

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITCZ

As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center

April 2006 Dekad 2

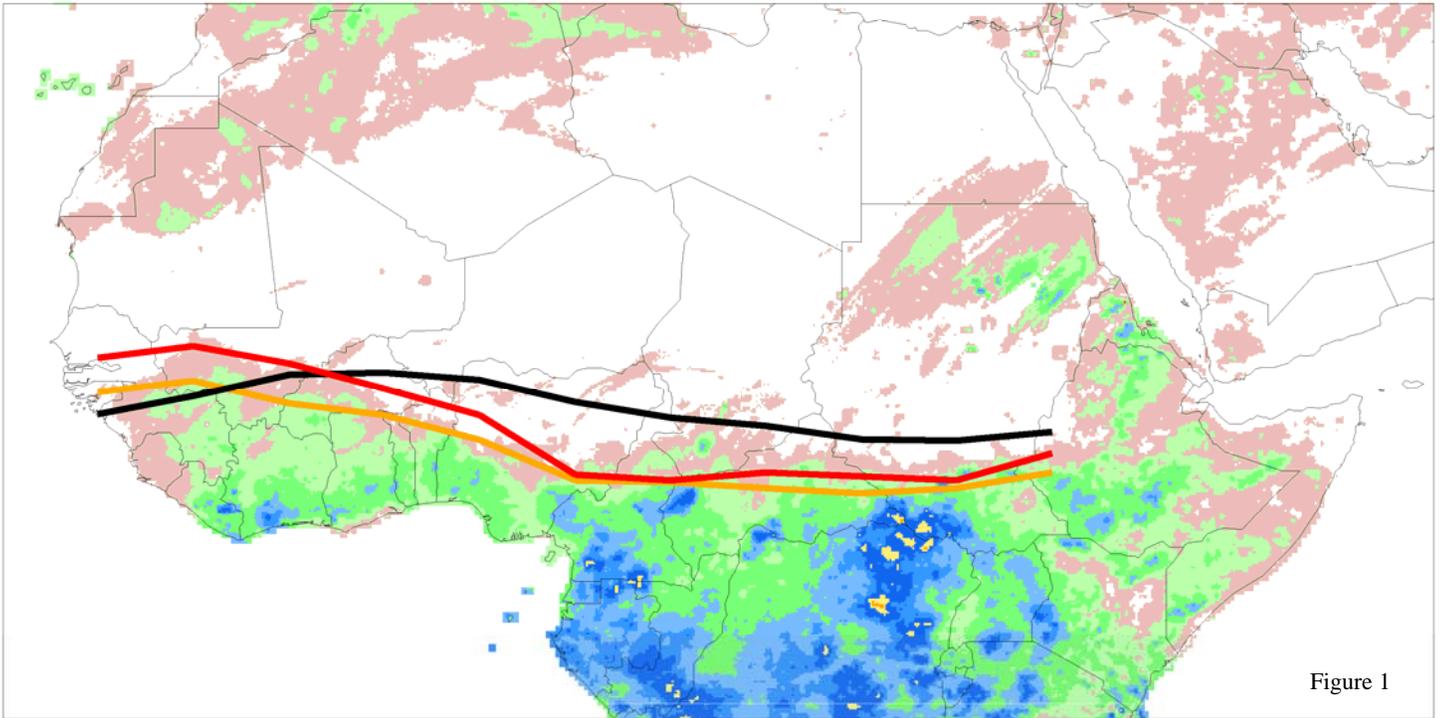
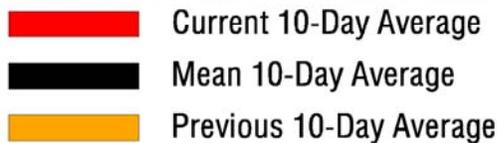


Figure 1

Accumulated Dekadal Precipitation:



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

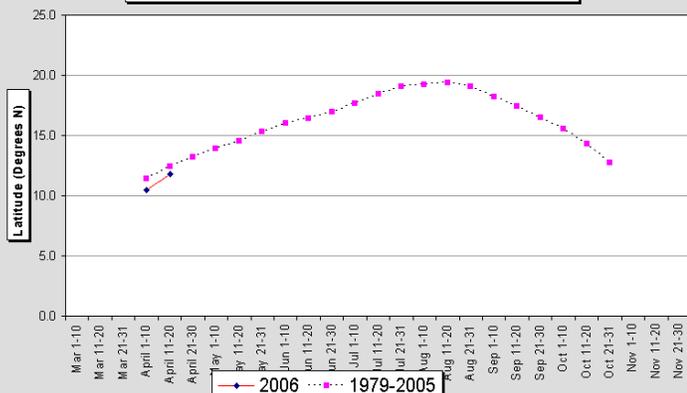


Figure 2

Mean Position of the ITCZ
20-35 degrees east longitude

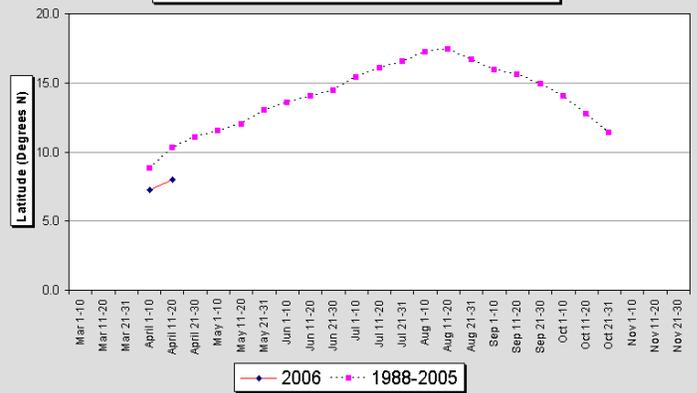


Figure 3

The Africa portion of the ITCZ during the period from April 11-20 2006 was located near 10.23 degrees north latitude when averaged from 15W-35E, compared with the long term 1988-2005 mean of around 11.24 degrees north. The current versus mean situation can be seen in Figure 1, and it may be noted that the current ITCZ exhibits a strong southward bias compared to the climatological average. Precipitation in the region follows the discontinuity location fairly well during the current period, with an overall lack of rains in northern Nigeria, CAR, and southern Sudan. Portions of southern Mali saw unusually heavy rainfall during the period. In the west (from 10W-10E), the current ITCZ was located near 11.8N, compared with the long term mean of 12.5 during the same dekad. Much of this bias is seen east of the Prime Meridian, especially over Nigeria. In the east (from 20E-35E), the current ITCZ position is near 8.0N, compared with the long term mean of Round 9.9 degrees north. Additional information may be found at <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/fews/ITCZ/itcz.shtml>