



## NOMINATION APPLICATION FORM

### Section 1: Applicant Details:

**Name:** ALan Rees

**Date:** 13/10/2022 18:41:03

**Email address:** alanfrees@gmail.com

**Nominated position:** Board of Directors (2 x Positions)

**Professional affiliations:** IUCN MTSG, Marine Biological Association, UK

**Country of residence:** UK

**Geographic area of work:** Mediterranean and Persian Gulf

### Section 2: Applicant Response:

**How would you describe your work with sea turtles?**

Researcher and advocate.

**How many years have you worked with sea turtles?**

>25

**Which Annual Sea Turtle Symposia, or Annual Workshops have you attended?**

21,23,25,26,27,30,32,33,35,36,37,38,40

**Have you been involved with any Symposium activities?**

BoD, Session Chair, Travel Chair, Workshop Organiser

**What would you like the Nominating Committee, Board of Directors, and membership to know about you as a candidate for your nominated position? In what ways would you like to contribute to the Symposium/ International Sea Turtle Society?**

I plan to contribute through actively participating in discussions leading to decisions made by the Board of Directors on the way forward for the society, developing its presence as a Society that offers more than the fantastic annual Symposium.

**How do you envision using the Symposium to advance sea turtle biology and promote conservation?**

I want the Symposium to continue from strength to strength. Increasing participation from all regions of the world, through supporting less well resources individuals and by being held in locations that facilitate participation of sea turtle enthusiasts from different continents. I am a firm believer in the benefits of face-to-face meetings but given the increasing pressure on the world's environment these meetings need to be made as carbon neutral and socially responsible as possible. This said, I also see the value in online meetings for those members who do not wish to or are unable to travel and would make efforts to ensure that they are catered for when in-person Symposia are being held.

**Why is the ISTS as an organization important to you, professionally and personally? What is your vision for the ISTS over the next 5 to 10 years?**

The ISTS, via the annual Symposium, has been a companion to me on my journey in sea turtle conservation and research for the past 20 years. It has afforded me great networking opportunities and a place to discuss all things turtle with like-minded individuals, and in doing so has instilled additional enthusiasm and energy in me for the work I carry out. Conversely, I feel rewarded by having the opportunity to be able to give back to the ISTS community through fulfilling several roles. Most notably I have already served on the Board of Directors, but I am also a long-standing Regional Travel Chair. I have also regularly acted as a Session Chair and convenor of a workshop on Drones and Sea Turtles that will complete its fourth iteration in ISTS 41.

Over the next years I wish to see the Society's scope broadening to include far more than the annual Symposium. For example, I have several ideas for the development of useful web-resources.

**Please include a 250-word bio**

I have been a sea turtle biologist and conservation worker for over 25 years, with a deep knowledge of issues facing turtles across the Mediterranean and Middle East. I am a long-standing Regional Vice Chair of the MTSG and have been intimately involved with the ISTS since 2001.

My main accomplishments have been to initiate the 20 years and counting in-water mark-recapture project at an important turtle foraging habitat in Greece, to lead a survey that discovered a regionally important green turtle rookery in the Mediterranean, to carry out the first satellite tracking projects on sea turtles in Oman, Kuwait and Syria and, most recently, to pull together a team of experts to launch the MedTurtle Bulletin, a newsletter specifically dedicated to the sea turtles of the Mediterranean. This evolved from my long association with the Marine Turtle Newsletter and the Indian Ocean Turtle Newsletter.

A lot of my work is with ARCHELON, the Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece, for whom I first volunteered in 1994. Most recently my collaboration ARCHELON has focussed on satellite tracking nesting females from the Mediterranean's largest loggerhead rookery and males from the important foraging habitat where we have the on-going mark-recapture program.

In my spare time I am a keen amateur photographer, treasurer of my local camera club and active member of the parent's association at my two children's primary school.

**Photo:**

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=11Xjugo\\_CJGeqi3XtUuxQ5XrXZrO1K-my](https://drive.google.com/open?id=11Xjugo_CJGeqi3XtUuxQ5XrXZrO1K-my)

**Section 3: Declaration**

**Circle your response to the below statements:**

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| <b>I am a current member of ISTS</b>   | Yes |
| <b>I have read and understand the ISTS by-laws and constitution</b>  | Yes |
| <b>I have read and understand the terms of reference for the position which I am nominating for:</b>                     | Yes |
| <b>For Board of Directors nominees, I understand that the Annual Board Retreat is usually in the 3rd week of August:</b> | Yes |

**For Board of Directors nominees: Please read the following statement and add your initials below to confirm you understand the workload involved:**

***The Board is a working Board. All members of the Board are expected to carry the workload, share the responsibility of assigned tasks, and respond to written communications – this can typically be 40+ hours per year in addition to the Board meeting at the Symposium and the Board Retreat. If a Board member does not maintain their ISTS membership and demonstrate a high level of commitment to the ISTS as described in the Board members' TORs, they will be asked to resign from the Board. High level of commitment is defined as not missing two consecutive mid-year meetings, except under extenuating circumstances, and annually serving on 1-2 Board task forces, leadership roles, Committees, etc.***

I agree to this.