

Kenya - Dolphin Point (Kisite National Park)

Kisite National Park · surveyed 2024-03-21



What was done. The figure is the author's own manual point count, annotated by hand over 108 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 (99 frames), not a second survey. Fieldwork with REEFolution.

HARD CORAL COVER 40% manual point count (108 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 7 m	WATER TEMP. (SURVEY) 31.4°C +3.3°C vs the 2024 mean sea temperature (28.1°C)	PHOTOGRAPHS 4 on file for this site
POSITION -4.7060, 39.4139		

Dolphin Point is unambiguously a tabulate *Acropora* reef - meter-plus plate colonies sitting edge to edge across a sloping terrace, some wider than a diver is tall - with massive corals and soft corals as secondary elements. Bleaching here was severe and cut across growth forms rather than sparing any one group: many of the big tables read pale cream to mustard rather than brown, though pockets of deep tan, pink, and lilac pigment survive throughout. Published cover was 40% with 61.9% of coral tissue bleached, up from 29.2% at a nearby 2020 survey; no dolphins appear in the photographs despite the name.

Kiswahili. Mwamba wa *Acropora* yenye umbo la meza katika Hifadhi ya Taifa ya Bahari ya Kisite, ambapo takriban nusu ya picha zinaonyesha sahani zenye upana wa mita moja, zikirundikana tatu juu ya nyingine mahali pengine, na vitobo vya *Porites* makubwa vikiwa kipengele cha pili. Upaukaji ni mkali lakini wa mchanganyiko, na koloni kubwa zilipigwa vilevile kama zile za meza. *Tafsiri ya muhtasari huu kwa AI; Kiingereza ndicho kinachotumika rasmi.*

CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Manual (published) 39.9 · [CoralNet](#) 39.8 · In-house DINOv3 42.5 · CoralSCOP unedited 27.0

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