



## NOMINATION APPLICATION FORM

### Section 1: Applicant Details:

**Name:** Seh Ling Long  
**Date:** 29/11/2023 17:12:06  
**Email address:** lsehling@gmail.com  
**Nominated position:** Board of Directors (2 x Positions)  
**Professional affiliations:** TRAFFIC International Southeast Asia  
**Country of residence:** Malaysia  
**Geographic area of work:** Malaysia

### Section 2: Applicant Response:

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

Conservationist/researcher - nesting/in-water population monitoring, habitat protection, stakeholder engagement at macro and micro levels

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

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

2016, 2018, 2022, 2023

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

Volunteer for silent auction, poster setup, workshop, and turtle trading post; session co-chair; Archie Carr Student Award judge; and student evaluator.

**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?**

When asked about the possibility of being nominated for the ISTS Board of Directors, I was pleasantly surprised and humbled. While initially uncertain about my qualifications, I am eager to seize this opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the Symposium and ISTS if given the chance. While my tenure in sea turtle conservation may not span decades, my dedication to safeguarding sea turtle populations fuels my commitment to engaging in initiatives that protect these magnificent creatures and their habitats.

My journey in conservation has instilled in me a passion for sharing knowledge and providing mentorship, particularly resonating with students and early-career individuals embarking on their conservation paths. I strongly believe in collaborative efforts, uniting researchers, conservationists, and stakeholders to maximize our resources and amplify conservation endeavors. By organizing training sessions and workshops, I aim to build capacity within our community.

Moreover, I aspire to raise awareness about ISTS and encourage participation at the Symposium, particularly among students and early-career professionals in the sea turtle conservation realm. Empowering them to engage fully in this enriching platform is essential for the future of sea turtle conservation.

In summary, I am enthusiastic about the prospect of contributing my skills and dedication to the ISTS Board of Directors. I am committed to fostering collaboration, mentorship, and awareness, working tirelessly to advance the cause of sea turtle conservation and ensure a brighter future for these cherished species.

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

The Symposium is a pivotal platform to advance sea turtle biology and conservation. I envision leveraging it through different ways for:

Knowledge Exchange: Sharing research and best practices.

Capacity Building: Educating and empowering the participants who can then apply what they have learn at their project sites.

Networking: Engaging diverse audiences for outreach and collaboration.

What I envision is what the Symposium has been providing, and I would like to see this continue on. By utilizing the Symposium, we can drive impactful change, exchange expertise, and inspire action for the conservation and preservation of sea turtle populations worldwide.

**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?**

Throughout my journey in sea turtle conservation, both the society and symposium have been invaluable to me. They have served as a nexus connecting me with the global sea turtle community, fostering the exchange of experiences and knowledge that I've been able to apply effectively in my conservation efforts back home. What started as professional acquaintanceships have blossomed into enduring friendships over time. ISTS has consistently provided a vital space where the sea turtle community unites, pooling our expertise and resources to collectively safeguard these species.

I envision ISTS continuing to serve as an indispensable platform, primarily through the symposium, facilitating networking, collaboration, and capacity building within the sea turtle community. Recognizing that not everyone working in sea turtle conservation can attend the symposium, my aspiration is for all individuals in this field to recognize and become involved with ISTS. I aim for broader recognition and participation within the society, ensuring that every passionate individual contributing to sea turtle conservation has the opportunity to benefit from and contribute to this remarkable community.

**Please include a 250-word bio**

Seh Ling brings with her years of experience in conservation, having served as the former project manager of the Perhentian Eco-Education Project and co-founder of the Perhentian Turtle Project. Her unyielding dedication to sea turtle conservation stems from her roots in Terengganu, once an important leatherback rookery, where she grew up surrounded by the cultural significance of these majestic creatures, although she didn't have the chance to witness one.

Her profound connection to sea turtles inspired her to pursue a Ph.D. at the University

Malaysia Terengganu, delving into human-sea turtle interactions within local communities in protected marine areas. As the Principal Officer of Lang Tengah Turtle Watch, Seh Ling adeptly managed operations, finances, and stakeholder relations while spearheading strategic planning, research, fundraising, staff training, and recruitment.

She also holds significant roles as the co-chair of the Turtle Interest Group in Malaysia and a member of the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group, contributing her expertise to broader conservation efforts. Seeking new challenges after dedicating 11 years to Terengganu, Seh Ling will be expanding her horizons at TRAFFIC International Southeast Asia as their Senior Program Officer – Training and Capacity Building.

In her leisure time, Seh Ling enjoys quality moments with family and friends, indulging in reading, travel, snorkeling, movie watching, and engaging in creative pursuits.

**Photo:**

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=14TnUpqYKME9gOPJtX2NWvy6w82gg6s0L>

## **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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