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An Empirical Understanding of Corporate Environmental Crimes and Enforcement of Laws to Reduce Adverse Impacts

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Abstract

Corporate environmental crimes threaten society, sustainability, and the environment. Effective environmental governance requires understanding and preventing these crimes. This literature review examines corporate environmental crimes and law enforcement, including their definition and typology, causes, environmental, social, and economic impacts, regulatory frameworks and environmental laws, and law enforcement strategies and mechanisms. This literature review emphasizes the necessity of strong regulatory frameworks and strong enforcement in discouraging corporate environmental crimes. Economic pressures, poor regulatory frameworks, and insufficient enforcement contribute to these crimes. Pollution, habitat destruction, biodiversity loss, and community health implications are environmental impacts. Compliance requires robust enforcement measures including monitoring, investigations, and sanctions. Enforcement requires stakeholder participation, resource allocation, and international coordination. Future study should assess regulatory frameworks, evaluate social and economic repercussions, and investigate novel enforcement methods and technology. We can safeguard the environment and reduce corporate environmental crimes by understanding and adopting evidence-based measures. This review helps policymakers, academics, and practitioners combat corporate environmental crimes and promote sustainability.

Keywords

Corporate environmental crimes, Environmental law enforcement, Regulatory frameworks, Environmental impacts, Economic impacts, Law enforcement strategies, Prevention, Compliance, Enforcement, Stakeholders, Sustainability, Corporate responsibility, Environmental protection, Public health.

1. Introduction

Effective environmental governance requires factual knowledge about corporate environmental crimes and legal enforcement to mitigate negative consequences. Corporate environmental crimes include pollution, unlawful waste disposal, and environmental violations. Researching and analyzing corporate environmental crimes is vital. This entails analyzing prior environmental crimes, their origins, effects, and contributing factors. Cost-cutting, regulatory scrutiny, and environmental ethics may also motivate corporate environmental crimes. Law enforcement reduces corporate environmental damage. It includes regulatory structures, surveillance, and consequences for noncompliance [1]. Enforcement involves skilled staff, powerful surveillance tools, and strong legal processes to hold firms responsible. Policymakers and regulatory agencies may design more focused tactics to prevent corporate environmental crimes by studying their empirical features and improving enforcement. This may involve tougher legislation, boosting company knowledge of their environmental duties, and encouraging corporate environmental responsibility. A comprehensive strategy for corporate environmental crimes may help safeguard the environment for future generations [2].

2. Literature review

Definition and Typology of corporate environmental crimes

A taxonomy is needed to identify corporate environmental crimes. Understanding the nature and categorization of these crimes helps law enforcement, legislation, and prevention. Corporations commit many environmental crimes. Waste disposal, pollutants, chemical spills, habitat loss, illicit logging, animal trafficking, and resource exploitation are common environmental crimes. These crimes are intentional, unlike accidental environmental damage. Corporations commit environmental crimes by kind, industry, and impact. Some crimes cause environmental harm [3]. Industry can address factory pollution, mining violations, and illegal fishing.

The typology might incorporate environmental damage scales. Some crimes are local, while others are global. Illegal Amazon deforestation threatens local ecosystems, indigenous customs, and global climate change. Typology considers corporate environmental crime intentions and liability. It can distinguish between inadvertent environmental damage and that driven by cost-cutters like unlawful

dumping. Define and classify corporate environmental crimes for numerous reasons. It helps find offenders, collect information, and distribute resources. Preventing, regulating, and enforcing environmental crimes requires categorizing them by their causes and consequences. Detailed definitions and typologies help analyze and classify corporate environmental crimes [4]. This information helps enforce laws, promote ethical corporate practices, and reduce the damage these crimes do to ecosystems, communities, and public health. The Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act are key US environmental laws that prevent corporate environmental crimes. The EPA enforces these laws. These statutes may result in civil and criminal consequences for violators. Environmental enforcement protects the environment and public health. It is difficult and needs government, corporate, and individual participation.

Factors Contributing to corporate environmental crimes

Root reasons must be identified to solve corporate environmental crimes. Economic, social, and managerial factors generate business environmental crimes. These causes explain these crimes and provide solutions. Bottom-line considerations motivate corporate environmental crime. To maximize profits, companies may sacrifice environmental preservation. Waste management expenses may exceed unlawful dumping and contamination. Poor pricing may promote environmental damage. Social variables influence company environmental malfeasance. Environmental legislation, corporate social responsibility, and public opinion may influence company choices [5]. Environmental compliance may suffer from low public knowledge and corporate oversight. Environmental crimes may increase inequality and marginalization.

Corporations may drive environmental crimes. Culture, values, and decision-making matter. Noncompliance may result from environmental apathy or profit-drivenness. Environmental violations may result from poor management, monitoring, and accountability. Environmental regulations and enforcement affect corporate environmental crimes. Lax restrictions allow firms to breach environmental laws. Resource constraints may hinder regulatory enforcement.

Environmental laws may be less deterrent with inconsistent or weak consequences. These issues need quantitative and qualitative research. Surveys, interviews, and case studies reveal business aims, decision-making, and environmental influences. Enforcement actions, regulatory frameworks, and corporate compliance demonstrate the efficacy of various regulatory and enforcement measures. These fundamentals may help policymakers, regulators, and enforcement organizations focus. Environmental rules, sustainable business practices, corporate accountability, and environmental responsibility are examples [6]. Stakeholders and an integrated economic, social, and organizational strategy are needed to address core issues.

Environmental, social, and economic impacts of corporate environmental crimes

Corporate environmental crimes have far-reaching effects on ecosystems, people, and economy. If environmental, social, and economic effects are recognized, these crimes may be highlighted and effective enforcement and prevention actions implemented. Corporate environmental crime has enduring effects. These crimes pollute the air, water, and soil, destroying habitats and ecosystems. Chemical spills, unlawful waste disposal, and emissions violations may pollute water supplies, kill aquatic life, and make land unusable for agriculture and ecology. Deforestation and illegal exploitation degrade ecosystems and worsen climate change. Corporate crime threatens ecosystems globally.

Corporate environmental crimes disproportionately harm the poor. Businesses may threaten nearby communities. Toxic pollution may cause breathing, cancer, and reproductive problems. Communities displaced by habitat destruction or land grabs worsen social inequality and economic misery. Corporate environmental crimes may cause social unrest, institutional collapse, and community disintegration [5]. Corporate eco crimes cost society money [7]. Ecosystem degradation hinders sustainable development and may have devastating financial consequences. Biodiversity loss hurts local tourism, fishing, and agriculture. Governments, taxpayers, and impacted communities pay for cleaning and rehabilitation. Environmental infractions may cost companies money, investor trust, and legal trouble.

Measure these ecological, social, and monetary repercussions scientifically. Cost-benefit, health, and ecological valuation may evaluate these outcomes and costs. Case studies and research reveal that corporate environmental crimes have far-reaching effects. Due to its environmental, social, and economic impacts, corporate environmental crimes must be prosecuted and prevented. Strict restrictions, intense monitoring, and harsh consequences are stressed. It emphasizes ethical corporate practices, long-term profitability, and stakeholder engagement in reducing detrimental consequences.

Regulatory Frameworks and environmental laws

Environmental laws and regulations may decrease corporate environmental crimes. Businesses must follow certain environmental and sustainability rules. Regulations include international treaties, laws, norms, and policies. They describe a company's obligations, rights, and penalties. These requirements assure fairness and environmental accountability for enterprises. Environmental laws discourage, investigate, and punish violators. They handle rubbish, trash, resource depletion, and land use [8]. Environmental rules require emissions control, licensing, and environmental impact assessments. Regulations promote sustainability and corporate responsibility. They may promote eco-friendly corporate practices, transparency, and green technology. Include impacted communities and stakeholders in decision-making using these recommendations.

Regulations reduce corporate environmental criminality. Firms cooperate more if they fear harsh enforcement. Regulators, police, and courts monitor compliance, investigate infractions, and penalize offenders. Resources, people, and stakeholder support are needed to enforce regulations. Research on regulatory frameworks and environmental legislation may assess corporate environmental crimes [9]. The extent to which national regulatory regimes follow worldwide best practices, legislative loopholes, and deterrents may be investigated. This study may help political leaders and regulators decrease corporate environmental crimes and their impact by improving regulatory frameworks, addressing loopholes, and increasing enforcement.

Global environmental regulations and legislation exist. Key environmental legislation include:

- US Clean Air Act
- US Clean Water Act
- US Resource Conservation and
- Recovery Act Montreal Protocol on Ozone-Depleting Substances
- Kyoto Protocol

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other agencies enforce these laws. Environmental enforcement protects the environment and public health. It is difficult and needs government, corporate, and individual participation.

Law enforcement strategies and Mechanisms

Law enforcement is crucial to combating corporate environmental crimes and mitigating their repercussions. Strong enforcement upholds environmental laws, punishes violators, and deters future violations. Regulators and law enforcement have several instruments to find, investigate, and punish corporate environmental crimes. Inspections, data collection, and collaboration with other enforcement authorities are methods. Find noncompliance, intervene, and sue. Environmental law enforcement uses technology. Administrative, civil, criminal, and reparation orders are examples. The crime, aim, and punishment determines the method. Law enforcement should be fair and threatening.

Stakeholders must collaborate to enforce the law. This encompasses regulatory, law enforcement, prosecutorial, and judicial collaboration. Sharing knowledge, resources, and investigations improves enforcement. Empirical research may reveal law enforcement's strengths and weaknesses. Enforcement actions' consequences on firm behavior, the efficacy of alternative enforcement techniques, and the enforcement process's obstacles and solutions require additional research [10]. This research urges policymakers and enforcers to utilize data to safeguard the environment. Studying and improving law enforcement techniques may assist policymakers and enforcement agencies battle corporate environmental crimes. Improved detection, punishments, consequences, openness, accountability, and enforcement agency coordination are needed. Strong criminal enforcement reduces the environmental and social damage from corporate environmental violations.

Literature gap

Legislation, enforcement, and corporate environmental crime reduction are poorly understood. Alternative regulatory and enforcement systems should be studied to prevent corporate environmental crimes. Few studies have examined how regulatory actions affect corporate behavior and the environment. This prevents data-driven corporate environmental crime prevention and response initiatives. Government, law enforcement, impacted communities, and companies must do extensive studies. This research may illuminate regulatory agency concerns, enforcement strategies, and business actor motives and choices. Corporate environmental crimes' social and economic effects, long-term effects, and legislative solutions need more study [10]. This information vacuum must be filled to understand how regulatory frameworks, enforcement measures, and collaboration might minimize corporate environmental crimes. It would help lawmakers, regulators, and interested parties pass ethical business practices and environmental rules.

3. Methodology

Learn how we went about doing our literature review for "An empirical understanding of corporate environmental crimes and Enforcement of Laws to reduce adverse impacts." This method involves gathering background information, selecting appropriate sources, collecting data, and assessing findings.

- **Research Design:** This survey of the literature synthesizes several pieces of research on corporate environmental crimes and law enforcement, including empirical studies, theoretical frameworks, and case studies. Major research topics and objectives serve as the basis for the evaluation process.
- **Literature Review:** We used a comprehensive search strategy that looked through academic databases, scholarly publications, novels, and grey literature [11]. We looked for information on corporate environmental crimes, law enforcement, regulations, consequences, and empirical studies.
- **Extraction of Data:** The selected study offered sufficient information for further examination. Data components included authors, publication year, objectives, techniques, outcomes, and implications. In order to appropriately portray the received material, this step required thorough reading and note-taking.
- **Synthesis and Analysis:** The analysis of the obtained data revealed recurring topics and patterns in the source material. The differences in outcomes, methods, and theoretical stances were highlighted by the comparisons. The topics were developed after organizing the synthesized material.
- **Research Void:** The analysis identified research opportunities and voids in the existing literature. These holes highlight the need for further empirical research on corporate environmental crimes and enforcement efforts.
- **Reporting and Composing:** The examination and synthesis of the literature resulted in an introduction, a discussion of key topics, and a conclusion. Authors and sources were properly credited via the use of in-text citations [11].

- Evaluating and Modifying: The literature review was repeated to ensure precision, readability, and consistency. Peers, advisors, and subject-matter experts all contributed comments to help refine the assessment.

The aforementioned method makes it possible to conduct a thorough literature review on the topic of corporate environmental crimes and the use of law enforcement to reduce their harmful effects. To evaluate the current state of knowledge in this field and to suggest future research and policy initiatives, the review employs rigorous research procedures and analysis.

4. Result

Corporate environmental crimes harm the environment and society, but empirical understanding and law enforcement may reduce their impact. This literature review examined the definition and typology of corporate environmental crimes, their causes, their environmental, social, and economic impacts, the regulatory frameworks and environmental laws that govern them, and the methods used to prevent and punish them [12].

The study lists a variety of corporate environmental crimes that affect the environment. Environmental crimes include waste dumping, harmful emissions, habitat degradation, and illegal resource exploitation. Knowing corporate environmental crimes' types helps identify, classify, and prioritize them.

Economic pressures, cost-cutting, weak laws, poor enforcement, social attitudes, and organizational characteristics all contribute to corporate environmental crimes. Companies that are encouraged to maximize profits and avoid expenditures may be less likely to comply with environmental regulations. Environmental crimes are perpetuated by social factors including insufficient environmental knowledge and the disproportionate effect on disadvantaged communities.

Corporations' environmental crimes harm the economy, society, and environment. They damage ecosystems, deplete biodiversity, and pollute air, water, and soil. Chemical exposure causes respiratory ailments, cancers, and reproductive difficulties among residents near industries and warehouses. These crimes cost society via resource depletion and ecological devastation.

Regulatory frameworks and environmental legislation reduce corporate environmental crimes. They provide company standards, responsibility for enforcing them, and the foundation for enforcement processes. Pollution control, waste management, and natural resource exploitation are covered by effective environmental legislation. Sustainability, openness, and eco-friendly technology are their priorities [13]. However, regulatory systems can only succeed if they are enforced by compliance monitoring, investigation, and punishment. Resource, capacity, and party coordination are needed for effective enforcement.

Corporate environmental crimes must be reduced through legal enforcement. Proactive monitoring, information collecting, and cooperation between regulatory organizations and law enforcement authorities can discover and

stop non-compliant activity. Corporations are held accountable via administrative sanctions, civil fines, and criminal prosecutions. Enforcement measures succeed when regulatory authorities, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and the court work together.

This study's information gap must be filled to improve our understanding of corporate environmental crimes and enforcement. Empirical studies are needed to evaluate regulatory frameworks, enforcement mechanisms, and cooperation techniques. Surveys, interviews, case studies, and statistical analysis are suitable for this inquiry [14]. It must consider the company, government, law enforcement, and affected community viewpoints. Studies should also examine if legal actions might mitigate corporate environmental crimes' social and economic impacts.

Corporate environmental crimes must be mitigated by theory and empirical study. The literature review stressed the need to define and categorize corporate environmental crimes, identify factors that cause them, examine regulatory frameworks and law enforcement strategies, and understand the environmental, social, and economic impacts of these crimes. This gap in the literature has to be filled with empirical research to improve corporate environmental crime legislation and preserve society.

According to the EPA, corporate environmental crimes cost the US \$250 billion annually. Costs include cleaning, missed production, and health issues. The research also indicated that corporate environmental crimes are more common in high-risk sectors like oil and gas, mining, and chemicals.

After drug trafficking, human trafficking, and counterfeiting, environmental crime is the fourth most lucrative crime, according to the World Bank. Environmental crime is predicted to earn \$91-258 billion annually. Environmental crime may destroy natural resources, cause climate change, and other environmental issues, threatening sustainable development, the research revealed.

Environmental criminality threatens sustainable development, according to UNEP research. Environmental crime might hinder the UN's 2015 Sustainable Development Goals to eradicate poverty, safeguard the earth, and promote prosperity for everyone, according to the report. Environmental crime may harm people, the economy, and the environment, the research concluded.

They're environmental disasters. The 1989 Alaska Exxon Valdez oil disaster cost billions to clean up.

5. Discussion

Understanding corporate environmental crime and its punishment helps reduce its harm to the environment and society. This discussion will cover the literature review's main findings and implications and possible research and policy next actions.

Several key features of corporate environmental crimes were identified via the review of relevant literature. To begin, it's important to understand the nature of these offenses by being familiar with their classifications and definitions [14]. By

naming environmental crimes such as illegal trash dumping, harmful emissions, habitat destruction, and resource exploitation, policymakers and enforcement agencies can allocate resources more efficiently.

Corporate environmental crimes also a major role. The need to maximize profits and minimize expenses had a major role. If short-term profits outweigh environmental sustainability, companies may engage in non-compliance [14]. Potential solutions to these underlying problems include more regulation enforcement and more incentives for environmentally responsible conduct.

Significant implications on society, the economy, and the natural world result from corporate environmental crimes. Human actions caused air, water, and soil pollution, habitat loss, biodiversity loss, and ecosystem deterioration. These crimes affect local residents and business workers. Toxic contamination is linked to health issues, social inequality, and economic losses. Corporate environmental crimes have far-reaching effects on development, ecology, and culture.

Regulations and laws protecting the environment have helped cut down on corporate environmental crimes. These models provide the norms and regulations that corporations must adhere to under the law. There is a comprehensive framework for compliance provided by environmental rules that manage pollution, waste, and resource exploitation. They won't work without rules [15]. Corporate accountability requires monitoring, investigating, and punishing noncompliance. Cooperation from stakeholders and enough resources are essential for effective enforcement.

Law enforcement strategies and procedures are necessary to reduce corporate environmental crimes. Proactive monitoring, information collecting, and a relationship between regulatory agencies and law enforcement are necessary to discover and handle non-compliant activities. Businesses that engage in wrongdoing might face administrative penalties, civil fines, and even criminal prosecution. Collaboration between regulatory bodies, law enforcement, prosecutors, and the judicial system yields the most effective enforcement tactics.

The literature review gives important information but raises problems that need more investigation. Regulators and enforcers must be examined in the future. Good methods and places for growth may be uncovered by comparing different approaches. The long-term social and economic impacts of corporate environmental crimes cannot be estimated without first doing empirical research. Indicating the monetary costs associated with such actions would strengthen the case for their prohibition [16].

New approaches to law enforcement and technological developments should also be investigated. Data analytics, satellite imagery, and remote sensing might be used to keep an eye on the environment and spot any violations. Research into blockchain and smart contracts may aid in preventing corporate environmental crimes by making it easier to track and verify ingredients and other goods as they are produced.

The report suggests strong regulations that promote sustainability and hold firms responsible. Environmental laws must be enforced with stronger penalties.

Regulators, law enforcement, and others must cooperate and share information to improve enforcement. Legislative methods for corporate responsibility and sustainability may be complemented by incentives, certifications, and volunteer initiatives.

Avoiding corporate environmental crimes also requires education and awareness. In order to educate the public about the need for environmental protection and inspire more responsible behavior from businesses and individuals, public awareness campaigns, educational programs, and training activities may be implemented. By encouraging environmental care and sustainability, society can lessen the likelihood of environmental crimes and mitigate their consequences [17].

Practical measures, in addition to research and policy outcomes, may be taken to enhance law enforcement and reduce corporate environmental crimes. One approach is to improve communication and cooperation between government agencies and law enforcement agencies on a global scale. Sharing knowledge, tools, and resources improves law enforcement efforts. Because environmental crimes often occur across national lines and need concerted responses, international cooperation is essential.

The promotion of cutting-edge technology and data-driven methodologies may also aid in the investigation and identification of corporate environmental crimes. Environmental infractions may be greatly illuminated via the use of remote sensing, satellite photography, and geospatial data analysis, which may reveal non-compliant activities and make possible evidence-based enforcement actions [18]. Accessibility, information sharing, and reporting processes related to environmental regulations might all benefit from the use of digital platforms and databases.

It is also critical to invest in the capacity of regulatory organizations and law enforcement agencies via the allocation of resources. It has been suggested that providing these organizations with enough training, technical aid, and financial resources might increase their ability to enforce environmental legislation. Paying for environmental crime units and task forces is a part of this. It is possible that better enforcement outcomes may be achieved if court authorities were made more aware of the need to prioritize environmental concerns and provide appropriate legal remedies.

Last but not least, any efforts to reduce corporate environmental crimes should center on increasing corporate accountability and transparency. Increases in corporate disclosure requirements, the implementation of independent audits, and the encouragement of shareholder participation might all contribute to more open and honest dealings in the business world. By making businesses accountable for their environmental performance, we may perhaps reduce the number of infractions of environmental laws and protect our planet's reputation [19].

In conclusion, reducing the harm caused by corporations committing environmental crimes calls for an in-depth understanding of these transgressions and how they are really policed. Topics included training, enlightenment, cooperation between authorities, capacity building, technology, and corporate

responsibility. Together, policymakers, enforcement agencies, and stakeholders may create a more sustainable future by establishing comprehensive policies to eliminate corporate environmental crimes and protect the environment for future generations.

6. Conclusion

Corporate environmental crimes and associated research and policy issues must be punished. This literature review examined corporate environmental crimes, their causes, effects (environmental, social, and economic), regulatory frameworks, environmental laws, and enforcement. Studies have examined corporate environmental crimes and enforcement. Corporate environmental crimes threaten ecosystems, communities, and long-term prosperity, according to the literature. Illegal garbage dumping, toxic emissions, habitat destruction, and resource exploitation create pollution, biodiversity loss, ecosystem deterioration, and health issues. These results demonstrate the necessity for adequate regulatory frameworks and law enforcement to deter these crimes. Due to profit, inadequate legislation, and supervision, companies commit environmental crimes [20]. Companies prioritizing profit over environmental sustainability sometimes violate environmental standards. These concerns need stricter rules, ethical corporate practices, and better enforcement [21]. Laws that penalize environmental offenses deter companies. Corporate laws must be clear. If ignored, these plans are meaningless. Monitor, investigate, and penalize firms to guarantee compliance. Compliance requires cross-sectoral collaboration, resource allocation, and international coordination. Corporate environmental crimes should be prosecuted. To discover, investigate, and punish environmental violations, regulatory agencies, law enforcement, and courts must cooperate and monitor.

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