



WWF *for a living planet*

WWF Scotland

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

www.wwf.org.uk/scotland

SCOTTISH CLIMATE UPDATE

Embargoed: 00:01hrs 6th April 2006

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

March 2006

**TOP LINE: March 2006 was a degree cooler than an average March
Climate change author Mark Lynas speaking in Edinburgh on Friday**

Measure	March 2006	Comparison*	Rating	Records start
Temperature	2.5 °C	+1.0°C	-	1914
Rainfall	136.4 mm	+6%	~	1914
Sunshine	73.0 hrs	-22%	--	1929

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

EVENTS IN FEBRUARY 2006

- 30 – the Scottish Executive set the first climate change target for Scotland
- 30 - thousands in the Czech Republic and Germany fled their homes as flood waters rose
- 28 - two people were killed when a tornado hit Hamburg in Germany
- 28 – the UK Government effectively admitted it had given up on its 20% CO2 climate target.
- 15- dozens of towns in Greece and Bulgaria were evacuated because of floods
- 12 - 22 cm of snow recorded in Glasgow.
- 2 - night-time temperatures fell to -16 °C at Altnaharra
- 1 Stop Climate Change coalition events in Cardiff, London and Edinburgh

THE YEAR SO FAR:

Both the first two months of 2006 were more than 1°C above the long-term average temperature.

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.

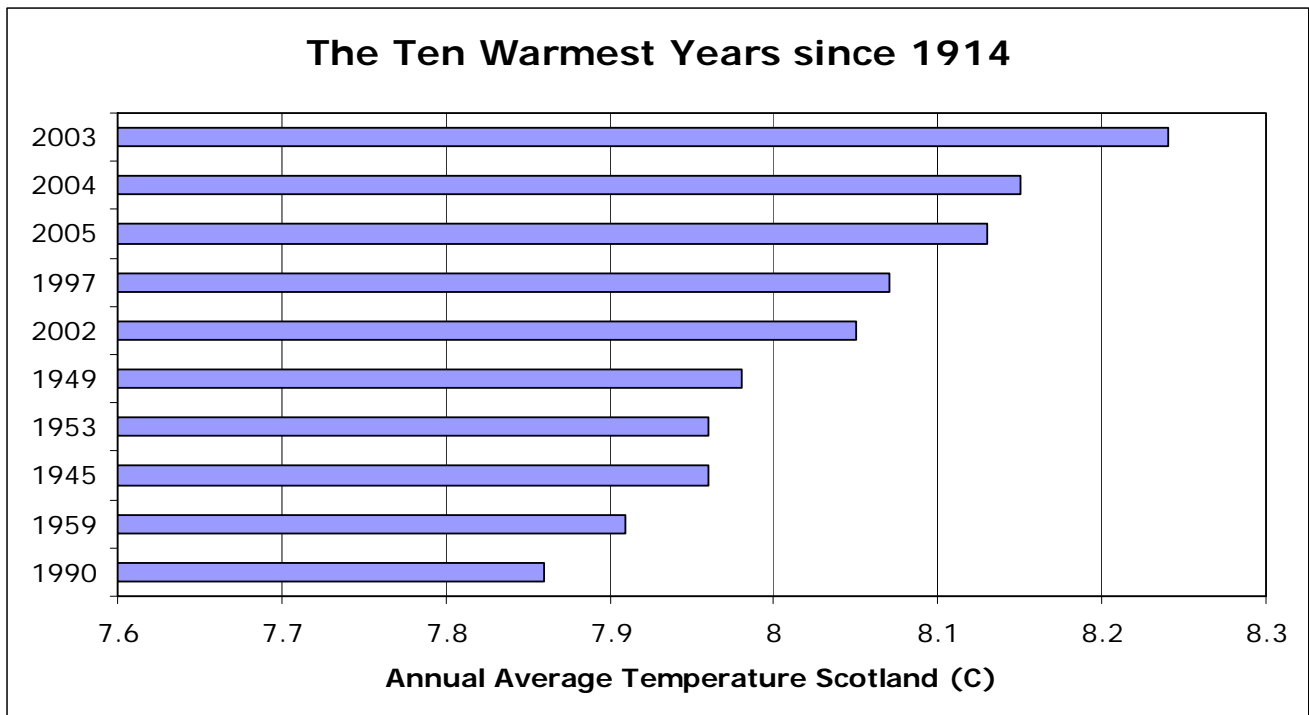
January – on 9th/10th the temperature reached 14 °C at Machrihanish. On the 15th – new figures confirm that carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere are rising faster than expected. On the 22nd elephants across Russia are fed vodka as temperatures fall to -40°C. On the 29th overnight temperatures fell 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



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

Registered office WWF-UK, Panda House,
Weyside Park, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1XR
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COMMENT:

Dr Richard Dixon, Director of WWF Scotland, said:

“Despite the cold spell and snow through most of March, this was a good month for action on climate change with the Scottish Executive finally setting a climate target for Scotland.

“This week we will be hosting author Mark Lynas talking about the possible futures for our climate, from baking heat to Gulf-Stream stopping cold.. This is the kind of scary stuff that all of us need to think about.”

- ends -

Editor's notes

1. Mark Lynas: 'Six Degrees: what will our world look like in the 21st century?' at the Science Festival, Royal Museum & Museum of Scotland, 7 April 2006, 8pm-9pm. For further details visit http://www.sciencefestival.co.uk/cgi-bin/user/sciencefestival/parser.cgi?HTX=%2e%2e/events/event&_rand=1084434366&PATH=/events/&EventID=702 Tickets are available from the Science Festival box office. Tel 0131 557 5588
2. Data from the Met Office <http://www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/2005/august.html>, further analysis by WWF Scotland.
3. 2003 was Scotland's warmest year in the Met Office records which start in 1914, and globally was probably the warmest year in the last 1000 years. 2004 was the second warmest year in Scotland. 2005 was the third warmest.
4. According to official figures Scotland's climate change emissions fell by 10.1% between 1990 and 2003. The overall UK reduction was greater at 13.4%, and England managed 15.9%. Scottish emissions of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas, fell by only 7.7% between 1990 and 2003, compared to UK targets of 20% by 2010 and 60% by 2050. The UK reduction was 5.6%.
5. WWF Scotland is part of Stop Climate Chaos, an alliance of development, environment and civil society groups aiming for tougher action to reduce emissions – <http://stopclimatechaos.org.uk>
6. WWF is now known simply by its initials and the panda logo.

For further information, please contact:

Nicky Golding, t: 01350 728220, e: ngolding@wwfscotland.org.uk