

Elemental Solutions
Catherine Jadot, CEO

Excellencies, colleagues,

We cannot solve 21st-century ocean challenges with 20th-century finance. The gap between capital and coastal communities remains vast, and traditional project models often fail to meet the moment.

I work across small island and coastal nations to design strategies that unlock the blue economy, not just for GDP growth, but for resilience, equity, and ecological recovery.

To accelerate SDG14, we need bold shifts. I offer three recommendations:

First, match ambition with the right capital. Ocean projects have long timelines, multi-stakeholder governance, and ecosystem interdependencies. We need more blended finance structures and concessional flows to de-risk early-stage investment. Public banks, philanthropic risk-takers, and multilateral programs must be willing to anchor the unproven and unlock private co-investment at scale.

Second, stop financing blind. Without real-time ocean intelligence, we are guessing. Data tools, from satellite tracking to blockchain, must be embedded in every transaction. This is not just about transparency. It is about precision. Projects must report in near real-time on ecological outcomes, social co-benefits, and climate resilience, not just financial returns.

Third, finance capacity, not just projects. Many of the best ideas never reach investors because local teams lack early support. We must fund the people and platforms that make deals happen on the ground. This includes incubators, accelerators, and intermediaries with deep local knowledge, including women-led and Indigenous-led organizations.

Today, I commit, through the WASOP programme, to co-developing an Ocean Innovation Facility in West Africa. This new effort will support ten high-impact ventures through tailored technical assistance, catalytic funding, and direct investor engagement designed to move capital where it is most needed.

We already have the science. We have the frameworks. What we need now is precision, creativity, and the courage to back solutions that do not yet fit the mold.

Thank you.