There are 3 main different types of forest, depending on climate and latitude: Boreal forests of the Far Northern polar regions, covered with conifers, temperate forests and Tropical forests, lying between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.

In the tropics, dry forests are distinct from wet forests. The first type receives little rain (0.4 to 1.5 metre per year). The humid forests benefit from high rainfall and a short dry season, conditions characteristic of regions close to the Equator.

- The tropical rainforests make up about 30% of the world’s surface area covered by woodland - 25 times the area of France.
- More than three-quarters of the tropical rainforests are located in the Amazon basin and the Congo basin. The rest is spread between South-East Asia, Oceania and the Pacific islands near the Equator.

The Amazon is the world’s largest tropical rainforest.