

The Seven Characteristics of Successful Indicator Projects/Programs

- The most dynamic projects/programs benefit from *a leader or coordinator* who is able to communicate the vision of the effort and bring together seemingly disparate elements to produce and maintain ecological indicators.
- The best projects/programs have *clear statements of purpose* and carefully address the key questions of *intended audience and use* at inception.
- Ecological indicator projects/programs with strong *relationships to monitoring and data collection activities* produce more credible indicators.
- Projects/programs that *use indicator development tools*, such as selection and evaluation criteria and frameworks for organizing and categorizing indicators, have confidence that their indicators are credible and have a better ability to use tiers and subsets of their indicator lists to fit specific purposes and respond to questions posed by decisionmakers.
- The best projects/programs produce *metadata* describing how they developed data, models, indicators/indices, and their lessons learned.
- The best indicator projects/programs have a *balance of science (content) and process*.
- *Involvement of stakeholders in both development and use* is critical to success.

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