



WWF *for a living planet*

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SCOTTISH CLIMATE UPDATE

2006

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

April 2006

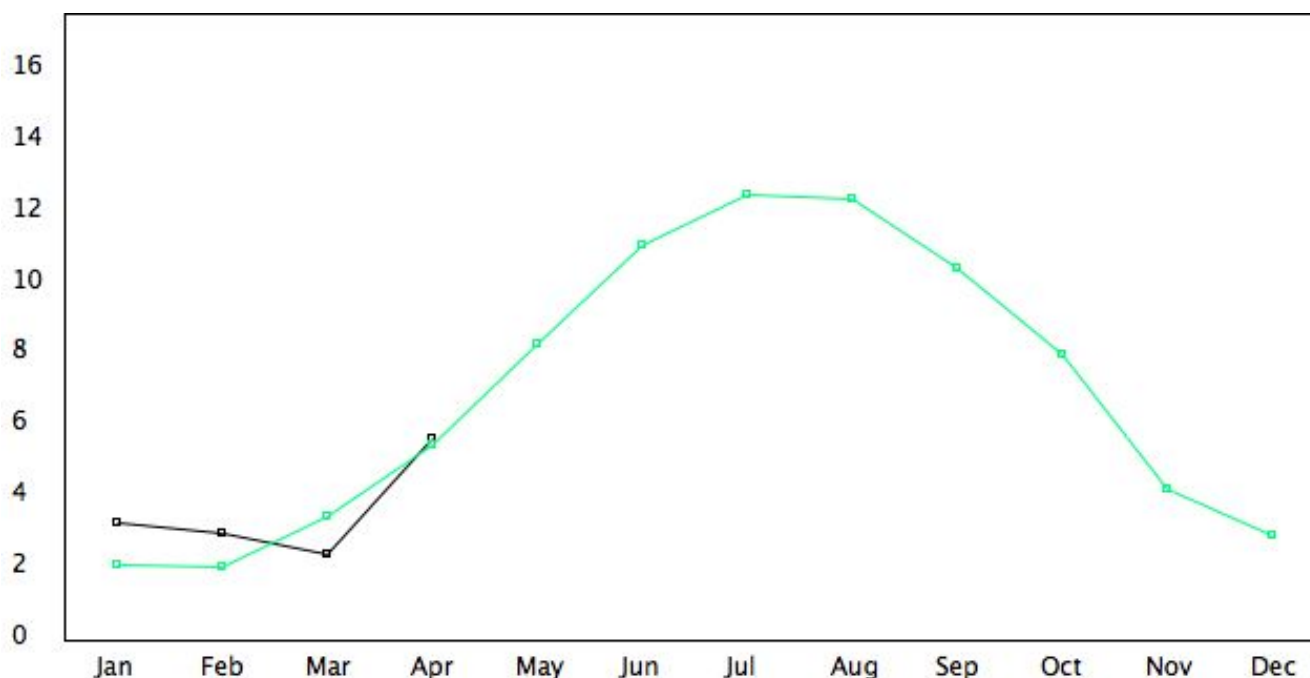
TOP LINE: April 2006 saw a return to more normal temperatures
The 7th sunniest April since records began in 1929
2006 is likely to be in the top 20 warmest years on record

Measure	March 2006	Comparison*	Rating	Records start
Temperature	5.8 °C	+0.3°C	~	1914
Rainfall	109.3 mm	+35%	+	1914
Sunshine	175.4 hrs	+28%	++	1929

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

EVENTS IN APRIL 2006

- 28th - Hundreds homeless as floods and landslides hit a Papua New Guinea village
- 27th - Lightning kill 1 and injures 2 in Malaysia
- 26th - Chinese drought worst for 50 years, threatening hundreds of thousands of people and depriving crops
- 23rd - 10,000 could starve after floods in Kenya
- 18th - 200 million people affected by massive Chinese dust storms



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



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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

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17th – the Danube rose to the highest level in a hundred years causing major flooding in Bulgaria and Romania
 11th - 45 die as shoppers escape heat in Northern India where temperature reached 35°C
 10th - 12 die in Warren County, Tennessee tornado
 3rd - Nine die in floods in the Czech Republic and Slovakia
 4th - the temperature fell to -5 °C at Tulloch Bridge

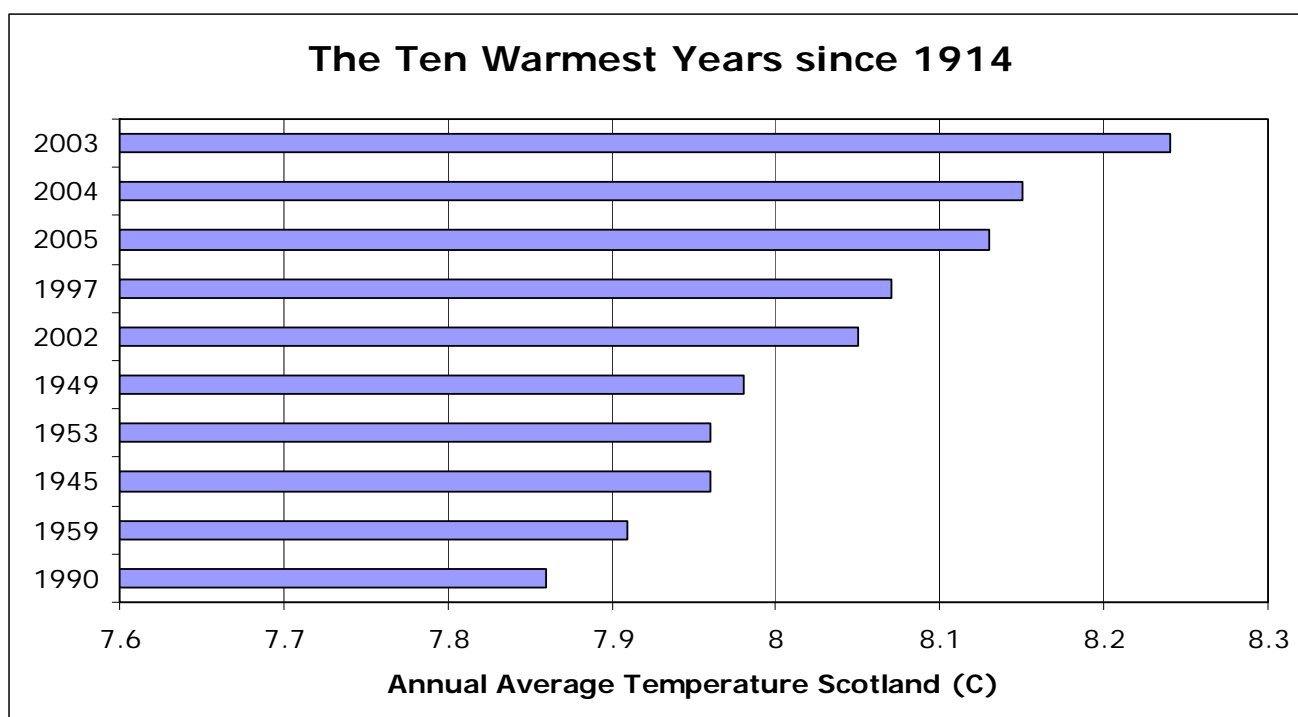
THE YEAR SO FAR:

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 and April saw a return to normal..

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 per cent 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 a cold start April saw temperatures returning to normal which resulted in two sets of major floods in Europe. April was also drier and much sunnier than the average, prompting concerns about water supplies in some parts of Scotland, although there is nothing like the drought threat faced the South-East of England.

“April also saw the launch of the Government’s National Transport Strategy. This seems to be taking us backwards from March’s Climate Change Programme since it abandons our existing traffic target and continues to promote growth in air travel.”