



WWF *for a living planet*

WWF Scotland

Little Dunkeld, Dunkeld
Perthshire PH8 0AD
t: +44 (0)1350 728200
f: +44 (0)1350 728201
ISDN: 01350 728276

www.wwf.org.uk/scotland

SCOTTISH CLIMATE UPDATE

Embargoed: 00:01hrs 9th June 2006

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

May 2006

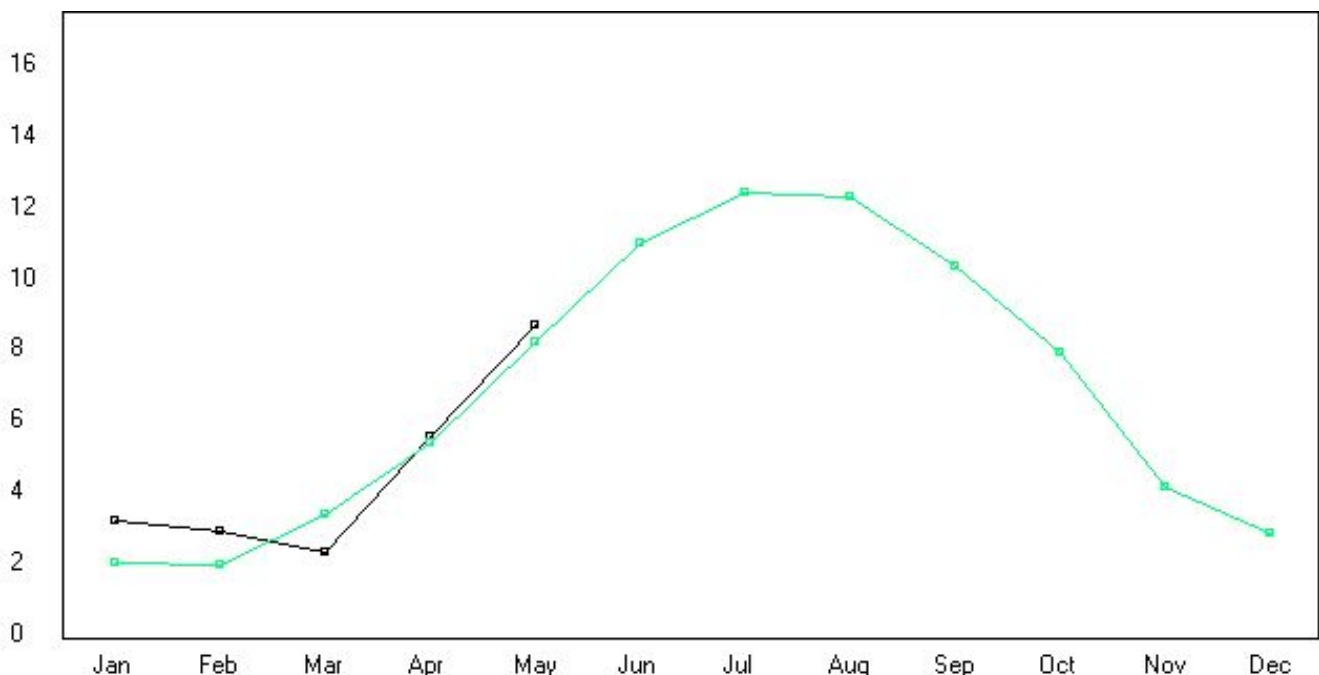
**TOP LINE: May 2006 was warmer, wetter and sunnier than average
2006 is likely to be in the top 20 warmest years on record**

| Measure | May 2006 | Comparison* | Rating | Records start |
|-------------|-----------|-------------|--------|---------------|
| Temperature | 8.9 °C | +0.5°C | ~ | 1914 |
| Rainfall | 112.1 mm | +30% | + | 1914 |
| Sunshine | 199.2 hrs | +20% | + | 1929 |

*compared to 1961-1990 average, ++ well above average; + above average; ~ close to average; - below average; -- well below average

EVENTS IN MAY 2006

- 4th - the Hebrides and west coast experienced severe thunderstorms, a very unusual event
- 5th - a Dumfries footballer ended up in hospital after being hit by lightning
- 8th - 11th - temperatures reached 24°C somewhere in Scotland every day
- 9th - 34 die during heat-wave in India
- 9th - Hundreds flee Bali floods
- 12th - temperature dropped to -4°C in the Highland glens
- 17th - 1,000 homes destroyed by floods in Burundi



The year so far compared to the average temperatures of the years 1961-1990



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Head of WWF Scotland: Dr Richard Dixon
WWF Scotland is part of WWF-UK
President: HRH Princess Alexandra,
the Hon Lady Ogilvy GCVO
Chairman: Christopher Ward
Chief Executive: Robert Napier

Registered office WWF-UK, Panda House,
Weyside Park, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1XR
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25th - 5,000 homeless as Burundi floods
31st - 100,000 stranded by Bangladesh floods

THE YEAR SO FAR:

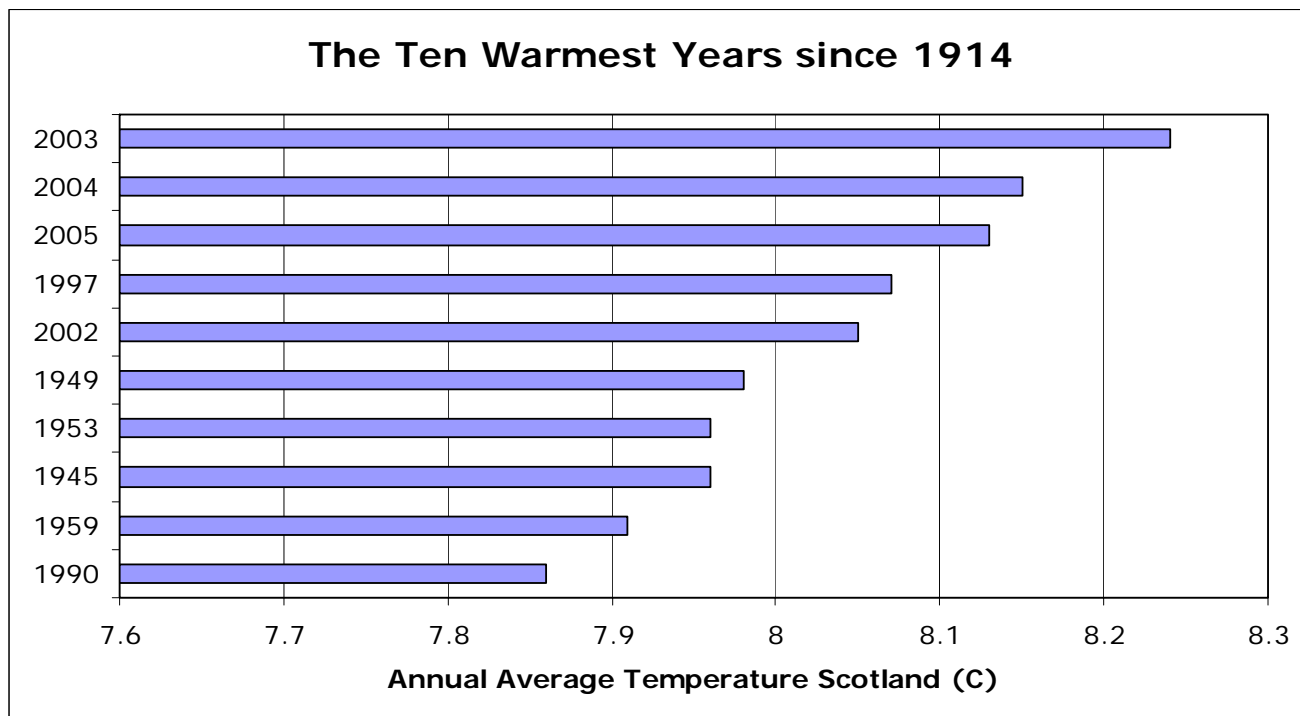
Both the first two months of 2006 were more than 1°C above the long-term average temperature, March was a degree colder than usual, while April and May saw temperatures rising above average.

April – 4th - the temperature fell to -5 °C at Tulloch Bridge. In the first two weeks of the month the Danube caused widespread floods and several deaths in Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. On the 28th hundreds were made homeless as floods and landslides hit a Papua New Guinea village.

March - On the 1st the Stop Climate Change coalition staged events in Cardiff, London and Edinburgh. On the 12th 22cm of snow fell in Glasgow. On the 28th the UK Government effectively admitted it had given up on its 20% CO₂ climate target. On the 30th the Scottish Executive set the first climate change target for Scotland

February – on the 1st Grantown-On-Spey recorded a temperature of -12.2 °C and Aviemore -11.6 °C. On the 17th two villages were destroyed in mud slides in the Philippines, 2000 people were missing, and scientists found that the speed of melting of the vast Greenland icesheet has doubled over the last decade. On the 24th the Environment Agency announced that the UK is facing its worst drought in a century. On the 28th 100 schools were closed across northern Scotland because of snow.

January – on 9th/10th the temperature reached 14 °C at Machrihanish. On the 15th – new figures confirm that carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere are rising faster than expected. On the 22nd elephants across Russia are fed vodka as temperatures fall to -40°C. On the 29th overnight temperatures fell to -12 °C in Highland Glens. On the 30th a Polish conference centre roof collapses killing 66 people, and heavy rains in Brazil cause the death of 12 people



COMMENT:

Dr Richard Dixon, Director of WWF Scotland, said:

“Despite the cold start to 2006 temperatures have now risen above the long-term averages, with this year now set to be at least in the top 20 warmest years in the last century or so. May saw massive thunderstorms in Glasgow, major floods along the Danube and a heatwave in India.

“May also saw the Prime Minister finally come out and admit his ambition to build new nuclear power stations and his science advisor suggested he wanted 20 of them. The Scottish share of this – two new stations – is already causing alarm here and the nuclear issue is bound to be a key one in the 2007 Scottish elections.”