

**Country for the project**

Mozambique, Morrumbene

**Degree programme**Integrated product design

## Development of a waste sorting system in Morrumbene, Mozambique

### Before departure

After my exchange semester in Delft Holland all I wanted was to take another chance to travel abroad and experience something new. I therefore decided to write my Master Thesis abroad and together with my friend Jenny Sjöstrand. We started looking at the possibilities and decided to do minor field studies.

By looking through the travel stories published at KTH we found two students from industrial design which also had done their master thesis by MFS. We decided to contact the students to get some information about if they recommended it or not. It turned out that they both still worked with the organisation and on they then helped us to get in contact with the manager of Project Vita. Project Vita was easy to contact and helped us choose problem area and write a project description. They were also easy to contact and kept an ongoing conversation before departure.

The most important things to do before the trip is to get a Visa application and the correct vaccinations. Depending on how much you have travelled before there might be a difference in how many vaccines you need to get. The most important vaccines for me were yellow fever, polio and cholera. You also need to get a prescription for malaria pills. I choose the malaria pills that you take daily, these are a little more expensive, but I have heard that the side effects also are milder in compression. This in total cost about 2500kr for me. Depending on your budget you can also take rabies vaccines. Rabies vaccines are quite expensive and are possible to take in Morrumbene, Mozambique if an accident would occur. I would therefore not recommend it, but it is up to each own if they want the security or not.

Project Vita helps when filling out the Visa application form. The form is available at the Mozambique embassy website. The time to get a Visa can vary but it is required for the embassy to stamp the passport on site. Which for us led to a few visits to the embassy that is located in Sollentuna, Stockholm.

## **Upon arrival**

To fly to Mozambique was quite easy. We had to arrive quite late in the semester in the beginning of April. This is not something I recommend if you are writing a master thesis and plan to graduate in the same semester. It was stressful to get everything done and to be able to graduate we had to submit our report before departure. I recommend travelling earlier in March if possible to avoid this stressful time at the end.

A recommendation from me to you is also to print out all your boarding passes before departure. Two students that travelled with us missed their connecting flight in Johannesburg because they had to stand in line for transit.

Mozambique was a lovely country to arrive to. It is beautiful and everyone is in general very helpful. Project Vita had made sure to arrange dinner for us when we arrived and had fixed with transit from the airport to our accommodation.

## **Financials**

The trip was in general expensive. Both the flight and the accommodations are something I recommend you save money to afford. Living costs such as food and activities are however cheap. We cooked all our food by ourselves which we bought at the local market.

We also made some trips around the country which were quite expensive. We used a taxi company which usually took South African tourists around Mozambique and therefore paid tourist prices. For me to be able to afford this trip I had to rent out my apartment here in Stockholm.

## **Accommodation**

Project Vita arranged accommodation for us at Pura Vida Lodge located 4 km from Project Vita. To stay at Pura Vida Lodge was great as it offered hot water and electricity just 2 mins from the beach. It also had great internet connection (no WiFi). It was however a little bit sad that it was located far away from other villages or the city. The lodges are meant for tourists to stay in and therefore are not really connected to society. I would therefore recommend staying at Project Vita if possible, even though you don't have the same luxury of electricity and hot water.

## **Project**

Me and my partner investigated the possibilities for waste sorting in Morrumbene, Mozambique. This was quite a broad subject to approach but ended with good results. The project had challenges regarding how to communicate and understand the locals, we used a local interpreter, but it was difficult to arrange well working interviews. If you know and speak Portuguese, this is a big plus if you travel to Mozambique.

Even though few projects are being done by designers at MFS I truly recommend all you designers to do it. There is a lot that could be done and both the locals and the organisations appreciate results that you can see and feel. We designers are best when we can prototype and build easy solutions and if you do MFS as a designer you will notice how appreciated this is.

## **Country**

Mozambique is a fantastic country and I have many beautiful memories with me to bring home. The people are always kind and I always felt safe during my two months in the country. The only thing to watch out for are drunk drivers but otherwise there is nothing to fear. Even though we were two females travelling around we were almost always met with respect.

During my time in Mozambique, I travelled to Tofo, Zinave national park and Vilancoulus. I recommend all these places. Tofo is great for surfing and snorkling. Zinave national park is very

beautiful, and you get to sleep in tents right next to the animals. Vilancoulus have an amazing coral reef and fun bars and restaurants.

Morrumbene which is the closest city to Project Vita is quite small and it takes 1 hour by car to get there. There I most enjoyed shopping at the market and buying a cold coke or an ice cream.

### **Leisure and social activities**

Our spare time was spent reading books, going for a run or taking a swim in the ocean. There is not much to do when it gets dark therefore, we usually go to bed early around 21.00 and wake early with the sun. During weekends we went shopping in Morrumbene or visited the village. We spent a lot of time with the other students living at Pura Vida Lodge and became good friends. We were often playing cards or some other game to pass the time during the evenings.

The time in Mozambique was amazing and I never felt so healthy and at ease.

### **Sustainability**

Sustainability wise it is difficult to support sustainable choices in a low developed country like Mozambique. Even though my carbon footprint is less in Mozambique than in Sweden it is difficult to buy products with a long-life expectancy or dispose of waste in a proper manner. The only mean of transport is car so there really is no choice. There are however possibilities to build sustainable infrastructure in the country and it is easy to spot the increasing interest in both solar energy and recycling.

### **Other recommendations and observations**

I truly recommend everybody that is interested to apply for MFS especially those thinking about doing a Master Thesis, the in-depth knowledge a master thesis can bring is highly valued.