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Getting indicators established, a UK experience

The UK has over ten years of experience in establishing sustainable development indicators. In 2005 a third generation of indicators was released, building on lessons learned from earlier sets of indicators. The UK experience includes stakeholder consultation, cross-Government dialogue and cooperation, data development and management, pragmatism and above all effective communication. The UK's sustainable development indicators have been predominantly policy-driven in that there is not an explicit theoretical underpinning framework. Instead the choice of and need for indicators has been determined by the frameworks inherent within policy thinking, including indicators supporting climate change policy.