

**MFS REPORT****Name****Year and term for exchange**

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VT-23

Country for the project

Mozambique

Degree programme

Energy and environment

Amazing experience in a friendly and beautiful country

Before departure

I applied for a Minor Field Study because I'm very curious to see and learn new things. An MFS is a possibility to meet people you're probably never going to meet and see places far away. The contact person or organisation also makes it possible to integrate better in the society and gives you helpful advice on what to do and not to do.

I chose this project because I really wanted to see for myself what Africa was like, and it was a good opportunity to contribute to their society. I hope the organisation chose me because they thought I could do a good job with the assignment and fit well with context. I didn't really have any expectations, besides thinking I needed to be open towards anything I could stumble upon, for example new culture, values, and environment.

Preparations consisted of vaccinations, quite a few in different sets, and trying to write on the bachelor thesis as much as possible, for example searching useful literature and background. Also applying for visa was a good idea to do quite early as it can take some time.

Upon arrival

The first week after arriving was just for adjusting to the new environment, and two weeks in was the start for me to start writing on the report. The first dinner we had all together and getting to know each other more since there was 7 of us, 4 groups, that came from KTH. I was on site for 8 weeks, and it went by very fast. It truly was an amazing experience.

Financials

Generally it's quite cheap in Mozambique, although some foods are imported and therefore the same price or even more expensive than in Sweden. For example almond milk was more expensive in Mozambique. The food was mainly fish and seafood focused since it's a country by the coast, but also a lot of meat is served. Being vegetarian or vegan can be tricky, and sometimes you'll get a very minimalistic meal when eating out.

Accommodation

I got accommodation through the organisation which was very nice because it would have been difficult to search for accommodation yourself and the housing situation is not what it is in Sweden. Concrete houses are not the norm, and people are often sleeping in the same room, so that the organisation arranged with housing was very helpful.

I was living in a bungalow on site with the organisation on the beach, for 8400SEK/month. You could hear the ocean from the bungalow every time you went to sleep and it was very soothing.

Project

The project was about finding out which attitudes and knowledge the local population in the district of Morrumbene had regarding sustainable waste management, as well as trying to identify waste streams and the current waste management at district level. This to be able to make a contribution regarding suggestions on implementing a more sustainable way of waste management, for parts of the current waste management system. Typically, I did a lot of writing, except from the beginning of the onsite

project where interviews and surveys were executed. The initial part took around 2 weeks, and 1 week for analysing the answers. The rest of the time was mainly writing the result, discussion and conclusion.

When starting the project, all 4 groups had a presentation for the mayor and a committee who works with all of our different areas, just to keep everyone updated and on track with the work.

Country

When arriving, one is struck with how beautiful and different the country is from Sweden, in many aspects. People's houses are different, as well as the environment and how you live. The shock for me was how difficult it can be to get things done, when a lot of places have no stress finishing the job. It was compensated with how friendly people are and the joy of the possibility to see something else.

Leisure and social activities

Since living more rural, the spare time was designated towards cooking food, going swimming in the ocean, reading books and spending time chatting with the other students and the founder of the organisation. It was truly a good time!

As said before, the locals were really friendly and talkative, even though we had no knowledge in Portuguese, and they went beyond to make you feel welcome. A tip could be to try and learn some Portuguese before leaving on Duolingo or some other language app to help with socialising.

Sustainability

Since the project was about sustainable waste management, the SDG's mostly connected is 3, 11 and 12. Good health and well-being since waste can cause problems with such, as well as environmental problems, also creating a sustainable city and responsible consumption and production. Since living rural and nearest village was 45 minutes away a car was needed for transport. Chappas, pick-up cars, where used for transporting several people at once, but they can be a challenge since it get quite hot during the day and you stand directly in the sun.

Other recommendations and observations

As I wrote earlier, I think it would be good to practice some Portuguese on beforehand, since it would have been a lot better experience if one could meet the locals on their terms, for better socialising. I would also recommend writing as much as possible on beforehand on the parts of the report you can, just to get more time to travel within the country and seeing different things.