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# SCOTTISH CLIMATE UPDATE

Embargoed Until: 00:01hrs 5<sup>th</sup> Sept 2009

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

## AUGUST 2009

**TOP LINE: August 2009 was the 3<sup>rd</sup> wettest August ever recorded in Scotland  
The west of Scotland had its joint wettest ever August  
2009 was the 4<sup>th</sup> wettest summer ever recorded**

Measure	Aug 2009	Comparison*	Rating	Records start
Temperature	13.5°C	0.6°C	+	1914
Rainfall	197.1mm	+83%	+++	1914
Sunshine	133.9hrs	-5%	-	1929

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

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

**COMMENT:**

2009 is a crucial year for climate change with world leaders meeting in Copenhagen in December to agree a new international climate deal that will come into force when the first phase of the Kyoto treaty expires in 2012. The new Scottish Climate Change Act has set a strong international example of what is possible.

Dr Richard Dixon, Director of WWF Scotland, said:

“August has been a washout over most of Scotland, with record rainfall in the south-west. Following a wet July this has made summer 2009 the fourth wettest ever. It was also warmer than the average. If the second half of the year follows the pattern of the first seven months 2009 would end up as the 8<sup>th</sup> warmest year on record.

“The recession has resulted in many people in Scotland and England holiday in the UK this year but the poor weather this summer may make them think twice next year. The long-term predictions are that Scotland will be warmer and drier in the summer, but recent movements of the high-altitude jet stream have stopped these predictions from coming true so far and made sure that plenty of rain has swept in from the Atlantic.

“As the climate negotiations hot up on the way to the Copenhagen conference in December we have seen some positive moves from China, the US and Japan. The Scottish Climate Change Act has been setting a good example with its tough 2020 target of 42%.”



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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## THE YEAR SO FAR

August was the 3<sup>rd</sup> wettest August ever recorded and the joint wettest ever (with August 1985) in the west of Scotland. The average temperature was more than 0.5°C above the long-term average. The summer of 2009 was the 4<sup>th</sup> wettest summer ever, following 1985, 1948 and 1956. July was the 5<sup>th</sup> wettest July in the east of Scotland. June 2009 was the 6<sup>th</sup> sunniest June ever recorded and finished with a very warm spell. May 2009 was the 6<sup>th</sup> wettest and 4<sup>th</sup> sunniest May ever recorded, and it was also the 9<sup>th</sup> sunniest month ever recorded, as well as being 0.6°C warmer than average. April was the 3<sup>rd</sup> warmest April in the records which go back to 1914 and it was also sunnier than average. March was the 5<sup>th</sup> sunniest ever recorded and a full degree warmer than the long-term average. The east of Scotland was 1.6° warmer than the average. The start of February was cold but temperatures picked up to allow the month to finish with an average temperature above the long-term average. January was the 3<sup>rd</sup> sunniest January in Scotland according to the records which began in 1929. Although it was cooler than in recent years it was still 0.1°C warmer than the long-term average.

