



# Traveling with a Purpose

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## ☀ Call to Action

**Empower local people to protect their lands.**

**Know your rights. Get it on paper!**

## ☀ Values

- Community Service
- Commitment
- Cooperation
- Solidarity
- Environmentalism

## ☀ Lessons Learned

**The best way to create a positive impact in the world is to work with other people who share that goal.** Go out into the world and find them!

**It is important to allow younger generations to become involved in conservation.** They bring not only passion and energy, but new ideas and skills to the fight for the Earth.

**If you want to protect the environment, look no further than your backyard.** Preserve and protect the place you live, and you will make an impact in the world.

**As a teenager, every year at the start of the rainy season, Jessa would wake up at 4 a.m. to celebrate the Feast of the Forest.**

“It’s a massive community event,” she says. “We’re all hauled in gigantic garbage trucks and taken up to the mountains to plant trees.” When she was 21, she went to the United States to work with EarthCorps, where she met youth environmental leaders from other countries. Then she returned home to create the Centre for Sustainability PH in the Philippines (CSPH), a women-led youth environmental conservation NGO. “We believe the best way to ensure the sustainability of our island is by legally protecting our natural resources,” Jessa says. She works with local people to help them understand how their lands are being ravaged by illegal logging, mining, monocropping, and poaching. Now 29, the heart of Jessa’s work is focused on conserving the forests. “We want to conserve as much forest as possible in the next 10 years,” she says. “If we as youth all act together, support each other, and help each other rise up, the impact we can have is unimaginable.”

## ☀ Language Arts

**What is a metaphor?** What is the meaning of Jessa’s “Avocado Moment”? Write an explanatory essay in which you explain what a metaphor is, and how Jessa’s metaphor works in terms of referring to learning about the world.

**How has unsustainable tourism affected the Philippines, specifically the Palawan region?** Working in groups of 3-5 students, create a presentation in which you explain what unsustainable tourism is, and how it has adversely affected this region of the world.

**Look at the list of sustainable career pathways below and reorganize them by personal preference (from the one**

**you're most interested in to the one you find the least attractive).** Then create a series of three short videos (one for each career), in which you motivate young people to become involved in these careers. Your video must explain what the career consists of, where they can train for it, and why they should consider it.

## STEM Activities

**Research the forests of the Philippines.** What has caused the forests to decrease in area to just 3 percent of what they used to be? How are forests tied to the economy of the Philippines? Explore and analyze some of the solutions that are being used to manage the remaining forests. Are they effective? What other sustainable practices can be implemented to help protect the forests?

**Imagine that you are in charge of 1,200 acres of forested land that will be harvested in the next year.** Develop a brief management plan based on the following: cutting practice, regeneration, timber value, habitat, and resource protection.

**Create an interactive graph that illustrates the decrease of forest land in the Philippines over time.** Source: [Global Forest Watch](#)<sup>1</sup>.

## Sustainability Innovations

**As the cofounder of the [Centre for Sustainability PH](#)<sup>2</sup>, Jessica has shed light on the importance of forestation and habitat maintenance in the Philippines.** What are the flagship projects for this center, and how are they evolving?

**In this [Rappler article](#)<sup>3</sup>, the situation of forests in the Philippines is addressed, based on the effects of government policy and regional climate change.** How has the combination of governmental decisions and climate issues affected various regions in the Philippines?

**Deforestation and climate change don't only impact the people; they also affect wildlife in the area.** The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and USAID launched a five-year wildlife program (2016-2021) that targeted the wildlife trade and degradation of animal sanctuaries in the area. What has resulted from this program? What more could be done to protect animals in the Philippines?

## Sustainability Career Pathways

**Sustainable Tourism Industry.** Tourism can help inspire a deeper connection to the Earth and to other cultures. The growing sustainable tourism sector embeds environmental knowledge in tours, makes hotels greener, encourages more local experiences, and so on. There are many ways to be part of this industry, from tour operator, to travel guide, from hotelier, to turning part of your home into an AirBnB and offering green tours of your town. If this is a path for you, read these [10 tips on how to make a career in sustainable tourism](#)<sup>4</sup>.

**Conservationist.** Do you want to help preserve and protect wildlife habitats, and their many rare and awe-inspiring wildlife inhabitants? Conservationists play many different roles: as advocates, liaisons with government and affected communities, managers, fundraisers, and so much more. This witty essay looks at the [12 different types of conservationist](#)<sup>5</sup> you could be. And this [article gives a more thorough introduction to the field](#)<sup>6</sup>.

**Lobbyist.** As Jessa discovered, one of the best ways to protect nature is with the law. Lobbying elected officials for change is an essential part of social change (especially when supported by grassroots organizing). Some make a full-time career lobbying; others lobby as

part of larger campaigns. Want to be a lobbyist? [Start here](#)<sup>2</sup>.

#### Endnotes

1 <https://gfw.global/3qYLkVD>

2 <https://centreforsustainabilityph.org/what-we-do>

3 <https://www.rappler.com/environment/hectares-land-philippines-forested/>

4 <https://sustainability-leaders.com/ten-tips-sustainable-tourism-career/>

5 <http://www.jamesborrell.com/the-12-types-of-conservation-career-and-how-to-choose-which-one-is-for-you/>

6 <https://www.thebalancecareers.com/conservationist-526002>

7 <https://www.princetonreview.com/careers/88/lobbyist#:~:text=There%20are%20no%20licensing%20or,future%20lobbyists%20in%20good%20stead.>



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