

Nomination Application.

Please fill in the blanks and/or boxes briefly addressing each of the following questions.

Position for which you have been nominated _____

Name_ Andrews Agyekumhene _____ e-mail_ andyaohene@yahoo.com _____

Professional affiliation(s) _ (1) International Sea Turtle Society_ (2) Ghana Science Association
(3) Society for Conservation Biology _____

Country of residence _____ Ghana _____

Geographic area of work____ Ghana, West Africa _____

- How would you describe your work with marine sea turtles? (For example: researcher, teacher, resource manager, activist, policy specialist, etc.) __Researcher, Trainer, Teacher, Activist_____
- How many years have you worked with sea turtles? __ 16 years _____
- Which Annual Sea Turtle Symposia, or Annual Workshops have you attended? (Please list the years) _ 2010, 2012, 2014, 2017 _____
- Have you been involved with any Symposium activities? If yes, please describe your involvement. _ (1) I have been the co-chair for the African Regional Meetings since 2015, hosting the African Regional meetings. (2) I served the Society as a Board Member _____

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

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

In my 16 years of sea turtle experience, I have collaborated, worked, and served many different roles for advancing sea turtle conservation in my country and also internationally. My earlier career activities include working on the first sea turtle tagging and conservation project which I am now the coordinator (Since 2009). I worked with a government institution for 10 years in during which time I helped develop management activities for conserving sea turtles in Ghana. As a public prosecutor for Ghana Wildlife Division, I helped enforce laws on sea turtles not only in my protected area, but also in other similar protected areas where seas turtles were being slaughtered and eggs collected. I have conducted training ins many coastal communities in Ghana and provide technical advice for majority of the sea turtle project currently running in Ghana. I have been fortunate with grants which helped establish sea turtle project in fishing communities; currently I run projects in eleven (11) communities in all 4 coastal regions in Ghana. These projects have successfully trained Ghanaians and developed local infrastructure for significant progress in sea turtle conservation throughout the country. Through the projects, we have successfully increased local sea turtle-based ecotourism, reduced and (eliminated in some areas) poaching on the nesting beaches, and worked with local fishermen to reduce sea turtle by-catch in gill nets. I continue to extend conservation to new beaches where high numbers of sea

turtles are reported to be killed on nesting beaches. I successfully brought policy makers, fishers, hoteliers, academia, media and other relevant stakeholders together to discuss sea turtle conservation in Ghana by organizing the First Ghana National Sea Turtle Conference. Some key outcomes of the conference were enhanced collaborations and dialogue among institutions working with sea turtles.

As a president-elect, I hope to bring a new look and perspective to the Society that is supported by over 16 years of professional sea turtle experience. My understanding of the value of diversity and need for the ISTS to represent all geographic regions of the world is my motivation to apply for this position. I anticipate this symposium will create the much-needed awareness for sea turtles in the sub-region and help gain the needed support for their conservation.

- 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 is the first professional organization I joined and since then it has helped me develop in my field of expertise as a sea turtle biologist. Through my professional life, I have always been involved with sea turtles (during school and working years) and the ISTS has been a great source of capacity development, knowledge and information for all these years hence my strong personal connection and commitment to the Society. It is my aim that the ISTS will continue to be the strong voice for sea turtles as it has always been and be able to influence policies worldwide especially in developing countries where human-induced threats seem to still be on the increase. I also envisage more participation by developing countries in the ISTS in the next 5 to 10 years. I view the future of ISTS to be a body of sea turtle experts that include regions of the world currently still underrepresented.

Please include a 250-word bio and a photo

Andrews Agyekumhene has a BSc. degree in Oceanography and Fisheries, an M.Phil degree in Biological Oceanography, and a PhD in Integrated Coastal Zone Management. He worked on sea turtles ecology for his second degree (2006 to 2009), and sea turtle bycatch reduction for his PhD degree (2014-2019). Andrews has worked with the Ghana Wildlife Division (GWD) for 10 years during which time he managed two of Ghana's protected areas where 5 species of sea turtle utilize as foraging and nesting habitats. He currently works with the University of Ghana as a lecturer. He coordinates the first long term sea turtle conservation and tagging project in Ghana (since 2006). The project, which is a collaboration between government and academia, with active participation from local communities, promotes long-term conservation of the species through research, awareness and eco-tourism. Andrews has trained several of Ghana's University students as well as international students, staff of GWD, and fishermen. He has made impacts in several communities along Ghana's coast and has successfully eradicated poaching and egg collection along some beaches. He organized the First Ghana National Sea Turtle Conference which resulted in effective management of sea turtles in Ghana. Andrews is a member of the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group and has served the International Sea Turtle Society (ISTS) in the capacities of a Board member (2016-2021) and co-chair of the African regional meetings (since 2015 and ongoing). Andrews brings the 16 years of experience working actively with sea turtles and communities to contribute to Society.

Please provide 2 letters of reference (the letter of reference should include a statement about your suitability for the position you have been nominated for)

Circle your response to the below statements.

Note- If you did not attend the previous ISTS Symposium then you need to renew your membership.

I am a current member of ISTS

Yes No

I have read and understand the ISTS By-Laws and Constitution.

Yes No

I have read and understand the terms of reference for the position to which I am running

Yes No

For Board of Directors nominees: I understand that the Annual Board Retreat is usually in the 3rd week of August

Yes No

For Board of Directors nominees: please read and initial the following statement to indicate that you understand the workload:

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.

Please initial this statement to confirm that you agree ____