Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook
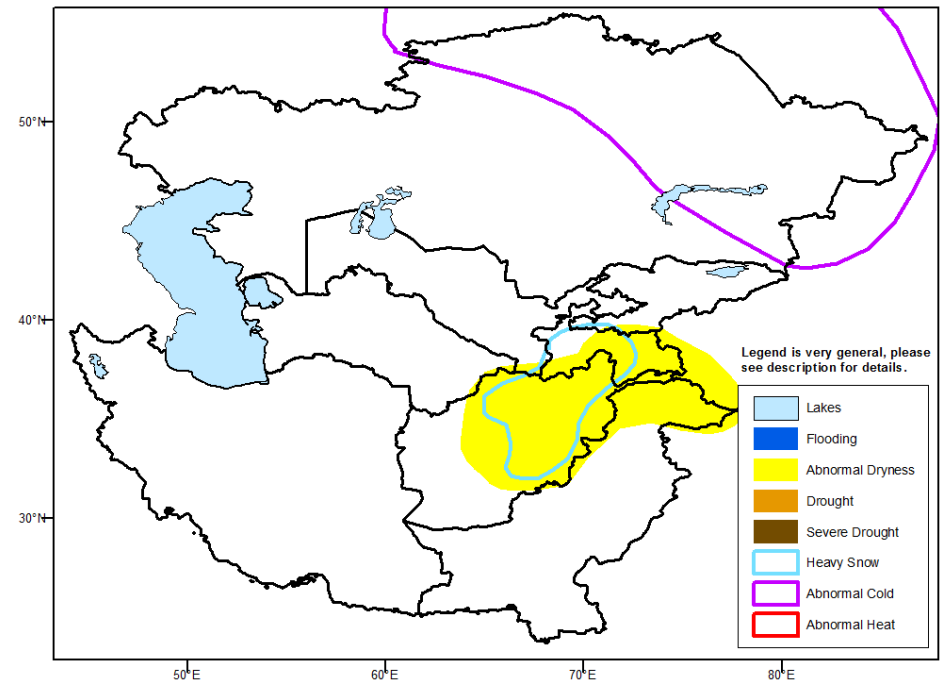## January 25 - 31, 2018

Temperatures:

Below-normal temperatures prevailed across Kazakhstan from January 14 to 20 with the larges negative anomalies of -8 to -10 degrees C observed in western and central Kazakhstan. Minimum temperatures fell below -30 degrees C across central and northeast Kazakhstan during the past week. Above-normal temperatures were observed across Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and southern parts of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

A strong surface high is forecast to become centered over northeast Kazakhstan early in the period with the GFS model indicating minimum temperatures averaging more than -15 degrees C below normal. Minimum temperatures are expected to fall below -35 degrees C in northeast Kazakhstan where an abnormal cold hazard is posted.

Precipitation

Widespread precipitation (2 to 32 mm, liquid equivalent) was limited to southeast Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan from January 14 to 20, with only light precipitation (8 mm or less) observed across western Tajikistan. Based on below average snow water equivalent values, an abnormal dryness hazard is posted for much Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

A vigorous mid-level low pressure system is forecast to progress east fro the Middle East during the outlook period. According to the GFS model, widespread snowfall (locally more than 25 mm, liquid equivalent) is expected across Tajikistan along with northern and central parts of northern and central Afghanistan during the final week of January. Therefore, a heavy snow hazard is posted for these areas.

Legend is very general, please see description for details.

Legend	
Lakes	
Flooding	
Abnormal Dryness	
Drought	
Severe Drought	
Heavy Snow	
Abnormal Cold	
Abnormal Heat	

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 Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.