

Chagos Archipelago - Great Chagos Bank West (BICC36)

Central Chagos · surveyed 2015-03-20



Coral Health Index: TBD

What was done. Coral cover here was measured on in-situ benthic transects run by divers on the [Living Oceans Foundation Global Reef Expedition](#) — a diver measurement, not an estimate read off photographs. The written account of the site is a review of its photographs, not a second survey.

HARD CORAL COVER

5.8%

Benthic surveys

TODAY'S HEAT LOAD

28.9°C

0.0°C-weeks

16 Sep 2026 · -0.1°C vs the annual mean (29.0 °C)
· [NOAA](#) No heat stress

HEAT STRESS (5-YR MEAN ANNUAL MAX. DHW)

4.4°C-weeks

[NOAA](#) annual peaks averaging 4–8 °C-weeks

MAX. DEPTH

30.5 m

dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

29.5°C

+0.6°C vs the 2015 mean sea temperature (28.9°C)

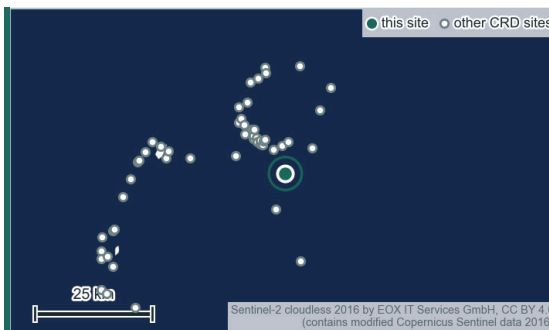
PHOTOGRAPHS

15

on file for this site

POSITION

-6.2321, 71.5883



Chagos Archipelago

Natural Earth

BICC36 is one of the lowest-cover reefs in the Chagos Archipelago (5.8%), its hard pavement crusted mainly in coralline algae rather than fleshy turf, with only 11 coral genera recorded. A spiny lobster, a large octopus, and a mantle-extended cowrie were the highlights of an otherwise sparse reef. Surveyed on the [Living Oceans Foundation's Global Reef Expedition](#).



CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Transect (published) 5.8 · [CoralNet](#) 19.4 · In-house DINov3 18.2 · CoralSCOP edited 24.7 · Claude 6.4

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 of 15 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/gre-chagos-archipelago-gcb-west-bicc36.html> · Heat stress is the mean of the latest five annual maxima of [NOAA Coral Reef Watch](#) degree-heating weeks for this reef's [NOAA CRW](#) virtual station (Chagos) — a five-year heat history for the station's waters, not a measurement at this site on the dive date.