

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITF

As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center

May 2009 Dekad 2

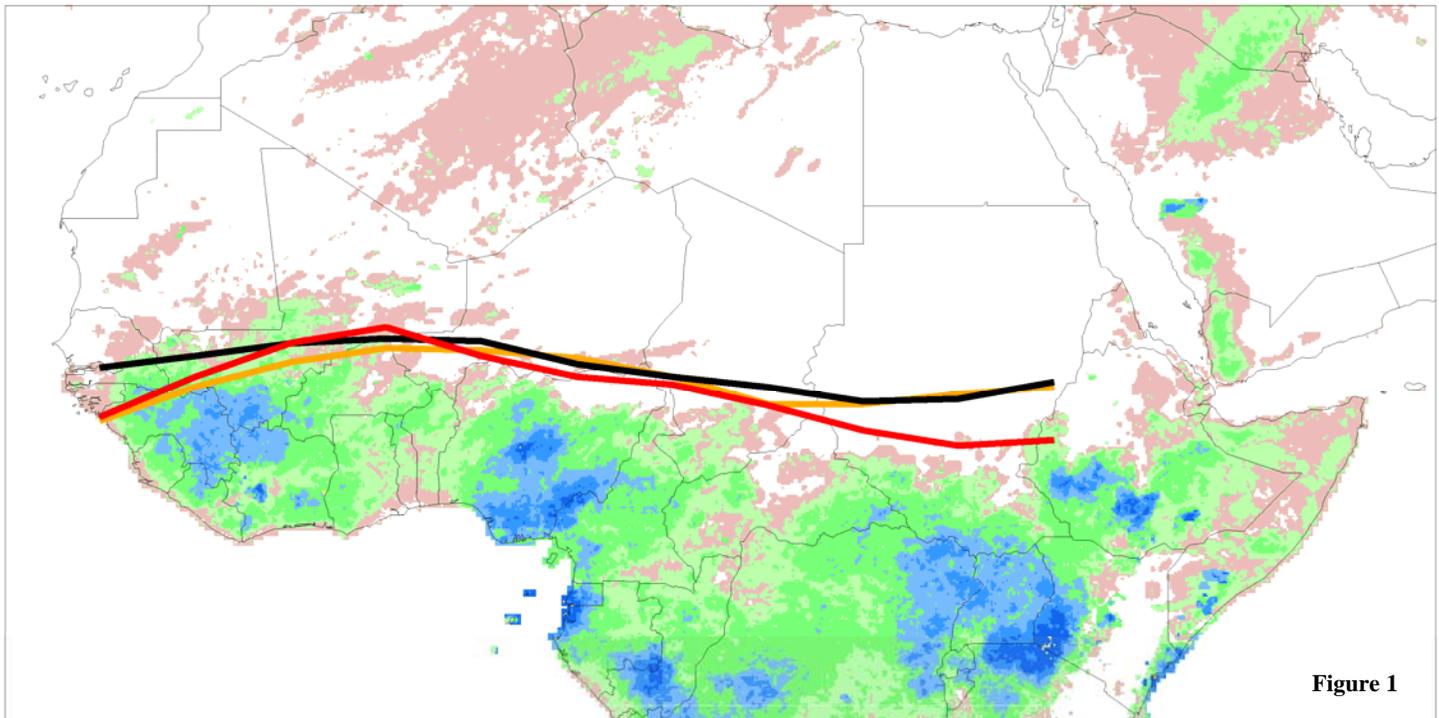


Figure 1

Accumulated Dekadal Precipitation:

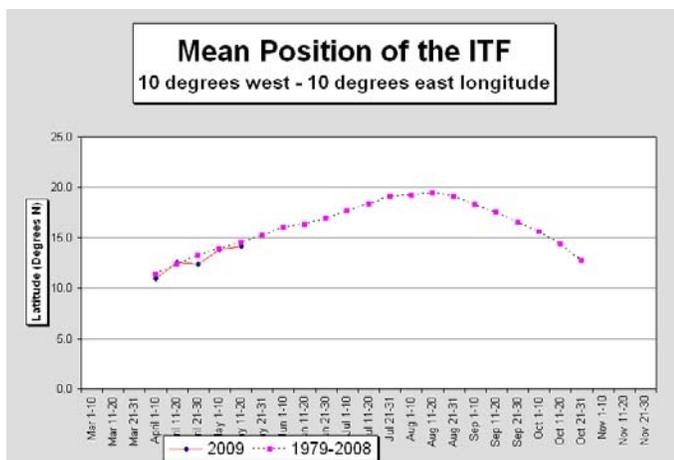
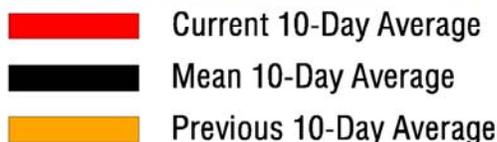


Figure 2

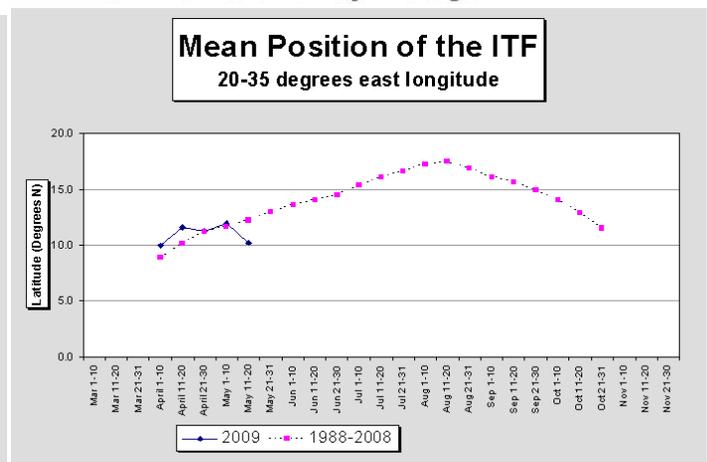


Figure 3

During the period from May 11-20, 2009, the African portion of the Intertropical Front (ITF) was located at around 12.3N degrees, which is 1.1 degrees south of the average for this time of year and 1.6 degrees south of the same position in 2008. Figure 1 shows the current position compared to normal, and it is apparent from this diagram that the ITF is significantly suppressed across much of East Africa, and while closer to average in the west, there is still some suppression occurring there as well. Using latitude to compare the current position with the 1979-2008 average, the historical average is around 12.2N in the east, and the current position is around 10.2N, in the east the ITF is closer to the historical average with a position of 14.1N, compared to 14.5N. Figures 2 and 3 show the somewhat erratic movements of the ITF so far this year.