

# José Sarukhán recognize the Tyler Prize

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**Sarukhan has ensured that his science lead to practical solutions that are changing the lives of people, the Tyler Prize Executive Committee said.**

**By: [Newsweek in Spanish](#)**

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The scientist, statesman and former rector of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) José Sarukhán was awarded the Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement 2017 for their scientific fields of biological diversity and institutional strengthening contributions.

The Executive Committee of the Tyler Prize recalled that when rainforests were critically endangered because of extensive deforestation, Mexican President Carlos Salinas turned to Sarukhán for advice on how to display the global community that the country valued its natural resources.

In response, Sarukhan devised the Conabio (Conabio), a federal government institution focused exclusively on biodiversity, one of the first of its kind in the world

"Now in its 25th anniversary, which manages Conabio is considered the largest database of electronically accessible national biodiversity in the world, with more than 11.2 million specimens," he explained the Committee.

Conabio, he explained, is an interministerial commission that acquires knowledge and shape policies on conservation and sustainable use of the natural wealth of Mexico. "This integrated approach to conservation has it proved so successful that President Obama's advisory council recommended that it be used as a model for the United States," he said.

The President of the Executive Committee of the Tyler Prize, Julia Marton-Lefèvre said Sarukhan was being recognized for identifying a scientific problem and create a solution that was inserted into the laws and regulations of their country through strong institutions.

"As a scientist first class in the world - Sarukhan published in all the most prestigious scientific journals and received the highest honors that all scientific aims. But I knew that 'seek knowledge by the mere knowledge' was not enough, and save biodiversity in the ecosystems of Mexico would require much more than excellent science, "he said.

Lefèvre said that few scientists could convince a president to find the budget for an agency for the integration of knowledge for the conservation of federal level, "but Sarukhán did it, and because of that, the ecosystems of Mexico now have an institutional oversight actively protects its biodiversity. "

"Sarukhan has ensured that his science lead to practical solutions that are changing the lives of people and changing the way the environment can offer a home for the future," said Marton-Lefèvre.

As Tyler Prize winner, Sarukhan will receive \$ 200,000 in cash and adds to the list of laureates that includes Jane Goodall and EO Wilson.

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