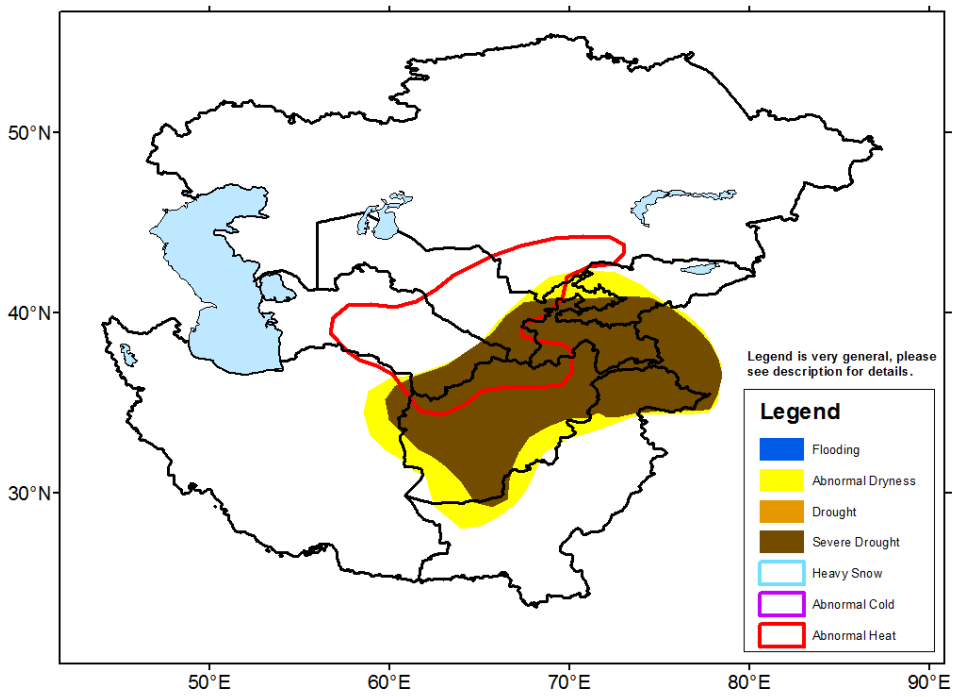
Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook
March 8 - 14, 2018

Temperatures:

During the first week of March, temperatures averaged above normal over a wide area of Central Asia, including eastern Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, eastern Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and much of Afghanistan. The largest warm anomalies were observed over Tajikistan and surrounding areas, where positive departures from climatology exceeded 6 degrees Celsius. During the next week, above normal temperatures are expected to continue over the central and southern parts of Central Asia. An abnormal heat polygon is posted over southern Kazakhstan, southern Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and northern Afghanistan, where maximum temperature is forecast to exceed 25 degrees Celsius and average 8 degrees Celsius or more above normal.



Precipitation

During early March, widespread moderate (10-25mm) to locally heavy (25-50+mm) precipitation fell from southern Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and southern Turkmenistan, to Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Although this past week's enhancement in precipitation helped raise snow water volumes over local areas, very low snow water equivalent and large ninety-day precipitation deficits persisted over the dry portions of Central Asia. A severe drought polygon is posted over much of Afghanistan and portions of adjacent countries as the ongoing, large moisture deficits are likely to negatively impact crops over the coming months. During the next week, widespread moderate precipitation is forecast over Kazakhstan. Scattered moderate and potentially localized heavy precipitation is forecast over Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and northern Afghanistan, which could help partially reduce deficits over local areas.

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.