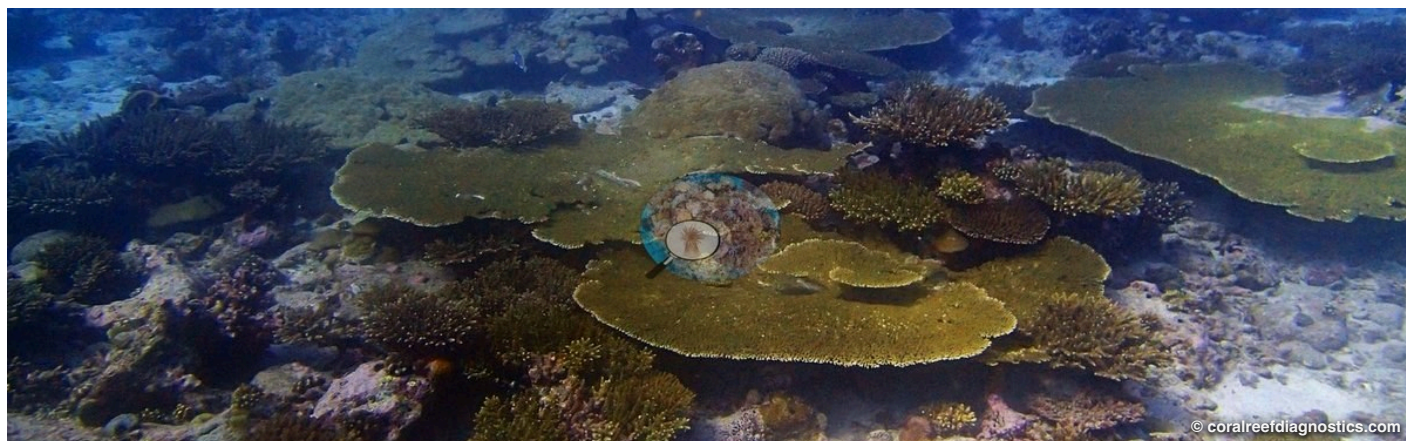


Chagos Archipelago - Great Chagos Bank West (BITB27)

Middle Brother · surveyed 2015-03-17



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.

HARD CORAL COVER

37%

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

30.4 m

dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

29.5°C

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

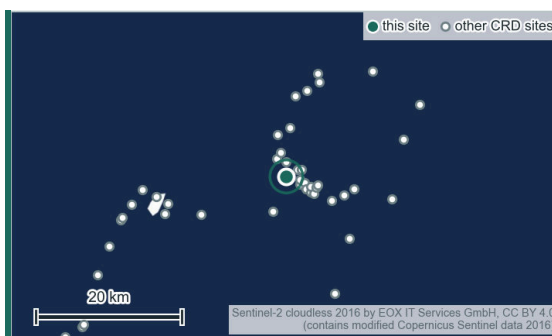
PHOTOGRAPHS

45

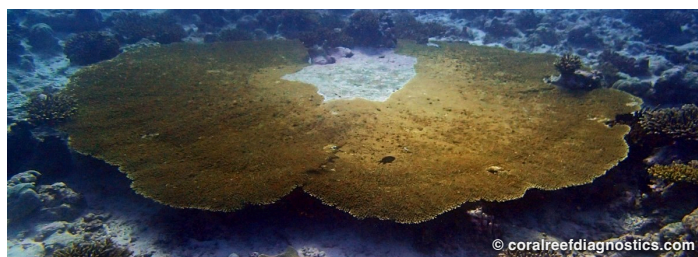
on file for this site

POSITION

-6.1562, 71.5099



A densely branched Great Chagos Bank reef where golden-tan *Acropora* thickets and tables fill whole frames, including a striking large purple-mauve branching colony, with brain corals tucked at their base. Health is genuinely good: the little dead coral present is old skeleton already resurfaced in pink coralline algae. Surveyed on the [Living Oceans Foundation's Global Reef Expedition](#).



CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Transect (published) 36.6 · [CoralNet](#) 34.5 · In-house DINOv3 24.4 · CoralSCOP edited 37.5 · Claude 23.8

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 of 45 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/gre-chagos-archipelago-gcb-west-bitb27.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.