



WWF *for a living planet*

WWF Scotland

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SCOTTISH CLIMATE UPDATE Embargoed: 00:01hrs 10th November 2006

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

October 2006

TOP LINE: October was the joint 4th warmest October on record, nearly 2°C warmer than average. 2006 is likely to be one of the 4 warmest years on record, following 2003, 2004 and 2005

Measure	Oct 2006	Comparison*	Rating	Records start
Temperature	9.9°C	+1.9°C	++	1914
Rainfall	190.4 mm	+19%	+	1914
Sunshine	71.3 hrs	-3%	~	1929

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

~ close to average; - below average; -- well below average

EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER 2006

- 2nd - floods caused delays at Glasgow's Queen Street Station
- 16th – experts warned that a second brood of baby hedgehogs were being born, without time to fatten up for winter
- 17th - Hunterston nuclear station was shut down because of faults in its reactors
- 17th – Oxford academics said that flying cannot be allowed to expand if we are to meet climate targets
- 26th - floods and landslides in Dingwall and Evanton, shutting the A9 and the rail lines north of Inverness, followed by gales

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, May and June saw temperatures rising above average. July was the warmest month ever recorded in Scotland, with an average temperature 3 degrees above the long-term average and 0.6°C above the previous hottest July, in 1983. The summer of 2006 (Jun-Aug) was the 3rd warmest ever recorded, following 2003 and 1933. September was the hottest September ever in Scotland and in the UK, nearly 3°C warmer than the average. On current trends 2006 is likely to be in the top 4 warmest years since records began. Six of the 10 warmest years ever would then be in the last 20 years, the 4 warmest years on record would be the last 4 years.

September – the warmest September ever recorded in Scotland, partly due to the remnants of Hurricane Gordon. It was announced that a hole as big as the British Isles appeared in the Arctic sea ice.

August – 65 fishermen go missing after major storms hit Pakistan, 4.5 million people flee floods in India, a landslide destroyed nine luxury buildings in Wellington, New Zealand after the wettest winter for 30 years and huge fires swept across the US state of Nevada. Meanwhile Arnold Swarzenegger set climate targets for California.



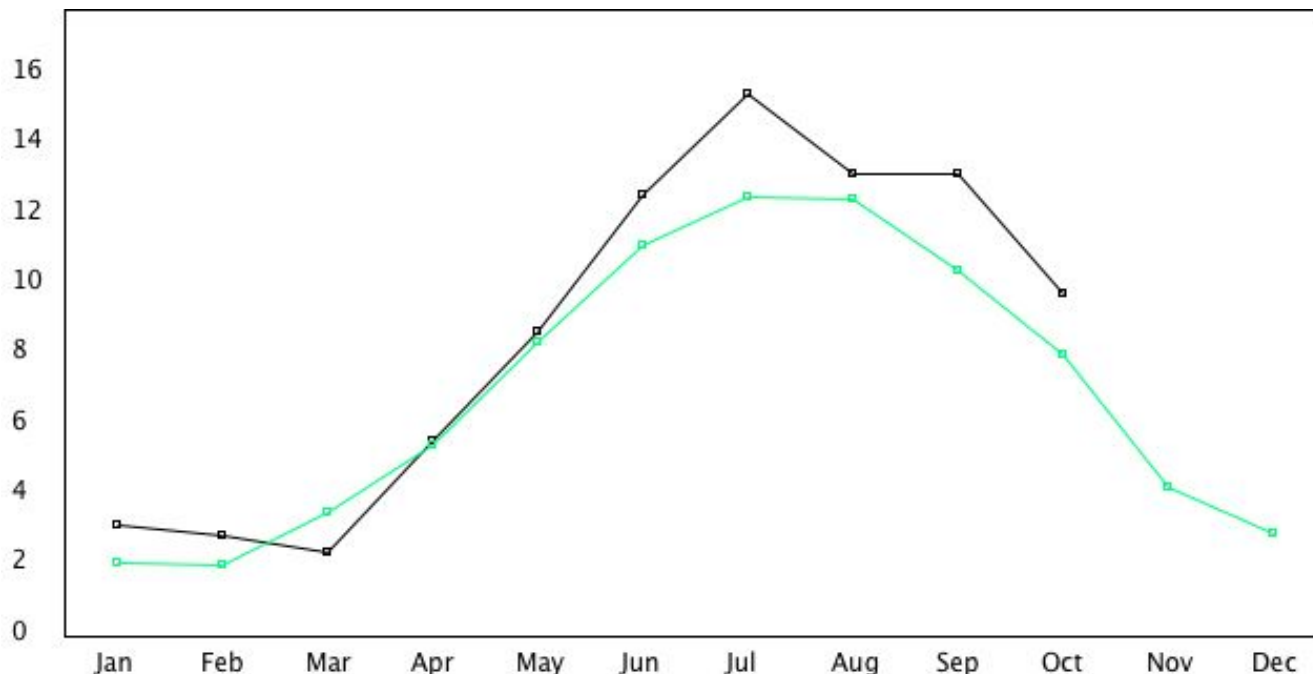
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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July – the warmest month ever recorded in Scotland, the UK Energy Review gives the green light for more nuclear reactors, 250,000 evacuated and 42,000 ships recalled ahead of a storm off south-east China, the 19th was the hottest day in Scotland with 31°C at Prestwick, also the hottest July day ever recorded in the UK

June – the monsoon kills more than 100 people in India, 100,000 are evacuated ahead of Chinese storms and 200,000 are marooned by flooding in Bangladesh. Temperatures in Scotland reach 28°C at the warmest and fall to -1°C at the coldest.



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

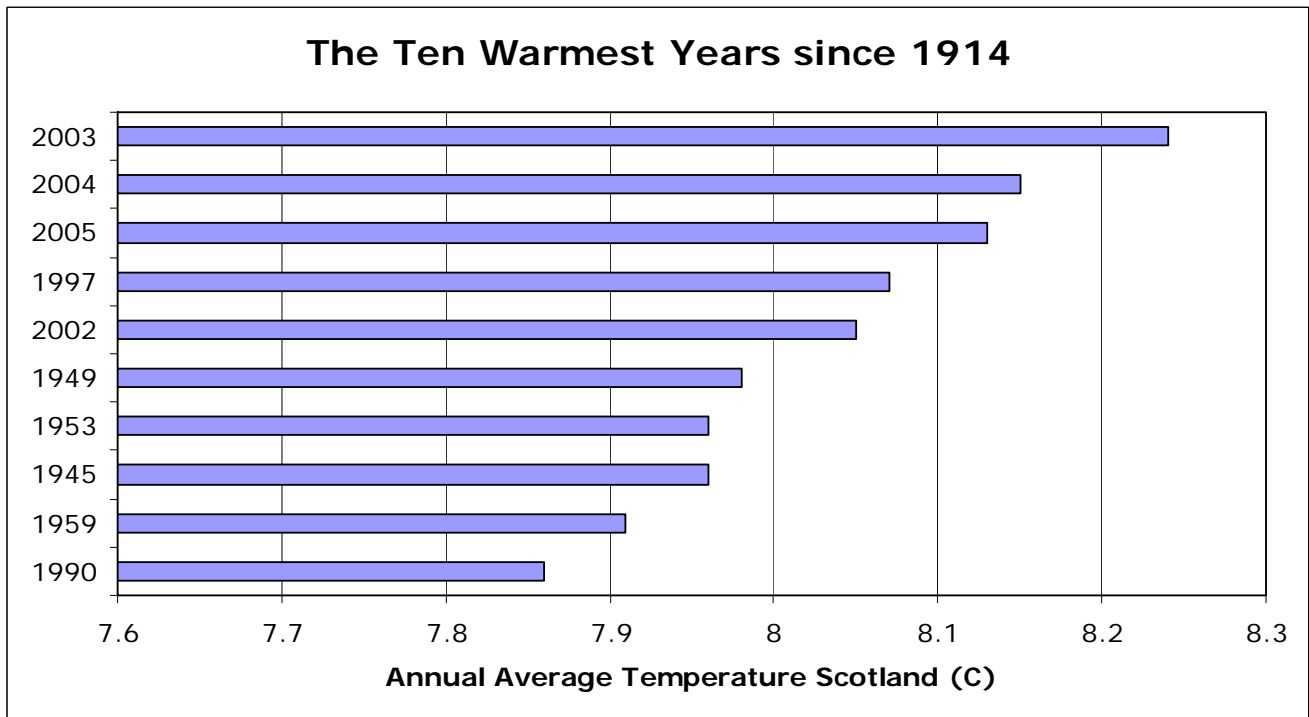
May – on the 4th the Hebrides and west coast experienced severe thunderstorms, a very unusual event at this time of year. On the 5th a Dumfries footballer ended up in hospital after being hit by lightning. The heatwave in India killed more people and there were floods in Bali, Burundi and Bangladesh.

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 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:

“July was the warmest month ever, September the warmest September and 2006 had the 3rd warmest summer ever, setting 2006 on course to be in the top 4 warmest years ever. If this happens then the 4 warmest years on record will actually be the last four years. The planet is giving us a clear message.

“Politicians were already trying to out-green each other but the Stern report has really thrown them into a spin. Gordon Brown and Tony Blair have done an excellent job of saying how important climate change is and how they are going to take it even more seriously, but their record is poor, especially on road transport and aviation where emissions are running away. All the parties standing for the Scottish Elections next year will need to convince the electorate that they will actually reduce emissions, not just talk about doing so.”

- ends -

Editor's notes

1. Data from the Met Office <http://www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/2006/september.html>, further analysis by WWF Scotland.
2. 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://stopclimatechaosscotland.org>
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.
5. WWF is now known simply by its initials and the panda logo.

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