

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

Theodor

2023 Spring 4th period**Country for the project**

Grenada

Degree programme

Energy and environment

Our fertiliser project in Grenada.

Before departure

Since I first started at KTH I was interested in doing a minor field study. However, once the time came it looked like it wasn't going to happen simply because I had put very little effort into finding a project. The project I ended up doing was published late on our (energy & environment) facebook group I messaged a friend asking whether she'd be interested in doing it, which she was. The choice of project wasn't carefully planned, but when we read the description, we were intrigued so we applied. We did our project on a small island nation called Grenada. Some students above us had been there the previous year and they sold us on the country and project. I probably expected it to be quite cheap, which it absolutely was not, so we had to cook pretty much everything at home and we mainly used base products such as beans, crushed tomatoes, potatoes, rice etc. I did not expect it to be as many other students as there was. There is a large university on the island called St George's which a lot of American and Canadian students attended. Everyone speaks English so there was no need for any language courses, although many did with a heavy accent which could be very difficult to understand. You need the basic vaccines, but check online. If there is a vaccine for dengue fever available, I highly recommend taking it as one of us did get very sick from dengue. That was definitely not part of my expectations for the trip. No Visa required for us, check online though as things might change.

Upon arrival

We more or less started the practical parts of the project the second day of arrival. It should be mentioned that we did do quite a bit of work before arriving so that we knew what to do right away. The duration of the practical work that we did was roughly 1,5 months give or take. We worked on our thesis for more time than that. We were not really received at the hotel we were staying at, but the hotel where we were going to do most of the physical work we were greeted and shown around as well as introduced to the staff.

Financials

In general, it was more expensive than in Sweden I would say, because everything, more or less, is imported and taxes on imported goods are high. Roots vegetables, rice, paste, legumes and coconut milk was the base of what we cooked with and we did cook the far majority of our meals at the hotel. But of course we didn't skimp all the time sometimes we ate out or cooked something a little more fancy. They do have a lot of good spices to make the meals much better, explore those! My biggest advice is to be prepared that it isn't cheap. However, some things are cheaper such as public transport and beer. We paid roughly 8000 SEK/month for accommodation, which is very cheap.

Accommodation

We get our accommodation through contacts. The people who hosted us also happened to run a few apartment hotels. We got a reduced price at roughly 250 sek/night and without that it wouldn't have been possible to do the project.

Project

Our project was to feed a biodigester with food and Sargassum seaweed every day. We were four people who needed this to be done so with split up the days so that we didn't have to do it every day. We needed to take a sample of the fertiliser that came out to send to a lab for analysis and we did that as late as possible to be sure that the contents of the digester were what we wanted them to be as it takes a while for them to break down. We also conducted interviews with local farmers and companies for a market analysis and our contact person helped us with some subject and some we found on our own.

Country

We were in Grenada which is a Caribbean nation. We found the people very friendly and helpful, but something that is different to Sweden is that everything moves at a very slow pace, and you can't really make a schedule. It's important to double check and verify most things you plan with whoever you're meeting. Apart from that it was very fun to get to know locals. No real culture chocks.

Leisure and social activities

We went to the beach played games cooked dinner. We did some trips to different waterfalls and that's something I'd recommend everyone to do. Rent a car and drive around. It's easy to get to know locals if you want to, you just need to put in a little effort.

Sustainability

Our projects were connected to many of the SDG's such as marine life sustainable energy and products. The entire idea behind that project is to use that abundance of sargassum that washes up on the beaches for energy production with fertiliser as a byproduct. It's a way of making Grenada more independent regarding energy and fertiliser as well as closing the loop of nutrients and hopefully reducing eutrophication. However, our life on the island is separate from that. The garbage is collected

but there is no good way for the government to dispose of it. There is no recycling whatsoever so plastic bottles end up in the landfill.

Other recommendations and observations

Rent a car don't be afraid to interact and be prepared for a slower pace.