

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITF

As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center

July 2009 Dekad 1

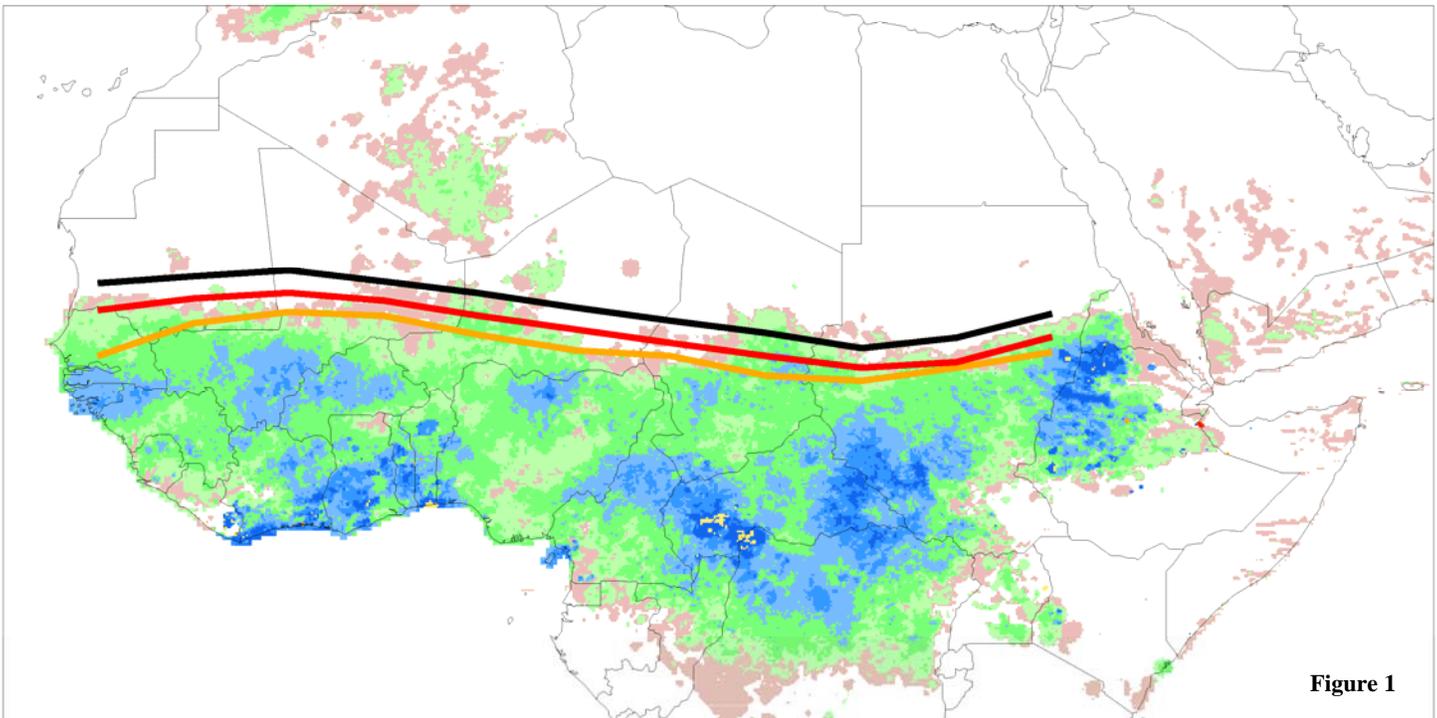
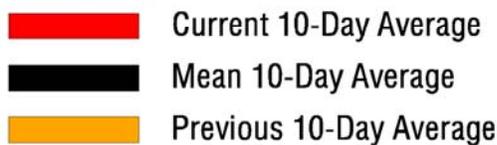


Figure 1

Accumulated Dekadal Precipitation:



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

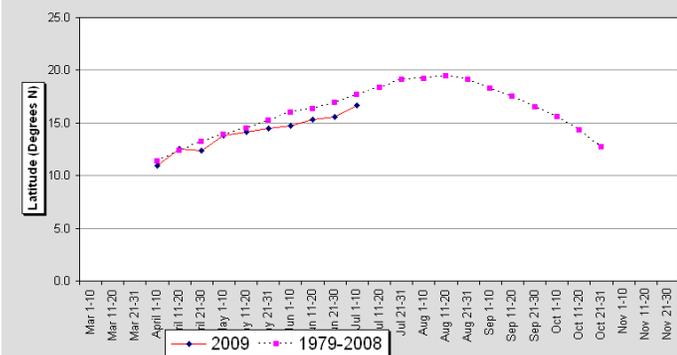


Figure 2

Mean Position of the ITF
20-35 degrees east longitude

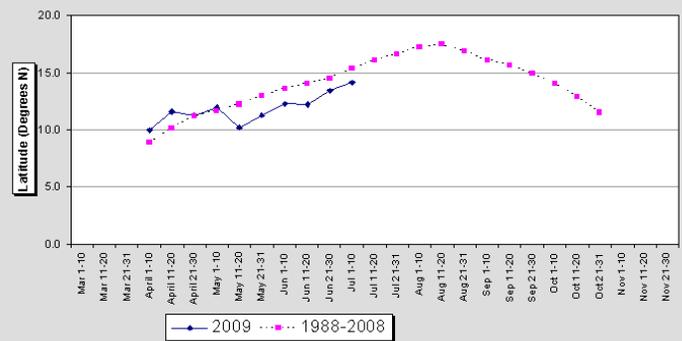


Figure 3

During the period from July 1-10, 2009, the African portion of the Intertropical Front (ITF) was located near 15.5N degrees, while the normal for this time of year is 16.7N degrees. The ITF position last year was also suppressed, with a position of 16.0N. Figure 1 shows the current position compared to normal, and it is apparent from this diagram that the ITF continues to be significantly suppressed across all of Africa, but the ITF is still moving northward at a rate that is close to normal. The southward anomaly of the ITF in the east and the west has grown over the last dekad. Comparing the current position with the 1979-2008 average, the historical average is around 15.3N in the east, and the current position is around 14.1N. In the west the ITF is less suppressed with a historical average position of 17.8N, compared to the current of 16.6N. Figures 2 and 3 show the somewhat erratic movements of the ITF so far this year.