

Selected Milestones for Environmental and Sustainability Indicators

“A limited number of environmental indices, obtained by aggregating and summarizing available data, could be used to illustrate major trends and highlight the existence of significant environmental conditions. These indices could provide measures of the success of federal, state, local, and private programs in coping with environmental problems that must be solved...I am convinced that we not only can develop such indices, but that we must if the level of environmental policy and planning is to be improved.”—Russell Train, Council on Environmental Quality, 1972

1977. **Environmental Quality.** First annual report. Council on Environmental Quality.
1981. **Environmental Trends.** Council on Environmental Quality.
1988. EPA Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP) begins
1989. **Environmental Trends.** Council on Environmental Quality.
1990. International Symposium on Ecological Indicators held
1991. Chesapeake Bay Program begins utilizing indicators
- 1994-1995. **Environmental Quality: The 25th Anniversary Report of the Council on Environmental Quality.** Last published annual report. Council on Environmental Quality.
1994. State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conferences begin
1994. Illinois Critical Trends Assessment Project
- 1994-1996. State Environmental Goals and Indicators Project
1995. Interagency Task Force on Water Quality Monitoring reports
1995. **Endangered Ecosystems: A Status Report on America’s Vanishing Habitat and Wildlife,** Defenders of Wildlife.
1995. **Our Living Resources: A Report to the Nation of the Distribution, Abundance, and Health of U.S. Plants, Animals and Ecosystems.** U.S. Department of the Interior, National Biological Service.
1997. **An Ecological Assessment of the United States Mid-Atlantic Region: A Landscape Atlas,** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1998. **Status and Trends of the Nation’s Biological Resources.** U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey.
- October 1999. **The State of Chesapeake Bay: A Report to the Citizens of the Bay Region.** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Chesapeake Bay Program.

Draft for additional review and input, November 20, 2009

July 1999. **Environmental Outcome-Based Management: Using Environmental Goals and Measures in the Chesapeake Bay Program.** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Chesapeake Bay Program.

2000. **Ecological Indicators for the Nation.** National Research Council.

2000. **Precious Heritage: The Status of Biodiversity in the United States.** The Nature Conservancy and Association for Biodiversity Information.

September 2001. **Sustainable Development in the United States: An Experimental Set of Indicators.** U.S. Interagency Working Group on Sustainable Development Indicators.

2002. **The State of the Nation's Ecosystems: Measuring the Lands, Waters, and Living Resources of the United States.** The Heinz Center.

February 2003. Key National Indicators Initiative begins.

May 2003. **Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Rangelands.** First Approximation Report. Sustainable Rangelands Roundtable.

June 2003. **Draft Report on the Environment, 2003.** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

June 2003. **First Approximation Report of the Sustainable Minerals Roundtable.** Sustainable Minerals Roundtable.

February 2004. **National Report on Sustainable Forests—2003.** U.S. Forest Service.

November 2004. **Environmental Indicators: Better Coordination is Needed to Develop Environmental Indicator Sets that Inform Decisions.** U.S. Government Accountability Office.

November 2004. **Informing Our Nation: Improving How to Understand and Assess the USA's Position and Progress.** U.S. Government Accountability Office.

May 2006. **Filling the Gaps: Priority Data Needs and Key Management Challenges for National Reporting on Ecosystem Condition.** The Heinz Center.

February 2008. **National Indicators Draft Framework, November 2007.** Sustainable Water Resources Roundtable.

December 2008. **Draft National Report on Sustainable Forests—2010.**

June 2008. **The State of the Nation's Ecosystems: Measuring the Lands, Waters, and Living Resources of the United States.** The Heinz Center.

June 2008. **Policy Memorandum on National Environmental Status and Trends Indicators.** Executive Office of the President, Council on Environmental Quality, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Office of Management and Budget.

October 2009. **Sustainable Water Resources Report.** Sustainable Water Resources Roundtable.