



WWF *for a living planet*

WWF Scotland

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SCOTTISH CLIMATE UPDATE

Embargoed Until: 00:01hrs 11th April 2009

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

MARCH 2009

TOP LINE: March 2009 was a full degree warmer than the long-term average, and it was the 5th sunniest March ever recorded.

Measure	Mar 2009	Comparison*	Rating	Records start
Temperature	4.9°C	1.0°C	++	1914
Rainfall	145.8mm	+5%	+	1914
Sunshine	123.5hrs	+39%	++	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

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 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:

“March was warm and very sunny, showing a return to the kind of weather we have been getting used to over the last decade. The La Niña cooling in the Pacific is finally fading away and an El Niño warming is expected to begin soon, so scientists are already predicting that 2009 will be one of the top-five warmest years around the world.

“At the end of March hundreds of millions of people around the world took part in WWF’s Earth Hour, showing their support for a strong global climate deal at the Copenhagen conference at the end of the year. From Edinburgh Castle to the Sydney Opera House landmarks around the world went dark and people in nearly 90 countries turned off their lights for one hour in the largest campaign action on climate change ever.



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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“In April we will hear what MSPs think of the Scottish Climate Change Bill, after months of taking evidence and collecting views from around Scotland. We have been calling for tougher targets to make the Scottish bill really world-leading. We will be joining people from development groups, trade unions and other environment groups to bring a strong message about the climate bill to the rally at Parliament on the 22nd April.”

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