

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITF

As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center

October 2008 Dekad 2

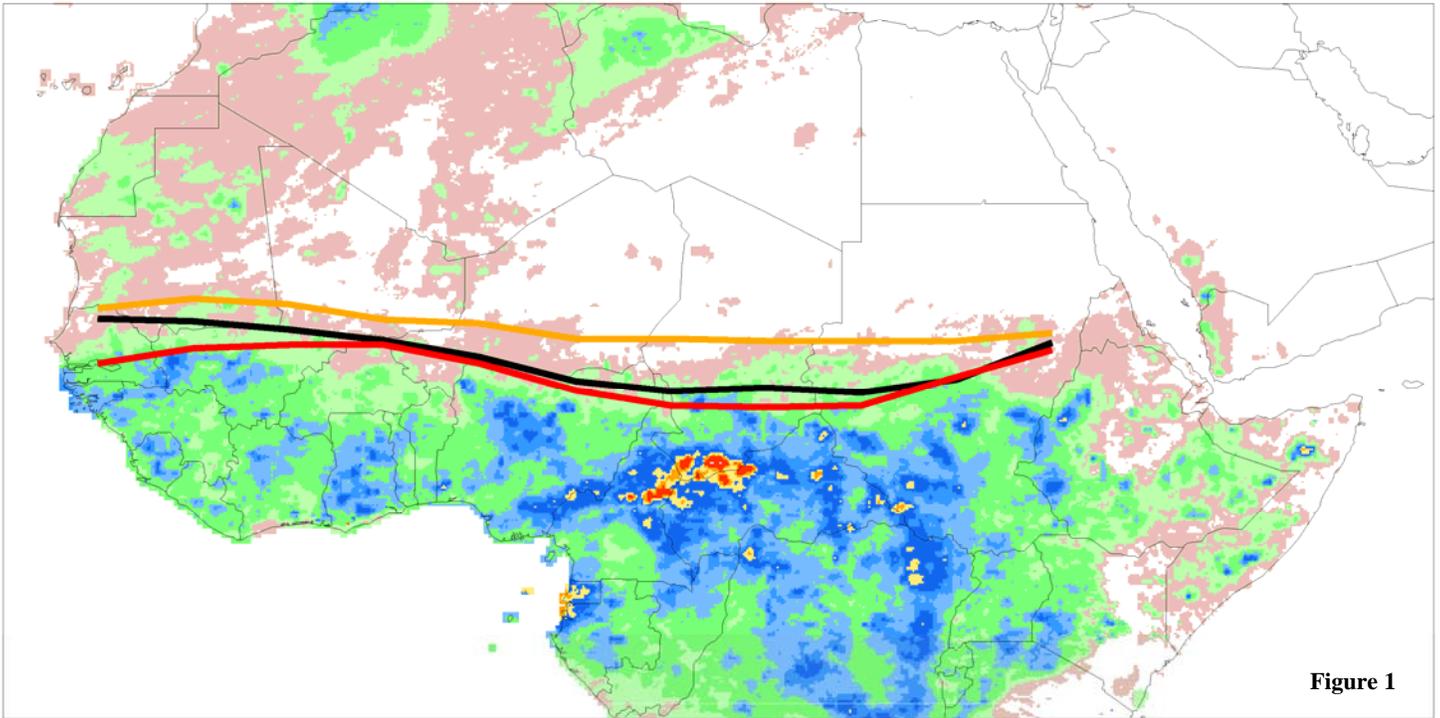


Figure 1

Accumulated Dekadal Precipitation:

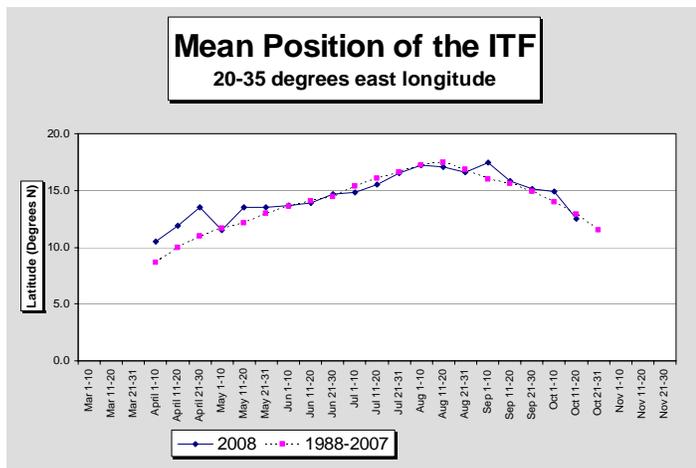
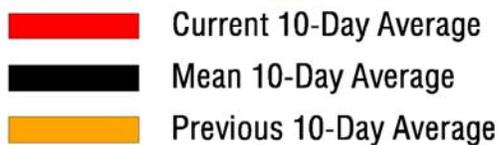


Figure 2

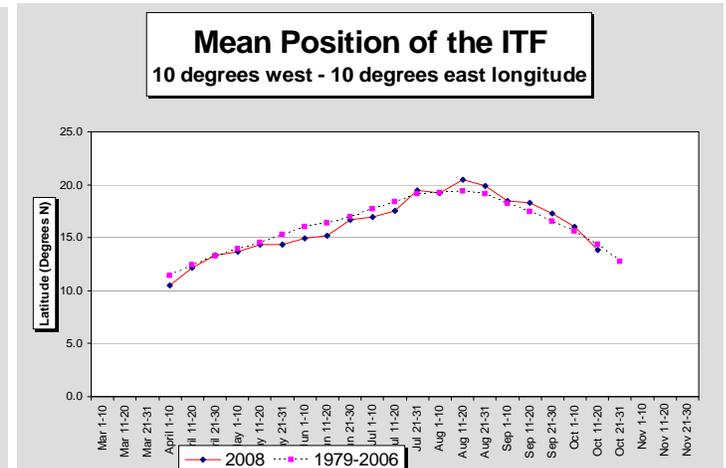


Figure 3

During the period from October 11 - 20, 2008, the African portion of the Intertropical Front (ITF) was located at around 13.1 degrees north latitude, compared to the mean of 13.9. This is approximately a 2.5 degree drop from last dekad. Figure 1 displays the current position compared to normal, with the ITF moving rapidly southward from its position last dekad across the continent. The ITF is now slightly south of average across Senegal, Mali and Chad. Due to the rapid movement of the ITF during the past dekad, rainfall from early in the period fell north of the dekad long mean. The ITF is positioned at 13.9 degrees north in the west and 12.5 degrees north in the east. Compared with the 1979-2007 mean of around 14.5 degrees north in the west, and a normal position of around 13.0 degrees north in the east.