

The landscape of criminalization

Part 1 of the Global Analysis on Crime that Affect the Environment

3 JUNE 2024



CRIMES THAT AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENT

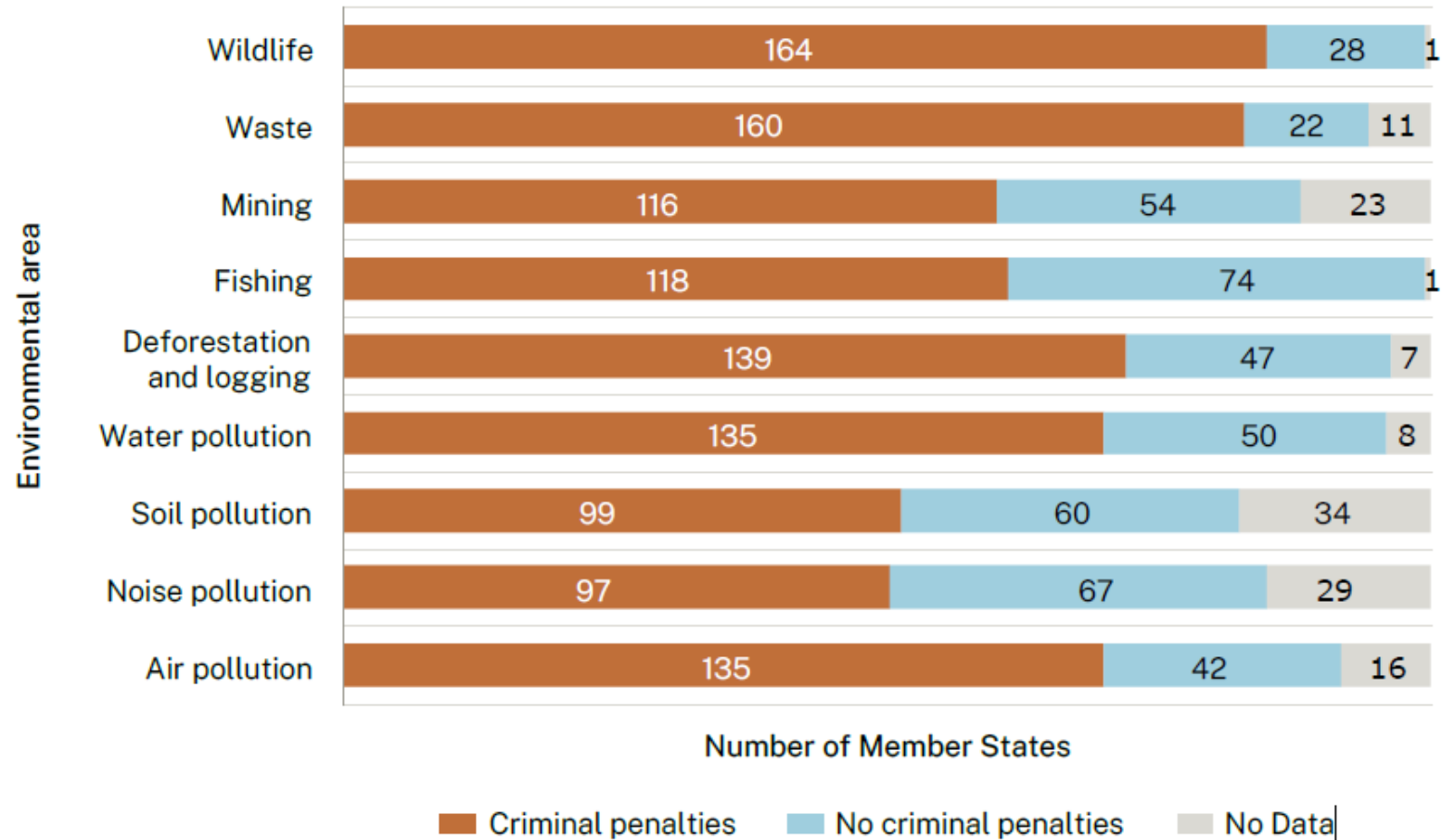
An extensive review of environmental legislation

Table 1 – Breakdown of number of pieces of legislation that were analysed by environmental area across all 193 Member States

Environmental Area	Number of Pieces of Legislation	Number of Member States where No Legislation was Identified
Air pollution	258	14
Noise pollution	194	25
Soil pollution	241	29
Water pollution	296	0
Illegal deforestation and logging	294	6
Illegal mining	226	20
Illegal fishing	304	1
Waste violations	267	8
Wildlife violations	472	0

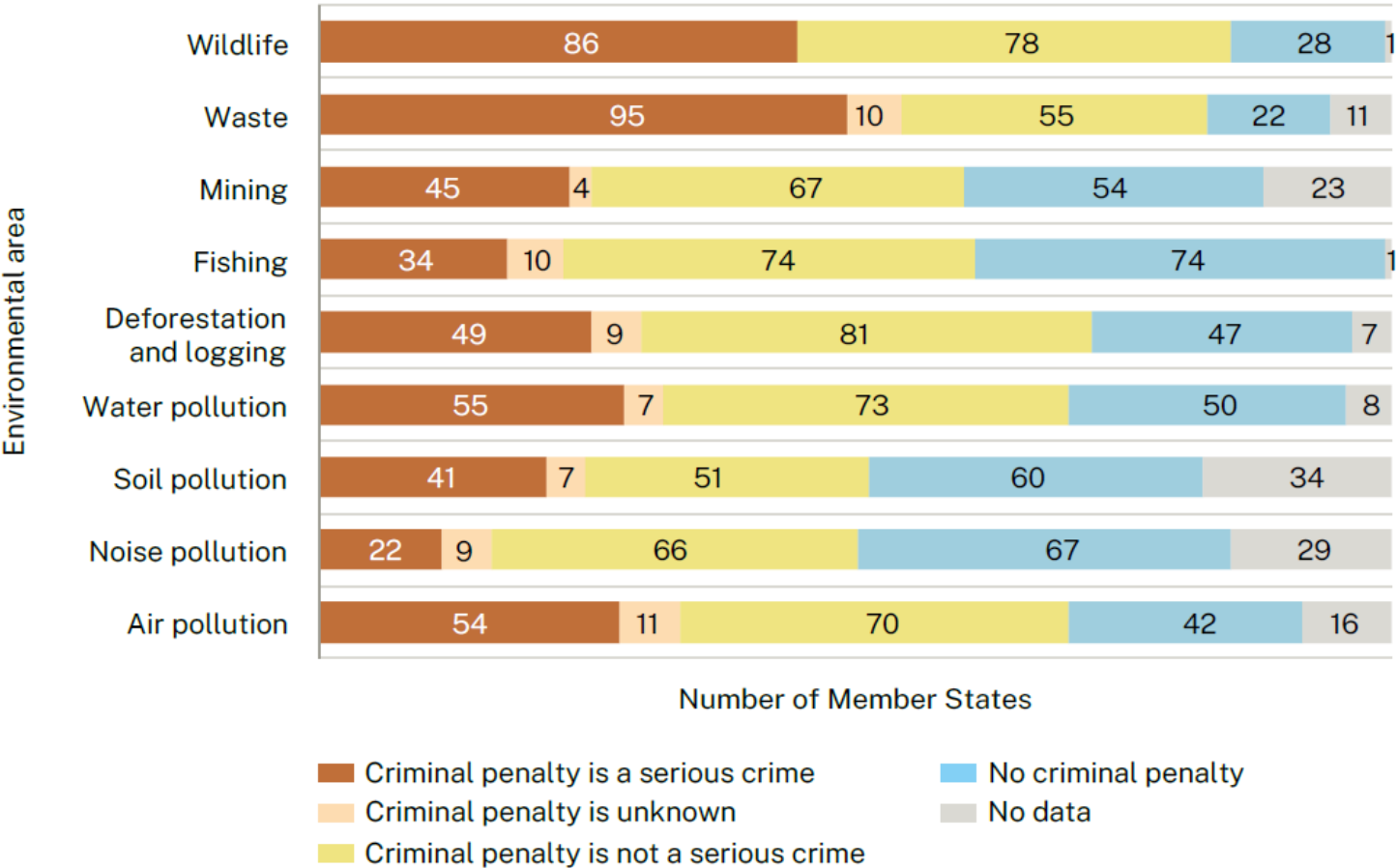
Overall, a high rate of criminalization exists across these nine environmental areas.

Figure 1 – State of criminalization (Number of UN Member States)



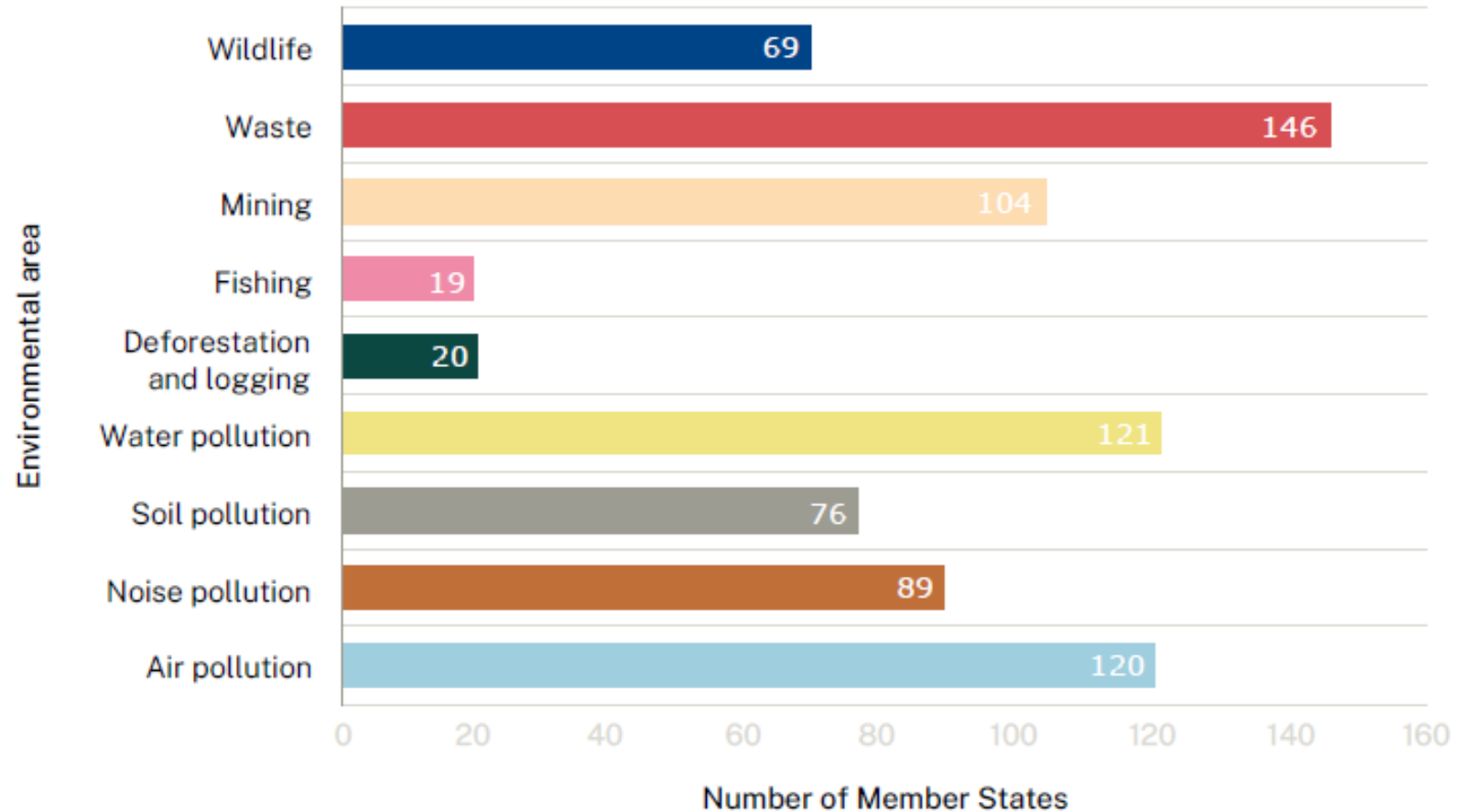
Consideration of harm to the environment as a serious crime could be strengthened

Figure 3 – Member States with legislation meeting the UNTOC definition of serious crime of at least four years in prison



Holding legal persons liable should be improved, particularly for fisheries and forestry

Figure 5 – Known Liability of Legal Persons*



Other sanctions

- Few countries have provisions for confiscation (37/193 for water-related offences)
- Confiscations apply mostly to equipment and not proceeds
- Few countries have restoration provisions (35 countries for water pollution)

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