Alpine Climate Target System 2050

6th Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Climate Change
9 October 2019, Budapest, Hungary

UN Environment – Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Climate-neutral and Climate-resilient Alps 2050

The **Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention** published on **9 May 2019** its new brochure: "Climate-neutral and Climate-resilient Alps 2050"

The publication consists of the **three central climate policy results of the XV Alpine Conference**:

- the **Declaration of Innsbruck**, calling upon all Contracting Parties to give the Alpine area priority within their respective climate strategies and action plans at all relevant levels

- the **Alpine Climate Target System 2050**, identifying specific targets in twelve sectors towards the overall objective of climate-neutral and climate-resilient Alps in 2050

- the **7th Report on the state of the Alps "Natural Hazard Risk Governance"**, providing an executive summary of the 7th Report on the State of the Alps. This report attempts to provide an answer to the question "What does modern natural hazard management look like?"
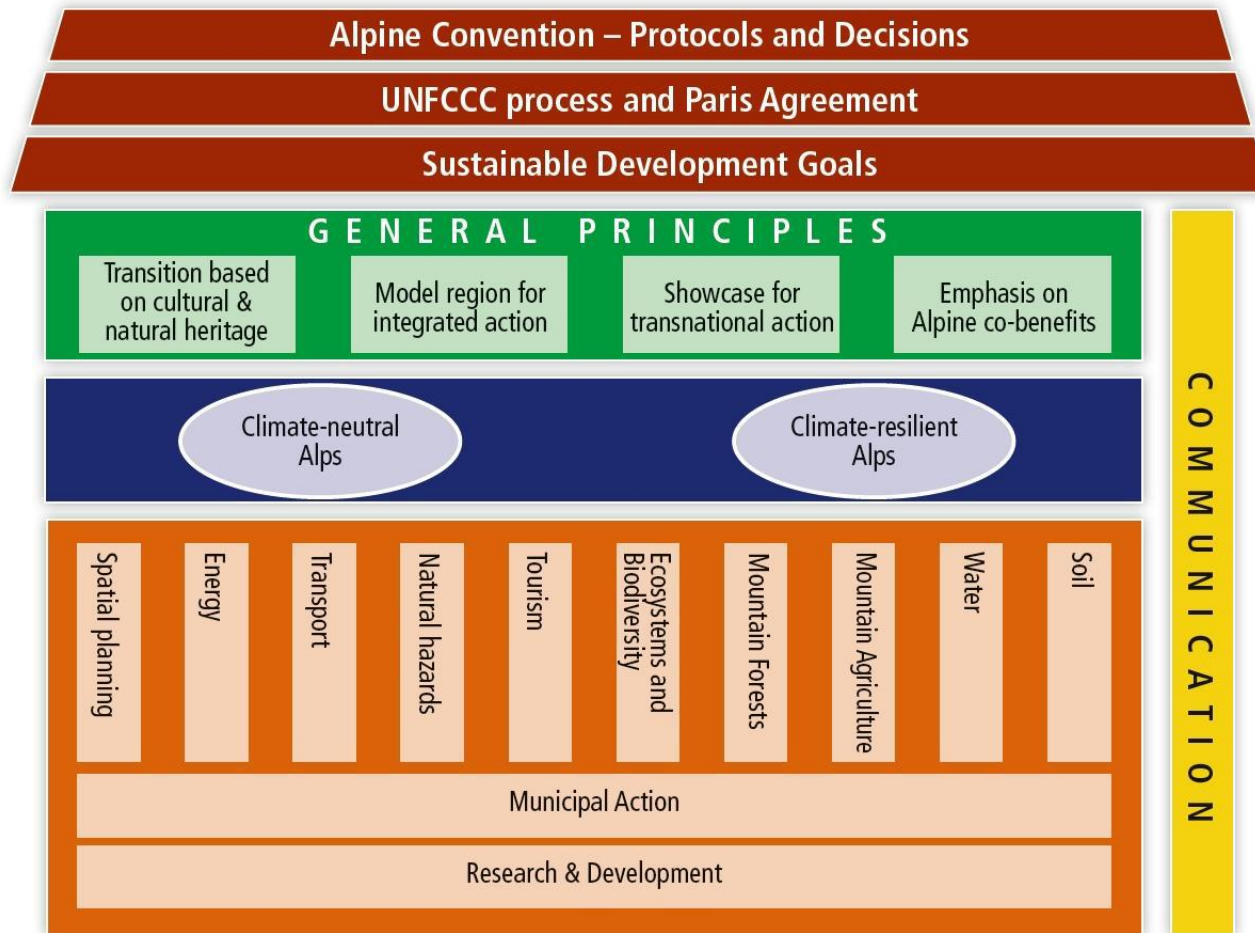
Declaration of Innsbruck 1/2

1. *reaffirms* the objective to **work towards climate-neutrality and climate-resilience of the Alps until 2050** in line with European and international provisions, including the need to update by 2020 the nationally determined contributions under the 2015 Paris Agreement;

2. *adopts* the **Alpine Climate Target System 2050** prepared by the Alpine Climate Board and *urges* all Contracting Parties, Observers and relevant partners and actors to implement it to the best of their abilities;

3. *intends to* further develop the Alpine area as a **model region for comprehensive and integrated climate change mitigation and adaptation activities**, in cooperation with regional and local authorities and in line with the Paris Agreement 2015 and the results of the UNFCCC COP 24 in Katowice 2018;

4. *calls upon* all Contracting Parties to give the Alpine area **priority within their respective climate strategies and action plans** at all relevant levels;
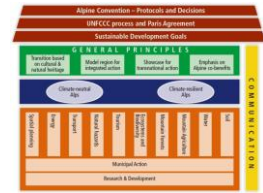
Declaration of Innsbruck 2/2

5. *intends to* intensify its efforts to **reinforce awareness on climate change** in order to motivate the relevant actors and the general public to take decisive action to contribute to achieving the objective of climate-neutral and climate-resilient Alps 2050;

6. *calls upon* the **Thematic Working Bodies** of the Alpine Convention **to contribute** to the implementation of the Alpine Climate Target System 2050 in line with their respective mandates;

7. *adopts* the **7th Report on the State of the Alps** on the topic of "Natural Hazard Risk Governance" and *calls upon* all Contracting Parties, Observers and relevant partners to implement the recommendations of the report to the best of their abilities;

8. *calls upon* the intensification of cooperation and involvement, in the context of **sustainable risk prevention**, of all concerned parties, stakeholders and the responsible national, regional and local authorities.

The Alpine Climate Target System 2050

Overall structure 1/2

Roof: The overall target system is embedded in and guided by:

- the existing legal framework of the Alpine Convention, with its Protocols and Decisions and their specific objectives and targets.
- the overall targets of the Paris Agreement as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
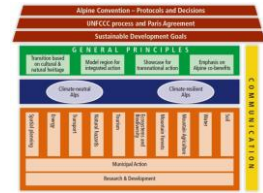
General principles:

- guide all activities of the Alpine Convention with respect to climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- innovative character and supported by "storylines" that can be understood and supported by all relevant stakeholders.

Overall strategic targets:

- define relevant policy aims/visions and frame the sectoral targets as well as all operational measures to be identified and implemented in later steps.

Overall structure 2/2

Sectoral targets:

- are defined to operationalize the overall strategic targets.

Communication targets: The target system is supported by a communication pillar of a more operational scope, with proposals for

- specific activities (based on the stock-taking report as well as discussions and workshops during the ACB meetings).

Communication targets can thus be seen as pilot actions for the Alpine Convention and can also serve as examples for the subsequent development of operational measures at sectoral level.

Four general principles

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

| Transition based on cultural & natural heritage | Model region for integrated action | Showcase for transnational action | Emphasis on Alpine co-benefits |

Transition based on cultural and natural heritage:

- build on the relationship b/w Alpine population and environment,
- consider the specific environmental characteristics,
- provide specific solutions for historic buildings, strengthen regional/local economic cycles etc.

Model region for integrated action:

- develop the Alps into a model region for integrated approaches which have both a mitigation and an adaptation focus and maximize co-benefits.

Showcase for transnational action:

- create a higher impact in the overall Alpine area and increase visibility for the transnational dimension of problems and solutions,
- involve public and private stakeholders to avoid that mitigation and/or adaptation measures get stuck in the "implementation pipeline".

Emphasis on co-benefits:

- support sectoral policies and cross cutting topics e.g. health, socio economic issues, nature conservation; improve acceptance.

Two overall strategic targets

Climate-neutral Alps:

- representing a wealthy & particularly vulnerable region
- implement measures regarding energy efficiency and renewable energy
- develop a climate-neutral economy, change lifestyles and consumption patterns.
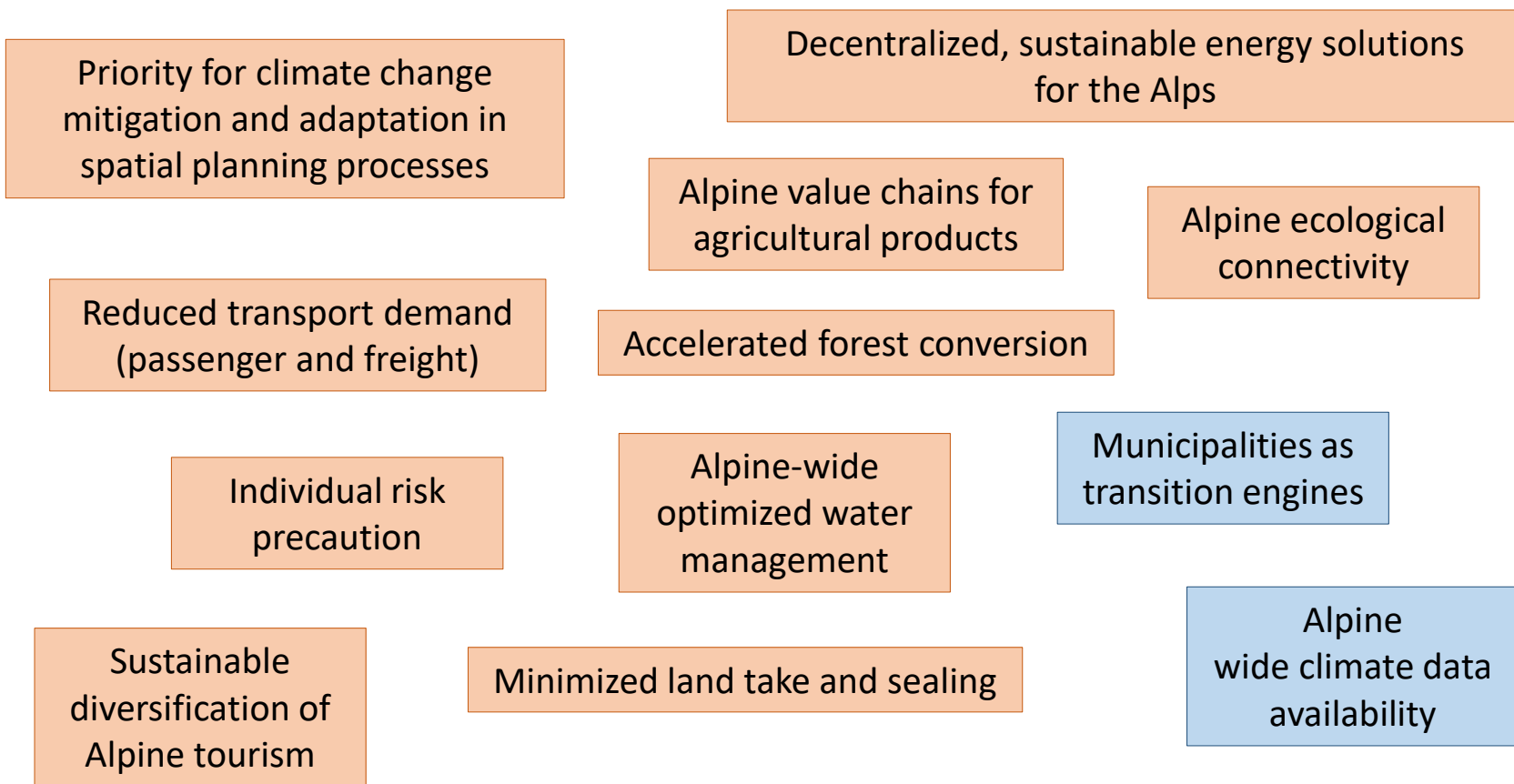
Climate-resilient Alps:

- Climate change vulnerabilities and impacts need to be included in long-term decision making
- minimize negative effects on ecosystems, communities and local/regional economy
- turn challenges into potential benefits;
- develop holistic approaches
- focus on soft and green adaptation measures.

Sectoral climate targets

Targets in **ten different sectors** of activity, complemented by **two transversal fields**:

Sectors	Transversal fields of action
Spatial planning	Municipal
Energy	Research and Development
Transport	
Natural Hazards	
Tourism	
Ecosystems and Biodiversity	
Mountain Forests	
Mountain Agriculture	
Water	
Soil	

Sectoral climate targets - examples

Priority for climate change mitigation and adaptation in spatial planning processes

Decentralized, sustainable energy solutions for the Alps

Alpine value chains for agricultural products

Alpine ecological connectivity

Reduced transport demand (passenger and freight)

Accelerated forest conversion

Individual risk precaution

Alpine-wide optimized water management

Municipalities as transition engines

Sustainable diversification of Alpine tourism

Minimized land take and sealing

Alpine wide climate data availability

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Sectoral climate targets – example detail

SECTORAL CLIMATE TARGETS		
	Target name	*Target description*
Natural Hazards Targets (_NH)		
T_NH1	**Alpine risk management**	An alpine-wide risk management plan (linked to disaster risk reduction planning processes), integrated with warning systems and ICT-based sectoral management systems, delivers up-to-date information on natural hazard risks to critical infrastructure and ensures the functionality of accessibility of the Alpine territory.

Communication pillar 1/2

Purpose is to empower **different levels of stakeholders** to take up action.

A comprehensive **climate communication strategy** of the Alpine Convention shall be developed including the following elements:

- **target group**: policy-makers at local, regional and national level, public administrations in charge of all relevant sectors, the scientific community, educators, communicators, the general public and further stakeholders – with a special focus on young people

- **communication methods/instruments:** communication instruments needed to inform each target group on the target system and its underlying knowledge as well as to methods for initiating a stronger stakeholder dialogue

- **innovative communication formats**: apply innovative formats, interactive methods for involvement and apply the story-telling technique in different presentation formats

Communication pillar 2/2

Proposal for operational communication and information activities	
Integrated information hub	• better access to climate services, building on existing hubs/information portals • maintained in a dynamic way to keep track of the state-of-the-art • include elements for active user involvement
"Transition dialogue"– Shaping climate-neutral and climate-resilient Alps 2050	• awareness raising and a societal dialogue • "What does the climate target system mean for life, lifestyles, consumption patterns and behavioural change in the Alps 2050 and what can citizens contribute?
Mainstreaming climate change aspects into schools and training	• strengthen the inclusion of climate change related information in school, higher education and continued education curricula, including "training the trainers".
Greening of Alpine Convention operations	• apply Green Event standards for the organisation of events of the Alpine Convention • reduce the CO_2-footprint of the Permanent Secretariat offices

Recommendations

Overall implementation:

- Prioritize Alpine wide coordinated action in national climate action
- Integrate cc mitigation and adaptation in all activities
- Initiate pilot actions
- Mobilize resources
- Foster exchanges with other mountain regions
- Develop a monitoring tool

Update of the Climate Action Plan:

- Review of measures
- Regular update of stock taking

Communication and Cooperation:

- Develop a communication strategy
- Explore new forms of cooperation

Workplan ABC 2019-2020:
  1/ Develop an updated Climate Action Plan
  2/ Facilitate the operationalization of the target system

Ongoing work for implementation

Meeting of the ABC on 12/13 May 2019 agreed to:

- Develop **implementation pathways** for the sectoral targets further detailing next steps for implementation
- Strike a balance between a "very specific implementation pathway" and a "more comprehensive picture on all elements", therefore aim to **further develop some areas of all sectors but "deep diving" into concrete pathways only in a few sectors**
- focus on "**flagship projects**"
- **Mainstream the target system into the working groups and other bodies under the AC**; make use of existing processes and aim to provide the methodology used for elaborating on the implementation pathways to other bodies and working groups of the Alpine Convention to support the work of the ACB
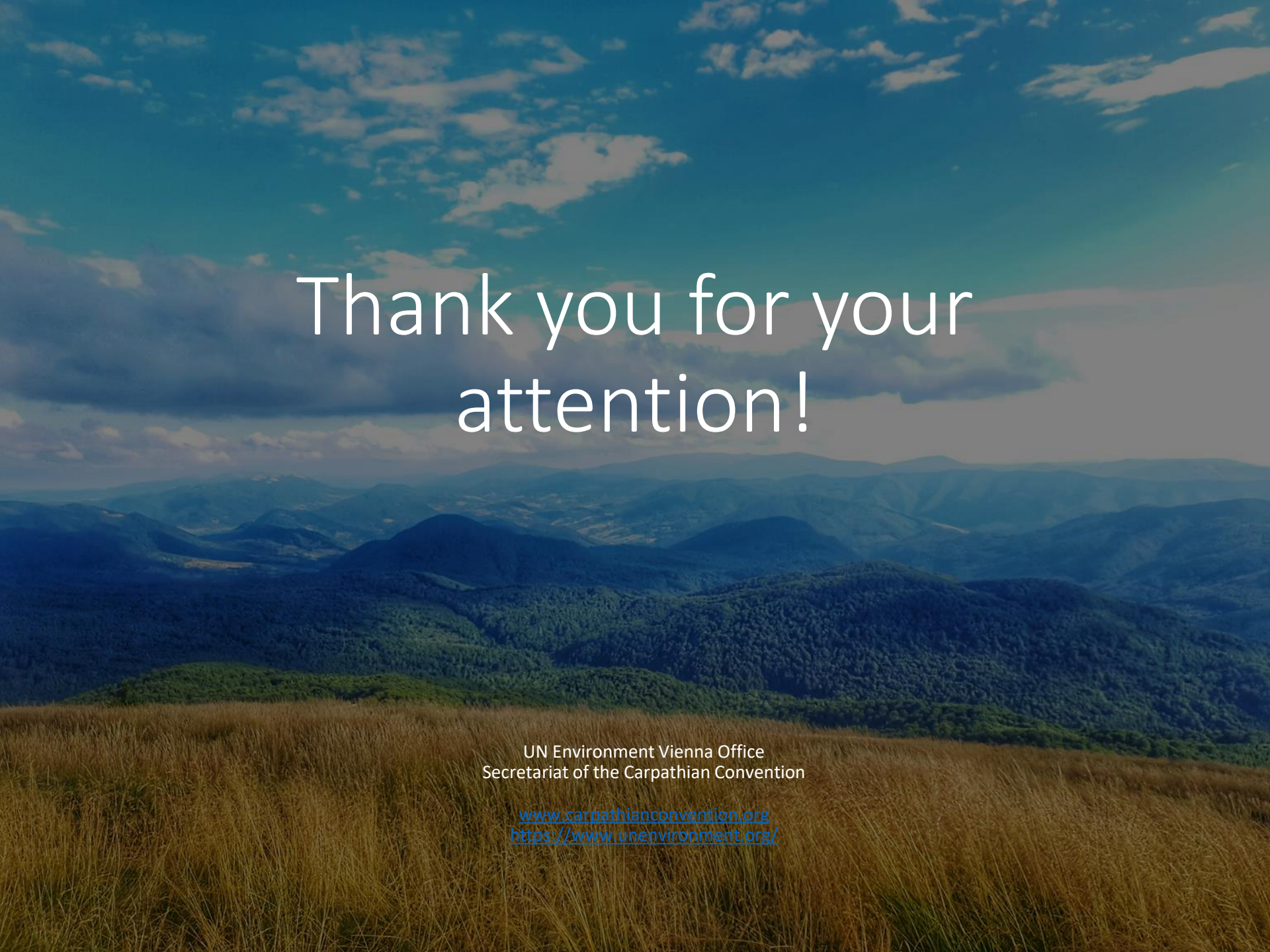
Meeting of the ABC on 16/17 September 2019:

- Template for **implementation pathway factsheet**
- **Test cases** for the implementation pathways of the Alpine Climate Target System 2050 - **Energy, Transport, Natural Hazards, cross-cutting pathways**

Relevance for Carpathian Convention

- The Alpine Climate Target System 2050 in its roof, principles and overall strategic targets covers a **general frame** that is **equally suited and relevant for the Carpathians**

- Recommendations for sectoral targets and transversal fields of action **address a broad range of mitigation and adaptation topics** that are likely to represent similar themes of concern for the Carpathians

- The **Alpine Climate Board (ABC)** is very active and in the position to provide the necessary resources to **further elaborate implementation pathways** for concrete action that could be interesting for the Carpathians

- Collaboration with other mountain areas is one of the recommendations for implementing the target system -> Parties to both the Alpine and the Carpathian Convention could **benefit from each other in exchanging views and approaches**

- **Mechanisms for collaboration and exchange** will be developed with the Communication strategy **-> exchange formats with e.g. the CC Working Group could be established**

Thank you for your attention!

UN Environment Vienna Office
Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

www.carpathianconvention.org
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