

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITF

As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center

August 2009 Dekad 3

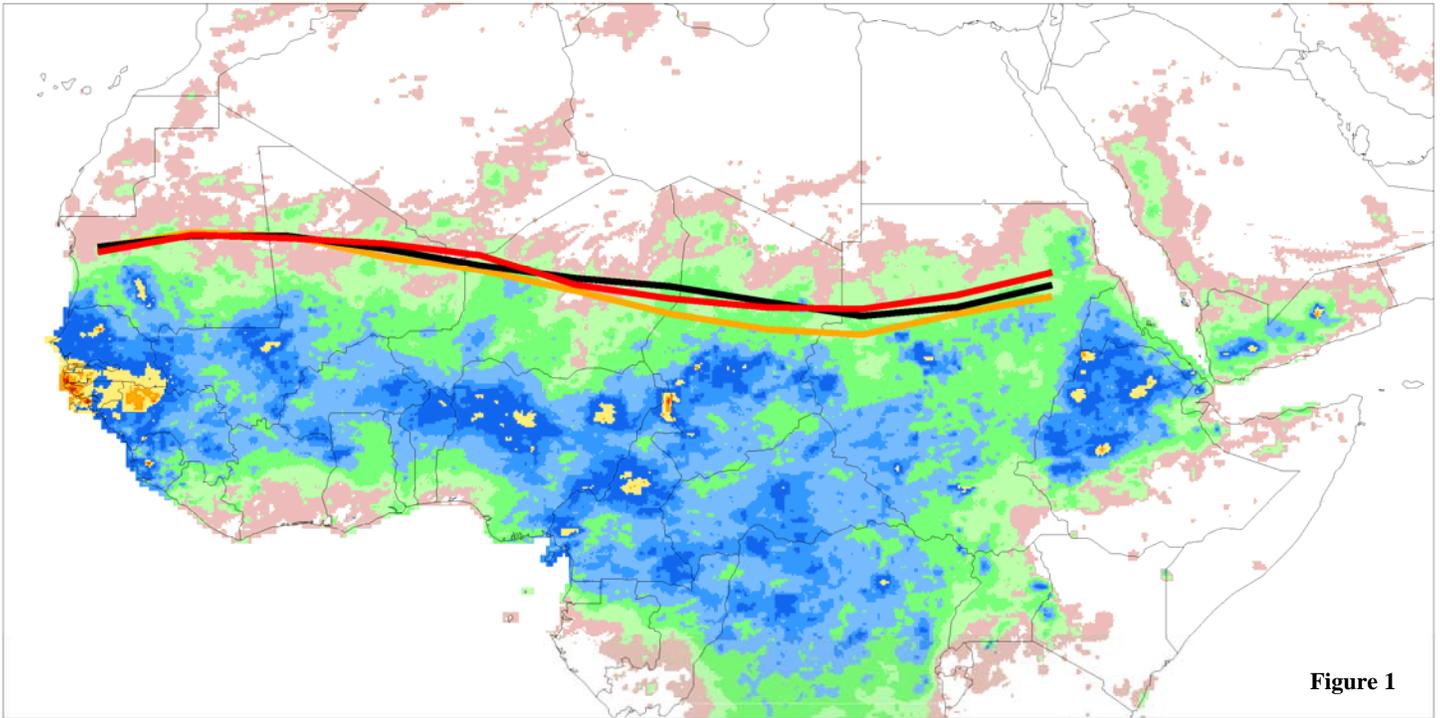


Figure 1

Accumulated Dekadal Precipitation:

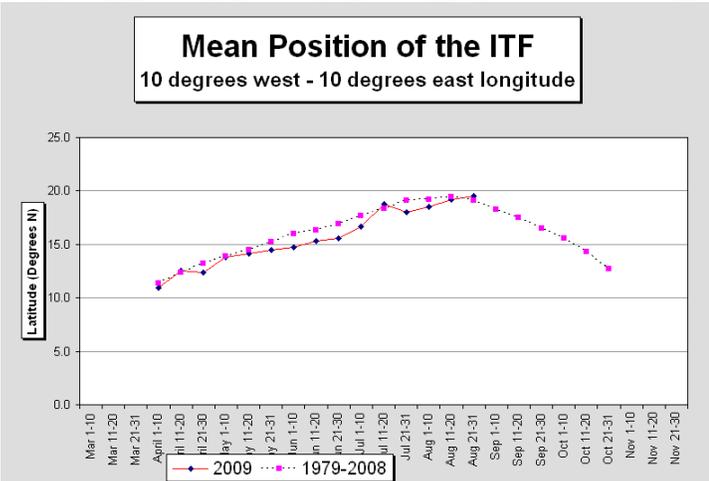
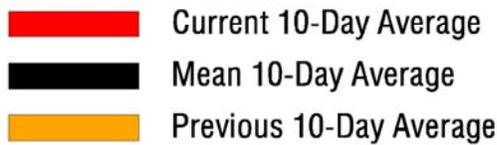


Figure 2

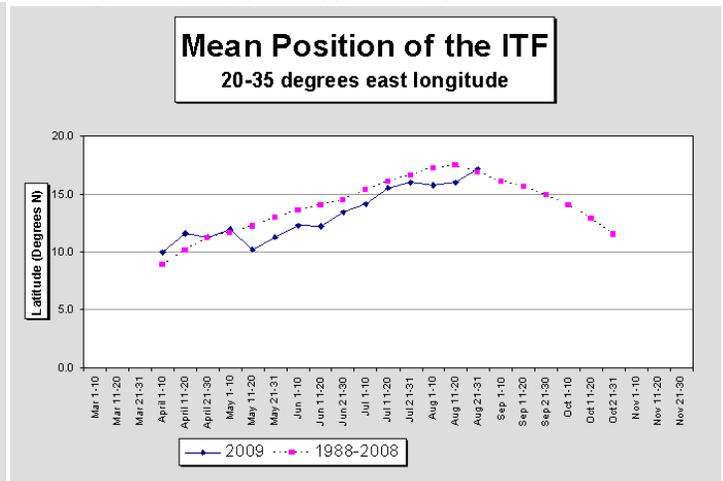


Figure 3

During the period from August 21-31, 2009, the African portion of the Inter-tropical Front (ITF) was located near 18.4N degrees, while the normal for this time of year is 18.3N degrees. This is the first time since early in the season that the ITF is north of its mean position. Despite being close to its average position for this time of year, it appears that the ITF is peaking, which it typically does during the second dekad of August, and it is typically further north for that peak. Figure 1 shows the current position compared to normal, and it is apparent from this diagram that the ITF is near its normal position across the continent. Comparing the current position with the 1979-2008 average, the historical average is around 16.8N in the east, and the current position is around 17.1N. In the west the ITF is also slightly north of its historical average position of 19.4N, compared to the current position, 19.5N. Figures 2 and 3 show the delayed peak of the ITF this year.