# Citation Evidence Report

EB-1A Petition — Original Contributions of Major Significance

8 CFR § 204.5(h)(3)(v) · Criterion 5

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Google Scholar profile

**Generated 2026-05-21 by CiteMap.** This report organises Google Scholar citation data into the structure USCIS adjudicators apply to Criterion 5 (original contributions of major significance). It is a drafting aid for the petitioner's counsel — not legal advice, and not a guarantee of any outcome. All figures must be verified, and citation counts re-snapshotted as of the petition filing date, before use in a filing.

## A. Overview & Filtering Statement

| 7 | 7 | 1 | 43 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Citing papers mapped | Citation edges | Home papers mapped | h-index (GS) |

**Filtering statement — methodology & limits**

Citation **independence** is classified per citing paper by comparing the citing paper's authors to this scholar. *Self* citations are those where the scholar is an author of the citing work; *co-author* citations are by the scholar's known collaborators; *same-institution* citations are by authors affiliated with the scholar's institution(s); all remaining classified citations are *independent*. Per AAO practice, only independent citations are treated as probative of influence beyond the scholar's own circle.

**Known limitations — counsel must verify.** (1) Collaborator identification draws on the co-author list published on the Google Scholar profile; a collaborator not listed there may be missed, so the independent share below should be read as an **upper bound**. (2) Citation counts are a crawl-time snapshot; eligibility is judged as of the petition filing date and post-filing citations carry no weight — re-snapshot before filing. (3) Citations that could not be classified (no author data) are excluded from the percentages and reported separately.

## B. Citation Independence

The AAO credits citations only where they show influence **beyond the scholar's own circle**. Self-citations and co-author citations are expressly discounted; the independent share below is the load-bearing figure.

**100.0% independent** of 7 classified citing papers

| Citation type | Count |
|---|---|
| Independent | 7 |
| Self-citation | 0 |
| Co-author | 0 |
| Same-institution | 0 |

0 citing papers could not be classified (no author data) and are excluded from the percentages above.

## C. Significant Contributions & Their Citation Evidence

Each contribution below is presented as the AAO expects: a specific claim, followed by the **independent** citation evidence for the paper(s) that carry it. Citation counts are stated **per article**, never as a body-of-work total — the AAO holds aggregate totals to be a final-merits signal, not Criterion-5 evidence.

Where the data allows, a paper also shows its **field-normalised** standing — how its citation count ranks against Semantic Scholar papers in the same field and publication year. The comparison field is named explicitly; counsel should confirm it is the appropriate one, as the AAO scrutinises a petitioner's choice of comparison field.

## Contribution 1

### Claim — Contribution 1

*The researcher published a seminal 2017 Nature paper on Amazon basin damming, establishing a foundational reference point for hydrological and environmental impact assessments in the region.*

CLAIM: The researcher's primary contribution is the publication of a seminal paper titled 'Damming the rivers of the Amazon basin' in Nature (2017), which serves as a cornerstone reference in the field. This work stands alone as the core contribution, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same researcher listed in this specific line of inquiry.

ORIGINALITY: The title suggests the work addresses the critical intersection of infrastructure development and ecological systems within the Amazon. By appearing in a high-impact venue like Nature, the paper likely provided a novel synthesis or urgent analysis of the cumulative impacts of damming, filling a significant gap in understanding the basin's hydrological and environmental trajectory at that time.

SIGNIFICANCE: The paper has garnered 892 citations, indicating substantial uptake by the scientific community. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the work has influenced scholars outside the researcher's immediate institutional and collaborative network, thereby confirming its broad independent impact.

**INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 7**

**CORE PAPER**

### Damming the rivers of the Amazon basin

2017 · Nature · 892 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 673 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Environmental Science papers from 2017 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

| No. | Citing paper | Citing institution(s) | Country | S2 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Mapping the world's free-flowing rivers (2019) | European Commission, Joint Research Centre, IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, King's College London | Brazil, Canada, China | — |
| 2 | Hydropower impacts on riverine biodiversity (2024) | Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation, Eberhard Karls Universitaet Tuebingen, Northeast Institute of Geography and Agroecology, Chinese Academy of Sciences | Brazil, China, Germany | — |
| 3 | Rapid changes to global river suspended sediment flux by humans (2022) | Dartmouth | United States | — |
| 4 | Scientists' warning to humanity on the freshwater biodiversity crisis (2020) | Bolin Centre for Climate Research, Stockholm University, Oregon State University, Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul | Brazil, France, Sweden | — |
| 5 | River Damming Impacts on Fish Habitat and Associated Conservation Measures (2023) | Beijing Normal University, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Federal University of Western Pará | Brazil, Canada, China | — |

| No. | Citing paper | Citing institution(s) | Country | S2 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | Anthropogenic stresses on the world's big rivers (2019) | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign | United States | — |
| 7 | Sustainable hydropower in the 21st century (2018) | Michigan State University | United States | — |

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The **S2** column carries Semantic Scholar's read of each citation — *Methodology / Result* (the citing work used the method or built on the finding — the "built on / relied upon" pattern the AAO credits), *Influential* (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

## D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

### Top citing institutions

| Institution | Country | World ranking | Citing papers |
|---|---|---|---|
| University of Washington | United States | SCImago #45 · THE 25 · QS 81 | 2 |
| McGill University | Canada | SCImago #168 · THE =41 · QS 27 | 1 |
| Tsinghua University | China | SCImago #8 · THE 12 · QS =17 | 1 |
| Michigan State University | United States | SCImago #436 · THE =105 · QS 161 | 1 |
| Chinese Academy of Sciences | China | SCImago #2 | 1 |
| University of Saskatchewan | Canada | SCImago #1541 · THE 351–400 · QS 378 | 1 |
| Utrecht University | Netherlands | SCImago #162 · QS =103 | 1 |
| Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul | Brazil | SCImago #4296 | 1 |
| University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign | United States | SCImago #206 · THE =41 | 1 |
| Université Paul Sabatier | France | — | 1 |
| Oregon State University | United States | SCImago #1028 · QS =624 | 1 |
| University of St Andrews | United Kingdom | SCImago #1863 · THE =162 · QS 113 | 1 |
| Beijing Normal University | China | SCImago #542 · THE =134 · QS =247 | 1 |
| University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign | United States | QS =70 | 1 |
| Hohai University | China | SCImago #727 · QS 1001-1200 | 1 |

### Geographic distribution of citing authors

| Country | Citing papers |
|---|---|
| United States | 7 |
| Brazil | 4 |
| China | 3 |
| Germany | 2 |

| Country | Citing papers |
|---|---|
| Canada | 2 |
| Netherlands | 2 |
| Sweden | 2 |
| United Kingdom | 2 |
| Mexico | 1 |
| France | 1 |
| South Korea | 1 |
| India | 1 |

Citing-institution prestige and the spread of citing countries speak to recognition **beyond the scholar's own institution and circle** — the dispersion the AAO looks for. World rankings (SCImago / THE / QS) are context, not a stand-alone criterion: the AAO does not treat a citing institution's rank as probative on its own.

## E. Citation Growth Over Time

Distinct citing papers by publication year. Sustained or rising citation activity supports continuing relevance; note that only citations **as of the filing date** are weighed by USCIS.


## F. AAO Precedent Considerations

### Pre-filing self-check (AAO denial patterns)

The AAO non-precedent decisions reject citation evidence on a small set of recurring grounds. Confirm the petition addresses each before filing:

- ☐ Self-citations are disclosed and netted out — a Google Scholar total alone is faulted (§1.1).
- ☐ Evidence is per individual article, not a body-of-work aggregate total (§1.2).
- ☐ The petition articulates why the citations show major significance — numbers never stand alone (§1.5).
- ☐ For the strongest papers, citation content shows the work was built on / relied upon, not just listed (§1.6, §2.2).
- ☐ Co-author / collaborator citations are identified and not counted as independent (§1.7).
- ☐ Recognition is shown beyond the scholar's own institution and circle (§1.8).
- ☐ Every citation figure is snapshotted as of the filing date; post-filing citations are excluded (§1.9).
- ☐ Journal impact factor / downloads are not relied on as proxies for article significance (§1.10, §1.12).
- ☐ For large-collaboration papers, the scholar's specific role is documented (§1.13).
- ☐ Aggregate totals / h-index / field-relative rates are placed in a clearly-labelled final-merits section, per Kazarian (§3, §6.1.7).

**Disclaimer**

The AAO decisions referenced here are **non-precedent** — persuasive illustrations of how USCIS reasons, not binding law. This report is a drafting aid produced from public citation data; it is not legal advice and does not assess the petition's merits. All analysis must be reviewed by qualified immigration counsel.

## G. Citation Evidence Index

Cross-reference of each contribution to the regulatory criterion it supports. Counsel should map these to the petition's exhibit numbers.

| Contribution | Core paper | Indep. cites | Supports |
|---|---|---|---|
| Contribution 1 | Damming the rivers of the Amazon basin | 7 | 8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) — Criterion 5 |