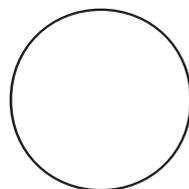




INDONESIAN HERITAGE AT RISK

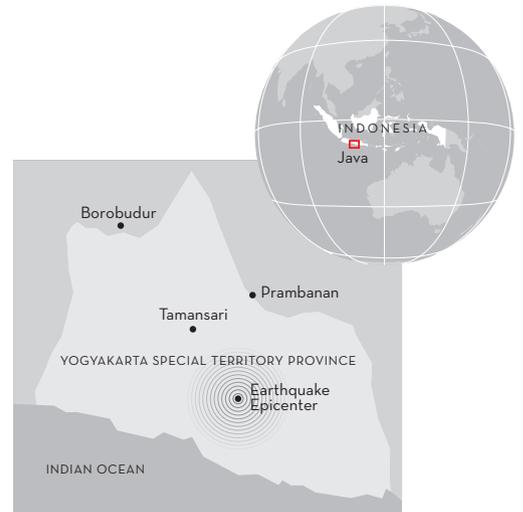
Special Report from Yogyakarta



In the morning of May 27, 2006, an earthquake registering 6.2 on the Richter Scale and lasting just under a minute rocked Indonesia. Its epicenter was just 20 kilometers southeast of the historic center of Yogyakarta. The famed eighth-century Buddhist temple of Borobudur, a World Heritage Site some 40 kilometers north of Yogyakarta, escaped damage. But the quake—which left more than 5,700 dead and thousands more injured and/or homeless—took its toll on numerous other historic sites. Among them were the tenth-century Hindu temple complex of Prambanan, a World Heritage site 17 kilometers from the city, and the Tamansari Water Castle, an eighteenth-century pleasure garden within the city’s fortified royal precinct, portions of which had only recently been restored following its 2004 Watch listing.

Within days of the quake, Laretna T. Adhisakti and her colleagues at the Jogja Heritage Society—aided by the Center for Heritage Conservation in the Department of Architecture and Planning at Gadjah Mada University and the Indonesian Heritage Trust—mobilized a team to carry out a preliminary damage assessment. Herewith is a summation of their findings:

FACING PAGE: THE MAIN GATEWAY TO TAMANSARI SHORTLY AFTER ITS RECENT RESTORATION, UNDERWRITTEN BY WMF THROUGH ITS ROBERT W. WILSON CHALLENGE. DAMAGE TO THE GATE, RIGHT FOLLOWING THE QUAKE. BELOW: QUAKE DAMAGE TO CEMETHI ISLAND, LEFT, AND PONGANGAN PEKSI BERI, A PIER ON ONE OF TAMANSARI'S ARTIFICIAL LAKES.



BALUWERTI FORTRESS: Commissioned by Sultan Hamengkubuwono I and built between 1755 and 1792, the four-kilometer-square royal precinct is composed of an outer fortification wall within which are numerous buildings and building complexes—including the royal residences of Kraton Yogyakarta and the Tamansari Water Castle. The fortification sustained substantial damage to its walls and the trios of bastions marking each of its four corners.

KRATON YOGYAKARTA: The Bangsal Trajumas, a hall within the fortress’s innermost palace complex used to shelter ritual objects, completely collapsed, while a number of other halls, including the Srimanganti, Pagelaran, and Sitinggil, as well as various outbuildings in the *kraton*, now have cracks in walls and support columns.

TAMANSARI WATER CASTLE: Located just to the west of the Kraton Yogyakarta within the fortified royal precinct, Tamansari, which means “perfumed garden,” was built in 1758 as a pleasure palace for Sultan Hamengkubuwono I. The 59-building complex included a mosque, meditation chambers, swimming pools, and a series of 18 water gardens and pavilions surrounded by ornamental lakes. During the quake, the water castle sustained damage to the upper portions

THREE BASTIONS ON THE NORTH-EAST CORNER OF BALUWERTI FORTRESS COLLAPSED, BELOW LEFT, AS DID TWO OF THE THREE BASTIONS ON THE FORT’S SOUTHWEST CORNER, BELOW RIGHT.



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY THE JOGJA HERITAGE SOCIETY

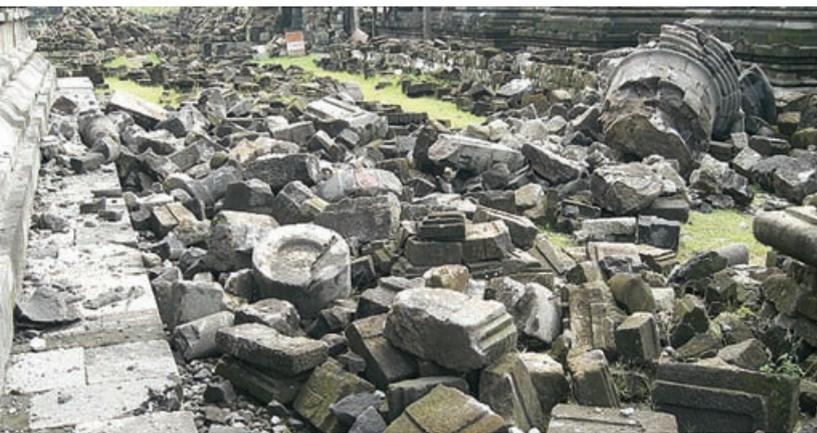
THE BANGSAL TRAJUMAS, A HALL WITHIN THE KRATON YOGYAKARTA THAT WAS USED TO STORE REGALIA AND RITUAL OBJECTS, COLLAPSED IN THE QUAKE. BELOW: THE NINTH-CENTURY A.D. SOJIWAN TEMPLE WITHIN THE PRAMBANAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK, WHICH WAS UNDERGOING RESTORATION AT THE TIME OF THE QUAKE, COLLAPSED, LEAVING ONLY 30 PERCENT OF THE STRUCTURE STILL STANDING



of its ornate Gapura Agung (Grand Gate), the main gateway to the complex and the subject of a recent restoration project underwritten by WMF through its Robert W. Wilson Challenge to Conserve our Heritage. Part of the wall of Cemeti Island on this site collapsed in the quake, killing a mother and her child, who lived there along with some 2,700 other residents.

PRAMBANAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK: Completed ca. A.D. 900, the Prambanan Temple Complex, the largest Shiva temple complex in Java, boasts more than 240 temples spread over 143 hectares. The most prominent temples are dedicated to the three great Hindu divinities—Shiva, Vishnu, and Brahma—each of which has an associated temple dedicated to the animals who serve them. The Brahmana Temple, restored in 1987, is the most heavily damaged of the three main temples with slabs of stone scattered about its base. Its pinnacle, balustrade, and a surrounding wall collapsed. The Shiva Temple, the largest at the site and the first to be restored (1918–1953), sustained damage to its foundation, while cracks are visible in the foundation and





THE PLAOSAN TEMPLE COMPLEX WITHIN PRAMBANAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK SUSTAINED DAMAGE TO ITS NORTH TEMPLE, TOP, AND SOUTH TEMPLE, ABOVE, SECTIONS OF WHICH COLLAPSED.

towers of the Vishnu temple, which had been restored in 1991. Also within the archaeological zone, the nearby Sojiwan Temple Complex, which was undergoing restoration at the time of the quake, collapsed, leaving only 30 percent of its masonry standing, while the Plaosan Temple suffered a cracked pinnacle, collapsed roof, and damage to its foundation.

Beyond damage to these sites, numerous vernacular buildings were lost, including traditional houses in the villages of Kota Gede, Wonokromo, and Imogiri. The archaeological office charged with managing sites in Central Java was also destroyed.

The earthquake also dealt a blow to the region's famed artisanal communities, damaging workshops and markets for batik makers in Imogiri and potters in Kasongan and Bayat.

Although ICOMOS Indonesia and UNESCO through its Jakarta office have embarked on an effort to channel international aid to the region, much more remains to be done to stabilize the sites. Since May, the region has continued to experience geophysical unrest—quakes, tremors, and the tsunamis they spawn—further compromising the sites and efforts to preserve them. To keep abreast of the situation, visit www.jogjaheritage.org. For information on how to help, contact WMF in New York (646) 424-9594. ■



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