



WWF *for a living planet*

WWF Scotland

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SCOTTISH CLIMATE UPDATE

Embargoed Until: 00:01hrs 14th Mar 2009

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

FEBRUARY 2009

TOP LINE: February 2009 was slightly warmer and much drier than the long-term average.

Measure	Feb 2009	Comparison*	Rating	Records start
Temperature	2.9°C	0.3°C	+	1914
Rainfall	74.0mm	-38%	--	1914
Sunshine	49.9hrs	-15%	-	1929

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

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

THE YEAR SO FAR

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 also 0.1°C warmer than the long-term average. There were 49 cooler Januaries in the records which began in 1914.

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 Scottish Climate Change Bill is also currently making its way through Parliament.

Dr Richard Dixon, Director of WWF Scotland, said:

“February was still showing some impact of the global cooling in the Pacific caused by La Niña but we expect temperatures to pick up for the rest of the year. Globally the ten warmest years have all occurred since 1997 and the average for the 2000s is almost 0.2°C warmer than the 1990s. The La Niña cooling in the Pacific is going to be replaced by the El Niño warming so scientists are already predicting that 2009 will be one of the top-five warmest years around the world.[4]

“March 28th will see millions of people around the world taking part in WWF’s Earth Hour, showing their support for a strong global deal in Copenhagen. From the Forth Rail Bridge to the Sydney Opera House landmarks across the world will be taking part. Individuals, businesses and public authorities in 80 countries will turn off their lights for one hour in the largest campaign action on any subject ever.

“Earth Hour is a dramatic plea to the world’s governments to get it right on climate targets. There is still time to sign up and switch off, and be part of history.

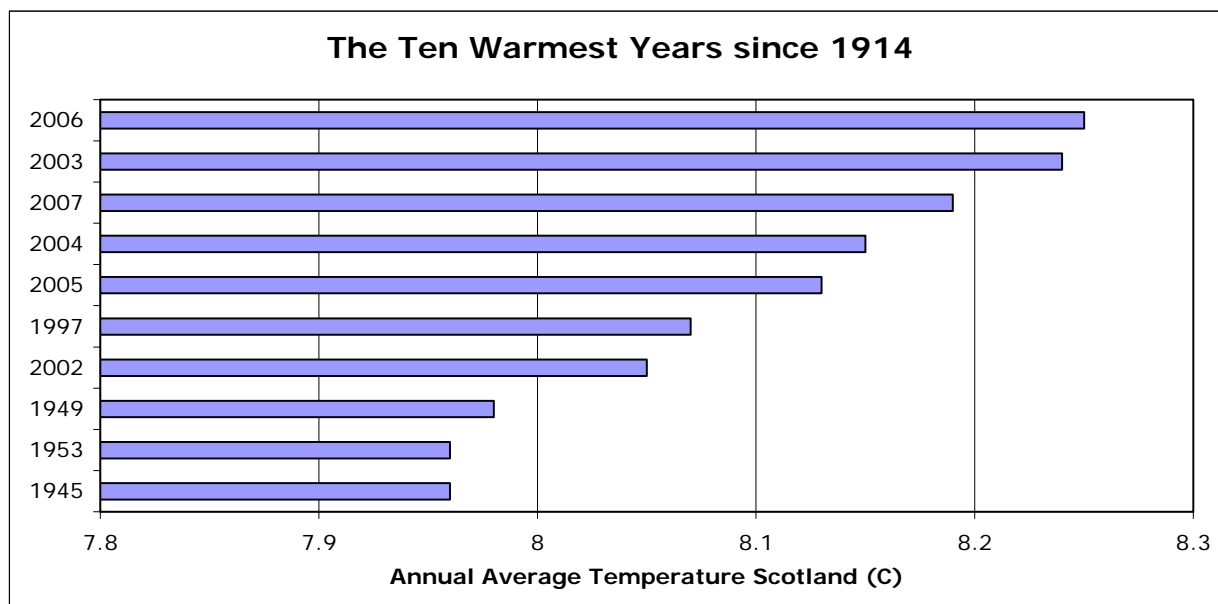


Director of WWF Scotland: Dr Richard Dixon
President: HRH Princess Alexandra,
the Hon Lady Ogilvy KG, GCVO
Chair: Ed Smith
Chief Executive: David Nussbaum

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“The Scottish Climate Change Bill continues to make its way through the Scottish Parliament and we encourage people to contact their MSP urging them to strengthen the Bill so that it becomes the best climate law anywhere in the world. We have the opportunity to set the example that other nations must follow when they debate climate targets at the end of this year in Copenhagen.”

-ends-



Editor's notes

[1] Data from the Met Office <http://www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/2009/february.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, an alliance of development, environment and civil society groups aiming for tougher action to reduce emissions - <http://stopclimatechaosscotland.org>

SCCS will be holding a Climate Change Rally on 22 April 2009. All coalition members and their supporters are being encouraged to spring into action for a strong Scottish Climate Change Bill. For further details of the rally contact SCCS Co-ordinator Gail Wilson on 0131 311 6512, 07950 532 067 or Gail.Wilson@rspb.org.uk

[4] <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/corporate/pressoffice/2008/pr20081230.html>

[5] WWF's Earth Hour – 8.30pm Saturday 28 March 2009

Sign up and switch off to show you want action on climate change.

WWF's Earth Hour lights-out initiative began in Sydney, Australia in 2007 as an awareness-raising exercise. In 2008, it went spectacularly global when more than 50 million people in more than 270 cities in over 35 countries turned off their lights for one hour in March. This year Earth Hour will be even bigger with towns and cities signing up across Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland. For more information visit: <http://www.wfscotland.org.uk/earthhour>