



WWF *for a living planet*

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SCOTTISH CLIMATE UPDATE

Embargoed Until: 00:01hrs 12th Sept 2008

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

AUGUST 2008

TOP LINE: August 2008 was the dullest August since 1978
The month was also very wet and 1°C above average

Measure	August 2008	Comparison*	Rating*	Records start
Temperature	13.5°C	1.0°C	+	1914
Rainfall	167.6mm	+44%	+	1914
Sunshine	96.9hrs	-28%	--	1929

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

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

THE YEAR SO FAR:

August was very wet with little sunshine, with major floods in Fife, Ayrshire, Dundee, Edinburgh and Renfrewshire and a major landslip near Stonehaven. The month was the 6th dullest and the 10th wettest August ever recorded. July was very warm and a bit wetter and less sunny than average. June was slightly warmer and quite a bit wetter than average. May was the warmest May ever in the Scottish records, which go back to 1914. It was also the 4th driest ever with only 34% of the usual rain for May. March and April were both average, apart from very wet conditions in April in eastern Scotland. February was more than two degrees centigrade warmer than the long-term average. This January was more than a degree centigrade warmer than the long-term average and the 3rd wettest January ever recorded.

COMMENT:

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

“August was a month of real climate chaos, with floods and landslides causing major disruption to transport systems and damage to peoples homes across Scotland. We are already experiencing 20% more rain than we used to and the heavy, intense rainfall we saw in August is in keeping with the kind of impacts predicted under climate change models. At the same time, globally, over the past few weeks we have witnessed extreme weather events such as tropical storms and hurricanes on a worryingly frequent scale. We need to play our part in reducing greenhouse gas emissions if we are to stave off the worst impacts of climate change.”

“Scotland has the potential to produce the best climate change legislation anywhere in the world, setting the benchmark for the climate talks over the next 18 months. The SNP have promised an 80% cut by



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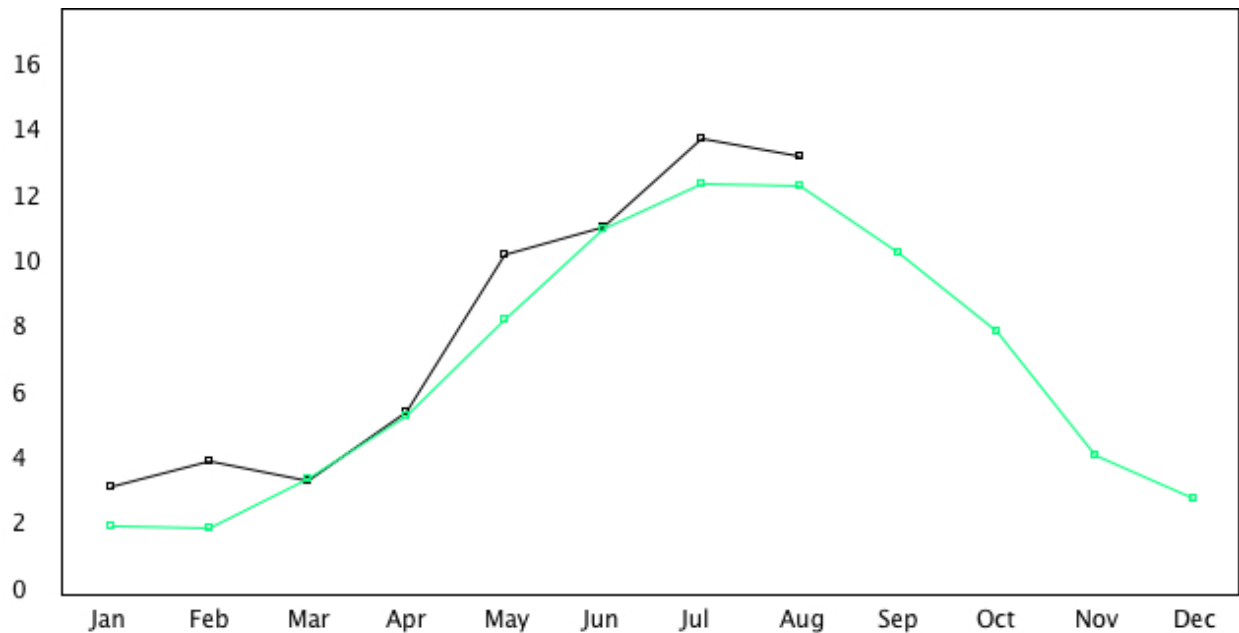
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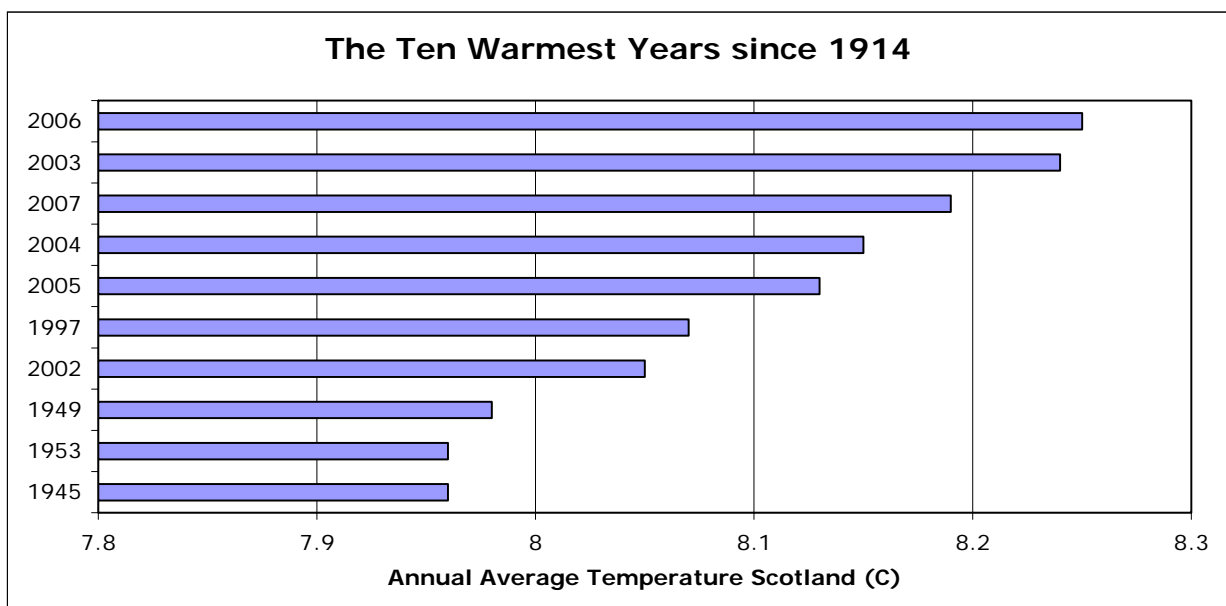
2050 but already we think they are backing away from including the growing emissions from our share of international aviation in the target.”

Already, almost 20,000 WWF supporters from round the world have written to the Scottish Government to demonstrate their support for a strong Scottish Climate Change Bill. Now the public consultation is over, we need to put pressure on the people who can influence the Bill, our MSPs.

Take our two minute action today to ask your MSPs to back a strong Scottish Climate Change Bill. Visit <http://www.wwfscotland.org.uk/climatebill>



2008 compared to the average temperatures of the years 1961-1990



Further information

1. 2007 was the 3rd warmest ever recorded in Scotland (records back to 1914) and the 2nd warmest ever recorded for the UK. This means that the five warmest years since records began are the last five years. April was the warmest April, May was the 4th wettest and December was the 2nd sunniest, since records began. Spring 2007 was the 2nd warmest ever recorded in Scotland, beaten only by 2003.
2. WWF Scotland is campaigning for a robust Scottish climate bill, containing annual statutory greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets of at least 3% and including emissions from international aviation and shipping. The Scottish Government received over 20,000 responses to their consultation on what should be in the bill.
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>
4. If everyone used natural resources and generated carbon emissions at the rate we do in the UK we would need three planets to support us. The way we live is leading to environmental threats such as climate change, species extinction, deforestation, water shortages and the collapse of fisheries. WWF is working to help people live a good quality of life within the earth's capacity. For more information visit www.wwf.org.uk/oneplanet