Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Climate Action, Environment,
Energy, Mobility,
Innovation and Technology

ALPINE CONVENTION

Small-Scale Territorial Brands in the Alps

Input from the Alpine Climate Board on implementation pathways of the Alpine Climate Target System 2050

Online Workshop, 10 June 2021

Alpine Climate Board

Established in 2016; Members of all Alpine states + representatives of NGOs

Challenging circumstances: *"Since the late 19th century temperatures have risen by almost 2 ℃, a rate about twice as large as the northern hemisphere average. The impacts of climate change are affecting the living conditions of the 14 million inhabitants, 30,000 animal species and 13,000 plant species in the Alps. They vary across the Alps, but they do not stop at administrative borders."* (ACB 2019)

The ACB approach

- Overall objectives: Alpine Climate Target System 2050 (ACTS)
- Task: Operationalization of the Alpine Climate Target System 2050
- Outcome on the political level: Climate Action Plan 2.0
- Creating an environment for implementation action: Matchmaking, Homepage for gathering information and enabling exchange

The Alpine Climate Board

ACB 2019: Alpine Climate Target System 2050
(https://www.alpconv.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Publications/Climate2050_EN.pdf)

Operationalization of the Alpine Climate Target System 2050

The Alpine Climate Target System 2050 has been adopted by the Alpine Conference in April 2019.

ACB mandate 2019/20:

- Finding a methodology to take the step from targets to action

- Defining implementation pathways for the ten sectors of the ACTS 2050

- Prioritisation of implementation pathways for the Climate Action Plan 2.0

- Making use of participatory processes at all stages

- Creating an „implementation-friendly" environment
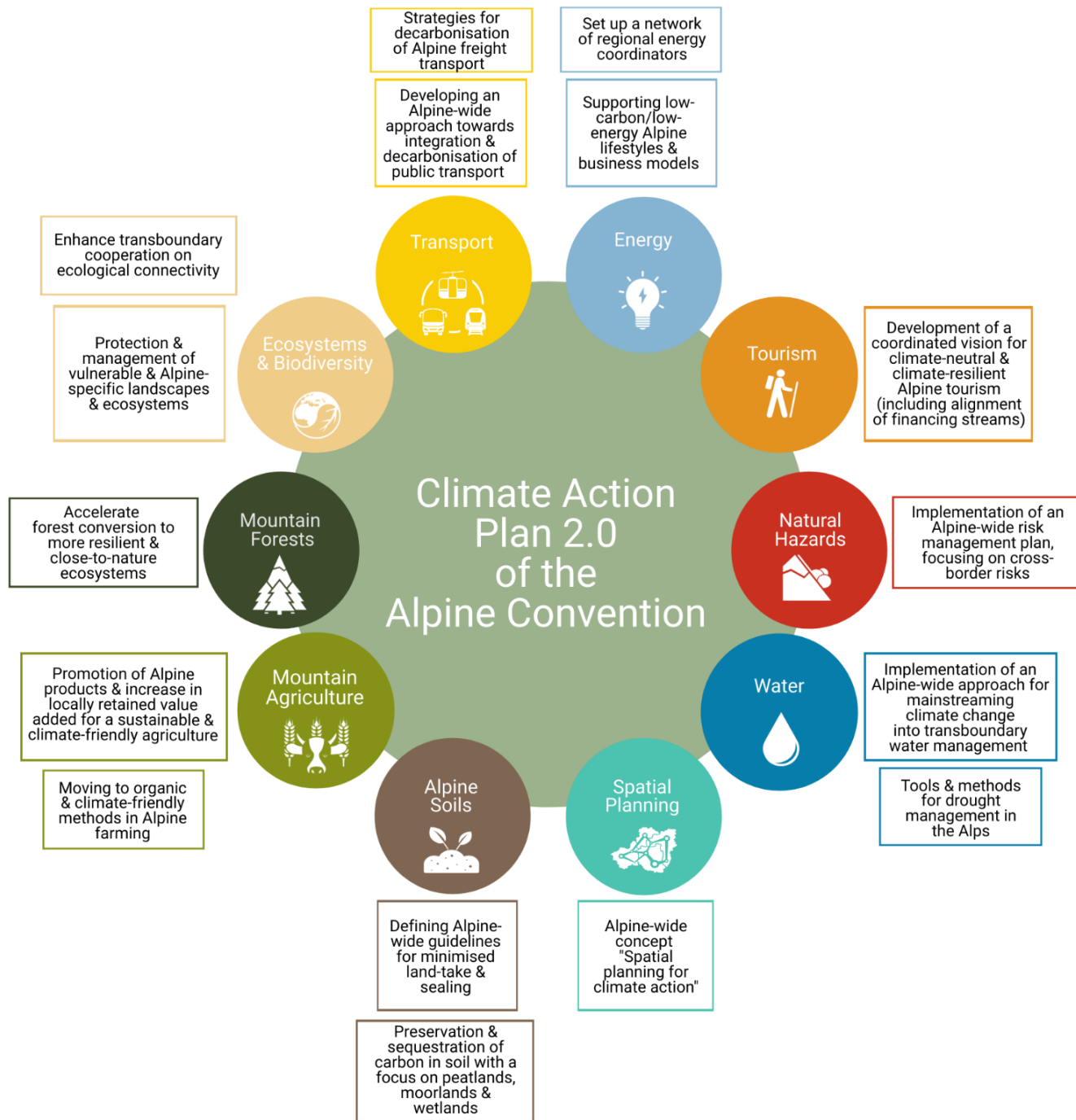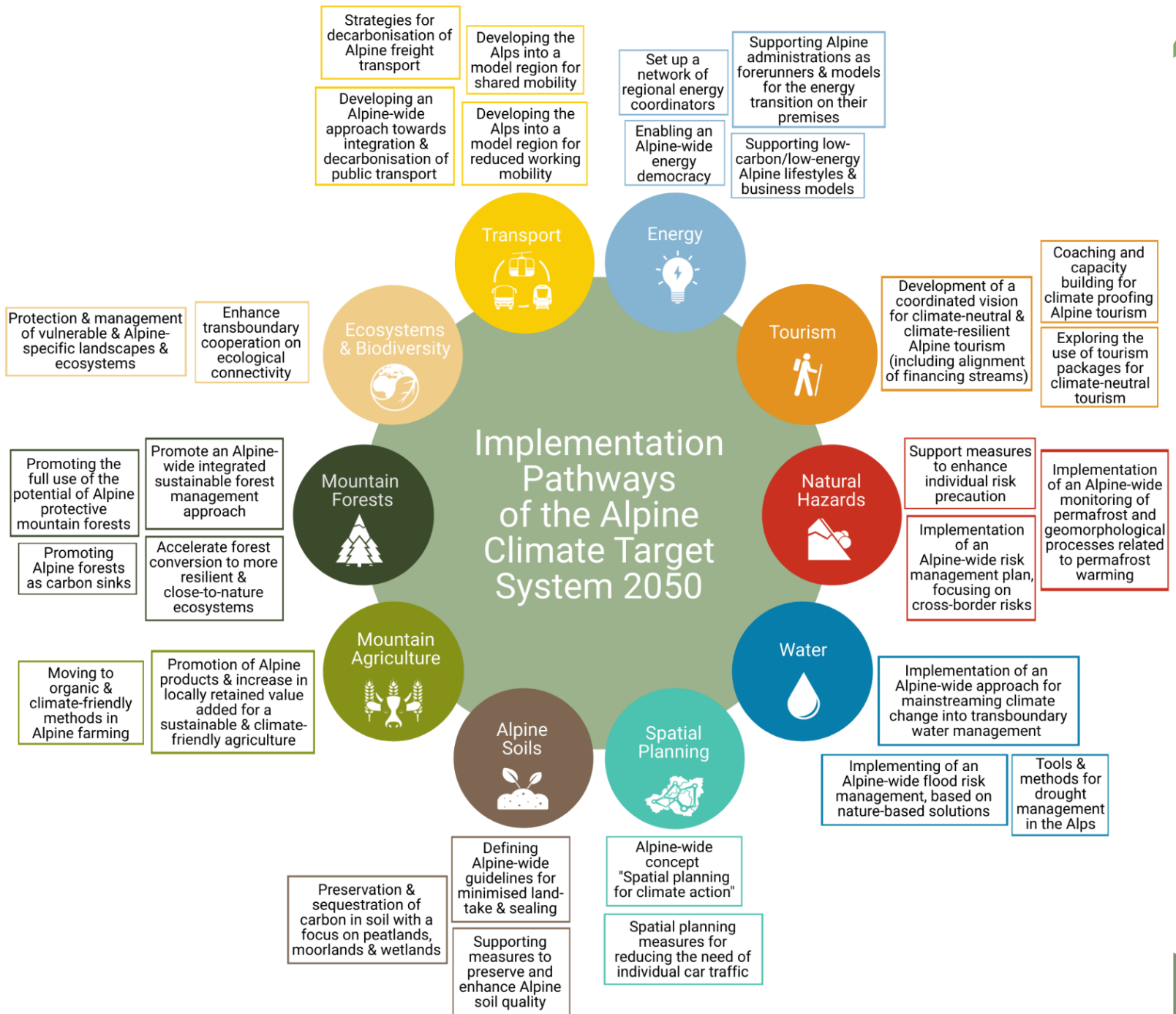
Alpine Climate Target System 2050

Climate Action Plan 2.0

The Climate Action Plan 2.0 has been adopted by the Alpine Conference in December 2020.

- Time horizon of 5-10 years

- Political messages on the ten sectors and the 16 prioritised implementation pathways

- Integration of "Green Recovery"

- Full package of implementation pathways annexed

Climate Action Plan 2.0

Climate Action Plan 2.0 of the Alpine Convention

Transport
- Strategies for decarbonisation of Alpine freight transport
- Developing an Alpine-wide approach towards integration & decarbonisation of public transport

Energy
- Set up a network of regional energy coordinators
- Supporting low-carbon/low-energy Alpine lifestyles & business models

Tourism
- Development of a coordinated vision for climate-neutral & climate-resilient Alpine tourism (including alignment of financing streams)

Natural Hazards
- Implementation of an Alpine-wide risk management plan, focusing on cross-border risks

Water
- Implementation of an Alpine-wide approach for mainstreaming climate change into transboundary water management
- Tools & methods for drought management in the Alps

Spatial Planning
- Alpine-wide concept "Spatial planning for climate action"

Alpine Soils
- Defining Alpine-wide guidelines for minimised land-take & sealing
- Preservation & sequestration of carbon in soil with a focus on peatlands, moorlands & wetlands

Mountain Agriculture
- Promotion of Alpine products & increase in locally retained value added for a sustainable & climate-friendly agriculture
- Moving to organic & climate-friendly methods in Alpine farming

Mountain Forests
- Accelerate forest conversion to more resilient & close-to-nature ecosystems

Ecosystems & Biodiversity
- Enhance transboundary cooperation on ecological connectivity
- Protection & management of vulnerable & Alpine-specific landscapes & ecosystems

Implementation Pathways of the Alpine Climate Target System 2050

Transport
- Strategies for decarbonisation of Alpine freight transport
- Developing the Alps into a model region for shared mobility
- Developing an Alpine-wide approach towards integration & decarbonisation of public transport
- Developing the Alps into a model region for reduced working mobility

Energy
- Set up a network of regional energy coordinators
- Supporting Alpine administrations as forerunners & models for the energy transition on their premises
- Enabling an Alpine-wide energy democracy
- Supporting low-carbon/low-energy Alpine lifestyles & business models

Tourism
- Development of a coordinated vision for climate-neutral & climate-resilient Alpine tourism (including alignment of financing streams)
- Coaching and capacity building for climate proofing Alpine tourism
- Exploring the use of tourism packages for climate-neutral tourism

Natural Hazards
- Support measures to enhance individual risk precaution
- Implementation of an Alpine-wide monitoring of permafrost and geomorphological processes related to permafrost warming
- Implementation of an Alpine-wide risk management plan, focusing on cross-border risks

Water
- Implementation of an Alpine-wide approach for mainstreaming climate change into transboundary water management
- Implementing of an Alpine-wide flood risk management, based on nature-based solutions
- Tools & methods for drought management in the Alps

Spatial Planning
- Alpine-wide concept "Spatial planning for climate action"
- Spatial planning measures for reducing the need of individual car traffic

Alpine Soils
- Defining Alpine-wide guidelines for minimised land-take & sealing
- Preservation & sequestration of carbon in soil with a focus on peatlands, moorlands & wetlands
- Supporting measures to preserve and enhance Alpine soil quality

Mountain Agriculture
- Promotion of Alpine products & increase in locally retained value added for a sustainable & climate-friendly agriculture
- Moving to organic & climate-friendly methods in Alpine farming

Mountain Forests
- Promote an Alpine-wide integrated sustainable forest management approach
- Promoting the full use of the potential of Alpine protective mountain forests
- Accelerate forest conversion to more resilient & close-to-nature ecosystems
- Promoting Alpine forests as carbon sinks

Ecosystems & Biodiversity
- Protection & management of vulnerable & Alpine-specific landscapes & ecosystems
- Enhance transboundary cooperation on ecological connectivity

- www.alpineclimate2050.org

- Share main outcomes of the ACB

- Alpine Climate Target System 2050 (ACTS)

- Climate Action Plan 2.0

- Detailed information on implementation pathways

- Create a community for implementation

- Ensure constant support for the community for implementation

- Update on e.g. events, news

- Organisation of regular meetings and exchange formats: Webinar I on "Financial options for implementation of climate activities" (January 2021) and Webinar II on "Youth involvement in the implementation of climate activities" (May 2021)

Challenges for Mountain Agriculture

Mountain agriculture plays a central role in **ensuring Alpine traditional landscape, regional breeds and species and preserving local culture, heritage and traditional techniques**. However, mountain agriculture is also **highly environmentally sensitive** and therefore especially **vulnerable to climate change**. This characteristic and the market position of Alpine food products as high quality and "niche" products pave the way for additional climate-change efforts of mountain farmers. Besides reducing greenhouse-gas emission of mountain agriculture, these efforts may also help increase value-added and income in the agricultural sector in the Alps.

Challenges

Targets for Mountain Agriculture

- Energy self-sufficiency of Alpine farms

- Alpine value chains for agricultural products

- The Alps as model region for organic farming

- Resilient and climate-friendly mountain agriculture

Targets

Implementation pathways for MA

Pathway 1: Promotion of Alpine products and increase in locally retained value added for a sustainable and climate-friendly agriculture (prioritised)

- Step 1: Indicators for climate-friendly and sustainable Alpine farms (2021-2022)
- Step 2: Set up of an Alpine regional strategy for climate-friendly agricultural products (2021-2025)
- Step 3: Set up a "EU Day for the Alpine or mountain products" (EUDAMP) (2021-2025)

Implementation pathways

Implementation pathways for MA

Pathway 2: Moving to organic and climate-friendly methods in Alpine farming (prioritised)

- Step 1a: Stocktaking on organic agriculture in the Alps (2021-2022)

- Step 1b: Organic agriculture scenarios for Alpine regions (2021-2025)

- Step 2: Policies for achieving Alpine organic farming at 50% of total surface (or other indicator) (2022-2025)

- Step 3: Implementation of policy actions in different Alpine regions (2025-2030)

Caretakers

- Cassiano Luminati (Polo Poschiavo)

- Karin Augsburger (ARE CH)

Next steps for the ACB

- Implementation of the ACTS 2050 and the Climate Action Plan 2.0

  - supporting and accompanying the partnerships

  - further developing and putting into effect www.alpineclimate2050.org

  - effectively communicating activities and products of the ACB and the partnerships

  - supporting and promoting showcase actions and crosscutting activities

  - developing a monitoring approach and monitoring the implementation progress

- Update of a stocktaking report

- Continued exchange on new developments, emerging trends and subsequent proposals for adjustments to the implementation activities

- Continued cooperation with Contracting Parties, Observers, TWBs, relevant international organisations, other mountain regions and further partners

Next steps

Thank you for your attention!

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