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2014 BHEARD Scholar  
**Daniel Manduwa**

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# Profile

<b>Country of Study:</b>	South Africa
<b>University:</b>	University of Pretoria
<b>Department:</b>	Plant Production and Soil Science
<b>Student Position:</b>	Graduate Research Assistant — MSc
<b>Home Country:</b>	Malawi
<b>Home Institution:</b>	Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources
<b>Home Position:</b>	Technician
<b>Mentored By:</b>	US: Prof Elsa du Toit  Malawi: Prof Weston Mwase (Department of Forestry)

**Research Area:** *Horticulture, Crop and Soil Science*

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**BHEARD PROGRAM START DATE:** January 2015

**HOMETOWN:** Lilongwe, Malawi

**UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION:** Horticulture, University of Malawi, Bunda College Campus (Now Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources)

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change

Malawi is an agricultural country, but according to Daniel the horticultural sector is underexploited. “My interest in horticulture grew as a result of the pain I feel when I see horticultural products are being imported when we have all that it takes to produce our own,” says Daniel. Daniel intends to conduct the genetic characterization of mango germplasm in Malawi to identify and document the different mango varieties that the country stocks so that they can be selected for conservation. Mango varieties are under threat in Malawi as mango trees have in the recent years become an alternative fuel source as a result of fuel-wood scarcity that has been as a result of wanton cutting down of trees.

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

Daniel wants to become a successful researcher and trainer who will aim at improving the livelihoods of Malawians through research and outreach. He would like to see smallholder farmers and households that are food, nutrition, and income secure through horticultural activities, and, thereby, resilient to the effects of climate change. Daniel hopes to one day see Malawi have live gene banks that will conserve the abundant and different plant resources that the country has. In his spare time, Daniel enjoys drawing and taking leisurely nature walks.