

Chagos Archipelago - Great Chagos Bank West (BITB42)

Three Brothers · surveyed 2015-03-22



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

36%

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

21.7 m

dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

29.7°C

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

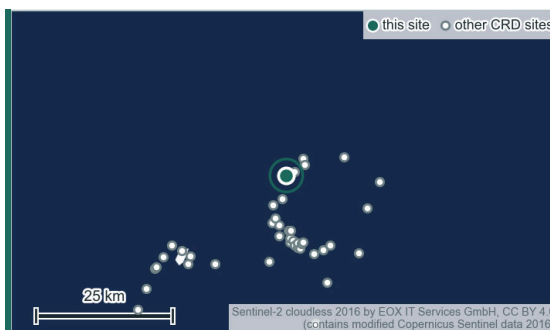
PHOTOGRAPHS

79

on file for this site

POSITION

-6.0576, 71.5213



A silt-laden bank forereef outside the Three Brothers lagoon, where sediment-covered turf outweighs coralline crust and *Acropora* peaks at mid-depth. Two colonies show clean bone-white skeleton that could be severe bleaching or very recent death, and gray reef sharks appear in four frames. Surveyed on the [Living Oceans Foundation's Global Reef Expedition](#).



CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Transect (published) **36.2** · [CoralNet](#) 31.1 · In-house DINOv3 24.4 · CoralSCOP edited 35.4 · Claude 22.6

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 of 79 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/gre-chagos-archipelago-gcb-west-bitb42.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.