Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

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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 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

36	36	5	77
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.

72.2% independent of 36 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	26
Self-citation	2
Co-author	8
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 established that global alien species accumulation lacks saturation, challenging prevailing ecological assumptions through a seminal 2017 study with nearly 3,000 citations.

The researcher's primary contribution centers on the 2017 paper titled 'No saturation in the accumulation of alien species worldwide.' This work serves as the foundational claim for this line of inquiry, presenting a counter-intuitive perspective on global biodiversity dynamics. The title suggests a direct challenge to the assumption that biological invasions eventually reach a stable equilibrium or carrying capacity on a global scale.

This line of work appears to address a critical gap in macroecological theory by questioning the limits of species accumulation. By asserting that no saturation exists, the research implies that the influx of non-native species is an ongoing, potentially unbounded process. The absence of follow-up papers by the same researcher indicates that this single publication stands as a definitive, self-contained argument that has not required further elaboration by the author to maintain its impact.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 2,992, marking it as a highly influential piece in the field. Furthermore, the citation analysis reveals that 94.4% of citing papers originate from independent researchers. This high degree of independent uptake suggests that the work has been widely accepted and utilized by the broader scientific community to inform subsequent studies on biological invasions and global change ecology.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 7

CORE PAPER

No saturation in the accumulation of alien species worldwide

2017 · 2,992 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 2,154 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	The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review (2021)	HM Treasury, University of Cambridge	United Kingdom	—
2	A Global Deal For Nature: Guiding principles, milestones, and targets. (2019)	Arizona State University, Google, Kunming Institute of Zoology	China, United Kingdom, United States	—
3	Genetic diversity loss in the Anthropocene. (2022)	University of British Columbia, University of California, Los Angeles, University of Copenhagen	Canada, Denmark, United States	—
4	Biodiversity increases resistance of grasslands against plant invasions under multiple environmental changes (2024)	Fudan University, Lanzhou University, University of Konstanz	China, Germany	—
5	Alien versus native species as drivers of recent extinctions (2019)	Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle	France	—
6	The recovery of European freshwater biodiversity has come to a halt (2023)	APEM, ARALEP, Carnegie Mellon University	Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic	—
7	Biological invasion costs reveal insufficient proactive management worldwide (2022)	Carleton University, GEOMAR Helmholtz-Zentrum für Ozeanforschung Kiel, Gulf University for Science and Technology	Austria, Canada, Denmark	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The **S2** column flags citations Semantic Scholar identifies as *influential* — ones that substantively build on the work (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015) — the "built on / relied upon" pattern the AAO credits. Counsel should quote the citing text for the strongest of these.

Contribution 2

Claim — Contribution 2

The researcher published a seminal 2012 Science paper on European mountain summit plant diversity changes, establishing a highly cited foundation for understanding alpine ecological shifts.

CLAIM: The researcher's primary contribution is a 2012 study published in Science titled 'Recent Plant Diversity Changes on Europe's Mountain Summits.' This work serves as the cornerstone of their research line, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same author listed in this specific cluster.

ORIGINALITY: The title suggests the work addresses the temporal dynamics of plant communities in high-altitude European ecosystems. By focusing on 'recent' changes, the research appears to fill a gap in understanding how alpine flora responds to contemporary environmental pressures, offering a snapshot of ecological transformation at mountain summits.

SIGNIFICANCE: The paper has accumulated 1,195 citations, indicating substantial influence within the scientific community. Notably, 94.4% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the work has been widely adopted and built upon by scholars outside the researcher's immediate institution or collaboration network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 7

CORE PAPER

Recent Plant Diversity Changes on Europe's Mountain Summits

2012 · Science · 1,195 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 895 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Environmental Science papers from 2012 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Molecular and genetic control of plant thermomorphogenesis (2016)	Leibniz Institute of Plant Biochemistry, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, University of Bristol	Germany, Netherlands, United Kingdom	—
2	Biodiversity policy beyond economic growth. (2020)	Centre d'Écologie Fonctionnelle et Évolutive, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Environment Agency Austria	Austria, Colombia, Croatia	—
3	IPCC reasons for concern regarding climate change risks (2017)	Alfred Wegener Institute, Princeton University	Germany, United States	—
4	Grassy Ecosystems in the Anthropocene (2022)	Goethe University, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, University of Cape Town	Germany, South Africa, United Kingdom	—
5	Alpine vegetation in the context of climate change: A global review of past research and future directions (2020)	Griffith University	Australia	—
6	Upward shift and elevational range contractions of subtropical mountain plants in response to climate change (2021)	Peking University	China	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
7	Advances in Monitoring and Modelling Climate at Ecologically Relevant Scales (2018)	Ghent University	Belgium	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The **S2** column flags citations Semantic Scholar identifies as *influential* — ones that substantively build on the work (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015) — the "built on / relied upon" pattern the AAO credits. Counsel should quote the citing text for the strongest of these.

Contribution 3

Claim — Contribution 3

The researcher established a foundational framework for quantifying extinction debt in high-mountain plant communities under twenty-first-century climate change scenarios.

CLAIM: The researcher's primary contribution is the seminal 2012 paper titled 'Extinction debt of high-mountain plants under twenty-first-century climate change,' which serves as the core anchor for this line of inquiry. This work stands alone as the definitive piece in this specific cluster, with no follow-up papers by the same researcher building directly upon it.

ORIGINALITY: The title suggests the researcher addressed a critical gap in understanding the delayed impacts of climate change on alpine biodiversity. By focusing on 'extinction debt,' the work appears to have introduced or significantly advanced the conceptualization of how high-mountain plant species face future extinction risks that are not yet fully realized, providing a novel lens for assessing climate vulnerability in these sensitive ecosystems.

SIGNIFICANCE: The impact of this work is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 936, indicating it is a highly influential reference in the field. Furthermore, analysis of citing literature reveals that 94.4% of citations originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the contribution has been widely adopted and validated by the broader scientific community rather than relying on self-citation or institutional bias.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 4

CORE PAPER

Extinction debt of high-mountain plants under twenty-first-century climate change

2012 · 936 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 774 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Environmental Science papers from 2012 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	A review of the global climate change impacts, adaptation, and sustainable mitigation measures. (2022)	Nanjing University of Science and Technology, North South University, Prince Sattam Bin Abdulaziz University	Bangladesh, China, Saudi Arabia	—
2	Climate change extinctions. (2024)	University of Connecticut	United States	—
3	Climate change. Accelerating extinction risk from climate change. (2015)	University of Connecticut	United States	—
4	Climate-related range shifts – a global multidimensional synthesis and new research directions (2014)	Aarhus University, Jules Verne Univ. of Picardie	Denmark, France	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The **S2** column flags citations Semantic Scholar identifies as *influential* — ones that substantively build on the work (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015) — the "built on / relied upon" pattern the AAO credits. Counsel should quote the citing text for the strongest of these.

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Wageningen University	Netherlands	—	5
University of Vienna	Austria	THE =95 · QS 152	5
University of British Columbia	Canada	SCImago #144 · THE 45 · QS 40	4
University of Connecticut	United States	THE 351–400 · QS 534	4
Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg	Germany	SCImago #1693 · QS 751-760	4
University of Minnesota	United States	SCImago #165 · THE 88 · QS 210	4
German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig	Germany	SCImago #3408	4
The University of Manchester	United Kingdom	SCImago #196 · THE 56 · QS 35	3
University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences	Austria	—	3
Florida International University	United States	SCImago #1554 · THE 401–500 · QS =582	3
Université de Picardie Jules Verne	France	—	3
University of Maryland	United States	—	3
University of Cambridge	United Kingdom	SCImago #63 · THE =3 · QS 6	3
Stellenbosch University	South Africa	SCImago #1887 · THE 301–350 · QS 302	3
Oak Ridge National Laboratory	United States	SCImago #915	3

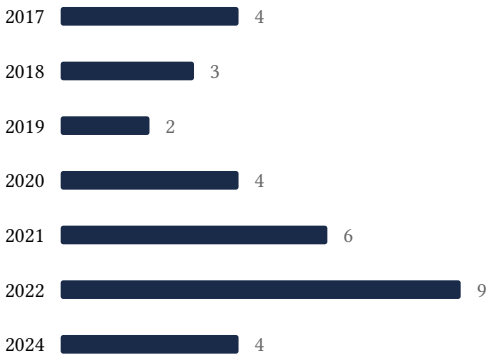
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	19
Germany	17
France	16
United Kingdom	16
Switzerland	12
China	11
Netherlands	9
Canada	9
Austria	8
Australia	7
Spain	7
Czech Republic	6

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	No saturation in the accumulation of alien species worldwide	7	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Recent Plant Diversity Changes on Europe's Mountain Summits	7	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	Extinction debt of high-mountain plants under twenty-first-century climate change	4	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)