



**WWF** *for a living planet*

**WWF Scotland**

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# SCOTTISH CLIMATE UPDATE

Embargoed Until: 00:01hrs 10<sup>th</sup> April 2010

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

## MARCH 2010

**TOP LINE:** March 2010 saw a return to more average weather after a very cold start to the year  
The North saw heavy snow again and the East suffered coastal flooding

Measure	March 2010	Comparison*	Rating	Records start
Temperature	3.8°C	-0.1°C	~	1910
Rainfall	99.3mm	-28%	-	1910
Sunshine	98.5hrs	+11%	+	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:

“March saw a return to more normal weather after the very cold start to 2010. But there were still some heavy snowfalls leading to closed schools, blocked roads and power cuts in the north of Scotland. The very end of the month was stormy, with river and coastal floods in the east. Despite our Arctic weather, there is no doubt that the underlying global climate change trends are still with us, with the years from 2000 to 2009 officially the warmest decade ever recorded.

“At the end of March hundreds of millions of people in 125 countries around the world took part in WWF’s Earth Hour, our annual global climate change action. In Scotland, 29 of our 32 local authorities took part and tens of thousands of people turned their lights for an hour. WWF’s Earth Hour sends a clear message to world leaders that people want urgent action on climate change.”

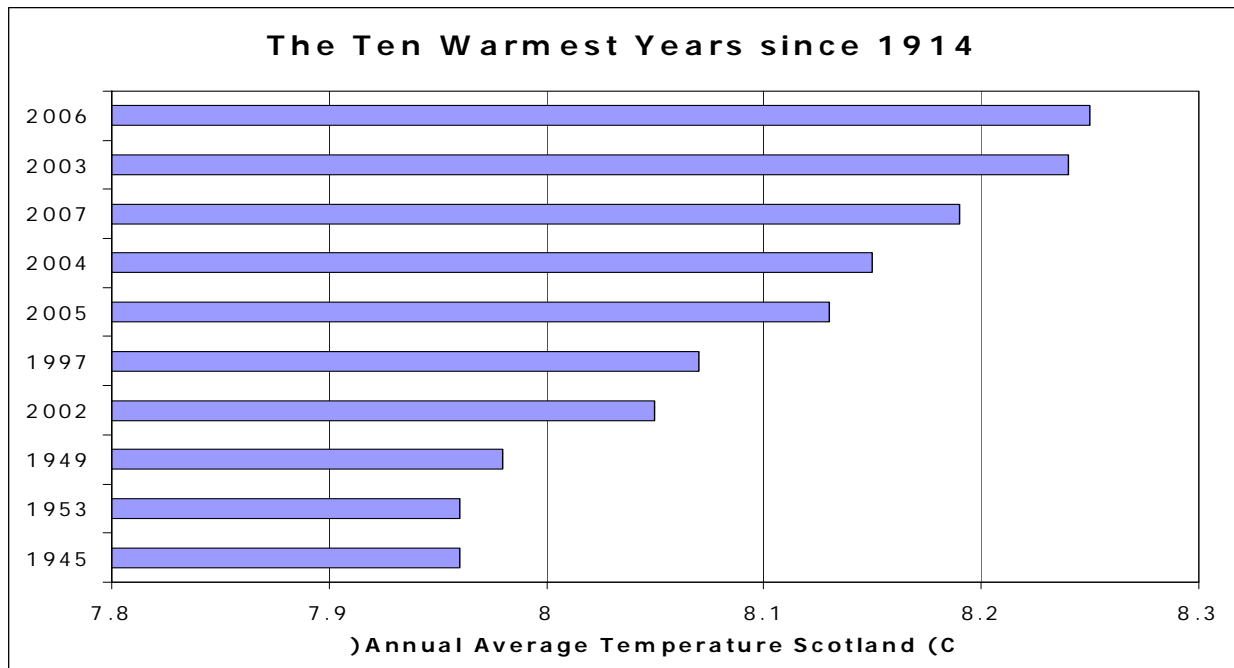
**THE YEAR SO FAR**

March saw a return to average temperature but with heavy snow in the north and coastal flooding in the east. February was the 12<sup>th</sup> coldest ever recorded and the winter was the second coldest ever. January was very cold but was also the 4<sup>th</sup> 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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**Editor's notes**

[1] Data from the Met Office <http://www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/2010/March.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.

[2] WWF's Earth Hour was at 8.30pm on Saturday 27 March 2010. For more information about WWF's Earth Hour <http://www.wwfscotland.org.uk/earthhour>

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

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

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