



## **NOMINATION APPLICATION FORM**

### **Section 1: Applicant Details:**

**Name:** Andres Estrades

**Date:** 27/11/2024 22:45:21

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

**Nominated position:** Board of Directors (3 x Positions)

**Professional affiliations:** Karumbe - Executive Director

**Country of residence:** Uruguay

**Geographic area of work:** South Atlantic Ocean, Latin America

### **Section 2: Applicant Response:**

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

My work can best be described as a multidisciplinary approach to sea turtle conservation. I am a conservationist, educator, and researcher. Over the years, I have combined scientific research, community engagement, and environmental education to address the challenges sea turtles face in the South Atlantic. I have been directly involved in studying migration patterns, monitoring strandings, and mitigating the impacts of fisheries. Simultaneously, I've worked with coastal communities to foster sustainable practices and raise awareness, particularly through the creation of visitor centers and educational programs that connect people with marine conservation efforts.

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

I have been actively working with sea turtles for 27 years.

**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?**

Yes, I have been actively involved in various symposium activities. I have served as a session moderator, and participated in several RETOMALA meetings and workshops focused on plastic pollution, education and outreach. From 2011-2013 he was a member of the ISTS Nominations Committee (during the last year I served as Committee Chair), and from 2015-2017 I serve as member of the ISTS Awards Committee. From 2018 to 2023, I was elected as member of the Board of Directors.

**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 bring over two decades of hands-on experience in sea turtle conservation, bridging scientific research with community-based initiatives. My career has been defined by a commitment to collaboration—whether it's working with artisanal fishers to reduce bycatch, mentoring university students in conservation techniques, or designing public spaces like visitor centers to make marine conservation accessible to all. As a candidate, I offer a strong vision for integrating science, education, and global partnerships to address the urgent challenges sea turtles face. My work has always been guided by a passion for protecting not just turtles, but the ecosystems and communities that depend on them.

I aim to contribute by promoting inclusion and accessibility, ensuring that the ISTS is a platform for all voices—particularly from underrepresented regions. I would advocate for strengthening education and outreach components of the symposium, integrating more interdisciplinary approaches to conservation, and creating opportunities for early-career professionals to grow within the field. I would also work to expand collaborations with other organizations, to amplify the impact of the ISTS globally.

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

The symposium is a powerful tool for sharing research, fostering collaboration, and inspiring action. I envision leveraging it to bring attention to emerging threats like climate change, plastic pollution, and unregulated fishing, while also promoting practical, scalable solutions. By increasing the participation of educators, policymakers, and local communities, the symposium can evolve into a space where science and public engagement meet, advancing both sea turtle biology and on-the-ground conservation efforts.

**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?**

Professionally, ISTS has been an essential platform for exchanging knowledge, building networks, and staying at the forefront of sea turtle conservation science. It has connected me with like-minded individuals and inspired me to approach conservation with a global perspective. Personally, ISTS embodies my values—collaboration, inclusivity, and a shared commitment to preserving marine biodiversity. It has fueled my passion for creating change and reinforced my belief that conservation is most successful when it unites diverse voices and perspectives. My vision is for ISTS to become an even more inclusive and influential organization. I see it broadening its reach to engage more participants from underrepresented regions, fostering partnerships with other global conservation initiatives, and harnessing technology to make symposium resources more accessible. Over the next decade, I hope ISTS will strengthen its role as a leader in marine conservation by supporting innovative research, prioritizing education, and advocating for stronger conservation policies worldwide.

**Please include a 250-word bio**

With 27 years dedicated to sea turtle conservation, I have focused on advancing global efforts through leadership, collaboration, and community-driven initiatives. Beginning in 1997 as a volunteer at leatherback turtle nesting camps in Mexico, I co-founded Karumbé in 1999 to address the critical need for research and protection of sea turtles in the South Atlantic.

My international work has been a cornerstone of my career. As a member of the IUCN Sea Turtle Specialist Group and the Forum for the Conservation of the Patagonian Sea, I have contributed to regional and global conservation strategies. In 2019, I joined the Board of Directors of the International Sea Turtle Society (ISTS), where I have worked to strengthen the society's global impact. In 2021, I developed the ISTS Small Grants Program for Communities, designed to empower grassroots groups worldwide by providing essential funding for local conservation efforts.

My work also includes collaborations with National Geographic Pristine Seas, supporting the creation of marine protected areas and innovative education programs. Over the years, I have organized and led the South Atlantic regional meeting (ASO), and over 20 training courses for conservationists, focusing on rehabilitation and research techniques.

I am committed to fostering global partnerships that connect science, policy, and community action. Through initiatives like the ISTS Small Grants Program, I strive to ensure that sea turtle conservation remains inclusive, impactful, and sustainable for the future.

**Photo:**

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1PI4xGYp0jesTRXOUw6IalhRkgNhjizb\\_](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1PI4xGYp0jesTRXOUw6IalhRkgNhjizb_)

### **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 a Board member physically attending a minimum of three mid year retreats during their 4-year Board term, attending online Board meetings consistently, serving annually on***

***multiple Committees, completing assigned tasks, and being responsive to online communications and requests.***

***The 2025 Board retreat is 10th to 15th August 2025 in Washington DC.***

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