

**Draft, Not for Citation or Publication of Any Kind**

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**Navigating the Designation Process for Complex Ramsar Sites:  
Insights from the Niagara River Corridor**

*For the conference:*

*Learning from the Ramsar Designation of the Niagara River Corridor  
Honoring the International and Local Importance of Environmental and Cultural Treasures*

**University at Buffalo School of Law  
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4. *AUSTRALIAN RAMSAR SITE NOMINATION GUIDELINES* (Module 4 of the National Guidelines for Ramsar Wetlands— Implementing the Ramsar Convention in Australia) (2012)
5. Ramsar Secretariat, *The Designation & Management of RAMSAR SITES* (2017)

## **Connolly's Nine Essentials for Designating a Ramsar Site**

1. An amazing wetland/water (Amazing can be small. Amazing can be amazing without looking amazing. Amazing can be for different reasons. Amazing can be surprising).
2. A person or people with a vision (someone who knows the wetland/water is amazing. And they either have to know about the Ramsar treaty, or in some way become connected with someone who does).
3. An ability to (personally or with support) find and compile data. Lots of data.
4. A team that can help mobilize support, assess the policy and legal needs, do the groundwork of documenting the support, and stay the course.
5. An advocate or advocates who can get people excited about possibilities and process (might be the same as #2 or #4, but not necessarily).
6. A sufficient number of supportive government officials (a.k.a. bureaucrats).
7. A lot of patience. A whole lot.
8. A hefty amount of persistence with finalizing the details. And there are a lot of details.
9. Enough energy left to tell the world about the designation, and celebrate the newest Wetland of International Importance!