

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITF

As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center

October 2009 Dekad 3

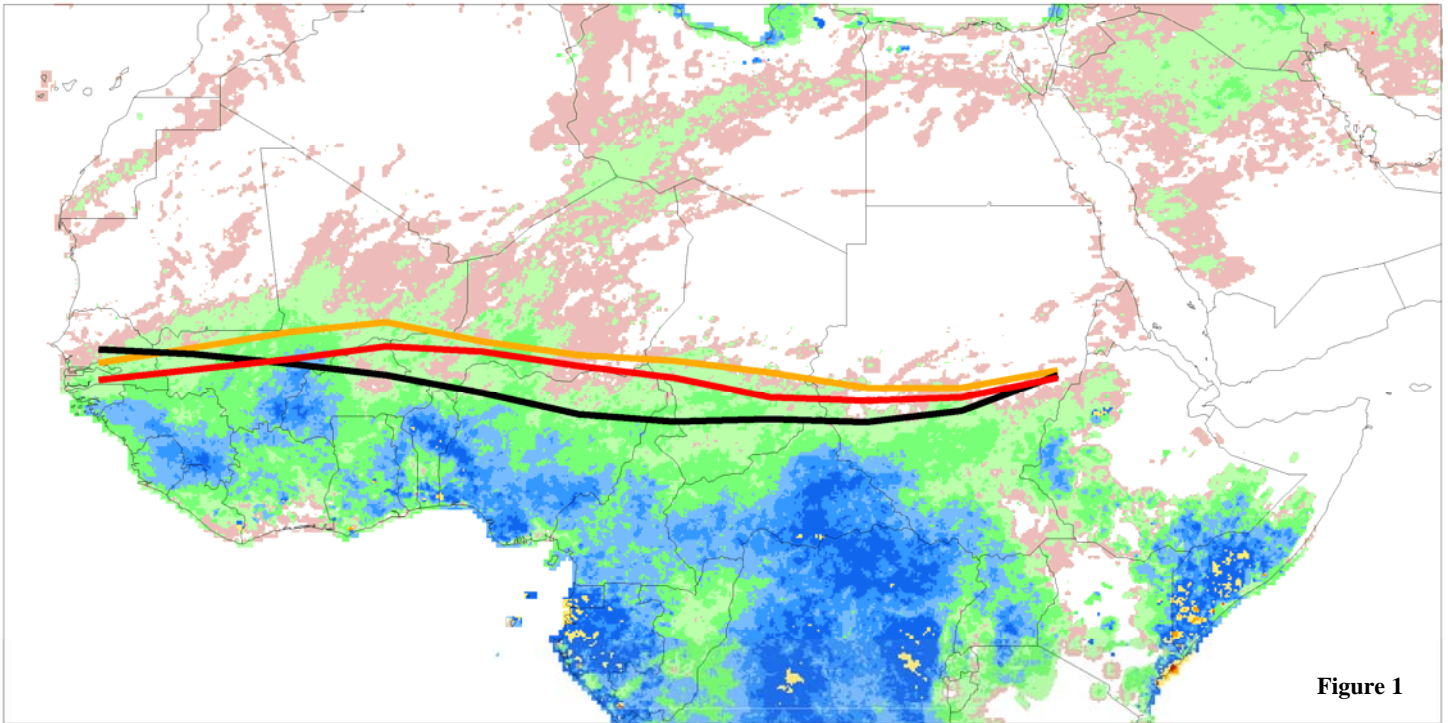


Figure 1

Accumulated Dekadal Precipitation:

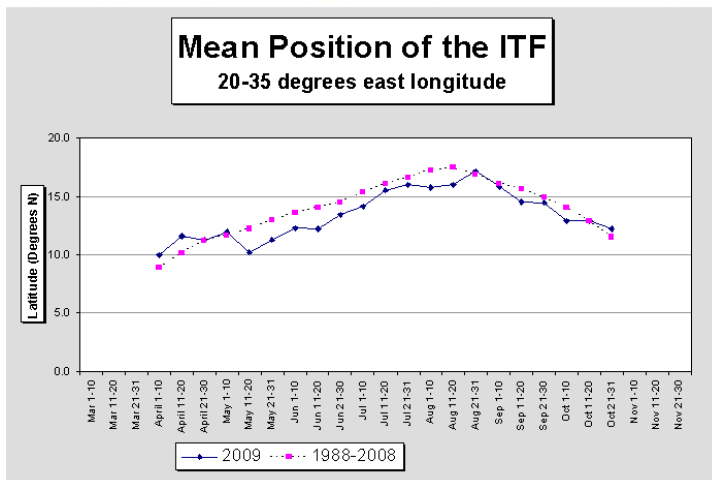
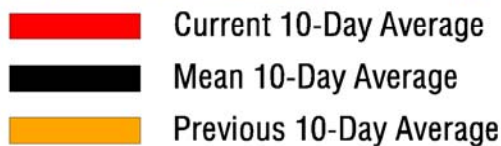


Figure 2

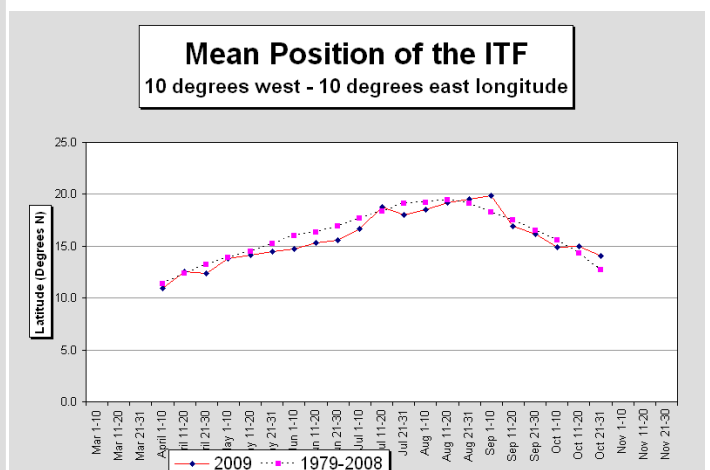


Figure 3

During the period from October 21-31, 2009, the African portion of the Intertropical Front (ITF) was located near 13.2N degrees, while the normal for this time of year is 12.3N degrees. The southward movement of the ITF continued during this dekad. However, generally across Africa it is well north of normal. Figure 1 shows the current position compared to normal, and it is apparent from this diagram that the ITF is at, or above, its normal position everywhere, except near Senegal and western Mali. Comparing the current position with the 1979-2008 average, the historical average is around 11.5N in the east, however, the northward displacement of the ITF leaves its current position at 12.2. In the west the ITF is at 14.0N, well north of its historical average position of 12.9N. Figures 2 and 3 show the somewhat erratic movements of the ITF this year.