

## UPF International: Honor World Wildlife Day with Partnerships and Service

Tageldin Hamad  
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On World Wildlife Day, March 5, the Universal Peace Federation joins the global community in striving to protect biodiversity. As part of UPF's [100 Days of Serving Community](#) campaign, from February 20 to June 1, 2026, the month of March is dedicated to strengthening partnerships for community service. The campaign culminates on June 1, the UN [Global Day of Parents](#). In the context of biodiversity, partnerships determine what can be achieved in the field, from preventing pollution to restoring habitats, in line with [Sustainable Development Goal 17 \(Partnerships for the Goals\)](#).

UPF advances One Family under God through responsibility and service in daily actions. [Dr. Hak Ja Han](#) and the late [Rev. Sun Myung Moon](#) taught that peace earns trust through concrete care for people, communities, and future generations.

UPF founders also emphasized stewardship of natural water resources. In 1980, they presented an ocean stewardship vision that paired values education with experience at sea, encouraging young people to see the ocean as a shared inheritance rather than an arena for exploitation. This vision corresponds to [Sustainable Development Goal 14 \(Life Below Water\)](#).

UPF organizes dialogues that connect marine ecosystems with sustainable development. In 2019, UPF convened an International Leadership Conference in [Yeosu](#), South Korea on the ocean environment and sustainable development.

In 2024, UPF-Korea and the Korean Peace NGO Association convened an [academic seminar on climate and environmental change and the role of civil society](#). In 2025, UPF partners convened a World Summit breakout session on climate and the environment, organized by the Hyo Jeong International Foundation for Environmental Peace. The published report is titled [Experts Suggest Ways to Manage Climate Crises](#).

In Paraguay's Pantanal, UPF has shared the [Leda Project](#) as a community model that links sustainable land use and local livelihoods with the protection of a high biodiversity ecosystem.

Across regions, UPF teams reduce habitat pressure caused by plastic pollution and unmanaged waste by combining education, hands-on cleanups, cooperation with local institutions, and better local practice. Keeping rivers, wetlands, and shorelines cleaner protects biodiversity at the point where pollution enters ecosystems.

In Africa, [UPF volunteers and partners](#) in Nairobi, Kenya brought together more than a thousand participants from youth groups, schools, women's associations, faith communities, police cadets, and veterans' organizations to remove waste along about 300 meters of the Nairobi River. The effort included planting tree seedlings along the riverbank to reduce erosion and support a healthier river corridor, followed by adopting sections of the river for continuing care. Such work supports UNEP's river-basin restoration priorities and contributes to [Sustainable Development Goal 6 \(Clean Water and Sanitation\)](#) and [Sustainable Development Goal 15 \(Life on Land\)](#).

In the same regional spirit, UPF teams in Mali have combined canal cleanups and tree planting around cemeteries in Bamako, linking environmental care with public health and community spaces. In Burkina Faso, UPF-Burkina Faso convened a public event linked to World Environment Day that included a [tree planting ceremony and discussion of reforestation](#).

In Japan, a [family-based riverbank cleanup along the Arakawa River](#) in Tokyo combined litter removal with simple accountability. Participants recorded the type and quantity of litter found, and noted items such as small resin pellets that can harm animals in rivers and seas. Family-based service builds habits that scale into wider community stewardship, supporting biodiversity protection under SDG 15.

In the Caribbean, Religious Youth Service has used environmental service as training in cooperation and civic responsibility. In Trinidad and Tobago, Religious Youth Service combined [environment cleaning and reef-related work at Aripo Heights](#) with community projects, including improvements at a school serving children with disabilities. An RYS program in Trinidad supported a [Wildlife Orphanage and Rehabilitation Center in Petit Valley](#) through maintenance and repairs of its grounds and animal cages.

In Europe, UPF-UK partnered with CleanCyclers for [World Environment Day 2025](#), using a documentary and panel discussion to highlight plastic pollution and microplastics. In Slovakia, UPF-Slovakia organized an educational program in connection with [World Water Day](#), focusing on how microplastics affect ecosystems and the wider food chain.

In Oceania, UPF volunteers have joined [Clean Up Australia Day](#) to remove roadside litter that often ends up in waterways. In Buenos Aires, UPF-Argentina participated in a public tree planting as part of the ["Let's Plant Trees: Let's Sow Peace" campaign](#), treating green corridors and public spaces as a shared trust.

In the Russian Federation, the [Eco-Losevo Festival](#) has shown how continuity can restore a shoreline through repeated cleanups and community participation over a decade. The Russian volunteers have restored sensitive tourist trails around Lake Baikal by building and repairing pedestrian bridges and supporting low-impact ecotourism that reduces pressure on shoreline and reserve areas. The [Baikal Project](#) shows how service can strengthen stewardship of a globally significant natural heritage site.

As we mark World Wildlife Day, I invite United Nations agencies, governments, civil society, academia, and faith communities to partner with us in protecting biodiversity through on-the-ground cooperation, youth and community service, and sustained care for habitats. [UPF Ambassadors for Peace](#) can help convene partners and support continuity so that local initiatives become long-term stewardship.

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## 100 DAYS OF SERVING COMMUNITY



From February 20 to June 1, 2026, UPF invites cross-sector partners to advance community trust through cooperation, volunteer service, and strengthened family life. This period marks UPF's 100-day campaign entitled, "100 Days of Serving Community." The campaign culminates on June 1, the [Global Day of Parents](#).

As an organization in consultative status with the [United Nations Economic and Social Council](#), UPF connects local peacebuilding with the United Nations agenda and the practical spirit of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#), including [SDG 16](#) (peace, justice and strong institutions), which promotes peaceful and inclusive societies. This campaign also resonates with the [International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development](#), which highlights volunteer action and civic participation as drivers of social cohesion and resilience.

Through collaboration with UPF, partners can broaden volunteer engagement around local priorities, gain international visibility through UPF communication channels, and strengthen public confidence by placing measurable community benefit at the center of joint activity. Outcomes can be documented in short public updates and visual materials that acknowledge partner participation and make results accessible to wider audiences.

Work across the campaign is organized around a three-month sequence of themes. March emphasizes partnerships, with attention to cooperation with municipalities, civil society organizations, educators, faith communities, youth networks, and local institutions. April emphasizes visible volunteer service that communities can recognize and welcome. May emphasizes families and values-based education, with special attention to the role of mothers and women as the heart of strong families, a theme that resonates with the [International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026](#). This prepares the ground for the [International Day of Families](#) on May 15 and the Global Day of Parents on June 1.

During the campaign period, partners may also choose to align joint activities with widely recognized UN observances, including the [World Day of Social Justice](#) on February 20, the [International Day of Sport for Development and Peace](#) on April 6, and [International Mother Earth Day](#) on April 22.

UPF founders [Dr. Hak Ja Han](#) and the late [Rev. Sun Myung Moon](#) have taught that lasting peace grows when families are strong, moral responsibility is practiced in public life, and service becomes a living culture that transcends differences. Living for the sake of others is the true source of peace and human dignity. They taught that every act of service is an expression of one's identity as a child of God and a member of One Family under God. In this spirit, by promoting dialogue, partnership, and community service, the campaign serves as a practical contribution to the [2030 Agenda](#).

We warmly invite every partner to join us in this spirit of service, so that together we may strengthen communities, strengthen families, and make constructive contributions that endure beyond the campaign period and contribute directly to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Dr. Tageldin Hamad, President, UPF-International  
February 20, 2026

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