Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook
April 5 - 11, 2018

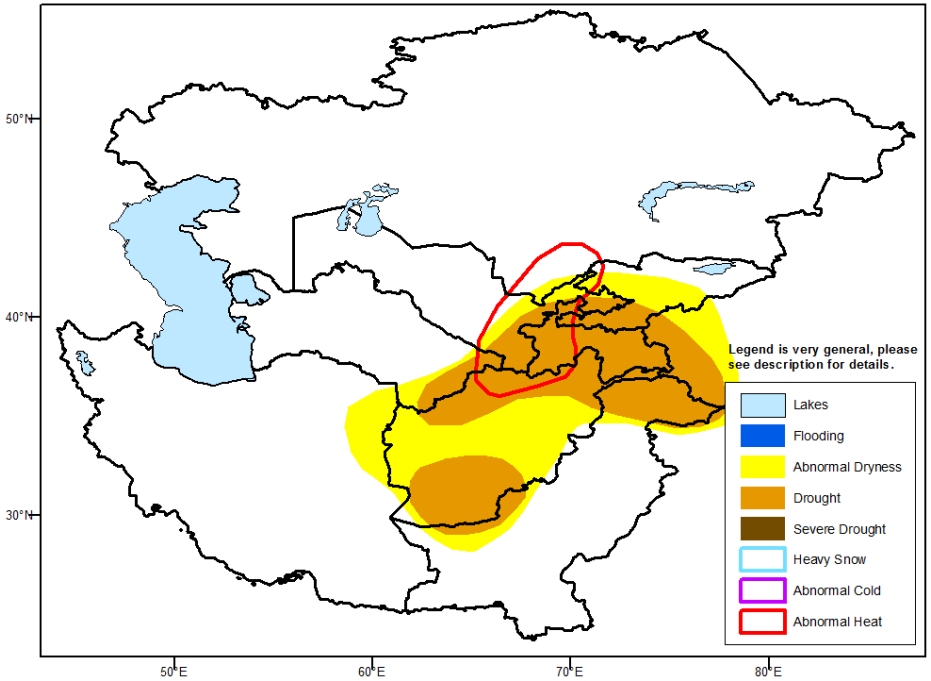
Temperatures:

Much above-normal temperatures prevailed throughout much of the region during the final week of March with the largest anomalies (more than +10 degrees C) across southern areas of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan along with northwest Afghanistan. Maximum temperatures were observed as high as 42 degrees C in southern Turkmenistan, while maximum temperatures reached the middle 30s (degrees C) across northwest Afghanistan. Above-normal temperatures are forecast to persist through early April. An abnormal heat hazard is posted for areas where model guidance indicates maximum temperatures averaging more than 8 degrees C above normal. The above-normal temperatures are likely to cause an early snow melt across northeast Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

Precipitation

Widespread precipitation (2 to 43 mm, liquid equivalent) was observed across Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and western Tajikistan during the final week of March. According to gauge data, precipitation during March generally averaged 25 to 75 percent of normal across much of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and bordering areas of Afghanistan. Drought hazards are posted for much of Afghanistan and portions of adjacent countries based on: large 90-day precipitation deficits, low snow water content, and expected negative impacts to agriculture.

The GFS model indicates periods of rain and high-elevation snow during the next week across Afghanistan and surrounding areas. The highest amounts (more than 25 mm, liquid equivalent) are forecast to occur across the highest elevations of northeast Afghanistan and Tajikistan. This precipitation may provide limited drought relief and this will be monitored for subsequent outlooks.



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.

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