RESEARCH STRATEGY

163 Book chapter on biodiversity for the SAGE Handbook of Business and Society

# Chapter objectives

1. We envision your chapter **addressing the topic of biodiversity**.
2. This chapter is meant to be included in the section on [Environmental and Health Themes]. This section contains chapters that discuss the **ability of corporations to respond to the challenges in their physical environment**, which has become a key contributor to many businesses’ successes. This section will serve as **an essential guide to the key themes, issues and debates surrounding these** changes such as climate change, health and non-human animals.
3. We believe that a chapter on biodiversity is crucial in **understanding the role of business in society because it is vital for ecosystem stability, human well-being, and economic prosperity**. Understanding its importance in the context of business involves
   1. recognizing the interdependence between business activities and ecosystem services,
   2. highlighting the need for businesses to integrate biodiversity conservation into their operations to mitigate risks, enhance resilience, and contribute positively to global sustainability goals.
4. This chapter hence will also connect to several other chapters, both in this section and in other sections such as the one on systems thinking. In this light **we would appreciate if your chapter**
   1. offered an overview of the past and present relevance of biodiversity for the field of business in society, and
   2. discusses how biodiversity may or should inform future research and practice in this field.

# Timeline

1. 31 Aug 2024 Proposal: 1,000-1,200 words (please indicate if you intend to include one or more tables and/or figures, as they bear on the word count).
2. 31 Dec 2024 First full submission
   1. 7,000-8,000 words, including references, tables, figures, etcetera
   2. Tables and figures count for 425 words per page as per Sage standards
3. 31 Mar 2025 Reviews returned to authors
4. 30 Jun 2025 Final submission
   1. Biographical note for each author of about 250 words max., including ORCID.
   2. List of 25-30 suggestions for index entrees.
5. 15 October 2025 Submission of the full manuscript to Sage

Submission guidelines

* Formatting requirements: APA.
* Review process: the proposals are reviewed by the editorial team. The full chapters will be reviewed (double blind) by at least 2 reviewers.

# Research Question

The research question answered by this study is: "…"

## Definitions

## Research question foundations

## Why does answering the question matter?

# Audiences and Their CONTRIBUTIONS

List of prior work on biodiversity and business from Panwar et al. (2023): The role of business in causing and halting biodiversity loss has come to the fore in recent years. Scholars in such diverse fields as business and management (Gibassier et al., 2019; Reade et al., 2015; Whiteman et al., 2013; Winn & Pogutz, 2013), conservation biology (Klein et al., 2008), ecology (Rose, 2000), ecological economics (Houdet et al., 2012), political science (Smith et al., 2019), development studies (Visseren-Hamakers et al., 2012), and international affairs (Rubino, 2000) have articulated the critical role of business in protecting biodiversity. A number of studies (e.g., Boiral et al., 2018; Opdam & Steingrover, 2018) have provided descriptive analyses of biodiversity protection initiatives taken by individual companies; other studies have elucidated advances in biodiversity accounting and corporate biodiversity disclosures (e.g., Atkins & Maroun, 2018; Boiral, 2016; Gibassier & Arjaliès, 2019; Houdet et al., 2020; Schaltegger et al., 2013).

## (Panwar et al., 2023) The uncomfortable relationship between business and biodiversity: Advancing research on business strategies for biodiversity protection.

Research question: “The question is, why has biodiversity loss not been given the prominence it deserves in corporate sustainability and management research?”

Their answer: “We contend that three factors are responsible for this.

1. First, because biodiversity loss is often linked to destructive land use practices (Chaudhary & Kastner, 2016; Haines-Young, 2009), it is likely that many corporate sustainability scholars have had an impression that this field is relevant for researchers who focus on industries linked to land use change, such as agriculture, forestry, urban development, and mining.
2. Second, the extant literature on business and biodiversity lacks an integrative framework by which the diverse strategies can be organized and thus, analyzed. Previous literature engages with a mitigation hierarchy (BBOP, 2012) that prescribes a specific order of strategies business should adopt: avoid, minimize, remediate, and offset. However, the conceptual basis of and relationships among these strategies remains unclear, which stymies the understanding and appeal of the field among a broad group of corporate sustainability scholars.
3. Third, the extant literature on business and biodiversity makes, even if implicitly, an erroneous assumption that scientific understanding of the approaches to safeguard biodiversity is so concrete and unequivocal that a willing company can swiftly identify and adopt the most effective means to halt biodiversity loss. This misperception may lure corporate sustainability scholars into thinking that the field is not opportune for pursuing theoretically novel research.”

Purpose of the article: “This article's overarching objective is to facilitate future research on corporate biodiversity protection strategies through these three avenues.”

1. Specifically, we explain that businesses cause biodiversity loss through multiple channels and thus biodiversity protection and communication strategies should primarily be guided by this critical consideration of heterogeneity.
2. Further, we parse temporal and spatial dimensions of corporate biodiversity protection strategies and show four resulting categorizations that can be useful for theorization as well as performance assessment and reporting of corporate biodiversity protection efforts.
3. Finally, we show that the field is rife with unsettled debates among conservation biologists and thus business scholars have unique opportunities to shape the field by conducting conceptually novel and interdisciplinary research.

### What is biodiversity?

### How business contributes to biodiversity loss

### Typology of corporate biodiversity strategies

Essay that argues there are four categories of corporate biodiversity strategy:

1. Conservation (avoidance on-site)
2. Restoration
3. Compensation (avoidance off-site – offsets)
4. Reparation

# Gaps and Contribution

## What answers haven't they published?

## What unpublished answer does my study contribute?