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The UK Sustainable Development Indicator System

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Headlines

Evening Standard

**Crime up, roads
worse but life is
better says Labour**

Headlines



Headlines

Eveni

THE TIMES

The Express

**Quality of life is better?
But what about all the
thugs and the jams**

Headlines



Why do we think we need indicators?

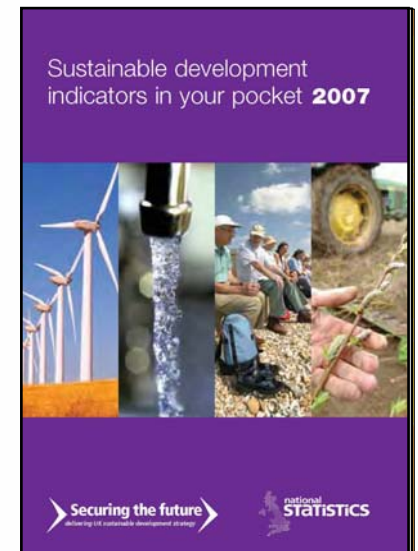
- Summarise and simplify?
- Help focus on specific issues?
- Report on progress?
- Inform decision making?
- Drive policy development?
- Raise awareness / wider engagement?
- To hold accountable?

Challenges

- Expectations of indicators
- Different audiences
- Integration in policy making
- Integration between indicators
- Plethora of indicators and targets
- Assessment approach

Policy frameworks & indicators

- 1994 - *The UK Strategy*
- 1996 - *Indicators of SD (120)*
- 1999 - *A better quality of life*
- 1999 - *Quality of life counts (147)*
- 2005 - *Securing the future*
- 2005 - *Framework / Strategy indicators (68)*



Communication - leaflets

Quality of Life Barometer

Annual Report 2003

Sustainable development is about ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come.



The 15 Headline indicators of sustainable development – a quality of life barometer – provide an overview of progress in meeting the objectives of the UK Sustainable Development Strategy - *A better quality of life* (May 1999).

Headline indicators – assessment of progress	since 1990	since Strategy
Economic output	✓	✓
Investment	✓	✓
Employment	✓	✓
Poverty & social exclusion	⚠	⚠
Education	✓	✓
Health	✓	✓
Housing - conditions	⚠	⚠
Crime - robbery	⚠	⚠
- vehicle & burglary	⚠	⚠
Climate change	✓	✓
Air quality	⚠	⚠
Road traffic - total traffic volumes	⚠	⚠
- traffic per GDP	⚠	⚠
River water quality	✓	✓
Wildlife - farmland birds	⚠	⚠
- woodland birds	⚠	⚠
Land use	⚠	⚠
Waste - household waste	⚠	⚠
- all arisings & management	⚠	⚠

Key:
 Significant change, in direction of meeting objective: ✓
 No significant change: ⚠
 Significant change, in direction away from meeting objective: ✗
 Insufficient or no comparable data: ⚠

Where a trend is unacceptable, the government will adjust its policies, and look to others to join it in taking action. A full assessment of progress can be found in the fourth Government Annual Report on Sustainable Development 2003: *Achieving a better quality of life*. Data and further details on the Headline and a wider core set of indicators are available on the website below.

www.sustainable-development.gov.uk

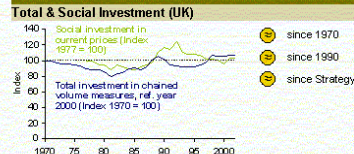
For additional copies of this leaflet, please call 020 7082 8621

H1 ECONOMIC OUTPUT



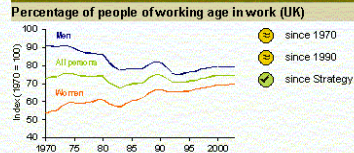
- 27% increase in real GDP per head between 1990 and 2002 2.0% per year on average.
- Real GDP per head increased by 1.4% in 2002, and has increased by 9% since 1998.

H2 INVESTMENT



- Total real investment relative to GDP rose from 16.3% in 1990 to 17.2% in 1998, and was 17.2% in 2002.
- Social investment (railways, hospitals, schools etc.) was around 2% of GDP in 1990 and 1.7% in 2002 (only available on a current price basis).

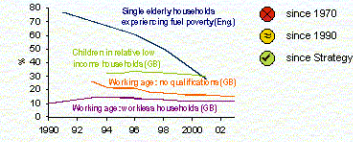
H3 EMPLOYMENT



- The percentage of working age people in work was 74.7% in 2003 – the same as in 1990.
- The percentage for 2003 was 0.3 percentage points up on 2002 and was an increase on the 1999 figure of 73.9%.

H4 POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION

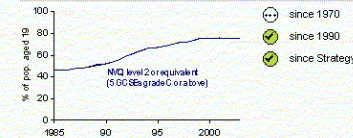
Selected indicators of poverty & social exclusion



- 11.5% of working age people were in work-less households in 2003, reduced from 12.8% in 1998; 14.8% were without qualifications, down from 16.7 in 1999.
- 30% of children were in relatively low-income households (after housing costs) in 2001-2, reduced from 34% in 1996-7.
- 28% of single elderly households experienced fuel poverty in 2001, reduced from 77% in 1991 and 61% in 1996.

H5 EDUCATION

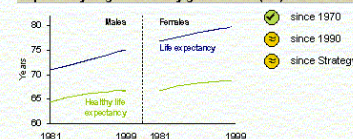
Level 2 qualifications at age 19 (UK)



- In 2003, 76.1% of 19 year-olds achieved NVQ level 2 or equivalent (5 GCSEs grade C), up from 52% in 1990, and 74.5% in 1999. The 2003 figure was the same as that for 2001 (the previous highest level).

H6 HEALTH

Expectancy of good or fairly good health (GB)



- Between 1990 and 1999 healthy life expectancy increased only slightly, from 66.1 to 66.6 years for men and from 68.3 to 68.9 years for women.
- Overall life expectancy (75.1 years for men, 80.0 years for women) has increased more than healthy life expectancy, so an increasing proportion of those extra years are in poor health.

H7 HOUSING CONDITIONS

Households in non-decent housing (England)



- Between 1996 and 2001, non-decent housing fell from 52% to 38% and from 45% to 32% in the social and private sectors, respectively.
- Between 1991 and 1996 there was no significant change across a broad range of condition measures. As housing conditions have changed for the better since 1996, the overall assessment is that there has been an improvement since 1990.

H8 CRIME

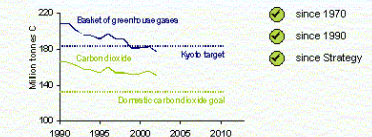
Recorded crime (England & Wales)



- Both the British Crime Survey and recorded crime show that burglary and vehicle crimes fell substantially from the early 1990s: from 1990 such recorded crimes fell by 17% and 23% respectively (BCS indicates falls from 1991 of 29% and 38%).
- By 2002-3, recorded robbery had risen to 106,000 from 67,000 in 1998-9 but was 11% lower than the previous year.

H9 CLIMATE CHANGE

Emissions of greenhouse gases (UK)



- Emissions of the 'basket' of six greenhouse gases (on which progress is assessed) fell by 12% between 1990 and 2001, and provisionally by 14% to 15% between 1990 & 2002.
- CO₂ emissions for 2002 were provisionally 9% lower than in 1990.

PB 7940 REVISED 03/04

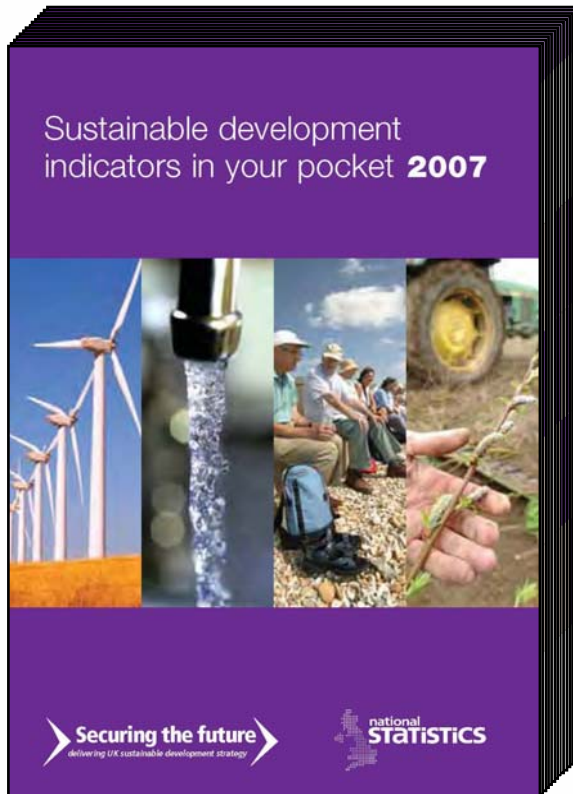
Communication - leaflets

- Described in 2001 by a UK Commissioner for Sustainable Development as

“The single most important development in the communication of sustainable development”

- Emulated by others, including:
 - *European Commission / Eurostat*
 - *Environment Agency (England & Wales)*
 - *Finnish Environment Institute*

Indicators in your pocket



- 68 indicators
- Simple presentation
- ‘Traffic light’ assessments
- Pie-chart summaries
- 55,000 copies since July

Hard work in the background

- Stakeholder consultation / workshops
- Reviewing existing indicators
- Developing an indicator framework
- Cross-government consultation / agreement
- Collating data annually for all the measures
- Agreeing assessments of progress
- Publication
- Developing new indicators
(most recently wellbeing)

Indicator framework

Sustainable consumption & production

Climate change & energy

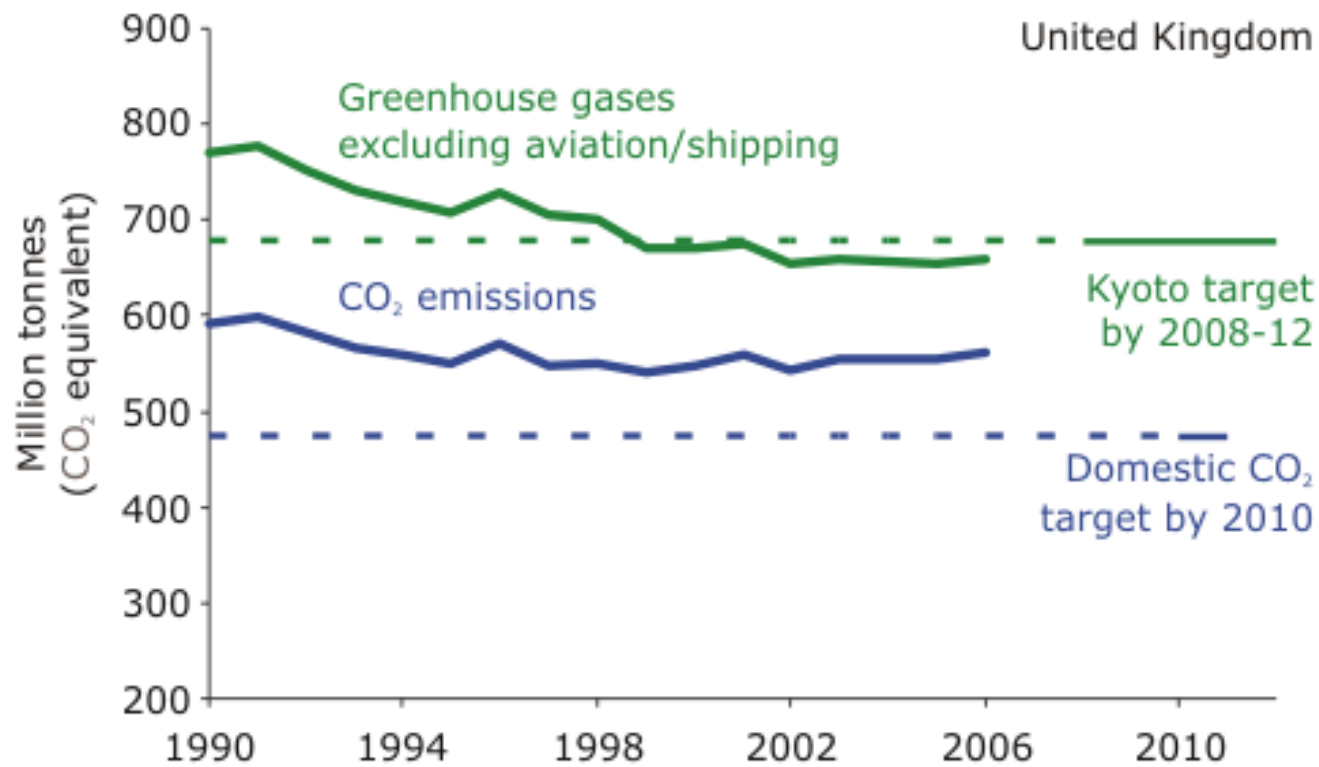
Natural resource protection & enhancement

Creating sustainable communities & a fairer world

Decoupling emissions, resource use & waste

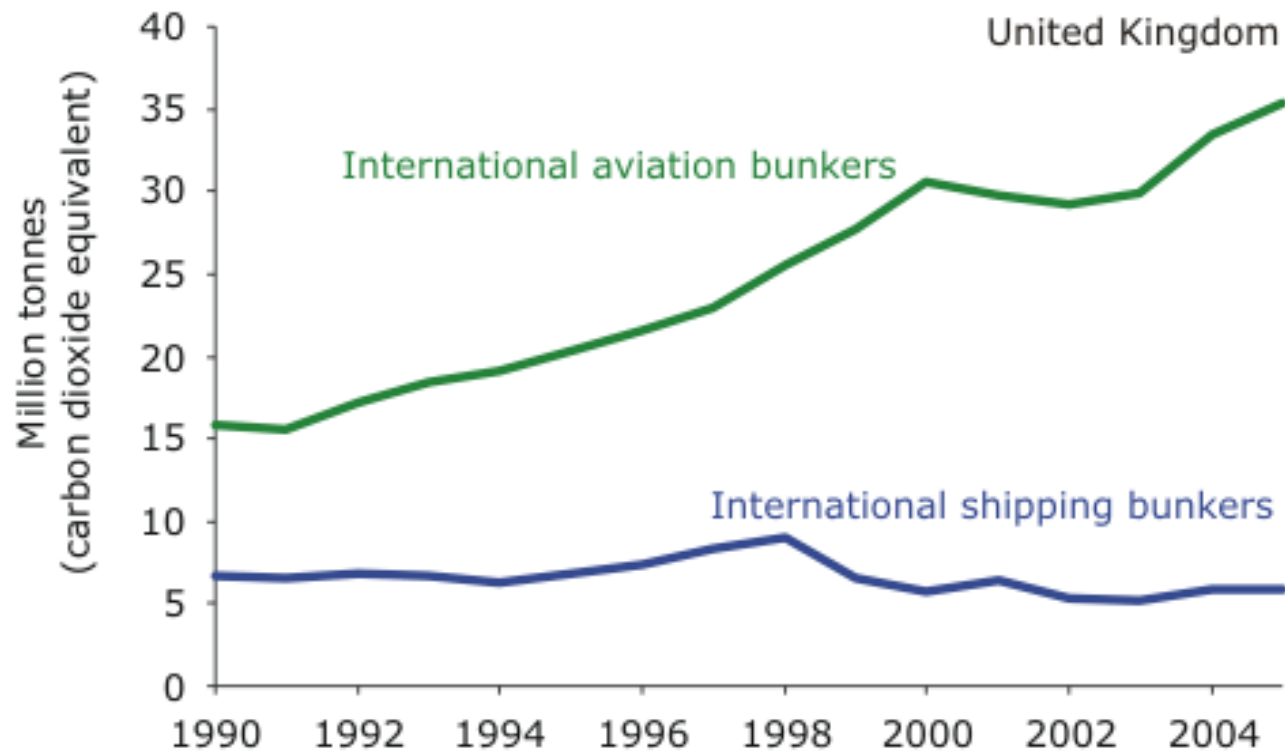
Society
Employment & poverty
Education
Health
Mobility & access
Justice & equity
Housing
Wellbeing
International
Contextual

Greenhouse gas emissions



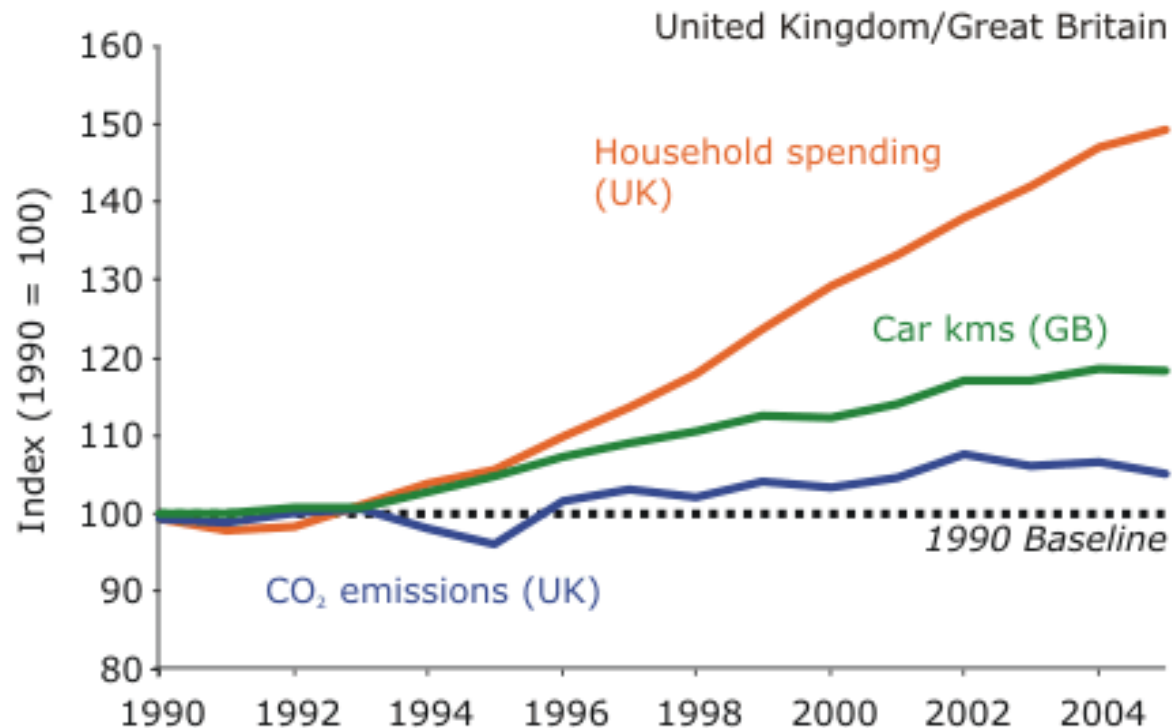
Source: Defra, BERR, AEA Energy and Environment

Aviation & shipping emissions



Source: AEA Energy and Environment

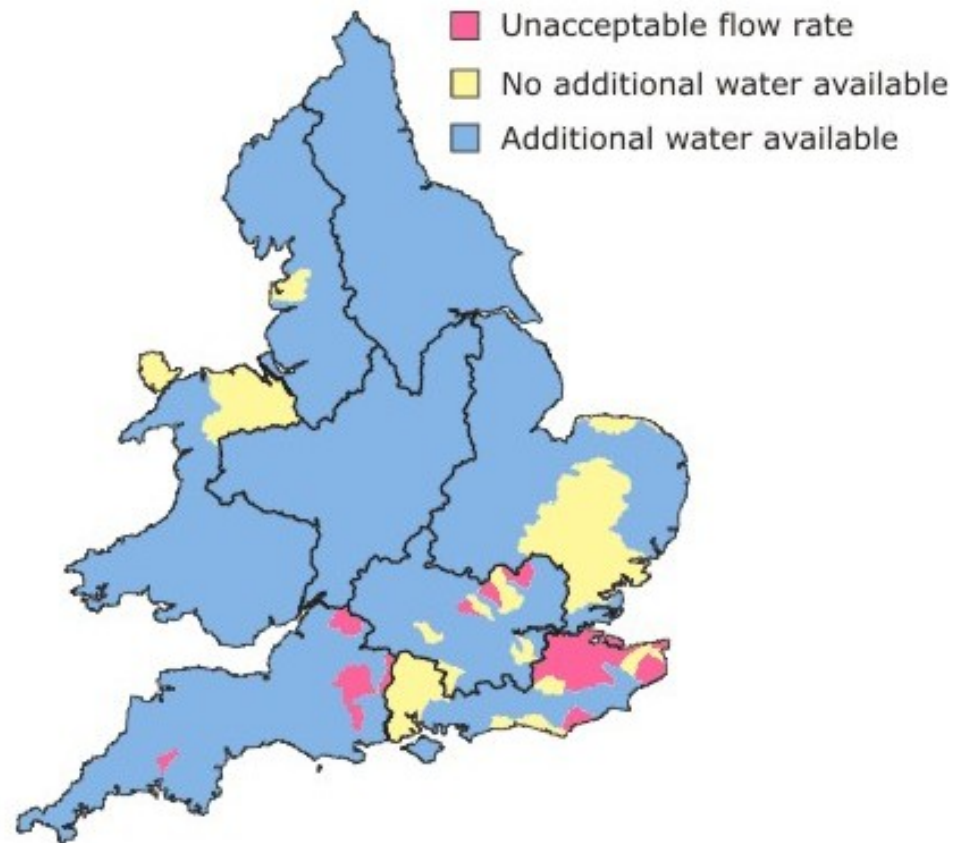
Private car CO₂ emissions



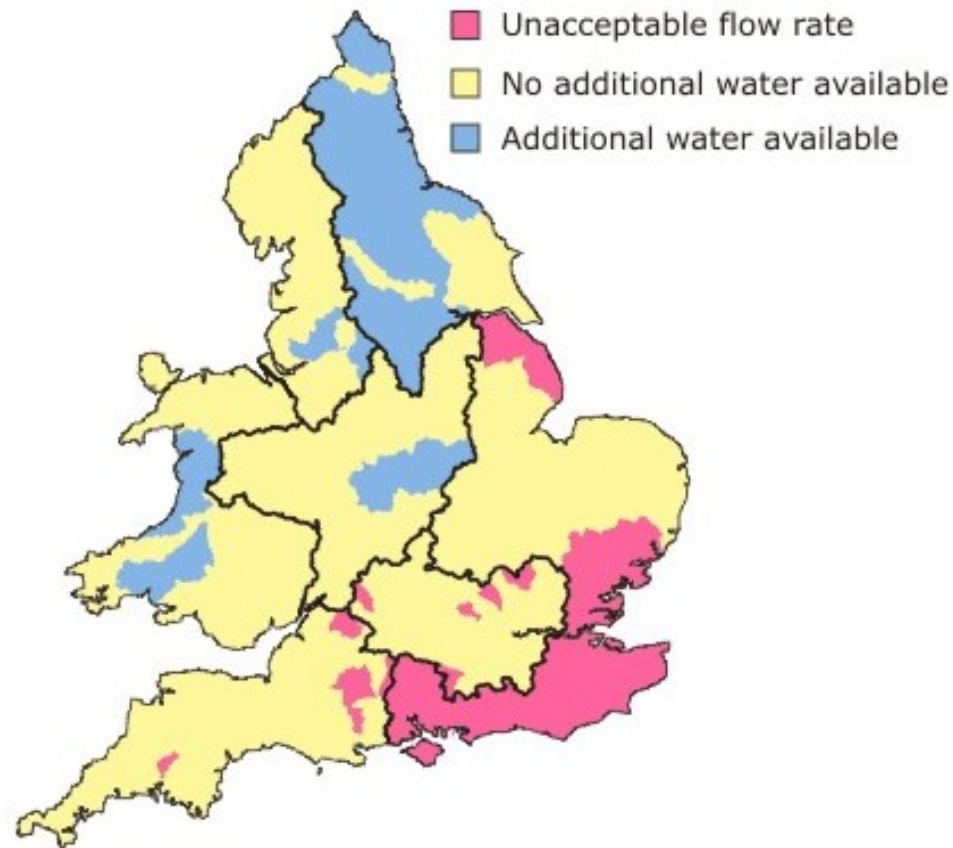
Notes: Data for 1993 onwards are not directly comparable with figures for 1992 and earlier.

Source: ONS, DfT

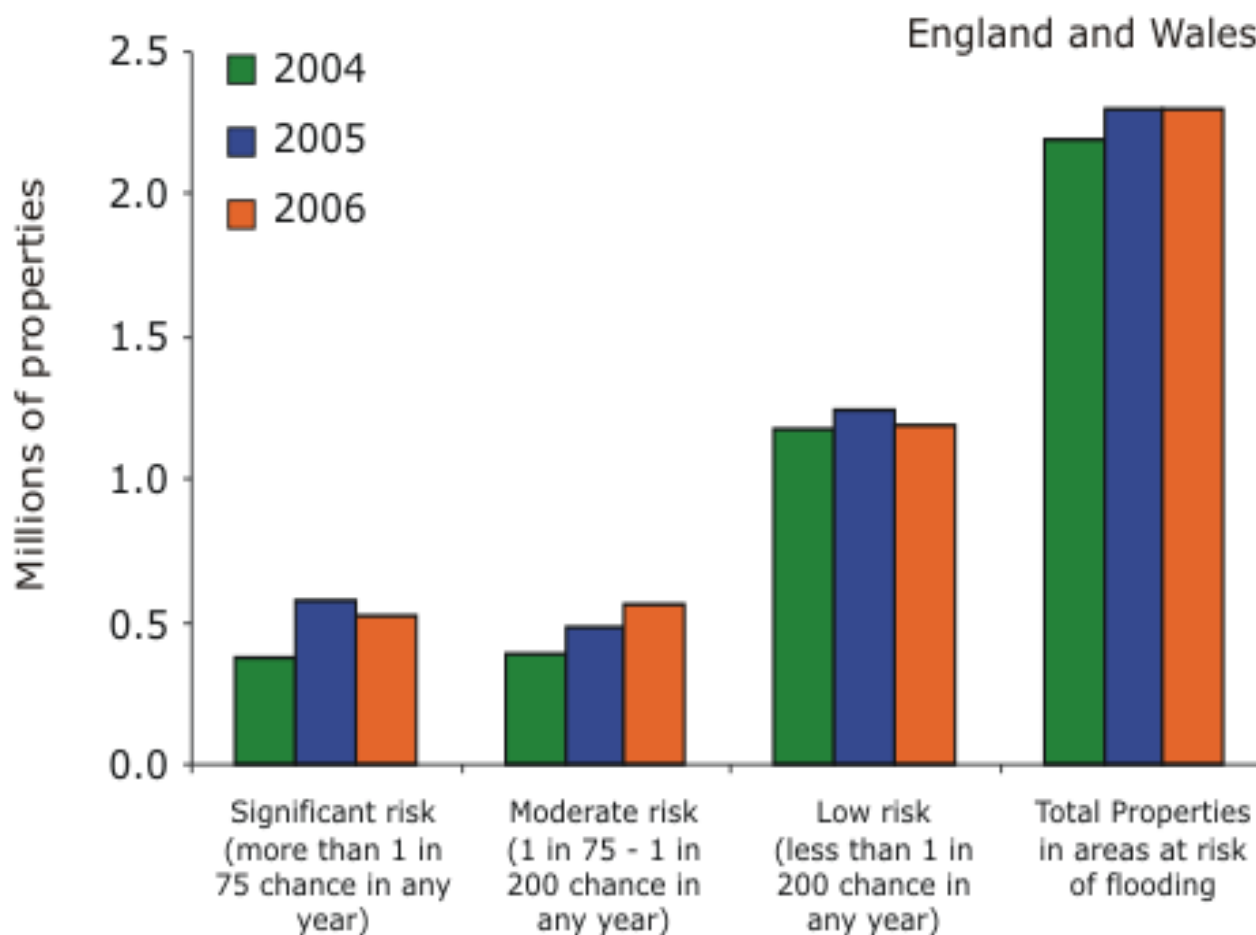
Water stress - winter



Water stress - summer



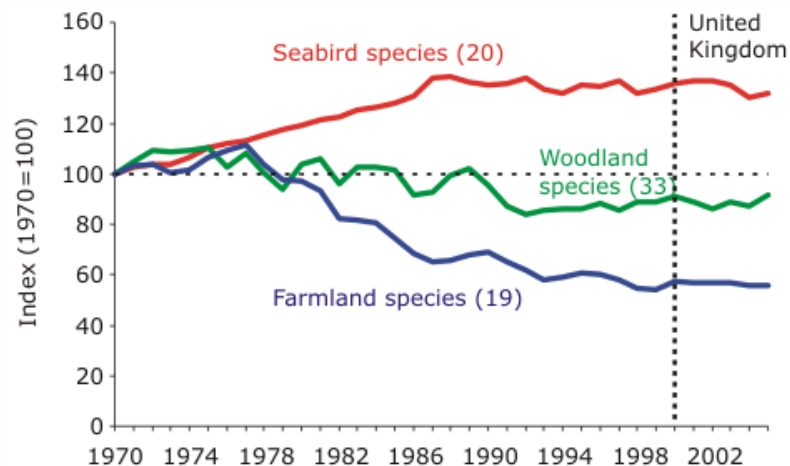
Properties at risk of flooding



Source: EA, Defra

Other indicators

- Sectoral emission 'decoupling' indicators
- Renewable energy
- Electricity generation and emissions
- Adaptation? Bird populations

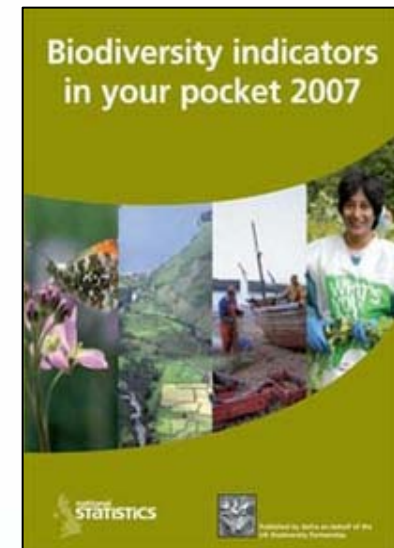


Note: Figures in brackets show the number of species included in each category.

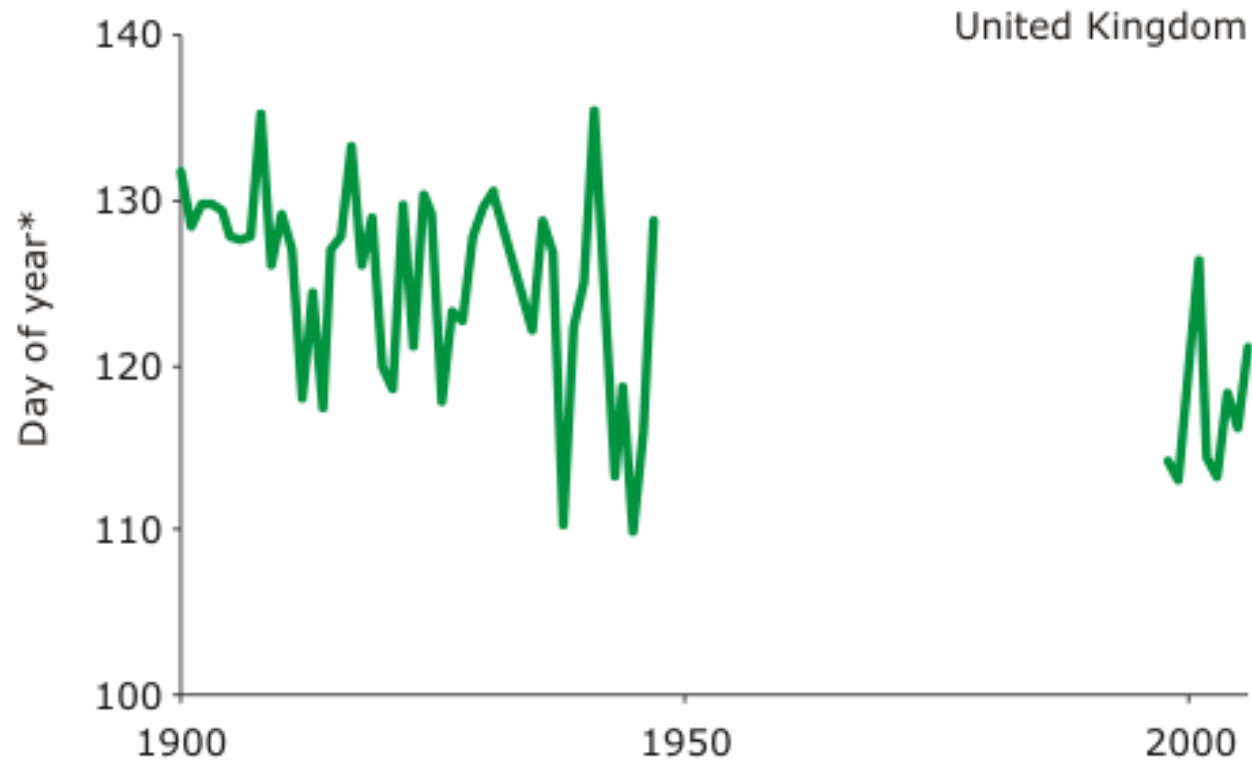
Source: Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, British Trust for Ornithology, Defra, Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Other indicators

- Sectoral emission 'decoupling' indicators
- Renewable energy
- Electricity generation and emissions
- Adaptation? Bird populations
- Other biodiversity indicators e.g.
 - Butterflies
 - Plant diversity
 - Species status



Spring index - phenology



* Number of days after January 1st (e.g. day 121= May 1st)

Source: Royal Meteorological Society, UK Phenology Network

Other indicators

- Indicators for climate change objectives
 - Global CO₂ emissions to 2050
 - Areas with sustainable abstraction of water
 - Global carbon market
 - UK greenhouse gas and CO₂ emissions
 - Emissions intensity of the UK economy
 - Emissions reductions from new policies

Other indicators

- Supporting intermediate objectives
 - Fuel poverty
 - Emissions by sector
 - Energy consumption
 - Carbon intensity of energy production
 - International assistance for adaptation

Other indicators

- Sustainable Consumption & Production
 - Resource efficiency
 - Consumption impacts
 - Energy efficiency of domestic appliances
 - CO₂ emissions of Government Estate

Other indicators

- Local Government Performance
 - CO₂ emissions from local authority operations
 - CO₂ emissions from local authority community
 - Local adaptation to climate change

SD indicators as a framework?

- Do cover many climate change indicators
- But could include more on
 - Embedded emissions
 - Effects of international aviation emissions
 - Adaptation
 - Biofuels?
 - Actual changes to the climate

Successful indicators

- Change the World?
- Challenge governments?
- Tell us everything?
- Drive policy? Influence may be?
- Raise awareness?
- Get in newspapers?

Headlines

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

**It's grim up
North, say
life quality
statistics**

Headlines

THE DAILY TELEGR

It's grim

North, s

life qua

statistics

Daily Express

Great divide

Head south if you
want a longer life
northerners told

Securing the future

delivering UK sustainable development strategy

Headlines

The Guardian

Poverty and crime make it tough up north - but more birds are singing

North, s
life qua
statistics

Head south if you
want a longer life
northerners told

Headlines

The Guardian

Poverty and
north - but

THE TIMES

**Life sounds sweet
in poorer North**

North
life quality

statistics

northerners told

Successful indicators

- Involve policy colleagues
- Have policy support and commitment
- Have user-friendly communication
- Are compact and concise
- Get the message across!

Now there's an idea ...



www.sustainable-development.gov.uk
www.defra.gov.uk

Securing the future
delivering UK sustainable development strategy