Special Issue of Business, Strategy and the Environment
Call for Papers
Business, Society, Biodiversity & Natural Capital
Deadline June 30th 2020
(see details of conference/workshop at the end of the call for paper)

Guest Editors:
Delphine Gibassier, Audencia Business School
Karen Maas, Erasmus University Rotterdam and Open University
Stefan Schaltegger, Leuphana University

The planet is facing catastrophic biodiversity loss (Dempsey, 2015; IPBES, 2019). Biologists warn that humanity is causing a modern-day mass extinction event. Biodiversity conservation is essential for sustainable development. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN-SDGs) declare that humanity must 'halt biodiversity loss' by 2030, as it is one of the three out of nine planet boundaries that has been exceeded (Rockström et al., 2009). Between 1970 and 2012, half of the vertebrates on Earth disappeared (WWF, 2014), and species become extinct each year at a rate that is estimated to be between 1,000 and 10,000 times higher than the natural extinction rate (WWF, 2017). As such, we are now facing the sixth period of mass extinction of species (Ceballos et al., 2015).

Biodiversity is therefore a "grand challenge" that is intrinsically woven into other grand challenges such as climate change, deforestation, desertification, resources availability (e.g. see conflicts between biodiversity conservation needs and the mining industry), but also social inequity (biodiversity is often at risk where there is also populations at risk, notably indigenous people), ocean protection, and health issues (for example light pollution affects both human and animals). The SDG 14 and 15 are key stones of the current governance of biodiversity globally and interconnect this issue with the other 15 SDGs.

Research in a number of disciplines, ranging from conservation (Westley & Vredenburg, 1997); (Barnosky et al., 2011); (Howe & Milner-Gulland, 2012), to geography (Dempsey, 2016); (Collard & Dempsey, 2013), policy (Palmer, 2014), governance (Turnhout, Neves, & de Lijster, 2014), have discussed the consequences of biodiversity loss in the past, and its many consequences, such as economic loss and heightened poverty. To halt biodiversity loss and alleviate its effect on our society, Hahn and colleagues (2017) have emphasized that the role of business organizations in the loss of biodiversity has been much less researched (Reade, Goka, Thorp, Mitsuhata, & Wasbauer, 2014).

Reade and colleagues (2015) further that the complex relationship between global business and biodiversity loss needs to be further investigated. Business organizations are both dependent on, and impacting biodiversity, participating both in its degradation, and facing the consequences of the loss of biodiversity. For example, the disappearance of bees alone could affect 1.4 billion jobs and three quarters of field crops (Potts et al., 2016). More particularly, industries such as the food and beverage industries (Hamann, Smith, Tashman, & Marshall, 2017), the pharmaceutical industry or the natural resources industry (Sharma & Nguan, 1999; Wishart, 2012; Baletti, 2014) have particularly close and complex relationships to "natural capital". Notably, few examples of small firms or

more engaged ones have business models that acknowledge for both their immediate dependence and their impact on nature (Winn & Pogutz, 2013), such as for example Natura, Bodyshop, l'Occitane or Stoneybrook Organic Farm. One must not forget the important issue of ocean stewardship, rarely developed in organizational research since Clausen and Clark (2005).

Yet, organizational researchers have been relatively silent on the role of business organizations in alleviating biodiversity loss. Despite the development of a strand of biodiversity accounting research (Jones, 2014; Cuckston, 2013; Jones & Solomon, 2013; Boiral & Heras-Saizarbitoria, 2017; Atkins & Maroun, 2018; Cuckston, 2018; Gibassier & Arjaliès, 2019), it has not percolated to wider organizational research. Research in management has been concerned with the environment (Aragón-Correa, 1998; Etzion, 2007; Hoffman & Jennings, 2015; Hoffman & Georg, 2018), climate change (Ansari, Gray, & Wijen, 2011; Slawinski & Bansal, 2012; Lefsrud & Meyer, 2012; Howard-Grenville, Buckle, Hoskins, & George, 2014), sometimes water (Mariola, 2011; Martinez, 2015; Baudoin & Arenas, 2018) but rarely examined the grand challenge of biodiversity loss (see the few exceptions such as (Reade et al., 2015; Winn & Pogutz, 2013). Issues related to sustainability standards (Boiral et al., 2018), eco-labelling (Delmas & Grant, 2014; Delmas & Lessem, 2017) and alternative movements (e.g. the Slow Food movement in van Bommel & Spicer, 2011) have occasionally been touched upon biodiversity, but questions about the broader corporate role in dealing with biodiversity remain unanswered (Hahn et al., 2017).

Biodiversity can affect firms by influencing their strategic and operational decisions such as what resources that can be sourced, where to implant manufacturing sites and what resources can be traded (Schaltegger & Beständig, 2010; Thompson, 2019). Taken together, organizational studies are essential to contribute to biodiversity remediation and are necessary in order to understand the broad range of its social, public health, and environmental consequences (Hahn et al., 2017), as well as to understand how such consequences affect business organizations (Reade et al., 2015).

This special issue is based on the premise that a better understanding of the relationship between business and society is possible by examining it within the context of biodiversity loss. Numerous ways exist to explore how firms contribute to biodiversity loss and depend on biodiversity conservation, but a few potential avenues are: strategic business responses to biodiversity loss, natural capital in the supply chain, the role of consumer-choices in alleviating biodiversity loss, entrepreneurship and biodiversity (Schaefer, Corner, & Kearins, 2015), the organizing and accounting of conservation, the financialization of conservation and the governance of conservation. Like Hoffman (2007) and Boiral (2006) who have investigated strategic responses to climate change, there is a need to investigate further how business organizations strategize natural capital (see for example the Natural Capital Protocol and its industry supplements), and to dig into supply chain challenges (Forrer & Mo, 2013). The prospects and limits of eco-consumerism requires further investigation, specifically on biodiversity issues (Dauvergne & Lister, 2010). The role of specific initiatives such as the Forest Disclosure Project could also shed light on business practices in natural capital management and accounting. Moreover, we know little about how conservation is organized, managed and accounted for. An example of research on this topic is the paper by (Perey & Benn, 2015), who explore "the organising narratives that underpin the generation of effective ecological solutions". Another avenue

for research is the financialization of conservation (Mariola, 2011; Tregidga, 2013), which is rapidly taking over as "the only way to slow the decimation of nonhuman life on earth" (Dempsey, 2018), and is defined as the translation of conservation into "an economically rational—even profitable—set of policies and practices" (Dempsey, 2018). Finally, future research could investigate how biodiversity is governed both at business organization level (Boiral et al. 2019), but also at territorial, national or international levels.

For this special issue, we are interested in a broad range of questions focused on linking business, society, natural capital and biodiversity. Organizational research devoted to examining the role of business organizations in biodiversity loss and biodiversity remediation is emerging, and therefore the questions listed below are merely meant as pointers to further illustrate the vision of the special issue editors. These are neither exhaustive nor comprehensive, and thus any related investigations of the topic will be equally welcome. We welcome all type of theoretical frameworks and research designs.

What is the relationship between biodiversity, natural capital, science, technology, business, and society?
What are the normative foundations of an evaluation of biodiversity and natural capital?
Do business research and practice have a moral imperative to address biodiversity loss?
Who are the stakeholders related to biodiversity loss and biodiversity remediation? How are they being affected and what can they do to address the effects?
How does biodiversity intersect with other sustainability issues in strategic organizational sustainability governance (e.g. for cities, MNEs, SMEs, territories, nations)?
How does biodiversity loss affect the strategies and performance of organizations?
How is biodiversity embedded in supply chain management efforts?
How is biodiversity operationalized within organizations (including public sector organizations, SMEs etc.)
How is biodiversity a consumer-choice issue and how is it embedded into current eco-labels?
How can biodiversity loss be communicated to stakeholders without being accused of green-washing?
How is natural capital accounted for by different organizations such as governmental bodies, NGOs and business organizations?
How is biodiversity linked to other grand challenges such as climate change, hunger, poverty, water pollution or plastic pollution?
What role did business play in creating, sustaining, or ameliorating biodiversity in a historical perspective?
How does biodiversity loss differ between developed and developing countries and what is the role of business in those different contexts?
Who are the new entrepreneurs of biodiversity?
How is biodiversity "managed" by supranational governance bodies?
Should business play a role in species conservation? If so, how?
What are the institutional arrangements that allow biodiversity loss to happen and how can they be overcome? (e.g. TEEB, the World Forum for Natural Capital, the IPBES…)

SUBMISSION PROCESS AND DEADLINES

Interested authors are encouraged to submit a 6-page proposal (excluding references and exhibits) to Delphine GIBASSIER (dgibassier@audencia.com) through email by December 31st 2019. The guest editors will provide developmental feedback and invite authors of suitable proposals to submit a full paper to the special issue. In addition, potential authors may contact any of the guest editors to discuss initial ideas for papers. While interested authors are encouraged to make use of the guidance of the guest editors before submitting full papers, full papers may be submitted (and will be equally welcomed) even without prior consultation with guest editors.

This special issue of Business, Strategy and the Environment *is in collaboration with the 23rd EMAN conference to be held at Prague University on November 7th and 8th 2019*. You will be able to meet the guest editors and discuss your proposals at the conference. However, submissions to this special issue can be made directly without also submitting to the conference.

A special workshop will be organized at Audencia for the special issue beginning of April 2020. More details to come.

Note: You can submit papers without having submitted to the conference or to the workshop.

The deadline for submission of all full papers (including papers that received feedback on their proposals) will be **June 30th 2020**. Authors should submit their manuscripts via email to the co-guest editor D.GIBASSIER (dgibassier@audencia.com).

Manuscripts should be sent to co-guest editor Delphine Gibassier and should be prepared following the Business, Strategy and the Environment author guidelines: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/10990836/homepage/forauthors.html.
All articles will be subjected to double-blind peer review and editorial process in accordance with the policies of Business, Strategy and the Environment (https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10990836).

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