

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITF

As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center

October 2009 Dekad 2

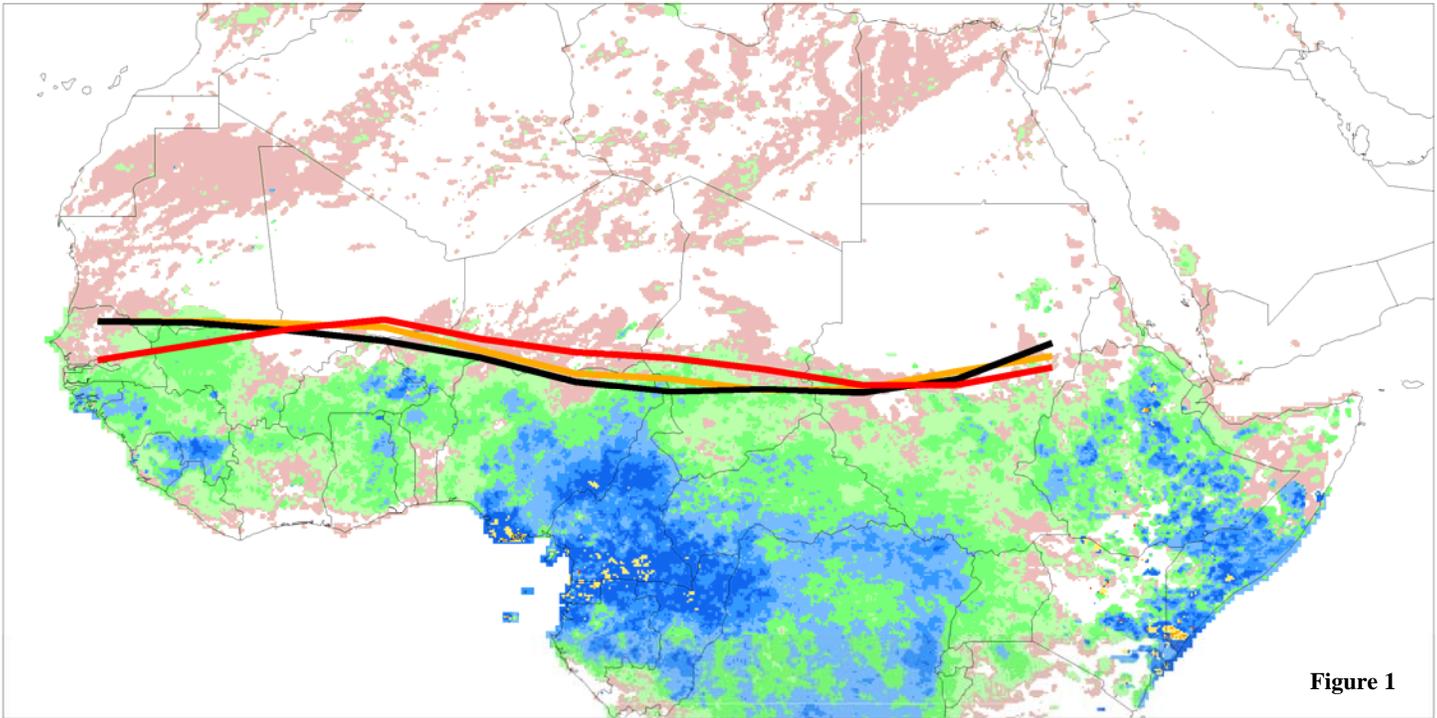


Figure 1

Accumulated Dekadal Precipitation:

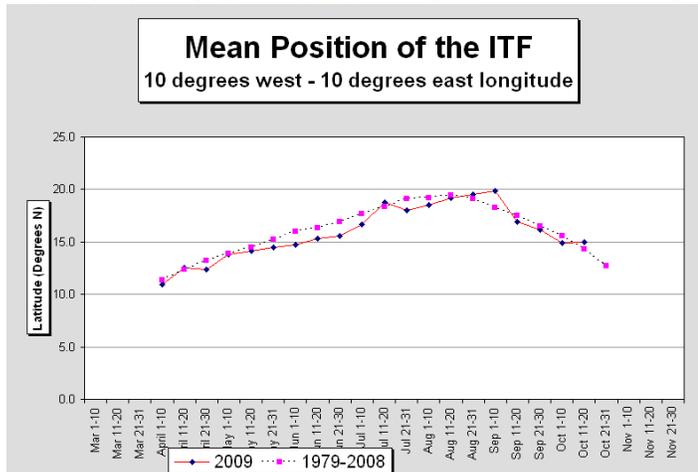
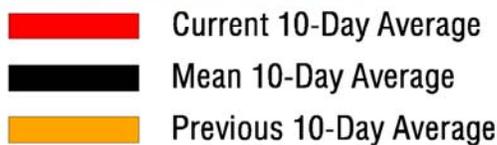


Figure 2

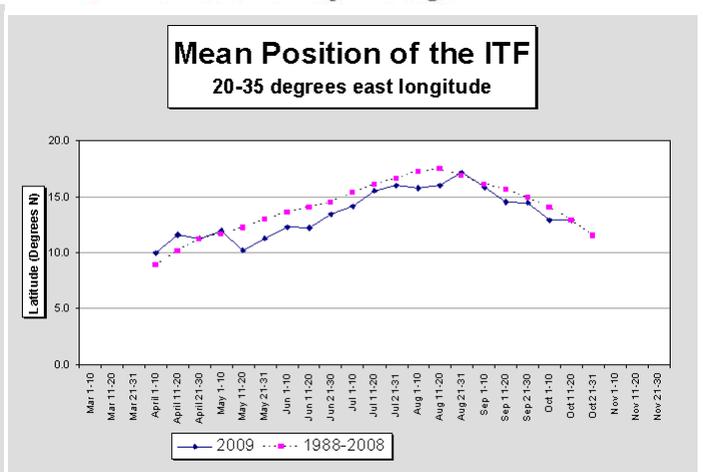


Figure 3

During the period from October 11-20, 2009, the African portion of the Intertropical Front (ITF) was located near 14.0N degrees, while the normal for this time of year is 13.8N degrees. The ITF southward movement came to a halt during this dekad, while normally it would have continued moving south. However, because the ITF was withdrawing from the region early, this halt has brought it very close to its normal position for this time of year. Figure 1 shows the current position compared to normal, and it is apparent from this diagram that the ITF is near its normal position overall. Comparing the current position with the 1979-2008 average, the historical average is around 12.9N in the east, which is the same as the current position. In the west the ITF is at 15.0N, north of its historical average position of 14.5N. Figures 2 and 3 show the somewhat erratic movements of the ITF this year, and the return to a below normal position.