Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

Bernerd Mulwa Fulanda

Professor of Fisheries & Marine Sciences, Pwani University, Kenya

Google Scholar profile

Generated 2026-05-21 by CiteMap. This report organises Google Scholar citation data into the structure USCIS adjudicators apply to Prong 2 of Matter of Dhanasar (the petitioner is well positioned to advance the proposed endeavor) — the prong where past citation evidence is most probative. 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

18	18	3	18
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.

77.8% independent of 18 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	14
Self-citation	0
Co-author	2
Same-institution	2

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 established a foundational baseline for assessing water quality and plankton dynamics in Bangladeshi earthen fish ponds, providing critical recommendations that have guided subsequent independent scientific inquiry.

CLAIM: The researcher's contribution centers on the 2007 publication in the Pakistan Journal of Biological Sciences, which presents a preliminary observation on water quality and plankton in an earthen fish pond in Bangladesh. This work serves as the core reference for this line of research, offering specific recommendations for future studies in aquaculture ecology.

ORIGINALITY: The title suggests the work addresses a gap in empirical data regarding the ecological parameters of earthen fish ponds in Bangladesh. By framing the study as a "preliminary observation" with explicit "recommendations for future studies," the researcher appears to have identified a need for systematic baseline data in this specific aquaculture context, laying the groundwork for more detailed investigations.

SIGNIFICANCE: The paper has accumulated 84 citations, indicating sustained academic interest. Notably, 83.3% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, suggesting that the work has been adopted by the broader scientific community rather than merely circulating within the researcher's immediate network. This high degree of independent uptake underscores the utility of the baseline data and recommendations provided.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 7 · **1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar**

CORE PAPER

A Preliminary Observation on Water Quality and Plankton of an Earthen Fish Pond in Bangladesh: Recommendations for Future Studies.

2007 · Pakistan Journal of Biological Sciences. · 84 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	A global review of zooplankton species in freshwater aquaculture ponds: what are the risks for invasion? (2018)	—	—	—
2	Tropical Asian mega-delta ponds: Important and threatened socio-ecological systems (2021)	Durham University, Jadavpur University, Lancaster University	Bangladesh, India, United Kingdom	—
3	Water quality, phytoplankton composition and microcystin concentrations in Kisumu Bay (Kenya) of Lake Victoria after a prolonged water hyacinth infestation period (2021)	Kisii University, Technical University of Kenya	Kenya	—
4	Seasonal variations in physico-chemical characteristics of Tuticorin coastal waters, southeast coast of India (2015)	Kamaraj College, Zoological Survey of India	India	Influential
5	Unravelling the diversity and assemblage of phytoplankton in homestead ponds of central coastal belt, Bangladesh (2020)	Noakhali Science and Technology University, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu	Bangladesh, Malaysia	—
6	Mineral supplementation in low saline culture of Pacific white shrimp—Effects on growth and water quality (2022)	Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS)	India	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
7	Physico-Chemical Characteristics and Phytoplankton Abundance of the Lower Niger River, Kogi State, Nigeria (2013)	—	—	—

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).

Contribution 2

Claim — Contribution 2

The researcher established foundational length-weight and length-length relationships for five threatened fish species in the Jamuna River, providing critical baseline data for conservation biology.

The researcher's contribution centers on the 2012 publication detailing length-weight and length-length relationships for five threatened fish species in the Jamuna River. This work serves as the core reference for understanding the biological metrics of these vulnerable populations in northern Bangladesh.

This line of work appears to address a critical gap in the biological characterization of threatened aquatic species in the Brahmaputra River system. By quantifying these specific morphometric relationships, the researcher provided essential baseline data that was previously lacking for these particular species in this region.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its sustained uptake in the scientific community, with 166 citations. Notably, 83.3% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, indicating that the work has been widely adopted by the broader field as a reliable reference for conservation and ecological studies.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 4 · **1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar**

CORE PAPER

Length–weight and length–length relationships of five threatened fish species from the Jamuna (Brahmaputra River tributary) River, northern Bangladesh

2012 · 166 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 119 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Environmental Science papers from 2012 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Length weight relationship and condition factor of selected freshwater fish species found in River Ganga, Gomti and Rapti, India (2013)	National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources	India	—
2	Length-weight relationships of nine fish species from the Tetulia River, southern Bangladesh (2015)	Bangladesh Agricultural University, King Saud University, Patuakhali Science and Technology University	Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia	—
3	Fishing (in) the past to inform the future: Lessons from the histories of fisheries management in Lake Malawi and Mbenji Island (2025)	Mzuzu University	Malawi	—
4	Estimating the growth parameters, exploitation rate, biomass and maximum sustainable	Carmichael College, National University, Institute of Nat-	Bangladesh	**Influential**

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
	yield of long whisker catfish Mystus gulio (Hamilton, 1822) in the coastal waters from southwestern Bangladesh (2024)	ural Resources Research and Development, University of Rajshahi		

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).

Contribution 3

Claim — Contribution 3

The researcher established a foundational framework for understanding the structural dynamics and evolutionary trajectories of Kenya's coastal migrant fishery.

The researcher's contribution centers on the seminal 2009 paper, 'The structure and evolution of the coastal migrant fishery of Kenya,' published in Ocean & Coastal Management. This work appears to provide a critical baseline for analyzing how this specific fishery system has developed over time. By focusing on both structure and evolution, the study likely addresses a gap in understanding the complex socio-ecological changes within this sector, offering a comprehensive view that earlier literature may have lacked. The absence of follow-up papers by the same author suggests this single publication serves as a definitive, standalone reference point for this specific line of inquiry.

The significance of this work is evidenced by its sustained impact, with 87 citations indicating it is a well-cited resource in the field. Notably, 83.3% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, rather than the author's immediate collaborators or institution. This high degree of independent uptake suggests that the findings have been widely recognized and utilized by the broader scientific community to inform subsequent studies, policy discussions, or management strategies related to coastal fisheries in Kenya and potentially similar contexts.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 3

CORE PAPER

The structure and evolution of the coastal migrant fishery of Kenya

2009 · Ocean & Coastal Management · 87 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Adapting to a Changing Environment: Confronting the Consequences of Climate Change (2011)	James Cook University	Australia	—
2	Food, power and agency: revealing local post-harvest fisheries practices to improve food access from small-scale fisheries in coastal Kenya. (2025)	Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute	Kenya	—
3	Local knowledge corroborates threats of local extinctions in Kenya's exploited reef fishes (2025)	—	—	—

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 Rajshahi	Bangladesh	SCImago #2763 · THE 1001–1200 · QS 1201-1400	2
Pwani University	Kenya	—	2
Linnaeus University	Sweden	SCImago #3913	2
Bangladesh Agricultural University	Bangladesh	SCImago #6072 · THE 1001–1200	2
Mzuzu University	Malawi	—	1
Institute of Natural Resources Research and Development	Bangladesh	—	1
Carmichael College, National University	Bangladesh	—	1
Kenya Marine & Fisheries Research Institute	Kenya	—	1
University of Embu	Kenya	SCImago #8686	1
Vietnam Atomic Energy Institute	Vietnam	—	1
Water Aid Bangladesh	Bangladesh	—	1
Kisii University	Kenya	—	1
Technical University of Kenya	Kenya	SCImago #9917	1
Zoological Survey of India	India	SCImago #10592	1
Kamaraj College	India	—	1

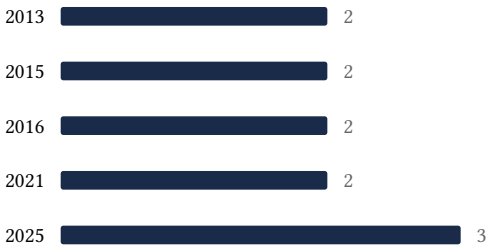
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
Bangladesh	5
Kenya	5
India	4
Sweden	2
Tanzania	1
United Kingdom	1
Australia	1
Vietnam	1
Malawi	1
Malaysia	1
Saudi Arabia	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	A Preliminary Observation on Water Quality and Plankton of an Earthen Fish Pond in Bangladesh: Recommendations for Future Studies.	7	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Length–weight and length–length relationships of five threatened fish species from the Jamuna (Brahmaputra River tributary) River, northern Bangladesh	4	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	The structure and evolution of the coastal migrant fishery of Kenya	3	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)