This book presents my views of landscapes as complex natural-cultural systems that have evolved over long periods of time. Over several years of research, eventually I compiled enough information to feel confident about portraying landscape evolution in liberal interdisciplinary terms, centred around archaeology, while drawing on diverse lines of evidence. Surely more could be added as investigations will continue, and I hope to encourage further work.

While preparing this book, I wanted to focus on one geographic area as a convenient illustrative example of the general-global applicability of landscape evolution studies. My research in the Mariana Islands very clearly offered the best candidate for developing this book’s main narrative. The Mariana Islands case explicitly is situated in a larger Asia-Pacific regional context, and furthermore the key research principles are presented with the purpose of broader relevance.

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