

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITF

As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center

April 2009 Dekad 2

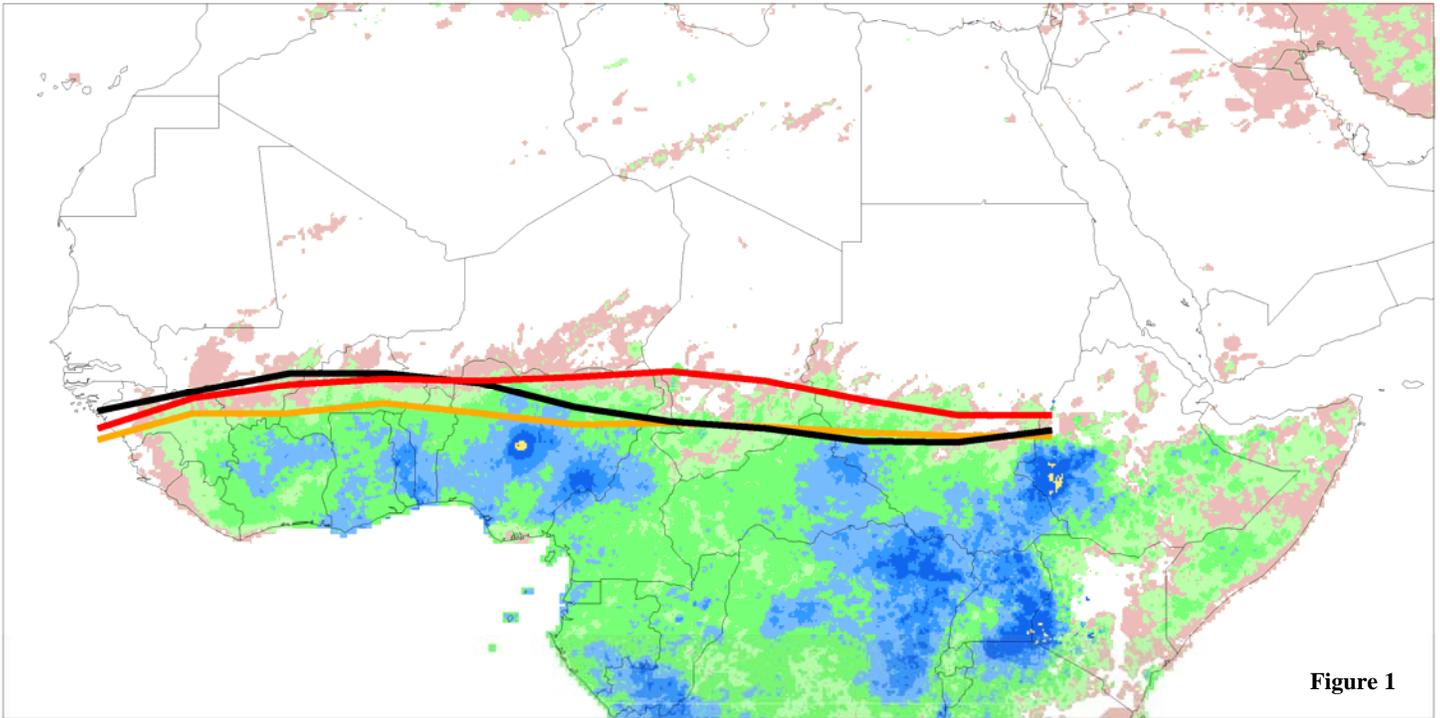


Figure 1

Accumulated Dekadal Precipitation:

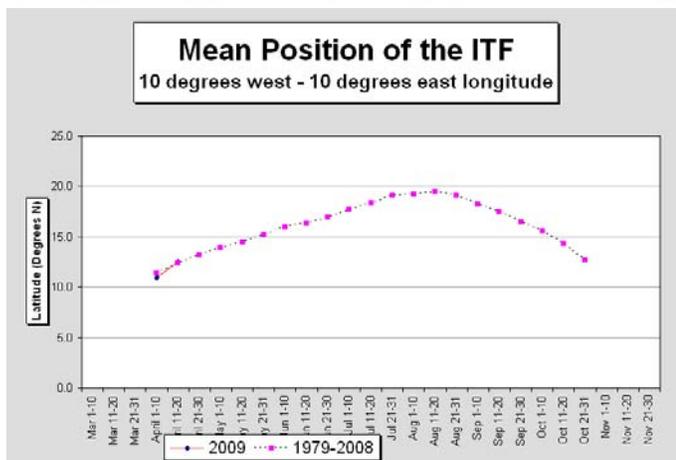
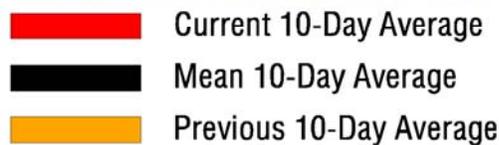


Figure 2

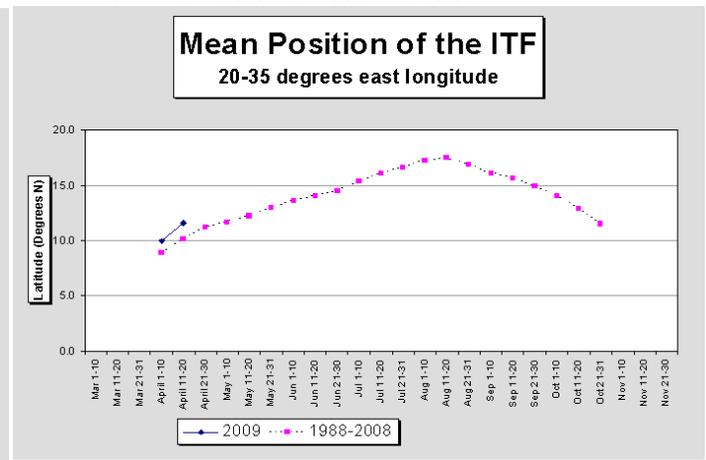


Figure 3

During the period from April 11-20, 2009, the African portion of the Intertropical Front (ITF) was located at around 12.0 degrees north latitude, compared with the normal position of 11.2 degrees north. The position is slightly north of the same dekad of 2008 when the ITF was around 11.8N. 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 Nigeria, Chad and Sudan. Meanwhile the ITF is very close to the normal position in the west. From Figures 2 and 3 the ITF has moved north from its position last week across the continent maintaining the northward bias in the east. Compared with the 1979-2007 mean of around 11.6N in the east, and a normal position of around 9.8N the ITF is well north of normal east of Nigeria.