



THE NATO CLIMATE CHANGE  
AND SECURITY CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

THE CONFERENCE OF  
DEFENCE ASSOCIATIONS INSTITUTE



**MONTREAL**  
CLIMATE SECURITY  
SUMMIT

SOMMET  
SUR LA SÉCURITÉ CLIMATIQUE DE  
**MONTREAL**

## **BRIGARDIER GENERAL RAFFAELE PIO MANICONE**

Commander of the Carabinieri Group for the Protection of Biodiversity

[Italian Carabinieri General Headquarters](#)

He graduated in Forestry Sciences at the University of Bari (1990) where for three years he worked as a researcher in the study of the interactions between climate stress and forest decay (Oak decline).

After he joined the State Forestry Corps (CFS) he began his service at the Carabinieri Provincial District Command of Taranto as responsible officer for forestry checks, forest fires and fraud in the agri-food sector (1994-2000).

When he was assigned to the Provincial District Command of Matera (in Southern Italy), he dealt with hydrogeological instability, riverine policing, forest fires and civil protection.

Whereas he was still serving in Matera in 2006 he was appointed Head of the Investigative Unit of the Environmental and Forestry Police. During this time, he conducted thorough investigations particularly in countering illicit waste trafficking.

In 2009, he was appointed Head of the "Alta Murgia" National Park Department (Altamura – BARI), in this position he coordinated surveillance, control and technical cooperation activities with the managing body of the protected area.

In 2010 he was appointed as the Provincial Carabinieri District Commander of Matera and Head of the Biodiversity Department of Martina Franca (Taranto).

In 2014, after he was promoted to the rank of Colonel, he was of charge of the "Nature Protection" Division at the General Inspectorate of the State Forestry Corps of Rome. Specifically, he played the role of national manager for the application of the Washington Convention (CITES) and coordination of the CFS activity within the Italian National Parks.

In 2017, after the transition of the State Forestry Corps into the Carabinieri force, he took command of the Carabinieri Group for the Protection of Biodiversity, a structure which, through 28 departments scattered throughout the national territory, directly manages 150 reserves and natural areas owned by the State thus representing ecosystems housing a multiplicity of animal and plant species in singular habitats and landscapes, in continuous evolution. In these departments, in addition to the continuous environmental education activity, there is also an intense study and research work particularly regarding the adaptations of forest ecosystems to climate change.

He has acted as coordinator in several EU-funded projects relating to the monitoring and study of threatened flora and fauna species and the ecosystems that host them, including the training of young researchers in this professional field (LIFE, Preparatory LIFE, Erasmus+, etc.).





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Since 2023, with the establishment of the Center of Excellence for Environmental Protection in Sabaudia, a town near Rome, he has contributed to its management with particular reference to the doctrinal part and the promotion and organization of educational activities. After his promotion to the rank of Brigadier General on 1 January 2022 he has attended numerous courses on personnel management, energy security, management and administration of protected areas, safety in the work place.

He has been awarded various personal medals including the Knight of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic, the Gold Cross for length of Military Service, the Gold Medal for long Command and the Bronze Medal for civil protection merits.