

Kenya - MMP snorkel site (Mombasa)

Mombasa · surveyed 2024-03-14



What was done. The figure is the author's own manual point count, annotated by hand over 54 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 (52 frames), not a second survey. Fieldwork with Tropical Diving Kenya.

HARD CORAL COVER

40%

manual point count (54 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

3 m

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

32.5°C

+4.4°C vs the 2024 mean sea temperature (28.1°C)

PHOTOGRAPHS

4

on file for this site

POSITION

-3.9984, 39.7453

This shallow Mombasa Marine Park snorkel site is a back-reef field of *Porites* bommies substantially draped in fleshy brown algae, and it suffered the most severe bleaching of any Mombasa site reviewed here - 89.9% of hard coral tissue, well above the 77.1% Kenya-wide average - leaving whole frames of chalk-white and cream domes with only scattered pigmented holdouts, including a few strikingly unbleached deep-purple *Acropora* colonies. Two crown-of-thorns starfish were photographed on one tabular *Acropora*, though not repeated elsewhere. Published cover was 40%, more than double a 2022 reading nearby (19.5%).

Kiswahili. Eneo la kuogelea kwa mrija lenye kina kifupi sana linalotawaliwa na *Porites* ndani ya Hifadhi ya Bahari ya Mombasa, chini ya tandiko zito la mwani, na ndilo eneo lililopauka vibaya zaidi katika utafiti huu kwa asilimia 89.9. Nyota mbili hadi tatu za bahari zenye miiba zinaonekana juu ya *Acropora* moja yenye umbo la meza, rekodi mpya kwa eneo hili. *Tafsiri ya muhtasari huu kwa AI; Kiingereza ndicho kinachotumika rasmi.*

CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Manual (published) 39.6 · CoralNet 39.6 · In-house DINOv3 54.2 · CoralSCOP unedited 23.3

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