Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook
March 14 - 20, 2019

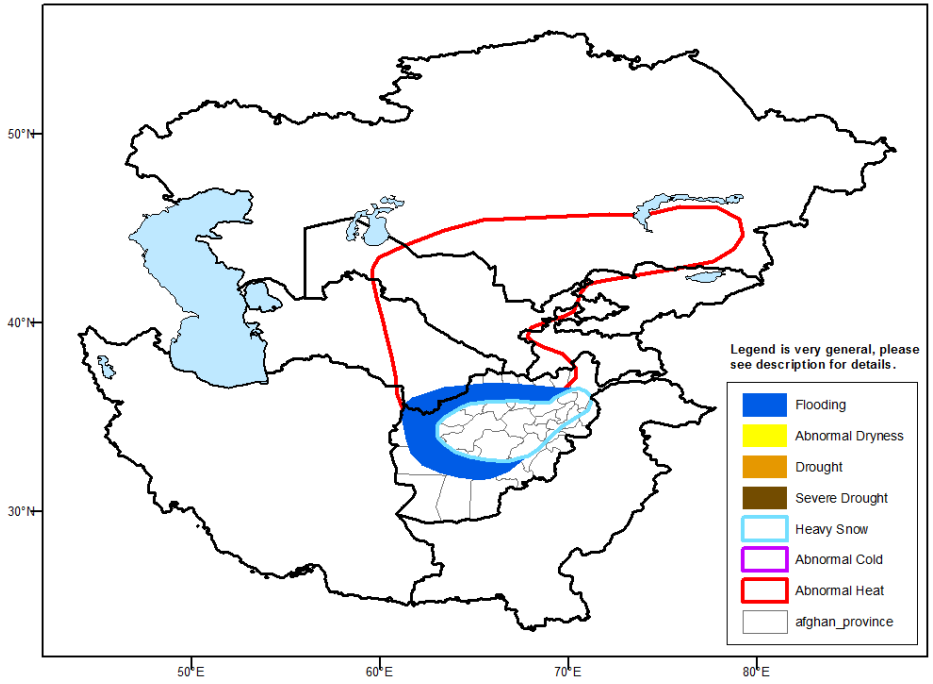
Temperatures:

Temperatures across much of the region were above normal during the second week of March. Average temperature anomalies were as much as 10°C above average in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, with lesser anomalies to the south. However, temperatures remained a few degrees cooler than normal in southern areas including Iran and Pakistan. The GFS model indicates that the current pattern will persist with above-normal temperatures to the north and slightly below-normal temperatures in far southern areas. An abnormal heat hazard is posted where temperatures may exceed 10°C above average.

Precipitation:

Precipitation was lighter this past week for Afghanistan and Pakistan. 10mm to locally more than 25mm of liquid equivalent precipitation was observed in northern Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Tajikistan. Some light snows also fell across central portions of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Frequent precipitation has occurred across Afghanistan since early January resulting in widespread moisture surpluses and above-normal snow water equivalent in many higher elevations. Snow melt flooding may become a concern as we enter the spring season.

Another low pressure system is expected to impact the southern part of the region during the end of the outlook period. Rain and heavy mountain snow is forecast to continue across Afghanistan and Pakistan with up to 25-50mm liquid equivalent precipitation. The heavy rainfall plus melting snow elevates the risk for flooding for lower elevations. Scattered lighter precipitation is forecast across Kazakhstan.



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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