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Firm-nature stakeholder engagement (Anna Heikkinen, Johanna Kujala & Sybille Sachs)

For over three decades, the vital role of nature for all business and societal activity has been substantially discussed in management literature and stakeholder research. While stakeholder scholars focusing on nature have argued that nature should be granted the stakeholder status, the question of what kind of relationships firms can have with nature, i.e. how nature can be included in stakeholder engagement, has received little attention. Drawing on previous research on stakeholder theory and engagement, environmental ethics, and firm-nature relations, we propose a typology of firm-nature stakeholder relationships at the intersection of two dimensions: ethical orientation to nature and mode of interaction with nature. We discuss the implications of the typology for understanding firm-stakeholder engagement with non-human nature. We contribute to stakeholder theory by complementing the current social stakeholder focused understanding of stakeholder engagement with a nature-inclusive understanding.