

Kenya - Diani Beach (Diani)

Diani · surveyed 2024-03-16



What was done. The figure is the author's own manual point count, annotated by hand over 50 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 (46 frames), not a second survey. Fieldwork with Whale Shark Adventures.

HARD CORAL COVER 35% manual point count (50 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 2 m	WATER TEMP. (SURVEY) 32.0°C +3.9°C vs the 2024 mean sea temperature (28.1°C)	PHOTOGRAPHS 4 on file for this site
POSITION -4.4000, 39.5600		

Diani Beach's reef is built mainly on large foliose and tiered plate corals, with branching and corymbose *Acropora* and meandroid brain corals also well represented on fuller review. Bleaching affected about three-quarters of coral tissue (75.4%, close to the Kenya-wide average) as a genuine colony-by-colony mosaic - nearly every frame shows some combination of fully bleached, intermediate, and still-pigmented coral - with the dense branching *Acropora* thickets holding color most consistently rather than the plate corals, which went both ways. Published cover was 35%, more than double a 2014 reading nearby (16.0%).

Kiswahili. Mwamba mkubwa zaidi na wenye mwinuko wa juu kuliko picha zilizochapishwa zilivyodokeza, uliogeliwa kwa mrija nje ya Ufukwe wa Diani wakati wa safari ya papa-nyangumi. Upaukaji wa matumbawe ya sahani ni takriban nusu yenye rangi na nusu nyeupe-krimu, ilhali vichaka vinene vya *Acropora* ya matawi vilishikilia rangi zao vizuri zaidi; hakuna nyota za bahari zenye miiba katika seti hii.

Tafsiri ya muhtasari huu kwa AI; Kiingereza ndicho kinachotumika rasmi.

CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Manual (published) 34.9 · CoralNet 34.2 · In-house DINOv3 38.7 · CoralSCOP unedited 22.3

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 1 of 4 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/kenya-diani-beach-diani.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.