ THE EDGE

Each island is redrawn to show more than land.
Its size reflects how far it stands on the edge.

SIZE

Small countries can appear large here
because this map scales vulnerability,
not just geography.

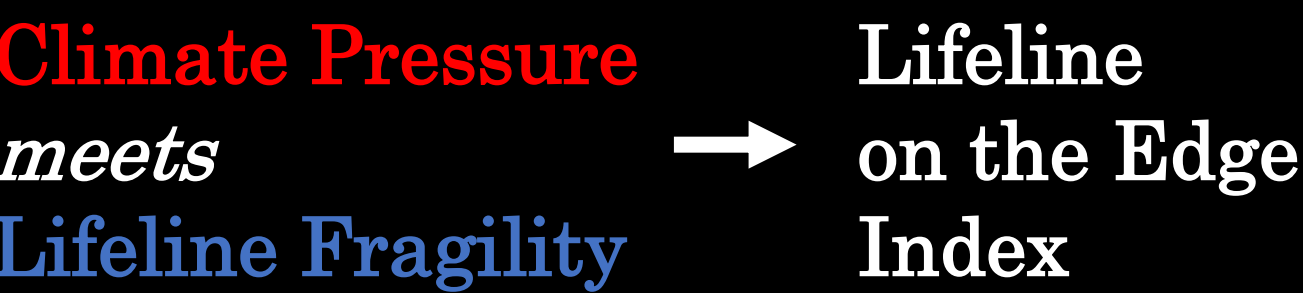
COLOUR

Colour reveals what pushes a country closer to the edge.
Blue leans toward fragile lifelines;
red toward climate pressure.

HOW THE INDEX IS BUILT

Climate Pressure
= $0.5 \times \text{Sea-level Pressure}$
+ $0.5 \times \text{Rainfall Pressure}$

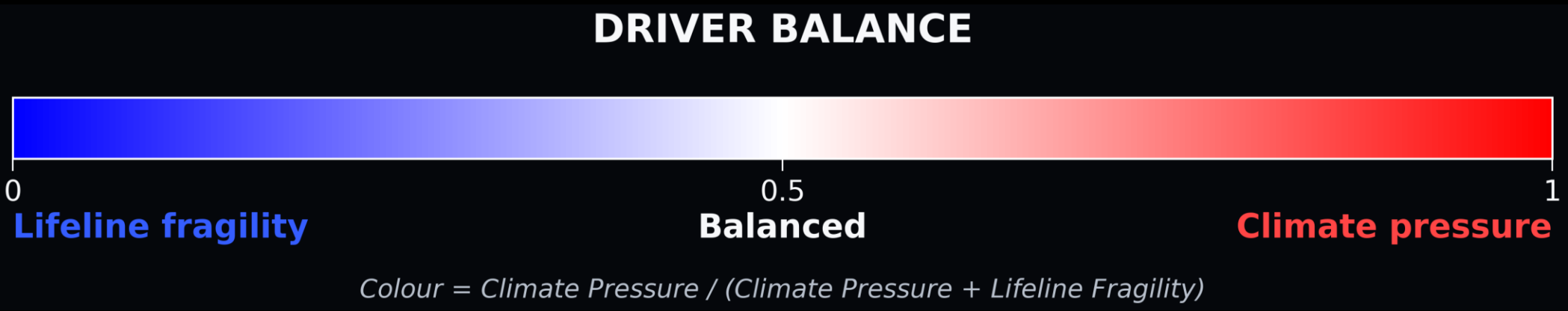
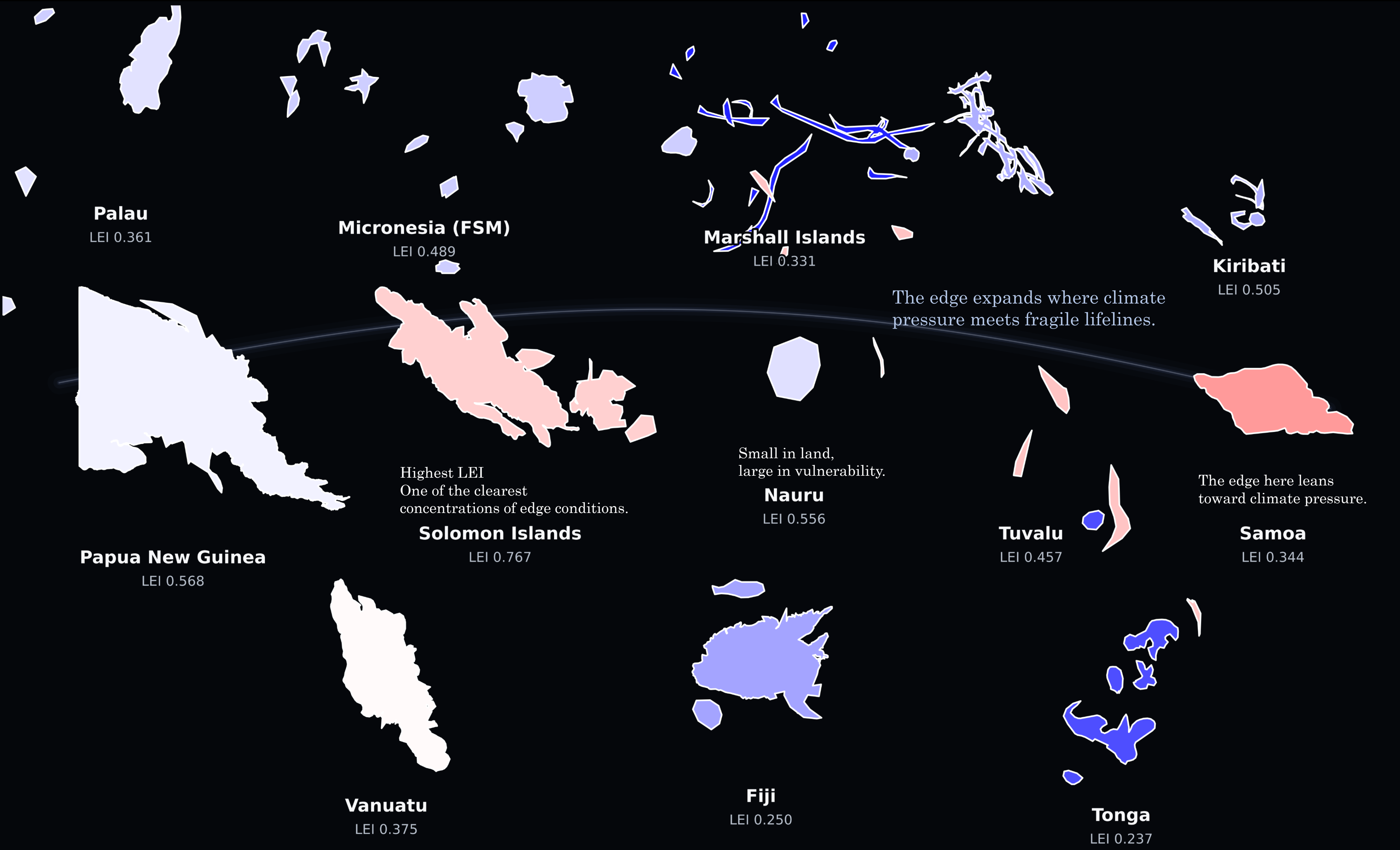
Lifeline Fragility
= $(\text{Water Fragility}$
+ $\text{Monitoring Fragility}$
+ $\text{Energy Fragility}) / 3$



METHODOLOGY

Displayed area
 $\propto (\text{real land area})^{0.25} \times (1 + \text{Lifeline on the Edge Index})$

Land-area differences are compressed so that small island states remain visible. Country positions are rearranged for readability; this is a schematic cartogram.
The index is comparative across the 12 Pacific countries shown.



FINDINGS

- Small countries can appear large when vulnerability is high.
- The edge is driven by different forces across the Pacific.
- Lifeline fragility matters as much as climate pressure.