

# UNITED KINGDOM

## STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORTING

2016-2019

UK government develops and publishes A Green Future, the 25 year Environment Plan for England. This is then followed by the Devolved Administrations running consultations aimed at developing their own unique environmental strategies

1997-2015

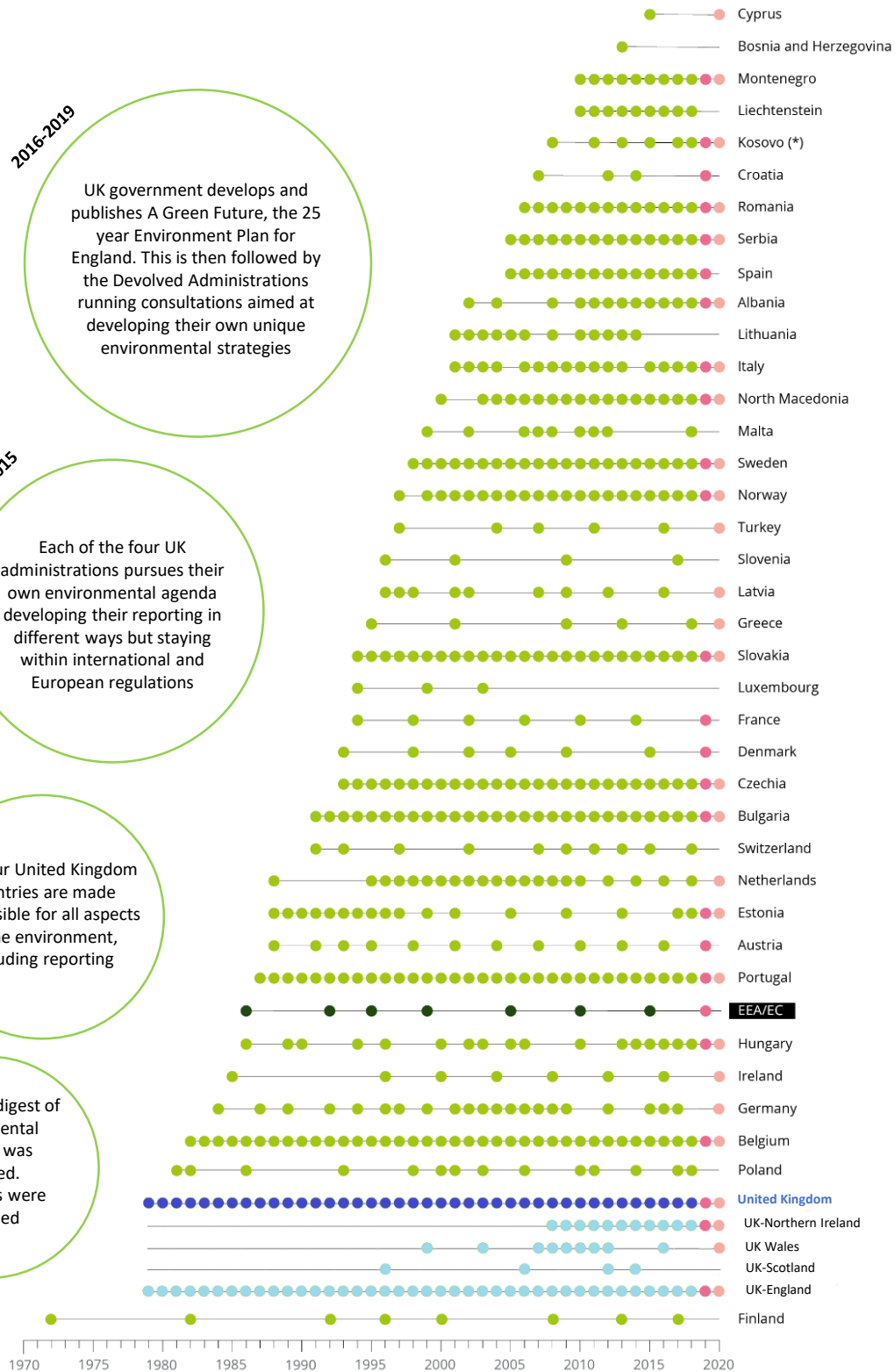
Each of the four UK administrations pursues their own environmental agenda developing their reporting in different ways but staying within international and European regulations

1997

The four United Kingdom countries are made responsible for all aspects of the environment, including reporting

1979

The annual digest of Environmental statistics was launched. 18 editions were published



● SoE-report published

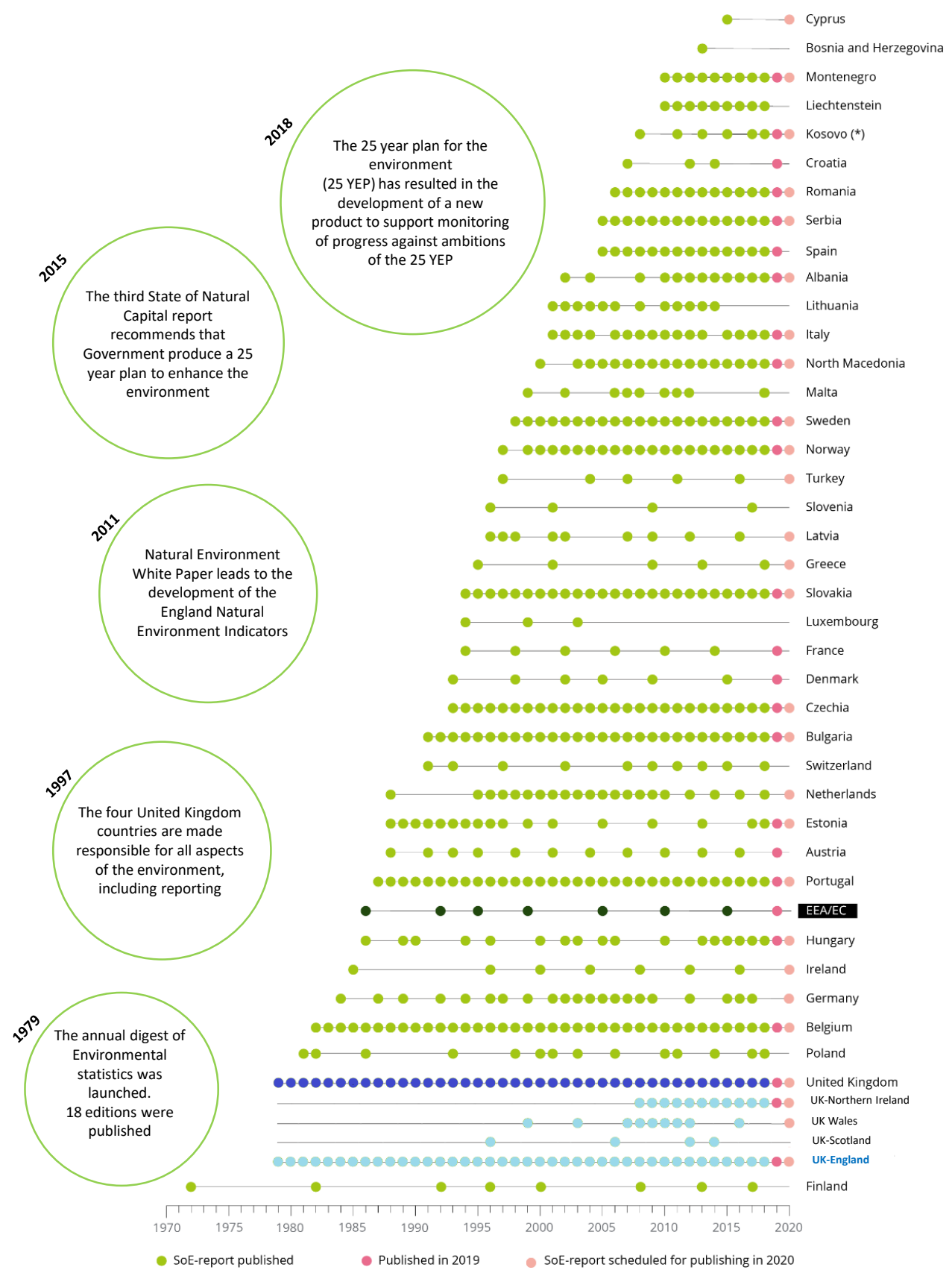
● Published in 2019

● SoE-report scheduled for publishing in 2020

(\*) under UN Security Council Resolution 1244/99



# STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORTING IN ENGLAND (UNITED KINGDOM)



**2018**  
The 25 year plan for the environment (25 YEP) has resulted in the development of a new product to support monitoring of progress against ambitions of the 25 YEP

**2015**  
The third State of Natural Capital report recommends that Government produce a 25 year plan to enhance the environment

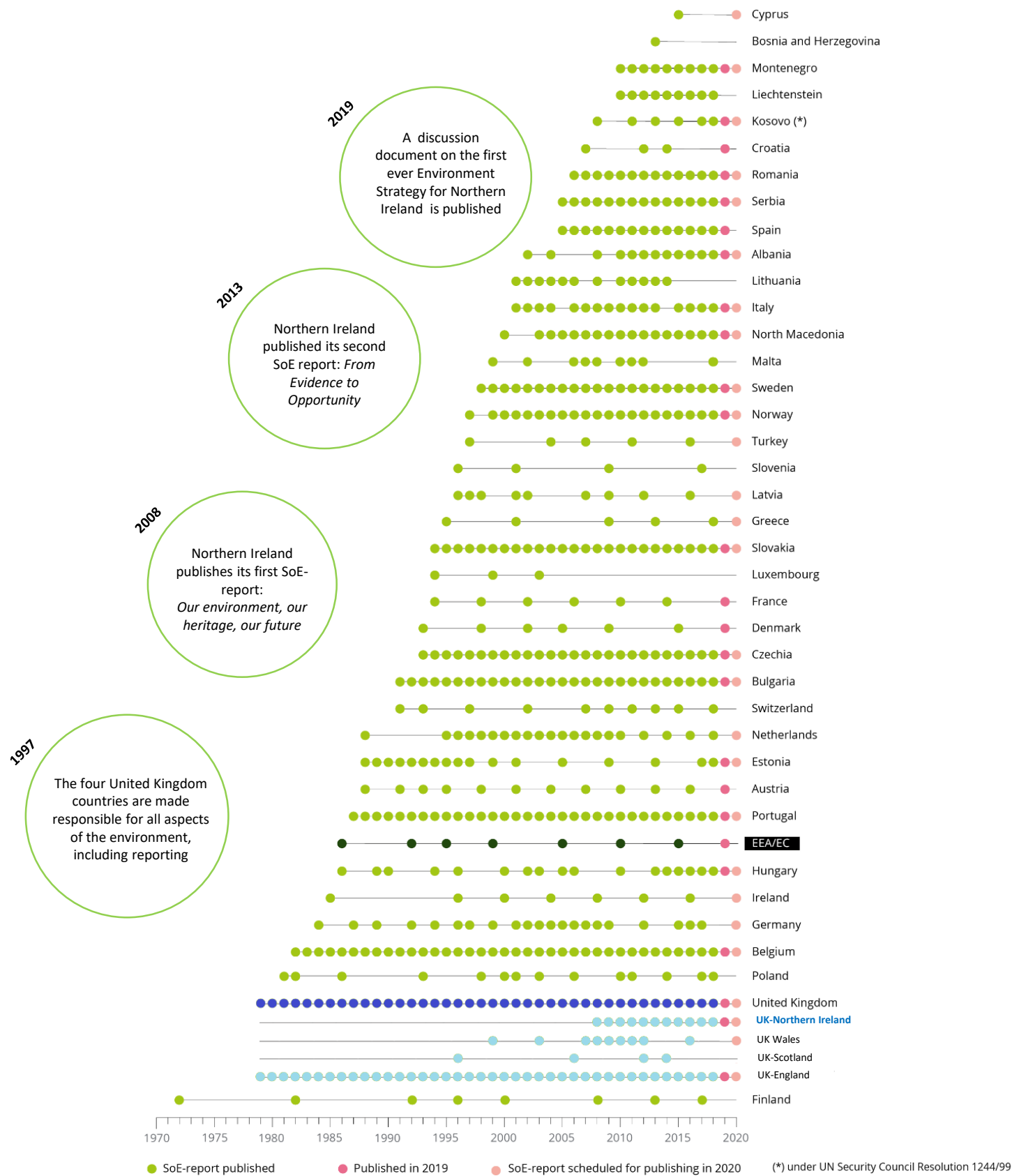
**2011**  
Natural Environment White Paper leads to the development of the England Natural Environment Indicators

**1997**  
The four United Kingdom countries are made responsible for all aspects of the environment, including reporting

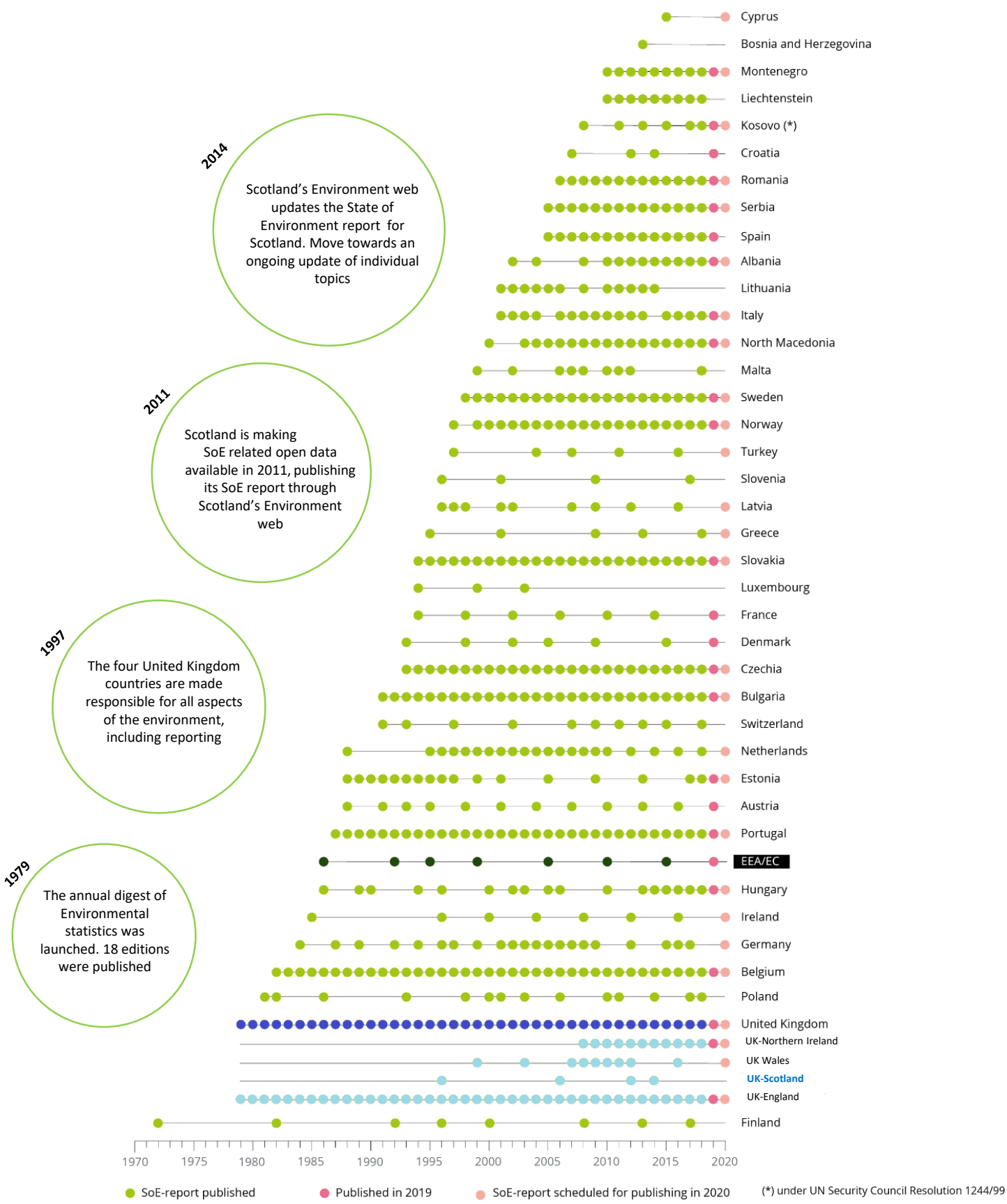
**1979**  
The annual digest of Environmental statistics was launched. 18 editions were published



# STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORTING IN NORTHERN IRELAND (UNITED KINGDOM)



# STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORTING IN SCOTLAND (UNITED KINGDOM)

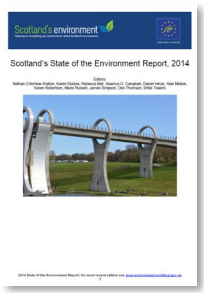
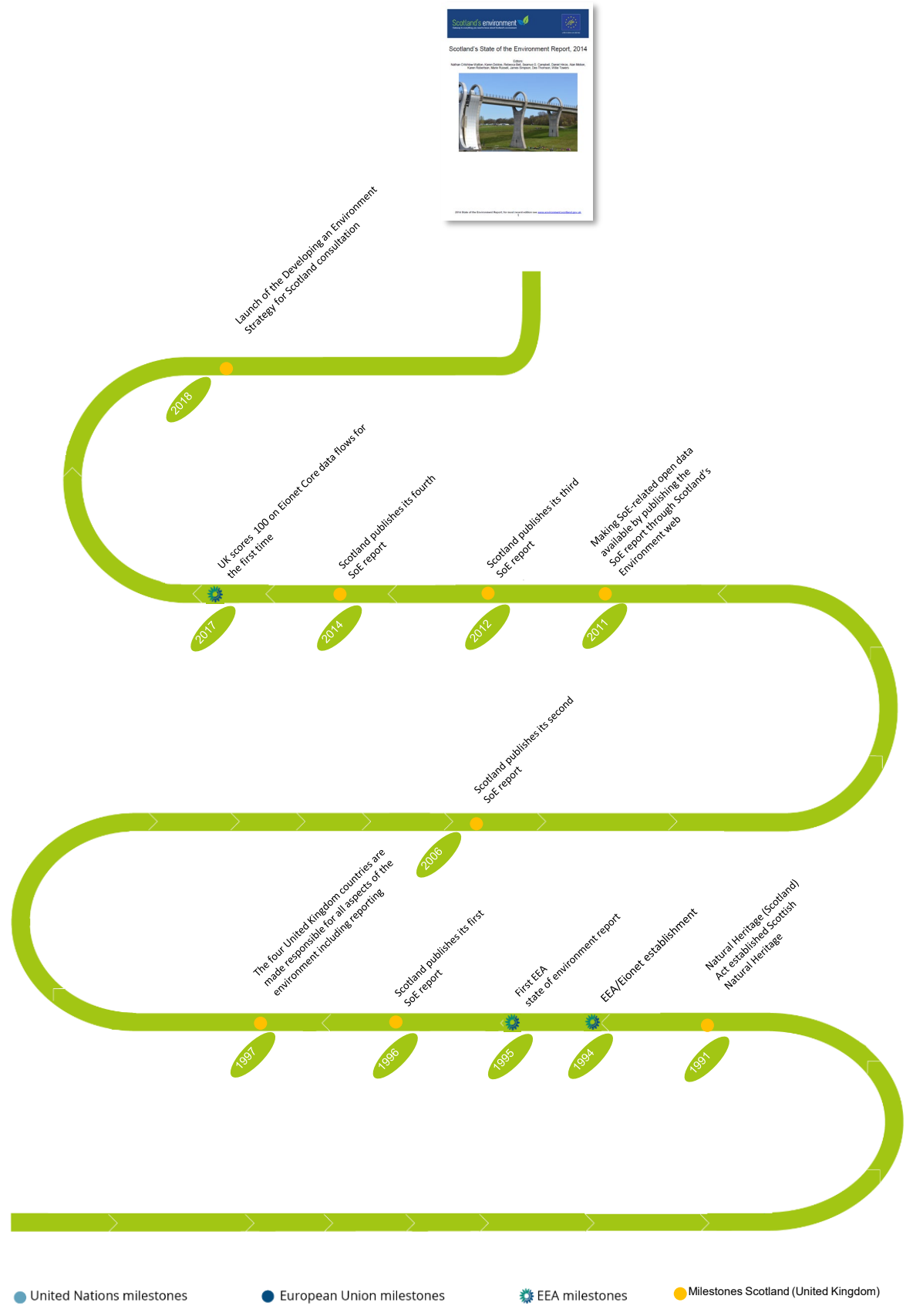


**2014**  
Scotland's Environment web updates the State of Environment report for Scotland. Move towards an ongoing update of individual topics

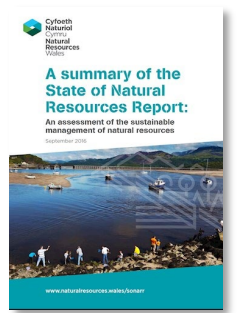
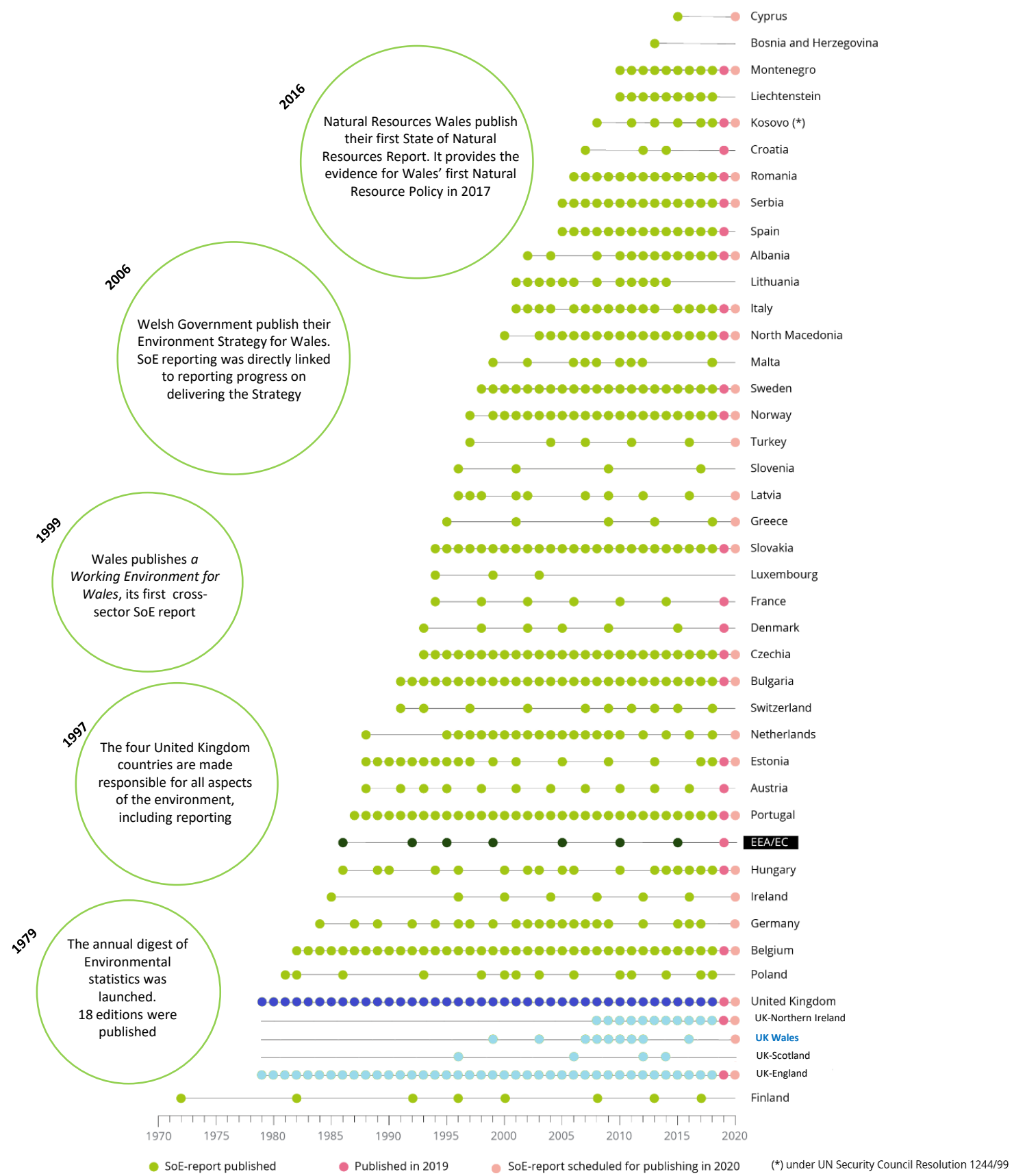
**2011**  
Scotland is making SoE related open data available in 2011, publishing its SoE report through Scotland's Environment web

**1997**  
The four United Kingdom countries are made responsible for all aspects of the environment, including reporting

**1979**  
The annual digest of Environmental statistics was launched. 18 editions were published



# STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORTING IN WALES (UNITED KINGDOM)



## State of the Environment reporting in the United Kingdom: Four unique solutions

In the UK the responsibility for the Environment is a matter for the devolved administrations in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland with the UK Government taking responsibility for England. All have the same European and international laws framing the policy and core data collection, similar environments and issues to address but each country comes up with their own solution to the task of providing a robust assessment of the state of the environment.

The first Digest of Environmental Statistics, published 40 years ago, was a UK level publication. Some data series extend back even further than this, for example the farmland bird indicator goes back to 1970 and for certain key agricultural variables the series extends back to the 1920s. In 1997 the new Labour Government was elected on a manifesto that promised devolution of certain powers to Scotland and Wales. One such power was the environment, and this changed environmental reporting. Now, providing they stayed within the international laws, each country had the freedom to develop their own ideas about how to report and where to place their emphasis. Over time we see divergence between the four UK countries as each country pursued and developed its own reporting agenda.

The result is that after 1997 UK level products became less frequent. In some thematic areas UK products remained. For the more generic and cross-cutting products, country-based products, tuned to meet specific country needs, have been preferred. So in the 21st century there has never been a cross-cutting environmental product that could be thought of as a UK State of Environment report. There are simply country based products that have different: scopes; specific goals; methodologies; periodicities; and formats.

After 1997 **England** continued with the environment pocket book format for a number of years. The [England Natural Environment Indicators \(ENEI\) publication](#) was produced under a commitment of the 2011 Natural Environment White Paper commitment that stated: "We will develop a set of key indicators...to track progress on the ambitions of this White Paper". In January 2018 the [25 year plan for the environment](#) was published. The plan sets out the government's 10 goals for "improving the environment within a generation and leaving it in a better state than we found it". The goals within the plan are as follows: Clean air; Clean and plentiful water; Thriving plants and wildlife; Reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards such as flooding and droughts; Using resources from nature more sustainably; Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment; Mitigating and adapting to climate change; Minimising waste; Managing exposure to chemicals; and Enhancing biosecurity. When launching the plan, government committed to developing a comprehensive set of indicators, which collectively described environmental change as it relates to the 10 goals in the plan. In May 2019 Defra set out a [framework of outcome indicators](#), developed on the concept of natural capital. The framework contains 66 indicators, arranged into 10 broad themes. A sub-set of indicators have been identified as 16 headline measures. This group of indicators will help government communicate progress towards the goals of the 25 Year Environment Plan. Defra published trends for the 27 indicators where published data are already available. The other indicators still require further development. As experts develop these they will continue to review and update the framework to reflect these developments. This indicator framework effectively becomes the new state of the environment report in England.

In **Northern Ireland**, the Department of the Environment (Northern Ireland) produced 2 State of Environment reports (2008, 2013). Currently, an annual set of [Environmental Statistics](#) is published on the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) website, and in due course these may evolve to support the development of the first Environment Strategy for Northern Ireland. A [discussion document for the Strategy](#) was published in September 2019, and sets out the following four themes: Environmental Engagement; Environmental Prosperity; Environmental Efficiency and Environmental Quality. Environmental engagement is about connection such as how the public, business & industry connect and engage with the environment and DAERA. Environmental Prosperity is about the value of the environment in economic terms, both directly and indirectly and extends to topics such as tourism, leisure activities and agri-food. Environmental efficiency looks at closely related "big picture" issues such as climate action; resource efficiency; circular with the aim of achieving sustainable production and consumption. Environmental quality considers the protection and enhancement of all aspects of our environment with a focus on the benefits of health & well-being, environmental justice, and economic prosperity.

**Scotland** has been pushing forwards in the world of open data to deliver on its state of environment obligations. Scotland began making SoE related open data available in 2011 when it published its SoE report through [Scotland's Environment web](#). The amount of environmental open data offered and the functionality available to users continues to grow and its publication through Scotland's Environment web supports the delivery of the Scottish Government's Open Data Strategy. The key to their approach is a multi-agency partnership to allow Scotland's Environment web to be a gateway to an extensive range of environmental information. In June 2018 the Scottish Government published: [Developing an Environment Strategy for Scotland](#). This discussion paper invites your views to help develop an Environment Strategy for Scotland.

**Wales** started by reporting against their Sustainable Development Indicators and in 2003 the environmental agencies worked together to produce "A Living and Working Environment for Wales". From 2006 SoE reporting was the responsibility of Welsh Government using the Indicators to track delivery of their Environment Strategy. In 2016 they made a big leap forward when the [Environment \(Wales\) Act](#) required the production of a [State of Natural Resources Report \(SoNaRR\)](#). Wales' 5 yearly report is a genuinely integrated assessment focussed around wellbeing and the sustainable management of natural resources. The assessment considers: Stocks of natural resources; Resilient Ecosystems; Healthy places for People free from risks; and a Circular Economy with more efficient use of natural resources. From 2020 SoNaRR, Wales' Natural Resources Policy and Area Statements are produced every 5 years as part of an iterative cycle.