Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITF

As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center

May 2010 Dekad 3

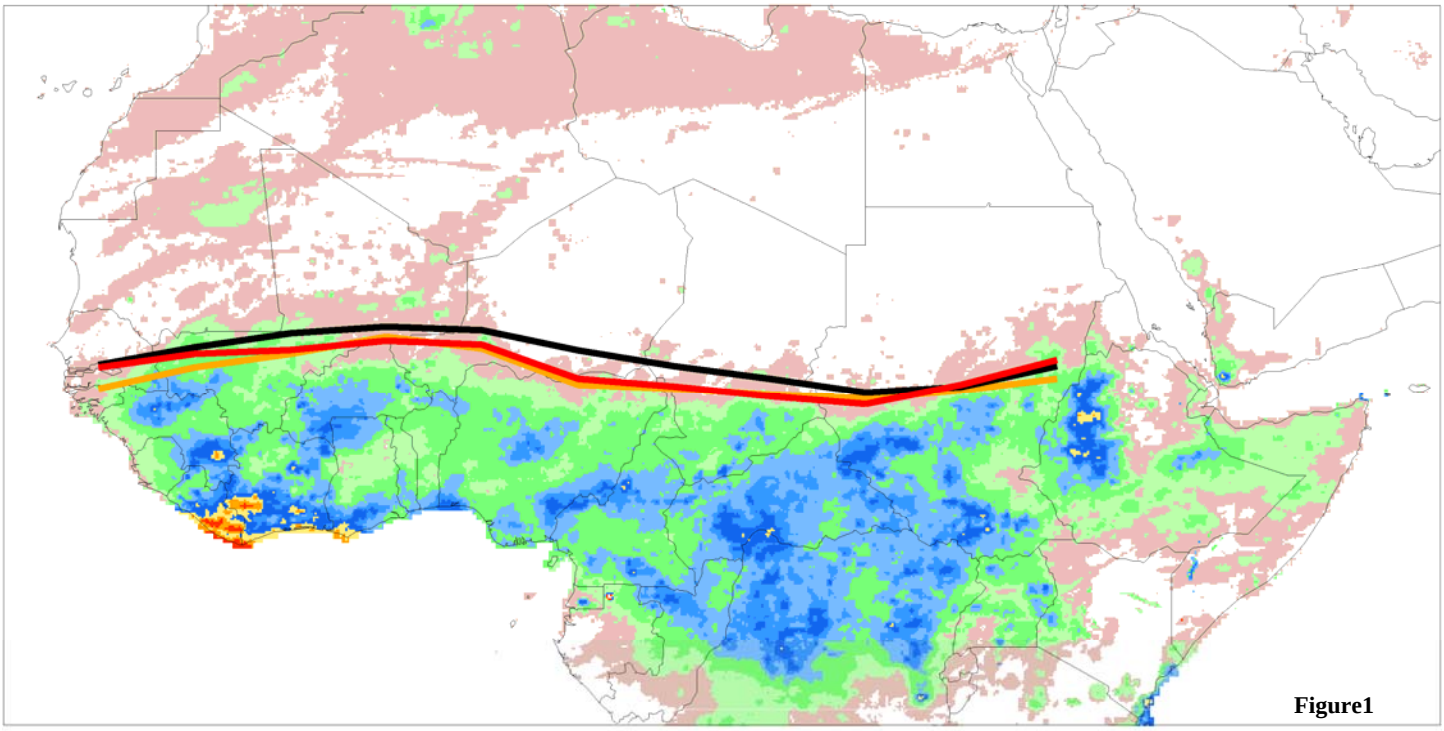
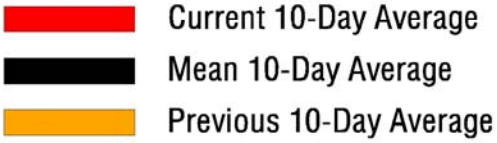


Figure1

Accumulated Dekadal Precipitation:



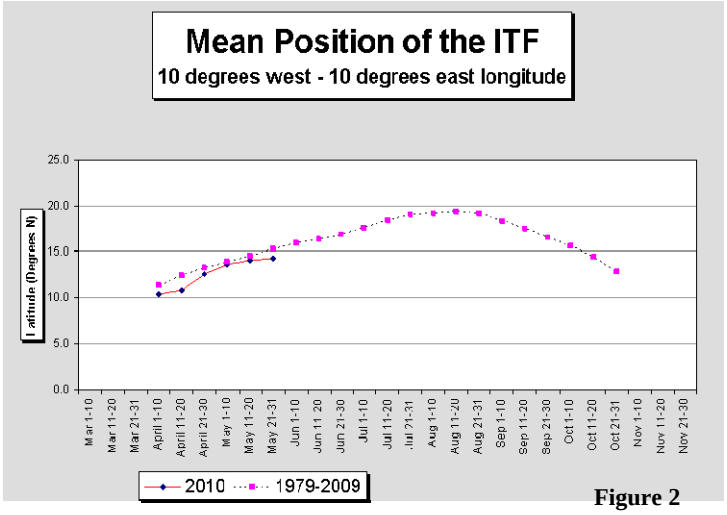


Figure 2

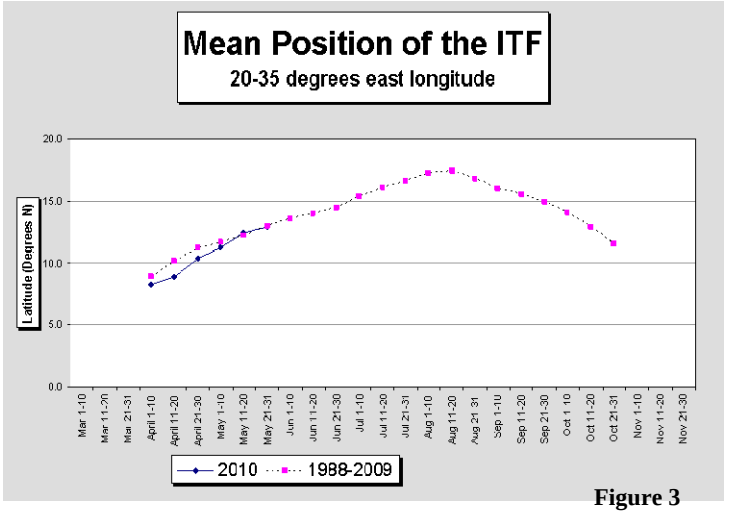


Figure 3

During the period from May 21-31, 2010, there was a noticeable lag in the ITF position across much of the Sahel during late-May. The mean western portion of the ITF was approximated at 14.3N, which had advanced slightly compared to the previous dekadal position. Over parts of Nigeria and Chad, the ITF experienced its greatest latitudinal difference compared to the climatological mean position, which had resulted in suppressed rainfall and moisture over these areas during late May. The eastern portion of the ITF advanced well over the last 10 days, and has remained consistent with the climatologial mean position throughout much of May. The extreme eastern portion of the ITF remains ahead of climatological mean position, where an increase in southerly winds and moisture fluxes were observed over parts of eastern Sudan and southern Ethiopia during late May. Figure 1 reflects the current ITF position relative to its climatological mean and its previous placement in mid May. Figures 2 and 3 illustrate that the western and eastern positions of the ITF are currently below, and near average, respectively, for this time of the year.