

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITF

As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center

May 2009 Dekad 1

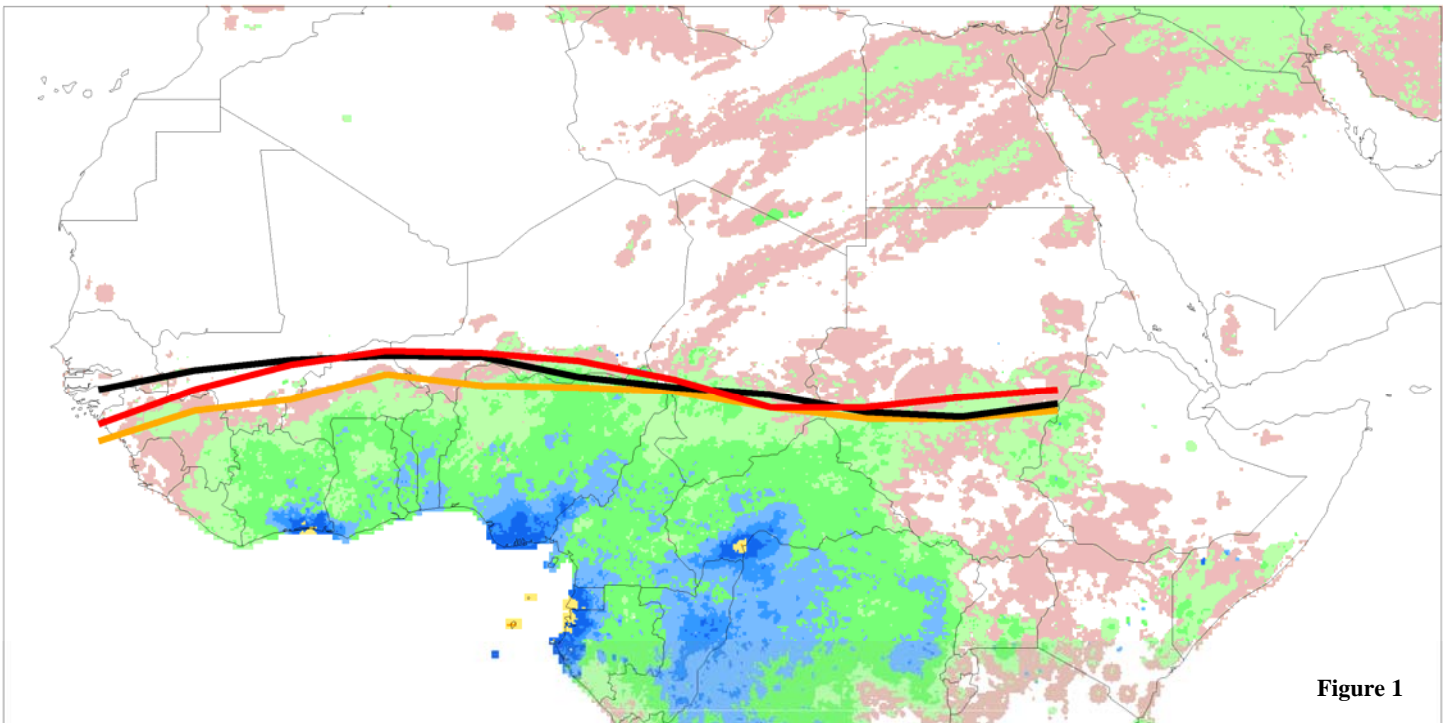


Figure 1

Accumulated Dekadal Precipitation:

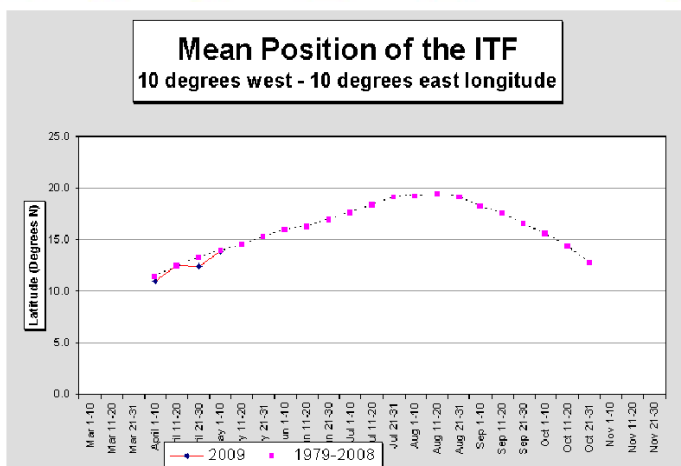
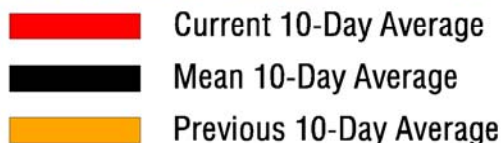


Figure 2

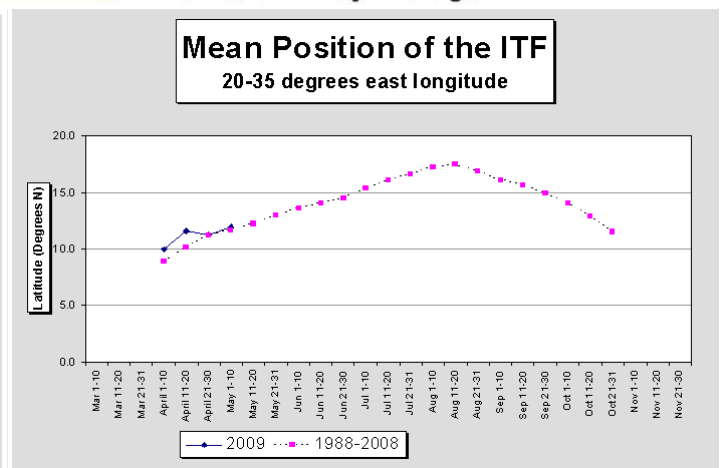


Figure 3

During the period from May 1-10, 2009, the African portion of the Intertropical Front (ITF) was located at around 12.8N degrees north latitude, which is the average for this dekad. The position is slightly north of the same dekad of 2008 when the ITF was around 12.6N. Figure 1 shows the current position compared to normal, and it is apparent from this diagram that the ITF is very close to the normal position across much of East Africa, but has stalled across the far western portion of the continent. Using latitude to compare the current position with the 1979-2008 average, the historical average is around 11.6N in the east, and the current position is around 12.0N the ITF. Figures 2 and 3 also show the near normal position of the ITF. Although the ITF is near normal, rainfall has been suppressed across the region for the last dekad.