



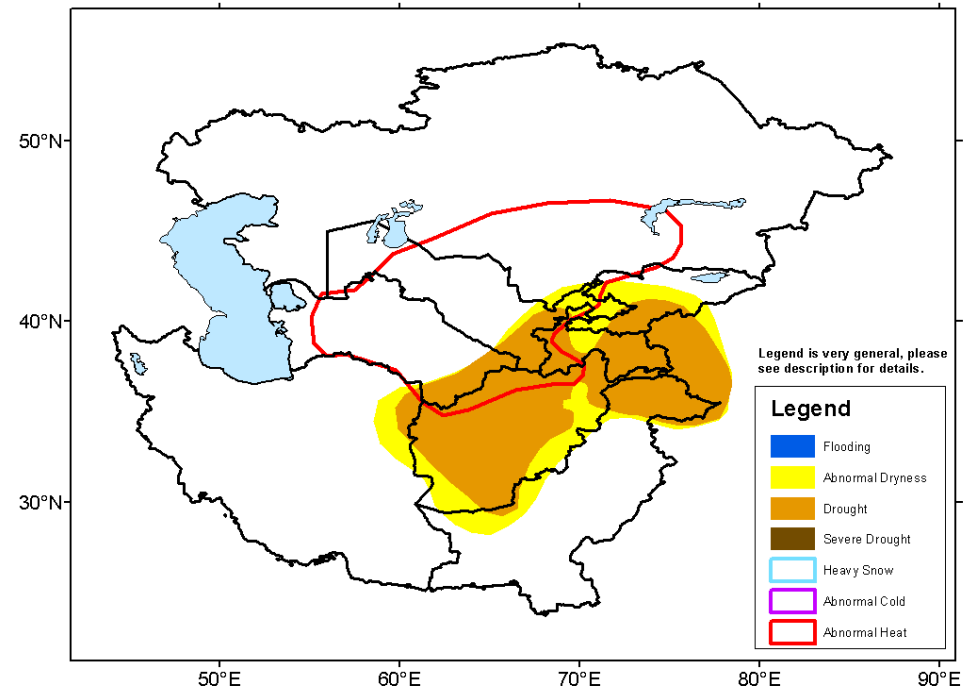
## Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook March 22 - 28, 2018

### **Temperatures:**

During the third week of March, mean temperatures remained above normal over southern and eastern portions of the region. Meanwhile, parts of western Kazakhstan experienced slightly cooler than average conditions. Maximum temperatures exceeding 25 or 30 degrees Celsius pushed northward into Pakistan and southern Afghanistan. During the outlook period, an even warmer air mass is forecast to surge northward through Central Asia. Maximum temperatures may run more than 12 degrees Celsius above normal in many central portions of the region where an abnormal heat hazard is posted. 25 degree Celsius highs may be observed as far north as southern Kazakhstan.

### **Precipitation**

Moderate and locally heavy (10-50mm liquid equivalent) precipitation was observed in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and eastern Uzbekistan during the last 7 days. Large totals exceeding 100mm were observed in northern Pakistan. Light snow was scattered over eastern and northern Kazakhstan. Significant rains in some dry areas of Central Asia continue to bring slow improvement; however, low snow water equivalent and large ninety-day precipitation deficits continue to persist over many portions of Central Asia. A drought hazard 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 outlook period, scattered light precipitation will be prevalent across much of Kazakhstan. The GFS model forecasts light to moderate precipitation (5-25mm liquid equivalent) in eastern Afghanistan and Tajikistan.



**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](mailto:Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov) or 1-301-683-3424.