

**Dr Ru Somaweera**

*Practice Lead for Ecology and Principal Scientist– Stantec  
Adjunct Associate Professor– Murdoch University  
National Geographic Explorer*

**M** 0432 166 755 | **E** [ruchira.somaweera@gmail.com](mailto:ruchira.somaweera@gmail.com) | **W** [www.ruchira-somaweera.net](http://www.ruchira-somaweera.net)



[ruchira-somaweera](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ruchira-somaweera)



[@RuchiraSomaweera](https://www.facebook.com/RuchiraSomaweera)



[@RuGoedWild](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuGoedWild)

**Summary**

I am a multidisciplinary ecologist and conservation scientist with over 15 years of experience working across government, academia, consultancy, and NGOs in Australia and throughout the Indo-Pacific. I currently lead Stantec's ecology practice nationally, while also holding adjunct academic roles at Murdoch University and UWA. My work focuses on delivering science-based projects in biodiversity conservation, marine ecology, and coastal resilience. With a PhD from the University of Sydney and a background that includes time at CSIRO and as a National Geographic Explorer, I aim to bring together technical rigour and strategic thinking. I've had the opportunity to work closely with government, industry, and international partners, and am particularly committed to applying innovative methods, building regional partnerships, and ensuring that science informs practical, real-world outcomes.

**1 Technical leadership and contributions**

2022 – Present	Practice Lead for Ecology (Australia): Stantec
2021 – Present	Mentor: Graduate Program at Stantec
2025	Technical Advisor (Science Communication): Ministry of Science and Technology, Sri Lanka
2025	Technical Editor: Lynx Publishes
2025	Technical Lead: World Congress on Snakes 2026.
2024 – Present	Mentor: National Geographic Young Explores Program
2024 – Present	SME: Status of Oceans Report, UN
2019	Scientific Committee Lead: 2019 ATBC Asia-Pacific Conference, Sri Lanka
2018 – 2019	Section Editor: Herpetological Review
2017 – Present	Resource person: STEM Professionals in School program
2013 – 2015	Fellow, Linnean Society of London
2013 – Present	Member: IUCN/SSC Viper Specialist Group
2013	Deputy Conference Director: World Crocodile Conference, Sri Lanka
2011 – Present	Member: IUCN/SSC Boa and Python Specialist Group
2009	Member, The Australasian Society for the Study of Animal Behaviour
2008 – Present	Member: Australian Society of Herpetologists
2005 – Present	Regional Vice Chairman/ Member: IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialists' Group
2005 – Present	Member: Conservation Breeding Specialist Group- South Asia Regional Network

**2 Education**

2016-2019	<b>Postdoctoral Fellowship</b>   CSIRO, Australia <i>Title:</i> Impact of weeds on freshwater crocodiles and riparian ecosystems at Fitzroy River, Western Australia.
2008-2012	<b>PhD</b>   The University of Sydney, Australia <i>Title:</i> Ecology and conservation of Australian freshwater crocodiles ( <i>Crocodylus johnstoni</i> ) at Lake Argyle, Western Australia.
2002-2006	<b>BSc (Hons)</b> [First Class in Zoology]   <b>University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka</b> <i>Title:</i> Communal egg-laying of the endemic Kandyan day-gecko ( <i>Cnemaspis kandiana</i> ) in rock caves at Gannoruwa forest reserve, Sri Lanka.

### 3 Employment history

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2022 – ongoing **Practice Lead – Ecology for Australia: Stantec**

Delivering technical advice and solutions for clients based on latest research, best practice and relevant legislative and professional standards; mentoring and training early-career professionals; providing high-end technical reviews for reports and publications within Stantec and beyond.

2021 – ongoing **Principal Environmental Scientist: Stantec**

Design and manage multiple projects at various scales, both in Australia and overseas; client liaison; management of multiple field teams; reporting and technical presentations.

2019 – 2021 **Research Scientist: CSIRO**

Project design, project leadership, field data collection, data analysis interpretation, reporting and preparation of manuscripts for multiple projects across northern Australia.

2016 – 2019 **Postdoctoral Researcher: CSIRO**

Study design, field data collection, modelling, data analysis, reporting and preparation of manuscripts for a National Environmental Science Program (NESP)-funded project in the Kimberley.

2016 **Unit Facilitator for Science Communication: Curtin University and UWA**

Develop and conduct classroom activities to improve the capacity of Year 1 students (COMS1000; SCOM1101/SCIE1103) to effectively communicate scientific information and arguments to a range of audiences via multiple medias.

2012 – 2015 **Senior Zoologist: Biologic Environmental Survey**

Preparation and review of reports for the mining industry; data collection and analysis; management and undertaking of field surveys; client liaison; liaison with technical specialists and government stakeholders; development of survey proposals; assistance with the development of marketing material; research and development.

2011 – 2013 **Project Officer: WA Department of Parks and Wildlife**

Training park rangers to initiate and continue a monitoring programme for the freshwater crocodiles at selected national parks in the Kimberley region.

2007 – 2011 **Lecturer : University of Peradeniya**

Writing and delivering lectures; planning field trips and lab-based practicals and conducting examinations for multiple Year 2-4 units in vertebrate biology, taxonomy and field sampling at Department of Zoology.

### 4 Recent Publications

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#### Peer-reviewed publications, natural history notes and refereed book chapters

##### 2025

1. **Somaweera, R.** and 12 co-authors (in review) What is home? Movements of reintroduced captive-reared mature saltwater crocodiles in Bangladesh. *Wildlife Research*.
2. Bruce, T and 174 co-authors including **Somaweera, R.** 2025. Large-scale and long-term wildlife research and monitoring using camera traps: a continental synthesis. *Biological Review*. 100: 530–555.
3. Brittain, K and 8 co-authors including **Somaweera, R.** (in press) Unique Population or Unique Species? Genetic Insights into the Pygmy Freshwater Crocodiles of Northern Australia. *Conservation Genetics*.
4. Putra, A., Naro, A., Sukmawati, S. and **Somaweera, R.** (in press) Twin nesting by king cobras (*Ophiophagus hannah*) in Bali, Indonesia. *Taprobanica*.
5. Panggur, M., **Somaweera, R.** and Kark, S. (in review) Living with Komodo Dragons: navigating risks and benefits of coexistence. *Conservation Biology*.

##### 2024

6. Martín, G. and 8 co-authors including **Somaweera, R.** 2024. Effects of global change on snakebite envenoming incidence up to 2050: a modelling assessment. *The Lancet Planetary Health*. 2024; 8: e533–44.
7. **Somaweera, R.**, Putra, A. Sukuma Wati, S., et al. 2024. *Trimeresurus insularis* (White-lipped Island Pit Viper): Colour. *Herpetological Review* 54(3):501-502.
8. Aubert, C and 18 co-authors including **Somaweera, R.** 2024. Estimating total length of partially submerged crocodylians from drone imagery. *Drones*. 8(3):115.

##### 2023

10. **Somaweera, R.**, Udyawer, V., de Fresnes, J., et al. 2023. Coordinated and communal hunting behaviours by Erabu sea krait *Laticauda semifacitata*. *Scientific Reports*. 13:21471.
11. Bradley, H. and 11 co-authors including **Somaweera, R.** 2023. Conserving the Pilbara leaf-nosed bat: directions for future research and management. *Pacific Conservation Biology*. 30, PC23031.
12. **Somaweera, R.** and Rene de Roland, L-A. 2023. Crocs in the clouds: highest elevational record for a crocodilian. *IUCN Crocodile Specialist Group Journal*. 42(4):8-10.

13. Batabyal, A. and 6 co-authors including **Somaweera, R.** 2023. The extent of rapid colour change in male agamid lizards is unrelated to overall sexual dichromatism. *Ecology and Evolution*. 2023;13:e10293.
14. Silva, A., de Alwis, T., Wijesekara, S. and **Somaweera, R.** 2023. Minimising misidentification of common medically important snakes of Sri Lanka in the hospital setting. *Anuradhapura Medical Journal*. 17(2):50-57.
15. **Somaweera, R.**, Suyanto, A., Quah, R., Jensen, M. and Amarasinghe, T. 2023. *Trimeresurus insularis* (White-lipped Island Pit Viper): Terrestriality. *Herpetological Review* 54(1):145-146.
16. Goldstein, E. and 10 co-authors including **Somaweera, R.** 2023. Climate change maladaptation for health: Agricultural practice against shifting seasonal rainfall affects snakebite risk for farmers in the tropics. *iScience*. 26 (2): 105946.

## 2022

17. **Somaweera, R.** 2022. Crocodiles. In Smith, B., Waudby, H., Alberthsen, C. & Hampton, J. (Eds.) *Wildlife research in Australia: A practical guide*. CSIRO Publishing: Melbourne, Australia.
18. Speed, C.W., Wilson, N.G., **Somaweera, R.**, et al. 2022. Video surveys of sea snakes in the mesophotic zone shed light on trends in populations. *Frontiers in Marine Science* 9:921542. doi: 10.3389/fmars.2022.921542.
19. Aiyer, A., Shine, R., **Somaweera, R.** et al. 2022. Shifts in the foraging tactics of crocodiles following invasion of toxic prey. *Scientific Reports*. doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-03629-6.
20. Aiyer, A., Bell, T., Shine, R., **Somaweera, R.**, et al. 2022. Taking the bait: Developing a bait delivery system to target free-ranging crocodiles and varanid lizards with a novel conservation strategy. *Ecology and Evolution*. doi.org/10.1002/ece3.8933.

## 2021

21. Martín, G., Erinjery, J., Gumbs, R., Somaweera, R., et al. 2021. Integrating snake distribution, abundance and expert-derived behavioural traits predicts snakebite risk. *Journal of Applied Ecology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2664.14081>.
22. **Somaweera, R.**, Udyawer, V., Guinea, M., et al. 2021. Pinpointing drivers of extirpation in sea snakes: A synthesis of evidence from Ashmore reef. *Frontiers in Marine Science*. doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2021.658756.
23. **Somaweera, R.** and Somaweera, R. 2021. Nuclear–follower foraging behaviour between Western
24. Australian common octopus and brown-spotted wrasse. *Marine and Freshwater Research*. doi.org/10.1071/MF21059.
25. **Somaweera, R.**, Hoff, O. and Lilley, R. 2021. *Gekko kuhli* (Kuhl's Flying Gecko): Indonesia. *Herpetological Review* 52(3): 576.
26. Lachlan, P., **Somaweera, R.**, Kaiser, S., et al. 2021. The impact of invasive toads (Bufonidae) on monitor lizards (Varanidae): an overview and prospectus. *Quarterly Review of Biology*. 96(2): 105-125.

## 2020

27. **Somaweera, R.**, Nifong, J., Rosenblatt, A., et al. 2020. The ecological importance of crocodylians: towards evidence-based justification for their conservation. *Biological Reviews* doi.org/10.1111/brv.12594.
28. Barr, J., **Somaweera, R.**, Godfrey, S.S., et al. 2020. When one tail isn't enough: Abnormal caudal regeneration in non-serpent Squamates and Rhynchocephalia and their potential ecological impacts. *Biological Review* doi: 10.1111/brv.12625.
29. **Somaweera, R.**, Yeoh, P.B., Jucker, T., et al. 2020. Historical context, current status and management priorities for introduced Asian house geckos at Ashmore Reef, north-western Australia. *Bioinvasion Records* 9(2):408-420.
30. Cao, R., **Somaweera, R.**, Brittain, K., et al. 2020 Genetic structure and diversity of Australian freshwater crocodiles (*Crocodylus johnstoni*) from the Kimberley, Western Australia. *Conservation Genetics* doi.org/10.1007/s10592-020-01259-5.
31. Udyawer, V., **Somaweera, R.**, Nitschke, C., et al. 2020 Prioritising search effort to locate previously unknown populations of endangered marine reptiles. *Global Ecology and Conservation* doi.org/10.1016/j.gecco.2020.e01013.
32. Muga, K., Robillard, A.J. and **Somaweera, R.** 2020. *Eretmochelys imbricata* (Hawksbill Sea Turtle): Predation. *Herpetological Review* 51(2):313.
33. Sramek, P. and **Somaweera, R.** 2020. *Limnonectes macrodon* from Bali, Indonesia. *Taprobanica* 9(2) 220-221.

## 2019

34. **Somaweera, R.**, Brien, M.L., Sonneman, T., Didham, R.K., and Webber, B.L. 2019. Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence: knowledge shortfalls threaten the effective conservation of freshwater crocodiles. *Global Ecology and Conservation* 20: e00773.
35. Shine, R. and **Somaweera, R.** 2019. Last lizard standing: the enigmatic persistence of the Komodo dragon. *Global Ecology and Conservation* 18(2019):e00624.
36. Sieniawski, K. and **Somaweera, R.** 2019. *Varanus salvator* (Asian water monitor): deep diving. *Herpetological Review* 50(2):382-383.
37. Pyron, A.R. and **Somaweera, R.** 2019. Further notes on the Sri Lankan uropeltid snakes *Rhinophis saffragamus* (Kelaart, 1853) and *Uropeltis ruhunae* Deraniyagala, 1954. *Zootaxa* 4560(3):592-600.
38. Nordberg, E.J., Macdonald, S., Hoskins, A., **Somaweera, R.** and Perry, J. 2019. Can plastic save turtles?: Measuring the impacts of predators and the effectiveness of plastic meshing on marine turtle nests along the western Cape York Peninsula, Australia. *Biological Conservation* doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2019.108201.

39. Tingley, R. and 52 co-authors including **Somaweera, R.** 2019. Geographic and taxonomic patterns of extinction risk in Australian squamates. *Biological Conservation* doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2019.108203.
40. Barr, J., Boisvert, C., **Somaweera, R.**, Trinajstić, K., and Bateman, P. 2019. Re-regeneration to reduce negative effects associated with tail loss in lizards. *Scientific Reports* 9:18717.

## 2018

41. **Somaweera, R.**, Platt, S., Brien, M., Manolis, C. and Webber, B. 2018. Direct and indirect interactions with vegetation shape crocodylian life history traits at multiple scales. *Freshwater Biology* DOI:10.1111/fwb.13.
42. Barr, J., **Somaweera, R.**, Godfrey, S.S., and Bateman, P.W. 2018. Increased tail length in the King's skink, *Egernia kingii* (Reptilia: Scincidae): an anti-predation tactic for juveniles? *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society* DOI: 10.1093/biolinnean/bly196.
43. Udyawer, V. and 27 authors including **Somaweera, R.** 2018. Future directions in marine snake research and management. *Frontiers in Marine Science* DOI: 10.3389/fmars.2018.00399.
44. Gabadage, D., Surasinghe, T., De Silva, A., **Somaweera, R.**, Madawala, M. and Karunarathna, S. 2018. Zoological and ecological study of the Sri Lankan Keelback (*Balanophis ceylonensis*): with implications for conservation of a poorly known, endemic snake from Sri Lanka. *Vertebrate Zoology* 68(3):225-236.
45. **Somaweera, R.**, Lilley, R., Putra, A., et al. 2018. Recent additions to the herpetofauna diversity of the island of Bali, Indonesia. *Sauria* 40(1): 75-86.
46. **Somaweera, R.**, Rhind, D., Reynolds, S., et al. 2018. Observations of mammalian feeding by Australian freshwater crocodiles (*Crocodylus johnstoni*) in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. *Records of the West Australian Museum* 33(1): 103-107.
47. Barr, J., **Somaweera, R.** & Bateman, B. 2018. *Ctenotus fallens* (West coast ctenotus). Anomalous death through use of modelling clay for research. *Herpetological Review* 49(2): 327-328.

## 2017

48. Morgan, D.L., **Somaweera, R.**, Gleiss, A.C. et al. 2017. An upstream migration fought with danger: freshwater sawfish fending off sharks and crocodiles. *Ecology* DOI: 10.1002/ecy.1737.
49. Karunarathna, S., Surasinghe, T., Madawala, M., **Somaweera, R.**, Amarasinghe, T. 2017. Ecological and behavioral traits of the Sri Lanka water monitor (*Varanus salvator*) in an urban landscape of Western Province in Sri Lanka. *Marine and Freshwater Research*. 68(12): 2242-2252.

## 2016

50. Pyron, R. A., Ganesh, S., Sayyed, A., Sharma, V., Wallach, V. and **Somaweera, R.** 2016. A catalogue and systematic overview of the shield-tailed snakes (Serpentes: Uropeltidae). *Zoosystema* 38(4):453-506.
51. Auliya, M. and 36 co-authors including **Somaweera, R.** 2016. Trade in live reptiles and its impact on reptile diversity: the European pet market as a case study. *Biological Conservation* 204:103-119

## 2015

52. Whiting, M.J., Noble, D.W.A. and **Somaweera, R.** 2015. Sexual dimorphism in conspicuousness and ornamentation in enigmatic leaf-nosed lizard *Ceratophora tennentii* from Sri Lanka. *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society*. 116:614-625.
53. **Somaweera, R.**, Pantoja, D.L. and Deepak, V. 2015. Forgotten records of *Chrysopelea taprobanica* Smith, 1943 (Squamata: Colubridae) from India. *Zootaxa*. 3947:597-600.
54. **Somaweera, R.**, Meegaskumbura, M., Bowatte, G. and Wijayathilaka, N. 2015. Conservation in a changing landscape: habitat occupancy of the Critically Endangered Tennent's Leaf-nosed Lizard (*Ceratophora tennentii*) in Sri Lanka. *Journal of Natural History*. 49(31-32):1961-1985.
55. van Rooijen, J., Vogel, G. and **Somaweera, R.** 2015. A revision of the taxonomy of the Australopapuan species of the colubrid genus *Dendrelaphis* (Serpentes: Colubridae). *Salamandra*. 51:33-56.
56. de Silva, A. and **Somaweera, R.** 2015. Were human babies used as bait in crocodile hunts in colonial Sri Lanka? *Journal of Threatened Taxa*. 7(1):6805-6809.
57. **Somaweera, R.** and Sanders, K. 2015. Guide to the Sea Snakes of the Kimberley Coast of Western Australia. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Perth.

## 2014

58. **Somaweera, R.**, Woods, D. and Sonneman, T. 2014. A note on the Australian freshwater crocodiles inhabiting Tunnel Creek cave. *Records of the West Australian Museum* 29:24-29.

## 2013

59. **Somaweera, R.**, Shine, R., Webb, J., Dempster, T. and Letnic, M. 2013. Why does vulnerability to toxic invasive cane toads vary among populations of Australian freshwater crocodiles? *Animal Conservation* 16:86-96.
60. **Somaweera, R.**, Brien, M. and Shine, R. 2013. The role of predation in shaping the natural history of crocodilians: a review. *Herpetological Monographs* 27:23-51.
61. Pyron, R.A., Kandambi, D. Hendry, C.R., Pushpamal, V., Burbrink, F.T., and **Somaweera, R.** 2013. Genus-level molecular phylogeny of snakes reveals the origins of species richness in the Sri Lanka biodiversity hotspot. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 66:969-978.

62. Böhm, M. and 103 co-authors including **Somaweera, R.** 2013. The conservation status of the world's reptiles. *Biological Conservation* 157:372-385.
63. **Somaweera, R.** and Shine, R. 2013. Nest-site selection by crocodiles at a rocky site in the Australian tropics: making the best of a bad lot. *Austral Ecology* 38:313-325.
64. Maryan, B., **Somaweera, R.**, Lloyd, R., et al. 2013. Status of the Airlie Island Ctenotus, *Ctenotus angusticeps* (Lacertilia: Scincidae), with notes on its distribution, habitat and genetic variation. *West Australian Naturalist* 29:103-119.
65. **Somaweera, R.**, Webb, J. and Shine, R. 2013. Extreme monsoonal floods affect Australian freshwater crocodile hatchlings by degrading habitat quality. Pp 197-202 In *Proceedings of the 22nd working meeting of the IUCN-SSC Crocodile Specialist Group*. IUCN: Gland, Switzerland.
66. **Somaweera, R.** 2013. Book Review: Reptile Biodiversity- standard methods for inventory and monitoring. *Ceylon Journal of Science (Bio. Sc.)* 42:73-74.

## 2012

67. **Somaweera, R.** and Shine, R. 2012. Australian freshwater crocodiles (*Crocodylus johnstoni*) transport their hatchlings to the water. *Journal of Herpetology* 46:407-411.
68. **Somaweera, R.**, Wijethilake, N. and Bowatte, G. 2012. Does the invasive shrub *Ulex europaeus* benefit an endemic Sri Lankan lizard? *Herpetological Conservation and Biology* 7:219-226.

## 2011

69. **Somaweera, R.**, Webb, J. and Shine, R. 2011. It's a dog-eat-croc world: dingo predation on the nests of freshwater crocodiles in tropical Australia. *Ecological Research* 26:957-967.
70. **Somaweera, R.**, Crossland, M.R. and Shine, R. 2011. Assessing the potential impact of invasive cane toads on a commercial freshwater fishery in tropical Australia. *Wildlife Research* 38:380-385.
71. **Somaweera, R.** and Shine, R. 2011. The (non) impact of invasive cane toads on freshwater crocodiles at Lake Argyle in tropical Australia. *Animal Conservation*. 15:152-163.
72. **Somaweera, R.**, Webb, J. and Shine, R. 2011. Determinants of habitat selection by hatchling crocodiles (*Crocodylus johnstoni*). *PLoS ONE* 6(12):e28533. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0028533.
73. **Somaweera, R.**, Webb, J., Brown, G.P. and Shine, R. 2011. Hatchling Australian freshwater crocodiles rapidly learn to avoid toxic invasive cane toads. *Behavior* 148:501-517.
74. **Somaweera, R.** 2011. A report of a probable unprovoked attack by an Australian freshwater crocodile at Lake Argyle in Western Australia. *Australian Zoologist* 35: 973-976.

## Books

1. **Somaweera, R.** and Drimmer, S. W. 2023. *The Ultimate Book of Reptiles*. National Geographic Kids. Washington DC. USA: 192 pp.
2. **Somaweera, R.**, Wijayasekara, S. and Bandara, S. 2023. *Sri Lankawe Sarpayin ('Snakes of Sri Lanka')*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Published by the authors. Colombo, Sri Lanka: 392 pp.
3. **Somaweera, R.** 2020. *A Naturalist's Guide to the Reptiles & Amphibians of Bali*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. John Beaufoy Publishing, UK: 176 pp.
4. **Somaweera, R.**, Azis, A., Resa, E., Panggur, M., Saverinus, D. and Muga, K. 2018. *Amphibians and Reptiles of Komodo National Park*. Aaranya Wildlife Odysseys and Komodo National Park Authority. Perth, Australia: 31 pp.
5. **Somaweera, R.** 2017. *A Naturalist's Guide to the Reptiles & Amphibians of Bali*. John Beaufoy Publishing, UK: 176 pp.
6. Pizzatto, L. and **Somaweera, R.** 2013. *Fogg Dam: How Scientists See Nature*. University of Sydney, e-book.
7. **Somaweera, R.** and Somaweera, N. 2009 *Lizards of Sri Lanka: A colour guide with field keys*. Chaimaira Publications, Germany: 304 pp.
8. **Somaweera, R.** 2006. *Sri Lankawe Sarpayin ('Snakes of Sri Lanka')*. Wildlife Heritage Trust of Sri Lanka: 297 pp.

## Technical reports

Since March 2012, I have led or co-authored over 80 technical consultancy reports for a range of industry clients (e.g. Chevron, BHP Billiton, FMG, Rio Tinto, Crystal Mining, Westralian Iron, EPIR Alliance, MRL, Talison), government departments (e.g. Parks Australia, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions), and national-scale programs such as the Northern Hub of the National Environmental Science Program. While some of these reports are publicly available, many remain confidential at the request of the client.

## 5 Selected recent presentations and invited talks

- Somaweera, R.** 2025. Even a 10 year old can do it: Advances in pocket-sized eDNA tools. Stantec TecEx. Online. August 2025.
- Somaweera, R.** 2025. Innovative methods and recent advances in applying the 3Rs to minimise the impact of wildlife surveys and monitoring. Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ). Perth, Australia. May 2025.

- Somaweera, R.** 2025. Satellite telemetry for marine turtles. IUCN Bangladesh and Forest Department Bangladesh. Sundarbans, Bangladesh. January 2025.
- Somaweera, R.** 2025 From Nomads to Navigators: New insights into reptile homing and relocation. Annual Conference of the Australian Society for Herpetologists, Coff Harbour, Australia. June 2025.
- Somaweera, R.** 2025 Winds of Change: how offshore wind farms affect marine reptiles. Australian Offshore Wind Industry Forum, Melbourne, Australia. June 2025.
- Somaweera, R.** 2024. Social media content creation for scientists. International Science Council- Asia Pacific. Online. October 2024.
- Somaweera, R.** 2024. Exploring current environmental challenges: Expert insights. Murdoch University, Australia. August 2024.
- Somaweera, R.** 2023. Communal hunting behaviour among sea snakes. Australian Marine Sciences Association (WA) Snapchat. Perth, Australia. October 2023.
- Somaweera, R.** 2023. Taking animals to new heights: Using drones to study and manage wildlife. Biodiversity Conference 2023. Perth, Australia. August 2023.
- Somaweera, R.** 2023. Tell your story right: DOs, Don'ts and (FREE) tools in science communication for researchers. Biodiversity Conference 2023. Perth, Australia. August 2023.
- National Geographic
- Somaweera, R.** 2023. Managing work, passions, and family. National Geographic Summit 2023. Washington DC, USA. June 2023.
- Somaweera, R.** 2020. The world of reptiles (Invited online talk). National Geographic Classroom program. May 2023.
- Somaweera, R.** 2023. Advances in ecological field research: latest trends and future directions. University of Colombo Invited Seminar. Colombo, Sri Lanka. March 2023.
- Somaweera, R.** 2022. Stantec in the Sky: a better way for environmental assessment. Stantec Summit Edmonton, Canada. September 2022.
- Somaweera, R.** 2021. eDNA as an emerging tool for rapid and targeted species detection in aquatic habitats. Goldfields Environmental Management Group Conference. Kalgoorlie, Australia. May 2021.
- Somaweera, R.** and Webber, B. 2021. Shady dealings threatens a formidable predator. Resilient Landscapes Biodiversity Conference 2021. Perth, Australia. September 2023.
- Somaweera, R.** 2021. National Geographic Explorer Spotlight (event hosting and invited talk). National Geographic Asia. February 2021.

## 6 Higher degree student supervision

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2024 – 2025	Maria Panggur   MSc, University of Sydney <i>Navigating risks and benefits of human-Komodo dragon coexistence in Indonesia</i> (co-supervised with Prof Salit Kark)
2019 – 2020	Abhilasha Aiyer   Honours, University of Sydney <i>Using conditioned taste aversion to protect wild freshwater crocodiles (<i>Crocodylus johnstoni</i>) from Cane toad (<i>Rhinella marina</i>) poisoning</i> (co-supervised with Dr Georgia Ward-Fear and Professor Richard Shine)
2019 – 2020	Glenn Maslen   Honours, University of Western Australia <i>Understanding and quantifying impacts of the invasive stinking passionflower on freshwater crocodiles at Lake Argyle</i> (co-supervised with Dr Bruce Webber and Prof Raphael Didham)
2017 – 2020	James Barr   PhD, Curtin University. <i>A comparative investigation of the behavioural ecology of Kings Skinks (<i>Egernia kingie</i>) from sites with differing predation risks</i> (co-supervised with Drs Bill Bateman and Stephanie Godfrey)
2015 – 2016	Tess McLaren   MSc, University of Melbourne <i>Evolution of colour change in Asian agamid lizards</i> (co-supervised with Dr Devi Stuart-Fox)
2015 – 2016	James Barr   Honours, Murdoch University <i>Social interactions and networking among King Skinks at the Penguin Island</i> (co-supervised with Dr Stephanie Godfrey)
2011 – 2012	Francine James   Honours, University of Sydney



## 7 Academic awards and appointments

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2024 – Present	Adjunct Associate Professor, Murdoch University
2020 – Present	Adjunct Research Fellow, University of Western Australia
2017 – 2019	Postdoctoral Research Fellow, CSIRO Land and Water
2017 – 2020	Adjunct External Supervisor, Curtin University
2016 – 2020	Adjunct Research Fellow, University of Western Australia
2014 – 2020	Adjunct Lecturer, Murdoch University
2013	Visiting Scientist, CSIRO Land and Water
2013	Adjunct Research Fellow, University of Western Australia.
2013	Fellowship of the Linnean Society of London.
2011	Finalist at 2011 Postgraduate Excellence Award, The University of Sydney.
2010	Best oral presentation, Student Conference in Conservation Sciences, India.
2008	Shine Top-Up Award, School of Biologic Sciences, University of Sydney.
2007	Endeavour International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (EIPRS), Australian Government.
2007	International Postgraduate Award (IPA), University of Sydney.
2007	Australian Development Award, Australian Government.
2007	Endeavour Postgraduate Award, Dept. of Education, Science & Training, Australia.
2007	Miriam Rothschild Bursary, Cambridge University, UK.
2007	Prof Felix Amerasinghe Memorial Gold Medal for Excellence in Zoology, University of Peradeniya.
2007	University Award for Academic Excellence, University of Peradeniya.

## 8 Technical certifications

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ADAS Part 1 Restricted Scientific Scuba Diver (Level 1)  
PADI rescue, deep and enriched air scuba diving certification  
Certificate II in maritime operations (Coxswain II Near Coastal)  
Australian Remote Pilot Licence (RePL)  
Marine radio operators' certificate  
Advance first aid and oxygen therapy certification  
4-WD off-road driving certification

## 9 Referees

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<b>Dr Luke Twomey</b> (CEO) WAMSI  luke.twomey@wamsi.org.au	<b>Dr Bruce Webber</b> (Executive Manager, Science and Conservation) Bush Heritage  bruce.webber@bushheritage.org.au	<b>Dr Francis Wiese</b> (Senior Scholar) US National Academy of Science  fwiese@nas.edu
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