



2015 BHEARD Scholar
**Harrington Domaserius
Nyirenda**

Profile

Country of Study:	South Africa
University:	University of Pretoria
Department:	Centre for Environmental Studies
Student Position:	Graduate Research Assistant - M.Sc.
Hometown:	Nkhata Bay District, Malawi
Home Institution:	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development
Home Position:	Senior Land Resources Conservation Officer
Mentored By:	Home: Joseph Kanyangalazi University: Paxie Chirwa, Professor, University of Pretoria

Research Area: Environmental Ecology

BHEARD PROGRAM START DATE: January 2016

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION: B.Sc., Natural Resources Management, University of Malawi

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Harrington is interested in sustainable land management and is motivated by the need to develop productivity of the production unit (land). The declining quantity and quality of land for agricultural production in Malawi demands the search for options that could reverse the situation.

Malawi's economy is agro-based and most Malawians rely on natural resources for livelihoods and the management of land and its associated components like biodiversity becomes paramount for sustenance of livelihoods. Malawi is dominated by various land-use options and this threatens biodiversity at both macro and micro levels, especially in agricultural systems.

The competing land uses have resulted in different land forms across the country. Different land forms along a landscape contain different tree species and consequently varying numbers of faunal species occurrences.

Some important faunal that are gaining attention due to their ecological roles are termites. Harrington's research proposal with University of Pretoria will be to characterize the tree and termite species diversity and their relation with soil properties in different agroecosystems representing various disturbance levels in Salima District. His employer is interested in identifying and or establishing land use types that would enhance land productivity on fertility, diversity of soil macro and micro fauna of ecological importance, and resilience.

The Department of Land Resources Conservation (where Harrington belongs) in the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development is mandated to provide updated information on sustainable land use, conserve land, improve land production capability, and improve biological health of land which includes biodiversity.

Publication

He has conducted research in carbon sequestration in restored land. In 2016, he published a paper on: *Assessment of soil carbon in reclaimed land in South West Iceland: lessons for Malawi's agro-forestry initiatives*. The paper was published by *RUFORUM Working Document Series (ISSN 1607-9345) No. 14 (2)*. According to the publisher the paper will be available at: repository.ruforum.org

PERSONAL STATEMENT: Harrington's goals in the future include:

- To be an expert on land restoration in agroecosystems
- To implement projects that restore agricultural degraded land for improved fields
- To be an expert that produces grant proposals in the field of land restoration projects
- To be an advocate of sustainable land resources management
- To publish papers on sustainable land management with a focus in agro-ecosystems
- To be part and parcel (or a member) of the International Soil Conservation Association

WHEN I AM NOT WORKING I ENJOY: Harrington can be very convivial when in company with like minds. He likes playing soccer where possible and watching major soccer leagues. He likes participating in conveniently socially organized events like a brai, sport competition. Harrington likes swimming. He also likes traveling to nature places.