



WWF *for a living planet*

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SCOTTISH CLIMATE UPDATE Embargoed Until: 00:01hrs 13th June 2009

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

MAY 2009

**TOP LINE: May 2009 was the 6th wettest and 4th sunniest May ever recorded
It was also the 9th sunniest month ever recorded and was warmer than average**

Measure	May 2009	Comparison*	Rating	Records start
Temperature	9.2°C	0.6°C	++	1914
Rainfall	124.5mm	157%	+++	1914
Sunshine	221.2hrs	126%	+++	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 Scottish Climate Change Bill is also currently making its way through Parliament.

Dr Richard Dixon, Director of WWF Scotland, said:

“May was a month of extremes, with a very warm and sunny period but also close to record rainfall for the month. We used to think simply about global warming and the idea of Scotland being a little warmer sounded like a good thing. We now understand that it is climate change or even climate chaos we are facing, with much less predictable weather in prospect throughout the year.

"The Scottish Climate Change Bill has been strengthened in several ways as it has made its way through Parliament, but on the crucial issue of tough targets for 2020 it is still falling well short of the 40% or more that is needed. Scotland has the opportunity to lead the way by being the first nation in the world to commit to this goal. The current draft Bill only aims for 34% by 2020 and our MSPs have only a couple of weeks left before the final vote when they could force this up to 40% or more."

THE YEAR SO FAR

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

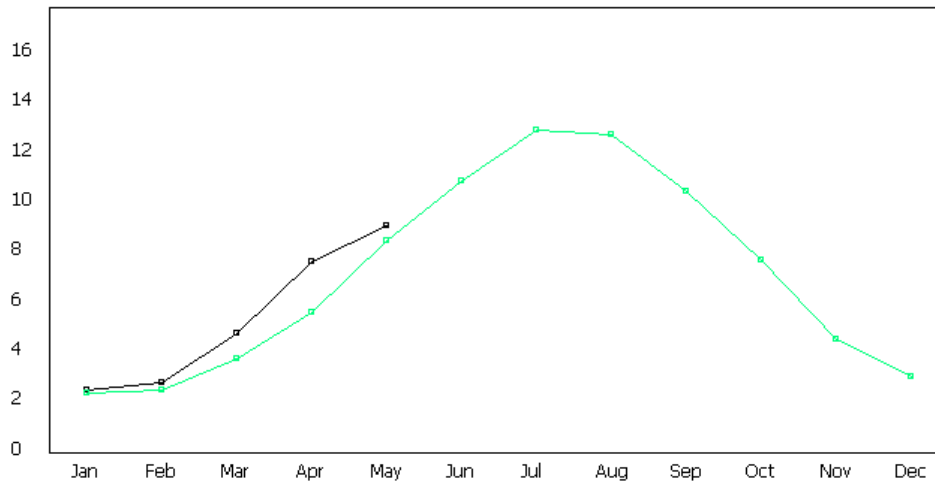


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the Hon Lady Ogilvy KG, GCVO
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Scotland according to the records which began in 1929. Although it was cooler than in recent years it was still 0.1°C warmer than the long-term average. If 2009 continues in a similar fashion, it will be in the top 10 warmest years ever recorded in Scotland.

-ends-



Monthly temperatures for 2009 compared to the long-term average (1971-2000)

