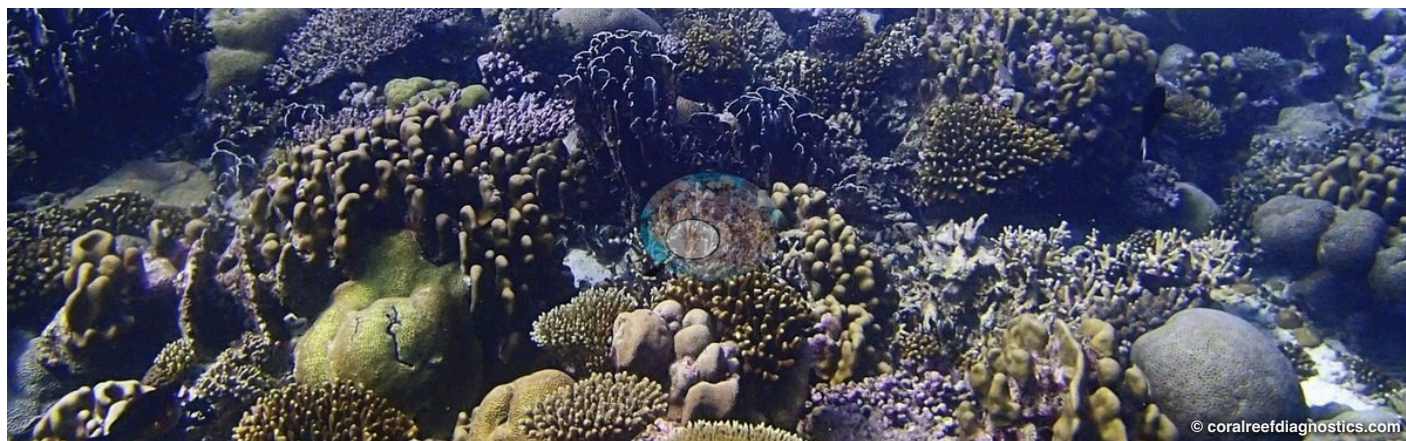


Chagos Archipelago - Great Chagos Bank West (BITB34)

South Brother · surveyed 2015-03-19



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

61%

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

21.8 m

dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

29.8°C

+0.9°C vs the 2015 mean sea temperature (28.9°C)

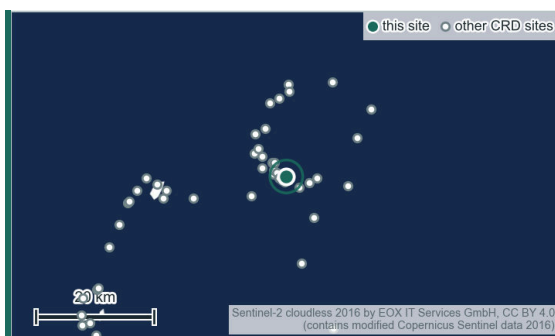
PHOTOGRAPHS

30

on file for this site

POSITION

-6.1693, 71.5464



A high-cover reef (61%) whose signature is its giant mounds of whorled purple-brown plate coral, two to three meters across, set among dense *Acropora*, brain, and *Porites* colonies. Spotted eagle rays are the star attraction, with three photographed together gliding in open water. Surveyed on the [Living Oceans Foundation's Global Reef Expedition](#).



CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Transect (published) 61.1 · [CoralNet](#) 41.4 · In-house DINOv3 34.5 · CoralSCOP edited 46.6 · Claude 37.0

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 of 30 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/gre-chagos-archipelago-gcb-west-bitb34.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.