



THE
CONGO
INITIATIVE



March 2012

Reforestation Congo at UCBC



David Kasali assists the Educ. Minister's representative to plant tree

DRC's Minister of Higher Education sent a representative to UCBC last month on a campaign to reforest DRC through local institutions and civic organizations. The goal? To plant one billion trees in an effort to reverse the devastating effects of rapid deforestation caused by unbridled commercial logging and subsistence agriculture, particularly in the Congo Basin, which boasts the second largest tropical rain forest on the planet. During the visit, several trees were planted on the UCBC campus. As one of UCBC's distinctives, environmental stewardship is absolutely essential to the future prosperity of DRC. We are excited to be one of the venues where this project is demonstrated for the community.

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"Mama" Lyn Lusi: Leader, Advocate, Servant

Any time you shut out . . .concern [for] others' suffering, you diminish your own humanity. . . .The source of all evil is putting your own interests above the interest of others. It will transform and destroy all human relationships, . . .it will destroy community relationships.

- Lyn Lusi



These are the insights of one of the most dedicated and devoted advocates of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) over the past 40 years. On March 17, Lyn Lusi passed away after a long battle with cancer. Alongside her husband and orthopedic surgeon [Dr. Jo Lusi](#), Lyn was the co-founder of [HEAL Africa](#) and former President of Congo Initiative's General Assembly in DRC. Lyn lived an extraordinary life, devoting the entirety of her adult years to a people and a country not her own, but who quickly became "hers." She set a high standard for all who work on behalf of the DRC and its peoples. As witnessed in the quotes above, Lyn's long experience in the DRC produced in her keen insight into the complexity of human interactions and relationships, particularly in the context of oppressive regimes, poverty and instability.

We at CI honor Lyn and the life she lived, the lives she touched, and the hope she engendered for renewal in a context of much brokenness. We will miss her greatly, not least for the wise leadership she gave to our General Assembly in recent years. We encourage you to click on the links below to learn more about this remarkable individual and her life's work.

[Lyn Lusi wins 2011 Opus Prize](#)

[HEAL Africa Mourns the Loss of Co-Founder Lyn Lusi](#)

[PBS NewsHour Feature on Lyn Lusi](#) (including video)

[Tribute to Lyn Lusi on the Floor of the U.S. Senate](#)

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left to right: Kaswera Kasali, Lyn Lusi, David Kasali, Jo Lusi

THANK YOU!

With your help, we surpassed our March 1 goal of 50 Kipepeo Partners. This is a remarkable affirmation of the hard work and future leadership of our UCBC students. We are deeply grateful!

