

# Chagos Archipelago - Great Chagos Bank West (BITB56)

Three Brothers · surveyed 2015-03-27



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

**21%**

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

**25.7 m**

dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

**29.8°C**

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

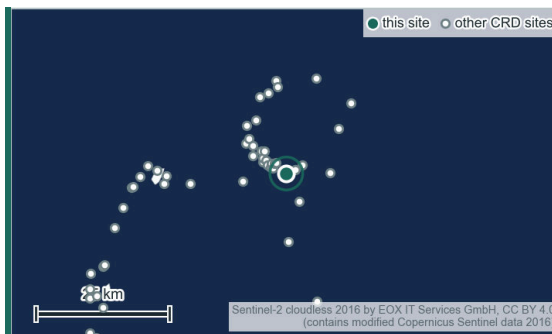
PHOTOGRAPHS

**13**

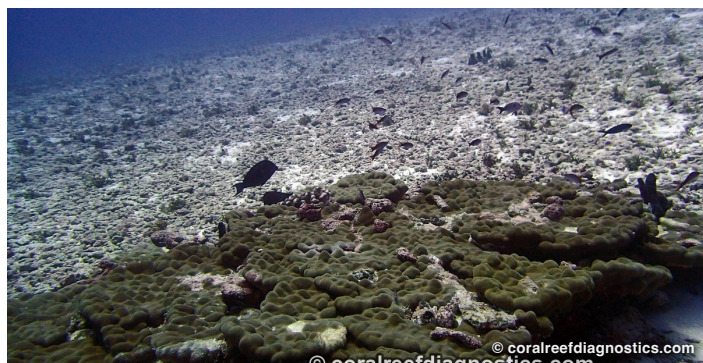
on file for this site

POSITION

**-6.1857, 71.5661**



An algae-dominated bank reef inside the Three Brothers lagoon, with open pavement and rubble, 21.3% coral (mostly *Porites*), and nearly 49% algae. A spiny lobster sheltered under a ledge of plate corals, and despite a high published bleaching figure of 16%, the photos show no visibly bleached coral. Surveyed on the [Living Oceans Foundation's Global Reef Expedition](#).



CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Transect (published) 21.3 · [CoralNet](#) 19.9 · In-house DINOv3 20.3 · CoralSCOP edited 18.0 · Claude 19.4

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 of 13 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/gre-chagos-archipelago-gcb-west-bitb56.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.