

## Kenton R. Miller Award

*Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Conservation*

### Why in news?

Sonali Ghosh, the Director of [Kaziranga National Park](#) and Tiger Reserve, has become the first Indian to receive the IUCN Kenton Miller Award at the IUCN World Conservation Congress held in Abu Dhabi.

- **Kenton Miller Award** - It is a ***biennial award (every two years)*** for innovation in the management and sustainability of ***national parks and other protected areas***.
- **Named after** - Dr Kenton R. Miller, a pioneer in conservation and former Director General of IUCN.
- **Established in** - 2006.
- **Presented by** - IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA).
- **Purpose** - The award honors innovators who have made a significant, demonstrable impact on conservation and protected area management at local, national, or international levels.
- **Prize** - Honorees receive
  - A \$5,000 USD grant,
  - International recognition by their peers, and
  - An accompanying citation acknowledging their contribution.
- **Categories** - The award recognizes innovative solutions in several areas, including -
  - Planning and management
  - Finance and economics
  - Governance
  - Assessment, monitoring, and evaluation
  - Communication
- **Recent recipients - For 2025** - Sonali Ghosh (India) and Roque Simón Sevilla Larrea (Ecuador).
  - **Sonali Ghosh** - Field Director of India's Kaziranga National Park and

Tiger Reserve.

- She was recognized for her **model of community-based conservation** that integrates traditional ecological knowledge with modern science.
  - **Roque Simón Sevilla Larrea** - She was recognized for his work in advancing sustainability across several business sectors, including tourism, insurance, agriculture, and clean energy.
  - One of his notable ventures is the **Mashpi Lodge, an eco-lodge in Ecuador's cloud forest** that focuses on sustainable tourism.
- **Past recipients -**
    - **In 2023** - Mexico's Maria Del Carmen Garcia Rivas for advancing marine protected areas with collaborative governance and scientific monitoring;
    - **In 2020** - Nizar Youssef Hani of Lebanon's Shouf Biosphere Reserve for ecosystem restoration and community empowerment post-conflict; and
    - **In 2014** - Burung Indonesia for community-based bird conservation integrating local knowledge and scientific research.

## References

1. [The Hindu | First Indian to win IUCN Kenton Miller Award](#)
2. [IUCN | IUCN Kenton Miller Award](#)

