Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook
April 19 - 25, 2018

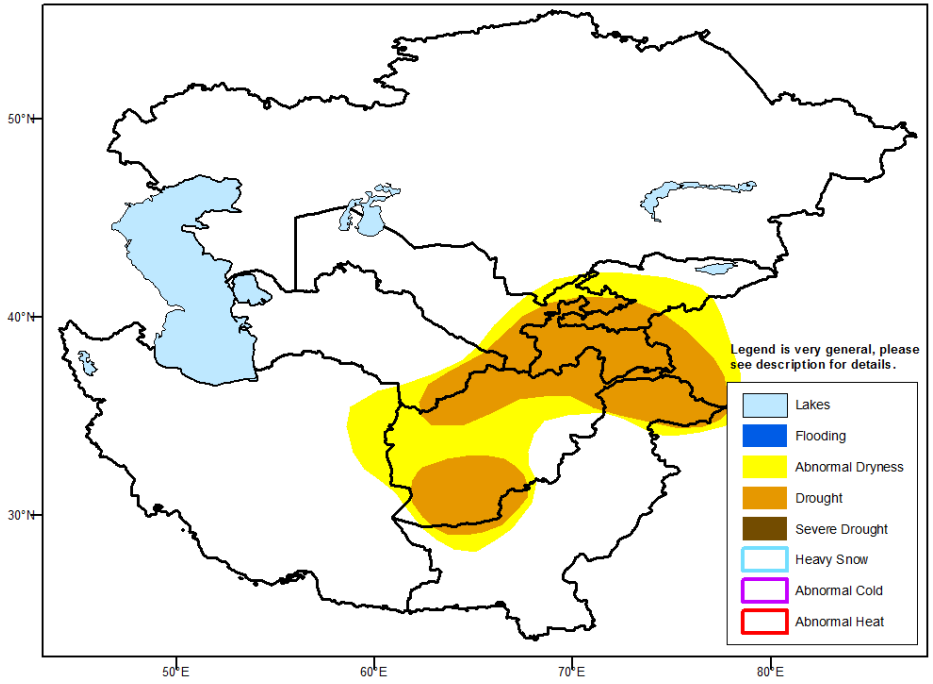
Temperatures:

Near to above-normal temperatures (+1 to +5 degrees C) persisted through the second week of April. Maximum temperatures were observed as high as 33 degrees C in southern Turkmenistan and the bordering areas with Afghanistan. Below-normal temperatures, associated with an upper-level trough, are forecast early in the outlook period. Although above-normal temperatures are forecast to return later in the outlook period, abnormal heat is unlikely.

Precipitation

Widespread light to moderate precipitation (2 to 22 mm) was observed across northern and eastern Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan from April 8 to 14. A couple of stations reported more than 50 mm in northern Pakistan and along the border of northeast Afghanistan. Based on this recent heavy precipitation, a decrease in the coverage of abnormal dryness and drought is warranted for extreme northeast Afghanistan and northern Pakistan. Drought hazards are posted for parts of Afghanistan and adjacent countries based on: large long-term precipitation deficits, low snow water content, and expected negative impacts to agriculture.

Prior to the outlook period, the GFS model indicates widespread, heavy precipitation (25 to 50 mm, or more) across northern and central Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and northern Pakistan. Locally heavy snow is expected across the highest elevations of central and northeast Afghanistan during mid-April. This precipitation is likely to increase soil moisture but may only provide a slight increase to irrigation supplies. The ongoing drought hazards are expected to be modified in 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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