

**MANDATE OF THE
Alpine Climate Board (ACB)
FOR THE PERIOD 2025-2026
(BETWEEN THE XVIII AND XIX MEETINGS OF THE ALPINE
CONFERENCE)**

1. Introductory remarks

Importance of the issues selected and relevance of the proposed way to tackle them, including reference to the Alpine Convention and its Protocols and further strategic documents

The implementation of the Alpine Climate Target System 2050 and the Climate Action Plan 2.0 (CAP 2.0) will again be at the centre of the Alpine Climate Board's (ACB) activities in the 2025-2026 mandate period, building up on the results of its previous mandates. In addition to working in the sectoral logic, the ACB will continue to focus on cross-sectoral hot-spot topics: lifestyles, energy and nature based solutions.

The ACB has so far learned that implementation activities are well underway (the planned monitoring will provide a deeper understanding of the progress). Rather than initiating separate activities, it seems reasonable to support stakeholders and multipliers in their work. The ACB provides for different formats that support this community (e.g. workshops, webinars, training sessions, factsheets). This also includes continuing the work with the network of caretakers, which play a crucial role in building implementation communities and following/monitoring activities of various stakeholders in the specific sectors of the CAP 2.0.

With the aim of achieving climate-neutral and climate-resilient Alps by 2050, the ACB will continue to work on a balanced approach promoting both mitigation and adaptation.

2. Planned topics and activities

Topic No. 1: Cross-cutting topic "Lifestyles"

Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference (knowledge sharing, policy setting etc.)

Austria, as ACB chair, has submitted the project application "HumanFactor` - Closing the Implementation Gap in the Alps: Putting the Human Factor at the Center of Sustainability Transitions" to a "small-scale project call" of the Alpine Space Programme (date of submission: 27 June 2024). The proposal builds on the experiences from the lifestyles training sessions of the 2023/2024 mandate in applying psychological and sociological knowledge to support sustainable transformation. If the project is accepted (information will be updated in November 2024), its implementation will be the main activity on this topic No. 1. In case the application is not successful, it is foreseen to build on the experiences gained from the previous lifestyles training sessions and the intensive work on the proposal and continue these trainings.

Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop, etc.)

<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
a. Development of tools for multipliers	Starting in spring/early summer 2025
b. Regional training sessions aimed at local multipliers	Starting late autumn 2025
c. Alpine-wide workshop or webinar to share experiences	2026
Expected outputs (statement, report, brochure, exhibition etc.)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Skillbox/skillset and manual for training session design - Report on the training sessions - Report on the workshop/webinar 	
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference	
Continue supporting multipliers (providing updated information and reaching out to new persons) and establishing a community of practice.	

Topic No. 2: Cross-cutting topic "Energy"	
Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference	
The ACB will disseminate the examples, findings, and recommendations of the booklet on energy governance (finalised during the 2023/2024 mandate) and deepen the analysis of the frameworks and processes. The ACB will also continue to work specifically on the topic of the acceleration of renewable energy production, e.g. a follow-up of the Workshop on the NIMBY (not-in-my-backyard)-phenomenon). Core elements for this topic are the discussion and development of measures and processes for resolving land use conflicts.	
Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop, etc.)	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
a. Thematic Workshop/Webinar (1 or 2) on the energy nexus from the booklet on energy governance	2025
b. Follow-up activity on governance/stakeholder involvement/regulatory frameworks	2025/2026
c. Follow-up activity on the NIMBY-WS	2025/2026
Expected outputs (report, brochure, exhibition, etc.)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Follow-up output on governance/stakeholder involvement/regulatory frameworks 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summary on follow-up activities on the NIMBY-topic - Overview map for the examples/good practices (e.g. Alpine Convention Atlas; EUSALP Platform of Knowledge)
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference
Development of guidelines for dealing with the NIMBY-phenomenon.

Topic No. 3: Cross-cutting topic "Nature-based solutions (NbS)"	
Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference	
<p>The findings from the study on NbS governance in the Alps (project of 2023/2024 mandate) will form the basis for follow-up projects in the field of NbS. The aim is to work further towards the Alpine-wide implementation of NbS, identifying common areas of action for the entire Alpine region and assessing their role and effectiveness for climate and biodiversity protection and climate adaptation. A research project will develop concrete recommendations for the implementation of nature-based climate action measures in the Alpine region including the creation of mechanisms that transcend political and sectoral boundaries. The project is planned for the period 2025-2028 and will be financed by Germany, already with a view to the German Presidency of the Alpine Convention (2027-2028).</p> <p>Complementary, another project will be financed by Austria, starting in 2024 and running until 2025, involving also observer organisations of the ACB.</p> <p>Specifically for this topic No. 3, it is planned to use synergies, e.g. with the Alpine Biodiversity Board (ABB), working on a Biodiversity Action Plan; the Italian Presidency, with its adaptation focus (glaciers/permafrost/municipal action); UNEP, with experiences and lessons learnt on NbS in other mountain areas (e.g. Caucasus, Central Asia etc.); as well as EUSALP Action Groups working in Task Forces on Water Transition and on Multifunctional Forests and Sustainable Use of Timber.</p>	
Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
a. Follow-up project on NbS governance: Desk research and collection of good practices	2025
b. Follow-up project on NbS governance: Analysis	2025 & 2026
c. Follow-up project on NbS governance: Stakeholder webinar/workshop with findings and ideas for next implementation steps	2025 & 2026
d. Activities from project starting in 2024	Autumn and winter 2024 & 2025
Expected outputs (report, brochure, exhibition, etc.)	

- Follow-up project on NbS governance: Input paper and interim report (including factsheets of pilot projects and governance analyses); final report about NbS governance, implementation, and monitoring; overview map
- Output from second project starting in 2024

Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference

Continuation and update with recommendations for prioritised implementation steps. Implementation of long-term monitoring.

Topic No. 4: Status of climate action in the Alps

Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference

The ACB will continue working on the stocktaking of climate related activities (mitigation and adaptation) in the Alps. The next update will be presented by the end of 2025, with a focus on the link to the implementation steps of the Climate Action Plan 2.0.

The results of this monitoring exercise will support the ACB in communicating successes (already implemented steps), and especially in raising awareness for implementation gaps. Caretakers will play a stronger role for this topic.

Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)

Description

Tentative timeline

a. Desk research and collection of good practices

Early 2025

b. Alignment of CAP 2.0 and stocktaking

Summer/autumn 2025

c. Webinar/workshop with findings and ideas for next implementation steps

2026

Expected outputs (report, brochure, exhibition etc.)

- Report (combining stocktaking and monitoring)
- Recommendations/insights on potential adjustment needs for the implementation pathways (new priorities? new topics?)

Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference

Targeted update of the implementation pathways (depending on the results of the monitoring).

Topic No. 5: Alpine Climate facts

Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference	
<p>The ACB wants to contribute to a comprehensive up-to-date and in-depth knowledge of climate change and state of the climate system in the Alps and therefore plans to provide climate facts that shall be helpful for the Alpine Convention community and beyond.</p> <p>In order to find out what information is most requested (e.g. target group specific/for each sector of the CAP 2.0/focusing on a specific sphere), an intensive cooperation with the TWB Chairs, the Italian Presidency and the Permanent Secretariat is foreseen.</p> <p>The intention is to build the content of the factsheets on recent findings, e.g. of the Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development WG on climate scenarios.</p>	
Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
a. Enquiry about information requirements within the Alpine Convention community	TWB Chairs meeting in March 2025
b. Elaboration of factsheets	2025
c. Workshop/webinar to present the results	Summer 2026
Expected outputs (report, brochure, exhibition etc.)	
- Factsheets on climate change in the Alps	
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference	
Regular update to the state of the climate in the Alps.	

3. TWB meetings schedule

Tentative dates and settings of meetings (month or quarter, online/in presence)
At least 2 meetings of the ACB per year, of which at least 1 meeting per year in person. In addition, at least 1 caretakers' meeting per year.

4. Cooperation

Planned cooperation with other Alpine Convention bodies and further relevant partners and processes, and the expected benefits
Maintain, develop and deepen cooperation for the implementation of the CAP 2.0 with the Italian Presidency of the Alpine Convention (e.g. contribution to RSA 11), all TWBs, e.g. ABB (Biodiversity Action Plan), Mountain Agriculture and Mountain Forestry WG (work on water scarcity and link to natural hazards), Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development WG (already very close cooperation for implementation of the CAP 2.0 pathways), relevant EUSALP Action Groups (AG6, AG7, AG8, AG9), and EUSALP Task Forces on "Multifunctional Forests and the Sustainable Use of

Timber” and “Water Transition” as well as international networks (e.g. the Carpathian Convention).

The ACB is open to exchange, brainstorm and use synergies with other active stakeholders. In particular, it is planned to organise an expert workshop with the X-RISK-CC cooperation project as part of a physical ACB meeting in 2025, to work together on transnational policy recommendations for climate risk management of extreme weather events. X-RISK-CC is a project of the Alpine Space Programme that supports the CAP 2.0 implementation pathways for the target areas "natural hazards" and "spatial planning".

The issue of climate change in mountain areas has gained increased attention on the global level such as the UNFCCC process, e.g. in the Nairobi Work Programme and an Expert Dialogue, as well as the International Year of Glaciers` Preservation 2025. The ACB can offer to share experiences from the Alps as appropriate with other mountain regions.

The ACB remains open to new cooperation opportunities.

5. Communication

Communication objectives, targets and respective planned measures

The main aim of the ACB's communication activities is to reach new audiences and target groups (e.g. business stakeholders, professional organisations, social institutions). Therefore, the ACB will provide its community (ACB members, caretakers and people who have already participated in one or more events of the ACB) with information/specific formats to support their outreach, e.g. Alpine climate facts (see topic No. 5), presentations and graphics.

The ACB will continue to work with successful outreach formats such as trainings (e.g. continuation of the lifestyles trainings) and webinars (external and internal) as well as new formats, such as maps.

Results from the previous mandate, namely the booklet on energy and the study on NbS in the Alps, will be communicated and shared with the interested community.

The www.alpineclimate2050.org website will be further developed and updated on a regular basis (study results, regular news articles, publication of webinar results etc.). Also, continued support of awareness raising activities on mountain issues through UNFCCC COP side-events and at other events is foreseen.

6. Link to the Multi-Annual Work Programme 2023-2030 of the Alpine Conference

Contribution of the activities to some or all of the priority areas of the MAP 2023-2030 (interlinkages, synergies, and trade-offs with the specific objectives below)

MAP Priority area 1 – Biodiversity and ecosystems: *Contribute to the achievement of the European and international objectives to protect, preserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystems in the Alps; Strengthen the Alpine Convention's own biodiversity and ecosystem-related activities and integrate the topic into the work of all its bodies*

The activities under topic No. 3, aiming at strengthening the environmental policy cooperation between the stakeholders and the ACB on issues of nature-based climate action/nature-based solutions, will contribute to the objectives in this MAP priority area. The activities under topic

No. 2 will also support synergies / limit trade-offs between biodiversity conservation and climate mitigation in the field of energy. Activities under topics No. 4 and 5 will contribute to the realisation of the implementation pathways in the sector of ecosystems and biodiversity.

MAP Priority area 2 – Climate action: *Implement the Climate Action Plan 2.0 on the way to reach climate-neutral and climate-resilient Alps by 2050; Pursue cross-sectoral activities and look for cooperation beyond the environmental and climate sector*

The Climate action priority of the MAP is at the core of the ACB mandate, which addresses both specific objectives.

MAP Priority area 3 – Quality of life: *Further the Alpine Convention's knowledge on the quality of life of people in the Alps, acknowledging and respecting territorial and individual differences; Promote the inclusion of quality-of-life measures in public policy-making processes at all territorial levels*

The activities under topic No. 1 focus on people's behaviours and perspective to enhance the acceptance of climate action and its synergies with the quality of life.

7. Chair

The Chair will be held by Austria.