



Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook December 22 - 28, 2016

Temperatures:

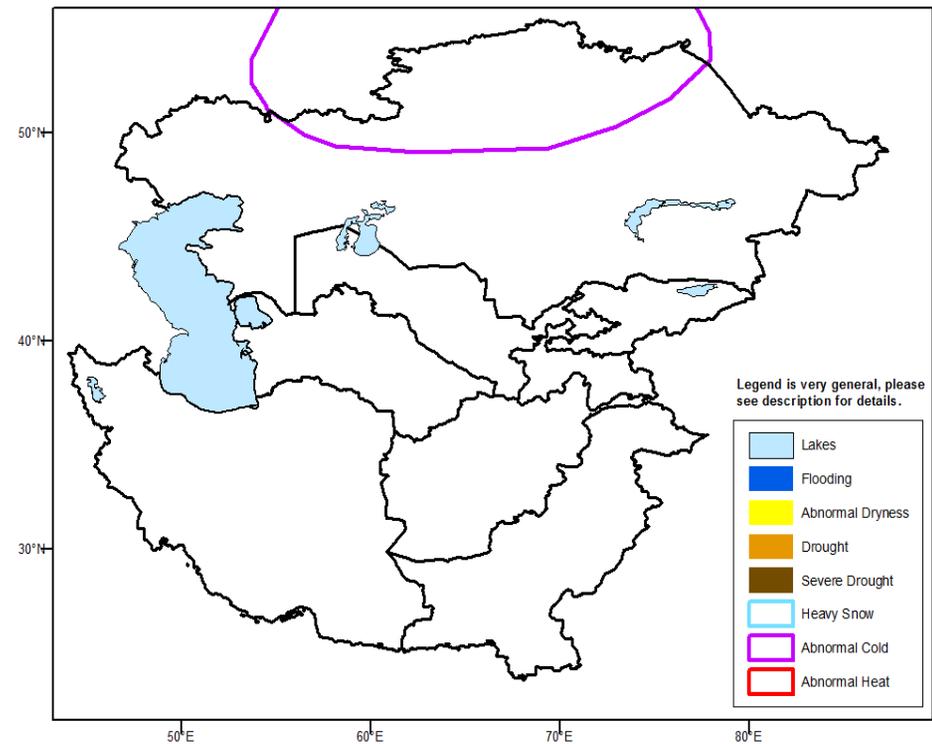
A large temperature gradient was observed across Central Asia from December 11 to 17. Temperatures averaged as much as 7 degrees C below normal across extreme northwest Kazakhstan, while temperatures averaged 3 to 7 degrees C above normal across the eastern third of Kazakhstan. Minimum temperatures fell to -32 degrees C across northwest Kazakhstan with freezing temperatures extending as far south as western Afghanistan.

The GFS model indicates that much below-normal temperatures will persist across northern Kazakhstan during the next week. An abnormal cold hazard is posted for northern Kazakhstan where minimum temperatures are forecast to average more than 12 degrees C below normal and fall below -30 degrees C. Elsewhere, across the region, minimum temperatures are expected to average near or above normal.

Precipitation

Widespread precipitation was observed across most of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan with the heaviest amounts (more than 25 mm, liquid equivalent) over north-central Kazakhstan. According to the CPC unified gauge analysis, precipitation has averaged at or above-normal throughout the region except for southern parts of Afghanistan and Turkmenistan. Snow water equivalent values across the basins of Afghanistan continue to remain below normal for this time of year.

During the next week, the GFS model indicates light precipitation (less than 25 mm, liquid equivalent) across Kazakhstan with heavier amounts (more than 25 mm, liquid equivalent) over Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Most of this precipitation is expected to occur as snow. Meanwhile, mostly dry weather is forecast across Afghanistan where short-term dryness concerns are increasing.



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 tcv@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.