

**WRITTEN BY**

Friends Of The Earth US And Walhi

POSTED ON

March 23, 2022

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Exposé from Friends of the Earth U.S. implicates many US consumer brands and investors in ongoing environmental and human rights abuses

A new **report** released today by Friends of the Earth U.S. and Friends of the Earth Indonesia (WALHI) found that Indonesia's second largest palm oil company, Astra Agro Lestari (AAL), is responsible for longstanding land rights abuses and environmental destruction in operations undertaken without proper legal permits.

The investigation affirms the claims of local farmers, whose complaints trace back to 2005, that some 16,000 acres of their lands have been illegally occupied by three subsidiaries of Astra Agro Lestari. Local communities accuse the companies of violent land-grabbing abetted by Indonesian security forces, encroachment on legally protected forest areas, destruction of waterways and other abuses. None of the three companies have received the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of local communities to operate – a key requirement called for by the sustainability policies of many global consumer brands.

AAL, which supplies palm oil to leading consumer brands including Procter & Gamble

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