Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITCZ

As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center

April 2007 Dekad 1

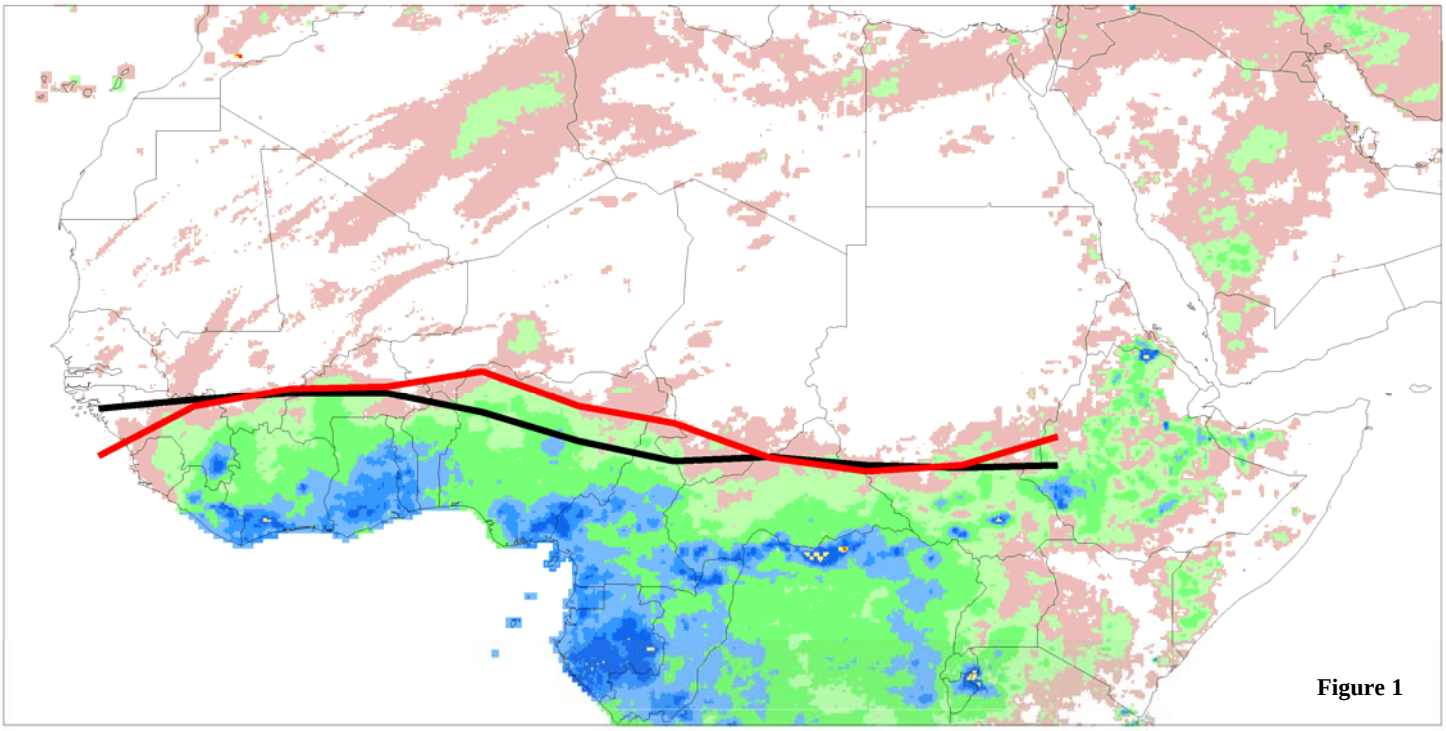

Figure 1

Accumulated Dekadal Precipitation:

<1 | 1-10 | 10-25 | 25-50 | 50-75 | 75-100 | 100-150 | 150-200 | 200-250 | >250 mm

Current 10-Day Average

Mean 10-Day Average

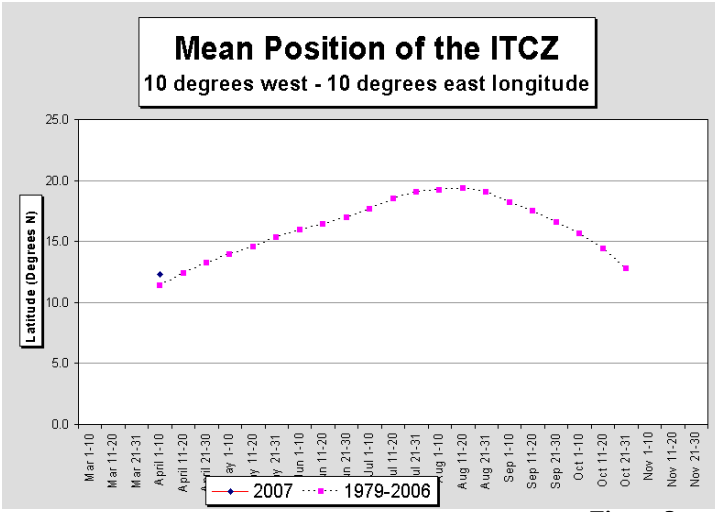

Figure 2

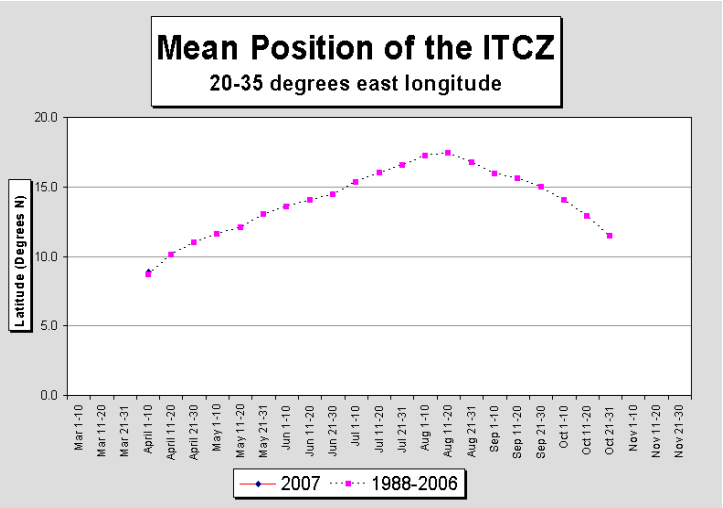

Figure 3

During the period from April 1-10, 2007, the African portion of the Intertropical Convergence Zone was located at around 10.6 degrees north latitude, compared with the normal position of 10.2 degrees north. The position during the same dekad of 2006 was around 9.1N. Figure 1 shows the current position compared to normal, and it is apparent from this diagram that the positive northward bias is due to a northward surge over Nigeria, Cameroon, and western Chad. Examining recent rainfall trends, precipitation has greatly increased in the Gulf of Guinea region during the past two dekads after a relatively slow to start of the season in early March. From Figure 2, it is seen that the current western position of the ITCZ (from 10W-10E) is currently near 12.3N compared with the 1979-2006 mean of around 11.5N. In the east (from 20E-25E), the ITCZ was located at around 8.9 degrees north, compared to the 1988-2006 normal position of around 8.6N. Overall, the ITCZ is located at a near normal location for the first dekad of April, even though conditions continue to be very dry over eastern Kenya and the surrounding region. In contrast, much of western Ethiopia is experiencing above normal Belg rainfall.