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The BASE core (working half) arrived in Berlin-Spandau yesterday, Nov. 30; I drove up from Jena today to check it out. The core arrived in two containers, 29 stacked pallets; ca. 550 core trays. Because of the unusual dimensions of our core trays (left: in black), we had to use a different pallet type. It turned out they could not be placed side by side, two high, in a standard container as we had originally planned. We had to stack them three high, single file. Somewhere along the way (I suspect a storm in the Bay of Biscay!), four of the topmost pallets toppled to the side, arriving vertically. Fortunately, the straps and lids all held tight so that the pallets could be tipped back in to the horizontal. The cores were underway for two months.



Astrid had entered the BASE project into the annual Kruger-Lowveld Chamber of Business and Tourism (KLCBT) award. This is an annual gala event in the Nelspruit conference center. I am happy to announce that BASE did indeed win in the category “Innovation” ! A few weeks later, we won 2nd place of the “Community Engagement Service Excellence Award” awarded by the Dean of the Faculty of Science against stiff competition by large mining operations.



Several members are giving talks and posters on BASE. My recent presentations include talks at the Annual Meeting of the German Geological Society and the German ICDP / IODP community, as well as a stage interview in front of 700 school learners in Berlin. Anyone interested in BASE presentation material, please contact me!



The BGR core repository in Spandau will host our core for the next few years. They have all the facilities we need for core characterization and documentation, including two XRF-Scanners and a multi-sensor core logger. (We do not need their photographic equipment because the core is already fully photographed). Dutch and French teams, aided by Brooke (from Belgium) will arrive in early January to XRF-scan the core and to sample for overview geochemical stratigraphy; in the meantime, Christoph will produce a handbook-type stratigraphic log (as pdf).

What a year !!! Frohes Forschen !

Christoph Heubeck and Nic Beukes