

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITCZ

As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center

April 2006 Dekad 3

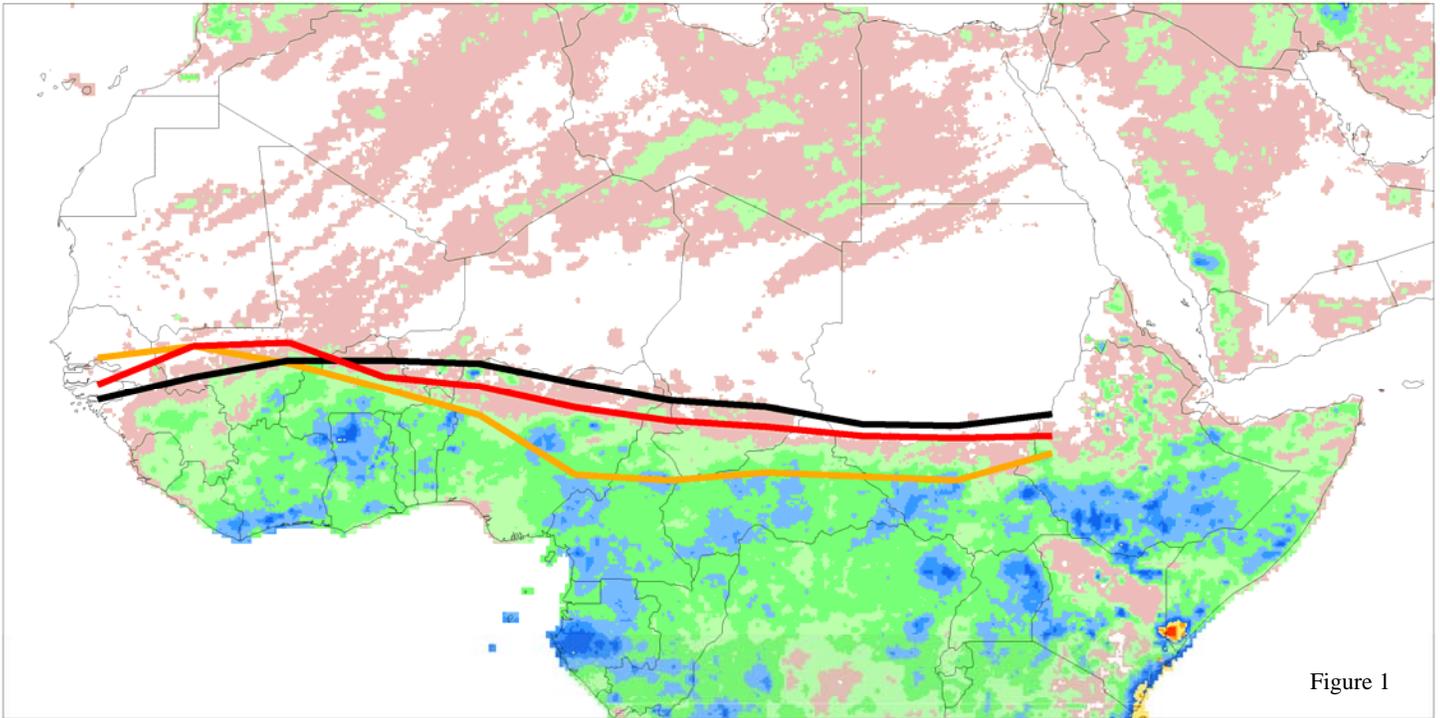
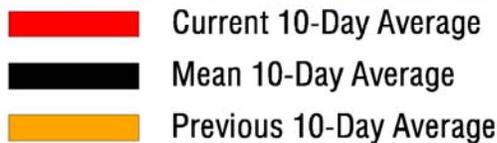


Figure 1

Accumulated Dekadal Precipitation:



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

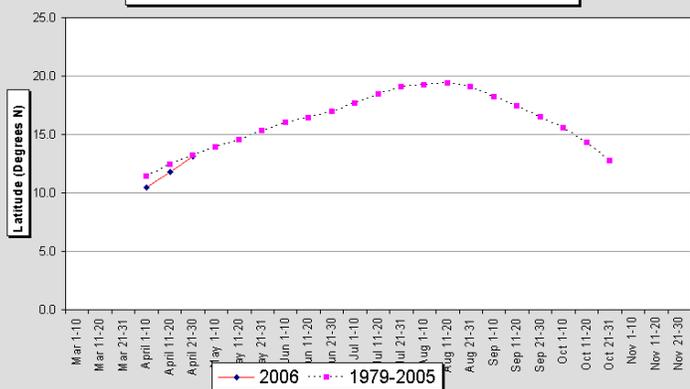


Figure 2

Mean Position of the ITCZ
20-35 degrees east longitude

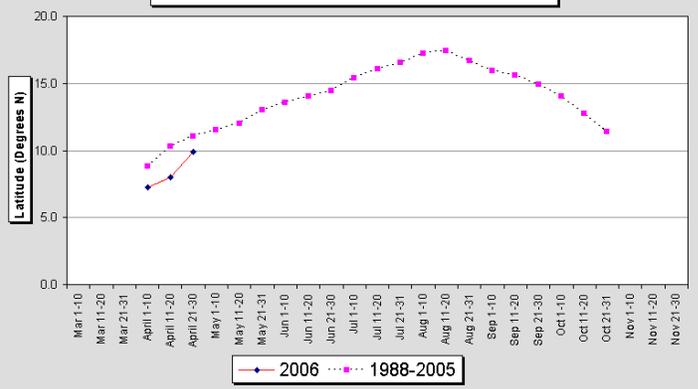


Figure 3

The Africa portion of the ITCZ during the period from April 21-30 2006 was located near 11.68 degrees north latitude when averaged from 15W-35E, compared with the long term 1988-2005 mean of around 11.18 degrees north. The current versus mean situation can be seen in Figure 1, and it may be noted that the current ITCZ shows a slight southward bias compared to the climatological average, however this weeks mean ITCZ line looks more like the overall normal for this time of year. Precipitation in the region follows the discontinuity location fairly well during the current period as well. In the west (from 10W-10E), the current ITCZ was located near 13.2N, compared with the long term mean of 13.3N during the same dekad. Much of this bias is seen east of the Prime Meridian as we have seen over the past few weeks. In the east (from 20E-35E), the current ITCZ position is near 9.9N, compared with the long term mean of 10.8 degrees north. This time last year the mean for the same location was further north around 12.0N. Additional information may be found at <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/fews/ITCZ/itcz.shtml>

