

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITCZ

As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center

May 2006 Dekad 1

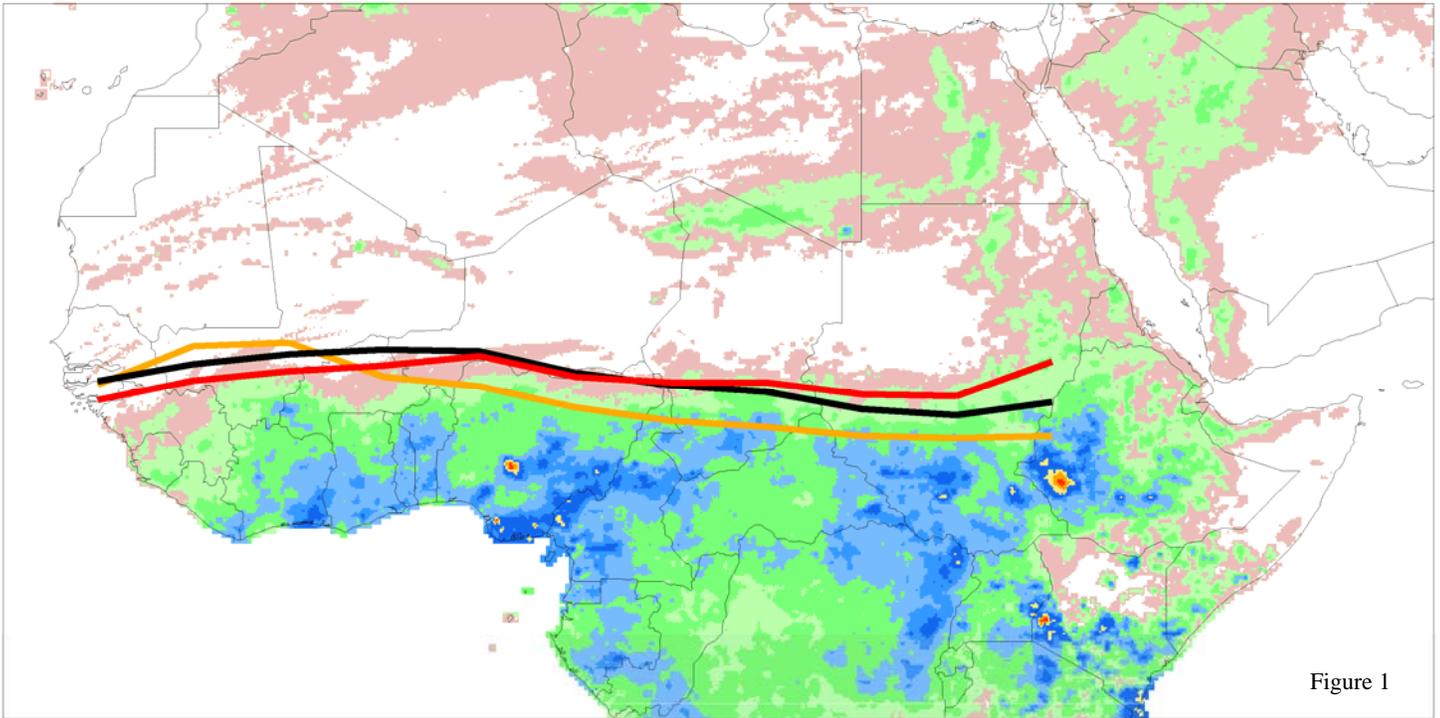
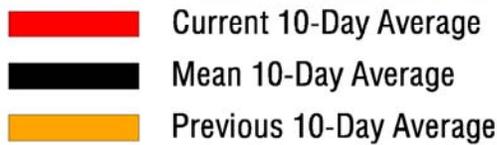


Figure 1

Accumulated Dekadal Precipitation:



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

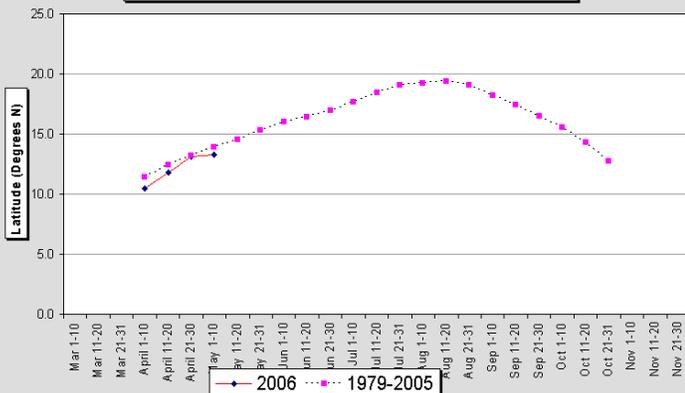


Figure 2

Mean Position of the ITCZ
20-35 degrees east longitude

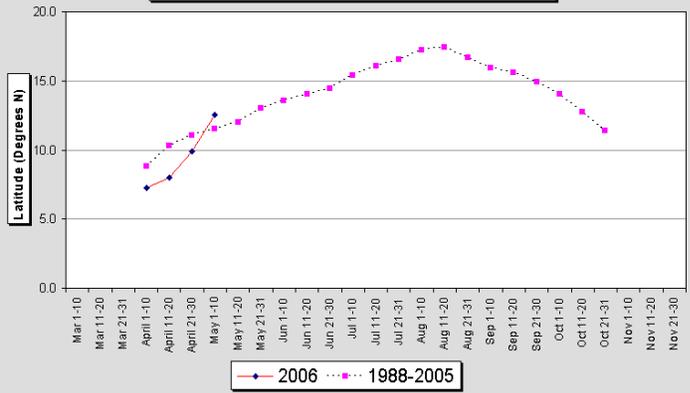


Figure 3

During the period from May 1-10, 2006, the African portion of the Intertropical Convergence Zone was located near 12.8 degrees north latitude when averaged from 15W-35E over the ten day period. This compares to the normal location of 12.7N, and a position during the previous dekad of 11.7N. While the current position averaged over the entire region is near normal, examining figure 1 will show that there are significant differences in the western and eastern zones. Generally areas east of Nigeria are experiencing northward biased ITCZ positions, and areas to the west are experiencing southward biases. These correspond to rainfall anomalies for the dekad well: ftp://ftp.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/fews/AFR_CLIM/DERIVED_GIFS/dekadal_anoms_product.2006051.gif Examining figure 3 which depicts the ITCZ vs normal for the area of 20-35 degrees east, it is seen that after beginning the season well south of normal, the ITCZ has rapidly moved northward and is now located north of the long term mean normal for the dekad. Additional information may be found at <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/fews/ITCZ/itcz.shtml>