



## NOMINATION APPLICATION FORM

### Section 1: Applicant Details:

**Name:** Andres Estrades  
**Date:** 29/11/2023 18:20:28  
**Email address:** tortuguayo@gmail.com  
**Nominated position:** Board of Directors (2 x Positions)  
**Professional affiliations:** Karumbe - Sea Turtles of Uruguay  
**Country of residence:** Uruguay  
**Geographic area of work:** South Atlantic Ocean, South America

### Section 2: Applicant Response:

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

Resercher, conservationist, educator

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

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

1999, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2007, 2008, 2013, 2016, 2019, 2022, 2023

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

in the period 2018-2023 I served as BoD. In 2015-2017 I served for the ISTS Awards Committee. In 2011-2013 I served for the ISTS Nominations Committee (during the last year 2013 I took the responsibility as Committee Chief). Also I participate in the organization of two RETOMALA meetings (2007-2008). I present several posters and papers in my symposium participations.

**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 see serving as a board member as a role of great responsibility and opportunity. I have served the ISTS in various roles over the past years, and throughout have found great pleasure in contributing my time and experiences to trying to make the ISTS stronger and serve our community. I think that the ISTS and Symposium should enhancing research and conservation capacity in key areas by strengthening exchange of ideas, expertise, and knowledge among ISTS members from diverse backgrounds

I think that the ISTS has an obligation to nurture the budding turtle researchers, activists, and conservationists that are commencing their careers. Maybe not enough is done to divulge the work of the ISTS and people perceive its role as being just the Symposium, when obviously it is so much more than that, as a global organization dedicated to sea turtles. I would like the opportunity to learn more about the operation of the ISTS, from the inside, and to contribute to raising awareness about the organization within the wider sea turtle community.

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

The annual Symposium, is a special place, a great opportunity for people from around the world to come together and connect, share, learn and teach about sea turtles. It's the only place, I can stay all day talking about turtles and nobody say, ok... stop please!! What is great is that the event brings all kinds of turtle professionals come together; volunteers, academics, conservationists, educators, etc. Personally, I always leave the Symposium with new knowledge and feeling energized to face whatever issues may arise during the next turtle season. Twenty years ago the symposium opens to me the

doors of the turtle world. I feel the responsibility to take this opportunity to new generations of “turtle folks” around the globe.

**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?**

My vision for the near future is of an ISTS that is more focused on developing capacity and backstopping efforts in key areas, countries, and issues facing sea turtle biologists and conservationists through enhanced efforts to decentralize resources and expertise and to promote regional activities. I envision an ISTS that values and celebrates its current diversity of membership, experience, and accomplishments, and does so not at the expense of tradition and convention, but rather by building on its historical foundation. I also envision the ISTS making strategic partnerships and becoming more actively involved with other professional societies and organizations focused on conservation and research issues that could benefit from our collective expertise, and could advance sea turtle conservation around the world.

**Please include a 250-word bio**

My name is Andrés Estrades and I was born in Uruguay in 1976. I have studies in Biology, Anthropology and Museology. My first jobs were as a volunteer in Mexico working on the protection of the turtle *Dermochelys coriacea* (1997-99). In 1999 I founded with some friends an organization called Karumbé for the study and conservation of the Sea Turtles of Uruguay. In this NGO I have played leadership roles. Since 2004 I have designed and implemented educational programs working with communities, and since 2010 I serve as Executive director. I have been an active Member of the World Conservation Union MTSG/SSC since 2006. I start to participate in Sea Turtle Symposiums since 1999. I have been involved in ISTS in various roles. In 2011-2013 I was elected to the ISTS Nominations Committee (for the last year he served as Committee Head). I continued to help ISTS with my participation in the Awards Committee (2015-2017). And in 2018, I served as a member of the Board of Directors, until 2023. During my service at the BoD we suffered the Covid Pandemic, a great challenge that made me rethink how to achieve an ISTS more connected with its members. During that period, I help to create the Small Grant Program to financially help members who work in the conservation of sea turtles in coastal communities. If elected to the BoD position, I will continue working to create new opportunities, to grow as a global community that loves and protects sea turtles.

**Photo:**

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1I5A86iQfSiTjKF6EV26vPLKiH-w7wgRV>

## Section 3: Declaration

Circle your response to the below statements:

I am a current member of ISTS Yes

I have read and understand the ISTS by-laws and constitution Yes

I have read and understand the terms of reference for the position which I am nominating for: Yes

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

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