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Nic Beukes, our principal South African collaborator in the ICDP drilling project BASE, passed away unexpectedly in the evening of Jan. 9, 2023, after a short illness, at an age of 77. Nic was a mainstay of South African geology and science, decisive, productive, and helpful to everyone. [Here](#) is a nice video of him being interviewed on SA national TV upon his election to the US Academy of Sciences earlier last year.

Nic was the driving power behind South Africa rejoining ICDP, which made BASE and other ICDP projects possible, and was intensely engaged in all of its parts. He managed the contractual, financial and administrative aspects of our 2021-2022 BASE drilling program in the Barberton Greenstone Belt through CIMERA which he had led 2014 to 2018, giving the foreigners involved in BASE the freedom to concentrate on its scientific aspects. In our near-daily phone calls during the drilling campaign Nov. 2021 – July 2022, we often communicated with identical agendas on our mind, and he took care of all open items thoroughly and at lightning speed, weekend, vacation or not.

A memorial service was held Sunday, 15 January at Walter Sisulu Botanical Garden (where he led many geology field trips); [here](#) on Youtube.

Michiel de Kock and Bertus Smith have taken over the administrative tasks left vacant by Nic's death.

Christoph Heubeck