

Kenya - Round Reef (Watamu)

Watamu · surveyed 2024-03-27



What was done. The figure is the author's own manual point count, annotated by hand over 175 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 (178 frames), not a second survey. Fieldwork with A Rocha.

HARD CORAL COVER

18%

manual point count (175 photos) · other methods on the site page
↗ 102%, 2022–2024

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

1.5 m

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

32.5°C

+4.5°C vs the 2024 mean sea temperature (28.0°C)

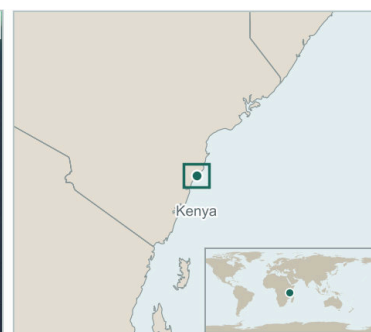
PHOTOGRAPHS

4

on file for this site

POSITION

-3.3840, 39.9925



Round Reef, surveyed via a systematic 15-quadrat transect for A Rocha, is highly heterogeneous - one quadrat is among the best patches of reef in the whole Kenya study (continuous orange-tan encrusting coral), while another is nearly barren algal turf. Bleaching hit massive *Porites* and brain corals hardest rather than the branching *Acropora*, and a striking amount of pigment survived colony by colony, with several quadrats catching a fully pigmented *Acropora* sitting right beside a bone-white one of the same growth form. Published cover was 18% and bleaching 70.3%, both the lowest of the four Watamu sites in this study, though 70.3% is still well above background.

Kiswahili. Utafiti wa picha za viwanja kumi na tano juu ya sakafu ya mwamba na vilele vya vitobo huko Watamu, uliofanywa pamoja na A Rocha kwa nyuzi joto 32.5°C. *Porites* makubwa na yanayoganda pamoja na matumbawe ya ubongo yenye mikunjo ndiyo yaliyopauka kwa ukamilifu zaidi kuliko matumbawe ya matawi, na angalau picha kumi zinaoanisha *Acropora* yenye rangi na nyingine nyeupe kama mfupa ndani ya mita moja kutoka... *Tafsiri ya muhtasari huu kwa AI; Kiingereza ndicho kinachotumika rasmi.*

CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Manual (published) 17.8 · CoralNet 13.7 · In-house DINOv3 27.7 · CoralSCOP unedited 15.7 · Claude 11.9

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