

Kenya - Kisite National Park-site 4 (Kisite National Park)

Kisite National Park · surveyed 2024-03-21



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Coral Health Index: TBD

What was done. The figure is the author's own manual point count, annotated by hand over 71 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 (72 frames), not a second survey. Fieldwork with REEFolution.

HARD CORAL COVER

46%

manual point count (71 photos) · other methods on the site page

TODAY'S HEAT LOAD

26.8°C0.0°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)

31.6°C

+3.5°C vs the 2024 mean sea temperature (28.1°C)

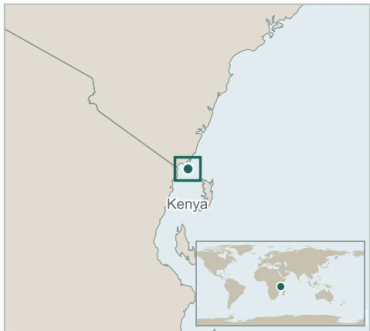
PHOTOGRAPHS

4

on file for this site

POSITION

-4.7023, 39.4010



Kisite site 4 combined the highest coral cover of any Kenya site in this study (45.5%) with near-total bleaching (89.2% of tissue) - a shallow coral garden dominated by dense knobby *Galaxea* sheets that read as a white 'snowfield' across entire hillsides, though close-up frames show some colonies retain pigmented polyp centers even when they look fully white from a distance. A crown-of-thorns starfish was photographed directly on bleached coral here, and a scattering of colonies - an olive-and-gold branching bommie, salmon-orange knobby corals - held full color as clear exceptions.

Kiswahili. Bustani ya matumbawe yenye kina kifupi na kiwango kikubwa cha matumbawe, ya *Galaxea* yenye nguzo za matuta karibu inayoendelea bila kukatika, katika Hifadhi ya Taifa ya Bahari ya Kisite, iliyopigwa picha wakati karibu yote ilikuwa nyeupe. Nyota za bahari zenye miiba zilithibitishwa zikila moja kwa moja matumbawe yaliyopauka katika picha nne. *Tafsiri ya muhtasari huu kwa AI; Kiingereza ndicho kinachotumika rasmi.*

CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Manual (published) 45.5 · CoralNet 45.5 · In-house DINOv3 36.1 · CoralSCOP unedited 17.9