INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

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STATEMENT OF THE BAY OF BENGAL LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM (BOBLME)
PROJECT ON THE COOPERATION WITH WESTPAC
The BOBLME Project and the UNESCO IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC) have established collaboration, mainly in areas of capacity development, in particular through the MOMSEI initiative, over the last five years.

There is a common interest in promoting international, regional, and sub-regional collaboration and information exchange, and promotion of an ecosystem-based approach to management of the ocean and fisheries.

A healthy ecosystem and sustainable use of marine living resources for the benefit of the people and countries of the Bay of Bengal requires good knowledge and understanding of large-scale processes and dynamics affecting the Bay.

During the implementation of the BOBLME Strategic Action Programme, in the second phase of the BOBLME Project, it is envisaged that the collaboration with IOC WESTPAC will continue to develop; in particular, in areas of ecosystem health, climate change, and oceanography, with a focus on continued capacity development, knowledge management, information exchange and institutional strengthening.

This also includes promotion of these countries’ participation in UNESCO’s International Indian Ocean Expedition -2 (IIOE-2) initiative.