

1. BACKGROUND

"Improving the quality of life for people in this country is perhaps the most important duty of Government" "[Indicators] measure how we perform on the big important things, such as people's health, the state of the economy, employment, transport, crime and the environment." John Prescott, in the foreword to Quality of life counts: the core set of sustainable development indicators for the UK. December 1999.

- 1.1a In the publication, "**Agenda 21 for the Travel and Tourism Industry: Towards Environmentally Sustainable Development**," issued jointly by the World Tourism Organisation <http://www.world-tourism.org/> the World Travel and Tourism Council <http://www.wttc.org/> and the Earth Council, the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organisation, Antonio Enríquez Savignac, stated:

"Tourism growth is one of the greatest success stories of our times but, in recent years, there have been increasing warning signs: the over-saturation and deterioration of some destinations, the overwhelming of some cultures, bottlenecks in transport facilities, and a growing resentment by residents in some destinations.

The Earth Summit forced us all to realise that we are depleting our resources much faster than they can recover. A good deal of our Travel & Tourism activity relies on these fragile natural or cultural resources, so it is in our interests to protect them for the future.

We need to recognise that there are limits to the number of visitors in one place at one time, limits to the patience and welcome of our hosts, and limits to the numbers who can visit natural resources.

We can no longer assume that all demand can be met by unrestricted growth. To preserve means to plan carefully and then to take the hard policy decisions to implement these plans.

Travel & Tourism will inevitably continue to increase. Meeting this growth in a responsible, sustainable way, that preserves and enhances the beauty of the attraction, is the challenge we all face."

- 1.1b In the United Kingdom, tourism affects us all and the majority of the population is variously both visitor and visited. Tourism creates and sustains local wealth, employment and amenities. It affects communities, both natural and man-made environments. The purpose of this Guidance Note is to encourage the measurement of tourism impacts on local areas more broadly than in economic impact terms. It is vital that, in addition to tourism economic impact indicators, objective measurements of environmental and social impacts are obtained as well. All these benefits and impacts need to be considered together, to ensure that there is wise growth in tourism and that tourism development is more sustainable.

It follows that the creation of effective Local Sustainable Tourism Indicators (LSTI) will relate and compare the costs and benefits of tourism impacts upon the social fabric, the man-made and/or natural environment infrastructures of a local area. Additionally, LSTI must be capable of isolating the impact of specific types of tourism at different times over an extended period.

It has long been accepted that, "***The environment has an intrinsic value which outweighs its value as a tourism asset. Its enjoyment, by future generations and its long term survival, must not be prejudiced by short-term considerations.***"

The local process of obtaining Local Sustainable Tourism Indicators is a vital part of policy setting, strategy creation and measurement of the outcomes of programme delivery.

1.2 Importance of Tourism

Tomorrow's Tourism http://www.culture.gov.uk/pdf/tomorrows_tourism.pdf, published by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in 1999, sets out a comprehensive array of goals, aspirations and challenges for the industry in the New Millennium. It does so in the context of an impressive set of figures, which demonstrate the economic magnitudes of tourism both in the United Kingdom and the world:

- *In Britain it employs 1.75 million people in 125,000 businesses;*
- *It has accounted for one in six of all new jobs created in the last ten years;*
- *It is worth over £50 billion a year; and*
- *It has brought over 25 million overseas visitors to Britain each year since the mid-nineties;*
- *In excess of 1.25 billion tourist day visits are made each year in the United Kingdom;*
- *UK residents spend nearly half a billion tourist nights away from home in the UK;*
- *British tourism continues to grow - our international tourism receipts are the 4th largest in Europe and 5th in the world - but our share of the world market is declining;*
- *Tourism is now one of the biggest industries on the planet. International tourism receipts are:*
 - *£130 billion a year in Europe; and*
 - *£270 billion a year worldwide;*
- *Worldwide, international tourism receipts have grown by 12 per cent per annum over the last 10 years.*

Tourism's importance cannot be viewed only in the context of economic impact but, additionally, its impacts on the community and the environment. Tourism is a major consumer and a major impact on the environment. It is worth noting the Environment Agency's <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/> contribution to sustainable development, "An Environmental Vision", particularly its predictions on future pressures.

- Average temperatures are likely to rise. Sea levels could be some 12 to 67 cm higher in 50 years' time. Winter storms will be more severe, rainfall patterns will change and demands for water could rise.
- The population of England and Wales is projected to grow by about five per cent over the next 20 years. New housing will grow even more quickly, with 80 per cent being single-person dwellings. Housing demand will be greatest in the South, increasing pressure on this region.
- A combination of climate change and increased development will place pressure on water supplies, particularly in the Southeast. Road transport will continue to grow - by anything from 30 to 60 per cent over the next 20 years. Air transport, too, is projected to increase, putting pressure on the atmosphere and land near urban areas.
- The European Environment Agency <http://www.eea.eu.int/> estimates that in Europe over 40% of transport and its associated energy use is for tourism/leisure activities.
- Wastes, too, are continuing to rise in output. We reuse or recycle too little. Quantities of municipal solid wastes, at a record level, are equivalent to about one tonne per household per year.
- We will use many more chemicals, but potentially damaging chemicals and products will increasingly be minimised at source. This should lead to a large reduction in landfill disposal and increased use of other forms of waste management.

- Patterns of land use will continue to change. Farming may become more intensive, rural land use more diverse and derelict land will have been put to good use.
- Climate change will affect biodiversity. Wildlife and habitats need more positive management to sustain them.
- Links between environmental quality and human health will be of even greater concern. There will be growing concern about damage to landscapes, light pollution, noise pollution and odour.
- The public will be better informed, with easy electronic access to information, globally linked and ready to act directly on information.
- The environment will come under increasing pressure from diverse and conflicting uses, particularly demand for leisure activities and access to natural beauty and tranquillity.

In the context of, “Thinking Globally, Acting Locally”, it would be well to consider the importance of tourism and its impacts on Local Authorities as they consider issues and formulate local policies and programmes. For example:

- Agriculture and biodiversity - affects the attraction/usability/access of the natural landscape
- Transport issues - access, congestion
- Visitor volume - impact/requirement on basic facilities
- Cleanliness of the environment, litter, pollution, etc. - created by tourism/off-putting to tourists
- Provision for tourists vs provision for residents
- Employment
- Crime - against tourists/by tourists/attracted by tourism
- Planning - built heritage; cityscape, etc.
- Housing - e.g. issues of second homes ownership on communities; affordable housing

Although tourism is not the sole cause, or even a main cause, of these impacts, nevertheless it makes a contribution. By improving its own housekeeping and ensuring that guests also understand their own impacts, the tourism industry can become more sustainable. Local indicators can help view and review these impacts.

1.3 Impact of Tourism - Opportunities and Challenges

The impacts of tourism, both positive and negative, provide a variety of “opportunities” and “challenges”. Some impacts may be obvious to define and measure, but can create local disagreements depending on viewpoints as to whether they create “opportunities” or “challenges”. Instinctively there is a temptation to select indicators that will justify biased viewpoints. It is vital that for Local Sustainable Tourism Indicators to be effective they must, both individually and collectively, be neutral, integrated and, preferably, be part of a time series.

All indicators must be robust enough to be credible when used for setting baselines and targets. *Tables 1 to 4*, which follow, are for illustrative purposes only and are intended to be catalytic examples for Local Authorities and local businesses when considering the opportunities and challenges to be considered and measured.

Economic Impacts

Table 1

Opportunities	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Generation of local wealth ▪ Diversification of fragile local economies ▪ Contributes to the development of local infrastructures ▪ Creates amenities for the benefit of residents which also will help attract other industries ▪ Generation of tax income ▪ Contribution to the generation of local goods and services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tourism is volatile and can reflect quickly upturns and downturns in demand, e.g. a strong pound discourages foreign visitors and encourages UK residents to buy foreign tour destinations ▪ Much of the tourism product is seasonal ▪ Investment funds are harder to obtain for new tourism development projects in areas of high seasonality and/or peripherally ▪ Dysfunctional linkages between different businesses and tourism industries within the tourism sector, both public and private sectors ▪ A public and private perception that "tourism" is not a genuine or effective sector of the economy <p>The existence of a tourism "grey economy" outside of regulations and quality control</p>

Employment

Table 2

Opportunities	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Generation of employment requirements across a broad vertical spectrum of talents and skill-sets ▪ Employment in the tourism sector is becoming increasingly attractive as seasonality declines and minimum wage laws take effect ▪ A recognition that tourism provides additional part-time employment opportunities which are becoming increasingly attractive ▪ New developments in the tourism sector create local employment opportunities faster than in other sectors ▪ Tourism sector employment allows entry to employment opportunities at all levels of qualification and achievement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seasonality of tourism demand creates a preponderance of seasonal employment ▪ Need to establish better employment opportunities, e.g. full-time ▪ The quality of jobs in the tourism sector can compare badly with other sectors of the economy ▪ A greater mobility of labour is required by the tourism industry ▪ The need to invest in training to ensure that people have the skills to fill the jobs available

Social Impacts

Table 3

Opportunities	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To maximise tourism's political benefit to local communities ▪ Encourages benefits of tourism amenities for residents ▪ Encourages local diversification through new local businesses and products ▪ Local tourism enterprises employing local people ▪ Improving the quality of community life by widening choice and supply of local services and bringing social contact ▪ Increases and diversifies social contacts ▪ Introduces the benefits of interaction between people of different cultural backgrounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Competition for tourism accommodation versus resident accommodation negatively affecting first time buyers ▪ Second home ownership increases cost of housing for residents ▪ Competition by tourists for use of local amenities ▪ Traffic congestion ▪ Loss of open space to tourism developments and supporting infrastructure ▪ Resident communities' attitude to tourism ▪ Crime levels (whether by visitors upon host or host upon visitor) ▪ Sense of place and local distinctiveness

Environmental Impacts

Table 4

Opportunities	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environment awareness encouragement of local people and business through use of environment protection programmes, e.g. Green Globe http://www.greenglobe21.com/, Green Audit kits http://www.greenauditkit.org/ ▪ Acting as a catalyst for the regeneration of redundant resources ▪ Supporting the maintenance and improvement of our natural and built heritage and ensuring its conservation for present and future use ▪ Better use of the built environment ▪ Providing economic incentive for investment in water quality, e.g. beaches, rivers, and canals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Traffic congestion resulting from tourist travel ▪ Pollution and noise resulting from tourist travel ▪ The effects of aviation noise, congestion and pollution ▪ Loss of open space to tourism development and supporting infrastructure ▪ Litter and graffiti ▪ Protection and safeguards of bathing water ▪ Energy consumption ▪ Air quality ▪ Water issues (in every respect, e.g. drinking water, bathing water, waste water, etc) ▪ Waste products ▪ Crowding ▪ Low awareness of environmental schemes ▪ Lack of public awareness of their responsibility in tourism ▪ Sense of place and local distinctiveness

Tourism At The Crossroads

Tables 1 to 4 indicate some of the opportunities and challenges for tourism. *Table 5*, which follows, illustrates two extremes: the first, very positive, the second, very negative. The need exists at the local level to establish where a local area sits between these two scenarios so that it may establish policies, strategies and programmes involving the complete partnership of tourism. In short, a “virtuous circle” needs to be established at the local level.

Table 5

<u>SCENARIO I</u> <i>Enhanced Natural Environment</i>	<u>SCENARIO II</u> <i>Deteriorated Natural Environment</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environmental impact studies ▪ Planned and controlled use of natural resources ▪ Environmental education and awareness ▪ Respect and custodial attitude towards environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Economic feasibility studies (only) ▪ Overcrowding and excessive use of natural resources ▪ Environmental ignorance ▪ Vandalism, fires, trampling, pollution
<i>Local Opportunities</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contributing to local infrastructure ▪ Net contribution to local wealth ▪ Use of local: investment, products and services, management ▪ Offers opportunities for local entrepreneurship ▪ Local residents participate in planning ▪ Respects and enhances local customs, values and traditions ▪ Seasonal stability and complementing other industry and institutional cycles 	<i>Local Exploitation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strain on infrastructure ▪ Local Government revenue expenditure indiscriminately supporting tourist activities ▪ “Economic leakages” ▪ “Imported” management ▪ Externally imposed plans insensitive to local customs, values and traditions ▪ Seasonal disruptions ▪ The exploitation of low-paid jobs
<i>Tourist/Resident Harmony</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Knowledgeable tourists who stay for longer periods ▪ Resident pride in community; hospitable, welcoming attitude, sharing of resources 	<i>Tourist/Resident Conflict</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Different values ▪ Transient tourists ignorant of local customs ▪ Anger, distrust, resentment ▪ Social conflict
<i>Positive Contribution by Tourism</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Economic, profit motivation with sustainable priorities ▪ Awareness of and economic support for preservation of historical sites and architectural landmarks ▪ Support for museums, zoos, parks, restaurants, special events and attractions ▪ More pedestrian areas and bikeways ▪ Improved urban aesthetics, return of trees ▪ Pride in evolving sense of place and local distinctiveness 	<i>Disruptive Tourism</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Economic, profit motivation with misplaced priorities ▪ Amplifying of urban problems and unplanned, uncontrolled growth ▪ Interference of tourists with local residents use and enjoyment of urban facilities ▪ Straining of infrastructure ▪ Tourist facilities a drain on Local Government revenue expenditure ▪ Degraded sense of place and local distinctiveness

1.4 Need for Sustainable Tourism Policies and Action at the Local Level

The Brundtland Report for the World Commission on Environment and Development defines sustainable development as:

“Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

Agenda 21, adopted at the Earth Summit, 14 June 1992, provided the first blueprint for working towards a sustainable future worldwide. As part of Agenda 21, there is a comprehensive programme of actions and it is worth noting those priorities adopted in respect of governments, tourism organisations and the private sector. It states:

“The overriding aim is to establish systems and procedures to incorporate sustainable development considerations at the core of the decision-making process and to identify actions necessary to bring sustainable tourism development into being.” (Appendix B)

This philosophy, when applied to the foundation of tourism policies and strategies with their related tourism programmes, imposes duties of care and consideration as stewards of today. In doing so, the exhortation, **“Think Global and act Local”**, has never been truer.

For sustainable tourism philosophies to be effective a variety of partnerships must be created and used locally and also engaging the resources and facilities of appropriate regional and national departments, agencies and other organisations, both public and private. No one organisation, at any level, whether in the public or private sector, has the resources or ability to act alone. Effective structures and relationships require to be built and used.

One may consider a few examples of questions from the “Local” perspective, and there are many others:

- What relationships exist between departments of the relevant Local Authorities concerning tourism and Agenda 21 issues?
- What stakeholder involvement exists in tourism decisions?
- How many retailers are selling locally produced goods?
- What forums exist locally between the local resident, Local Authority and local businesses concerning Sustainable Tourism?
- What contribution does tourism make to sustaining local services and amenities?
- What linkages exist from the local organisations to Regional, National and International levels?
- Is tourism considered and made welcome?

1.5 Need to Monitor Policies and Sustainable Development of Tourism

Sustainability Policy Themes

The concept of sustainability in tourism is even harder to apply than to environmental issues alone, because there are different perspectives regarding which impacts are acceptable or what threshold level are desirable. What is the desirable level of investment or quality of provision within the tourist industry? This serves to highlight the inherently subjective nature of the management issues surrounding sustainable tourism (Manning, 1999): its application includes both subjective (prescriptive) and objective (descriptive) components. The application of sustainable tourism policy thus involves:

- Definition of the sustainability themes that are important and desired standards of quality;
- Monitoring indicator variables to determine whether existing conditions are within the bounds of desired change, or trends show that limits are being reached;
- Undertaking agreed action when and where standards are about to be, or have been violated.

It is important to recognise subjective issues, by trying to prioritise the major themes and the issues that contribute to those themes, and in turn the relevant indicators. Set out below, **Table 6**, are themes by which tourism could be demonstrated as making a contribution to local sustainable development:

Major Themes of Sustainable Development

Table 6

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintaining local economic growth and employment, for which the key issue might be the availability of jobs for local people; ▪ Improving the quality of life, in sustainable ways, for visitors themselves, for which the key issue might be restricting tourist demand where it is not sustainable, but developing new products where the converse may true; ▪ Building sustainable communities, for which the level of community involvement in consultation and decisions is of significance; ▪ Managing the environment and resources, where experience suggests that the key issues are traffic congestion, litter and crowding at key tourist sites and facilities shared with the host community are of most concern; ▪ Encouraging and maintaining local culture and distinctiveness. |
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The need to monitor policies and sustainable development of tourism requires to be set into a context of both opportunities and principles. The opportunities and challenges are discussed earlier and the principles are set out below in **Table 7**.

The Principles

Table 7

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The environment has an intrinsic value that outweighs its value as a tourism asset. Its enjoyment by future generations and its long-term survival must not be prejudiced by short-term considerations. ▪ Tourism should be recognised as a positive activity with the potential to benefit the community and the place as well as the visitor. ▪ The relationship between tourism and the environment must be managed so that it is sustainable in the long term. Tourism activities must be encouraged to enhance resources so as to provide future enjoyment and more acceptable impacts. ▪ Tourism activities and developments should respect the scale, nature and character of the place in which they are sited. ▪ In any location, harmony must be sought between the needs of the visitor, the place and the host community. ▪ In a dynamic world some change is inevitable, and change can often be beneficial. Adaptation to change, however, should not be at the expense of any of these principles. ▪ The tourism industry, Local Authorities and environmental agencies all have a duty to respect the above principles and to work together to achieve their practical realisation. |
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2. THE WIDER CONTEXT

Think Global, Act Local

The Government's tourism strategy, "*Tomorrow's Tourism*", http://www.culture.gov.uk/pdf/tomorrows_tourism.pdf registers the importance of local action. The strategy records that DCMS invited the British Resorts Association <http://www.britishresorts.co.uk/> to coordinate work under way in the Association and in other organisations, which led to this guidance.

A key message in this guidance is the familiar exhortation to "think global, act local". So, while the focus is on the local development of sustainable tourism, we should also bear in mind the wider context. In particular, indicators of sustainable tourism at the national or EU level can provide the basis for comparative measures between local areas and the national average. They can also provide the basis for comparisons between areas on a consistent basis, for example as part of a benchmarking initiative. Tourism interests are often best met through partnership, which may set tourism in the wider context of regeneration, social inclusion and other social and economic development at the local level.

The UK Government

The UK Government's vision for sustainable development is that there is:

- Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone,
- Effective protection of the environment,
- Prudent use of natural resources, and
- Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

These components of sustainable development are being monitored through a series of sustainable development indicators under the general heading of "*Quality of Life Counts*" <http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/sustainable/quality99/index.htm>. There is a core set of about 150 indicators of sustainable development, with a subset of 15 key 'headline' indicators. The headline indicators are intended to raise public awareness and focus public attention on what sustainable development means, and to give a broad overview of whether we are achieving a 'better quality of life for everyone, now and for future generations to come'. Regional versions of the national 'headline' indicators of sustainable development have also been published.

Local Government In England

In England, a range of initiatives under the Modernising Local Government agenda directly support sustainable development by focusing on the integration of social, economic and environmental issues. They also encourage greater community participation, and the principle of putting people first. Part 1 of the Local Government Act 2000 places on principal local authorities a duty to prepare 'community strategies', for promoting or improving the economic, social and environmental well being of their areas, and contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in the UK. A community strategy must have arrangements for monitoring the implementation of the action plan and for reporting progress to local communities.

The publication, "*Sustainable Local Communities for the 21st Century*" <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/sustainable/la21/policy/index.htm>, published by DETR and the LGA, 1998, sets out a clear background of the crucial role to be played by local government in respect of sustainable development. The focus on policy development, principles, partnerships, priority setting and functions are considered and can be defined as set out below:

Six Components of a Local Agenda 21 Process (Adapted from LGMB 1994)

- Managing and improving the local authority's sustainability performance
- Integrating sustainability issues into the local authority's policies and activities
- Awareness raising and education

- Consulting and involving the wider community and the general public
- Working in partnership with others - central Government agencies, business, community groups and the general public
- Measuring, monitoring and reporting

This is the context in which tourism now needs to be considered. There are linkages between tourism and other plans and strategies. For example, tourism will invariably feature in local transport plans, local cultural strategies, local development plans and the corporate strategies of local authorities. Local authorities that have previously developed action plans for sustainable development under Local Agenda 21 will now be reviewing these plans as an input to their community and other strategies.

The Local Government Act 1999 set a new general duty for local authorities to achieve Best Value <http://www.local-regions.dtlr.gov.uk/bestvalue/bvindex.htm> and this new regime took effect from April 2000. Best Value authorities are accountable to local people. Authorities must set standards - covering both cost and quality - for all services for which they are responsible. They need to deliver the outcomes that local people want. Local authorities are now working within a performance management framework, which requires them to review their functions fundamentally over a five-year cycle.

Regional Sustainable Development

There are also developments at the regional level, to place sustainable development objectives and principles in the mainstream of decision-making in the regions. Local authorities will be involved in regional activity such as the Regional Development Agency's strategy and the regional cultural strategy of the Regional Cultural Consortium.

The Local Quality Of Life Counts

(Appendix F, "The Framework and Menu of Local Indicators")

The Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions has published a handbook for a menu of 29 local indicators of sustainable development <http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/indicators/local/index.htm>. This was developed jointly by DETR, the Local Government Association, the Improvement and Development Agency, Audit Commission, local authorities and Local Agenda 21 groups, and tested in about 30 local authorities. (NOTE: The lead responsibility for sustainable development now rests with the newly created Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, DEFRA). The Audit Commission maintains a wider selection of quality of life indicators with its library of local performance indicators.

There are no indicators specifically for tourism in the DETR handbook, which is one reason why this guidance material has been prepared. Tourism clearly has a role in local regeneration and generally in improving the well being of areas. This is often played out through local strategic partnerships. So, the absence of date of prescribed indicators should not be taken to indicate that tourism is unimportant. This reinforces the need to add appropriate indicators of sustainable tourism development within community strategies.

The position of tourism within Best Value is similar. Neither the DETR nor the Audit Commission explicitly mention tourism in their Best Value core indicator sets. (One indicator concerns whether the authority has an overall sustainable development policy). But there is scope within Best Value for authorities to add indicators where these cover activities that are relevant locally. The indicators of sustainable tourism development proposed in this guidance material are designed to add to and to complement the Best Value indicators. Best Value provides a further context - that of the performance of the local authority - against which to measure and monitor the local development of sustainable tourism.

The Government's wise growth strategy for tourism fits within the overall vision for sustainable development and seeks to balance:

- Economic growth in tourism (with benefits spread throughout society)
- Environmental benefits and impacts from tourism

- Social benefits and impacts from tourism.

Devolved Responsibilities

Tourism is one of the topics that has been devolved to the Scottish Parliament and to the Assemblies in Wales and Northern Ireland. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has responsibilities both for England and as a UK Government department to work with the Scottish Executive and the Welsh and Northern Ireland Assemblies.

England

As part of an effective policy framework for the wide growth of tourism, DCMS charged the English Tourism Council <http://www.wisegrowth.org.uk/> with producing the *Time for Action* strategy for sustainable tourism management in England (published April 2001). The strategy identifies the actions to be put into practice by a wide range of stakeholders, at national, local and regional level, to achieve a greater level of sustainable tourism in England. The strategy was accompanied by the publication of a set of twenty national sustainable tourism statistical indicators. These indicators will measure, at the national level, the extent to which tourism stakeholders are meeting the challenge of sustainable development by turning current examples of good practice into established common practice and will identify, over time, where further effort is required. These indicators are listed at *Appendix C*.

Scotland

Scottish Ministers gave sustainable development a central place in their policies from the outset. The Ministerial Group on Sustainable Scotland has commissioned work on Scottish indicators of sustainable development, on which there will be consultation in 2001.

Wales

The National Assembly for Wales has sustainable development built into its constitution, through section 121 of the Government of Wales Act. The Assembly adopted its Sustainable Development Scheme *Learning to Live Differently* in November 2000. One of the implementation stages is to determine indicators and put data collection and reporting arrangements in place.

Northern Ireland

The Northern Ireland Executive has published proposals for the Programme for Government, subject to approval by the Northern Ireland Assembly. It identifies sustainability as a key theme that must run through the Executive's work and it has started a process of dialogue on an appropriate set of indicators against which targets can be set and progress openly reported.

European Union

The European Commission has been invited by European Union Heads of Government to work on developing an EU sustainable development strategy for Europe, due to be presented in June 2001. Sustainable development is written into the task of the European Community in the Amsterdam Treaty. One of the UK priorities for the EU's sustainable development strategy is that it should present a set of headline sustainable development indicators.

The European Environment Agency's second Environmental Signals Report, published in 2001, covers tourism for the first time. The EEA has also commissioned the development of a framework for measuring local progress towards more sustainable tourism on a Europe-wide basis. Elements derived from this are attached in *Appendix I*. Indicators relevant to local authorities are proposed as well as indicators that could be applied to each of three types of tourism businesses (tour operators, visitor attractions, hotels). The World Tourism Organisation published the specification for its 'tourism and environment indicators' in 1995 and followed this up with a guide for local authorities on developing sustainable tourism in 1998. That work has been considered during the preparation of this guidance.