



WWF *for a living planet*

WWF Scotland

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SCOTTISH CLIMATE UPDATE

Embargoed Until: 00:01hrs 15th May 2010

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

APRIL 2010

TOP LINE: April 2010 was nearly a degree warmer than the long-term average
It was also unusually dry in the Borders

Measure	April 2010	Comparison*	Rating	Records start
Temperature	6.6°C	0.9°C	+	1910
Rainfall	84.1mm	-3%	~	1910
Sunshine	155.3hrs	+19%	~	1929

*compared to 1971-2000 averages, +++ exceptionally above average; ++ well above average; + above average;

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

COMMENT:

Dr Richard Dixon, Director of WWF Scotland, said:

“April saw a return to what we have been used to over recent years, monthly temperature above the long-term average. After the very cold start to the year it was a relief for most people to get back to more familiar weather and we would expect the underlying climate warming trend to be clearly seen again in temperatures over the rest of the year.

“The Scottish Parliament is currently considering what our climate targets should be for each year over the next decade. We have been urging them to go for tough action in the next few years, to make sure we are properly on track to meet our world-leading target of a 42% reduction by 2020.

“We have also been urging the government to include emissions from aeroplanes properly. Aviation emissions are growing rapidly and are often underestimated, but Scotland is in danger of letting the whole sector off too lightly.”

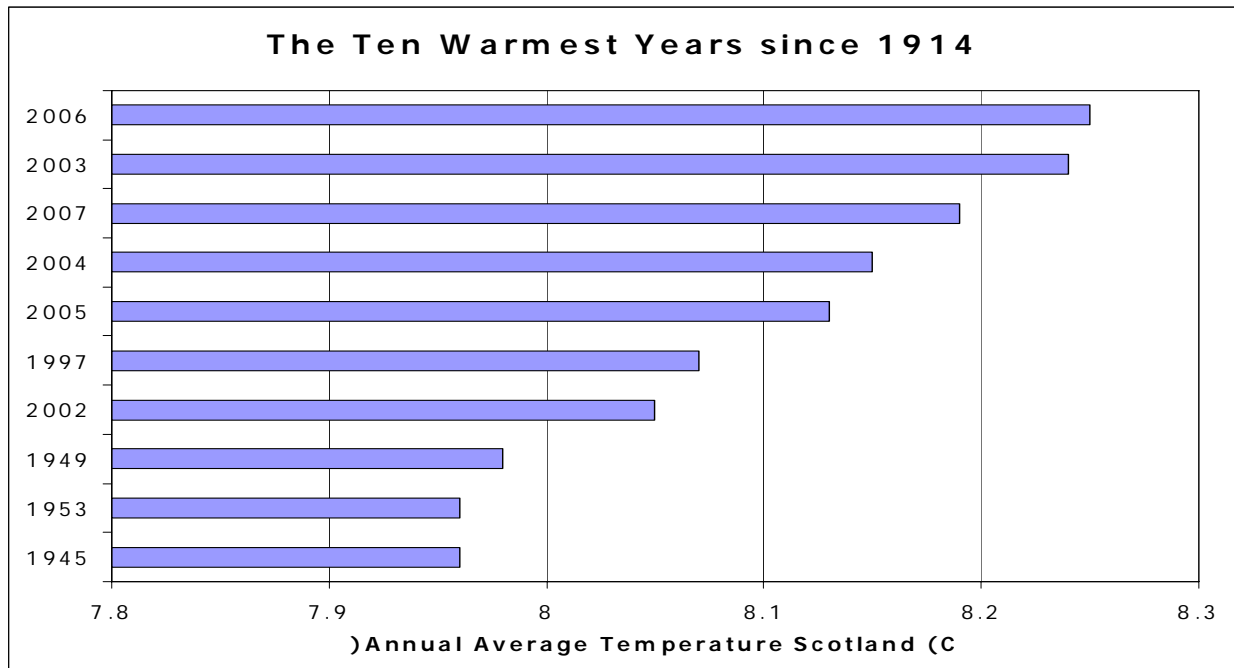
THE YEAR SO FAR

April was nearly a degree warmer than the average and quite sunny. March saw a return to average temperature but with heavy snow in the north and coastal flooding in the east. February was the 12th coldest ever recorded and the winter was the second coldest ever. January was very cold but was also the 4th sunniest January in Scotland according to the records which began in 1929. It was particularly sunny in the west.



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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Data from the Met Office <http://www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/2010/April.html> and <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate/uk/datasets/index.html> with further analysis by WWF Scotland. The Met Office classify winter as December-February inclusive.

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