

Kenya - Lower Mpunguti-site 1 (Kisite National Park)

 REEFOLUTION

Kisite National Park · surveyed 2024-03-21



What was done. The figure is the author's own manual point count, annotated by hand over 36 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 (34 frames), not a second survey. Fieldwork with REEFolution.

HARD CORAL COVER

18%

manual point count (36 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

5 m

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

31.9°C

+3.8°C vs the 2024 mean sea temperature (28.1°C)

PHOTOGRAPHS

4

on file for this site

POSITION

-4.6884, 39.4034

Lower Mpunguti-site 1 has the lowest coral cover of the Kisite-Mpunguti pins (18.1%) because coral here sits as isolated colonies embedded in a thick carpet of fleshy macroalgae rather than as a continuous framework. Branching and massive corals took the worst bleaching (79.7% of tissue overall), while golden-olive *Turbinaria* bowl corals were the clear survivors, holding full pigment throughout; three sea anemones with tentacles blanched snow-white above deep crimson columns were also documented here, alongside unbleached giant clams and a blue-spotted ribbontail ray.

Kiswahili. Eneo lenye kina kifupi lililosongwa na mwani nje ya Lower Mpunguti, na lenye kiwango cha chini kabisa cha matumbawe kati ya alama nne za Kisite, lililopigwa picha katika mkondo mfupi wa dakika kumi na tano. Matumbawe ya kikombe ya *Turbinaria* yalikuwa kundi kuu lililonusurika, na anemone tatu zimesimama zikiwa nyeupe juu ya nguzo nyekundu-damu. *Tafsiri ya muhtasari huu kwa AI; Kiingereza ndicho kinachotumika rasmi.*

CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Manual (published) 18.1 · CoralNet 17.1 · In-house DINOv3 37.3 · CoralSCOP unedited 20.5 · Claude 16.7

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 1 of 4 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/kenya-lower-mpunguti-site-1-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 (Kenya) — a five-