Welcome to the 2014 Global Sustainable Tourism Council’s Board of Directors election. Following the candidate nomination process, all GSTC members will be instructed on how and when to vote for candidates in the election. Please watch for further announcements.

Roles and Responsibilities of GSTC Board Members

The Board of Directors serves as the highest operational authority of the GSTC. It is responsible for governance oversight of the council’s mandate, programs, and operations. As the main organ of representation of the GSTC, its members have three main commitments to the organization: care, loyalty, and obedience.

Board Members will act in the best interests of the organization, ensuring that GSTC information remains confidential, and that decisions are always made in the best interest of the organization, while acting in compliance with the mission, goals, and bylaws of the organization.

Board Members are elected based on their qualifications and commitments as individuals, but also based on their representation of a particular sector or region. They serve as individuals, endorsed by but not representing their organizations.

Directors must:

- Demonstrate skills and expertise that are aligned with the roles and responsibilities expected from the Board.
- Be a member in good standing with GSTC – meaning that he/she must have paid the approved annual membership fees by the due date and are in compliance with the bylaws and operational manual.
- Demonstrate willingness and commitment to attend in person Board Meetings, including paying their own travel expenses.
- Commit to attending regularly scheduled conference calls (at least 6 per year) and additional extraordinary meetings.
- Indicate ability and interest to Chair a working group.
- Actively engage in public outreach and fundraising opportunities for the organization.
- Not have a conflict of interest with core GSTC activities.
Election Process:

This year we have eight (8) seats open for election, for which we have received two nominations for re-election. It is important as a global body representing diverse perspectives that the board composition reflects balance among categories of organizations, geographical representation, and gender.

You will be asked to cast your votes – this year, eight votes for general board positions, plus one for the certification representative.

You will receive profiles of the nominated candidates in the coming weeks. Please read those carefully and make your selections based on the candidate’s experience and relevance to the category that he/she is representing, and on your assessment of his/her ability to fulfill the roles and requirements of the GSTC Board.

Election of a Certification Representative on the Board

According to the by-laws of the GSTC, certification bodies may hold a seat on the Board as observers. “... a certification representative, elected by the certification body members of the GSTC, will be invited to attend board meetings as an observer. Observers may be asked to leave during decision-making votes. The elected position would serve for one (1) year”. (Article V, Section 4)

Roles and Responsibilities of the Certification Representative:

The Certification Board Member will be a representative of a formally recognized Certification Body elected by the Certification Programs members of the GSTC. The elected individual may represent any geographical area. He/she will be nominated and elected based on the following criteria:

• Outreach capacity of the individual
• Demonstrated skills and relevant experience
• Commitment of time to the GSTC through board meetings and public engagement
• Ability to engage certification programs in support of the GSTC
• Ability to bring resources – financial or in-kind – to the organization
• Ability to grow participation, engagement, and support in the development of programs aimed at certifications