



NOMINATION APPLICATION FORM

Section 1: Applicant Details:

Name: Laura Prosdocimi

Date: 28/10/2025 02:02:28

Email address: lprosdo@yahoo.com.ar

Nominated position: Board of Directors (2 x Open Positions)

Professional affiliations: PhD

Country of residence: Argentina

Geographic area of work: Southwestern Atlantic

Section 2: Applicant Response:

How would you describe your work with sea turtles?

Over the past two decades, I have dedicated my career to the research, conservation, and management of sea turtles in the Southwestern Atlantic. My work integrates ecological and genetic approaches to understand population structure, feeding grounds, and interactions with fisheries, promoting science-based conservation strategies. In parallel, I have led outreach initiatives, training programs, and collaborations with international networks and conventions such as the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC), the ASO Turtle Network, and the Leatherback Network (Laúd OPO). Guided by an integrative vision, my goal has been to

bridge science, management, and society to enhance marine biodiversity conservation across the region.

How many years have you worked with sea turtles?

25

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

San Jose-Costa Rica, 2004

Loreto- Mexico, 2008

New Orleans -USA, 2014

Lima-Peru, 2016

Las Vegas-USA, 2017

Australia,2022

Cartagena-Colombia, 2023

Have you been involved with any Symposium activities?

I served as a member of the Board from 2015 to 2021, participated in registration activities during the Colombia Symposium, and in recent years have collaborated with the ISTS registration and social media teams.

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?

Having been part of the ISTS community for many years and previously serving on the Board from 2015 to 2021, I would be honored to contribute once again to the Society's growth and development. Throughout my career, I have worked to bridge science, conservation, and communication—values that are central to the ISTS mission.

My goal in rejoining the Board is to help strengthen the Society's communication strategy and outreach, ensuring that our collective work and global impact are more visible, accessible, and engaging to both members and the wider community. I believe effective communication is key to fostering collaboration, inclusivity, and long-term engagement across our diverse membership.

In addition to my experience in marine turtle research and conservation in the Southwestern Atlantic, I have collaborated actively with ISTS in recent years, supporting registration and social media activities. I would like to continue building on that

experience by helping to develop creative, coordinated communication initiatives that highlight the incredible work of our members and expand the Society's reach.

I am deeply committed to the mission of the ISTS and to promoting a vibrant, connected community that reflects the diversity, passion, and dedication of all who work to protect sea turtles around the world.

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

I see the International Sea Turtle Symposium not only as the most important scientific meeting in our field, but also as a unique platform to build networks, strengthen capacity, and advance sea turtle conservation worldwide. My goal is to help ensure that the Symposium remains an inclusive and dynamic space that encourages the participation of researchers, practitioners, and local communities, particularly from regions where resources and opportunities are limited.

Through my experience in research, training, and science communication, I aim to enhance the visibility and impact of the knowledge shared at the Symposium, bridging scientific findings with real-world conservation actions. I am also committed to promoting greater recognition of Latin American science and fostering international collaborations that emerge from this event, so that the Symposium continues to serve as a driver of cooperation, innovation, and long-term commitment to sea turtle 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 holds deep professional and personal significance for me. Since the early years of my career, the Symposium and its community have been a constant source of learning, collaboration, and inspiration. ISTS has allowed me to connect with colleagues from around the world, exchange experiences, and build networks that have become true spaces for cooperation in sea turtle conservation.

On a personal level, being part of ISTS means belonging to a diverse, committed, and generous community that transcends borders and disciplines. Professionally, it has been a cornerstone for strengthening my research projects and conservation initiatives based at the Argentine Museum of Natural Sciences and across the Southwestern Atlantic region.

My vision for ISTS in the next 5–10 years is for it to continue evolving as a global, inclusive, and representative society, with stronger and more participatory communication. I hope to help enhance regional representation—particularly in Latin America, Africa, and Asia—by promoting equity in opportunities, supporting young researchers, and highlighting field- and community-based work. I believe ISTS can further establish itself as a worldwide leader not only in science but also in cooperation, innovation, and education for conservation.

Please include a 250-word bio

Dr. Laura Prosdocimi is a marine biologist and researcher at the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales “Bernardino Rivadavia” (MACN-CONICET), where she has dedicated more than two decades to the study and conservation of sea turtles and other marine vertebrates in the Southwestern Atlantic Ocean. She earned her Ph.D. in Biological Sciences in 2012 and has since combined research, conservation, and communication to promote the protection of marine biodiversity.

Her work integrates genetics, ecology, and fisheries interactions to better understand the population dynamics, connectivity, and threats faced by sea turtles in the region. Dr. Prosdocimi represents Argentina in the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC), where she leads the Strategic Partnerships Working Group and contributes to regional conservation policies and technical guidelines.

Beyond research, she is deeply committed to mentoring students and early-career scientists, directing undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral theses focused on marine conservation. She also leads public outreach and education initiatives that build bridges between science, fisheries, and local communities.

Dr. Prosdocimi has been an active member of the International Sea Turtle Society (ISTS) for many years, serving on the Board of Directors (2015–2021) and contributing to registration and social media efforts. Passionate about collaboration and inclusion, she works to strengthen regional representation and communication within the global sea turtle community.

Photo:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1kcquN-NXWRsaCBE5mGKYtayUHEgKrTdC>

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: undefined

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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