

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITCZ

As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center

April 2005 Dekad 1

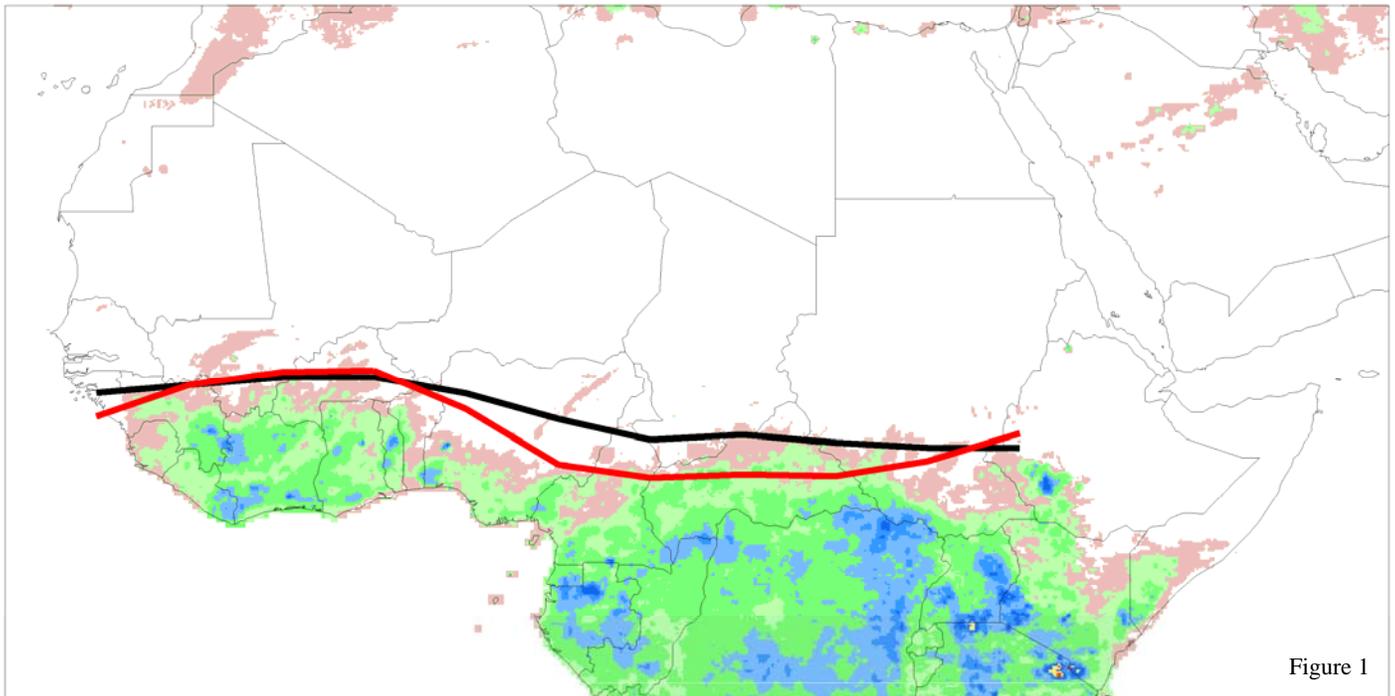


Figure 1

Accumulated Dekadal Precipitation:



█ Current 10-Day Average
█ Mean 10-Day Average

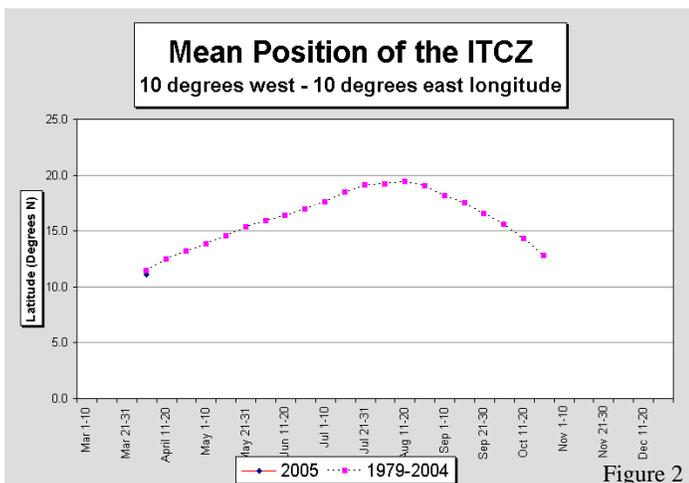


Figure 2

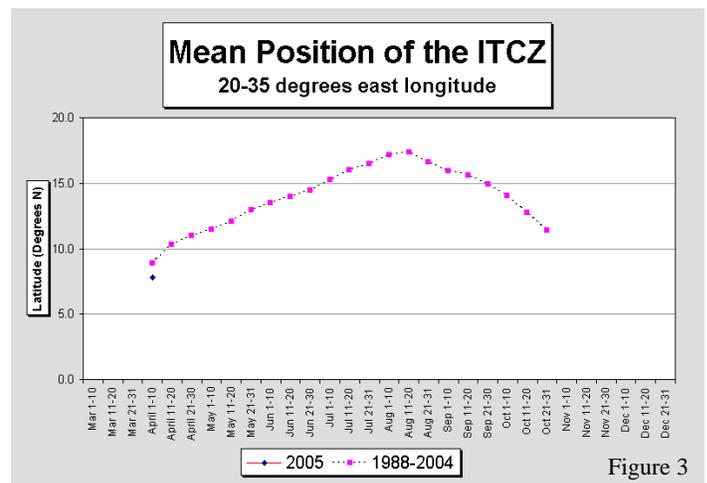


Figure 3

April 1-10, 2005 marks the first period of the year where Africa ITCZ monitoring is carried performed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center. Monitoring occurs yearly from April through October, with occasional early- or post-season analyses. From Figure 1, a graphic of latest dekadal satellite-gauge estimated precipitation with current and long term mean ITCZ positions superimposed, it is seen that the latest ITCZ position is very close to normal in the western regions of Africa, though a southward bias exists in the east. The Intertropical Front appears to be well-matched the northward leading edge of monsoonal precipitation during the current period, with rains progressing into areas of Guinea, Burkina, southern Chad, and southern Sudan to name a few locations. By the numbers, the current location of the ITCZ in an area averaged over the ten day period and from 10W-10E is near 11.1 degrees north latitude, compared to the long term mean of near 11.1 degrees north. From 20-35E, the current ITCZ location is near 7.8N, compared to a long term mean of 8.8N. This southward displacement from normal is contributing to abnormal dryness in parts of southern Sudan.