

# RATNAKARA



Ratnakara, a Sanskrit term for “ocean” and “repository of jewels”, encapsulates the rationale behind our research group.

We envisage the Indian Ocean as a mine of cultural experience with multiple connections that link the countries of its western shores with the Indian subcontinent, a relationship that was thriving centuries before the Europeans set foot in the area thanks to the Monsoon winds.

Our group seeks to uncover the richness of the cultures and literatures of the region, ranging from Kenya to South Africa and not forgetting Mauritius, the star and key to the Indian Ocean.

The logo of our group is the tanzanite gem. These precious stones are found in the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro. The colour of the tanzanite runs from ultramarine blue to light violet-blue, surrounded by a delicate hint of purple. The polychromaticity of the tanzanite depends on the angle from which you look at it, this being the perfect metaphor for the rich variety of Indian Ocean cultures that Ratnakara studies.

**For more information, visit <https://ratnakara.org/> [ <https://ratnakara.org/> ]**