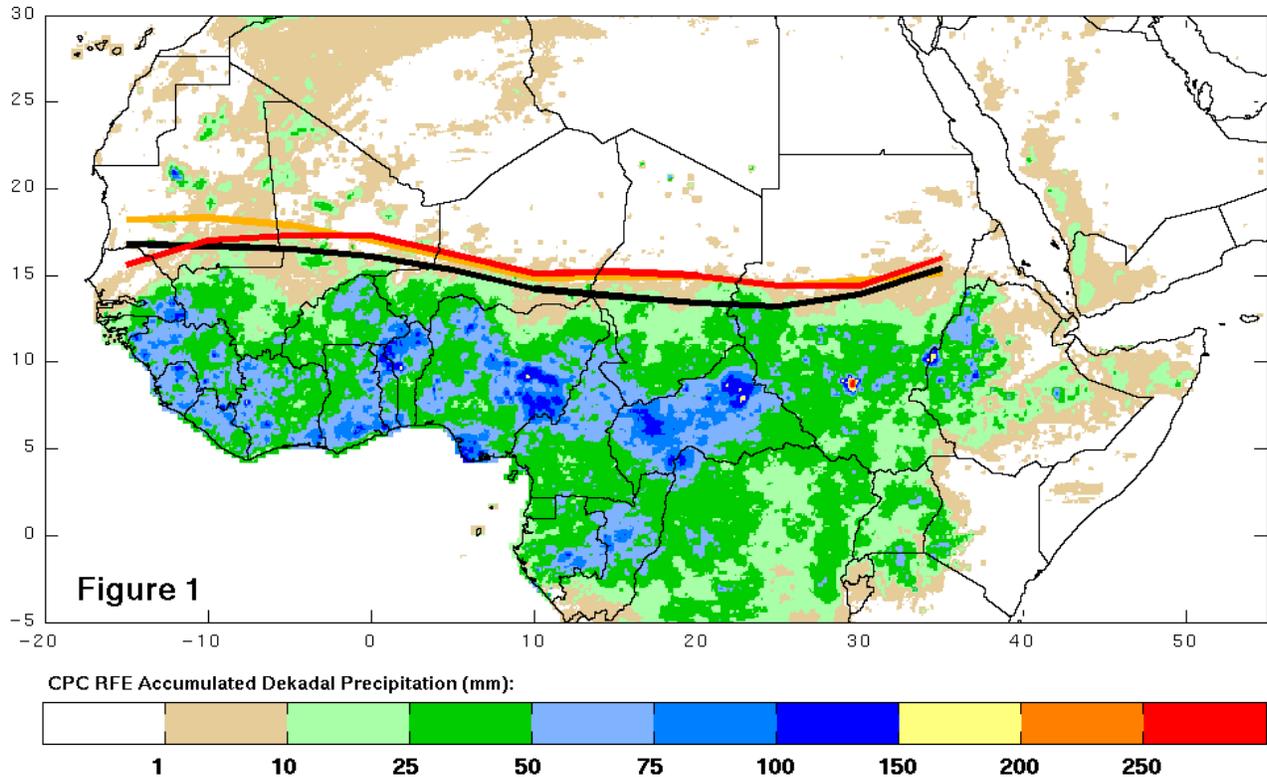
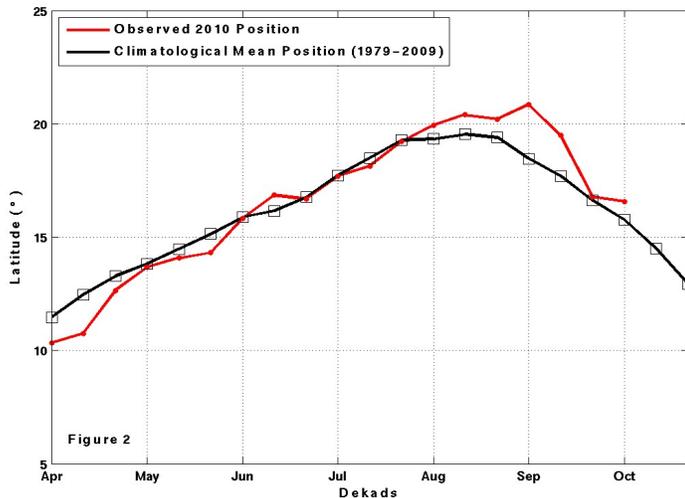


Current vs. Mean Position of the Africa ITF Oct 2010 : Dekad 1

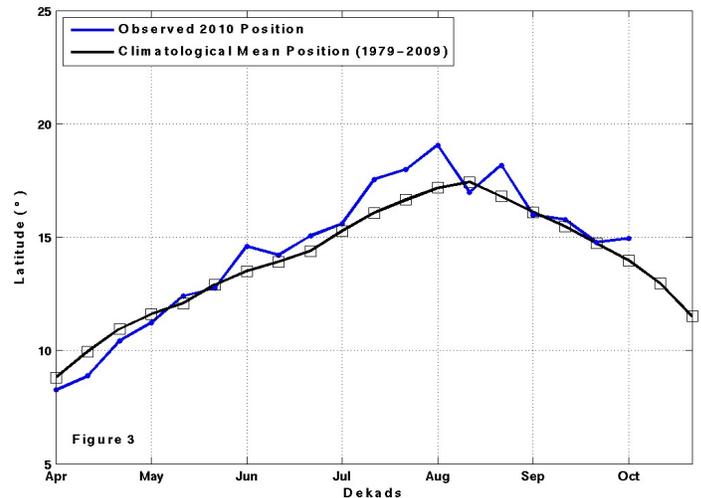


- Previous 10-Day Mean Position
- Normal 10-Day Mean Position
- Current 10-Day Mean position

Mean West Portion of ITF: Averaged 10°W to 10°E
As of Oct 2010 : Dekad 1



Mean East Portion of ITF: Averaged 20°E to 35°E
As of Oct 2010 : Dekad 1



From October 1-10, 2010, the ITF did not experience a major equatorial retreat as expected for this time of the year. The mean western portion of the ITF was approximated at 16.6N, and still remains northward of its climatological mean. The greatest southward retreat of the ITF occurred in the far western Sahel, while prevailing southerlies across the Gulf of Guinea region, and ample moisture were continuously observed across portions of Mali, Burkina Faso, and western Niger. This pattern has sustained the western position of the ITF since the previous dekad, while producing anomalously high rainfall across many of these areas. The mean eastern portion of the ITF was approximated at 14.9N, and also remains north of its climatological mean position for early October. Although there were several days of dry, northerly air observed in the east, intermittent periods of increased moisture and lower-level convergence resulted in moderate rainfall across parts of Chad and Sudan during the last dekad. The above map (Figure 1) shows the current ITF position relative to the positions of climatology for the first dekad of October and its previous position during the third dekad of September. Figures 2 and 3 are time series illustrating the latitudinal means of the western and eastern portions of the ITF, respectively, since April, 2010.