



Jena, July 28, 2023

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We are gearing up for the sampling workshop, starting Monday morning, Sept. 11, at the BGR core facilities in the backyard of Wilhelmstr. 25-30, 13593 Berlin. We have about 43 registrations. We will send around a schedule beforehand. Broadly, the Monday program will begin with an outline of the research strategy and „lightning talks“ (5 minutes!) by the subgroup coordinators. Initial core inspection (and flagging) will then be interspersed with Q&A time and plenty group / one-on-one discussions; we have a couple of rooms. Tuesday morning will be a few more talks (please let me know if you feel you need to address the group), , final inspections and flagging, more group meetings if desired and beginning of sampling; Wednesday, Thursday, and, if need be, Friday, teams will mostly coordinate and sample. All sample requests will be logged and booked by a sample administrator – no wild sampling ! The overall concept is to serve the far-travelled first; Europeans can sample later as well.

Because there are by now quite a number of people who are new to the Moodies, the BGB, or even the Archaean, I would like to offer an informal briefing on these subjects on Sunday evening, Sept. 10; Let's meet at 6 p.m. in the lobby of the Spiegelturm Hotel Berlin-Spandau. Please write me if you intend to come. It would also be a good opportunity to meet each other.



We will try to lay out as many of the 503 core boxes, likely mostly in the narrow but long alleys of the core store. We may also use the large empty parking lot in the back if weather allows (stack trays and cover at night). For this, we may need some help by you. We will begin with the cores of highest interest (BASE-1 for BIF, laminated shale and lava; -2 for crinklies and concretions; -3 for crinklies; -5A for BIF and laminated shales; -5B for concretions) but also encourage interest in 4A-B-C, mostly for petrography, some crinklies and tuff conglomerates.)

Colleagues are busy preparing the geochemical reference data set. Mike Z. has done a lot of careful work improving the fundamental quantification method on the Bruker μ -XRF and is apparently regularly achieving accuracies on map spots of <5% error relative to standards. These will ultimately allow for precise maps of trace element concentrations. Stefan Lalonde's team in Brest is processing 277 samples for XRF trace elements. >150 samples have been sent to Paul Mason's team and M.v. Zuilen in Utrecht for fusion disks / major elements and the same number to Pierre Sans-Jofre and Laurane Fogret in Paris for XRD. The team is planning to hand the data set to the BASE science team well prior to the sampling party to allow for ample reflection. And Amandine had scanned areas of ca. 1cm² about every m of the 2900 m core.



Christoph, Phumi, Georg, and Christophe attended the ICDP 25+ years conference held July 21-23 at the GFZ Potsdam. Christoph and Phumi reported about BASE science and outreach, respectively, and had two posters.

Frohes Forschen !
Christoph and the SMB

(C. will be now off to the field!)

Science Team members, don't forget to log in frequently for updates:

<https://www.icdp-online.org/projects/by-continent/africa/base-south-africa>