Nature, Climate, and Global Stability

Integrated Strategies for Ecosystem Resilience, Climate Mitigation, and Health Security

International Conference

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Integrate Strategies for Ecosystem Resilience, Climate Mitigation and Health Security

Rome, 7 and 8 October 2026

The Carabinieri Command for Forest, Environmental and Agri-food Protection (CUFAA) will organise, in Rome and in collaboration with the FAO, the International Conference '*Nature, Climate and Global Stability – Integrate Strategies for Ecosystem Resilience, Climate Mitigation and Health Security*'; a preparatory summit for COP 31 in Antalya. The event will take place on 7 and 8 October 2026: the first day will be held at Palazzo Rospigliosi, whilst the second will take place at the Circus Maximus, as part of the international event "*From Seeds to Food*" organised by the FAO. The event has been created to fill a gap in global governance and overcome the long-standing divide between climate policy and biodiversity conservation, promoting the latter as a 'resilience technology' that is essential for preventing the creation of fragile 'green deserts'. This initiative strengthens the long-standing collaboration between CUFAA and the FAO, a strategic alliance aimed at combining technical expertise and field-based capabilities to achieve the shared objectives of biodiversity conservation and the sustainable management of natural heritage. By elevating environmental protection to a cornerstone of public health and national security in line with the One Health approach, habitat protection and the fight against environmental crime come together to transform law enforcement agencies into an advanced public health defence mechanism. Against this backdrop, Italy presents itself as a centre of excellence thanks to the CUFAA model, which successfully combines the protection of the rule of law with environmental conservation. Through five sessions and a round-table discussion, the proceedings will range from urban afforestation – viewed as public health infrastructure – to the management of inland areas through sustainable agro-silvo-pastoral practices, which are key to food security and geopolitical stability.

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

DAY 1: OCTOBER 7, 2026 – PALAZZO ROSPIGLIOSI

THE GLOBAL SCENARIO AND EMERGENCIES

08:45	Participant Registration
09:30 – 10:15	Institutional Greetings / Opening Remarks
10:15 – 10:30	Coffee Break
10:30 – 12:30	**SESSION 1 - Scientific Analysis: Biodiversity as a Resilience Technology** **Title:** Environmental Security: Ecosystems as Critical Defense Infrastructures. **Focus:** Geopolitical analysis in the broader Mediterranean. How soil degradation and water scarcity trigger forced migrations and conflicts. Forests as a tool for regional stabilization. *Chair: **Pierluigi Sassi,** President of Earth Day Italia* • **Anna Barbati**, Professor at the Department for Innovation in Biological, Agro-food and Forest Systems (DIBAF), University of Tuscia, Viterbo; • **Sergio M. Vicente- Serrano**, Expert in current and future precipitation and water availability in the Mediterranean region; • **Maurizio Maugeri**, Professor at the Department of Environmental Science and Policy, University of Milan; • **Grazia Pacillo**, Senior Scientist and Climate Security Team Leader (*Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT*); • **Lamberto Iezzi,** Journalist and Writer, president of the Research and Innovation Centre "Prometeo in Venice"; • **Yunlong Yao,** Full professor of Northeast Forestry University, China. *Wetlands as Natural Defense Infrastructure: UAV-Based Monitoring of Plant Biodiversity and Functional Traits;* • **Alessandro Chiarucci**, Professor at the University of Bologna –" *The conservation of biodiversity";* • **Alex Hamelin**, Deputy Commanding Officer dell'Engineer Support Unit, NATO Task Force - Latvia.
12:30 – 13:30	**ROUNDTABLE**

	Title: Food Security and Biodiversity: Food as an Instrument of Peace and Territorial Defense **Focus:** Environmental and agri-food security acts as insurance against climate change and plant diseases. Human presence is the true "hydrogeological custodian": agricultural activity prevents landslides and desertification. Through the Geopolitics of Food, food security is a fundamental element to avoid or quell regional resource conflicts. Agri-food biodiversity, as the irreplaceable wealth of a people, represents its cultural "Soft Power". The Italian case and Italian Cuisine as UNESCO heritage synthesize sustainability and culture. *Chair: **Stefano Masini**, Professor of Agricultural and Food Law, Faculty of Medicine, University of Rome Tor Vergata* *Theme: Diets, food culture, and agri-food protection as a strategic asset.* • **Vincenzo Buonuomo** Full Professor of International Law and Rector Magnificus of the Pontifical Urbaniana University; • **Fabrizio Fracchia** Full Professor of Administrative Law at Bocconi University in Milan; • **Alberto Mattiacci** Full Professor of Marketing & Business Management at Sapienza University of Rome; • **Amedeo De Franceschi** Colonel of the Carabinieri Command for Agri-Food Protection; • **Felice Assenza,** Head of the Central Inspectorate Department for Quality Protection and Fraud Repression of Agri-Food Products at the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forestry (MASAF)
13:30 – 14:30	Light Lunch
14:30 – 16:15	**SESSION 2 - New Frontiers of Security: One Health** **Title:** One Health and Prevention: Biodiversity as a Health Shield. **Focus:** From theory to police practice. How wildlife monitoring and countering illicit trafficking prevent spillover. Economic analysis: the cost of conservation vs. the cost of a pandemic. *Chair: **Giovanni Leonardi**, Head of the Department for Human Health, Animal Health and the Ecosystem (One Health) and International Relations, Ministry of Health* • **Carlos Goncalo Das Neves,** Co-chair of OHHLEP and Chief Scientist at EFSA (European Food Safety Authority); • **Julian Blanc**, Focal Point One Health, UNEP; member of OHHLEP; • **Giovanni Filippini**, Director General of Animal Health at the Ministry of Health;

	• **Anna Teresa Palamara**, Director of Infectious Diseases at the Italian National Institute of Health (ISS); • **Prishani Vengetas**, WWF International's Global Lead for One Health; • **Simona Seravesi**, Technical Officer (*One Health*) at the World Health Organization, Regional Office for Europe; • **Maria Gabriella Coppola,** FADOI contact person for *One Health*
16:15 – 18:15	**SESSION 3 – The nature in the city: Adaptation and Social and Civil Justice** **Title:** Resilient Cities: The forest in the cities for Climate Adaptation. **Focus:** Cities as the frontline of the climate battle. Analysis of global projects to reduce heat islands. The nature in the cities as a preventive health policy for vulnerable populations. *Chair: **Carlo Blasi**, Professor Emeritus of Plant Ecology, Sapienza University of Rome and Scientific Director of the Interuniversity Research Center "Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Sustainability" (CIRBISES)* • **Lei Wang**, Professor at the Department of Landscape Architecture, Northeast Forestry University, China. *From Pixels to Equitable Landscapes: Integrating Remote Sensing and Digital Planning for Climate-Resilient Urban Forests;* • **Giuseppe Pignatti**, expertin tree species and climate adptation at CREA; *The urban forest as a resilient system: from plant to landscape;* • **Ricardo Jorge Quinto Canas**, Professor and researcher at the Algarve University (Portugal), specializing in ecology, nature conservation, and urban green space management **– "***What Nature for Climate-Resilient Cities? Integrating Potential Natural Vegetation and Urban Biodiversity";* • **Giulia Capotorti**, Associate Professor in Environmental and Applied Botany Department of Environmental Biology Sapienza University of Rome – "Nature conservation and restoration in urban systems. Current challenges and solutions for resilient cities in Italy; • **Piermaria Corona – Matteo Clemente**, Department for Innovation in Biological, Agrifood and Forest systems, University of Tuscia- "Street Trees and Urban Climate Resilience: The Rome Experience"; • **Alessio Nardini**, Director General of the Directorate General for Healthy Lifestyles and Ecosystem Relations; • **Michele Munafò**, Director of the Higher Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA)

DAY 2: OCTOBER 8, 2026 - CIRCO MASSIMO

OPERATIONAL SOLUTIONS

09:15	Opening of Proceedings *Introduction by **Maurizio Martina**, Deputy Director-General, FAO*
09:30 – 11:30	**SESSION 4 - Environmental Diplomacy and Legality: Countering National and Transnational Environmental Crimes.** **Focus:** Laws exist, but enforcement is lacking. Operational comparison between international judiciaries and police forces on letters rogatory, satellite traceability, and financial intelligence applied to green crimes. *Chair: Gen. Giuseppe Vadalà, Commissioner for the remediation of landfills and contaminated sites* • **Giorgio Centurelli**, Head of the Technical Secretariat of the Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security (MASE); • **Pasquale Starace**, Commander Operation Units of the Carabinieri for Environmental Protection and Energy Security in Rome; • **Cristina Avanzo,** Commander of the Carabinieri Forestry School – Centre of Excellence for Environmental Protection; • **Renato Nitti**, Chief Prosecutor of Trani; • **Giuseppe Bortone**, Director of the Environment and Health Department at the Italian National Institute of Health (ISS) and former Director General of Arpae Emilia-Romagna; • **Nino Tarantino**, IMPEL member for the Single Commissioner for Reclamations Office; • **Veronica Manfredi**, Director for Zero Pollution, Water Resilience, and Green Urban Transition; • **Antonio Giordano**, Professor at *Temple University*, Philadelphia, and Director of the Sbarro Health Research Organization (SHRO) for Cancer Research; • **FAO Representative**
11:30 – 13:00	**SESSION 5 - Comparing Models: Between Conservation and Management** **Title:** Global Guardians: International Models of Sustainable Management. **Theme:** Living Forests, Living Economies: Innovation in Silviculture and Forest Supply Chains

	Focus: The Roundtable explores the role of silviculture and the restoration of forest habitats as strategic levers to address challenges on the path to COP31. Discussions will cover the potential of sustainable forest management in combining biodiversity conservation, ecosystem resilience, and local economic development through the activation of innovative supply chains. The presentation of concrete experiences will highlight how tradition and innovation can be integrated, generating dynamic territorial economies and contributing to the ecological transition. The goal is to offer a concrete and replicable vision of innovative forest models capable of creating environmental, social, and economic value, strengthening the role of forests in global climate strategies. *Chairs:* ***Susanna Nocentini****, President of the Italian Academy of Forest Sciences and Professor Emeritus at the University of Florence -* ***Gianluca Piovesan****, Professor at the Department of Ecological and Biological Sciences, University of Tuscia* • **William Keeton,** Professor of Forest Ecology and Silviculture at the University of Vermont (Burlington, Vermont, United States); • **Davide Travaglini**, Full Professor of Forest Management and Planning at the University of Florence; • **Joris Van Acker** Full Professor at the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering – Department of Environment, *Ghent University (Belgium);* • **Marco Fioravanti,** Professor at the Department of Agricultural, Food, Environmental and Forestry Sciences and Technologies (DAGRI) of the University of Florence; • **Ramona Arechiga,** Project Manager EU- Horizon Forbest project • **Thais Linhares Juvenal**, FAO Senior Forestry Officer
13:00 – 13:30	Closing Remarks and Roadmap Adoption (**Gen. Fabrizio Parrulli - CUFAA Commander)**
13.30 – 14.30	Light Lunch