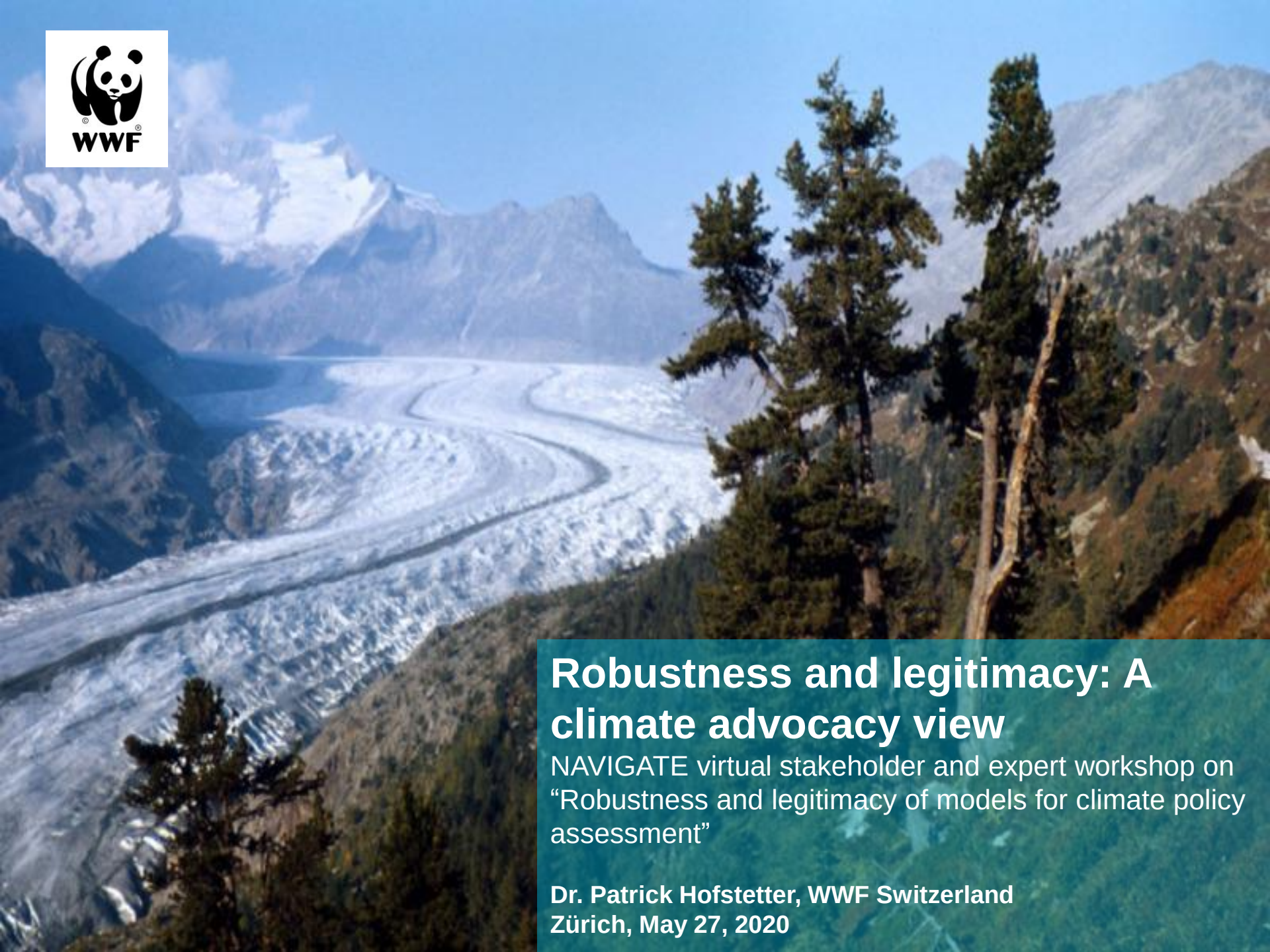

Robustness and legitimacy: A climate advocacy view

NAVIGATE virtual stakeholder and expert workshop on "Robustness and legitimacy of models for climate policy assessment"

Dr. Patrick Hofstetter, WWF Switzerland
Zürich, May 27, 2020

Science in the COVID aftermaths

Do we know enough?

The case of Alpine Alps

Would it make sense – from a climate point of view – to abandon the tradition of herding cows up in the Swiss Alps during the summer period and avoiding reforestation on meadows below the tree line?

What about soil carbon, forest carbon and change in albedo?

Causal links to meaningful endpoints

Making decision makers more aware of their direct responsibilities

If a new legislation mitigates 10 mio. tons CO_2

- how many premature deaths would this avoid in total (infinite time horizon)
- how many malaria cases might this avoid?
- how many climate refugees would this avoid?

How many flights would I, my family, my friends need to avoid to save one premature death?

Let’s play with different sets of policy instruments

Model policy instruments rather than measures

Observation:

IAM focus not enough on

- relevant policy level (mostly national)

- and do not allow policy makers to play with different combinations of instruments and its parameters

Questions based on Swiss experience on models supporting climate policy

- **Existing models focus mostly on economic/market-based instruments => bans, standards, non-monetary incentives, sufficiency are not or poorly reflected. How are IAM a solution to this bias?**
- **Are there barrier- and loophole-based models?**
- **In reality, disruptions and shocks occur every 10-20 years. Should those be part of the models as well if the models are used to produce scenarios until 2060?**
- **For policy makers, distributional effects end not at the level of household income or employment. Who profits from an instrument and who carries the burden?**

Recommendations

1. Be careful with credibility of science
2. Avoid black boxes, be transparent about model and parameter assumptions
3. Have decision makers in mind when selecting endpoints and scenario alternatives (fit for purpose)
4. Allow for creativity when sets of policy instruments and its features can be freely selected and modelled
5. Allow for policy instruments that enable a fast transition


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