



## **NOMINATION APPLICATION FORM**

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

**Name:** Thushan Kapurusinghe  
**Date:** 20/11/2024 19:13:01  
**Email address:** kjthushan@yahoo.co.uk  
**Nominated position:** Nominations Committee (2 x Regular Positions)  
**Professional affiliations:** Turtle Conservation Project, Sri Lanka  
**Country of residence:** Sri Lanka  
**Geographic area of work:** Sri Lanka

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

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

Resource Manager, Teacher, researcher, policy maker

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

31 years

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

1995,96,97,98,99, 2000, 2001,2002,2003, 2007,2008, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2024

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

Yes. I served as the Chair of the Awards Committee, was a program committee member, member of the abstract selecting committee, organizing partner (2010 Goa symposium), was a student evaluator, volunteer etc. Furthermore, I have involved with fund raising activities during the live auctions. In addition, I have organized pre-conference workshops on community livelihood development activities.

**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 would like to contribute to the nominations committee with my 30+ years of experience in the field of sea turtle conservation along with my previous experience in attending and engaging in ISTS Awards Committee as the chair (2018 Cobe, Japan). I am familiar with the responsibilities and duties and successfully accomplished my tasks with my fellow team members. Furthermore, I can support the International Sea Turtle Society with introducing innovative fund-raising methods such as carbon financing to sustain the ISTS finance.

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

I have been attending the International Sea Turtle Symposium since 1995 and missed only few (during the Tsunami and Pandemic crisis) and utilized the gained knowledge to expand my community based sea turtle conservation activities in Sri Lanka. I have presented many oral and poster presentations at ISTS symposiums and shared my knowledge and experience with other conservationists from all around the world. Furthermore, I have initiated Sri Lanka's first sea turtle satellite tracking research initiative with the Exeter University in UK and later with the Wildlife Institute of India.

**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?**

ISTS is very important for me because it provides a platform to present our local findings at international level. In addition, ISTS is an organization with members coming from all around the world with wide range of different cultures. ISTS allows me to learn from others and also to share my knowledge with others. It provides an opportunity to

work as a team to achieve a common goal. ISTS helped me to develop my personal carrier and also to develop my Sri Lanka Turtle Conservation Project (TCP). My vision for the ISTS for the next 5 to 10 years is to increase the membership representing more and more countries. I hope to bring the ISTS symposium to my home country (Sri Lanka) in the near future.

**Please include a 250-word bio**

Mr. Kapurusinghe started his wildlife carrier in 1985 and received his academic training from the Open University of Sri Lanka and the Duke University Marine Laboratory in North Carolina, USA. He has completed his MSc in “Conservation and Tourism” at the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE) at the University of Kent, UK. Mr. Kapurusinghe has extensive working experience in marine and coastal resource management with community participation in Sri Lanka. Mr. Kapurusinghe is a member of the IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Specialists’ Group. Currently he is serving as the Sri Lanka focal person for the IUCN Species Survival Commission. Furthermore, he is the chairman of the Turtle Conservation Project (TCP) in Sri Lanka which is in operation for 31 years. Mr. Kapurusinghe also worked as the coordinator of the tsunami recovery programme which was implemented by the UNDP GEF SGP Sri Lanka. Further, he worked as the Programme Development Officer (UNV) for the Disaster Management Unit of UNDP Sri Lanka. He has extensive experience in turtle conservation, mangrove restoration, sand dune restoration, nature tourism etc. with community participation. Mr. Kapurusinghe’s main interests are community based ecosystem conservation, diversification of community livelihoods, protected area co management strategies and sustainability of community based projects.

**Photo:**

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1IMn6XOTIbjOgYhhKvY9Z7QWmkCO1JJZ8>

**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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