

Kenya - Coral Garden (Kisite National Park)

Kisite National Park · surveyed 2024-03-21



Coral Health Index: TBD

What was done. The figure is the author's own manual point count, annotated by hand over 178 photographs. 7 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 (161 frames), not a second survey. Fieldwork with REEFolution.

HARD CORAL COVER

55%

manual point count (178 photos) · other methods on the site page

TODAY'S HEAT LOAD

26.8°C **0.0°C-weeks**

16 Sep 2026 · -1.4°C vs the annual mean (28.2 °C)
· NOAA No heat stress

HEAT STRESS (5-YR MEAN ANNUAL MAX. DHW)

5.1°C-weeks

NOAA annual peaks averaging 4–8 °C-weeks

MAX. DEPTH

6 m

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

31.5°C

+3.3°C vs the 2024 mean sea temperature (28.2°C)

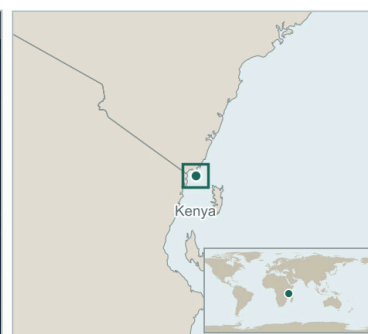
PHOTOGRAPHS

4

on file for this site

POSITION

-4.7163, 39.3658



Coral Garden, in Kisite Marine National Park, was both the richest reef in the entire 20-site Kenya survey (55% cover, wall-to-wall coral in many frames) and among the least bleached (58.9% of tissue, versus a 77.1% Kenya-wide average) - an enormous carpet of knobby *Galaxea* coral held its color well, while the acroporid thickets growing on and around it took most of the damage, producing some of the clearest side-by-side healthy-versus-bleached imagery in the whole study. A green turtle, batfish, and streaming anthias rounded out the site, and no crown-of-thorns starfish were seen, a contrast with reefs further north.

Kiswahili. Eneo lenye kiwango cha juu zaidi cha matumbawe katika utafiti wa Kenya na lenye maji safi zaidi: matumbawe hai upande hadi upande ndani ya Hifadhi ya Taifa ya Bahari ya Kisite. Tandiko la *Galaxea* lenye rangi linafunika eneo kubwa zaidi moja na hufanya picha pana zionekane na afya kuliko asilimia 58.9 ya upaukaji iliyochapishwa, na kidonda cha upotevu wa tishu kilichothibitishwa juu ya koloni yenye rangi kamili ndicho... *Tafsiri ya muhtasari huu kwa AI; Kiingereza ndicho kinachotumika rasmi.*

CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Manual (published) 55.0 · CoralNet 46.4 · In-house DINOv3 46.0 · CoralSCOP unedited 20.9 · Claude 40.0

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