



WWF *for a living planet*

WWF Scotland

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SCOTTISH CLIMATE UPDATE

Embargoed Until: 00:01hrs 8 Dec 2008

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

NOVEMBER 2008

TOP LINE: November was close to average in temperature and rather wetter than usual

Measure	Nov 2008	Comparison*	Rating	Records start
Temperature	4.8°C	+0.5°C	~	1914
Rainfall	52.1mm	+8%	+	1914
Sunshine	140.3hrs	-11%	-	1929

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

THE YEAR SO FAR:

November temperatures were close to the long-term average. October was the 4th wettest October ever recorded in Scotland, 1935 was the wettest. September was very low on sunshine but still a bit above average temperature. August saw major floods in Fife, Ayrshire, Dundee, Edinburgh and Renfrewshire and a major landslide near Stonehaven. July was very warm and a bit wetter and less sunny than average. June was slightly warmer and quite a bit wetter than average. May was the warmest May ever in the Scottish records, which go back to 1914. It was also the 4th driest ever with only 34% of the usual rain for May. March and April were both average, apart from very wet conditions in April in eastern Scotland. February was more than two degrees centigrade warmer than the long-term average. This January was more than a degree centigrade warmer than the long-term average and the 3rd wettest January ever recorded.

COMMENT:

Dr Richard Dixon, Director of WWF Scotland, said:

"November saw some significant snow falls and cold overnight temperatures but overall was close to the long-term average temperatures. Some people have been surprised by some of the recent cold weather but in reality it is just a taste of what November used to be like. Even with recent cold temperatures 10 of the 11 months this year have been warmer than average and 2008 is still likely to be one of 20 warmest years on record for Scotland.

"Because of the La Nina cooling in the Pacific the chances of a white Christmas are slightly higher than in recent years, but still much lower than 50 years ago.

"The Scottish Climate Change Bill is probably the most important bit of legislation in our lifetime. With tough targets for 2050 and including emissions from international aviation and shipping for the first time

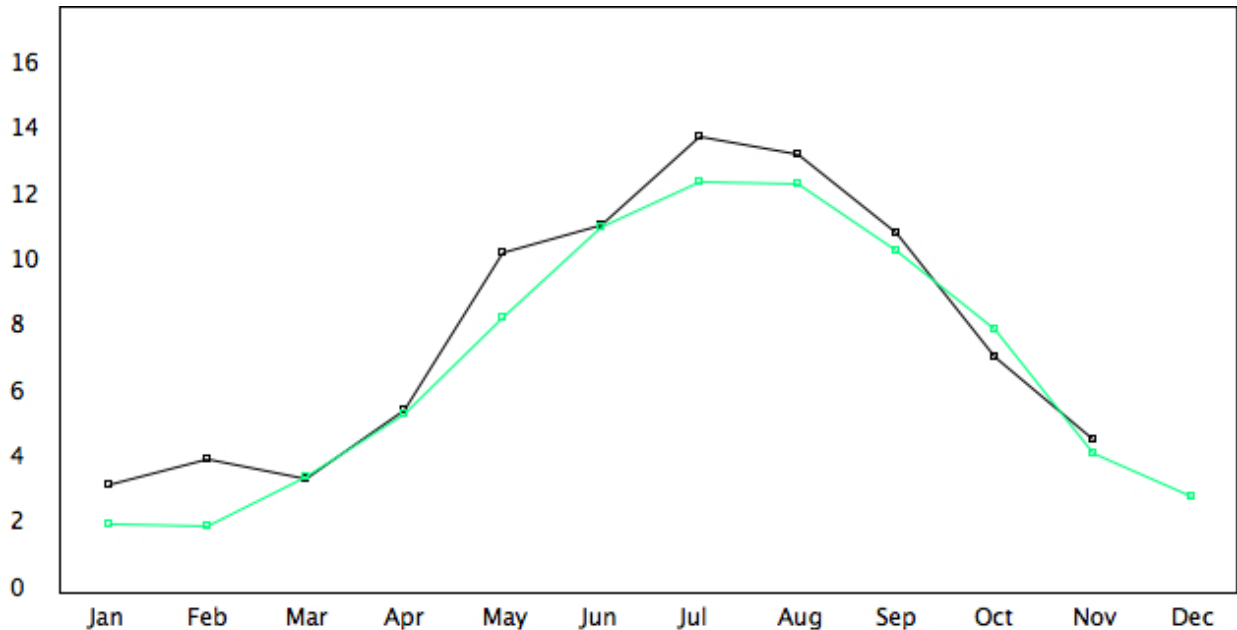


Director of WWF Scotland: Dr Richard Dixon
President: HRH Princess Alexandra,
the Hon Lady Ogilvy KG, GCVO
Chair: Ed Smith
Chief Executive: David Nussbaum

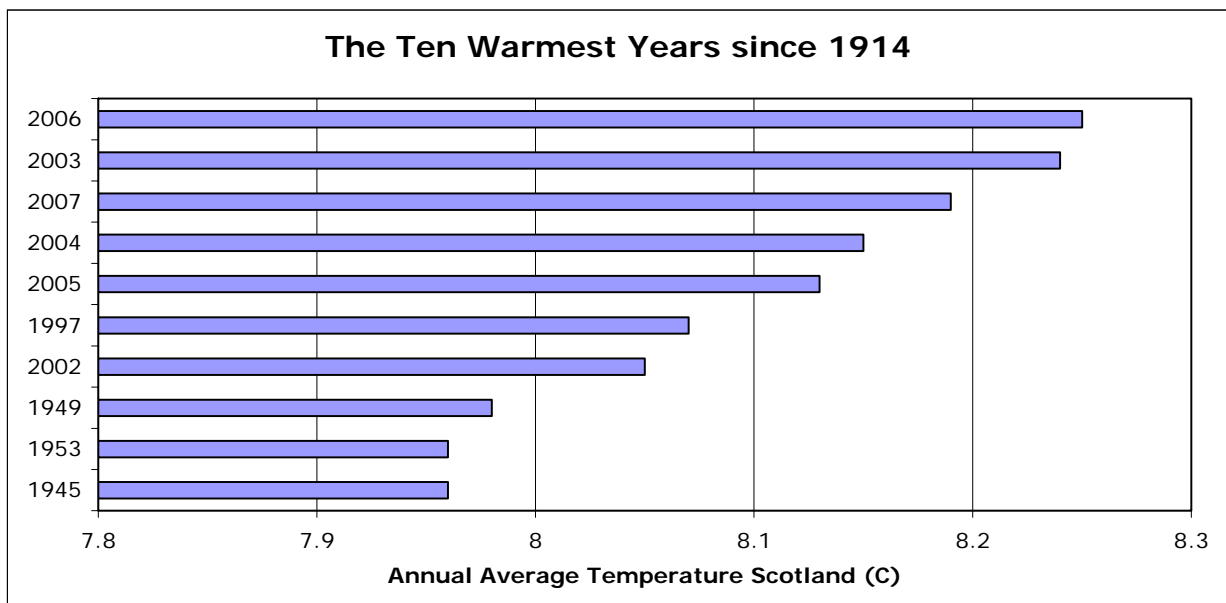
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anywhere in the world, the Bill sets an international benchmark for climate legislation. All the developed countries currently debating new targets at the UN conference in Poland need to try to live up to Scotland's example. Although there is still work to be done to sharpen up the bill, this is a huge success for our campaigners, who have so far sent over 25,000 messages of support from all over Scotland and from countries around the world."

-ends-



2008 compared to the average temperatures of the years 1961-1990



Editor's notes

1. Data from the Met Office <http://www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/2008/november.html> with further analysis by WWF Scotland.
2. 2007 was the 3rd warmest ever recorded in Scotland (records back to 1914) and the 2nd warmest ever

recorded for the UK. This means that the five warmest years since records began are the last five years.

3. The United Nations Climate Change Conference is being held in Poznań in Poland and runs until 12 December 2008. The conference is a key milestone on the road to successfully securing a replacement for the Kyoto climate treaty in Copenhagen in December 2009. More details: <http://unfccc.int> A WWF briefing on the Poznan climate talks is available here:

http://assets.wwf.org.uk/downloads/wwf_poznan_paper_web.pdf

4. 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. WWF Scotland is supporting the SCCS Climate Change Spring Rally to lobby MSPs outside the Scottish Parliament on 22 April 2009. For more information on SCCS and the Rally visit: <http://stopclimatechaosscotland.org>