



WWF *for a living planet*

WWF Scotland

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SCOTTISH CLIMATE UPDATE

Embargoed Until: 00:01hrs 14th Feb 2009

One of a series of Climate Updates from WWF Scotland based on data from the Met Office.

JANUARY 2009

TOP LINE: January 2009 was the 3rd sunniest January ever recorded and was 0.5°C warmer than the long-term average.

Measure	Jan 2009	Comparison*	Rating	Records start
Temperature	2.6°C	+0.5°C	+	1914
Rainfall	162.5mm	+9.5%	+	1914
Sunshine	50.4hrs	+60.5%	+++	1929

*compared to 1961-1990 average, +++ exceptionally above average; ++ well above average; + above average;

~ close to average; - below average; -- well below average

January was the 3rd sunniest January in Scotland according to the records which began in 1929. Although it was cooler than in recent years it was also 0.5°C warmer than the long-term average. There were 49 cooler Januaries in the records which began in 1914.

COMMENT:

Dr Richard Dixon, Director of WWF Scotland, said:

“This January was not as warm as those of the last few years because the La Niña cooling in the Pacific has partly masked the usual global warming trend over the past 12 months. January 2009 was a bit of a throw back to what winters used to be like but it was still half a degree warmer than the long-term average and also the third sunniest January on record.

“Globally the ten warmest years have all occurred since 1997 and the average for the 2000s is almost 0.2°C warmer than the 1990s. The La Niña cooling in the Pacific is going to be replaced by the El Niño warming so scientists are already predicting that 2009 will be one of the top-five warmest years around the world.[4]

“The Scottish Climate Change Bill continues to make its way through the Scottish Parliament and we encourage people to contact their MSP urging them to strengthen the Bill so that it becomes the best climate law anywhere in the world. We have the opportunity to set the example that other nations must follow when they debate climate targets at the end of this year in Copenhagen.

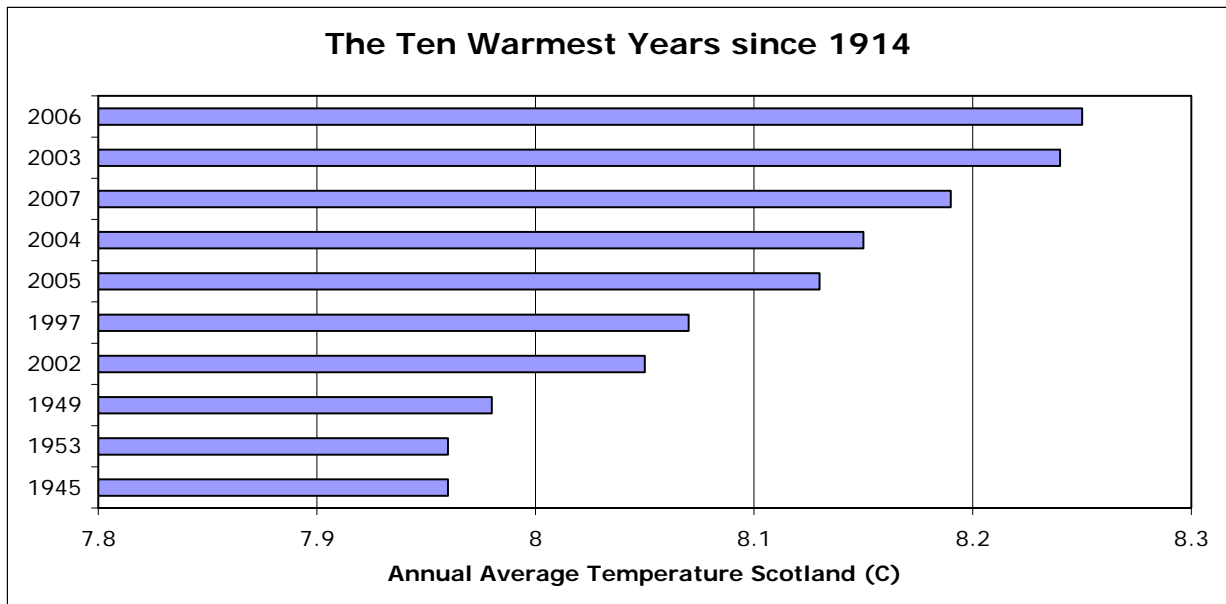
“We are also hoping that lots of people will join us for WWF’s Earth Hour in March, and show their support for a strong climate bill in Scotland and strong global deal in Copenhagen.”

-ends-



Director of WWF Scotland: Dr Richard Dixon
President: HRH Princess Alexandra,
the Hon Lady Ogilvy KG, GCVO
Chair: Ed Smith
Chief Executive: David Nussbaum

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Editor's notes

[1] Data from the Met Office <http://www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/2009/january.html> and <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate/uk/datasets/index.html> with further analysis by WWF Scotland.

[2] The five warmest years since records began are 2006, 2003, 2007, 2004, 2005 (warmest first).

[3] WWF Scotland is part of Stop Climate Chaos, an alliance of development, environment and civil society groups aiming for tougher action to reduce emissions - <http://stopclimatechaosscotland.org>

SCCS will be holding a Climate Change Rally on 22 April 2009. All coalition members and their supporters are being encouraged to spring into action for a strong Scottish Climate Change Bill. For further details of the rally contact SCCS Co-ordinator Gail Wilson on 0131 311 6512, 07950 532 067 or Gail.Wilson@rspb.org.uk

[4] <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/corporate/pressoffice/2008/pr20081230.html>

[5] WWF's Earth Hour – 8.30pm Saturday 28 March 2009

Sign up and switch off to show you want action on climate change.

WWF's Earth Hour lights-out initiative began in Sydney, Australia in 2007 as an awareness-raising exercise. In 2008, it went spectacularly global when more than 50 million people in more than 270 cities in over 35 countries turned off their lights for one hour in March. This year Earth Hour will be even bigger with towns and cities signing up across Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland. For more information visit: <http://www.wwfscotland.org.uk/earthhour>

For further information, please contact:

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