

Kenya - Brain Coral (Mombasa)

Mombasa · surveyed 2024-03-11



What was done. The figure is the author's own manual point count, annotated by hand over 136 photographs. 5 further methods were run on the same frames and are reported on the site page. The written account of the site is a review of its photographs (156 frames), not a second survey. Fieldwork with Mombasa Marine Park.

HARD CORAL COVER 27% manual point count (136 photos) · other methods on the site page	TODAY'S HEAT LOAD 26.8°C 0.0°C-weeks 16 Sep 2026 · -1.0°C vs the annual mean (27.8 °C) · NOAA No heat stress	HEAT STRESS (5-YR MEAN ANNUAL MAX. DHW) 4.9°C-weeks NOAA annual peaks averaging 4–8 °C-weeks
MAX. DEPTH 12 m	WATER TEMP. (SURVEY) 32.5°C +4.4°C vs the 2024 mean sea temperature (28.1°C)	PHOTOGRAPHS 4 on file for this site
POSITION -3.9876, 39.7568		

Brain Coral, in Mombasa Marine Park, is a low-relief reef built on massive and plating corals rather than branching thickets, its name earned by an unusually rich set of *Platygyra* and *Lobophyllia*-type brain corals alongside huge helmet-shaped *Porites* domes. Bleaching here was well below the Kenyan average - 46.6% of tissue against a 77.1% mean across the 20 surveyed Kenya sites - with massives and brain corals holding pigment noticeably better than the thinner plate corals; dense schools of bluestripe snapper (one frame captioned 'effective MPA') were a highlight. Published cover was 27%, up from 19.5% at a nearby site surveyed in 2022.

Kiswahili. Mwamba wa kijani, wenye mtawanyiko wa mwanga, wa matumbawe makubwa na ya sahani ndani ya Hifadhi ya Bahari ya Mombasa, ambapo matumbawe ya ubongo yenye mikunjo ni kipengele bainifu pamoja na matumbawe laini mengi. Takriban picha moja kati ya sita inaonyesha upaukaji usio na shaka kimuundo, sawa na asilimia 46.6 iliyochapishwa; hakuna nyota za bahari zenye miiba (crown-of-thorns) zinazoonekana katika picha 156. *Tafsiri ya muhtasari huu kwa AI; Kiingereza ndicho kinachotumika rasmi.*

CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Manual (published) 27.4 · CoralNet 27.4 · In-house DINOv3 42.7 · CoralSCOP unedited 23.7

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 1 of 4 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/kenya-brain-coral-mombasa.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 (Kenya) — a five-year heat history for the station's waters, not a measurement at this site on the dive date.