



SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Abel Vale
President
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Abel Vale-Nieves received his B.A. from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez and his M.A. from SUNY Binghamton. Abel, with his wife has owned, a small business that provides equipment for the utility market. An encounter with the karst and caves of Mona Island, more than 35 years ago ignited his passion for carbonated rocks and set him to visit and learn about karst in Europe, Asia, Russia, Middle East, North, Central and South America and the Caribbean.

He was one of the founders of Ciudadanos Del Karso -CDK- a nonprofit NGO with the mission to protect and conserve the karst of Puerto Rico through education, scientific studies, land acquisition. Abel has been CDK's president for the last 25 years and CDK has received numerous recognitions, locally and Internationally for its work to protect Puerto Rico's karst.

One of its main achievements was working with Puerto Rico's legislature that passed a law to protect the karst landscape and that gave special protection to over 232,000 acres. Looking toward the future CDK is now in the process to create the Puerto Rico and Caribbean Karst Research Institute, in a structure in the city of Arecibo, that housed a school that closed in 2006.