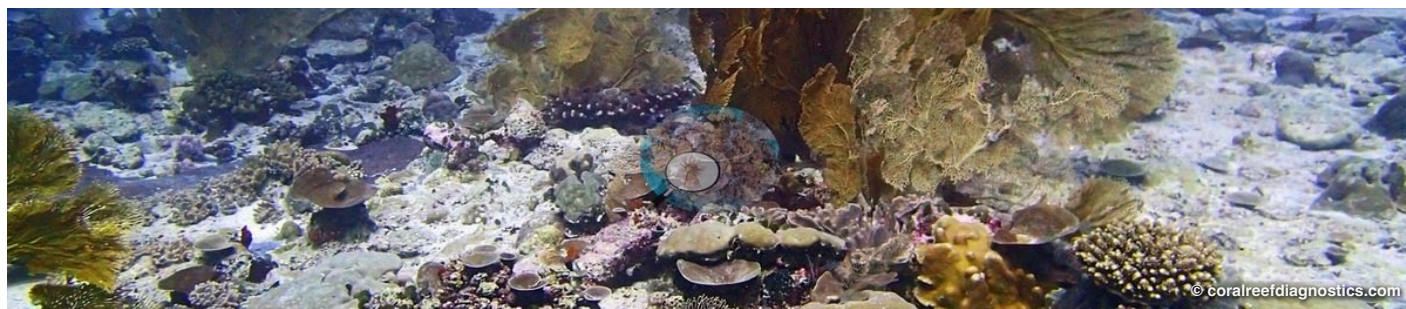


Chagos Archipelago - Great Chagos Bank West (BITB43)

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

29%

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

30.7 m

dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

29.7°C

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

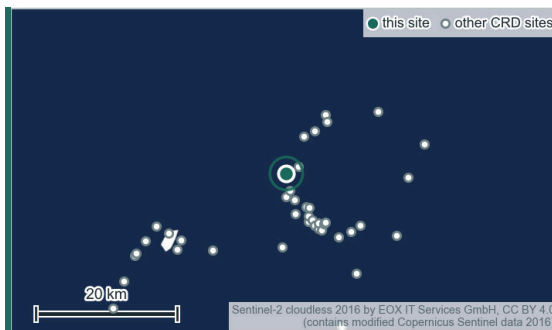
PHOTOGRAPHS

22

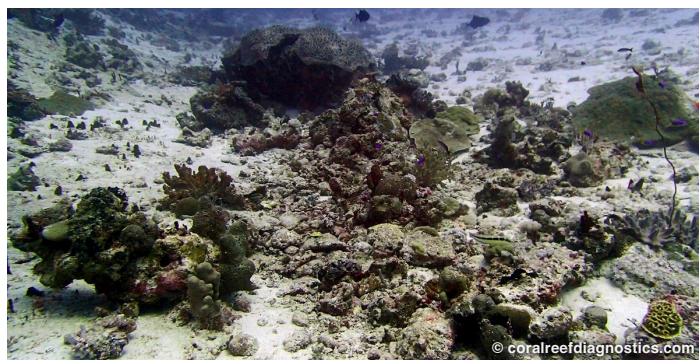
on file for this site

POSITION

-6.1053, 71.4988



An unusual Three Brothers bank reef where sponges, sea squirts, and sea fans cover more of the bottom than coral does. The published bleaching figure is zero, but photos show bone-white patches on a cauliflower coral and elsewhere, and three gray reef sharks were seen. Surveyed on the [Living Oceans Foundation's Global Reef Expedition](#).



CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Transect (published) 28.7 · [CoralNet](#) 35.9 · In-house DINOv3 14.7 · CoralSCOP edited 36.6 · Claude 22.3

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 of 22 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/gre-chagos-archipelago-gcb-west-bitb43.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.