

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITCZ

As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center

August 2005 Dekad 3

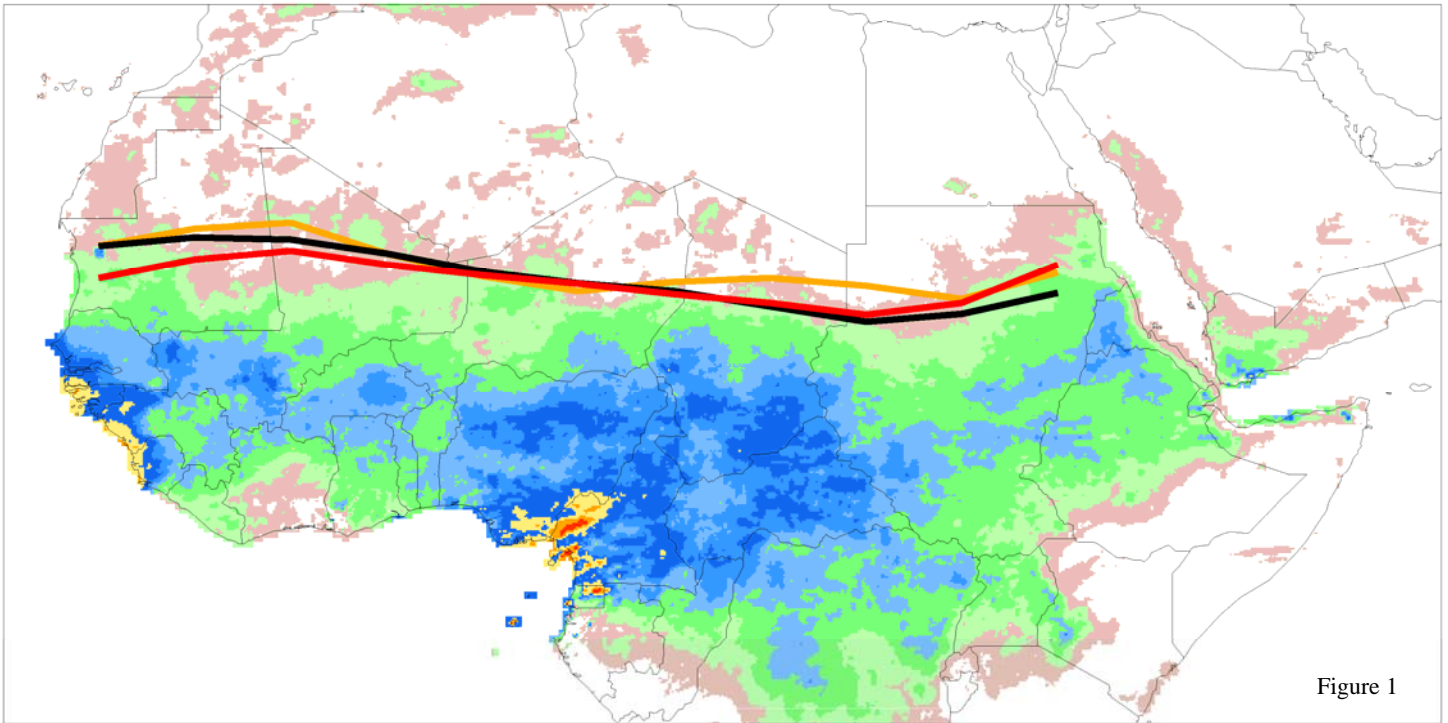
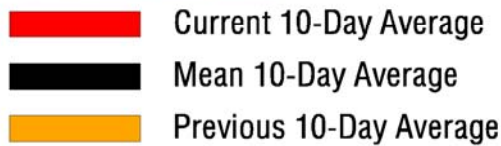


Figure 1

Accumulated Dekadal Precipitation:



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

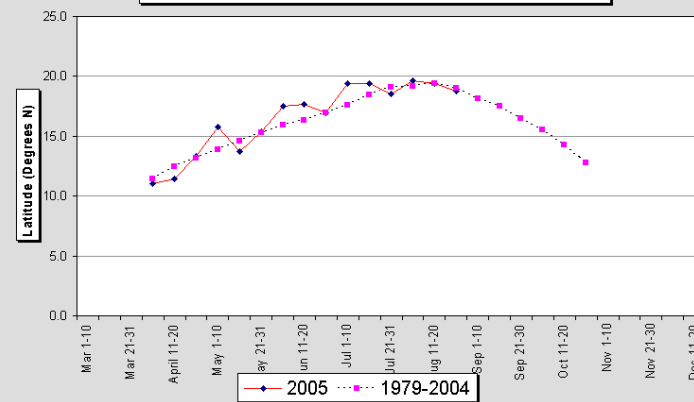


Figure 2

Mean Position of the ITCZ
20-35 degrees east longitude

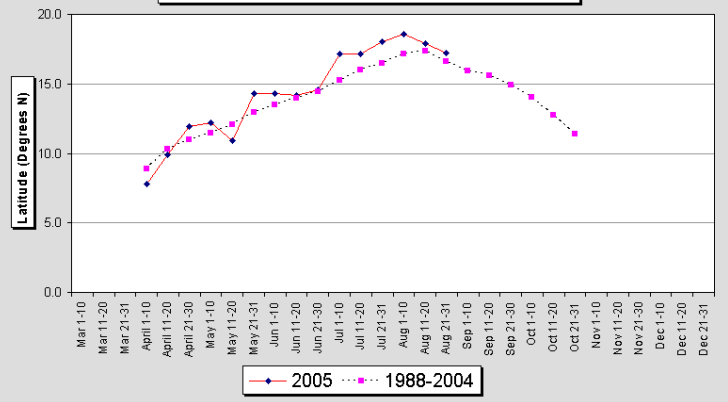


Figure 3

Based on the past three periods of data, it appears that the African portion of the Intertropical Convergence Zone peaked around a dekad earlier (during August 1-10) than normal (August 11-20) and has begun its retreat southward in most all regions. As seen in figure 2, although the western region of the ITCZ (10W-10E) did peak a dekad or so early, the maximum northward position was near normal and the current position is very close to the long term mean of 19.3N. In the east (from 20E-35E) the ITCZ also peaked a dekad early, though its maximum northward position this year was almost a degree and a half further north than normal. Thus, the current location remains almost a degree north of normal for the period. Overall, the ITCZ was located near 18.0 degrees north when averaged from 15W-35E and over the entire 11-day period. This compares to a normal position of around 18.2N for the long term and 17.3N during the same period in 2004.