

Humans in 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. It is the story of postglacial humans evolving from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. It is the story of Europe Homo sapiens.

Modern humans, Homo sapiens, have existed for nearly 200,000 years. The world is separated into the Tropical Zone and the Glacial Zone. In the Tropical Zone, around the Equator, there were no glaciers.

Around 100,000 BCE, some Homo Sapiens moved from Central Africa to Ethiopia. Some of them moved east to reach Sunda land via India. In Sunda, they painted caves in the current Sulawesi island of Indonesia, along the Equator. The cave art of local pigs was dated to be more than 50,000 years old. They lived only in the Tropical Zone. They were the Asian Homo Sapiens. They had nothing to do with the African or European Homo Sapiens.

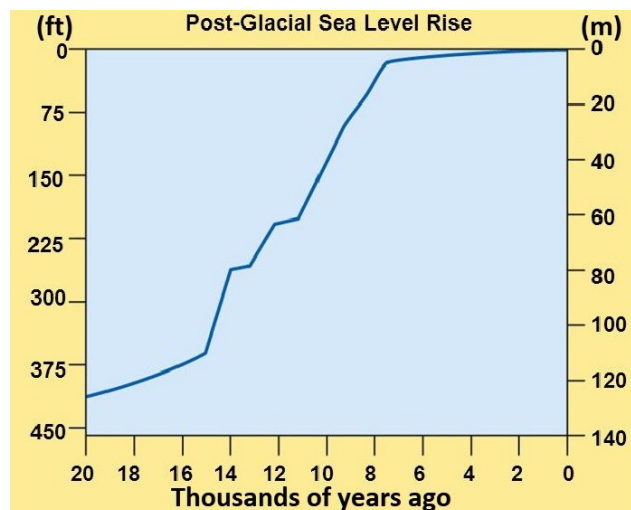
What was the landscape like when the caves were painted?

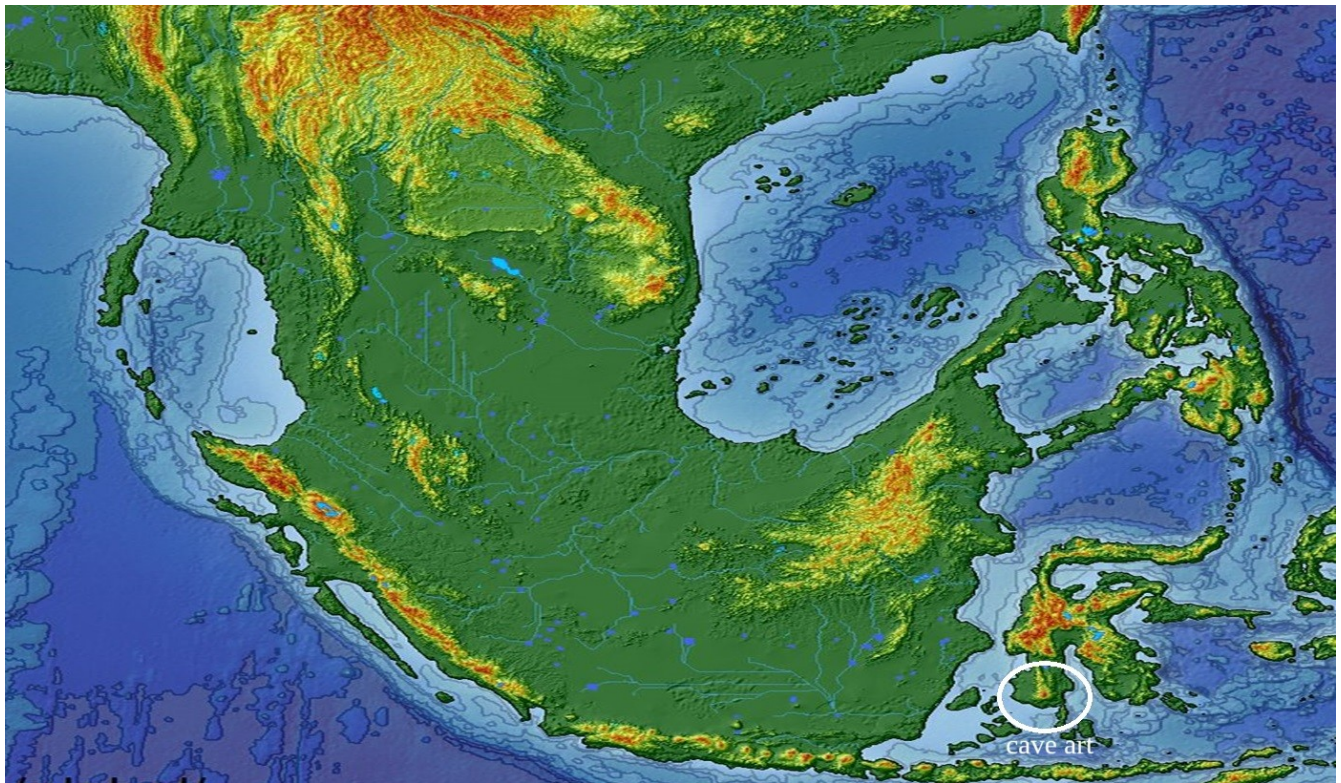
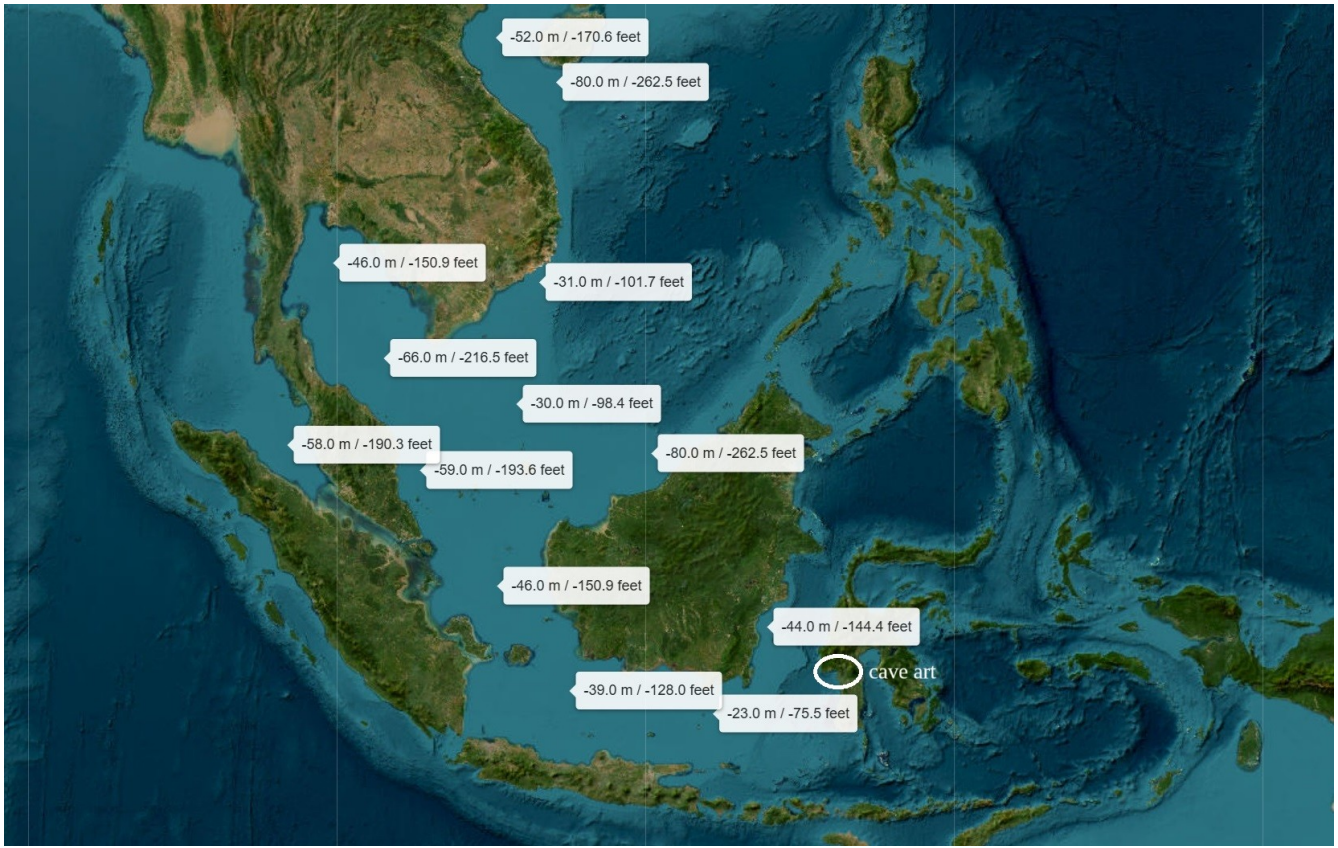
To answer the question, we looked at the altitude data.

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 the Sunda cave art was painted, we have to artificially lower the sea levels to below 400 feet.

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

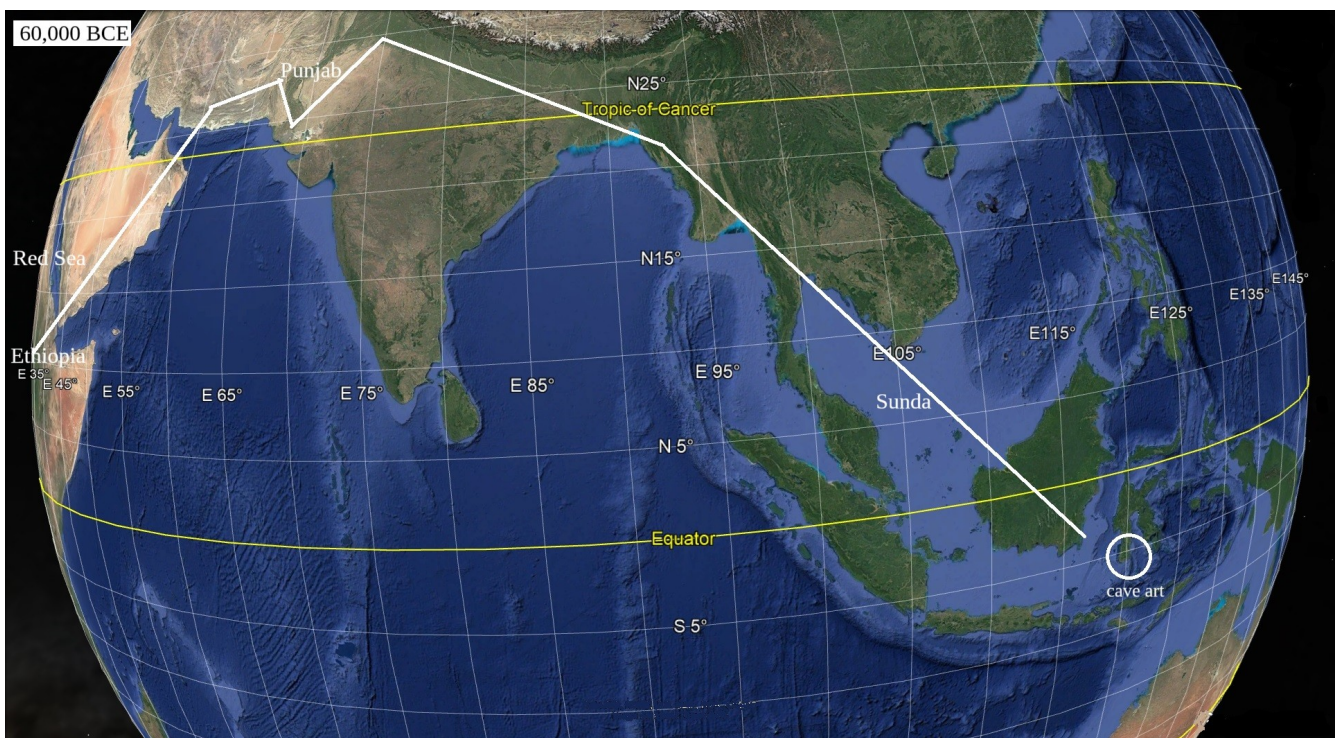




The above maps are of the area around the cave art. In the top map, each label has the ocean depth in meters and feet. All the area in medium blue is less than 500 feet. The dark blue is deeper than 500 feet.

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

It is obvious that before 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, and they were expert painters before they moved in.



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. A computer-generated topographic map of the entire white line confirmed our hypothesis.

The people who migrated along the white line were not primitive. They were advanced logic-based cultures, visionaries, explorers, artists, and pioneers. They were the cream of humankind. They discovered Sunda 60,000 years ago. They lived only in the Tropical Zone. The silent cave art speaks volumes of the untold ancient human history.