AWS INTERNATIONAL WATER STEWARDSHIP STANDARD

DRAFT REVISED STANDARD FOR CONSULTATION WITH NOTES ON PROPOSED CHANGES

REVISED DRAFT 2-0, SEPTEMBER 2018

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EXPLANATORY NOTES ON THIS DRAFT

1. Introduction to the standard has been re-written to fit with the new approach to criteria and indicators; as well as the reduction in the number of 'new' concepts in the standard e.g. Sphere of Influence has gone and will be replaced by a more comprehensive stakeholder engagement piece.

2. The format and language of the Standard has continued to apply the approach recommended in Draft 1-0, which aligns better with the ISO format, using 'shall' statements.

3. The Indicators have been further aligned with the approach taken in Draft 1-0. This approach specifies indicators for each element of every criterion that are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Tangible) and incorporates elements from the Guidance that should be requirements within the Standard.

4. The first revised draft 1-0 proposed reducing the number of steps from six to five with Step 1 'Commit' being integrated into the other Steps. This draft also reflects these proposed changes and numbering of steps, criteria and indicators has been updated accordingly, i.e. Step 1 is now Gather and Understand.

Terms in italics

Identified: This includes having a documented process to identify as well as document the attributes listed.

Mapped: Maps should preferably be in a digital format and be of a quality that enables an external party to identify the location scale and physical properties of the attributes listed.

Quantified: This includes having a documented process to quantify as well as document the attributes listed. Information presented shall be at a frequency, level of accuracy and over a sufficient time period to enable meaningful conclusions to be reached in relation to the indicator.

Evaluated: This includes having a documented and replicable process applied to monitor the implementation of the plan and to make informed changes to the plan and its implementation.

Disclosed: This requires making a document both publicly available and publicizing its availability to the site's stakeholders.

Symbols represent contribution of the Criterion to AWS Outcomes

GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO STANDARD

The Objective of the AWS Standard is to drive water stewardship, defined as follows:

> *Water stewardship is the use of water that is socially equitable, environmentally sustainable and economically beneficial, achieved through a stakeholder-inclusive process that involves site- and catchment-based actions.*

Good water stewards understand their own water use, catchment context and shared concerns in terms of water governance, water balance, water quality and Water-Related HCVs (WHCVs), then engage in meaningful individual and collective actions that benefit people and nature.

Water is vital to many aspects of life on Earth, for the natural environment and for humans. Water is essential to developing and maintaining successful and healthy economies and for human health and wellbeing. However, we must use water responsibly and sustainably to protect the needs of the natural environment and to ensure the ongoing availability of water as an essential resource and human right.

Any responsible business or organization should commit to causing no harm to the natural environment and communities and aspire to achieving a net benefit. In addition, a clear business case for water stewardship can be made on the basis of physical, regulatory and reputational risk. Saving water may not provide a significant financial benefit (due to the typically low cost of water), but knowing and managing risk can protect a business from significant and unforeseen costs caused by quantity and quality issues, which could also restrict business growth. In addition to protection from physical risk, good water stewardship can protect an organization from regulatory breaches and negative reputational impacts, as well as offer the potential for positive reputational impact and generating a net benefit to the nature and society.

In principle, water is an endlessly renewable resource, provided it is managed responsibly and sustainably. The water we see and use today has been circulating on the planet for many millions of years. However, freshwater is lost from the water cycle if it becomes polluted, or if abstracted more quickly than it is replenished. The growing pressures on fresh water, with impacts on both quantity and quality, are well documented, and due to a range of factors including population growth, economic growth, increasing demand for food, rising living standards and climate. The impacts on the natural environment and vulnerable communities are already significant. Greater progress on achieving and implementing good water stewardship principles is required to ensure water use for human and economic needs does not continue to disrupt sustainable water cycles or cause ongoing harm to nature and biodiversity.

Applicability.

The AWS Standard is a framework applicable globally to all organizations and industrial sectors, including agriculture, and non-profit sectors. The primary focus of the Standard is the operational site and its local water catchment, but with a broader aim to include indirect water use in the supply chain and to promote WASH principles where appropriate.

The Standard applies to all types of water used by an organization in its normal activities. This includes surface water, groundwater, recycled water, desalinized water (from ocean or brackish sources), precipitation, non-renewable reserves (fossil water), and unusual sources such as snow or ice. The scope applies to all water uses whether from private water sources or from third party suppliers. The same applies to wastewater facilities.

The Standard is intended to be applicable to any type and size of business in any location. The general guidance to the standard is general for all sectors and regions. Sector-specific and regional guidance are foreseen for future development, and subject to demand.

Each organization should apply water stewardship to a ‘physical scope’ extending beyond the site’s boundaries, for data collection, stakeholder engagement and actions. The physical scope should be based on a combination of water-related catchment(s), stakeholder interests and regulatory landscape.

Where two or more small sites (such as small businesses or farms) are physically close to each other (ideally in the same catchment), and with similar water-related interests, they are encouraged to consider group implementation, which is permitted under the AWS certification scheme. This will enable them to share knowledge and resources and to more effectively collaborate on collective action.

Structure of standard

The AWS Standard framework is built around five steps:

1. Gather and understand [previously Step 2]
2. Commit and plan [previously Steps 1 and 3]
3. Implement [previously Step 4]
4. Evaluate [previously Step 5]
5. Communicate and disclose [previously Step 6]

Each step consists of a number of criteria to be addressed, each criterion with one or more indicators for compliance. There are ‘core’ indicators, representing the minimum requirement, and ‘advanced’ indicators, to achieve higher levels of water stewardship status and to promote continual improvement. The steps are not required to be followed in strict order and may overlap in timing.

Implementation of the Standard is intended to achieve four main Outcomes for the site and its defined physical scope:

1. Good water quality status
2. Good water governance

3. Sustainable water balance
4. Healthy status of Water-Related High Conservation Value (WHCV)

More details are given in the AWS 'Theory of Change'.

Water is local

Water issues and risks vary enormously across the world depending on such factors as: climate, geography, geology, population density, the level of industrial and agricultural development, and the maturity of water governance and regulation. For any site, water must be understood in a local context. The basic component of a local water environment is the river basin or catchment in terms of where an organization obtains its water supply and where its discharges and wastewater go. The relevant water catchment for a site may be exclusively surface water (e.g. a river basin), exclusively groundwater (e.g. an aquifer), or a combination of both systems. (See 'Catchment's' section for more explanation). Understanding how water behaves and moves in the environment, and its associated risks, requires the support of specialist knowledge and expertise.

Collective action

The AWS Outcomes, typically, cannot be achieved for a catchment by a single organization, especially true for small organizations. Therefore, an important principal of good water stewardship is collective action within a catchment, inclusive of the water steward and its relevant stakeholders. Such action should support and contribute to existing catchment initiatives, and not to replace or compete with them.

How to get involved in applying the AWS Standard and working towards certification

Achieving certification against the AWS Standard is a mark of having met the global benchmark for responsible water stewardship. Customers, consumers, agencies, NGO's and civil society organizations all want to know that major water users are being responsible with their water. Confirmation of compliance through certification sends a strong message of commitment to responsible water stewardship.

However, becoming a water steward and reaching certification is a journey. As a first step, an organization is encouraged (but not required) to join AWS in order to gain greater access to the knowledge and services available, and the wider community of water stewards.

The six key steps to certification are as follows:

1. Download and review the standard and guidance
2. Undertake a screening to understand the current knowledge level and status the site with respect to water stewardship principles. This can be supported by existing water stewardship and risk tools, e.g. the WWF Water Risk Filter or WRI's Aqueduct tool.
3. Get in touch with an AWS-accredited Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) to discuss process, requirements and give you an estimate of time and cost of certification. An optional pre-assessment may help to understand what still needs to be done to achieve the standard
4. Follow the standard to guide you on applying the five components. This will normally require specialist support.
5. When satisfied with progress, get the site audited by a CAB
6. Get your site's AWS certification: if you conform with the AWS criteria your site's certificate will be valid for three years, subject to successful surveillance audits.

Step 1: Gather and Understand *Gather data to understand shared water challenges and water risks, impacts and opportunities.*				**Notes on changes from AWS Standard version 1.0**
Intent: Step 1 intends to ensure that the site gathers data on its water use and its catchment context and that the site employs these data to understand its shared water challenges as well as its contributions (both positive and negative) to these challenges to water risks impacts, and opportunities. This data also informs the development of the site's water stewardship strategy and plan (Step 2) and guides the actions (Step 3) necessary to fulfil the site's commitments.				
	Criteria		**Indicators**	
1.1 	**Gather information to define the site's physical scope for water stewardship purposes**, including: its operational boundaries; the water sources the site draws from; the locations where the site returns its discharges to; and the catchment(s) that the site affect(s) and is reliant upon.	1.1.1	The physical scope of the site shall be *mapped*, including: - Site boundaries; - Water-related infrastructure owned or managed by the site or its parent company; - Any sources owned or managed by the site or its parent company; - Water service provider (if applicable) and its ultimate water source; - Discharge points and waste water service provider (if applicable) and ultimate receiving water body; - Catchment(s) that the site affect(s) and is reliant upon for water.	Bullet points added to ensure all elements of the criterion are covered. Added bullet on infrastructure.
1.2 	**Understand stakeholders of relevance,** their water challenges, and the site's ability to influence beyond its boundaries.	1.2.1	Stakeholders and their water-related challenges shall be *identified.*	Emphasis on Stakeholders and their water challenges enhanced. Removal of Sphere of Influence as an additional concept for implementers to understand and take on. Focus instead on ability of site to influence both within and beyond the catchment. Emphasis instead on Stakeholder identification and engagement to date.

				moved process to separate indicator-new 2.2.2 Rewording to simplify & align with drafting rules.
		1.2.2	The process used for stakeholder identification will be *documented*. This process shall: - Inclusively cover all major stakeholder groups; - Cover the physical scope identified, upstream and downstream; - Provide evidence of stakeholder consultation on water-related interests and challenges; - Consider stakeholders' willingness, capacity and requirements for engagement; - Identify the degree of stakeholder engagement based on their level of interest.	Added new indicator for process. Added bullet: Cover physical scope identified, upstream and downstream; prefer to add inclusive language to guidance but could add bullet here on process.
		1.2.3	Current and potential level of influence between site and stakeholder shall be *identified,* within the catchment and beyond.	'Level' of influence added to indicator since it's in the criterion. re numbered. old 2.2.2. added text "between site and stakeholder"
1.3 	**Gather water-related data for the site**, including: water governance, water balance water quality, Water-Related High Conservation Values, water-related costs, revenues, and shared value creation.	1.3.1	Water stewardship and incident response plans shall be *identified*.	Previously 2.4. Now all Site related criteria come first, followed by Catchment related criteria. Removal of definitions of Outcomes in the criterion language, since these are repeated in the Glossary. Note: add in guidance how these include maintenance of infrastructure. changed to identified
		1.3.2	Site water balance, including inflows, losses, and outflows shall be *mapped*.	Added to complement

				old 2.3.2
		1.3.3	Site water balance, including inflows, losses, and outflows shall be *quantified* including indication of annual variance in water usage rates shall be *quantified*.	Indicators combined with requirements listed in Guidance since these better cover each element of the criterion and remove repetition in the Guidance. Deleted rates
		1.3.4	Water quality of the site's water source(s), provided waters, effluent and receiving water bodies shall be *quantified,* including indication of annual high and low variances where this would be a threat to good water quality status for people or environment.	Additional requirement from Guidance around water quality. Added good water quality status for people and environment. modified language to include annual variance
		1.3.5	Potential sources of pollution shall be *identified*, including chemicals used or stored on site.	Additional requirement from Guidance around water quality.
		1.3.6	On-site Water-Related High Conservation Values shall be *identified*, including a description of their status.	Important Water-Related Areas now termed Water-Related High Conservation Values, and aligned with the HCV concept used in other Standards.
		1.3.7	Annual water-related costs, revenues, and a description or quantification of the social, environmental, or economic water-related value generated by the site shall be *identified* and used to inform the plan at 5.1.2.	Link between identifying these values and the assessing impact of implementation of the AWS Standard on these values made (link to 5.1.2). 'to the catchment' deleted since may be the site of beyond the catchment.
1.4	**Gather data on the**	1.4.1	The embedded water use of primary inputs, including quantity, quality and level	Previously 2.5. Moved to

	**site's indirect water use**, including: its primary inputs; the water use embedded in the production of those primary inputs and, (where they can be *identified*) the status of the waters at the origin of the inputs; and water used in out-sourced water-related services.		of water risk in catchment(s) of origin, shall be *quantified*	improve logical progression. Added an element of water quality measurement. Deleted identified.
		1.4.2	The embedded water use of outsourced services including quantity, quality and level of water risk in catchment(s) of origin, shall be quantified	Indicator rewritten to focus on the requirements of the Criterion. Removed "identified" as it is included in the "quantify" process. added quantity and quality to mirror 2.4.1
1.5 	**Gather water-related data for the catchment,** including: water governance, water quality, water balance and Water-Related High Conservation Values	1.5.1	Water governance initiatives shall be *identified*, including catchment plan(s), water-related public policies, major publicly-led initiatives under way, and relevant goals.	Previously 2.3. Moved up as it relates to Catchment level.
		1.5.2	All applicable water-related legal and regulatory requirements shall be *identified*, including legally-defined and stakeholder-verified customary water rights	Emphasis on stakeholder Engagement to identify customary water rights. Deleted: – where they exist – through engagement with affected stakeholders. reworded for ease of reading
		1.5.3	The catchment water-balance or scarcity figures shall be *quantified*, including indication of annual variance.	Emphasis on periods of scarcity added. Modified wording.
		1.5.4	Water quality, including physical, chemical, and biological status, of the catchment shall be *identified* with indication of annual high and low variances where this is a water-related challenge that would be a threat to good water quality status for people or environment.	Reworded. Cut "The physical, chemical, and biological status of the site's water source(s) shall be *identified*." and modified site's indicator for here.
		1.5.5	Water-Related High Conservation Values shall be *identified, including their status.*	Emphasis on stakeholder engagement to identify WHCVs, since these

				may be cultural features. Strike through is covered with adoption of HCV methodology.
		1.5.6	Existing and planned water-related infrastructure shall be *identified*, including condition and potential exposure to extreme events.	Added 'planned' infrastructure. Deleted "including through engagement with the catchment authority," this is for guidance.
		1.5.7	**Advanced indicator** Efforts by the site to support and undertake water-related data collection shall be *identified*.	Advanced Indicators moved to this criterion.
1.6 	**Understand current and future shared water challenges in the catchment**, by linking the water challenges *identified* by stakeholders with the site's water challenges.	1.6.1	Shared water challenges shall be identified, prioritized, and justified from the information gathered.	Separated out into 2 indicators, since the indicator covered 2 distinct aspects of the criterion. Criterion text edited. NOTE: Text removed is to be included in guidance. Added "social and environmental". added drivers component here. previous 2.6.2
		1.6.2	Future water issues shall be *identified*, including anticipated impacts and trends	New indicator added remaining language moved before stakeholder old 2.6.2
		1.6.3	Initiatives to address shared water challenges and future trends shall be *identified,* including how the site may participate	Added 'future trends' and 'efforts to address them' as stated in the criterion to ensure these aspects are addressed and assessed. Changed to make 2.6.2 stakeholder focused.

				consider template. Rewording to simplify and align with drafting rules.
		1.6.4	**Advanced <u>indicator</u>** Potential social <u>impacts from the site</u> shall be *identified*, resulting in a social <u>impact</u> assessment with a particular focus on water.	Advanced Indicators moved to this criterion.
1.7 	**Understand the <u>site</u>'s <u>water risks</u> and opportunities:** Based upon the status of the site, existing risk management plans and/or the issues and future risk trends identified in 2.6, assess and prioritize the water risks and opportunities affecting the site.	1.7.1	<u>Water risks</u> faced by the <u>site</u> shall be *identified,* including likelihood and severity of <u>impact</u> within a given timeframe, potential costs and value depletion, and prioritization of results.	Added text to criteria that was missing in draft 1. Reworded. Changed to *quantified*.
		1.7.2	<u>Water-related</u> opportunities shall be *identified*, including assessment and prioritization of potential savings and value creation.	Reworded to match drafting rules.
1.8 	**Understand best practice towards AWS outcomes:** the site determining sectoral best practices having a local, regional, or national relevance.	1.8.1	Relevant sector best practice for ~~volumetric~~ water efficiency ~~use~~ shall be *quantified*, including rationale for data source.	Moved entire criteria (previously 4.5) in to step 1. Delete 'according to relevant expertise' (awkward).
		1.8.2	Relevant sector best practice for water quality shall be *quantified*, including rationale for data source	Rewording to simplify and align with drafting rules.
		1.8.3	Relevant sector best practice for site maintenance of Water-Related High Conservation Values shall be *quantified*, including rationale for data source	Rewording to simplify and align with drafting rules.

Step 2: Commit and plan *Commit to be a responsible water steward and develop a Water Stewardship Plan*				**Notes on changes from AWS Standard version 1.0**
Intent: The organisation shall ensure there is sufficient leadership support, site authority, and allocated resources for the site to implement the AWS Standard. It focuses on how a site will improve its performance and the status of its catchment in terms of the AWS water stewardship outcomes. Step 2 links the information gathered in Step 1 to the actions implemented in Step 3, by describing who will do what and when.				Focus on old Step 3 within the Step language and reduce repetition with the Intent. Include Commit from old Step 1.
Criteria		**Indicators**		
2.1 	**Establish a leadership commitment on water stewardship** by having the senior-most manager in charge of water at the site, or if necessary a suitable individual within the corporate head office, sign and publicly disclose a commitment to water stewardship, its four outcomes, the implementation of the Standard, and the allocation of required resources.	2.1.1	A site statement OR corporate document shall be signed and publicly disclosed. The statement or document shall include the following commitments: - That the site will implement and disclose progress on water stewardship program(s) to achieve improvements in AWS water stewardship outcomes (good water governance, sustainable water balance, good water quality status and healthy status of Water-Related High Conservation Values) - That the site implementation will be aligned to and in support of existing catchment sustainability plans - That the site's stakeholders will be engaged in an open and transparent way - That the site will resource the implementation program.	Integrate Core Criteria from old Step 1. Simplified old Step 1 original Criteria around Commitment. Commitment at Site level or now at Corporate level, as appropriate.
		2.1.2	**Advanced Indicator** A statement that explicitly covers all requirements set out in Indicator 3.1.1 shall be signed by the organization's senior-most executive or governance body and publicly disclosed.	
2.2 	**Develop and document a plan to achieve and maintain legal and regulatory compliance**.	2.2.1	The plan to maintain compliance obligations for water and wastewater management shall be *identified*, including: - Identification of responsible persons - Process for submissions to regulatory agencies	Old 3.1
2.3  	**Create a water stewardship strategy and plan** including addressing risks (to and for the site), shared catchment	2.3.1	A water stewardship plan shall be created, to include a strategy and targets. For each target, record: - How it will be measured and monitored - Actions to achieve and maintain (or exceed) - Planned timeframes to achieve it - Financial budgets allocated for actions - Positions of persons responsible for actions and achieving targets	Old 3.2. Bring in requirements from Guidance and reduce repetition.

 	water challenges, and opportunities.		- The link between each target and the achievement of best practice to address shared water challenges and the AWS outcomes.	Clearer language and inclusion of 'monitoring'. Positions rather than names of personnel now required. Reintroduced from the original standard 3.2. This makes the link to Advanced Indicators, continual improvement and performance. Add shared water challenges to make link between this and the AWS Outcomes.
		2.3.2	**Advanced Indicator** The site's partnership/water stewardship activities with other sites within the same catchment (which may or may not be under the same organisational ownership) shall be *identified* and described	Moved from advanced criteria 3.6
		2.3.3	**Advanced Indicator** Site partnership/water stewardship activities with other sites in another catchment (either under same corporate structure or with another corporate site) shall be *identified*.	Moved from advanced criteria 3.6
		2.3.4	**Advanced Indicator** Stakeholder consensus shall be sought on the site's water stewardship plan. Consensus should be achieved on a least one target. A list of targets that have consensus and which stakeholders are involved shall be documented.	
2.4  	**Demonstrate the site's responsiveness and resilience to respond to water risks**	2.4.1	Water-related risk events shall be *identified* and incorporated into the site's incident and emergency response plans.	Old 3.3. Brought in requirement from Guidance and reduced repetition.

		2.4.2	**Advanced Indicator** A plan to mitigate or adapt to water risks associated with climate change projections shall be developed in co-ordination with relevant public-sector and infrastructure agencies.	
2.5 	**Communicate the water stewardship plan** with relevant stakeholders.	2.5.1	The water stewardship plan shall be communicated to stakeholders, to including how the water stewardship plan contributes to AWS outcomes.	New Criterion to include communication with stakeholders of the plan.

Step 3: Implement *Implement the site's stewardship plan and improve impacts*				**Notes on changes from AWS Standard version 1.0**
Intent: to ensure that the site is executing the plan outlined in Step 2, mitigating risks, and driving actual improvements in performance.				
Criteria		**Indicators**		
3.1 	**Comply with water-related legal and regulatory requirements and respect water rights.**	3.1.1	Implementation of the process verifying full legal and regulatory compliance shall be identified.	Changed to align with drafting rules.
		3.1.2	Measures identified to respect the use rights of others, where they exist, are implemented and *documented.*	Changed Criteria to align with planning rather than bring in new elements
3.2    	**Implement plan to achieve site water balance targets.**	3.2.1	Evidence of meeting annual water balance targets shall be *identified*.	Changed to align with drafting rules
		3.2.2	Where water scarcity is a shared water challenge, annual targets to increase the site's water use efficiency shall be implemented and *quantified*.	
		3.2.3	**Advanced indicator** The total volume of water voluntarily re-allocated [from site water savings] for social and environmental needs (in m^3 or Mm^3) shall be *quantified*.	Advanced Criterion 4.15 indicators moved here as they relate to water balance. Previously 4.15.1
		3.2.4	**Advanced indicator** Legally-binding documentation for the re-allocation of water to social or environmental needs shall be *identified*.	Advanced Criterion 4.15 indicators moved here as they relate to water balance. 4.15.2 previously
		3.2.5	**Advanced indicator** Contextually relevant management best practices receiving credible expertise validation in terms of water balance have been *identified.*	
		3.2.6	**Advanced indicator** Measurement-based evidence showing achieving contextual identified management best practices in [sustainable] water balance from a site-selected baseline shall be *quantified*.	Advanced Criterion 4.10 indicators moved here as they relate to water balance. Previously 4.10.1

		3.2.7	**Advanced indicator** Evidence from an appropriate range of stakeholders showing consensus that the site is seen as effectively achieving best practices to sustainable water balance in the catchment shall be *quantified*.	Advanced Criterion 4.10 indicators moved to here they relate to water balance. Previously 4.10.2
		3.2.8	**Advanced indicator** Evidence through regionally meaningful industry-specific benchmarking that the site's current performance falls within the top 10th percentile of what classifies as current best practice shall be *quantified* OR signed evidence of recognition by credible and relevant public-sector agency representatives that the site's current performance classifies as a leading practice within the region shall be provided.	Advanced Criterion 4.10 indicators moved here as they relate to water balance. Previously 4.10.3
3.3	**Implement plan to achieve a site water quality that does not present a risk to the social or environmental values at the site or catchment**	3.3.1	Evidence of progression towards water quality targets set in the water stewardship plan shall be *quantified*.	Changed to align with drafting rules.
		3.3.2	Where water quality stress is a shared water challenge, continual improvement of the site's effluent for the parameters of concern shall be *quantified*.	
		3.3.3	**Advanced indicator** Contextually relevant management best practices receiving credible expertise validation in terms of water quality from a site-selected baseline have been *identified.*	
		3.3.4	**Advanced indicator** Measurement-based evidence showing achievement of identified best practices in water quality shall be *quantified*.	Advanced Criterion 4.11 indicators moved here as they relate to water quality. Previously 4.11.1
		3.3.5	**Advanced indicator** Evidence from an appropriate range of stakeholders showing consensus that the site is seen as Effectively achieving best practices to good water quality status in the catchment shall be *quantified*.	Advanced Criterion 4.11 indicators moved here as they relate to water quality. Previously 4.11.1
		3.3.6	**Advanced indicator** Evidence through regionally meaningful industry-specific benchmarking that the site's current performance falls within the top 10th percentile of what classifies as current best practice shall be *quantified* OR signed evidence of recognition by credible and relevant public-sector agency representatives that the site's current performance classifies as a leading practice within the region shall be provided.	Advanced Criterion 4.11 indicators moved here as they relate to water quality. Previously 4.11.1

3.4 	**The site's Water-Related High Conservation Values** shall be maintained or improved.	3.4.1	Evidence of progression towards the restoration or conservation of the site's Water-Related High Conservation Values shall be *documented*.	Changed to align with drafting rules.
		3.4.2	**Advanced indicator** Evidence of completed restoration of non-functioning or severely degraded Water-Related High Conservation Values from a site-selected baseline date shall be *quantified*.	Advanced Criterion 4.12 indicators moved here as they relate to WHCV. Previously 4.12.1
		3.4.3	**Advanced indicator** Evidence from an appropriate range of stakeholders showing consensus that the site is seen as positively contributing to the healthy status of Water-Related High Conservation Values in the catchment shall be *quantified*.	Advanced Criterion 4.12 indicators moved here as they relate to WHCV. Previously 4.12.2
		3.4.4	**Advanced indicator** Evidence through credible expertise of the positive contribution of the restoration work shall be *quantified* OR validated evidence of positive recognition by credible and relevant public- sector agency representatives that the site's restoration effort classifies as a leading practice within the region shall be provided.	Advanced Criterion 4.12 indicators moved here as they relate to WHCV. Previously 4.12.3
3.5 	**Determine best practice towards AWS outcomes:** the site determining sectorial best practices having a local, regional, or national relevance.	3.5.1	Best practices in terms of water use relevant to the sector shall be *identified* according to relevant expertise.	Addition of "best practice" logic.
		3.5.2	Best practices in terms of water quality shall be *identified* according to relevant expertise.	
		3.5.3	Best practices in terms of the site's maintenance of Water-Related High Conservation Values shall be *identified* according to relevant expertise.	
		3.5.4	Best practices in terms of water use relevant to the sector shall be *quantified*.	
		3.5.5	Best practices in terms of water quality shall be *quantified*.	
		3.5.6	Best practices in terms of the site's maintenance of Water-Related High Conservation Values shall be *quantified*.	
		3.5.7	**Advanced indicator** Evidence of improvements in water governance capacity from a site-selected baseline date shall be *quantified*.	Advanced Criterion 4.13 indicators moved here as they relate to water governance. Previously 4.13.3

		3.5.8	**Advanced indicator** Evidence from an appropriate range of stakeholders showing consensus that the site is seen as positively contributing to the good water governance of the catchment shall be *quantified*.	Advanced Criterion 4.13 indicators moved here as they relate to water governance. Previously 4.13.3
		3.5.9	**Advanced indicator** Evidence that the site's contributions to good governance are recognized as positive by credible and relevant experts shall be *quantified* OR validated evidence of recognition by credible and relevant public-sector agency representatives that the site's contributions to good governance classifies as a leading practice within the region shall be provided.	Advanced Criterion 4.13 indicators moved here as they relate to water governance. Previously 4.13.3
		3.5.10	**Advanced indicator** A list of efforts to contribute to regionally-specific benchmarking and to spread best practices shall be *quantified*.	Advanced Criterion 4.14 indicators moved here as they relate to water governance. Previously 4.14.1
		3.5.11	**Advanced indicator** A list of collective action efforts, including the names of other entities involved and a description of the role played by the site shall be *quantified*.	Advanced Criterion 4.16 indicators moved here as they relate to water governance. Previously 4.16.1
		3.5.12	**Advanced indicator** Evidence of the *quantified* improvement that has resulted from the collective action since a site- selected baseline date shall be *quantified* and evidence from an appropriate range of stakeholders linked to the collective action (including both those perpetrating the action and those affected by the action) that the site is materially and positively contributing to the achievement of the collective action shall be *quantified*.	
3.6 	**Participate positively in catchment governance:**	3.6.1	Evidence that the site has participated in good catchment governance shall be *quantified*.	Changed to align with drafting rules.
		3.6.2	In catchments where water governance is identified as a shared water challenge, evidence of continual improvement or best practice shall be *quantified*.	
3.7 	**Maintain or improve indirect water use within the catchment:**	3.7.1	Evidence that indirect water use targets have been met shall be *quantified*.	Edited criteria 4.6 (now 3.7) per indirect water use breakout group suggestions paper.

  		3.7.2	Engagement with suppliers and service providers, as well as actions they have taken as a result of the site's engagement related to indirect water use, shall be *documented.*	
3.8  	**Provide access to safe drinking water, effective sanitation, and protective hygiene (WASH)** for all workers in all premises under the site's control.	3.8.1	The site's provision of appropriate access to safe drinking water, effective sanitation, and protective hygiene (WASH) shall be *quantified*.	Edited criteria 4.7 per WASH expert group's suggestions from AWS Forum. Changed to align with drafting rules.
		3.8.2	Evidence of any shared water rights and measures to respect the rights of others shall be *documented*.	Qualification removed '**(**Catchments with stakeholders who have an unmet human right to safe drinking water and sanitation)' and indicator changed to align with drafting rules. WASH is better covered under 4.8 and the indicator was too narrow to address 'respect water rights'.

		3.8.2	**Advanced indicator** A list of actions taken to provide stakeholders with access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene awareness shall be *identified*.	Advanced Criterion 4.17 indicators moved here as they relate to WASH Previously 4.13.1 Adjusted to include not just those within the catchment.
3.9 	**Engage with and notify the owners of any shared water-related infrastructure of any concerns** the site may have, in light of its risks and shared water challenges.	3.9.1	Individuals contacted, and the key messages relayed shall be *identified*.	Changed to align with drafting rules.

Step 4: Evaluate *Evaluate the site's performance.*				**Notes on changes from AWS Standard version 1.0**
Intent: to review a site's performance against the actions taken in Step 3, learn from the outcomes – both intended and unintended – and inform the next iteration of the site's water stewardship plan. This evaluation shall occur at least annually, but sites should consider more frequent evaluations.				
Criteria		**Indicators**		
4.1 	**Evaluate the site's performance** in light of its actions and targets from its water stewardship plan and demonstrate its contribution to achieving water stewardship outcomes.	4.1.1	Performance against targets in the site's water stewardship plan and the contribution to achieving water stewardship outcomes shall be *evaluated*.	
		4.1.2	The financial outcomes of the actions undertaken against the Water stewardship plan, including water-related costs, cost savings, and/or value creation shall be *evaluated*.	Link from 1.4.6 (now 1.3.6) to 4.1.2 made.
		4.1.3	The shared value benefits accrued by others in the catchment shall be *quantified*.	
		4.1.4	**Advanced indicator** A governance or executive-level review, including discussion of shared water challenges, water risks, and opportunities, and any water- related cost savings or benefits realized, and any relevant incidents shall be *identified*.	
4.2 	**Evaluate the impacts of water-related emergency incidents** (including extreme events), if any occurred, and determine the effectiveness of corrective and preventative measures.	4.2.1	A written annual review and (where appropriate) root-cause analysis of the year's emergency incident(s) shall be prepared and the site's response to the incident(s) shall be evaluated. Proposed preventative and corrective actions and mitigations against future incidents shall be included in the site's updated Plan.	

4.3 	**Evaluate <u>stakeholders</u> consultation feedback** regarding the <u>site</u>'s water stewardship performance, including the effectiveness of the <u>site</u>'s engagement process.	4.3.1	Consultation efforts with Stakeholders on the sites water stewardship performance shall be *identified*.	Revised - to be inclusive of efforts to acquire commentary where it is not possible (with documentation of effort and justification)
		4.3.2	Consultation efforts with Stakeholders on the effectiveness of the engagement process shall be *evaluated.*	
		4.3.2	**Advanced <u>indicator</u>** The <u>site</u>'s efforts to address <u>shared water challenges</u> shall be evaluated by stakeholders. This shall include <u>stakeholder</u> reviewing of the <u>site</u>'s efforts across all four <u>outcome</u> areas, and their suggestions for continual improvement.	
4.4 	**Evaluate and update the <u>site</u>'s water stewardship plan**, incorporating the information obtained from the evaluation process.	4.4.1	The <u>site</u>'s water stewardship plan shall be modified to incorporate any relevant information from the evaluations in this Step and these changes shall be i*dentified*.	

Step 5: Communicate and disclose *Communicate about water stewardship and disclose the site's stewardship efforts*				
Intent: to encourage transparency and accountability through communication of performance relative to commitments, policies, and plans. The disclosure of relevant information allows others to make informed opinions on a site's operations and tailor their involvement to suit.				
Criteria		**Indicators**		
5.1 	**Disclose water-related internal governance of the site's management**, including the positions of those accountable for legal compliance with water- related laws and regulations.	5.1.1	The site's water-related internal governance, including positions of those accountable for compliance with water- related laws and regulations shall be *identified*.	Criteria 5.1 and 5.2 amended to improve practice on Transparency.
		5.1.2	The sites water-related internal governance shall be *disclosed.*	
5.2    	**Disclose annual site water stewardship summary**, including: the relevant information about the site's annual water stewardship performance and results against the site's targets.	5.2.1	A summary of the site's water stewardship performance shall be *disclosed* at least annually.	
		5.2.2	Results of the site's performance against targets shall be *quantified* in this summary disclosure.	
		5.2.3	**Advanced indicator** The site's efforts to implement the AWS Standard shall be *disclosed* in the organization's annual report.	
		5.2.4	**Advanced indicator** Benefits to the site and stakeholders from implementation the AWS Standard shall be *quantified* in the organization's annual report.	Advanced Criterion eliminated and Advanced Indicators brought in where they fit under Core Criteria in 5.

5.3  	**Disclose efforts to collectively address shared water challenges,** including: shared water challenges and associated efforts to address them;	5.3.1	The site's shared water-related challenges and efforts made to address these challenges shall be publicly *disclosed.*	
		5.3.2	Efforts made by the site to engage stakeholders and coordinate and support public- sector agencies shall be *identified*.	
		5.4.1	Any site water-related compliance violations and associated corrections shall be disclosed.	
		5.4.2	Necessary corrective actions taken by the site to prevent future occurrences shall be identified.	
		5.4.3	Any site water-related violation that may pose material threat to human or ecosystem health shall be immediately communicated to relevant public agencies and publicly disclosed.	