

# PROGRESSIO

## A 'waterproofed' Rio+20

For the future we need

### Rio+20 must be a step towards sustainable development that's truly 'waterproof'

Water resources underpin food production, biodiversity, energy and poverty reduction. Water security is crucial to poverty alleviation. Sustainably and efficiently managing our valuable water resources is a cornerstone and prerequisite for green economies and poverty eradication.

But water insecurity and scarcity affects 2.8 billion people and is felt most acutely by poor people and communities. The poorest and most marginalised are often at particular disadvantage when there is competition over water resources. Therefore, sustaining water for the poorest, including small-scale farmers who feed a third of the world's population, must be at the heart of Rio+20.

Progressio and the communities around the world that we work alongside would like to see a Rio+20 outcome document that **comprehensively acknowledges the centrality of water to sustainable development by:**

**Recognising equitable, sustainable and participatory integrated water resource management, which provides access to water for lives and livelihoods, as essential to the green and fair economy. The outcome text should highlight:**

- the critical importance of water resources for lives and livelihoods
- the centrality of water to poverty eradication and women's empowerment
- participatory approaches to water governance management
- that poor people (especially women) should play a role in decision-making
- the empowerment of communities and institutions at the most local level possible
- management which is also ecosystems-based and appropriate
- the importance of local knowledge

Together, these will ensure improved water management, local water sustainability and lower environmental impacts.

**Identifying sustainable and equitable water management as a key cross-cutting issue in the development of any Sustainable Development Goals/ post-2015 framework. The outcome document for Rio+20 should ensure the SDGs are 'waterproof' by:**

- recognising the fundamentality of water to sustainable development
- articulating key synergies between water and policies on food, agriculture, energy, cities, forestry, industry, gender, climate change and consumption and production
- ensuring water have both a Goal to itself, and be 'mainstreamed' into others

**The process of developing the SDGs must be fair, consultative and inclusive of both developing country governments and civil society. Rio+20 must establish a roadmap to ensure:**

- the participation of poor and marginalised communities in the post-2015 process
- the integration of SDG proposals into the post-2015 Development Framework.

Progressio (also known as CIIR) is an international development charity working in 11 countries across the world with the help of nearly 100 skilled technicians whom we call 'development workers'. Derek Kim, a Progressio development worker specialising in water issues with the National Water Authority in Yemen will be sharing his knowledge and experience at Rio +20.

Want to talk water with us during Rio+20? Contact Lis Martin, Progressio's Environment Policy Officer: [lis@progressio.org.uk](mailto:lis@progressio.org.uk)

María Yolanda Rojas Ávila is 35 years old. She lives with her husband, Germán Santos Gómez Cuadros, and their three children, Eduardo (8 years old, pictured), Wilson (5), and Silvia Rosalina (3). They live in the district of Antioquia, in the watershed of the Lurín River near Lima, Peru. She has lived in Antioquia all her life. Through her participation in Concejo de Cuencas [the water users' organisation at watershed level], she helps ensure small-scale water users get the water they need.



"My husband and I use water for irrigating our land. The local irrigation committee also charges a fee for that. However, in this area, farmers use irrigation water very inefficiently and every time we have less water available. Sometimes this causes conflicts between neighbours.

"To me, water means life. Without water the people, animals and crops cannot live. If we didn't have water for irrigation, we would depend on the rainy season and only have one harvest per year, which would mean less income for my family.

"I'm taking some practical steps to make sure my grandchildren inherit a better world. I participate in activities such as the Concejo de Cuencas (the water users' organisation at watershed level). This organisation gives small water users an equal voice in the management of our watershed, because until now it is the big companies and the State who make all the decisions, and we are not even told about what they decide.

"My hopes for the future are for a good future for my children, in a healthy environment; I hope we will have enough water in the future.

"This is something that keeps us all worried because we hear about climate change and we know that there is a lot of pollution of our water as well, caused by big companies but also by other farmers. The problem is that we don't know how to use our water in a healthy way."