

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITCZ

As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center

April 2005 Dekad 3

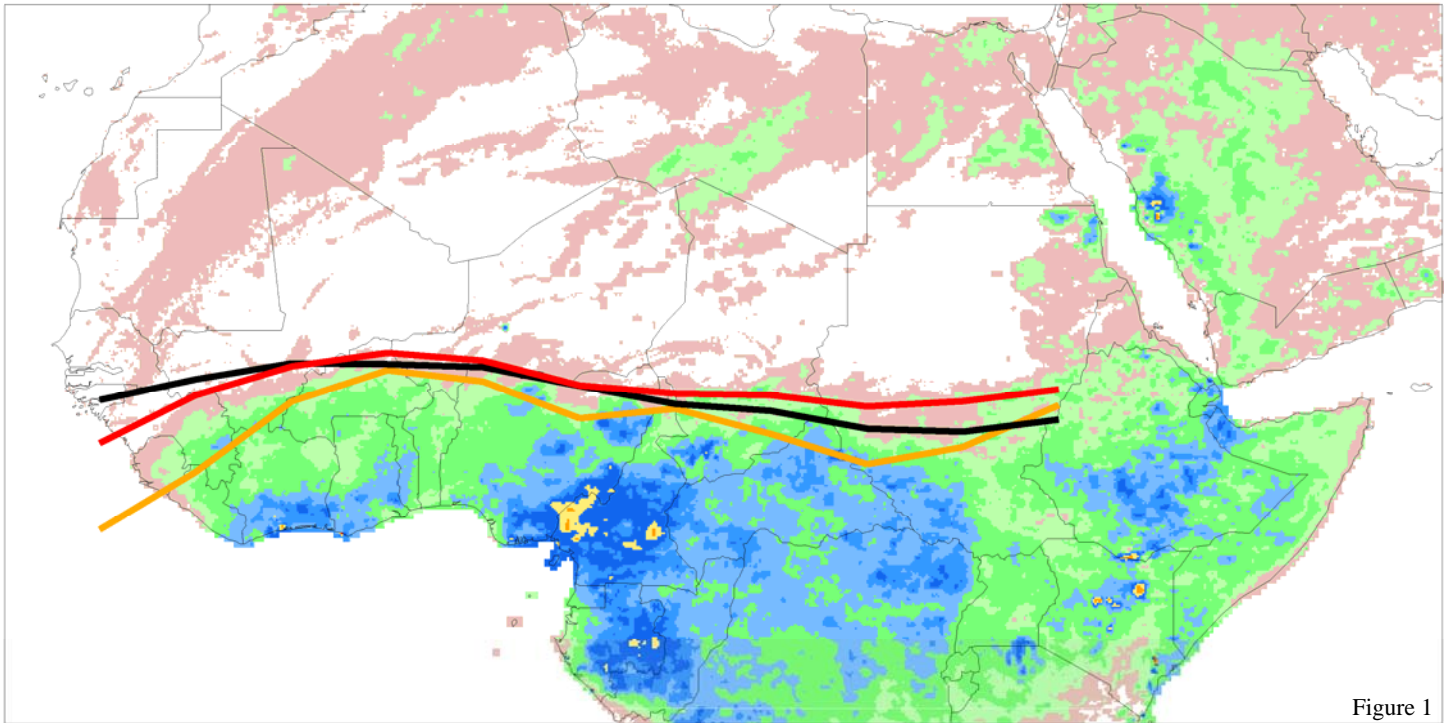


Figure 1

Accumulated Dekadal Precipitation:

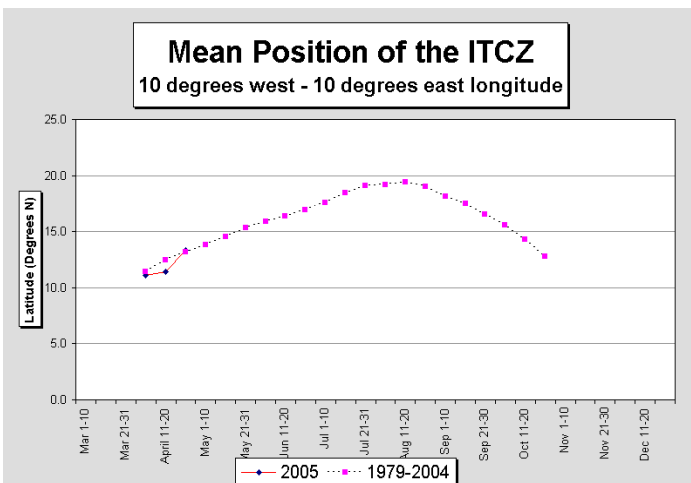
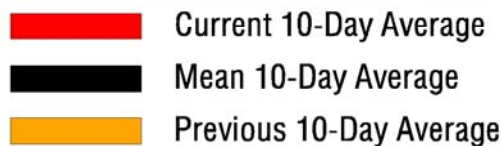


Figure 2

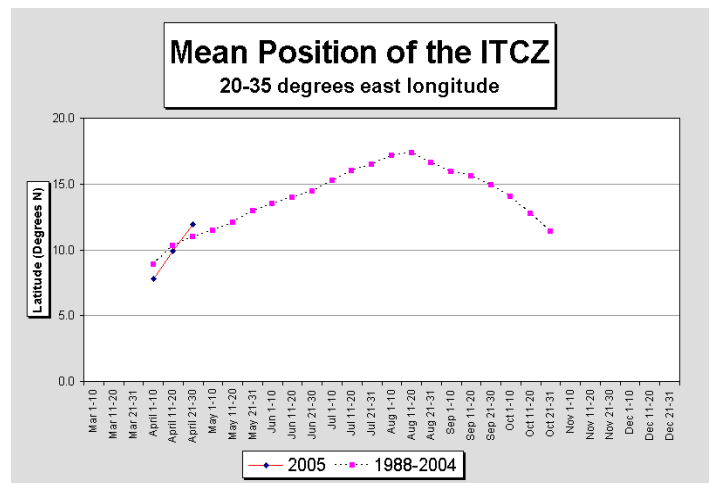


Figure 3

During the period from April 21-30, 2005, the Africa portion of the ITCZ was located near 12.4 degrees north latitude when averaged over the entire dekad and from 15 degrees west to 35 degrees east longitude. This compares to a position last year of 12.2N and the 1988-2004 long term mean of 21.1 for the same dekad. From Fig 1, it can be seen that the ITCZ progressed northward at a strong rate from the previous dekad, and a good part of the southward biases that were exhibited from April 11-20 have been dissolved. This northward movement has resulted in positive rainfall anomalies throughout much of central and western Africa, though dryness was seen in parts of Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia during the past dekad. From Figure 2, the current position of the ITCZ as averaged from 10W-10E is around 13.3 degrees north, very close to the long term climatological mean, though around half a degree south from its position during the same period last year. From Figure 3, the eastern ITCZ region was located near 12.0N, compared to a long term mean of 10.7N.