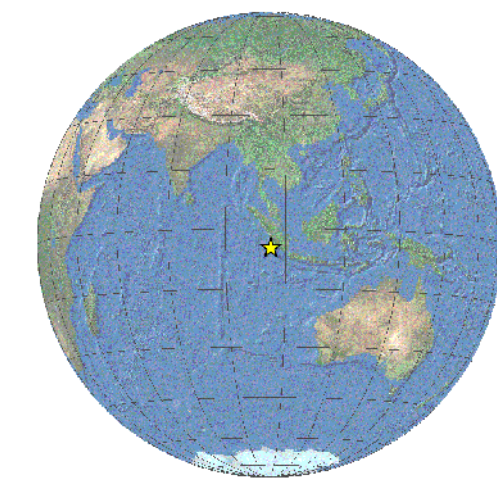
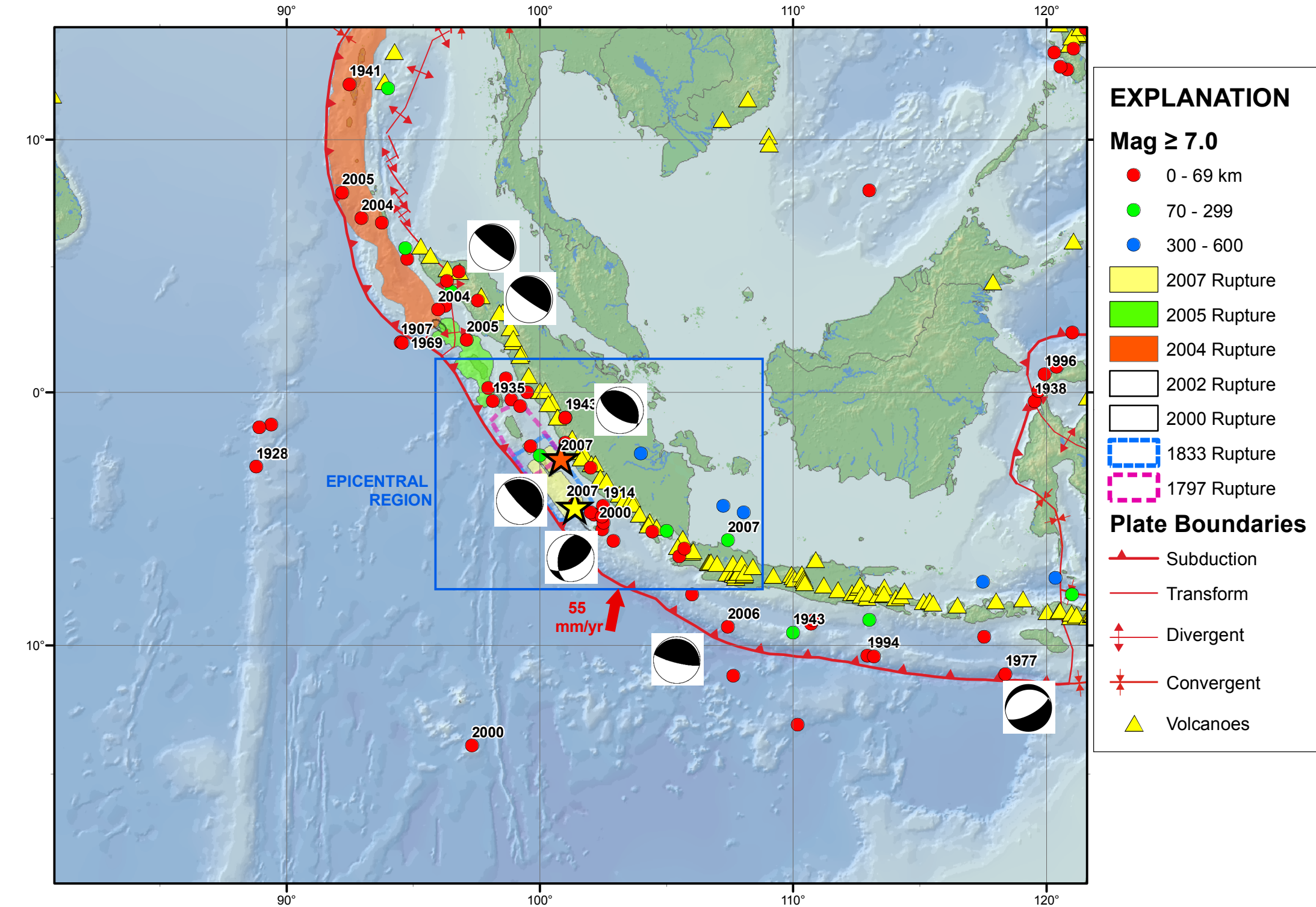


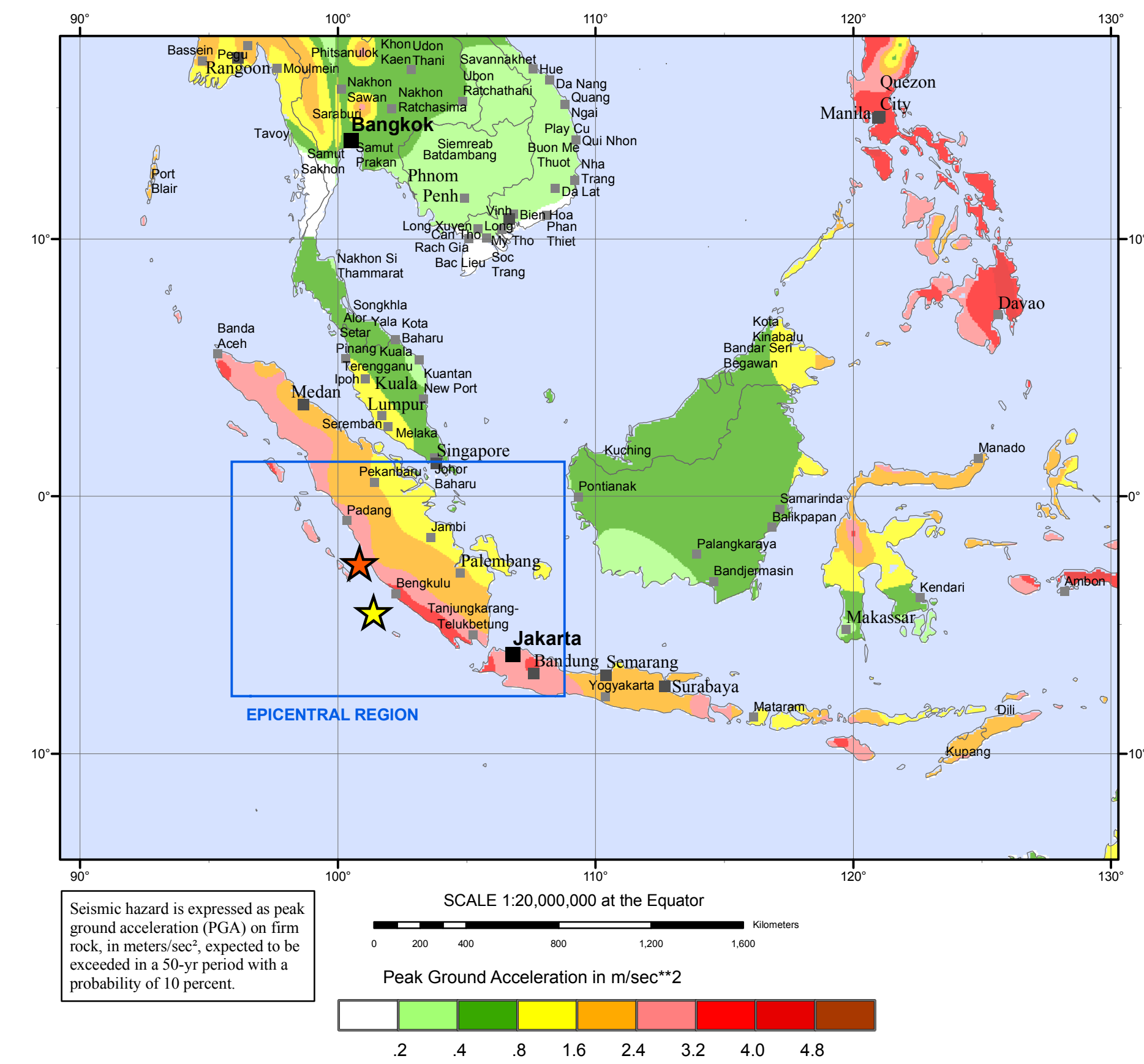
M8.5 and 7.9 Southern Sumatra Earthquakes of 12 September 2007



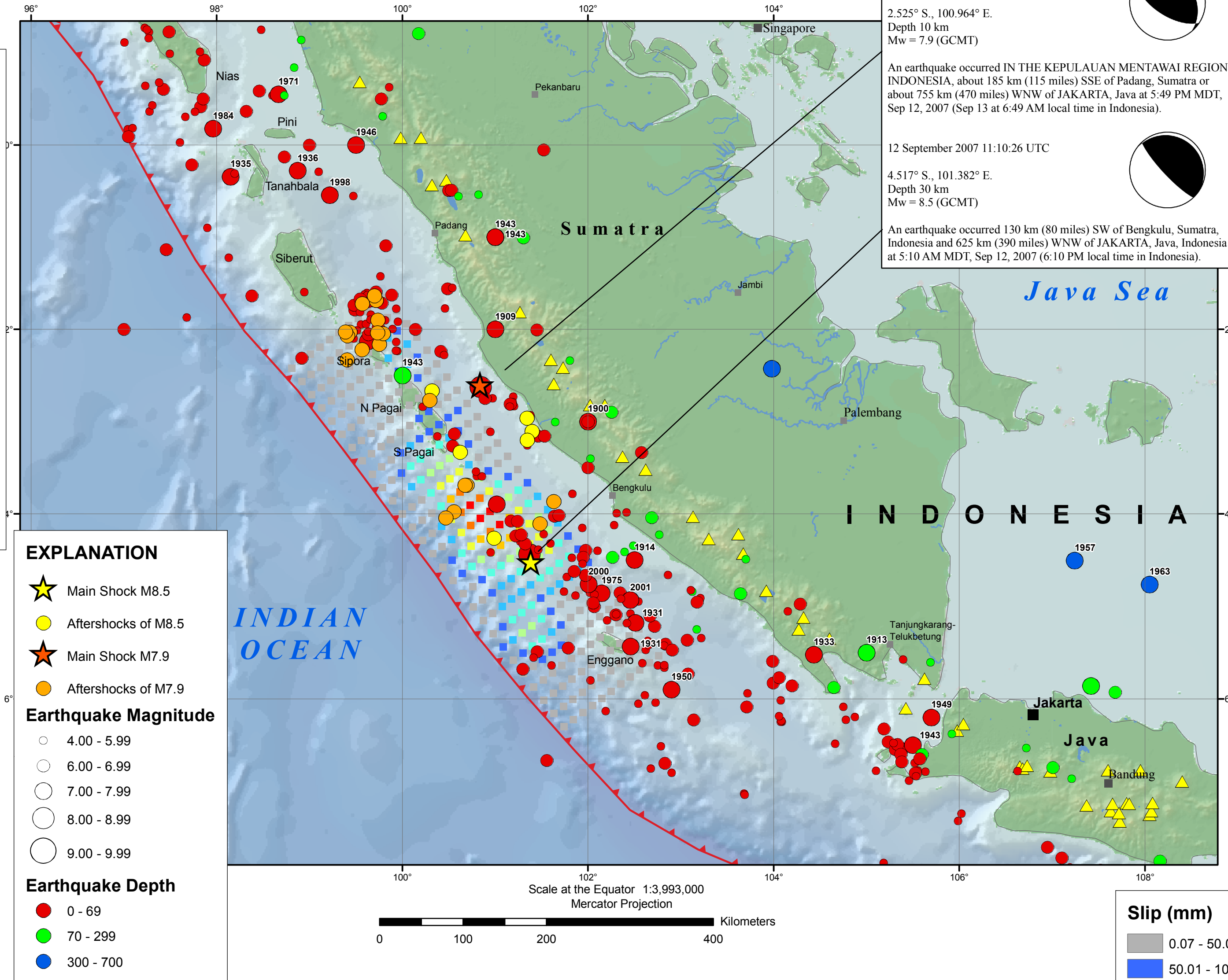
Tectonic Setting



Seismic Hazard



Epicentral Region



TECTONIC SUMMARY

The magnitude 8.5 and 7.9 southern Sumatra earthquakes of September 12, 2007 occurred as the result of thrust faulting on the boundary between the Australia and Sunda plates. At the location of these earthquakes, the Australia plate moves northeast with respect to the Sunda plate at a velocity of about 60 mm/year. The direction of relative plate motion is oblique to the orientation of the plate boundary offshore of the west coast of Sumatra. The component of plate-motion perpendicular to the boundary is accommodated by thrust faulting on the offshore plate-boundary. Much of the component of plate motion parallel to the plate boundary is accommodated by strike-slip faulting on the Sumatra fault, which is inland on Sumatra proper.

The magnitude 8.5 earthquake of September 12, 2007 is the fourth earthquake of magnitude greater than 7.9 to have occurred in the past decade on or near the plate boundaries offshore of western Sumatra. This earthquake occurred just north of the source region of the magnitude 7.9 earthquake on June 4, 2000. The September 12, 2007 magnitude 7.9 earthquake occurred about 225 km northwest of the magnitude 8.5 earthquake at the northern end of the aftershock zone. These two earthquakes and their aftershocks overlay the southern portion of the estimated 1833 rupture zone, which extends from approximately Eggano Island to the northern portion of Siberut Island. The great magnitude 9.1 earthquake of December 26, 2004, which produced the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami of that date, ruptured much of the boundary separating the India plate and the Burma plate.

DISCLAIMER

Base map data, such as place names and political boundaries, are the best available but may not be current or may contain inaccuracies and therefore should not be regarded as having official significance.

Southern Sumatra

12 September 2007 23:49:01 UTC

2.525° S., 100.964° E.

Depth 10 km

Mw = 7.9 (GCMT)

An earthquake occurred IN THE KEPULAUAN MENTAWAI REGION, INDONESIA, about 185 km (115 miles) SSE of Padang, Sumatra or about 755 km (470 miles) WNW of JAKARTA, Java at 5:49 PM MDT, Sep 12, 2007 (Sep 13 at 6:49 AM local time in Indonesia).

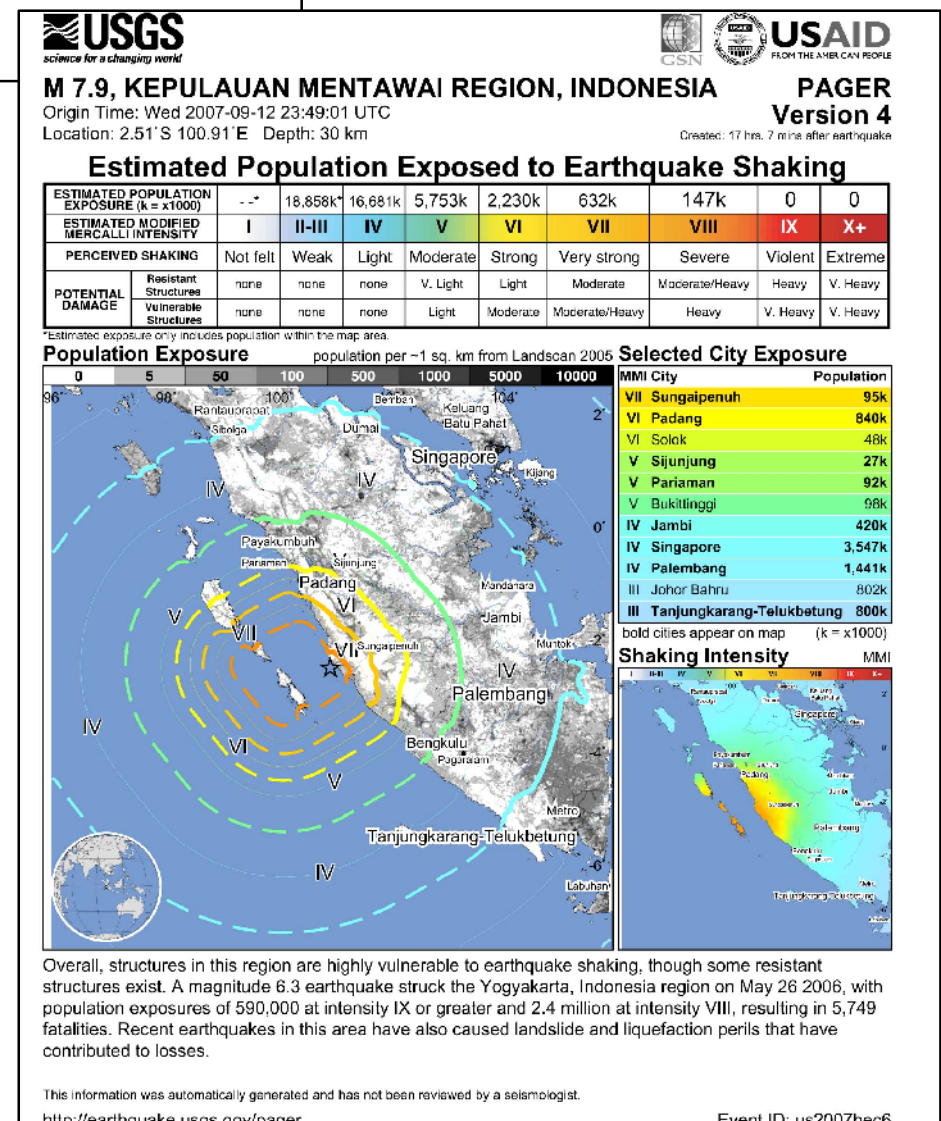
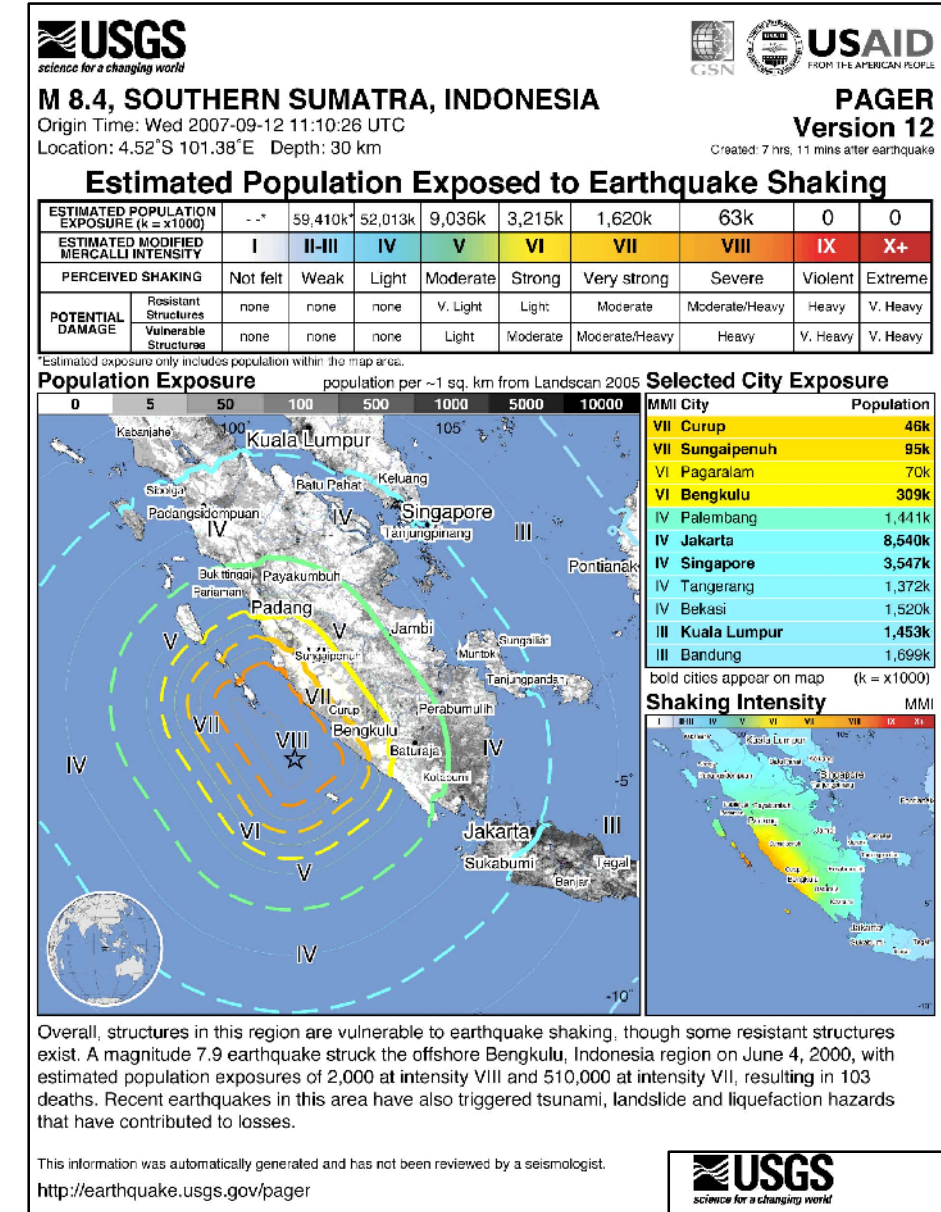
12 September 2007 11:10:26 UTC

4.517° S., 101.382° E.

Depth 30 km

Mw = 8.5 (GCMT)

An earthquake occurred 130 km (80 miles) SW of Bengkulu, Sumatra, Indonesia and 625 km (390 miles) WNW of JAKARTA, Java, Indonesia at 5:10 AM MDT, Sep 12, 2007 (6:10 PM local time in Indonesia).



FINITE FAULT MODEL
Contributed by
Chen Ji, University of
California at Santa Barbara
and Yuehua Zeng, NEIC

Distribution of the amplitude and direction of slip for subfault elements (small rectangles) of the fault rupture model are determined from the inversion of teleseismic body waveforms. Arrows indicate the amplitude and direction of slip (of the hanging wall with respect to the foot wall); the slip amount is also color-coded as shown. The view of the rupture plane is from above.

The strike of the fault rupture plane is N37W and the dip is 12 NE. The dimensions of the subfault elements are 20 km in the strike direction and 14.5 km in the dip direction.

Finite Fault Model
for M8.5 Earthquake