

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	i
Table of Contents	iii
Introduction	1
Biodiversity conservation: from ecosystems to genes	2
History of the African rainforest	5
Verifying the timber supply chain: genetic tools for species identification and origin tracking	9
Thesis goals and outline	13
Species studied	15
Sampling strategy	18
Large-scale patterns of genetic differentiation within the Central African tree <i>Scorodophloeus zenkeri</i>	19
INTRODUCTION	20
MATERIALS AND METHODS	21
RESULTS	23
DISCUSSION	28
SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL	30
Isolation of microsatellite loci in the African tree species <i>Staudtia kamerunensis</i> (Myristicaceae) using high-throughput sequencing	35
INTRODUCTION	36
MATERIALS AND METHODS	37
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	38
Hidden diversity in Congo Basin tree populations: a case study in <i>Staudtia kamerunensis</i>	43
INTRODUCTION	44
MATERIALS AND METHODS	46
RESULTS	49
DISCUSSION	56
CONCLUSIONS	59
SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL	60
Genetic markers for species conservation and timber tracking: development of microsatellite primers for the tropical African tree species <i>Prioria balsamifera</i> and <i>Prioria oxyphylla</i>	67
INTRODUCTION	68
MATERIALS AND METHODS	69
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	71
CONCLUSIONS	81

Phylogeography and population genetics of <i>Prioria balsamifera</i>, an endangered timber species from Central Africa	83
INTRODUCTION	84
MATERIALS AND METHODS	86
RESULTS	88
DISCUSSION	93
CONCLUSIONS	95
SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL	96
General discussion	101
Comparative phylogeography of tropical African tree species	102
Implications for conservation efforts	107
Origin determination of African timber trees	107
Prospects	108
Summary	111
Résumé	113
Funding	115
References	117