

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITF

As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center

July 2009 Dekad 2

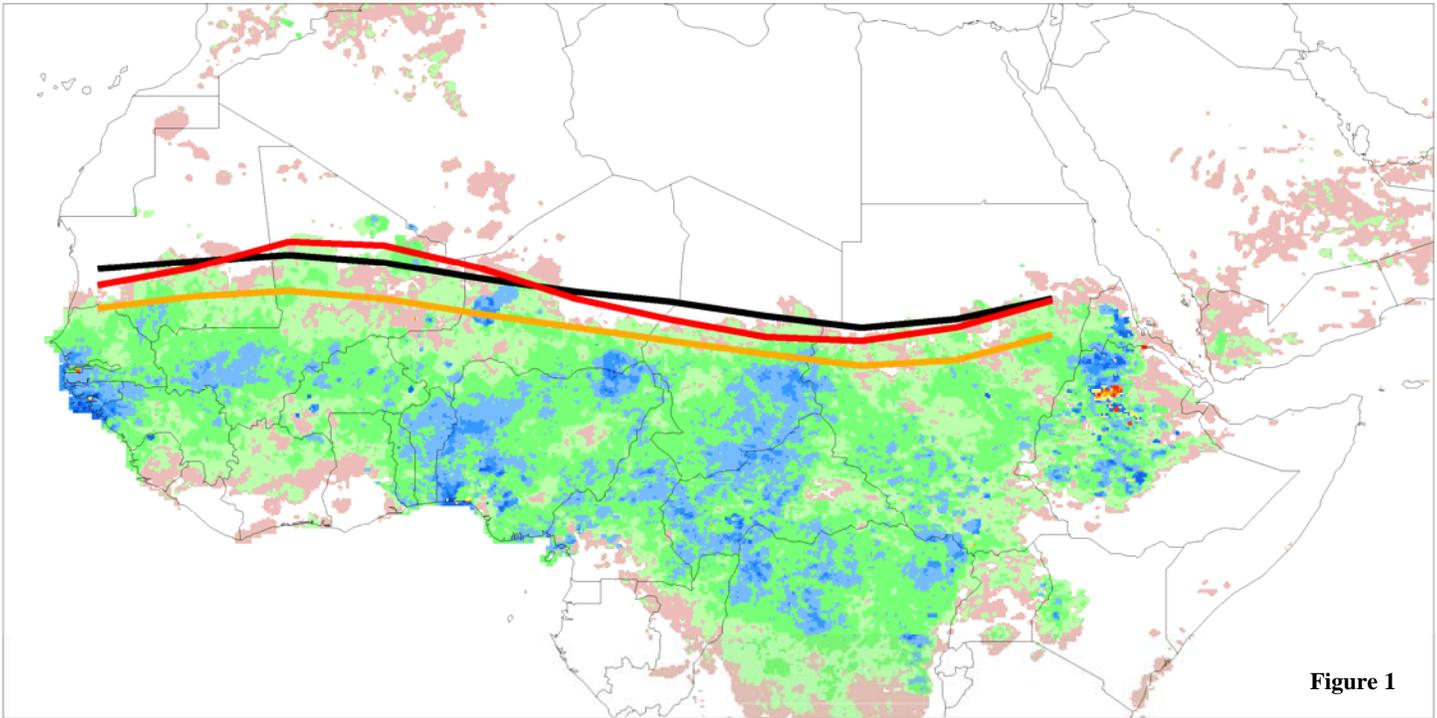


Figure 1

Accumulated Dekadal Precipitation:

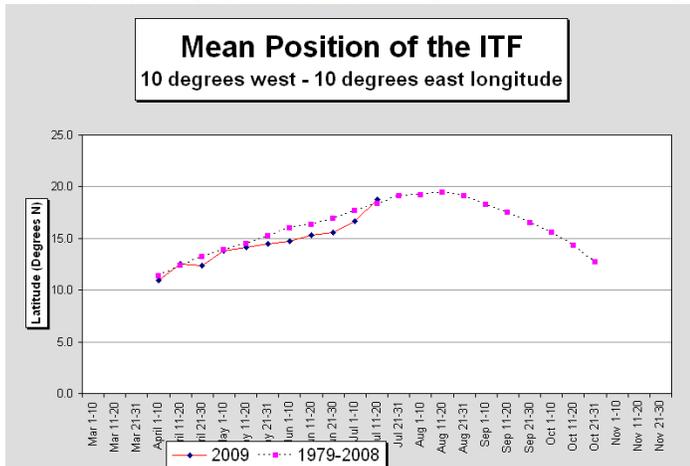
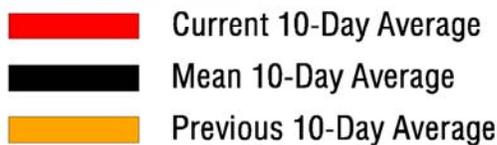


Figure 2

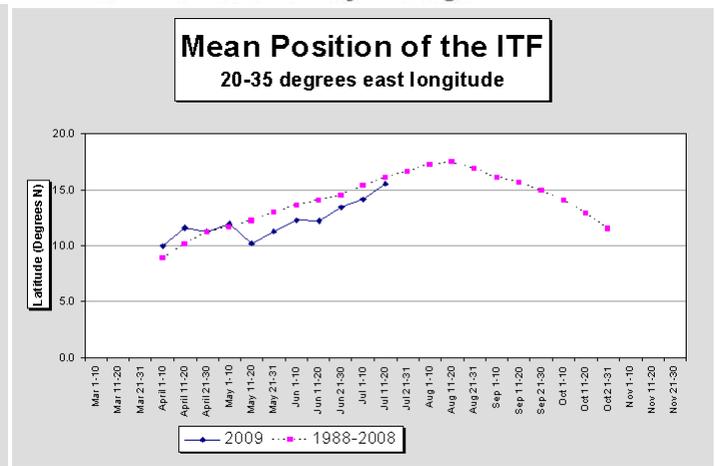


Figure 3

During the period from July 11-10, 2009, the African portion of the Intertropical Front (ITF) was located near 17.3N degrees, while the normal for this time of year is 17.5N degrees. The ITF position last year was more suppressed, with a position of 16.8N. This is a change, from earlier this year, where the ITF was lagging behind both last year and the mean at a greater distance. 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 16.1N in the east, and the current position is around 15.6N. In the west the ITF is less suppressed with a historical average position of 18.5N, compared to the current of 18.8N. Figures 2 and 3 show the somewhat erratic movements of the ITF so far this year.