

Environmental, human rights, and other violations are frequently committed by organizations within the palm oil industry. The nonprofit Inclusive Development International, which tracks these violations, asked the University of Chicago Data Science Institute to aid them in developing their PalmWatch, a web-based tool mapping the entire palm oil supply chain, to incorporate human rights grievances. When complete, the tool will allow interested parties to obtain a wide variety of information concerning grievances filed by advocacy groups against palm oil companies.

This autumn, the project team worked on scraping, cleaning, and analyzing data from 12 different grievance reports. As the data was collected from different websites with various formats, 1125 total grievances were extracted and processed to fit a unified standard data model of 11 key variables. The consolidated dataset reveals patterns in both violation types and reporting practices across the industry, providing a comprehensive view of accountability mechanisms within the palm oil sector.

Of the organizations that were reported for violations, the most common was the Rimbunan Hijau Group and Golden Agri-resources (Figure 1), with the most common complainant (reporter) being Mighty Earth (Figure 2). These findings not only support IDI's understanding of what organizations are receiving the most violations, but additionally provide insight into which organizations are providing assistance to those affected by unlawful practices.

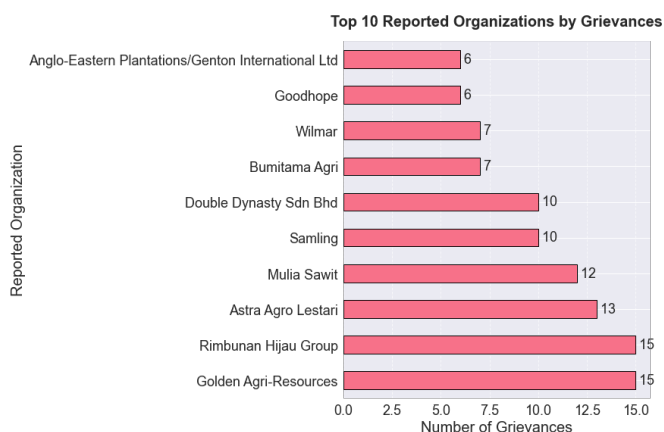


Figure 1: Top 10 Organizations

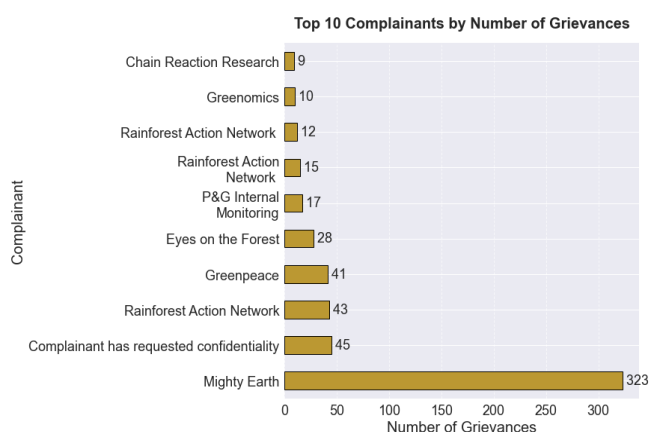


Figure 2: Top 10 Complainants