



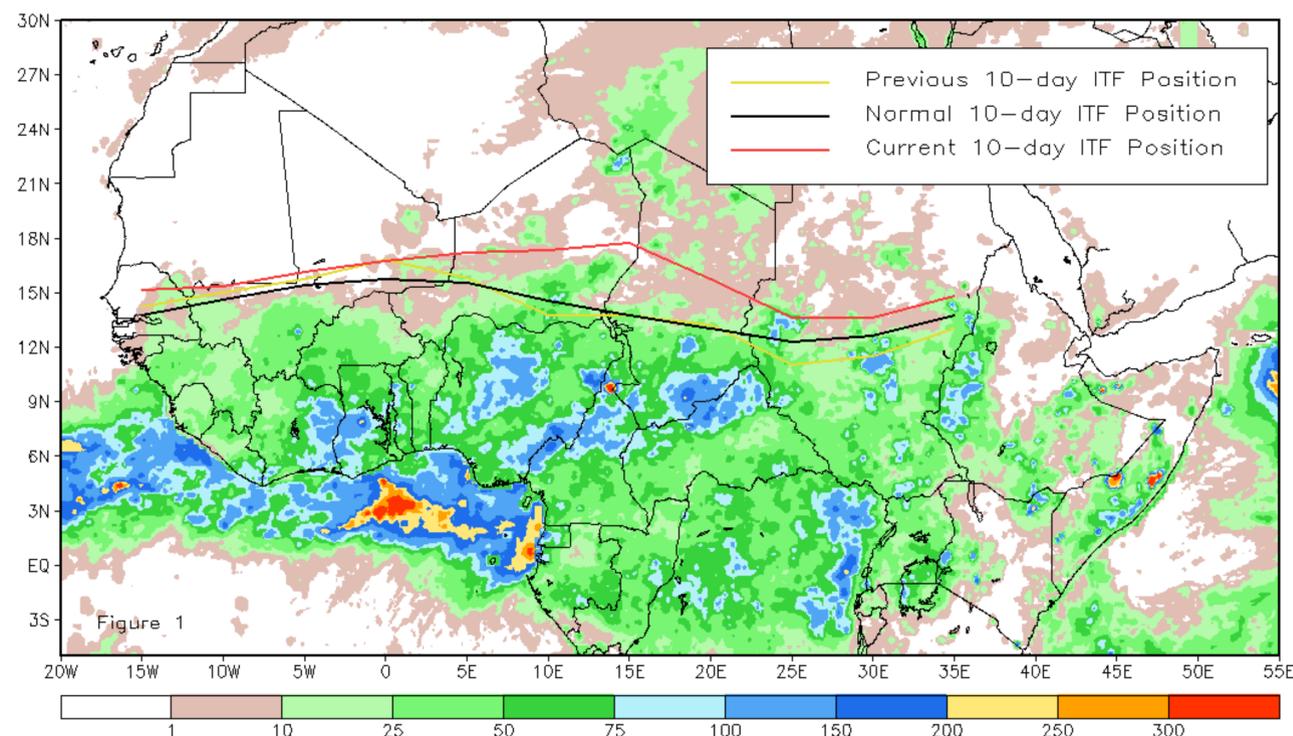
CPC Africa Desk InterTropical (ITF) Front Analysis

May 2012, Dekad 3

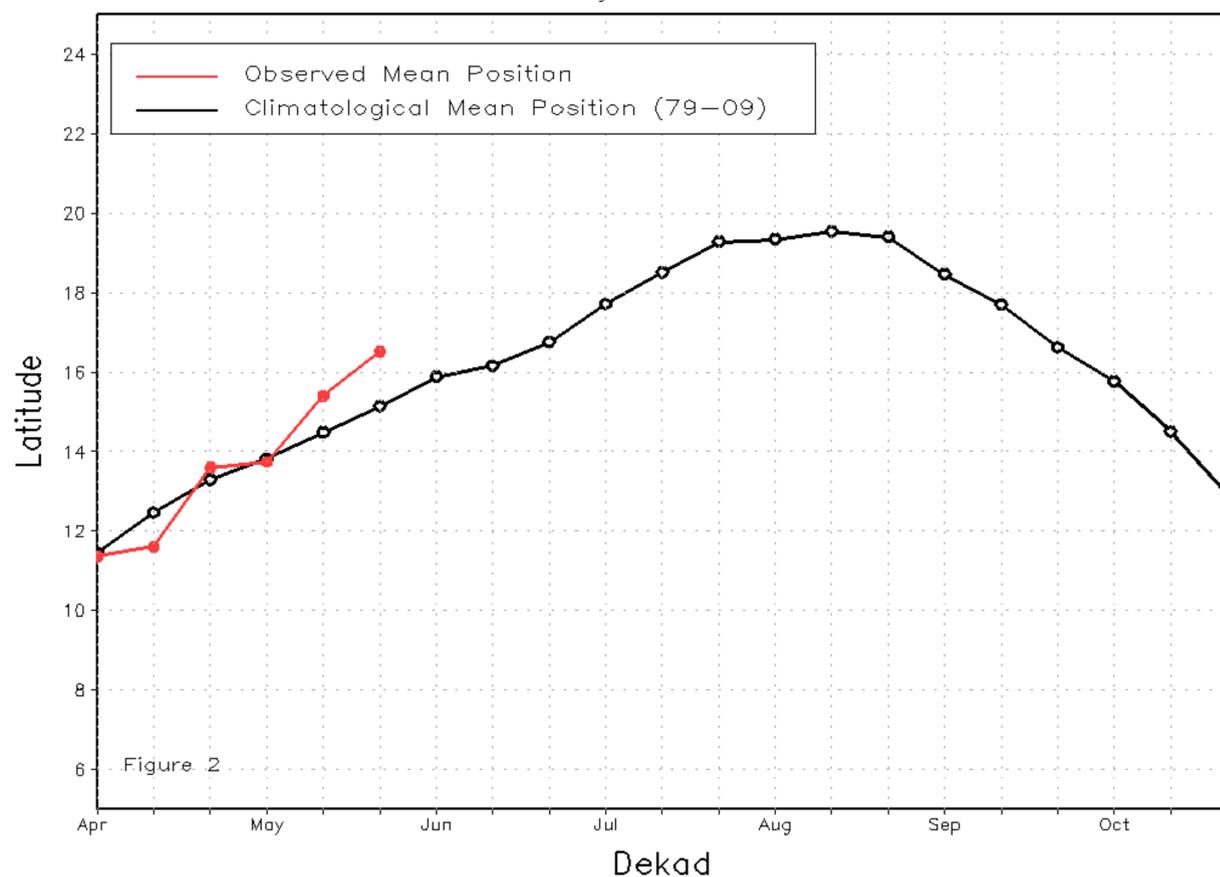
Discussion:

From May 21-31, 2012, the ITF pushed anomalously northward across the entirety of Africa. The mean western portion of the ITF was approximated at 16.5N, which was north of the climatological average position by 1.4 degrees. This northward placement of the ITF during the third dekad of May can be attributed to consistently strong and moist southerly winds which pushed rainfall as far north as the Niger, Chad and Libya border. The mean eastern portion of the ITF was approximated at 14.5N, which was 1.6 degrees north of the climatological average position. The eastern half of the ITF has progressed northward of the average climatological position in three dekads. Three dekads ago, the ITF was greater than 1 degree south of average. An increase in moist southerly winds across eastern Africa, especially in Chad, has resulted in the above-average northerly position of the ITF in eastern Africa. Figure 1 shows the current ITF position relative to the positions of climatology for the third dekad of May, and its previous position during the second dekad of May. Figures 2 and 3 are time series illustrating the mean latitudinal values of the western and eastern portions of the ITF, respectively, and their observed progressions since April, 2012.

Current vs. Normal Dekadal ITF Position
and RFE Accumulated Precipitation (mm)
May 2012, Dekad 3



Mean Western Portion of the ITF: Averaged 10W to 10E
As of: May 2012, Dekad 3



Mean Eastern Portion of the ITF: Averaged 20E to 35E
As of: May 2012, Dekad 3

