Vast Archaeological Landscape Revealed by Airborne LiDAR at Nan Madol World Heritage Site
Implications for Sustainable Site Conservation and Outstanding Universal Value
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Area of LiDAR survey
One of the wettest places on Earth, with 4-7 meters of rain each year and dense vegetation.

100 humanly constructed islets with large basalt structures lie beneath.
Lidar image of Temwen and Nan Madol

Provides data/information relevant to many issues:

Assessing integrity and vulnerability of islets

Temwen Island landscape features highly reminiscent of complex agricultural fields observed from sixteenth to eighteenth century in Melanesia

Can be used to
  • Develop conservation treatments
  • Enrich interpretation
  • In many other ways
This is a Colorized Multi-directional Hillshade LiDAR Digital Terrain Model with islets outlines.
Approximate Chronological Dispersal of Austronesian People across the Pacific (per Bellwood in Chambers 2008)