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General Notes

TERMINOLOGY REFERRING TO DATES

In the following, dates are given in years *Before Common Era* (BCE) and *Common Era* (CE), respectively. The scale is identical with the BC/AD system but avoids reference to Christian religion. Broad chronological units are referred to as *periods* while their subdivisions are termed *phases*. When ages, usually derived from ^{14}C measurements, are given in calendric years the term *numeric date* will be used. In archaeology, the expression *absolute date* is more common, but most scientists are critical about the denotation and point out that *numeric* is more adequate, because *absolute* suggests a definite certainty that no measurement can ever generate.

CITATIONS

Indirect in-text citations consist of the author's last name followed by the year of publication. The full bibliographic information is given in the references section. In case of more than two authors, only the last name of the first author with the suffix *et al.* is given. If several works from different authors are cited, they are ordered alphabetically by the authors' last names and then by the year of publication. If several works from the same author are cited, the author's last name is given only once, followed by the years of publication in ascending order separated by a slash (e.g., "Smith 1999/2001/2005"). References to pages follow the year of publication of the cited work and are separated by a colon (e.g.,

"Smith 2001:45–67"). In case of quotations, only the year and the page range are given in brackets if the author is mentioned in the preceding sentence [e.g., "(1998:45–67)"].

The authors of figures and maps are indicated in the respective caption. I used my initials "VS" to indicate my own authorship. Figures and maps taken from the official documentation of the Palpa Project can generally not be assigned to a specific author and are therefore cited as "Palpa Project."

MAPS

If not indicated otherwise, all maps are based on the World Geodetic System from 1984 (WGS84) and are projected to Zone 18 South of the Universal Transverse Mercator System (UTM). For overview maps on a continental or sub-continental scale, coordinate labels of the grid are given in degrees. Maps limited to the study area and its surroundings have an UTM grid. Some of the latter, namely the settlement pattern maps, are rotated by 45° to better fit to the A4 page format and thus do not face north but northeast.

UNITS

All distance, area, and volume units refer to the metric system: millimeters (mm), centimeters (cm), meters (m), kilometers (km), square meters (m^2), hectares (ha), and cubic meters (m^3). Temperatures are given in degrees Celsius ($^\circ\text{C}$).