

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LAW MANAGEMENT & HUMANITIES

[ISSN 2581-5369]

Volume 8 | Issue 2

2025

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Criminal Law and Environmental Crimes: Between Deficient Legislation and Lapses in Enforcement – A Comparative Analysis

MOHAMMAD AIROUT¹

ABSTRACT

The criminal culpability structure related to environmental violations is the main emphasis of this paper. This is attained by carefully examining the approaches three countries—Jordan, Egypt, and the advanced model of France—in use to solve the problem. It suggests that even if Arab countries' environmental laws include punitive penalties, their provisions lack clarity and efficient application. It also investigates the elements causing environmental law non-Arab countries to be inefficient, attributing this shortfall to the absence of specialized tribunals deciding environmental conflicts and the lack of laws defining the purposes of legal organizations. To arrive at its conclusions, the study uses comparative and analytical approaches in addition to content analysis of legislation and court rulings including Jordan's Environmental Protection Law No. 6 of 2017, Egypt's Environmental Law No. 4 of 1994, pertinent portions of the French Penal Code, and international treaties including the Basel Convention. The results show that tackling environmental crimes inside criminal law calls for a coherent institutional framework, specialized evidentiary tools, and a court competent in such areas rather than only legislative rules. Several helpful recommendations for upgrading our laws and efficiently applying criminal environmental liability are made at the end of the study. This will discourage people from acting negatively and protect natural resources so that they may be enjoyed by other generations.

Keywords; *Environmental criminal law, criminal liability, environmental crimes, Jordanian legislation, Egyptian law, French law, legal entities, environmental prosecution, environmental justice, specialized judiciary, Basel Convention.*

I. INTRODUCTION

In recent decades, environmental issues have become a primary concern for legislators and researchers, propelled by the rising global threats associated with climate change, industrial pollution, biodiversity loss, and the growing incidence of human-induced environmental disasters. The increasing extent of harm from certain industrial, agricultural, and commercial

¹ Author is a Faculty of Law at Department of Law, Middle East University, Amman, Jordan.

operations has rendered exclusive reliance on administrative or civil solutions inadequate. Consequently, it is imperative to employ criminal law to prevent such harms by criminalizing environmentally detrimental behaviors and imposing severe penalties on violators. In this context, criminal liability for environmental offenses has gained prominence as an effective means to dissuade individuals and corporations from damaging the environment. This is due to its accountability for the harm inflicted by individuals and enterprises ².

This form of liability is significant as it shifts the emphasis from mere administrative environmental regulation to a robust criminal deterrence framework that corresponds to the severity of the harm inflicted on the environment, particularly when such actions are recurrent, exceedingly negligent, or motivated by financial profit. Jordan has not yet established an independent environmental criminal code. Nonetheless, specific stipulations of the Jordanian Penal Code, in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Law No. 6 of 2017, have disparate penal references pertaining to particular environmentally detrimental actions, such as unlawful garbage dumping or water source contamination. However, these regulations are sometimes ambiguous, enforcement mechanisms are insufficiently robust, and prosecutors frequently lack specialization in environmental offenses ³.

This diminishes the deterrent effect of Jordan's environmental criminal law. Furthermore, there is a conspicuous lack of a specialized criminal justice framework—at both the prosecutorial and judicial levels—focused on the investigation and adjudication of environmental cases ⁴.

The legislative frameworks have a distinct structural resemblance to the Egyptian experience. Egypt's Environmental Law No. 4 of 1994 includes a specific provision on criminal sanctions. Environmental criminal measures are interspersed throughout ordinary criminal law, water regulations, and agricultural legislation ⁵.

The efficacy of Egypt's environmental criminal legislation, however, is constrained. The fragmentation of institutions, the absence of environmental courts, and the deficiency of specialized environmental prosecution collectively impede the efficacy of Egypt's environmental criminal law. Conversely, France occupies a significant position among nations that have established an extensive environmental criminal legal framework. Environmental

² Taras Boiko, *Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law*, 2024, <https://publications.vu.lt/object/elaba:210540279/> (last visited Mar 24, 2025).

³ Sergiy O. Kharytonov et al., *Criminal Legal Protection of the Environment: National Realities and International Standards*, 32 EUR. ENERGY ENVIRON. LAW REV. (2023), <https://kluwerlawonline.com/journalarticle/European+Energy+and+Environmental+Law+Review/32.3/EELR2023018> (last visited Mar 24, 2025).

⁴ Ashraf Mohamad Gharibeh et al., *The Legal Framework Governing the Offense of Environmental Pollution in Jordan and the Sultanate of Oman*, 14 J. ENVIRON. MANAG. TOUR. 2935 (2023).

⁵ G. A. Mousa, *Environmental Laws with Application: A Review*, 3 INT. J. BUS. STAT. ANAL. 17 (2016).

offenses have been integrated into the overarching criminal code ⁶.

A recently formed division under the Public Prosecutor's Office, the National Environmental Crimes Prosecutor (Parquet National des Crimes Environnementaux, PNRE), vigorously prosecutes such acts. Criminal penalties have been increasingly stiff, affecting both persons and business entities. Some measures implemented even allow for the dissolution of violating enterprises or the prohibition of their engagement in hazardous activities, such as specific types of manufacturing operations ⁷.

The fundamental structure of these rules has exhibited notable stability throughout time, and their amalgamation of legal and environmental science illustrates a very valuable form of expertise. This research is to examine the criminal legal framework in Jordan pertaining to culpability for environmental offenses and to assess its efficacy, focusing on both the legislative structure and the associated enforcement mechanisms ⁸.

A brief examination of the judicial systems of Egypt and France will also be incorporated. The objective is to identify any legislative or institutional deficiencies in the Jordanian model and propose non-profit, reform-oriented recommendations to enhance the application of criminal law as a mechanism for environmental protection ⁹.

(A) Literature review

The development of criminal culpability for environmental offenses is becoming an increasingly pressing legal imperative. It is gaining prominence in legal and transdisciplinary studies. Recently, it has been driven by apprehension regarding the swiftly and intricately declining condition of the environment—particularly by acknowledgment of the growing complicity of extensive, systematic (sometimes multinational) economic activity in that decline ¹⁰.

Environmental criminal responsibility is gaining a solid foundation in legislation, albeit in a fragmented manner. It is progressively, and in part, a result of corporate governance and corporate social responsibility programs. In certain regions of the world, it is also a result of a

⁶ Lieselot Bisschop, Yogi Hendlin & Jelle Jaspers, *Designed to Break: Planned Obsolescence as Corporate Environmental Crime*, 78 CRIME LAW SOC. CHANGE 271 (2022).

⁷ Lubna Ahmed Kreishan, *Environmental Crimes and Punitive Criminal Policies*, 572 in FROM MACHINE LEARNING TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE 1251 (Abdalmuttaleb M. A. Musleh Al-Sartawi et al. eds., 2025), https://link.springer.com/10.1007/978-3-031-76011-2_93 (last visited Mar 24, 2025).

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ E. Ahmed, F. Mostafa & F. Ammar Ahlam, *THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW 4/1994 AND THEIR IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION*, 50 J. ENVIRON. SCI. 87 (2021).

¹⁰ Andri G. Wibisana, Michael G. Faure & Raisya Majory, *Error in Personam: Confusion in Indonesia's Environmental Corporate Criminal Liability*, 32 CRIM. LAW FORUM 247 (2021).

progressively vigorous advocacy for human rights. Legal scholars have identified substantial shortcomings in Jordanian legislation in this domain through several investigations ¹¹.

Study highlighted that the criminal laws pertaining to environmental protection are dispersed between the Penal Code and the Environmental Protection Law No. 6 of 2017, lacking a cohesive and well-integrated legislative framework. This study indicates that the disjointed character of these clauses leads to diminished criminal safeguards, thereby rendering criminal enforcement nonexistent. Moreover, Jordan's absence of professional environmental judges and prosecutors constitutes a significant institutional impediment to the enforcement of current regulations. Many judges lack the requisite legal acumen and technical proficiency necessary for environmental litigation ¹². The current circumstances suggest that the requisite resources to resolve the technical issues in an environmental case essentially ensure a disadvantage for the impoverished defendant unless he resorts to similarly illicit methods to finance the hiring of the appropriate expert ¹³.

Some experts argue that the primary issue lies not in the content of environmental legislation, but rather in its inadequate execution and the absence of coordination and mandates among the various administrative and regulatory bodies responsible for enforcing these laws. In the Egyptian context, the literature has highlighted that Environmental Law No. 4 of 1994 was a significant advancement in Arab environmental legislation. Nonetheless, technology has exerted minimal influence in the tangible realm ¹⁴.

A primary issue is because the predominant form of discipline, financial penalties, has not demonstrated efficacy as a deterrence. In most cases, they are insufficiently low to exert any substantial influence. A recent critical analysis has shown the Executive's prosecutors' inadequate law enforcement as another contributing reason ¹⁵.

They have exhibited notable deficiencies in targeting certain huge industrial corporations. In contrast, numerous research studies indicate that the French model is one of the most advanced

¹¹ Ali Al-Hammouri et al., *Penal Protection Contained in the Framework Law on Waste Management and Instructions for the Management of Electrical and Electronic Waste.*, 15 PAK. J. CRIMINOL. (2023), <https://www.pjcriminology.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/7.-Penal-Protection-Contained-in-the-Framework.pdf> (last visited Mar 24, 2025).

¹² O. Emar & H. Abu Issa, *The Legislative Shortcomings Aspects in the Jordanian Environmental Law. Comparison with International Law*, 7 J. ENVIRON. MANAG. TOUR. 1850 (2021).

¹³ Tareq Al-billeh & Hamzeh Abu Issa, *The Role of the Environment Committees in the Nineteenth Parliament for the Year 2020 in Studying Matters Related to Environmental Affairs in Jordan*, 14 J. ENVIRON. MANAG. TOUR. 168 (2023).

¹⁴ Khalid Mady et al., *Institutional Pressure and Eco-Innovation: The Mediating Role of Green Absorptive Capacity and Strategically Environmental Orientation among Manufacturing SMEs in Egypt*, 9 COGENT BUS. MANAG. 2064259 (2022).

¹⁵ *Id.*

and cohesive systems for determining criminal responsibility in environmental issues ¹⁶.

France has enacted extensive legislation that integrates general criminal law with environmental protection laws and has created a public prosecutor's office featuring a specialized unit for environmental cases, known as the National Environmental Crimes Prosecutor (Parquet National des Crimes Environnementaux), which prosecutes offenders ¹⁷.

This institutional framework significantly improves the judiciary's capacity to identify and prosecute environmental offenders. No other countries likely approach this unique combination of legislation and proficient prosecution. Numerous academic contributions have highlighted France's recognition of the notion of "abstract environmental harm."¹⁸

The legal definition permits the initiation of criminal proceedings without evidence of direct human harm if there exists a credible threat to essential environmental elements like as air, water, or soil ¹⁹.

French courts reportedly employ highly sophisticated evidence collection techniques, including satellite imagery, laboratory analyses, and impartial environmental assessments. This renders the evidence provided in environmental cases more objective and beneficial for substantiation ²⁰. Numerous comparative legal studies concur that environmental legislation in Arab nations, particularly in Jordan and Egypt, lacks a comprehensive framework for the application of criminal law within a defined and institutionalized environmental context ²¹.

Experts assert that the majority of Arab environmental legislation should not hinge on "criminal intent" as a prerequisite for culpability. Environmental crimes typically result from negligence or noncompliance with regulations rather than deliberate misconduct ²². Consequently, it is

¹⁶ Ivano Alogna, *Environmental Law of France*, COMP. ENVIRON. LAW REGUL. ED ROBINSON NICHOLAS A (2021), https://www.academia.edu/download/57670238/Alogna__Environmental_Law_of_France.pdf (last visited Mar 24, 2025).

¹⁷ Joshua Ozymy & Melissa L. Jarrell, *Does the Criminal Enforcement of Federal Environmental Law Deter Environmental Crime? The Case of the US Resource Conservation and Recovery Act*, 11 BARRY ENVT EARTH LJ 65 (2021).

¹⁸ Zhenming Fang et al., *Government's Awareness of Environmental Protection and Corporate Green Innovation: A Natural Experiment from the New Environmental Protection Law in China*, 70 ECON. ANAL. POLICY 294 (2021).

¹⁹ Guangqiang Liu et al., *Environmental Tax Reform and Environmental Investment: A Quasi-Natural Experiment Based on China's Environmental Protection Tax Law*, 109 ENERGY ECON. 106000 (2022).

²⁰ O. Emar & H. Abu Issa, *The Legislative Shortcomings Aspects in the Jordanian Environmental Law. Comparison with International Law*, 7 J. ENVIRON. MANAG. TOUR. 1850 (2021).

²¹ Ali Al-Hammouri et al., *Penal Protection Contained in the Framework Law on Waste Management and Instructions for the Management of Electrical and Electronic Waste.*, 15 PAK. J. CRIMINOL. (2023), <https://www.pjcriminology.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/7.-Penal-Protection-Contained-in-the-Framework.pdf> (last visited Mar 24, 2025).

²² Jalal Al-Kayid et al., *Water Environmental Crimes and Their Countermeasures in Comparative Law*, 1152 in BUSINESS ANALYTICAL CAPABILITIES AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE-ENABLED ANALYTICS: APPLICATIONS AND CHALLENGES IN THE DIGITAL ERA, VOLUME 2 223 (Abdalmuttaleb M. A. Musleh Al-Sartawi, Arafat Salih Aydiner, & Mohammad Kanan eds., 2024), https://link.springer.com/10.1007/978-3-031-57242-5_18 (last visited

evident that substantial research deficiencies exist within Arab legal literature. The initial point indicates a scarcity of studies examining both the legal text and the practical application of environmental laws within judicial systems²³.

This complicates the ability to provide a comprehensive understanding of the deficiencies in laws and their enforcement. Secondly, there are few systematic methods to compare Arab experiences with more advanced legal systems, such as the French model. This indicates that normative borrowing and institutional learning are missed opportunities. Third, less research has been conducted on the institutions necessary for the effective implementation of environmental criminal responsibility. This encompasses specialist prosecutors, knowledgeable judges, and collaborative entities that ensure the effective functioning of technological and legal institutions. Ultimately, the current literature inadequately integrates environmental science with legal studies. This is particularly applicable to the utilization of scientific instruments and data for constructing criminal evidence, hence diminishing the efficacy of environmental adjudication. This paper seeks to fill existing gaps by conducting a comparative analysis of the criminal liability framework for environmental offenses in Jordan. It utilizes the legislative and institutional experiences of Egypt and France to provide reform-oriented proposals based on contemporary standards of criminal and environmental law. This strategy aims to elevate the function of criminal law as a primary tool for environmental protection and the efficient prosecution of environmental offenses.

(B) Methodology

This study utilizes a multifaceted methodological approach. The study employs a combination of descriptive, analytical, and comparative approaches, which correspond to the subject's character that combines theoretical legislation with the practical and judicial realities of holding individuals accountable for environmental crimes classified as criminal offenses. Due to the complexity of this liability, which encompasses technical and procedural matters that exceed the typical boundaries of criminal law, the descriptive-analytical method is the most effective approach for examination. This approach entails a meticulous examination and analysis of pertinent national law texts, predominantly based on foundational legal frameworks²⁴.

The work distinctly delineates essential laws pertinent to the legal topics under examination and

Mar 24, 2025).

²³ Ashraf Mohamad Gharibeh et al., *The Legal Framework Governing the Offence of Environmental Pollution in Jordan and the Sultanate of Oman*, 14 J. ENVIRON. MANAG. TOUR. 2935 (2023).

²⁴ Muhammad Gabr Es-Sayyed Abd Allah, *Human Trafficking Crime'Concept, Elements and Confrontation Methods According to the Algerian and International Laws A Descriptive Analytical Study*, 4 J. SCI. KNOWL. HORIZ. 498 (2024).

puts them to a thorough investigation requisite for deriving the legal conclusions the study aims to achieve. The core of the text comprises an examination of the pertinent sections of these essential legal documents. The outcome is not a facile legal interpretation. The comprehensive account of at least four pertinent legislation extends over several dozen pages. The four statutes are: 1. The Jordanian Penal Code; 2. The Environmental Protection Law No. 6 of 2017; 3. The Public Health Law; and 4. The Agricultural Law. We compare these statutes with numerous essential, widely acknowledged, and foundational legal concepts pertinent to criminal law. The research employs both doctrinal and comparative methodologies. This analysis juxtaposes the Jordanian legal system with two paradigms: the Egyptian model, selected for its analogous legal and administrative frameworks and challenges in institutional enforcement, and the French model, renowned globally for its sophisticated environmental criminal justice system ²⁵.

This comparison examines the efficacy of these legal systems in collaboration, the clarity and precision of environmental crime legislation, the effectiveness of punitive measures, and the existence of institutions ensuring legal compliance, including environmental prosecution units, specialized environmental courts, and independent regulatory agencies . A comparative approach elucidates the legislative and institutional shortcomings present in the Arab world. Simultaneously, it enables us to identify successful instances (i.e., practices) that could be emulated in the reform of our legal systems. This is particularly true when the legal systems under examination in Europe (assuming we are truly comparing ourselves to Europe) appear to operate more effectively, devoid of the alarming deficiencies found in our own legal systems. This democratic deficiency can be utilized to advocate for the necessary reforms of our legal systems ²⁶.

The study employs a distinctive methodology by doing a qualitative content analysis of chosen environmental judicial opinions and official reports from environmental regulatory agencies in Jordan and Egypt, acknowledging the significance of comprehending the practical application of legal documents ²⁷. The aforementioned entities comprise the Ministry of Environment, the Audit Bureau, and Environmental Inspection Authorities. The study analyzes these materials to

²⁵ Adi Mansar & Ikhsan Lubis, *Harmonization of Indonesian Criminal Law Through the New Criminal Code Towards Humane Law*, 11 J. LAW SUSTAIN. DEV. e2381 (2023).

²⁶ Amer Morshed, *Comparative Analysis of Accounting Standards in the Islamic Banking Industry: A Focus on Financial Leasing*, ahead-of-print J. ISLAM. ACCOUNT. BUS. RES. (2024), <https://doi.org/10.1108/JIABR-12-2022-0349> (last visited Feb 21, 2024).

²⁷ Kirill Dolgopopolov et al., *METHODOLOGY OF RUSSIAN CRIMINAL LAW SCIENCE AND ITS CHARACTERISTICS*, 6 RELAÇÕES INT. NO MUNDO (2023), <https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&profile=ehost&scope=site&authtype=crawler&jrnl=15189368&AN=164238516&h=A%2Bg%2FvaMkK oUOwGKKewVgk5yMeRfsxs6%2BN9ygrNx3It6gyZKxHqUUaHw0dPeQwOICBOOyf8wkCnMy%2B1U8KH dMkg%3D%3D&crl=c> (last visited Mar 24, 2025).

assess the litigation methods in these two countries and to comprehend the circumstances surrounding the charging (or lack thereof) of individuals and businesses for environmental crimes. This analysis indicates a significant disparity between the legislative framework and its practical enforcement. This conclusion calls for institutional reorganization and legislative change to increase the deterrent and remedial power of environmental criminal law (Qandil, 2019; Bernard, 2021). Using a wide range of legal materials—national statutes, judicial decisions, and comparative analyses—this study addresses the theoretical and pragmatic sides of the problem. Forit, 2020's principal investigator committed over two years of concentrated effort to gather these disparate legal sources into a reasonable, but not totally obvious, framework.

II. FINDINGS, DISCUSSION, AND PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS

The outcome of this study is that Arab countries, even those as diverse as Jordan and Egypt, have legislation that permits the imposition of criminal responsibility for breaching environmental regulations. Even so, the scientific precision and clarity that certain kinds of environmental crime require is sometimes missing from our laws. Conversely, the French legal system presents a more evolved and unified model in terms of institutions and laws. Examining Environmental Protection Law No. 6 of 2017 in Jordan indicates that its penal clauses—more especially, Articles 30 and 31—are limited to imposing fines or submitting crimes to suitable authorities, without defining criminal acts or establishing jail terms.

Moreover, the legislation is entirely devoid of provisions regarding corporate criminal liability—an egregious oversight, as the majority of severe environmental damage is attributable to organized industrial and commercial enterprises. The legislation typically delegates specific sanctions to executive rules instead of articulating them explicitly, so diminishing their legal authority in criminal proceedings. In Egypt, the Environmental Law No. 4 of 1994 allocates a full chapter to punishments (Articles 84–88), however practically all of these consequences are confined to the assessment of monetary fines. Imprisonment is stipulated solely in extraordinary situations, such as the improper management of hazardous waste under Article 85. Furthermore, the legislation lacks a comprehensive framework for criminal culpability concerning legal entities. It solely empowers courts to mandate the shutdown of facilities inflicting environmental damage, as stipulated in Article 88. This creates a feeble system of accountability for business entities, who are generally the primary offenders of environmental damage.

On the contrary, the French example demonstrates remarkable legislative and institutional

advances. Article 121-2 of the French Penal Code formally recognizes the criminal responsibility of legal persons for environmental offenses perpetrated in their name or on their behalf. It offers prosecutors and judges firm instruments to prosecute large-scale industrial violations. In addition, the establishment in 2020 of the National Environmental Crimes Prosecutor's Office (PNRE)—directly answerable to the Public Prosecutor—is a qualitative leap forward in the way environmental crime is tackled. Environmental cases are now treated in the same way as complex economic crimes, with the support of environmental laboratories and technical inspectors.

One of the key challenges identified by the research pertains to evidentiary processes in Jordan and Egypt. Most environmental cases rely on non-standardized inspection reports and lack unbiased scientific assessments or advanced technical evidence such as laboratory tests or satellite imaging—tools routinely utilized in France. The absence of such evidence weakens the case for prosecutors and most environmental offenses are thus reduced to administrative infractions rather than criminal offenses.

The lack of specialized units to prosecute environmental crimes in Arab countries compounds the problem. The jurisdiction over these crimes is spread across a number of administrative authorities, ministries of the environment, police, and public prosecutors—resulting in inconsistent procedures, weak enforcement, and no real expertise in the specialized field of environmental law. National reports from Jordan and Egypt indicate that a considerable number of environmental cases are either dismissed or resolved administratively, without any kind of criminal prosecution.

In terms of adhering to international environmental treaties, the research shows that the laws of Jordan and Egypt lack the necessary force to implement the requirements of accords like the Basel Convention (dealing with the transport of hazardous waste) and the Stockholm Convention (on persistent organic pollutants).

These treaties call for making the management of hazardous waste and the transfer of pollutants a criminal offense, but instead of changing their laws in this essential way, the two countries have opted to stick mainly with ad hoc administrative measures.

- i. It needs to reform the legislative system to define clearly and comprehensively all crimes against the environment. Such a definition must set apart administrative violations from criminal conduct. Legislative action is also necessary to enable criminal sanctions of sufficient magnitude to deter would-be violators.

- ii. Legislation at the national level must clearly acknowledge that legal entities can be held criminally responsible, in accordance with international standards and successful legal models like the French framework.
- iii. Establish specialized environmental prosecutors and environmental courts to develop expertise and boost public confianza en el sistema de environmental justice.
- iv. Capabilities must be strengthened at the evidence-gathering level through collaboration between the authorities in charge of mandates of judicial nature and technical environmental agencies. Law enforcement groups should have advanced tools and complex training to deal with technically intricate environmental crimes.
- v. Obligations stemming from international treaties—such as those under the Basel, Stockholm, and Aarhus Conventions—must be converted into direct, enforceable criminal laws. These laws should carry unambiguous penalties for any violations of the international environmental standards that these treaties establish.

The fundamental conclusions and arguments presented here constitute the basis for a thorough reform vision, enough to contain all the elements of the changes while staying clear and targeted to be effective and, convincing to lawmakers and other key players. This reform vision seeks not only to apply fresh laws protecting the environment and, hence, human health but also to solve more successfully illegal environmental acts that usually avoid criminal law requirements.

III. CONCLUSION

An examination of the legal documents and discussions about the penalization of environmental crimes in Jordan, Egypt, and France reveals that the Arab legal framework for addressing such offenses remains nascent. It persists in experiencing numerous structural, legislative, and institutional deficiencies. While environmental legislation in many jurisdictions includes criminal provisions, it frequently lacks the necessary legal rigor, particularly in the accurate delineation of environmental offenses and the formulation of explicit responsibility standards, especially concerning legal organizations. The comparison with the French model reveals a significant legislative and practical disparity. This is due to the absence of specialized enforcement agencies, inadequate collaboration between environmental and judicial authorities, and the judiciary's lack of access to essential technological evidence tools for the effective prosecution of environmental offenses. One cannot fathom the complexity, technicality, and variety of environmental crimes. They call for a complex and nuanced reaction from the criminal justice system that transcends the application of more penalties. A system that guarantees that the reality many thought to be a reality long ago—living in healthy and

wholesome environments that are both accessible and within reach—is now firmly in effect, not only in terms of deterring the execution of laws against these offenses. This essentially represents environmental justice.

The first step spans the whole field of environmental law and entails the reform of statutes following one another. This is vital since it guarantees that the whole document is clear, succinct, and explicit as well as that the clauses are current. For instance, the laws have to clearly separate a criminal from an administrative offense. As is the case with the legislation that are prevalent throughout the law, environmental violations are not only the responsibility of human beings but also of legal entities. This group of legal entities includes institutions, businesses, public and private organizations.

Individuals with a fundamental comprehension of environmental law can more effectively leverage public pressure to achieve environmental compliance. Ultimately, we must implement collective criminal accountability. Legal culpability should encompass more than merely the apparent immediate perpetrators. It must also encompass individuals or groups that, based on various indicators, contributed to failures in administration, technology, or oversight.

These ideas constitute a reform framework comprising practical measures that can substantially enhance environmental criminal law. They aim to synchronize legal and institutional frameworks with the requirements of environmental justice and to create a more adaptive, strong, and resilient legal system capable of addressing the escalating "serious environmental offenses" impacting the Arab region.
