

Kenya - North Canyon (Watamu)

Watamu · surveyed 2024-03-29



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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 83 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 (82 frames), not a second survey. Fieldwork with Extra Divers.

HARD CORAL COVER
22%
manual point count (83 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
15 m

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)
32.3°C
+4.3°C vs the 2024 mean sea temperature (28.0°C)

PHOTOGRAPHS
4
on file for this site

POSITION
-3.3743, 40.0115



North Canyon, despite its name, is not a canyon at all - the full photographic record shows a low-relief hardground reef top with discrete, well-separated colonies rather than continuous framework, and it sits at the bad end of the Kenya survey on both measures (22% cover, 95.3% of tissue bleached). Nearly every scleractinian in view is bone-white, cream, or pastel, with many colonies turning a distinctive salmon-pink to lilac stress coloration rather than pure white - a fluorescent-pigment response to losing their symbionts - and even host anemones were found bleached alongside the coral.

Kiswahili. Eneo lenye kina kirefu zaidi kati ya matatu ya Watamu, kwa takriban 15 m, na lililopauka karibu kabisa kwa asilimia 95.3. Licha ya jina lake, hakuna ukuta, korongo wala pango linaloonekana katika hata moja ya picha 82; ardhi ni sakafu ngumu yenye mwinuko mdogo yenye koloni zilizotengana vizuri, na rangi ya msongo ya urujuani hafifu na waridi ndiyo alama ya kuonekana ya eneo hili. *Tafsiri ya muhtasari huu kwa AI; Kiingereza ndicho kinachotumika rasmi.*

CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Manual (published) 21.6 · CoralNet 21.6 · In-house DINOv3 20.3 · CoralSCOP unedited 19.1

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