

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITF

As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center

April 2008 Dekad 1

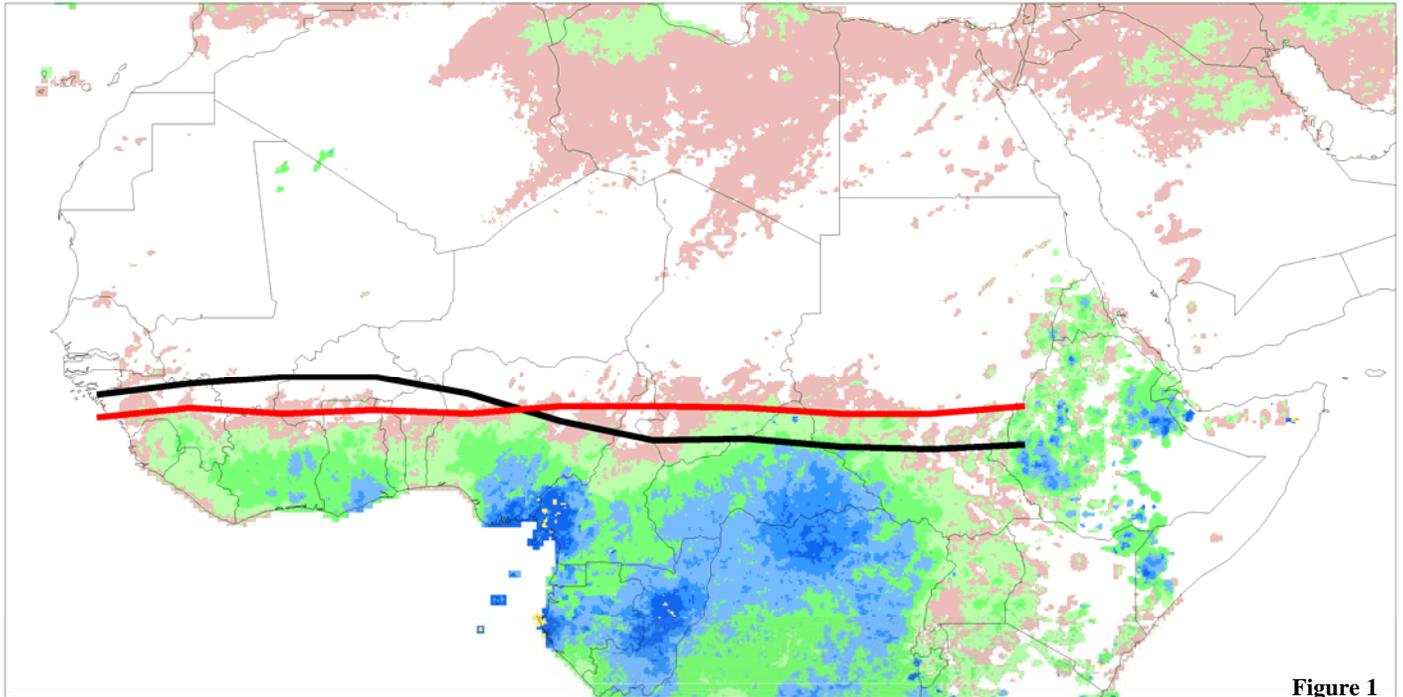


Figure 1

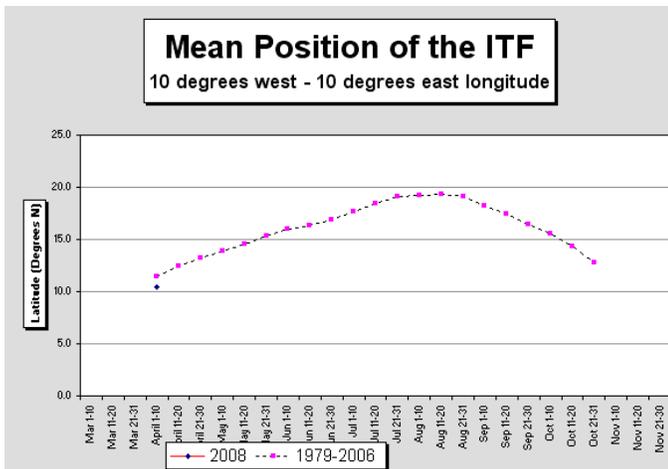


Figure 2

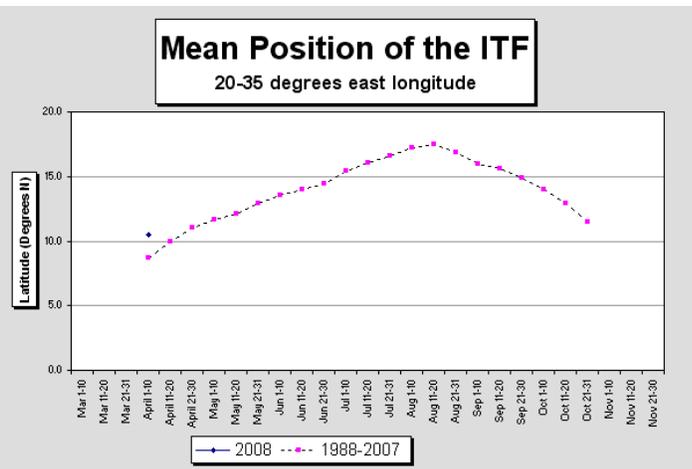


Figure 3

During the period from April 1-10, 2008, the African portion of the Intertropical Front (ITF) was located at around 10.5 degrees north latitude, compared with the normal position of 8.6 degrees north. The position is similar to the same dekad of 2007 when the ITF was around 10.6N. Figure 1 shows the current position compared to normal, and it is apparent from this diagram that the positive northward bias is due to a northward surge over in the east, meanwhile the ITF lags slightly in the west. From Figures 2 and 3 it is clear that the ITF is flat with it resting in an almost straight line constantly at 10.5 degrees north. Compared with the 1979-2006 mean of around 11.5N in the west, and a normal position of around 8.6N the ITF is lagging behind west of Nigeria, and advancing faster than normal for points east.