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# SCOTTISH CLIMATE UPDATE

Embargoed Until: 00:01hrs 12<sup>th</sup> June 2010

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

## MAY 2010

**TOP LINE:** May 2010 was close to average temperatures  
A warm spell broke temperature records in Fife and the Borders  
The month was rather dry, especially in the west and south

| Measure     | May 2010 | Comparison* | Rating | Records start |
|-------------|----------|-------------|--------|---------------|
| Temperature | 8.3°C    | -0.3°C      | -      | 1910          |
| Rainfall    | 52.1mm   | -34%        | --     | 1910          |
| Sunshine    | 187.1hrs | +7%         | +      | 1929          |

\*compared to 1971-2000 averages, +++ exceptionally above average; ++ well above average; + above average;  
~ close to average; - below average; -- well below average

**COMMENT:**

Dr Sam Gardner, Climate Policy Officer for WWF Scotland, said:

“Despite a record-breaking warm spell in the middle, May ended up with only average temperatures but was quite a bit drier than usual. Meanwhile the Met Office is predicting that droughts like that of 1976 could be happening once a decade by the year 2100 if we don’t reduce emissions.

“May also saw the Scottish Parliament throw out the Government’s proposed annual climate targets for the next decade. This means a big rethink before we know exactly how we are going to get properly on track to meet our world-leading target of a 42 per cent reduction by 2020.

“Sadly the Parliament let the Government off much too lightly on how it will include aviation emissions. This means the industry will be getting away with only counting half their real emissions. This despite planes being an important and growing source of climate emissions.”

**THE YEAR SO FAR**

Despite a very warm spell May was close to average temperatures overall. Weather stations in Fife and the Borders recorded their highest ever May temperatures (on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Leuchars 26.2 °C and Charterhall, Borders 25.7 °C). 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 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.



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### The Ten Warmest Years since 1914

