

# SWEDEN

## STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORTING

2019

Latest in-depth evaluation of the Swedish environmental objectives delivered to the government

1999

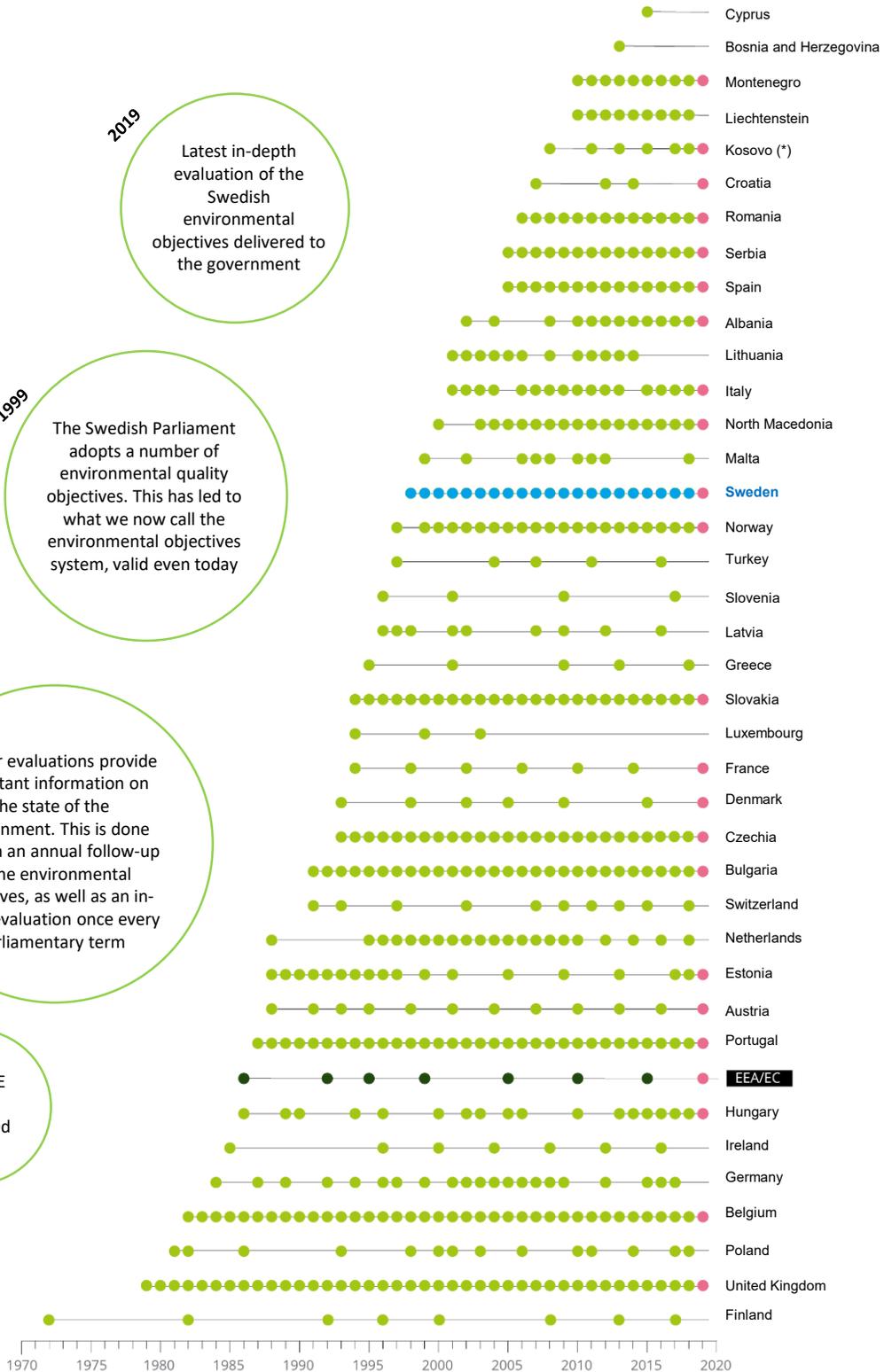
The Swedish Parliament adopts a number of environmental quality objectives. This has led to what we now call the environmental objectives system, valid even today

1998- present

Regular evaluations provide important information on the state of the environment. This is done through an annual follow-up of the environmental objectives, as well as an in-depth evaluation once every parliamentary term

1998

First SoE report published



● SoE report published

● Published in 2019

● Scheduled for publishing in 2020

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



## State of the environment tools and building blocks

### Themes

- Reduced Climate Impact
- Clean Air
- A Non-Toxic Environment
- A Safe Radiation Environment
- Zero Eutrophication
- Flourishing Lakes and Streams
- Good-Quality Groundwater
- Thriving Wetlands
- Sustainable Forests
- A Varied Agricultural Landscape
- A Good Built Environment
- A Rich Diversity of Plant and Animal Life etc...

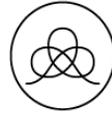
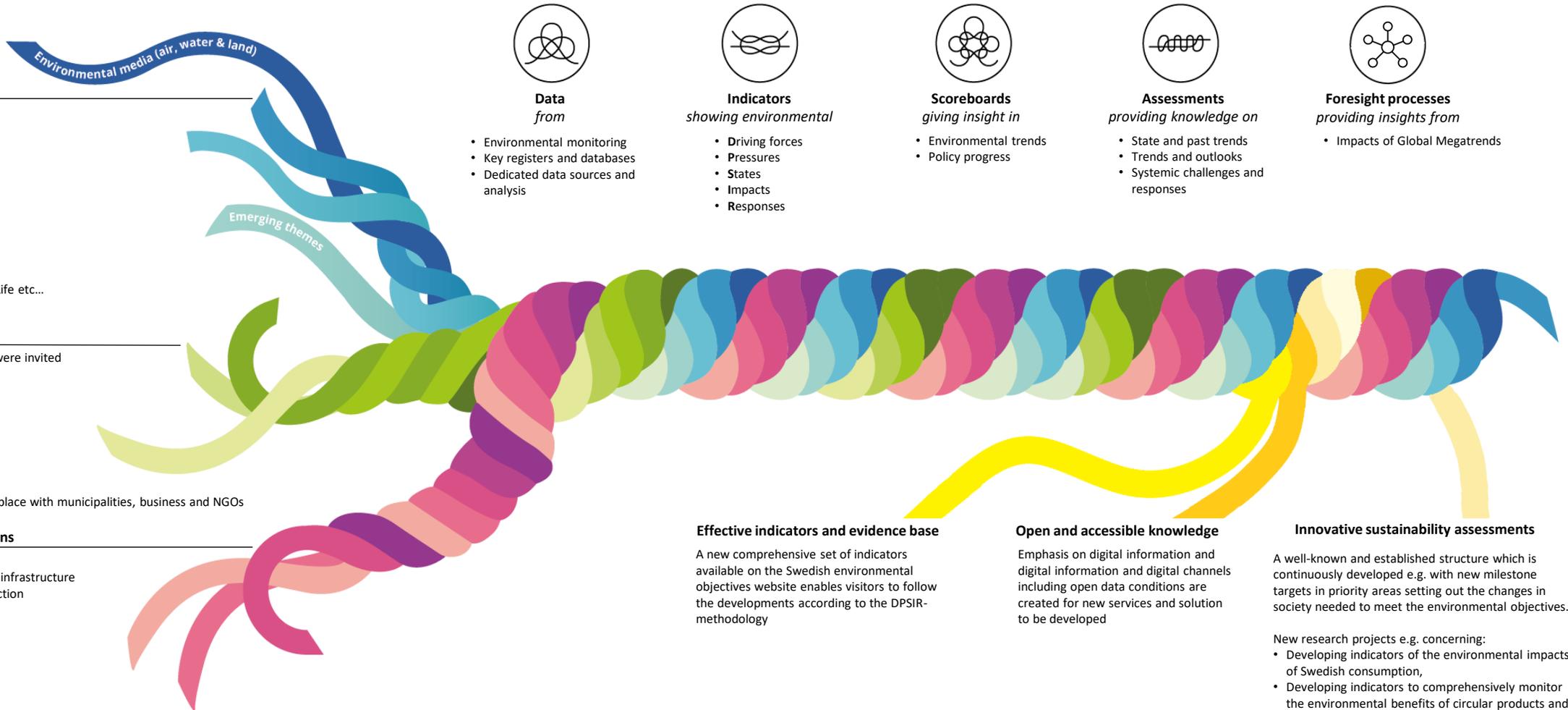
### Sectors

In the latest in-depth report agencies were invited covering sectors such as:

- Food
- Transport
- Forestry
- Agriculture
- Energy
- Defense and preparedness
- Economic and regional growth
- Cooperation and contacts also took place with municipalities, business and NGOs

### Systems and Sustainability transitions

- Sustainable cities and communities,
- Sustainable business innovation and infrastructure
- Sustainable consumption and production



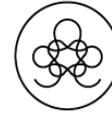
#### Data from

- Environmental monitoring
- Key registers and databases
- Dedicated data sources and analysis



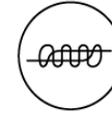
#### Indicators showing environmental

- Driving forces
- Pressures
- States
- Impacts
- Responses



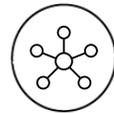
#### Scoreboards giving insight in

- Environmental trends
- Policy progress



#### Assessments providing knowledge on

- State and past trends
- Trends and outlooks
- Systemic challenges and responses



#### Foresight processes providing insights from

- Impacts of Global Megatrends

#### Effective indicators and evidence base

A new comprehensive set of indicators available on the Swedish environmental objectives website enables visitors to follow the developments according to the DPSIR-methodology

#### Open and accessible knowledge

Emphasis on digital information and digital information and digital channels including open data conditions are created for new services and solution to be developed

#### Innovative sustainability assessments

A well-known and established structure which is continuously developed e.g. with new milestone targets in priority areas setting out the changes in society needed to meet the environmental objectives.

New research projects e.g. concerning:

- Developing indicators of the environmental impacts of Swedish consumption,
- Developing indicators to comprehensively monitor the environmental benefits of circular products and a circular society

## Advances in national state of the environment reporting

## State of the Environment reporting in Sweden

In 1999 the Swedish Parliament adopted a number of environmental quality objectives to give clear structure to environmental action. This has led to what is now called the environmental objectives system:

- A generational goal defining the direction of the changes in society that are needed within a generation in order to achieve the environmental quality objectives.
- 16 Environmental quality objectives describing the state of the Swedish environment that environmental action is to result in.
- Milestone targets directing the way to the changes in society needed to achieve the environmental quality objectives and the generational goal.

The desired national environmental quality is to be achieved without increasing environmental or health problems of other countries. The environmental objectives system form part of the foundation for Sweden's implementation of the UN's 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.

26 government agencies have specific responsibilities for achieving the environmental objectives. Within their respective operations, they are to contribute to achieving the objectives. Eight of the government agencies have a separate responsibility for following up its particular objective and reporting on the possibilities of achieving these. The environmental objectives are followed up on a regular basis, with annual reports to the Government as a basis for the Budget Bill. An in-depth evaluation of environmental action and the prospects of reaching the objectives is performed once every parliamentary term. The evaluation serves as a basis for government policy and priorities. The Swedish EPA, working with all the agencies with responsibilities within the environmental objectives system, prepares the overall reports to the Government. County administrative boards have overall responsibility for coordinating regional and local action programmes and for following up the environmental objectives in their own counties.

There are many reasons why the objectives have proved difficult to achieve despite many good efforts. One is that Sweden is a small country in a globalized world, where we do not always alone have the ability to control the factors that affect the environment. Another is that knowledge of the environment and respect for the planetary boundaries still weighs too easily in many of the decisions that affect the possibilities of achieving the environmental objectives. In order for society to develop in a sustainable way, the knowledge of the planetary boundaries must be a cornerstone when planning society and when we develop the instruments that set the framework for different activities. We also need to take advantage of synergies that exist between the environmental objectives and other objectives in the society. Efforts for the environment can at the same time, for example, benefit a thriving countryside, strengthen the competitiveness of business or contribute to Sweden's ability to handle various types of crises.

**Source:** Swedish EPA