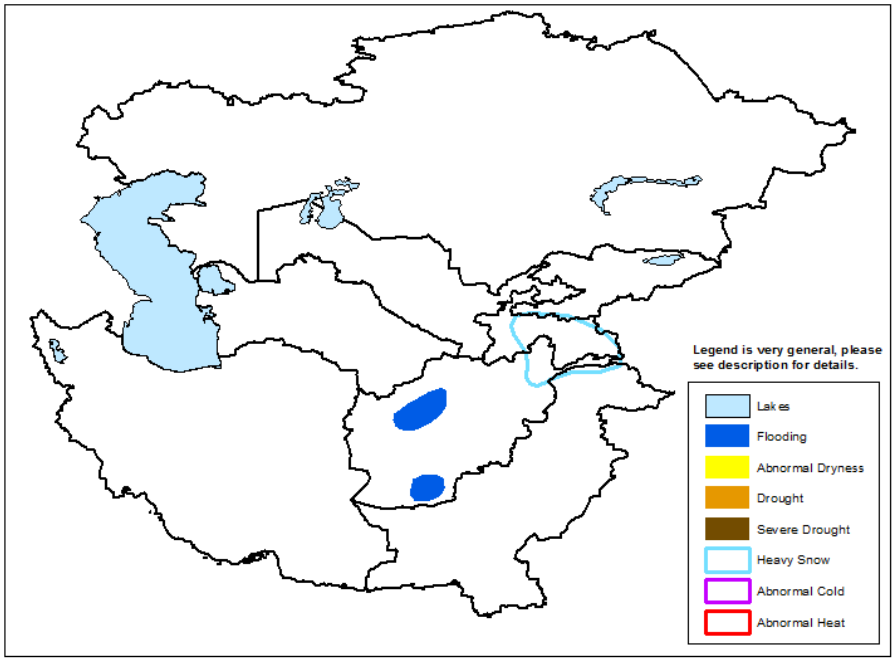
Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook
April 2 - 8, 2015

Temperatures:

Temperatures remained above-normal across much of Central Asia from March 22-28 although colder temperatures shifted south during this time period. Minimum temperatures fell below -15 degrees C across northern Kazakhstan during late March, while freezing temperatures extended as far south as southern Kazakhstan and northern Uzbekistan. During the next week, below-normal temperatures are forecast across the region with the largest negative anomalies expected across northern Kazakhstan where the GFS model indicates minimum temperatures at or below -10 degrees C. Freezing temperatures are expected across Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan during the first week of April.



Precipitation

Widespread rain and high-elevation snow fell across much of the region with the heaviest precipitation (more than 25 mm) across northern Afghanistan, southern Kazakhstan, and southern Uzbekistan. Snow-water content, according the USGS, is at or above-average across the northern river basins of Afghanistan. A rapid decrease in the snow-water content values across the central river basins is consistent with the snow melt that began during the latter half of March. The flooding polygons across Afghanistan are based on the rapid snow melt and guidance from the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

During the next week, the GFS model indicates widespread precipitation across Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. Snow (more than 25 mm, liquid equivalent) is expected to be limited to the highest elevations of northeast Afghanistan and Tajikistan where a heavy snow hazard is posted.

Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), and assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.