

NAREK OHANYAN

Climate & Environmental Researcher, Expert

+374 (99) 02-28-14 @ narek.ohanyan.pm@gmail.com [LinkedIn](#) www.narekohanyan.com



PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Narek Ohanyan is an interdisciplinary climate researcher and incoming Master of Science in Climate candidate at the Columbia University Climate School, specializing in climate analytics and sustainability governance. With a robust background in computational environmental science, he leverages technical proficiency in Python, R, and GIS to process complex climate datasets, model ecosystem resilience, and evaluate resource consumption trends. His professional experience spans leading youth-focused climate initiatives, authoring rigorous monographs on biophysical stability, and conducting data-driven environmental assessments at the AUA Acopian Center. Narek brings a unique blend of scientific rigor and policy expertise in ESG and EPR frameworks, making him a highly capable evaluator of climate research, ecological data, and large-scale environmental monitoring reports.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

07/2026 - Present

Full-time, Contract

Climate & Environmental Researcher

AUA Acopian Center for the Environment

- Conduct comprehensive research and data analysis on critical environmental domains, prioritizing climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and nature-based solutions.
- Actively contribute to the strategic design and execution of the Center's broader environmental initiatives, bridging academic research with practical, on-the-ground project management.
- Develop innovative educational frameworks, including bilingual training modules and 120-minute serious game simulations, to translate complex ecological concepts into engaging learning experiences.
- Investigate and synthesize actionable strategies for regional environmental challenges, with a strong focus on pollution control, air quality monitoring, and sustainable waste management.
- Leverage computational logic and environmental science to support policy frameworks, advocacy toolkits, and community resilience programs.

05/2026 - Present

Contract

Executive Lead Organizer

Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) Armenia 2026 | YOUNGO (UNFCCC Youth Constituency)

- Lead the planning, coordination, and execution of Armenia's official youth climate conference under the UNFCCC/YOUNGO framework.
- Manage partnerships, team operations, and outreach to mobilize youth for climate action and policy engagement.
- Ensure alignment with global climate goals and deliver high-impact sessions, workshops, and a national youth statement.

04/2026 - Present

Contract

Climate & Environmental Expert | Trainer | Project Manager

Uniting Bridge NGO

- Direct the full lifecycle of environmental and climate change initiatives—from conceptualization, proposal writing, and grant acquisition to implementation, budget oversight, and impact evaluation.
- Provide core scientific and strategic direction for the organization's climate portfolio, ensuring all grassroots and large-scale projects align with climate adaptation strategies, sustainability goals, and community resilience needs.
- Design, develop, and facilitate comprehensive educational modules and training workshops focused on climate literacy, environmental advocacy, and sustainable practices for youth leaders and local stakeholders.

02/2025 - Present

Contract

Climate & Environmental Expert | Trainer

Yeghvard Youth Ecological NGO

- Design and deliver targeted training modules on climate science, environmental governance, environmental conflicts, and the triple planetary crisis for emerging youth activists.
- Empower young leaders with practical skills in climate advocacy, policy engagement, and navigating international frameworks.

03/2025 - 04/2026

Full-time

Climate & Environmental Expert | Project Manager

Armenian Progressive Youth

- Authored and managed a multi-faceted portfolio of environmental projects addressing critical regional and global challenges.
- Directed initiatives centered on climate change adaptation, sustainable water resource management, and advanced waste management solutions, including Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) frameworks.
- Designed and delivered over 100 interactive workshops and capacity-building events, focusing on youth empowerment, personal development, and active community engagement.

10/2025 - 12/2025

Contract

Children and Youth Inclusion Consultant

UNICEF

- Identify national processes for policies, strategies, and plans on strengthening inclusive social protection and decide which ones to advocate for.
- Conduct policy work on inclusive social protection.
- Map organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) and youth organizations/key advocates.
- Organize a local consultation on youth and inclusive social policy.

02/2025 - 10/2025

Contract

Executive Lead Organizer

Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) Armenia 2025 | YOUNGO (UNFCCC Youth Constituency)

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

10/2024 - 03/2025

Contract

Project Director & Lead Expert

Earth Champions Academy

- Revolutionized environmental education by integrating AR/VR and real-time monitoring to help students visualize climate data.
- Facilitated community-led climate interventions by implementing a Project-Based Learning methodology, shifting the program focus from passive knowledge acquisition to active, solution-oriented environmental problem solving.

04/2022 - 12/2024

Contract

Project Director, Climapolis project

GenU, Unicef in Armenia

- Managed the start-up project aimed at innovating eco-education.
- Led a team towards the project's goals, fostering a collaborative environment.
- Enhanced leadership abilities through active project management and decision-making.
- Organized resources and schedules to efficiently meet project milestones.
- Cultivated teamwork by encouraging open communication and leveraging individual strengths.

RESEARCH & ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Climate Researcher & Curriculum Developer

AUA Acopian Center for the Environment

01/2026 - 06/2026

- Co-architected a bilingual pedagogical framework addressing the Climate Crisis by translating complex mitigation data into youth leadership modules.
- Developed a comprehensive, bilingual (Armenian/English) pedagogical framework addressing the Triple Planetary Crisis.
- Structured interactive training modules for educators and students, translating complex data into accessible youth curricula.
- Co-architected a train-the-trainer methodology, producing detailed lecture presentations and activity guidelines to equip youth leaders to advocate for evidence-based climate policies both in Armenia and on the international stage.

Water & Citizen Science Toolkit Developer, Researcher

AUA Acopian Center for the Environment

03/2025 - 06/2025

- Operationalized citizen science by developing water quality monitoring toolkits under the EU-funded OTTERS Project, ensuring alignment with scientific data standards. - [Link](#)

Junior Environmental Researcher & Expert

AUA Acopian Center for the Environment

06/2024 - 12/2024

- Synthesized regional environmental data by identifying databases and conducting rigorous literature reviews to support broader research projects.

EDUCATION

08/2022 - 06/2026

Yerevan, Armenia

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science | Minor in Environmental Studies

American University of Armenia

- Integrated computational logic with environmental science, creating a unique interdisciplinary specialization in climate informatics and systems thinking.
- Applied advanced algorithms and data structures to model environmental challenges, leveraging technical proficiency in Python, GIS, and system design to analyze complex ecological datasets.
- Bridged the gap between code and policy through a dedicated minor in environmental studies, focusing on sustainability practices and the socio-technical dimensions of climate resilience.



06/2024 - 07/2024

Pennsylvania, United States

Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSI), Environmental Studies

Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania

- Engaged in intensive coursework and experiential learning to comprehensively understand climate change and its impacts on communities, natural resources, and local economies.
- Collaborated with international peers, experts, and community leaders to develop and implement innovative sustainability projects.
- Designed and planned a Community Action Project (CAP) to apply learned skills and knowledge to address my home community's environmental challenges.
- Enhanced leadership capabilities through hands-on activities.



RESEARCH & ACADEMIC PROJECTS

A Validated Predictive Framework for Climate-Smart Reforestation and Resilience Mapping in Armenia

03/2026 - Present Armenia, Switzerland

<https://github.com/Narek-Ohanyan/armenia-reforestation-predictive-framework>

This project is being developed at the American University of Armenia (AUA) Acopian Center for the Environment in direct partnership with the Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL within the framework of Forest Restoration and Climate Change in Armenia (FORACCA) initiative.

- Developed a validated machine learning pipeline in Python to forecast climate-driven forest dieback scenarios for 2041–2060 and 2081–2100 time horizons.
- Modeled a multivariate Forest Vulnerability Score (FVS) by manipulating multi-terabyte Analysis Ready Datasets (ARD), intersecting Vapor Pressure Deficit (VPD), temperature anomalies, and precipitation data.
- Processed and scaled multi-temporal climate arrays using Xarray, NetCDF4, GeoPandas, and Scikit-learn, reprojecting complex spatial layers to UTM38N.
- Built a cloud-based preprocessing workflow in Google Earth Engine utilizing Sentinel-1 (SAR) and Sentinel-2 imagery to extract structural canopy proxies.
- Evaluated model structural accuracy against WSL's 10m Vegetation Height Model (VHM), achieving rigorous validation benchmarks measured via RMSE and Kappa coefficients.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

04/2025 - Present

- Member – Climate Change Youth Advisory Board
- RA Ministry of Environment of Armenia & UNICEF Armenia
 - Advise senior officials at the Ministry of Environment and UNICEF on the development of youth-inclusive climate change policies.
 - Collaborate with other youth leaders to provide strategic input on RA Climate Law & Climate Action Plans.
 - Analyze and report on climate-related challenges and opportunities from a youth perspective to inform national strategy.
 - Co-develop awareness campaigns and educational programs on climate change.

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

Modeling and Predicting Climate Anomalies Specialization

by University of Colorado Boulder, 2026

Natural Disaster and Climate Change Risk Assessment

by Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo, 2026

Google AI Professional

by Google, 2026

Generative AI Leader Certification

by Google Cloud, 2026

The Materiality of ESG Factors Specialization

by University of Pennsylvania, 2026

GIS, Mapping, and Spatial Analysis Specialization

by University of Toronto, 2026

Project Management Professional (PMP)

by IBM, 2026

Google Project Management Professional (PMP)

by Google, 2024

LANGUAGES

Armenian
Native

English
Full professional proficiency

Russian
Intermediate / Conversational

SKILLS

Climate Change Science & Politics		Environmental Impact Assessment		Planetary Boundaries		Biodiversity Assessment		ESG	EPR	GIS
QGIS	ArcGIS	Remote Sensing	Time-Series Analysis	Climate Modeling	Ecological Data Interpretation	Quality Assurance				
Error Analysis	Statistical Source Verification		Methodological Rigor							

PUBLICATIONS

A World without Bees: What Happens to Children First?

UNICEF

Narek Ohanyan

📅 05/2026 🔗 <https://www.unicef.org/armenia/en/stories/world-without-bees-what-happens-children-first>

Authored an environmental science article outlining the risks of pollinator loss on food systems, culminating in actionable mitigation strategies for youth-led community mobilization.

Beyond the Trees: What Forests Really Mean for Children and Young People

UNICEF

Narek Ohanyan, Lia Kalforian

📅 04/2026 🔗 <https://www.unicef.org/armenia/en/stories/beyond-trees-what-forests-really-mean-children-and-young-people>

Co-authored an analysis on the critical ecosystem services forests provide, framing forest resilience and conservation as essential components for long-term child health and community stability.

The Overshoot: Life After the 1.5°C Limit

Independent Research Monograph

Narek Ohanyan

📅 01/2026 🔗 ISBN: 9798243280532

Authored an interdisciplinary synthesis of climate reality, analyzing the societal and institutional implications of crossing planetary boundaries and thermal thresholds. The work bridges the gap between climate physics and public policy, critiquing the limitations of traditional mitigation advocacy in the face of irreversible feedback loops. It proposes a systems-based resilience framework that aligns governance strategies with post-1.5°C scientific projections.