



**WWF** *for a living planet*

**WWF Scotland**

Little Dunkeld, Dunkeld  
Perthshire PH8 0AD  
t: 01350 728200  
f: 01350 728201  
ISDN: 01350 728276  
[wwfscotland.org.uk](http://wwfscotland.org.uk)

# SCOTTISH CLIMATE UPDATE

Embargoed Until: 00:01hrs 10<sup>th</sup> Oct 2009

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

## SEPTEMBER 2009

**TOP LINE:** September was more than a degree warmer than the long-term average.  
September saw major flooding in Elgin but ended up drier than usual on average.

Measure	Sept 2009	Comparison*	Rating	Records start
Temperature	11.8°C	1.2°C	++	1914
Rainfall	121.2mm	-13%	-	1914
Sunshine	106.0hrs	+1%	~	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 new Scottish Climate Change Act has set a strong international example of what is possible.

Dr Sam Gardner, Climate Change Policy Officer at WWF Scotland, said:

“After August’s washout, September was on average drier than usual but for some, especially in Elgin, days of heavy rain led to major floods. September was also more than a degree warmer than the average. Every month in 2009 has been warmer than the long-term average and, if the rest of the year follows the pattern so far, 2009 would end up as the 8<sup>th</sup> warmest year on record, as well as the 3<sup>rd</sup> sunniest.

“As climate negotiations continue in the run up to the Copenhagen conference in December, the Scottish Climate Act is setting a good example with its tough 2020 target of 42 percent. Only this week, during talks in Bangkok, Norway followed Scotland's lead and pledged to its cut carbon emissions by 40 per cent. With poorer nations feeling the full force of climate change it is vital other rich countries step up and also set the targets needed to help avoid the devastating effects of climate change.

“We are helping organise Scotland’s biggest ever demonstration on climate change on the 5<sup>th</sup> December in Glasgow. This march and rally will be one of many events around the world which will demonstrate to world leaders that we want them to get a good result in Copenhagen.”



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

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## THE YEAR SO FAR

September was more than a degree warmer than the average. The month had lower than average rainfall but this conceals very heavy rain early in the month which caused floods in Elgin, Aberdeenshire and the Borders. 123.6mm (5 inches) of rain over 24 hours was recorded at Fochabers. August was the 3<sup>rd</sup> wettest August ever recorded and the joint wettest ever (with August 1985) in the west of Scotland. The average temperature was more than 0.5°C above the long-term average. The summer of 2009 was the 4<sup>th</sup> wettest summer ever, following 1985, 1948 and 1956. July was the 5<sup>th</sup> wettest July in the east of Scotland. June 2009 was the 6<sup>th</sup> sunniest June ever recorded and finished with a very warm spell. May 2009 was the 6<sup>th</sup> wettest and 4<sup>th</sup> sunniest May ever recorded, and it was also the 9<sup>th</sup> sunniest month ever recorded, as well as being 0.6°C warmer than average. April was the 3<sup>rd</sup> warmest April in the records which go back to 1914 and it was also sunnier than average. March was the 5<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> sunniest January in 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.

