

## **“Apoi Dream Project”**

### **– Junior High School Students’ Initiatives to Protect Mt. Apoi’s Alpine Plant**

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Mt. Apoi Geopark spans the entire town of Samani with Geosites dotted throughout. Mt. Apoi, a symbol of Samani, is a mountain made entirely of peridotite. Because of its unique soil, weather, and geological environment, the mountain, despite its low altitude, is home to a large and varied population of alpine plants. In 1952, Mt. Apoi’s alpine plant community was designated as a National Special Natural Monument. However, in recent years the number of alpine plants has drastically plummeted due to illegal digging of the flowers, being overeaten by deer, and changes in the global environment. The state of Mt. Apoi’s alpine plants has become a critical situation. At Samani Junior High School, in collaboration with universities, the local organization known as Mt. Apoi Supporters Club, and the town office, we have started the initiative to grow the alpine plants from seeds and plant them in a test area. This initiative, once called “Flowers of Apoi” but now known as “Apoi Dream Project,” aims to restore the nature of Mt. Apoi, the symbol of Samani.