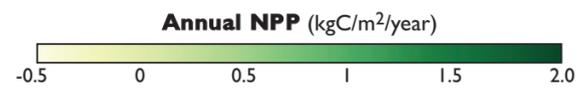
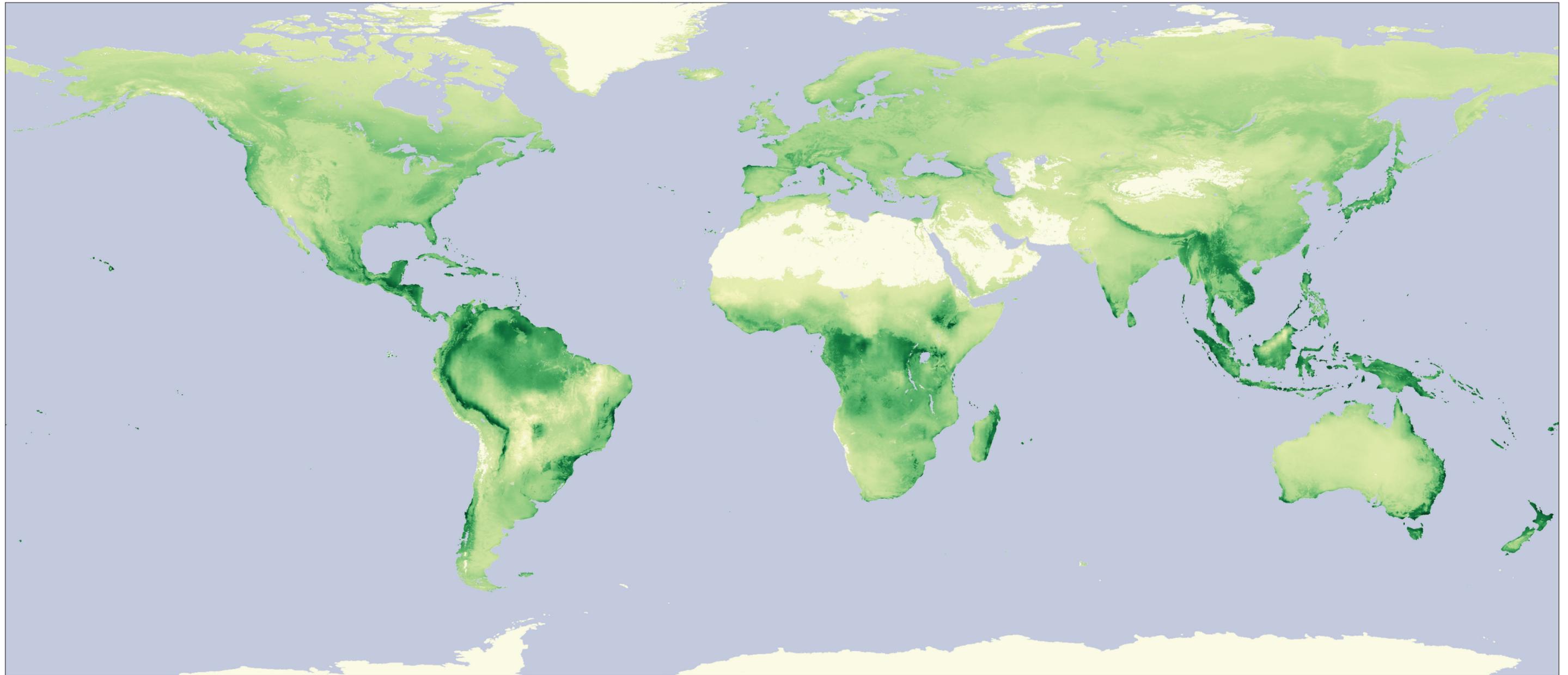


Location of the Earth's tropical rain forests, straddling the equatorial region between 23.5°S and 23.5°N. (Map courtesy of the Tropical Rain Forest Information Center.)



Global map of annual vegetation net primary productivity (NPP) for 2003. Landcover productivity is shown in kilograms of carbon taken up by the landscape per square meter per year by vegetation growth. The tropical rain forests reside in the band of highly productive land area straddling the equator. Uptake of carbon from the atmosphere and storage in above-ground biomass by these ecosystems dominates that of other regions. (Data from the MODIS instrument on the Terra satellite.)