Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook
April 11 – 17, 2019

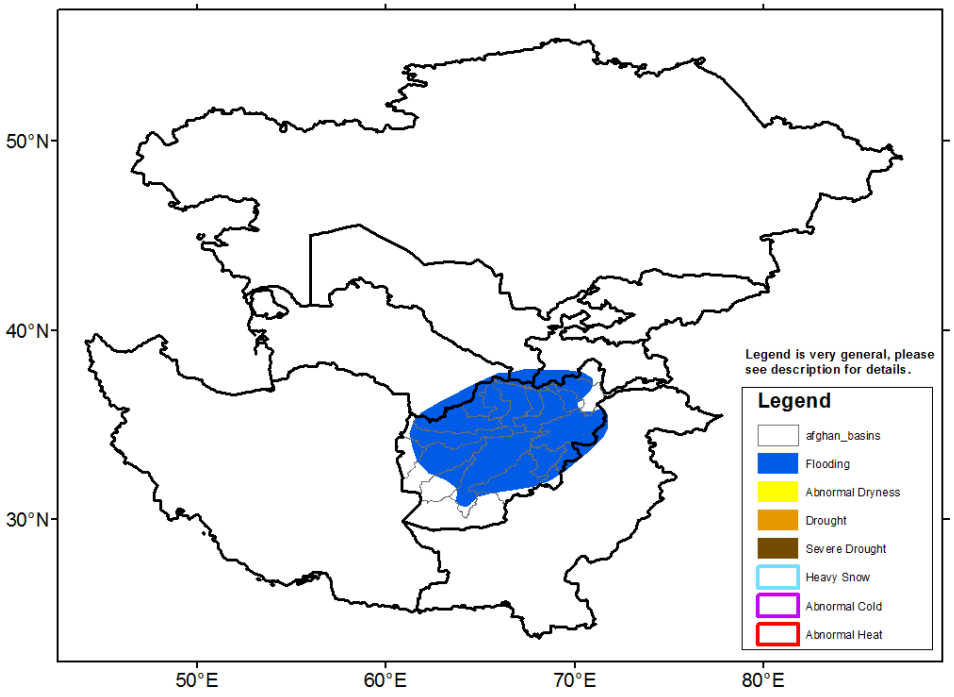
Temperatures:

Above-normal temperatures continued into early April with the largest anomalies (up to +9 degrees C) observed in northeast Afghanistan. Maximum temperatures warmed into the middle 20s (degrees C) as far north as southern Kazakhstan. Extreme maximum temperatures reached 34 degrees C in northwest Afghanistan and were near 10 degrees C even across the central highlands of Afghanistan. The warmer temperatures likely triggered rapid snowmelt. The GFS model indicates that above normal temperatures will persist across Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, while frequent precipitation is expected to result in near normal temperatures.

Precipitation:

Frequent precipitation has occurred across Afghanistan since early January, resulting in widespread precipitation surpluses and above-normal snow water equivalent at higher elevations. However, the RFE satellite estimates indicate below normal precipitation across Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and northeast Afghanistan during the past 90 days. The below normal precipitation, albeit with lower anomalies, extends north into Kazakhstan. Although a brief period of drier weather prevailed across Afghanistan through April 6, a low pressure system is tracking east from Iran on April 8. This low pressure system is forecast to advance into Afghanistan prior to the outlook period and renew the flooding risk.

Multiple low pressure systems are likely to continue tracking east across Iran and Afghanistan into the latter half of April. Therefore, the risk of additional flooding remains high in the depicted hazard area. During this outlook period, local rainfall amounts are forecast to locally exceed 75 mm across much of Afghanistan. Heavy rainfall coupled with runoff from snow melt increases the risk of flash flooding and river flooding.



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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