

## **GUPTA, Meena (India)**

### **Current employment and position/title:**

Retired civil servant of the Government of India. Currently works in an honorary capacity in several non-governmental organizations active in the areas of environment, health, public administration.

### **Experience in fields of concern to IUCN:**

Ms Gupta has been involved with policy formulation and guidance on matters relating to the environment, forests, and indigenous people, at a very senior level in the Government of India (Permanent Secretary in the Ministries of Environment and Forests, and Tribal Affairs), for several years, up to her retirement in 2008.

She has been particularly closely involved with matters relating to environmental impact assessment, forestry, bio-diversity, livelihoods and wildlife.

She has chaired the National Committee of IUCN in India during the time she was Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Environment and Forests. She has been closely involved with the preparation of a landmark legislation relating to livelihood rights of forest dwellers, particularly tribal people in India.

Since her retirement, Ms Gupta has worked as a part time adviser to IUCN in India and is currently on the advisory committee of an important IUCN project on trans-boundary water dialogues, operational in Bangladesh and India. She also serves as a Board member of two grassroots non-governmental organizations in India working with people and forests in the Nilgiris (Tamilnadu) and Orissa.

### **Particular qualifications to be a Regional Councillor:**

With her knowledge of governance issues and awareness of how policy is framed by governments, Ms Gupta will be able to support IUCN in its efforts to influence and impact country and regional policies.

Her experience in working on environment matters, as well as livelihood issues, both within and outside the government provide her with an insight which will prove useful in interacting with and understanding the view points of IUCN's government and non-government Members. Her administrative expertise will prove useful in introducing improvements in the functioning of IUCN.