

## ABSTRACT

### Tree rights and porous borders, the case of timber smuggling in the Western Ghats

Vandana NAGARAJ, *Ph.D student, Affiliation: University of California at Davis (USA)*

This project aims to understand the modifications in local agricultural management practices are induced by the advent of global ecological standards and the corresponding shift in policies regarding timber maintenance and production. Do state monopolies over the exploitation, possession and transit of certain tree species such as Rosewood (*Dalbergia latifolia*) further constrain local use and management of land and timber in the Kodagu district of Karnataka?

Using the case of the rosewood maintenance and production chain in the Kodagu district this project aims to see where local forest management practices encounter the state monopoly, public policies of sustainable development and global conservation, proliferating the problems associated with the mirror economies of rosewood production. Such lines of inquiry, exploring the links between governance and the maintenance of biodiversity fall under the research questions posed by both POPULAR and CAFNET components of the Managing Biodiversity in Mountain Landscapes of the IFP.