



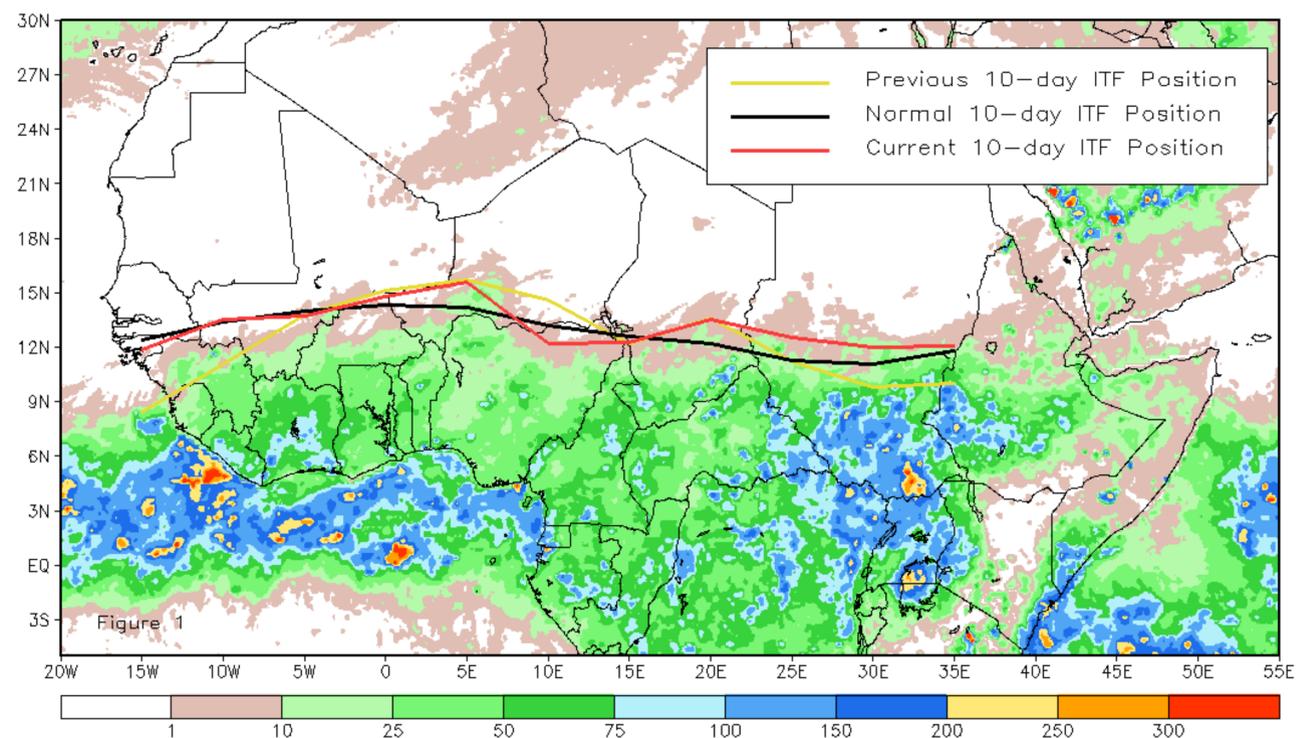
# CPC Africa Desk InterTropical (ITF) Front Analysis

## May 2013, Dekad 1

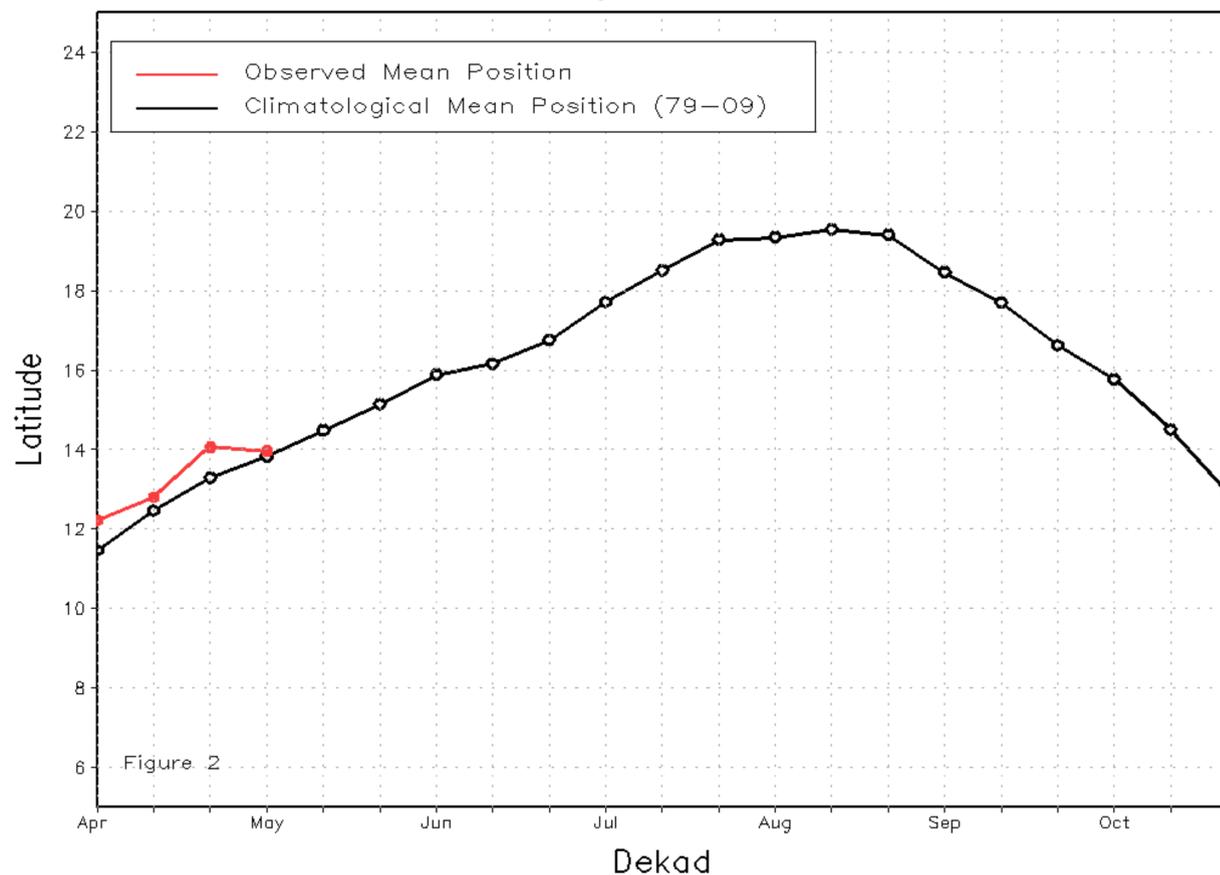
### Discussion:

From May 1 - 10, 2013, the ITF continued its seasonal northward march and generally remained above its climatological mean position throughout much of Africa during this time of year. In the west, the mean western portion of the ITF was approximated 14.0 degrees north, which was lower than the previous dekadal position (Apr 3), but remained slightly above the mean position for early May. Overall, the anomalous displacement was associated with strong, southerly winds and ample moisture focused across parts of Burkina Faso, western Niger, and northern Ghana, Togo and Benin. In the east, a marked northerly shift in low-level convergence and high rains across South Sudan resulted in an poleward ITF position resembling a position more typical of late May. The mean eastern portion of the ITF was located near 12.5 degrees north, well ahead the average position by nearly 1 degree, and has maintained a rapid acceleration since early April. Figure 1 shows the current ITF position relative to the climatological average for the first dekad of May and its previous position during the third dekad of April. Figure 2 and 3 are time series illustrating the latitudinal mean of the western and eastern portion of the ITF, respectively, and their evolutions since the start of April.

Current vs. Normal Dekadal ITF Position  
and RFE Accumulated Precipitation (mm)  
May 2013, Dekad 1



Mean Western Portion of the ITF: Averaged 10W to 10E  
As of: May 2013, Dekad 1



Mean Eastern Portion of the ITF: Averaged 20E to 35E  
As of: May 2013, Dekad 1

