

Kenya - Uyombo (Watamu)

Watamu · surveyed 2024-03-28



What was done. The figure is the author's own manual point count, annotated by hand over 375 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 (358 frames), not a second survey. Fieldwork with A Rocha.

HARD CORAL COVER 25% manual point count (375 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 2 m	WATER TEMP. (SURVEY) 32.3°C +4.3°C vs the 2024 mean sea temperature (28.0°C)	PHOTOGRAPHS 50 on file for this site
POSITION -3.4030, 39.9759		

Uyombo, surveyed across sixteen quadrats on a shallow reef flat, is a genuine mosaic of habitats - dense staghorn thickets, boulder ground, brain-coral beds, and seagrass - with heavy bleaching throughout (82.0% of tissue) that hit massive corals just as hard as the branching *Acropora*, overturning any idea that boulders were the safe group. A distinctive pink-to-mauve stress coloration recurred across eleven of the sixteen quadrats, always alongside both fully brown and fully white colonies in the same frame. Published cover was 25%, the highest of the four Watamu sites in this study.

Kiswahili. Seti kubwa zaidi ya picha katika utafiti wa Kenya: viwanja kumi na sita juu ya sakafu ya mwamba ya Uyombo vinavyoonyesha si mwamba mmoja bali mchanganyiko wa sakafu ya mwani, kichaka cha *Acropora*, ardhi ya mawe, ardhi ya matumbawe ya ubongo, na nyasi bahari. Matumbawe makubwa na ya ubongo yenye mikunjo yalikuwa miongoni mwa yaliyopauka kwa ukamilifu zaidi, na rangi ya msongo ya waridi hadi zambarau inajitokeza... *Tafsiri ya muhtasari huu kwa AI; Kiingereza ndicho kinachotumika rasmi.*

CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Manual (published) 24.8 · CoralNet 24.5 · In-house DINOv3 36.7 · CoralSCOP unedited 29.1 · Claude 17.5

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 1 of 50 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/kenya-uyombo-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.