

AFGHANISTAN Weekly Climate Forecast

#16, April 29 – May 5, 2009

For more than a month a series of low pressure systems, which have provided widespread precipitation to most of Afghanistan, have made their way through the region. Rain has been the dominant precipitation type in the lowlands, while snow has changed to rain in the lower elevations of the central highlands. Snow continues to accumulate in the northeast mountains and during the overnight hours in the highest elevations of the central highlands. The last week brought precipitation amounts ranging from 5 to 50 mm, liquid equivalent, in the northern half of the country (Figure 2). The rainfall along with expected snow melt has raised isolated flooding concerns mainly in the north and the southeast.

A storm that is currently moving out of Afghanistan will spread some additional precipitation early in the period. Snow fall is likely, primarily in the northeast mountain areas with most other locations likely to receive rain. Another, much weaker system will make its way across Iran during the week, and enter Afghanistan late in the period. Rain and high-elevation snow can be expected with the heaviest precipitation northern Afghanistan, and much lighter precipitation elsewhere. The northeast mountains of Afghanistan can expect moderate snow with lower elevations receiving rainfall. Temperatures, which had been normal to cooler-than-normal (Figure 3) are forecast to average above-normal during the next week. Warmer-than-normal temperatures will result in snow melt, and combined with the expected rain showers may result in localized flooding. At this time flooding has been reported in the northern areas of the country, although the possibility is increasing for flooding in the southeastern part of Afghanistan.

Figure 1. Weather hazards in Afghanistan

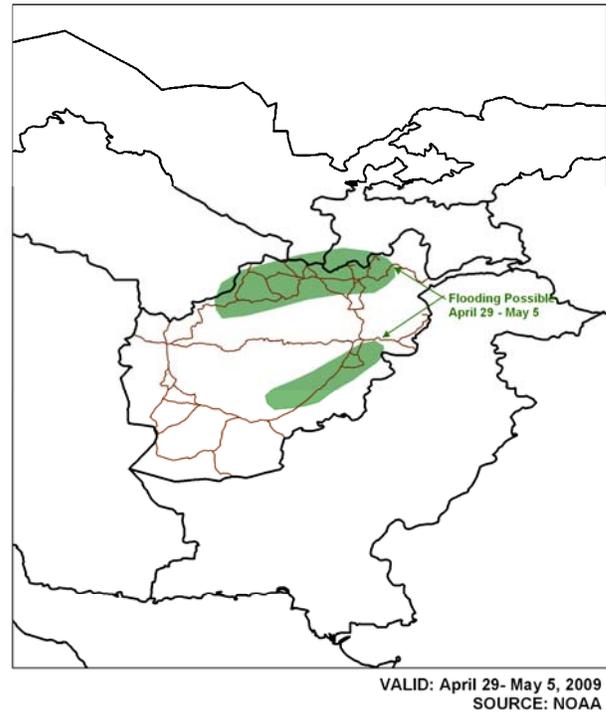


Figure 2. April 19 - 25 Accumulated Precipitation (mm) Based on Satellite and Gauge Data.

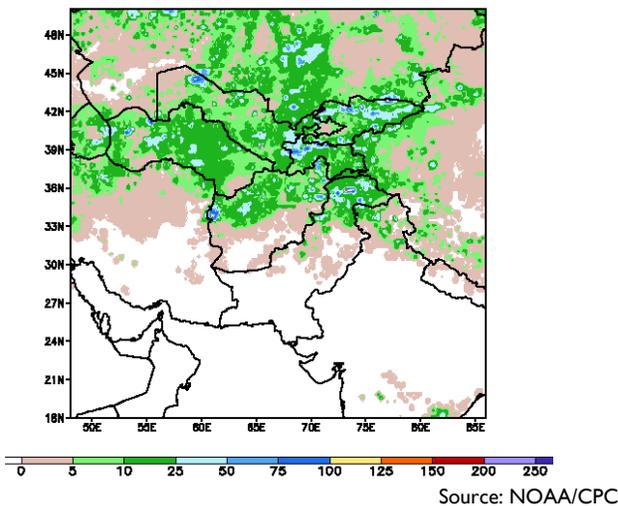


Figure 3. Temperature Short Term Anomaly: April 10-20

