



WWF *for a living planet*

WWF Scotland

Little Dunkeld, Dunkeld
Perthshire PH8 0AD
t: 01350 728200
f: 01350 728201
ISDN: 01350 728276
wwfscotland.org.uk

SCOTTISH CLIMATE UPDATE

Embargoed Until: 00:01hrs 9th Jan 2010

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

DECEMBER 2009

TOP LINE: December 2009 was the coldest December since 1981 and the 3rd coldest ever recorded. 2009 was the 13th warmest and the 4th sunniest ever recorded for Scotland. 2009 contained the wettest November, the 3rd wettest August, the 3rd warmest April and the 3rd sunniest January ever recorded in Scotland. 11 of the 12 months of 2009 were warmer than average. The summer of 2009 was the 4th wettest summer ever, following 1985, 1948 and 1956.

Measure	Dec 2009	Comparison*	Rating	Records start
Temperature	0.3°C	-2.9°C	--	1914
Rainfall	92.1mm	-46%	-	1914
Sunshine	31.7hrs	+15%	+	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:

“Despite the December chill 2009 was the 13th warmest year ever recorded, with every month but December warmer than average. It was also the 4th sunniest year. The Met Office is already predicting that next year could be the hottest ever across the globe.

“The arctic air that has chilled us since early December was a cool blip against a background of steadily increasing temperatures. No doubt we will see the occasional harsh winter month in future but they will become increasingly rare.

“While December was a reminder of winters past, from the Borders to the North East many parts of Scotland saw big floods during the year, a clear taste of our future, warmer and wetter climate.

“2009 was a crucial year for climate change with the world-leading Scottish Climate Change Act passed unanimously by the Scottish Parliament but world leaders failing to agree a new international climate deal in Copenhagen.”

THE YEAR SO FAR

2009 was the 13th warmest year ever recorded in Scotland, it was also the 12th wettest and the 4th sunniest.

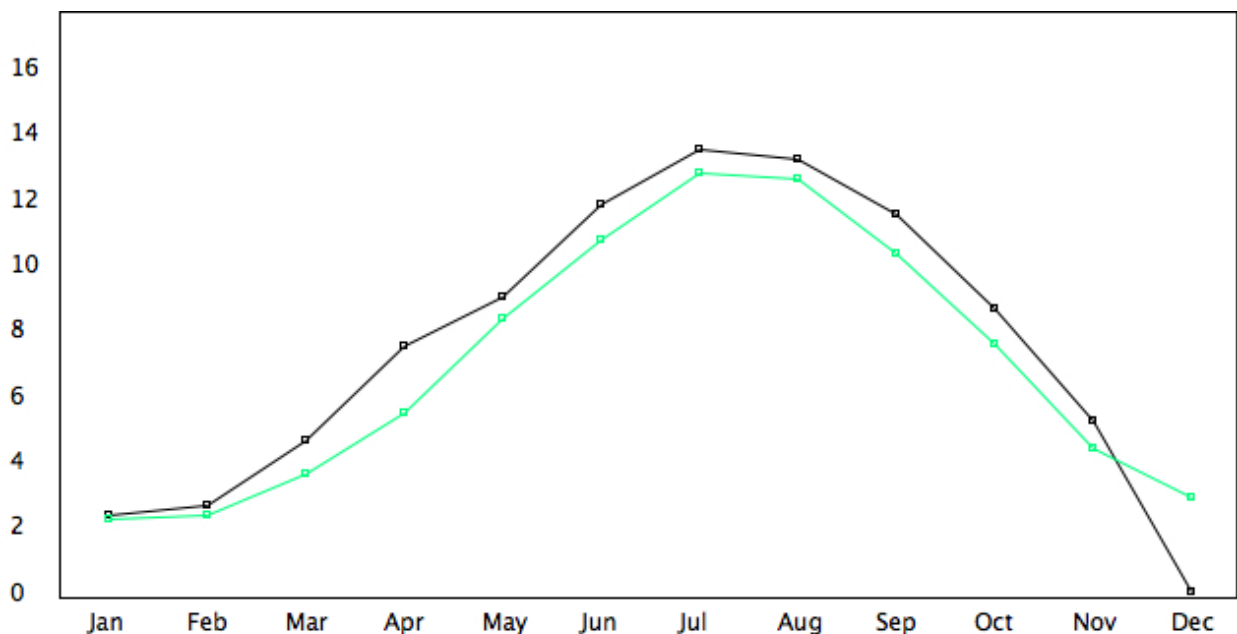


Director of WWF Scotland: Dr Richard Dixon
President: HRH Princess Alexandra,
the Hon Lady Ogilvy KG, GCVO
Chair: Ed Smith
Chief Executive: David Nussbaum

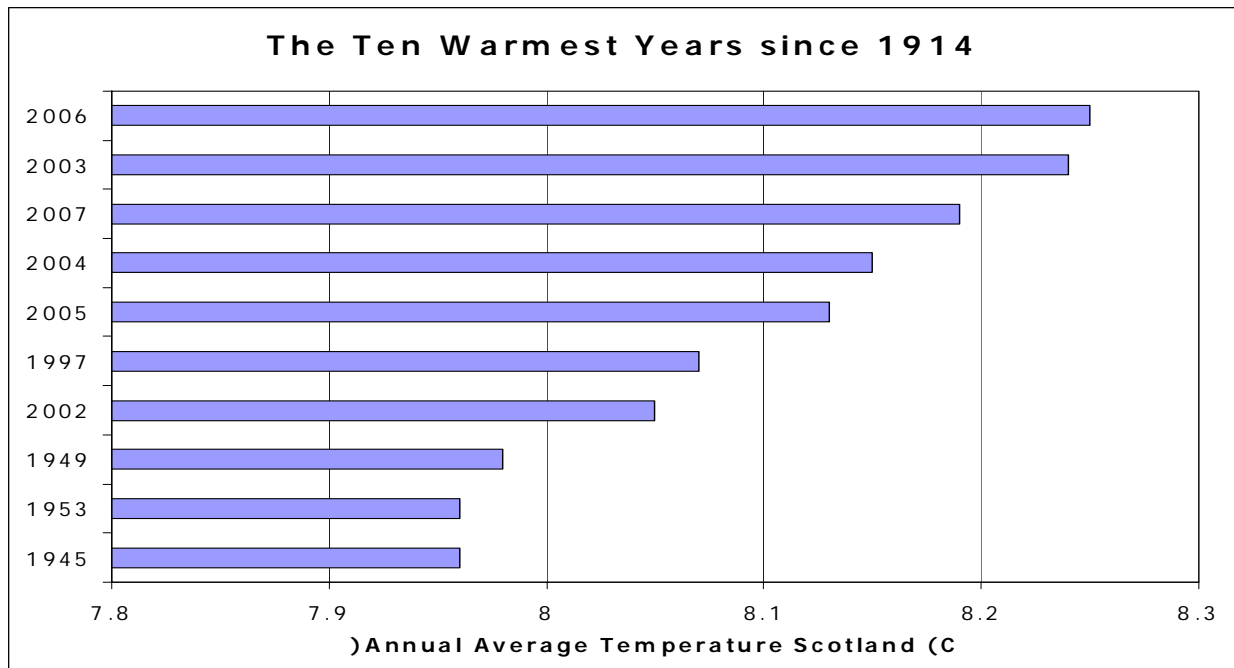
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December was the 3rd coldest on record, following 1981 and 1950. November was the wettest November ever recorded. October was a degree warmer than usual. It had average rainfall across Scotland but the North East was 50% wetter than usual. September was more than a degree warmer than the average. The month had lower than average rainfall but this conceals very heavy rain early in the month which caused floods in Elgin, Aberdeenshire and the Borders. 123.6mm (5 inches) of rain over 24 hours was recorded at Fochabers. August was the 3rd 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 4th wettest summer ever, following 1985, 1948 and 1956. July was the 5th wettest July in the east of Scotland.

June 2009 was the 6th sunniest June ever recorded and finished with a very warm spell. May 2009 was the 6th wettest and 4th sunniest May ever recorded, and it was also the 9th sunniest month ever recorded, as well as being 0.6°C warmer than average. April was the 3rd warmest April in the records which go back to 1914 and it was also sunnier than average. March was the 5th 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 3rd 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.



Monthly average temperatures in 2009 compared to the average of 1971-2000 (green line)



Editor's notes

[1] Data from the Met Office <http://www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/2009/December.html> and <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate/uk/datasets/index.html> with further analysis by WWF Scotland.

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

[3] 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>

For further information please contact:

Mandy Carter, t: 01350 728226, m: 07771 818 677, e: mcarter@wwfscotland.org.uk