

Sunda Land, an Archeological View

by Potluri Rao In Seattle ©2018 (CC BY 4.0)

Before 20,000 BCE, much of the world was covered with glaciers, and the seawater was far below the current levels. Much of the human history was written by people who were unaware of the geography that existed before the glacial melt. The current version of human history starts with the glacial melt, and people evolving from Stone Age to Iron Age.

Modern Humans, Homo Sapiens, existed for nearly 200,000 years. The world is separated into Tropical Zone and Glacial Zone. In the Tropical Zone, around the Equator, there were no glaciers. Glaciers existed only in the Glacial Zone.

Around 100,000 BCE, some Homo Sapiens moved from Central Africa to Ethiopia. Some of them moved east to reach Sunda land, via India. They painted caves in the current Sulawesi island of Indonesia. The paintings of local pigs were dated to be more than 50,000 years old.

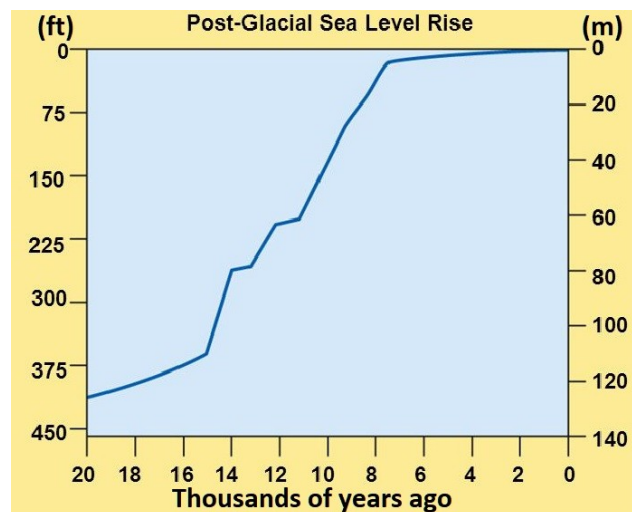
What was the landscape like when the caves were painted?

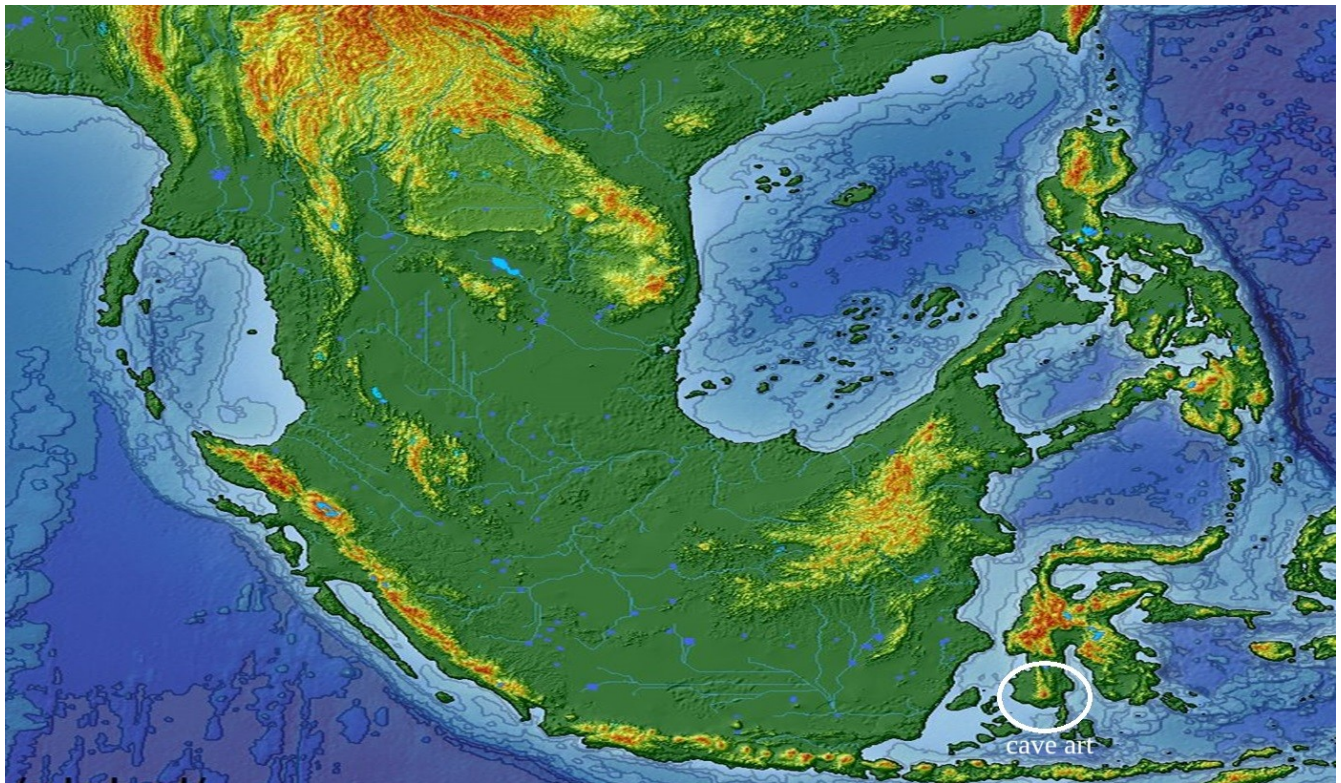
To answer the question we looked at the altitude data.

Glacial melt started 20,000 years ago. At that time, the seawater was 400 feet below the current levels. The current levels were reached around 6,000 years ago.

To visualize the landscape at the time Homo Sapiens painted the caves in Sulawesi, we have to artificially lower the sea levels to below 400 feet.

We have access to altitude data to help us reconstruct the landscape.

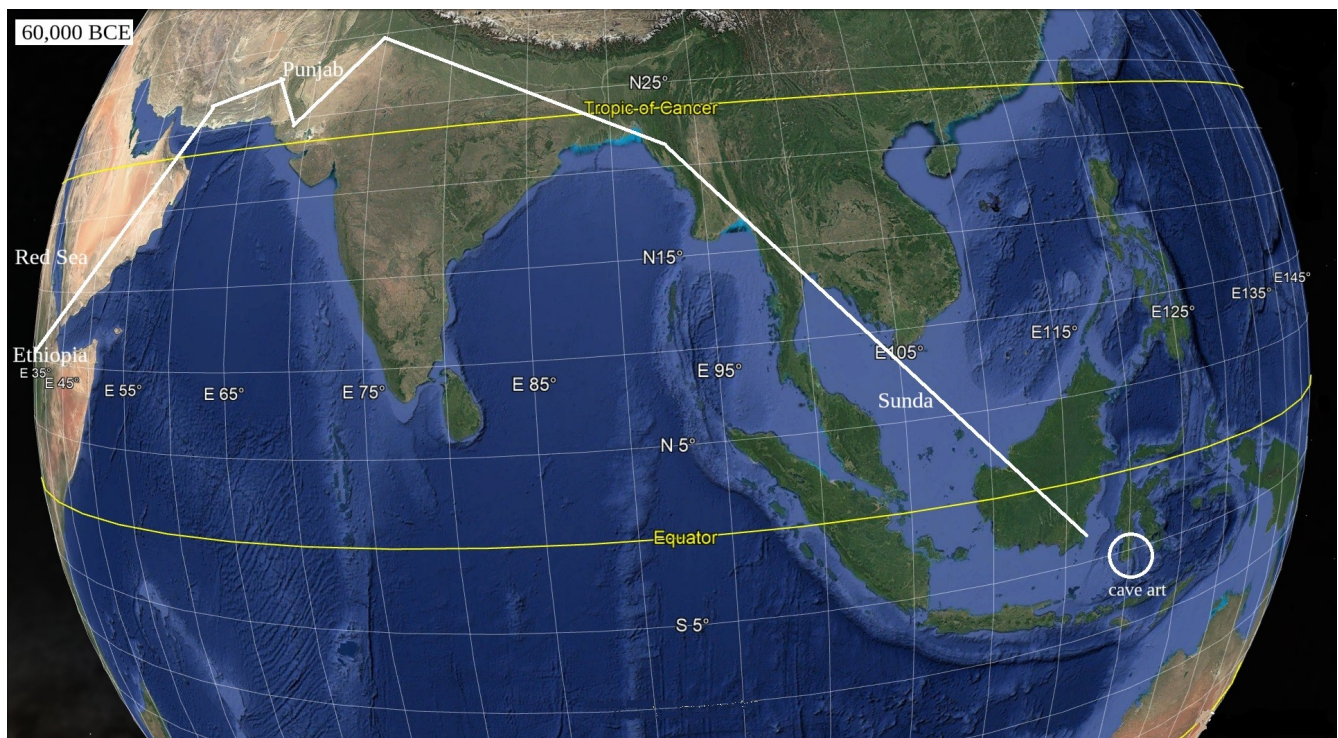




The above maps are the area around the cave art, called Sunda land. In the top map, each label has depth in meters and feet. All the area in medium blue is less than 500 feet. The dark blue is deeper than 500 feet.

The bottom map was generated by a computer to translate altitude data into an understandable topographical map.

It is obvious that before the glacial melt, and Sunda was submerged, it was a giant fertile valley with perennial rainwater rivers. It attracted Homo Sapiens from Africa. The dates of the cave art suggest that Homo Sapiens lived in Sunda by 60,000 BCE.



Based on the above information, it is reasonable to speculate that Homo Sapiens migrated from Ethiopia (Africa) to the cave art (Sunda) along the white line.

Sunda is along the Equator, in the Tropical Zone. They had no glaciers. They were warm and toasty. As is obvious from the cave art, they had abundant supply of food resources. It required no more than three people with sticks and ropes to catch a pig.

The people who migrated along the white line were not primitive people. They were advanced logic based cultures, visionaries, explorers, and pioneers. They discovered Sunda 60,000 years ago. The cave art speaks volumes of the ancient human history.