

## *Curriculum Vitae*

Name  
Last name : Pisupati  
First Name : **Balakrishna**

Date of Birth : 02 May 1965

Nationality : Indian

Address for Correspondence,  
Including telephone, fax, e.mail : 26 Old, 43 New, Thathamuthiappan Street,  
Chennai 600 001, India  
Tel: +91 8608508060  
E.Mail: [balapisupati@yahoo.com](mailto:balapisupati@yahoo.com)

Educational Qualifications : Ph.D.

Positions held : Senior Research Fellow  
Fridtj of Nansen Institute Norway

Chairman  
National Biodiversity Authority  
Government of India;

Chief  
Biodiversity, Land Law and Governance  
Division for Environmental  
Law and Conventions, United Nations  
Environment Programme (UNEP);

Coordinator, Biodiplomacy Programme,  
United Nations University-Institute of  
Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS);

Head, Asia Regional Biodiversity  
Programme, IUCN -The World  
Conservation Union;

Head, Biotechnology and Biodiversity  
Programme, Centre for Research on Sustainable  
Agriculture and Rural Development (M S  
Swaminathan Research Foundation).

Period of total experience : 24 years

**Additional Information:**

Fellowships and Affiliations

: **Fellow** Cambridge Commonwealth Society, UK;  
**Fellow**, Linnaean Society, London;  
**Associate Editor** – Biodiversity (Canada); Asian Biotechnology and Development Review (India)  
**Visitor and Member of Board of Advisors**, Minzu University, Beijing, China;  
**Senior Visiting Fellow**, United Nations University, Japan  
**Member**, several expert groups and technical teams at national, regional and global level;  
**Global Co-Chair**, Equator Awards.

**Employment details**

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*March 2014*

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*Senior Research Fellow, Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Norway****Duties:***

Support the activities of the Institute on issues of environmental law, governance and development, provide advice on consolidation and strategic directions for biodiversity programme and develop policy papers on biodiversity and development, including on SDGs.

***Achievements:***

Provided strategic support for the Institute on issues related to legal and policy review on links between the CBD's Nagoya Protocol and FAO's International Treaty, developed a policy paper on future of access to genetic resources other than plants for furthering debates under FAO, published two technical reports on Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Protected Areas, published a peer –reviewed article on using ABS as an innovative financing mechanism, drafted two over-view documents on consolidating the draft SDGs for use in the debates under the UNGA's Open Working Group on finalization of SDGs, helped prepare a project concept for establishing technical centre on Arctic Policy, led preparation of post 2010 NBSAP review at the request of UNEP .

*August 2011 – February 2014* **Chairman**, National Biodiversity Authority, Government of India.

***Duties:***

As the Chief Executive of the Authority at the rank of Secretary to Government of India, oversee national and sub-national implementation of the Biological Diversity Act of India through a network of 28 State (Provincial) Biodiversity Boards and

33,000 Biodiversity Management Committees; advice Government of India on issues and policies related to biodiversity, benefit sharing and livelihoods; serve as the Chair of various committees to prepare strategic plans for the environment and biodiversity sector, oversee the work of 7 expert committees at national level on issues ranging from economics, trade and biodiversity to agrobiodiversity; assist Government of India in developing national policy of Agriculture, Education and Research; serve as expert member of the national Planning Commission on Environment and Forests in preparation of the five year plan for Government of India (2012-2017); oversee the preparation of revised NBSAP, draft national biodiversity targets and action plan.

***Key Achievements :***

Established a programme portfolio for NBA to the tune of USD 35 Millions from about USD 500,000 in 2011; Developed methodology on economic valuation for Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) purposes resulting in use of the methodology globally; Facilitated establishment of India Business and Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI); Established and strengthened 28 State Biodiversity Boards in India with 3 Boards Chaired by Chief Ministers, 7 Boards by Environment Ministers and 5 with independent Chairpersons; Facilitated establishment of local level Biodiversity Management Committees across India to implement the Biological Diversity Act and Rules of Government of India; Finalized the proposal (approved) for establishing the National Biodiversity Grid that connects about 100 plus biodiversity databases across India for better delivery of biodiversity information and science for policy making through a model project; Facilitated Establishment of Centre for Biodiversity Policy and Law (CEBPOL) at National Biodiversity Authority; Established national level partnership with 42 NGOs on issues of biodiversity and livelihoods, biodiversity and enterprise development; Led India's efforts to successfully organise the eleventh meeting of Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 11) by directly contributing to the Ministerial Level Segment of the meeting by preparing the background documents and supporting final negotiations on budget related issues; Secured 1.3 hectares of land at concessional rate for NBA from Government of Tamil Nadu to establish own campus; Increased the visibility of NBA as a national statutory body evidenced by the compliance mechanisms being put in place by stakeholder groups such as Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Agriculture as well as seed and biotechnology industry. This has led to India signing about 50 legally binding agreements on access and benefit sharing, the highest by any country so far; Developed a communication portal for NBA through the website whose visits has risen from 8000 per month in August 2011 to 600,000 per month since May 2013; Established a robust, well-functional secretariat at the Headquarters in Chennai with about 70 staff and at least 4 staff per state.

***Period:*** June 2010 – August 2011: **Chief**, Biodiversity, Land Law and Governance Unit, Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Nairobi, Kenya; October 2007 – May 2010 – Programme Officer;

***Duties:***

As the chief of the Biodiversity, Land Law and Governance Unit oversee UNEP's global activities on biodiversity related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) primarily focusing on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the

Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild flora and fauna (CITES), the RAMSAR Convention, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), the World Heritage Convention (WHC) and related regional MEAs; act as UNEP's focal person on issues related to UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); work on issues related to biodiversity, land and governance policy issues and legal instruments (development and implementation); serve as the subject matter specialist on biodiversity for UNEP; serve as the Divisional focal point on international environmental governance issues with regard to biodiversity and ecosystem issues; oversee UNEP's multi-year programme of work on ecosystem management for the Division; act as the UNEP liaison point for UN agencies, EMG, NGOs, donors and Governments on issues related to MEAs and governance issues; manage a team of professionals with global and regional networks to implement UNEP's Programme of Work; assist UNEP in developing funding, programme and implementation strategies; assist Governments with implementation of MEAs in general and issues of Access and Benefit Sharing in particular; assist the EMG in finalizing the biodiversity related actions/programmes through the Issue Management Group (IMG) on biodiversity.

***Key Achievements:***

Raised about USD 5 million for the ABS portfolio at UNEP besides securing funding to establish the regional MEA focal points on biodiversity (4 positions at P4 level) at UNEP; re-invigorated the biodiversity and ecosystem portfolio in UNEP; led UNEP efforts at biodiversity related multilateral environmental agreements by preparing policy briefs, background documents, UNEP position papers and preparing the UNEP delegation for participation and negotiation at such processes; managed the Division's (DELIC) project portfolio on biodiversity, land law issues in partnership with UN agencies (UNDP, UNESCO, UNU, FAO, MEA secretariats and others), governments and NGOs from various UN regions; established the traditional knowledge and life-web programmes of UNEP during 2009-2010; established partnerships with agencies such as CBD (COP 9 and COP 10 overall strategic issues), GIZ (on ABS), CITES (on certification related issues), CMS (on mainstreaming), Ramsar Convention (on Secretariat related issues), UNDP (on COP and enabling activity related issues), UNU-IAS (on knowledge publications), UNESCO (on traditional knowledge and bio-cultural protocols resulting in creation of a specialized webpage hosted by UNEP), FAO (on issues of biosafety), IUCN (on legal guide to ABS), Governments (Indonesia – training of senior officials on ABS and biodiversity law, Botswana on negotiation skills, India on ABS project development, Germany on negotiation skills training to name a few) and others; served as the communications and science focal point for the Division between 2009-2011; managed a staff portfolio of 6 P4, 2 P3 and 4 GS staff as Chief of the Unit; prepared performance reports and evaluation portfolios for the Division between 2009-2011; published 5 reports, 4 sets of policy briefs and numerous policy papers; served as the programmatic anchor for establishment of IPBES in the Division; served as the focal point from UNEP in preparation of the biodiversity report under the EMG's Issue Management Group (IMG); led UNEP's efforts on biodiversity during the International Year of Biodiversity (2010), including supporting the Executive Director and his office in preparation for UN related actions during the year; Supported the work of TEEB as the focal point from Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (DELIC) as well

as organized the 'Business Clinics' during CBD COP 9 and COP 10 meetings in collaboration with the CBD Business Programme. Selected as the Finalist for the 'Baobab Award' under the Best Professional Category in 2009.

**Period :** May 2006 – September 2007 **Coordinator, Biodiplomacy Programme,** United Nations University-Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS), Yokohama, Japan.

***Duties:***

Coordinate and implement programme of work on issues of environment and development; represent UNU-IAS in multilateral and bilateral fora; support research and delivery of policy guidance on environmental issues such as MEA implementation, biotechnology governance, marine conservation beyond national jurisdiction and linking MDGs and MEAs. Other responsibilities include organisation of high-level roundtable discussions, U Thant Lectures, Biodiplomacy Discourse Lecture Series and report preparations; developing a programme strategy for the Programme along with a Business Plan; raising funding for programme implementation; programme monitoring and evaluation and supervising doctoral, post-doctoral fellows and programme staff.

***Key Achievements:***

Established the ABS and biotechnology portfolio at UNU-IAS; supervised 4 post-doctoral fellows and 3 doctoral fellows during the tenure; established the biodiversity governance activities at the Institute; raised about USD 3 million for MEA related activities; initiated the UNU-Ministry of Environment, Government of Japan programme on biodiversity; organised 2 U Thant Memorial Lectures and 2 Biodiversity Governance Lectures; prepared and managed the biodiplomacy programme portfolio; developed a business cum communication plan for the programme; led UNU-IAS teams in MEA negotiation processes and published about 5 full reports, 6 research papers and policy briefs; established partnerships with agencies such as Japan Bioindustry Association, Universities and UN agencies in Tokyo; supported establishment of Biosafety Diploma Programmes at University of Tsukuba and University of Malaya and a Master's Programme on Environmental Governance at UNU-IAS that became operational in 2009.

**Period:** January 2000 – February 2006 **Head, Asia Regional Biodiversity Programme,** IUCN-The World Conservation Union, Sri Lanka; January 1999 – December 1999 Programme Officer, IUCN.

***Duties:***

IUCN is an international membership organization with a world wide membership. IUCN holds the status of an intergovernmental organization in the Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) processes. The duties for the position include undertaking the following tasks: coordination of the regional programme on biodiversity in Asia, working closely with countries on issues of implementing MEAs in general and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in particular; development and

implementation of projects on biodiversity, biosafety and related areas - including poverty reduction; provision of policy guidance and design of regional and national activities related to capacity development and creation of an enabling environment; monitoring and evaluation activities, synthesis, analysis, reporting and linking such activities at regional and global levels; preparing position papers on issues of conservation and development, background documentation and recommendation notes for IUCN for the MEA meetings such as CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD COPs and SBSTTAs; provision of support to governments in Asia to have an informed participation in intergovernmental negotiation processes; relating regional and national actions on conservation with development planning including those of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); provision of representational function for IUCN in Asia on biodiversity conservation and policy; assisting other regions of IUCN on policy and planning issues; providing guidance and support to a 15 member work force in the region on helping implementation of country and regional activities are the additional responsibilities.

***Key Achievements:***

Inherited a deficit programme (USD 250,000) in January 2000 to turn it around in 2 years to a programme that had USD 200,000 surplus; established biodiversity programmes in countries like Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Nepal, Philippines, Ecuador; managed IUCN's Global Biodiversity Forum (GBF) initiative between 2003-2005; managed IUCN regional biodiversity programme in 14 countries; established the Canadian Internship Programme (CIDA) and Australian Youth Exchange (AusAID) programme at the regional programme; led a team of 12 professionals and 4 administrative staff in delivering the programme; established the Biosafety Clearing House for Asia that was later merged with CBD Secretariat's clearing house; organised 6 sessions of global biodiversity forum sessions; authored more than 8 reports and 7 policy briefs and numerous policy papers for regional and global programmes on biodiversity; assisted 12 countries in preparing national biodiversity strategy and biosafety policy programmes; strengthened partnerships with UN agencies (eg. UNDP), governments and NGOs as evidenced by joint reports prepared, events organised and results achieved.

***Period:*** January 1991 – December 1998      **Head, Biotechnology and Biodiversity Programme, M S Swaminathan Research Foundation**

***Duties:***

Setting up the research, management and support systems of the Foundation and development of full-fledged research facility were the main responsibilities during the period. Some of the key duties included: development of research programmes on conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants, mangroves and agrobiodiversity, rural development, policy research and development planning; coordination of field projects on mangrove conservation, medicinal plant conservation, developing a research facility on biotechnology, implementing the 'Biovillage Programme' on support to rural communities for sustainable livelihoods and policy research to support development of agrobiodiversity conservation programmes, development of the National Biodiversity Bill for India and the Plant

Variety Protection Act of India. Coordinating a team of about 15 researchers, raising resources, monitoring implementation and reporting progress of implementation to Donors and Board of Trustees of the Foundation were the additional responsibilities.

***Key Achievements:***

Established the research and development facilities at the Foundation resulting in a programme portfolio of USD 2 million with national, regional and multilateral partnerships and donors; published the first artificial propagation method for mangrove conservation in the world that resulted in winning the “Brandis Prize” in 1995; led a team of 4 post-doctoral fellows and 8 doctoral fellows during the tenure; was the lead author for developing the UNEP Conceptual Framework on ABS and GEF’s Agrobiodiversity Programme (OP13); managed the technical programmes on biodiversity, biotechnology and rural development through partnerships with provincial governments in India; served as the technical committee member for CGIAR, FAO, Department of Biotechnology; IUCN and others

**Publications**

: More than 90 research and review articles and 35 books (both edited and authored volumes)