

Chagos Archipelago - Great Chagos Bank West (BITB38)

South Brother · surveyed 2015-03-21



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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

56%

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

24.1 m

dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

29.7°C

+0.8°C vs the 2015 mean sea temperature (28.9°C)

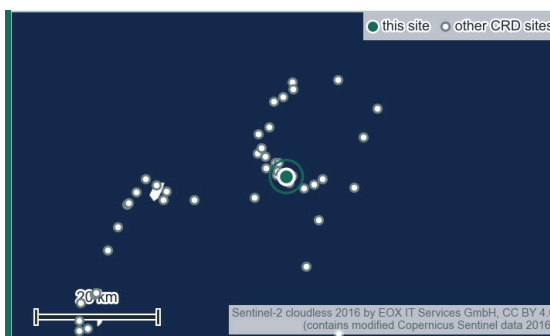
PHOTOGRAPHS

45

on file for this site

POSITION

-6.1683, 71.5404



One of the most dramatic depth changes in Chagos: *Acropora* shallows and an algae-heavy middle band give way to deep fields of plate-forming *Echinopora* and *Turbinaria* corals, with two deep transects reaching 88-94% coral. The site averages 56% cover but is patchy, from dense plate fields to open rubble. Surveyed on the [Living Oceans Foundation's Global Reef Expedition](#).



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CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Transect (published) 56.0 · [CoralNet](#) 33.7 · In-house DINOv3 28.1 · CoralSCOP edited 31.5 · Claude 26.3

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-bitb38.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.