

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITCZ

As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center

September 2005 Dekad 1

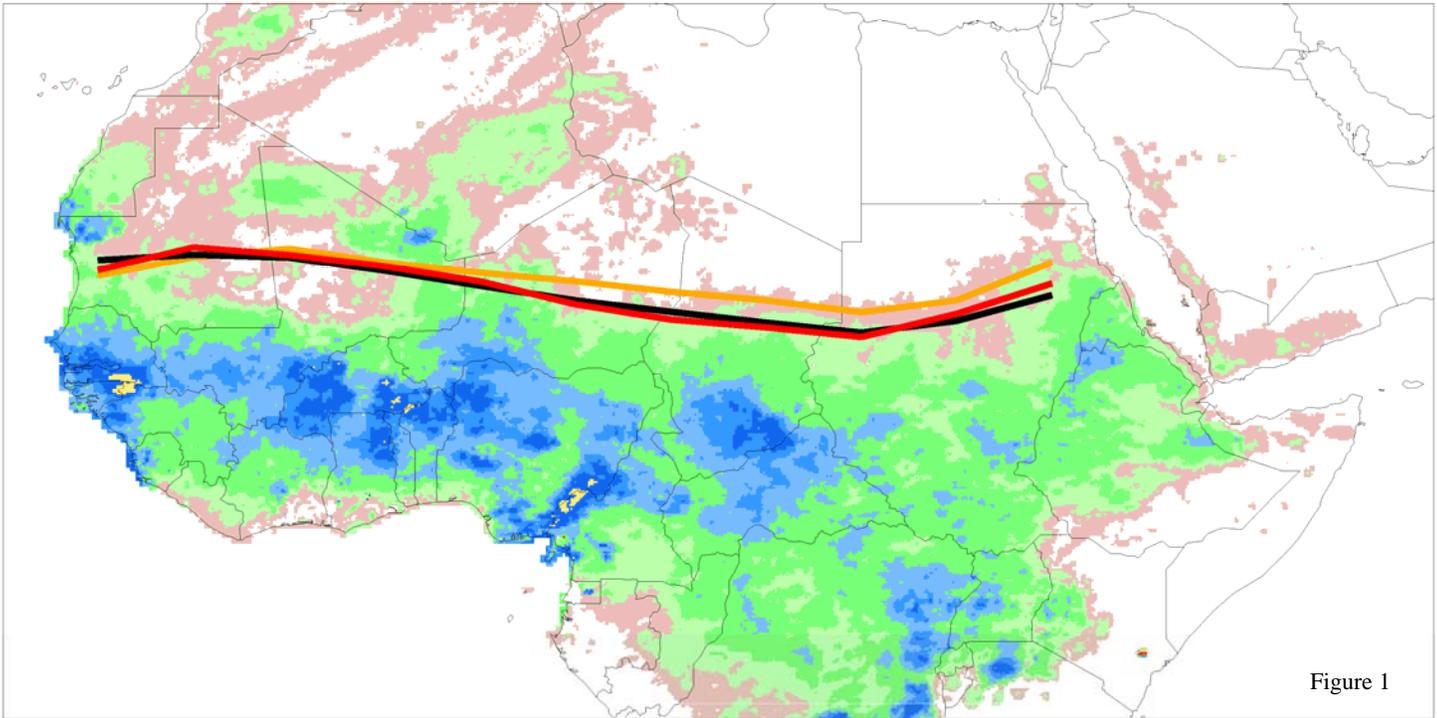
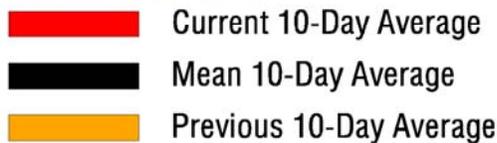


Figure 1

Accumulated Dekadal Precipitation:



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

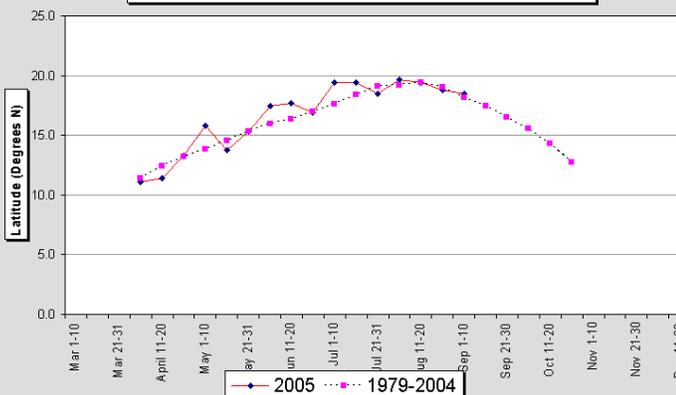


Figure 2

Mean Position of the ITCZ
20-35 degrees east longitude

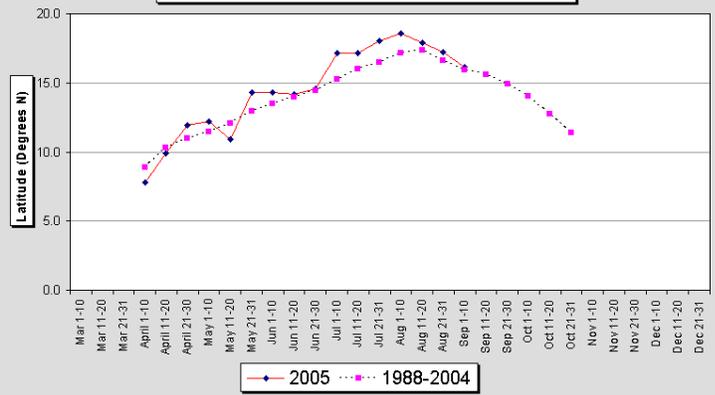


Figure 3

The African portion of the Intertropical Convergence Zone has continued its southward progression during the past ten days, and was located on average near 17.4 degrees north during September 1-10 2005. This compares with a long term mean position of 17.3N and a 2004 position of 16.3N during the same period. Overall, the ITCZ moved approximately 0.6 degrees south from its position during the final dekad of August 2005, though the convergence zone fluctuated dramatically during the period with the passage of African Easterly Waves over the region and cold fronts originating north of the continent. As seen from Figures 2 and 3, the ITCZ in the west and east, respectively, is following the long term mean southward progression very closely. In the west (10W-10E), the current position is near 18.5N, compared to last dekad at 18.8N and the long term mean position of 18.3N. In the east (20E-35E), the ITCZ is currently near 16.1N, compared to a long term mean of nearly 16.0N and a position during the past dekad of 17.3. The quick receding motion of the ITCZ in the east was associated with a marked decreased in precipitation over the Darfur region in Sudan and the surrounding areas.