



**Commonwealth
Foundation**



**People's
Forum**

3 September 2015

Headed by a keynote speech by environmental activist and author [Vandana Shiva](#), the [programme has been announced](#) for the Commonwealth People's Forum (CPF) 2015.

The CPF brings together civil society leaders from across regions to challenge, think critically and re-imagine key issues facing Commonwealth people. CPF 2015 will investigate resilience. In today's world of growing threats and crises, building resilience is now widely accepted as a development planning objective.



What makes societies resilient?

Why is a new approach to resilience needed?

Major shocks to societies are on the increase, with complex social, political and cultural roots and impacts. But resilience-based responses have been dominated by a narrow environmental and financial focus, and a tendency to 'bounce back' to the status quo. A more holistic perspective is required that enables us to 'bounce forward' to a stronger position.

How will the issue be addressed?

The focus will be on finding practical ways that Civil Society Organisations can help governance institutions and policymakers view resilience through four lenses that are essential for a broader, transformative approach to resilience:

Key questions that will frame discussions

- What makes societies resilient?
- How can resilience be deconstructed to understand which policies, power structures and processes promote or hinder resilience?
- Are economic growth, sustainability and resilience reconcilable?
- How can small states realise the benefits of green and blue economies inclusively and sustainably for the benefit of all?

[View the programme](#)

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