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Operations are winding down. The onsite team was busy cutting and describing the last meters of core in early August; then both sets of cores were palletized. The archive cores were picked up and transported to Donkershoek in mid-August. The working halves, stowed on 29 pallets of 22 core trays each, are also all set to go. The shipping company is looking for space on a vessel to Europe.



The new room of the museum, taken from the BIAS Hall, is nearing completion. Andy and John with their helpers were busy installing walls, ceiling, electricity, and air conditioning. As of earlier this week, the lights were switched on and walls painted. Currently, some display cases and sturdy tables are being made.



All eight sites have been cleaned to the satisfaction of the property owners. Tony Ferrar, our ECO, had visited all sites. Most were located in commercial plantations and required very little work. Traces of spilled drilling mud at Site 5B were raked into the ground and will be invisible with the beginning of the rainy season. At Site 2, Derek, Ryan, Musa and Victor dug a small trench to prevent the road ditch from silting full.



The remaining onsite team also dismantled the core processing workshop. The big yellow rock saw which reliably sawed >3 km of rock within the past eight months without any major breakdown was brought back to Johannesburg on a trailer; gone are also all posters, chairs and tables. Nic cancelled our leases. The team is moving out of the two apartments by the end of August.

Focus is now shifting to the research to be done on the core. Christoph has compiled a list of the 21 research projects he is aware of and asked science team members for information on any other proposed projects.

Frohes Forschen!

Christoph Heubeck and Nic Beukes

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