

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITCZ

As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center

April 2006 Dekad 1

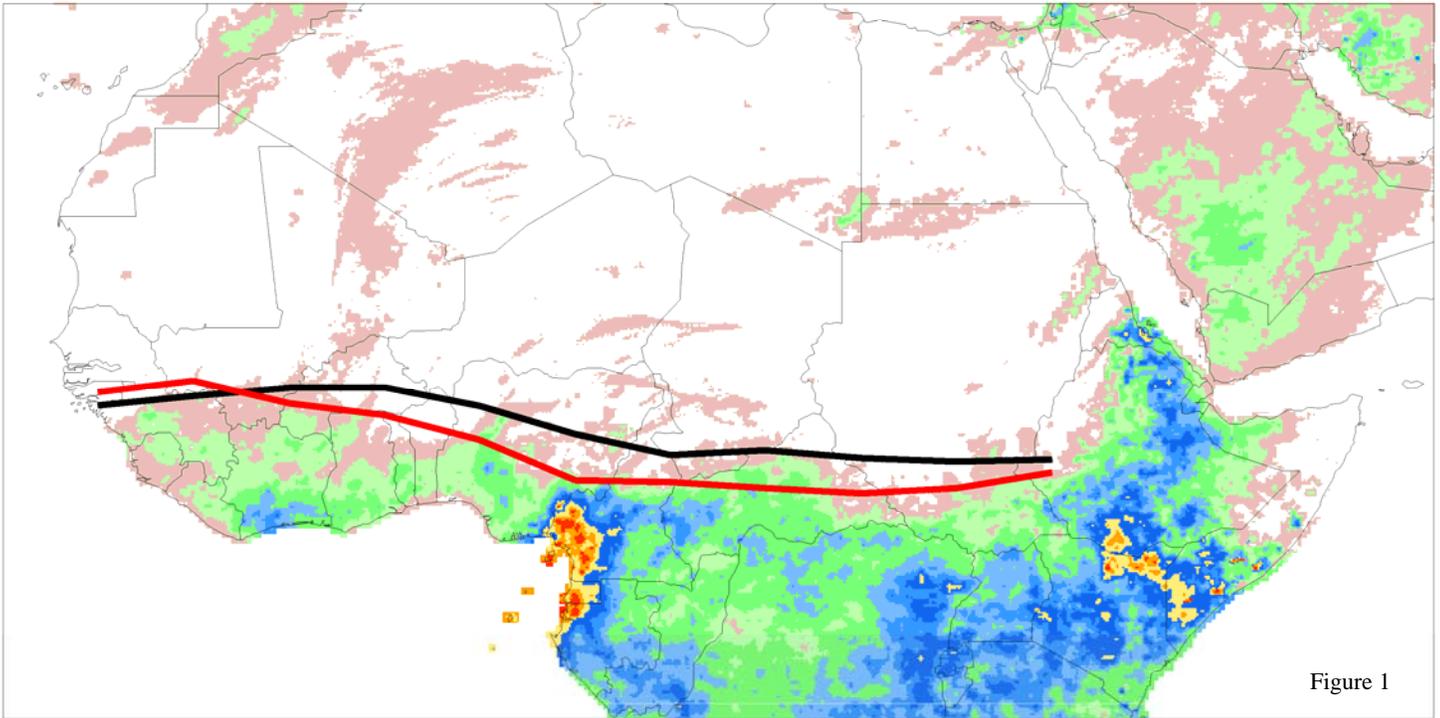


Figure 1

Accumulated Dekadal Precipitation:



Current 10-Day Average
 Mean 10-Day Average



Mean Position of the ITCZ
10 degrees west - 10 degrees east longitude

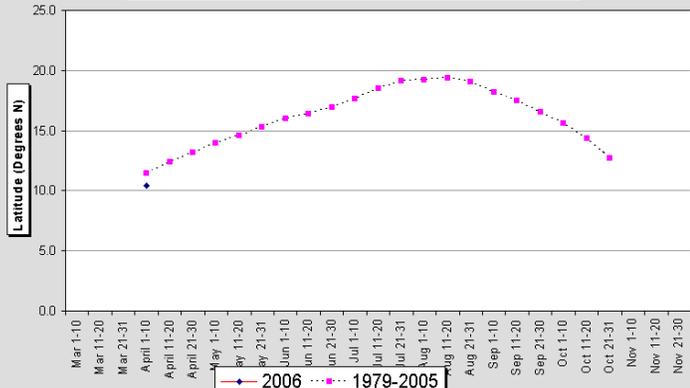


Figure 2

Mean Position of the ITCZ
20-35 degrees east longitude

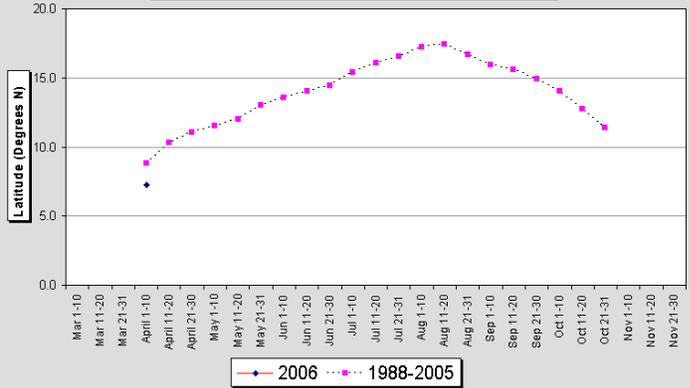


Figure 3

This is the first Africa ITCZ analysis of the 2006 season. Therefore, no information is available from the previous dekad, though this data will be available next period. During the April 1-10 2006 period, the African ITCZ was located near 9.15 degrees north when averaged from 15W-35E and over the ten day time frame. This compares with a 1988-2005 normal of around 10.27 degrees north latitude during the same period. Figure 1 represents the current versus mean ITCZ position, with accompanying dekadal estimated precipitation. Note the anomalously heavy rains along coastal Cameroon, as well in parts of Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Somalia. Interestingly though, the ITCZ in this general region is currently south of its climatological position. In fact, as shown in Figure 3, The current ITCZ position from 20E-35E is near 7.2N, compared with the long term mean of 8.7 for the period. In the west, from 10W-10E, the ITCZ is currently located near 11.0 degrees north latitude, compared with a normal of 11.6N. Additional information may be found at <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/fews/ITCZ/itcz.shtml>