Theme called for in the solicitation:

A third theme in this Part is the increasing attention to biodiversity protection and avoiding biodiversity loss. Biodiversity can simply be described as ‘the variety of life on Earth’. As nearly all business activities have an impact on biodiversity and biodiversity loss (Panwar et al., 2023), progressively calls are made for increased business accountability for nature (Smith et al., 2020). In this chapter, the theme of biodiversity will be explored, including attention for ecosystem services, biodiversity risks for business, and what business can do about biodiversity (Parr & Simons, 2007).

What can this chapter add that isn’t already contributed by Panwar et al. (2023)?

At the outset of this article, we argued that the literature on corporate biodiversity protection strategies is excessively focused on the biodiversity loss caused by destructive land use practices (describe other ways business destroys biodiversity than land use practice?); lacks an integrative framework of disparate strategies; and assumes that scientific understanding about safeguarding biodiversity is concrete and unequivocal. We believe that these three features impede the expansion of the field of corporate biodiversity research. Our main aims, therefore, are to broaden the scope of the literature on corporate biodiversity strategies, make this literature structured and amenable to theorization by offering a typology (question this typology and its implications for biodiversity preservation?), and to highlight the scholarly fertility of this field for interdisciplinary research.

This chapter’s contribution:

Existing work on biodiversity and business focus on individual companies and their dependencies and impacts on biodiversity. This chapter provides an overview of that work and then contributes a new discussion of business and biodiversity at a level of analysis above the individual business. As the review portion of this chapter will describe, adequate biodiversity preservation cannot be achieved if only a small number of businesses engage individually on biodiversity preservation. A small number of companies can reduce or eliminate biodiversity even if many companies individually seek to preserve biodiversity. Given this aspect of the biodiversity preservation problem, it is important for managers to think beyond the level of the business they manage and to engage on biodiversity preservation at the level of markets (all businesses engaged in selling substitutable products), economies (all businesses engaged in transactions with one another), and at the global level. This chapter describes how business and biodiversity issues differ at these levels, compared to the individual business level, and what managers can do to positively contribute to biodiversity preservation at these higher levels of analysis.