

## AMPHITRITE GROUP OVERALL

16°50'48.35"N, 112°15'12.07"E

### **Geographic area**

Amphitrite Group is located in the northeastern part of the Paracels, less than 160NM southeast of the island of Hainan and around 220NM northeast of Vietnam's mainland. The closest shallow geographic features are North Reef and Lincoln Island, over 37NM northwest and 23NM southeast, respectively. It is composed of three reef platforms that appear to be distinct in satellite images, although they may in fact be connected at greater depth, and have formed on the same atoll, which is now submerged. The northern platform is the largest (43.71km<sup>2</sup>) and 8 of the 10 named above-water land areas of the Amphitrite group are located on it (see image below). Woody Island and Rocky Islet are situated on the second coral reef platform. Iltis Bank is the third coral platform; it is deeper and always submerged. Amphitrite Group extends more than 25km along its northwest-southeast axis and around 25km along its northeast-southwest axis.

### **Land area above water**

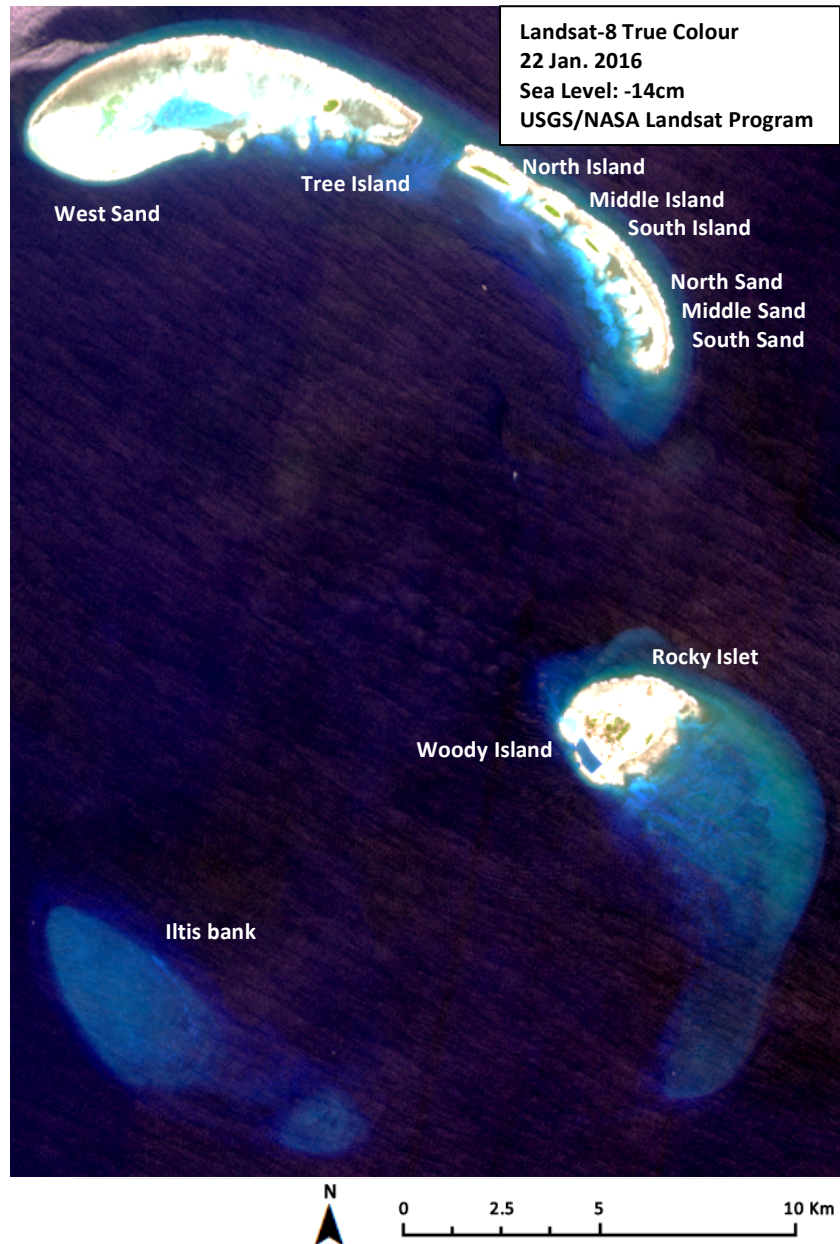
All 10 above-water land areas of the Amphitrite Group have some vegetation, though the smallest ones seem to have exclusively dry and salt-tolerant vegetation (especially North, Middle and South Sands). The most densely vegetated above-water land areas are Tree Island, North Island, Middle Island, South Island and Woody Island. Woody Island is the largest, with an aerial cover of 2.54km<sup>2</sup>. North Sand is the smallest with an aerial cover of 16000m<sup>2</sup>. The total above-water land area measured in the Amphitrite Group is 3.68km<sup>2</sup>.

### **Human infrastructure**

Until 2014, Woody Island and Rocky Islet were the most densely built-up above-water land areas of the Amphitrite Group and the only ones with several artificial harbours, developed harbour works and a runway. However, recent land-filling activities to connect Tree Island and North Island, in addition to other construction works, suggest that this may be changing.

### **Intertidal and submerged area**

The total aerial coverage of the reef flats is 29.83km<sup>2</sup> and of the reef slopes and deeper reef formations is 61.43km<sup>2</sup>. The reef flat of Woody Island and Rocky Islet is less than 1m at Mean Sea Level and large parts are expected to uncover at Lowest Astronomical Tide. By contrast, the northern reef platform is mostly over 1m deep at Mean Sea Level and few areas are shallow enough to uncover at Lowest Astronomical Tide. The northeast-facing side of the northern reef platform is characterised by regularly-spaced, narrow and long spurs and grooves on the reef slope.

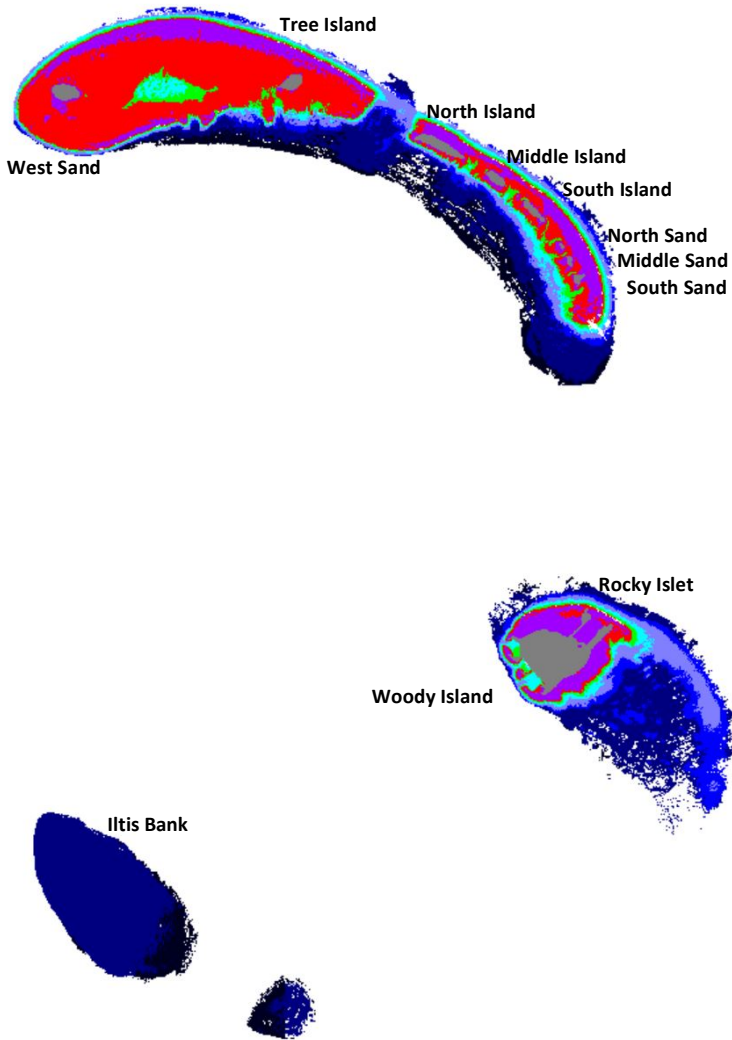


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Mosaic derived from Landsat-8, WorldView-2 and WorldView-3 satellite data from 2010 to 2016

### Standardised Bathymetry Map at Mean Sea Level



### Habitat Classification and Land Cover Map

