

Report on the ProSeM exchange program

Amelie Wagner

General Information

Home University	Technical University of Dresden
Host University	Universidade Eduardo Mondlane
Degree Program	Master of Science
Period of stay	05.04.2022 – 15.08.2022
Project Website	prosem-project.org

Arrival

I arrived at the airport with my colleague Landfried, where we received a warm welcome from Martina. She organized SIM-Cards for us and brought us to our place of stay, the student residency SELF. She also showed us where to buy groceries like food and water. I really liked living in the residency, because it was really easy to get to know other people (from Mozambique as well as other African countries) and we had a really nice view from the 8th floor. It was a bit inconvenient that the elevator doesn't work, but at least I have done enough sport this way. Here are two pictures taken from the balcony of my residency:



Teaching Activities

The goal of the ProSeM project is to establish a new specialization in data protection and data security within the existing master course of computer science in Mozambique. My part in the project during the student exchange consisted of preparing modules/workshops for this new specialization in data protection: Creating exercises for the students to solve, presentations for explaining the theory, and implementing the practical part (creating virtual machines, installing the necessary software etc.). When we finished preparing the workshops, we taught the courses to the computer science students at UEM (Universidade Eduardo Mondlane), and one time at USTM (Universidade São Tomás). In summary we created and taught the following courses: Two courses about networking, specifically the configuration and use of HTTP/S, one course for absolute beginners in programming in python and two courses about penetration testing / web application security (where the time left in Maputo was only enough to teach the first course).

The following pictures were taken during the Penetration Testing / Web Application Security workshop at the USTM. The students were really motivated and asked for the material, so they can continue working from home.



Daily Life

Besides working at the university on our workshops, we got to know the city and the daily life in Maputo. Maputo is a really vibrant city and there is a lot of things you can do after work!

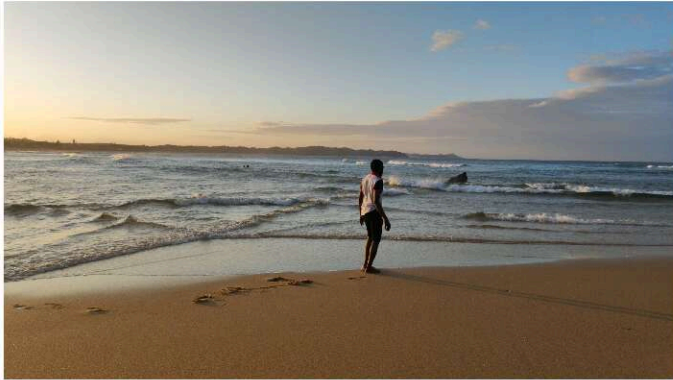
The people are really guest friendly and we were invited to have lunch or dinner with friends and colleagues many times. It is easy to make friends, because most people are extroverted and like to get to know you. In the foto on the left side below, it's the birthday party of our friend Saro at the student residency. The foto on the right side shows us at dinner with our professors at the UEM, Prof. Mangue and Prof. Nhampossa.



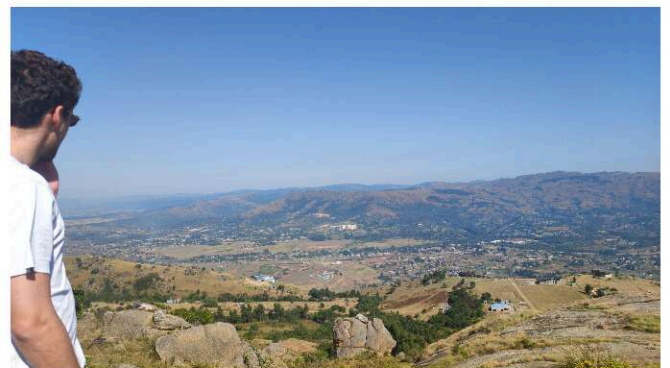
The food was also really good and cheaper than in Germany, my favorite dish was eating Matapa at the market. I was also cooking a lot of food with my colleagues in the student residency, they showed me dishes from their countries (most residents where from other countries too, like Tanzania, Guinea-Bissau, Timor-Leste or São Tomé e Príncipe).

The public transport system of the city is unfortunately not working well, there is lots of traffic and the busses are full of people (more than the usual maximum capacity of people). I still used the busses sometimes because they are cheap, but it is a lot more comfortable by car or to walk. Also I was missing my washing machine a lot, washing all clothes just with your hands is a lot of work!

Mozambique has really impressive beaches and nature! We visited Inhaca (an island in front of Maputo reachable by ferry), Tofo (for snorkeling, boat tour and deep diving), Bilene and Ponta d'Ouro.



Unfortunately we had some problems with the visa. We had to leave the country to get another type of visa, and had to wait in Eswatini. But Prof. Mangue and Prof. Nhampossa were incredibly helpful in resolving the issues with the visa, so we could come back after waiting one week in Eswatini. Luckily, while we were in Eswatini, we found a friend, Julieta, working at the mozambican embassy and we could stay at her place while we were waiting for the visa. The pictures below were taken in Eswatini, Julieta took us to see the mountains and other places.



I also participated in a hackathon of the BCI bank, the goal of the hackathon was to improve the public transport system in Maputo. The hackathon took place over the weekend, with many interesting talks and proposed solutions.



Conclusion

I really loved my stay in Mozambique, I learned a lot of new things and appreciate the many experiences I had! Moreover, I want to thank my professors and my friends to make me feel very welcome.

Despite the structural problems (i.e. public transport, no drinking water from the tap, power/water cuts etc.) Mozambique is a beautiful country with lots of opportunities. I definitely plan to come back some day, if possible with another project!

