

## Personal Profile

### Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati

Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati is currently the Chairman of the National Biodiversity Authority based in Chennai at the rank of Secretary to Government of India. Previous to this he was the Head of Biodiversity, Land Law and Governance Programme at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) based in Nairobi where he oversaw the biodiversity programme portfolio of UNEP besides serving as the focal point for UNEP biodiversity related multilateral environmental agreements. He also served as the Programme Coordinator of the Biodiplomacy programme at United Nations University – Institute of Advanced Studies based in Yokohama, Japan where he developed a series of programmes on biodiplomacy and governance. He was the Head of the Regional Biodiversity Programme for Asia at IUCN-The World Conservation Union based in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

He has more than 20 years of experience in dealing with issues of conservation, development, policy and law making and their implementation at local, national, regional and global levels. He has published widely and has authored about 80 peer-reviewed research articles and 34 books on various topics related to biodiversity and development.

He is a Fellow of the Linnaean Society and Cambridge Commonwealth Trust, UK, Visitor at Minzu University in Beijing, China and is the Senior Visiting Fellow of United Nations University – Institute of Advanced Studies, Japan.

He has served as an advisor to several governments in the Asia, Pacific, Africa, Latin America and Europe on issues of conservation and development and supported establishment of biodiversity programmes in countries such as Philippines, Viet Nam, Sri Lanka and Nepal. He served as the lead author for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in establishing the agrobiodiversity programme portfolio besides being a part of the Biodiversity Task Force under the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED).

He holds a Ph.D. in Genetics with specialization in plant biotechnology.