CERTIFICATION REPORT

Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS)

Audit Number: AO-001747

WSAS WATER STEWARDSHIP ASSURANCE SERVICES

SITE DETAILS

Site: **Suntory Kyusyu Kumamoto Plant**

Address: 478 Hachimansui Kita-Amagi, Kashima town, Kami-Mashiki-Gun, 861-3104, Kumamoto, JAPAN

Contact Person: Atsuhiro Tsuji

AWS Reference Number: AWS-000187

Site Structure: Single Site

CERTIFICATION DETAILS

Certification status: Certified Platinum

Date of certification decision: 2025-Oct-30

Validity of certificate: 2028-Oct-29

AUDIT DETAILS

Audited Service(s): AWS Standard v2.0 (2019)

Audit Type(s): Re-Certification Audit

Audit Start Date: 2025-Sep-09

Audit End Date: 2025-Sep-12

Lead Auditor: Naoya Ogawa

Site Participants:

Ms. Sachiko Umei, Head Office, Sustainability Management Division
Mr. Atsuhiro Tsuji, General Manager, Sustainability Management Division, Head Office
Mr. Daisuke Iga, Suntory Kita Alps Shinano-no-Mori Water Plant (Observer)
Mr. Kazuyoshi Takenoshita, Suntory Kita Alps Shinano-no-Mori Water Plant (Observer)
Mr. Naoki Saegusa, Sustainability Management Division, Head Office
Mr. Takeshi Uekita, Administration Dept.
Mr. Kazuhisa Hosoda, Syrup Preparation Dept.
Mr. Seiji Hirooka, Administration Dept.
Ms. Sumiko Kobayashi, Integrated Management Team
Mr. Akira Jitsumatsu, Engineering Dept.
Mr. Shuji Takao, Plant Manager of Kyushu Kumamoto Plant
Mr. Yuuki Makado, Engineering Dept.
Mr. Daisuke Ito, Engenering Dept.

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ADDITIONAL INFO

Summary of Audit Findings: During the re-certification audit, no non-conformities and 5 observations were raised.

The audit team recommends re-certification of Suntory Spirits Limited Kyushu Kumamoto Plant at Platinum level.

Scope of Assessment: The scope of services covers the recertification audit for assessing conformity of Suntory Spirits Limited Kyushu Kumamoto Plant against the AWS International Water Stewardship Standard Version 2.

The Suntory Kumamoto plant is located at 478 Kita-Amagi, Kashima-cho, Kamimashiki-gun on the outskirts of Kumamoto. The plant became operational in 2003 and the site occupies 400,000 m2, with 262 employees. Suntory Kumamoto is a beverage manufacturer, with a wide-ranging portfolio of drinks under the Suntory brand: beer and happoshu (low malt beer), RTD (ready to drink) and soft drinks (including water).

The site obtains all of its raw water from 4 off-site wells (Well 5, 8, 9 & 15) and two on-site wells (Well 11 & 14). The incoming water goes through an external water processing facility, through one of three different processing routes, before entering the plant as: Brewery Water (BRW & MW), Pure Water (PW) or Mineral Water (MW). Water is also processed as cleaning water for production (CLW), with any processing water waste being used as WASH water (CTW). All wastewater is treated by the onsite wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) before being discharged into a regulating pond and ultimately into the nearby Tensui River. The Suntory Kumamoto plant sits within the groundwater catchment that has been formed by the Aso Volcano and contains large water reservoirs. Due to the volcano there are strata that allow groundwater to permeate and be stored, such as pyroclastic flow deposits, Togawa lava, gravel layer and new volcanic ash. The area around Mt. Aso is also one of the wettest areas in Japan.

The audit was conducted onsite on 9-12 September 2025.
The onsite site visit included the assessment of Suntory Kumamoto's water-related infrastructure such as wells, water tanks, production lines, wastewater treatment plant, waste storage, and IWRAs such as Natural Water Sanctuary Forest Aso, Winter Paddy Fields and Ukishima Shrine.

FINDINGS

NUMBER OF FINDINGS PER LEVEL

Observation	5

FINDING DETAILS

Finding No:	TNR-021175
Checklist Item No:	1.1.1
Status:	Open
Finding level:	Observation
Checklist item:	The physical scope of the site shall be mapped, considering the regulatory landscape and zone of stakeholder interests, including: - Site boundaries; - Water-related infrastructure, including piping network, owned or managed by the site or its parent organization; - Any water sources providing water to the site that are owned or managed by the site or its parent organization; - Water service provider (if applicable) and its ultimate water source; - Discharge points and waste water service provider (if applicable) and ultimate receiving water body or bodies; - Catchment(s) that the site affect(s) and is reliant upon for water.
Findings:	A clearer identification and delineation of the surface river catchment is missing.

Finding No:	TNR-020490
Checklist Item No:	1.2.1
Status:	Open
Finding level:	Observation
Checklist item:	Stakeholders and their water-related challenges shall be identified. The process used for stakeholder identification shall be identified. This process shall: - Inclusively cover all relevant stakeholder groups including vulnerable, women, minority, and Indigenous people; - Consider the physical scope identified, including stakeholders, representative of the site’s ultimate water source and ultimate receiving water body or bodies; - Provide evidence of stakeholder consultation on water-related interests and challenges; - Note that the ability and/or willingness of stakeholders to participate may vary across the relevant stakeholder groups; - Identify the degree of stakeholder engagement based on their level of interest and influence.
Findings:	Through stakeholder interviews by the auditor during audit, water-related challenges that were not listed in the site's stakeholder list were confirmed. These are not related to the site, therefore not shared water challenges. However, the site should list all challenges of stakeholders.

Finding No:	TNR-020492
Checklist Item No:	1.5.8
Status:	Open
Finding level:	Observation
Checklist item:	Advanced Indicator Efforts by the site to support and undertake catchment level water-related data collection shall be identified.
Findings:	The site should check whether authorities need additional catchment-level water-related data and, if so, consider whether there is additional catchment level water-related data the site can provide.

Finding No:	TNR-020491
Checklist Item No:	1.6.4
Status:	Open
Finding level:	Observation
Checklist item:	Advanced Indicator Potential water-related social impacts from the site shall be identified, resulting in a social impact assessment with a particular focus on water.
Findings:	The assessment evaluated the impact of groundwater volume on society. It is desirable to identify and assess other water-related social impacts.

Finding No:	TNR-021138
Checklist Item No:	5.3.1
Status:	Open
Finding level:	Observation
Checklist item:	A summary of the site’s water stewardship performance, including quantified performance against targets, shall be disclosed annually at a minimum.
Findings:	A summary of the site's water stewardship performance, including quantified performance against targets, is disclosed in the AWS Activity Report every year. However, for some plans, targets and performance were not clear.

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WSAS WATER STEWARDSHIP ASSURANCE SERVICES

Report Details

Report	Value
Report prepared by	Naoya Ogawa
Report approved by	Ozge Gokmen
Report approved on (Date)	23 October 2025

Surveillance

Proposed date for next audit
2026-Sep-09

Stakeholder Announcements

Date of publication	Location
05/08/2025	https://www.suntory.co.jp/company/csr/highlight/202508_1478.html
09/07/2025	Direct explanation to stakeholders

Catchment Information

Catchment Information

WSAS
2 Quality StreetNorth Berwick, EH39 4HW, UNITED KINGDOM

Catchment Name
The site relies only on groundwater, that's groundwater aquifer draining toward the Ariake Sea from the outer rim and foothills of Minamiaso, including the Mashiki, Nishihara, and Yamato areas. The surface water catchment is the Midorikawa River catchment.

Water Supply & Discharge Catchment
Water Supply & Discharge Catchment is the same as the one mentioned above.
The site draws groundwater from areas including Mashiki, Nishihara, and Yamato, within the area from the Minamiaso outer rim and foothills to the Ariake Sea.
The discharged water flows from the Tensui River, where the outlet is located, to the Yakata River, Kiyama River, Kase River, and Midori River, before finally flowing into the Ariake Sea.

Groundwater Aquifers
The site mainly pumps groundwater from thick, highly permeable strata formed by volcanic activity.
Rain that falls on the Aso crater rim seeps underground and is pumped downstream around the factory.

Catchment Water Service Providers
No Catchment Water Service Providers are used.

Catchment Features
The Kumamoto region experiences heavy rainfall throughout the year. According to the Kumamoto Prefecture Environmental Basic Guidelines, if global warming continues, precipitation is expected to increase, with heavy rain and short-duration heavy rains predicted to occur more frequently. While this reduces the likelihood of water shortages, it is believed that the risk of flooding and other water damage will increase.
In fact, there have been cases where power control panels for some of the site's wells have been flooded during heavy rain, necessitating stronger disaster prevention measures in preparation for future climate change.
Furthermore, in efforts to recharge groundwater in the watershed, urbanization and other factors have led to a decline in paddy fields, which have a high recharge capacity. Therefore, ensuring artificial recharge has become important in order to maintain the groundwater balance.
Furthermore, semiconductor-related companies are expanding upstream of the catchment, and these factories use large amounts of water, resulting in increased groundwater usage. This raises concerns that the groundwater balance may be disrupted, and the region is closely monitoring its impacts.
In the Ariake Sea, where the wastewater from the site ultimately flows, environmental standards (for COD, total nitrogen, and total phosphorus) have not been met the national standards in some areas, so further measures to reduce the impact according to the conditions of each sea area are necessary. Kumamoto Prefecture has environmental standards stricter than the national standards through ordinances, and the site has signed an agreement to set even stricter standards and is working to discharge wastewater at stricter standards.
The Kumamoto region is rich in groundwater, with 100% of the tap water for Kumamoto City, a population of approx. 740,000, coming from groundwater. There are also many springs, such as the pond at Ukishima Shrine, which is IWRA near the factory.
Subsurface water from the outer rim of Mt. Aso is used throughout the Kumamoto region, and there is no inter-basin transfers.
The climate is not arid/semi-arid/tropical.
The region is not dominated by any particular water use (intensive agriculture, heavy industry, forest, etc.).

Suntory Kumamoto Catchment Map.png

Client Description and Site Details

Client/Site Background

Site location
478 Hachimansui, Kita-amagi, Kashima-machi, Kamimashiki-gun, Kumamoto 861-3104
Japan

Surroundings
The area around the factory has the characteristics of an industrial park, and is home to several other companies.
The factory is located in Kashima Town, known for its abundant spring water, and is dotted with spring ponds such as Ukishima and waterside parks. With an abundance of pure water sources, the natural environment is so beautiful that it has been selected as one of Kumamoto's 100 famous water sources. Kashima Town is also a thriving agricultural region, with idyllic landscapes of expansive fields.
There are also residential areas, and the factory is located close to the living areas of local residents. Cultural and historical sites such as Idera Kofun are dotted among the residential areas, making it an area where history and lifestyle coexist in harmony.

What the site produces
The site is the industry's first hybrid factory producing both beer and soft drinks. Its main products include beers such as The Premium Malt's, RTDs (chuhai), Suntory Tennensui (Aso Natural Mineral Water), and soft drinks (oolong tea, etc.).
The production process is as follows:
< Beer Production Process>
Brewing → Fermentation → Storage → Filtration → Canning Line
< Soft Drink Production Process>
Ingredient Blending → Sterilization → Filling → Packaging
Boilers and chillers are used for heating and cooling during the production process. Cooling towers circulate water to cool the chiller equipment.

The water-related infrastructure
As there is no water or sewage infrastructure around the factory, all water used comes from groundwater (well water). Water pumped from the well is transported through underground pipes to the factory's water treatment process.
In the water treatment process, six types of water are produced to suit the purpose of each process and supplied to each production process.
The water treatment equipment is regularly cleaned and regenerated, so a large amount of water is used.
The water used in each process is classified into product water, water used to clean and sterilize production equipment, water to cool equipment, etc.
In energy-related facilities, pure water is used to create steam in boiler equipment. Water is also used as equipment cooling water in refrigerators and air compressors, and is circulated in cooling towers.
Wastewater used in each process is classified into three systems based on the level of contamination and organic matter concentration:
• Wastewater not requiring treatment
• Wastewater requiring treatment
• High-concentration wastewater
These wastewaters are sent through their respective pipes to the wastewater treatment process, where the three types of wastewater are blended and treated at various locations.
Treated water is constantly monitored by automatic meters to ensure it meets discharge standards before being released into the river (Tenshui River).
The site also collects some of the rainwater that falls on the factory. Water that falls on the warehouse roof is stored in an underground tank and used as cooling water for equipment and for outdoor sprinklers. Rainwater that cannot be collected flows through a stormwater gutter to a rainwater collection basin, where it is monitored for pH, conductivity, and temperature. If it meets discharge standards, it is discharged via a balancing pond to the same river (Tenshui River) as the wastewater outfall.
If the discharge standards are not met, the shutoff valve in the stormwater basin is closed and the water is sent to the wastewater treatment system. Furthermore, if water overflows from the shut-off valve and flows into the regulating pond, the shut-off valve on the regulating

pond will be closed to prevent it from flowing into the river.
Firefighting water is used to clean equipment and is stored in underground water tanks, one on the north and one on the south side of the factory.
Other wastewater is treated in five septic tanks installed within the factory, and the discharged water from the septic tanks is sent to the treatment system, where it is treated again in the same way as other wastewater, before being released into the river under monitoring by automatic instruments.

Where the wastewater and stormwater are discharged
The discharge point for wastewater and stormwater is the Tensui River. The Tensui River is about 3m wide. Upstream, there are farms, golf courses, and other rivers. Downstream, the river joins the Yakata River, Kiyama River, Kase River, and Midori River before flowing into the Ariake Sea.

A short description of the site
Completion year: 2003
Site area: Approximately 400,000 m2
Building area: Approximately 60,000 m2
Number of employees: 262 people

Kumamoto Plant Map.png

Summary of Shared Water Challenges

Summary of Shared Water Challenges
There are no currently apparent shared water challenges for this catchment.
The site focuses on addressing the following two future risks:
- Depletion of groundwater and freshwater resources
- Water pollution of the Tensui River due to wastewater

0.0.1 Water Source & Discharge Locations

0.01	*Have any water source or discharge locations been visited during the audit, if so, which and where? If none were visited, please provide justification.*	Yes
Comment	Wells owned by the site and discharge point to Tensui River were visited.	

1 STEP 1: GATHER AND UNDERSTAND

1.1 *Gather information to define the site's physical scope for water stewardship purposes, including: its operational boundaries; the water sources from which the site draws; the locations to which the site returns its discharges; and the catchment(s) that the site affect(s) and upon which it is reliant.*

1.1.1 *The physical scope of the site shall be mapped, considering the regulatory landscape and zone of stakeholder interests, including:*
- Site boundaries;
- Water-related infrastructure, including piping network, owned or managed by the site or its parent organization;
- Any water sources providing water to the site that are owned or managed by the site or its parent organization;
- Water service provider (if applicable) and its ultimate water source;
- Discharge points and waste water service provider (if applicable) and ultimate receiving water body or bodies;
- Catchment(s) that the site affect(s) and is reliant upon for water.

Obs.

Comment

The site has supplied a map that outlines the location of the site and any water related infrastructure surrounding it. The Kumamoto plant utilise two on-site wells: well 11 & 14 as well as four off-site wells: 5, 8, 9 & 15. The map lists four wells, discharging point to Tensui river, as well as the floating island spring pond (Ukishima pond), which are considered IWRAs.
The site only receives water from the two on-site and four off-site wells and receives no municipal water. The audit team had view of a 'Water usage analysis' spreadsheet, which summaries water extraction rates across all 6 wells and each month. The evidence maps the location of all production wells and their pipework back the site as well as the pre-production water treatment.
In the another map, the red line marks the watershed that feeds the factory, the Institute for Water Science* based on the comment from Kumamoto University Professor. Kashima, Mashiki, and Mifune are the main towns surrounding the plant and are the Local Authorities. The plant is situated in the crossroad of all three. The site has to report water use to Kashima town, and the other two are related local authority stakeholders. Regulatory boundaries have been mapped. The another map is showing the river framework for discharged water, Tensui river -> Yakata river -> Kiyama river -> Kase river. The Kase River joins the Midori River near its mouth and flows into the Ariake Sea, which is the final receiving body for the post-production treated wastewater.
*The Institute for Water Science is the basic research division of the Suntory Group.
The another map shows the names and location of effluent discharge points. There are 3 types of effluent network, blue line is untreated wastewater, red network water used for WASH, purple line is post-production wastewater. Light blue area is the WWTP. Green line is network for washing PET bottles and for sterilising the production line between batches, this joins up with red and goes to the WWTP. The storm water piping and discharge point, as well as the location and piping of the septic tank, are also shown. Storm water is discharged off-site after water quality checks. The treated water from the septic tanks joins the red line and is treated again at the WWTP with other wastewater before being discharged off-site.

The surface water catchment is Midorikawa River catchment.

1.2 *Understand relevant stakeholders, their water related challenges, and the site's ability to influence beyond its boundaries.*

1.2.1	*Stakeholders and their water-related challenges shall be identified. The process used for stakeholder identification shall be identified. This process shall:* *- Inclusively cover all relevant stakeholder groups including vulnerable, women, minority, and Indigenous people;* *- Consider the physical scope identified, including stakeholders, representative of the site's ultimate water source and ultimate receiving water body or bodies;* *- Provide evidence of stakeholder consultation on water-related interests and challenges;* *- Note that the ability and/or willingness of stakeholders to participate may vary across the relevant stakeholder groups;* *- Identify the degree of stakeholder engagement based on their level of interest and influence.*	Obs.
Comment	Stakeholder engagement is mainly the responsibility of the Kumamoto plant team, but the Sustainability Management Division in Tokyo and the Institute for Water Science in Kyoto also engage with site-specific stakeholders such as Academia and also the farmers for the Winter Paddy Inundation Project. The stakeholders and their water related concerns have been recorded in a spreadsheet, which is included in the indicator tab in the evidence spreadsheet. Using the "Stakeholder Selection Table," all stakeholders that are considered to be applicable are listed. Stakeholders have been included from the following groups: local communities, agricultural producers, fisheries, academia, administration (public sector), enterprises and suppliers. Stakeholder groups such as vulnerable, minority, and Indigenous people do not exist in the catchment. (Women are included in all kinds of stakeholders.) Kumamoto Prefecture are responsible for 'water issues' and issue well licenses and monitor the groundwater levels. Suntory reports their water use volume to the prefecture. Discharge water data is reported to the Public Health Centre of Kumamoto Prefecture. The Ukishima Shrine Priest by the floating island (Ukishima) pond was listed as a stakeholder. The shrine is next two off-site wells, a spring and the pond, and the Shrine Priest is clearly familiar to the site. Stakeholders related to Natural Water Sanctuary Forest Aso and Winter Paddy Fields, having conducted a lot of activities together for a long time, are also listed. In addition, suppliers are also listed as stakeholder, as engagement from Suntory for all suppliers related to water use reduction has been conducted. The stakeholder list records their level of influence and how the site engages with them. However, through stakeholder interviews by the auditor during audit, water-related challenges that were not listed in the site's stakeholder list were confirmed. These are not related to the site, therefore not shared water challenges. However, the site should list all challenges of stakeholders.	
1.2.2	*Current and potential degree of influence between site and stakeholder shall be identified, within the catchment and considering the site's ultimate water source and ultimate receiving water body for wastewater.*	Yes
Comment	The stakeholders and their water related concerns have been recorded in a spreadsheet. The current and potential degree of influence of stakeholders are identified. It also records the potential impact to the site from the stakeholders. The stakeholders represent the site's ultimate water source and the ultimate receiving water body for wastewater.	
1.3	*Gather water-related data for the site, including: water balance; water quality, Important Water-Related Areas, water governance, WASH; water-related costs, revenues, and shared value creation.*	
1.3.1	*Existing water-related incident response plans shall be identified.*	Yes

Comment

The site has provided a procedure 'Emergency procedure for chemical spills' from Effluent Treatment Facility (WWTP) at Kumamoto Plant. The site confirmed that it addresses the following:
- chemical contamination and chemical spills of effluent and production water.
- rainwater contamination
- monitor water quality of rainwater, storm drains/runoff water into holding tanks, tested and then discharged.

Annual training on how to respond to emergencies are conducted. Training plans are created and conducted annually. Training records are kept. For example, an emergency training exercise was conducted on 30 August 2024, simulating a drainage tank leak. On-site training is also conducted, and those who were unable to attend reconfirm the procedure manual. They tested the rainwater contamination sensors periodically.
The factory is located on a hill and the risk of flood is extremely low, so incident response plan for flood is not necessary. Off-site wells are located in low-lying areas, but the well itself is raised and installed.

1.3.2 *Site water balance, including inflows, losses, storage, and outflows shall be identified and mapped*

Yes

Comment

The site has supplied three maps/schematics: a map containing the pipe run from all the wells (incoming water), a schematic of the water treatment facility outside the plant and how it is distributed to the different production process and water uses and finally a site diagram that includes the WWTP and how the discharged water goes into the holding pond, before being discharged into the river. The evidence also contains an additional flow diagram, with a simplified water balance covering the well area, water supply area, production process and drainage area. The flow diagram records losses.

The site has supplied a map containing the pipe runs from all the wells, going into the site. Each well has a clearly marked inlet, as observed during the site tour. The raw water is treated outside and is segregated at the incoming point and sent to a production category storage tank and put through the appropriate treatment process for the production category. The production categories are as follows: CLW, WW, PW, BRW, MW and CTW.

CLW: Cleaning water in Production
WW: Brewery water for beer
PW: Pure water
BRW: Brewery water, different process
MW: Mineral water
CTW: WASH water
The site has adequately mapped and identified the water balance components.

Also, some of the rainwater is stored in tanks and used to cool machinery and water plants.

1.3.3 *Site water balance, inflows, losses, storage, and outflows, including indication of annual variance in water usage rates, shall be quantified. Where there is a water-related challenge that would be a threat to good water balance for people or environment, an indication of annual high and low variances shall be quantified.*

Yes

Comment

The site has produced a simplified graph that summarises the water balance for the site. The site produced a simplified water balance diagram for 2024, which is based on monthly data for water use on site. The monthly data sheets provide data on seasonal variance.

Most of water loss comes from disqualified water for products and water for washing filters. They are working to reduce this.
Unknown loss is only 1% which includes evaporation, water in sludge, etc.

Rainwater harvesting volume is also recorded.

1.3.4 *Water quality of the site's water source(s), provided waters, effluent and receiving water bodies shall be quantified. Where there is a water-related challenge that would be a threat to good water quality status for people or environment, an indication of annual, and where appropriate, seasonal, high and low variances shall be quantified.*

Yes

Comment

The site has a comprehensive water quality monitoring system in place for all incoming well water, effluent at the WWTP and the receiving water body.

The site monitors the chemical and biological quality of incoming water from the 6 active wells. Samples are taken weekly and are tested in-house against chemical and biological parameters. Samples are sent externally monthly and annually for third-party testing and verification. Results from the well analysis schedule were presented.

The site has a sizeable WWTP onsite, with controls in place that constantly monitor (24/7) the physical, chemical and biological state of the site's wastewater. If standard values are exceeded, then an alarm goes off, and the wastewater is stopped from being discharged. The monitoring screenshots supplied supplied the latest screenshot (June 2025). The site monitors the water quality of discharge water just before being discharged and after the discharge point, third party tests are conducted every three months and the latest test reports were supplied as screenshots.
More detailed analysis is conducted twice a year and the site shared a results screen during the audit.

Voluntary inspections of the septic tanks are outsourced once a week. e.g. Inspection record on 3/9/2025

The map shows the sampling points (downstream) of the receiving water body; testing is conducted twice a year by a third-party testing body. The page also contains test results as well as pictures of the sampling process and sampling locations.

The site was complying with regulations and no violations.

1.3.5 *Potential sources of pollution shall be identified and if applicable, mapped, including chemicals used or stored on site.*

Yes

Comment

The site has supplied a Chemicals Inventory and have confirmed that they only have PRTR Class 1 chemicals onsite, no Class 2 are stored. A Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) is a national or regional environmental database or inventory of hazardous chemical substances and pollutants released to air, water and soil, and transferred off-site for treatment or disposal.

The table shown excludes the raw materials for flavouring, and it also shows very low volumes of chemicals (kg). The site does not have a chemical store on-site and only small quantities are stored on site. The site has a system in place to check out chemicals before use.

The site also uses small amount of oils for machines. There is a list of purchased oils. Use volume of oils is not precisely understood, but when one container was used up, another one will be purchased.

Storage and use areas of chemical and oils were mapped.

1.3.6 *On-site Important Water-Related Areas shall be identified and mapped, including a description of their status including Indigenous cultural values.*

Yes

Comment

The site considered onsite wells as onsite IWRAs. However, according to the AWS Guidance, onsite wells are not applicable as IWRA. Therefore, there is no onsite IWRA. This was confirmed during site tour.

1.3.7 *Annual water-related costs, revenues, and a description or quantification of the social, cultural, environmental, or economic water-related value generated by the site shall be identified and used to inform the evaluation of the plan in 4.1.2.* Yes

Comment: The site lists water costs in 2024, for their water projects, including a cost breakdown and the actual cost. The water projects are:
- Wells and irrigation water
- Wastewater treatment
- Groundwater resource recharge (forest maintenance)

Revenues are from sales of their products.

The site has also quantified 'Shared Value' value table, breaking down the economic, social and environmental value of their projects to date.
In 2024, the site provided bottled water to Mifune Town which was hit by floods. The site also provided bottled water to local groups and activities.
The site provided Mizuiku (water education) to local schools.
The site also exhibits at environmental festivals around the plant to promote Bottle to Bottle recycling activity.

1.3.8 *Levels of access and adequacy of WASH at the site shall be identified.* Yes

Comment: The nature of drinking water and sanitation facilities on site was established through the site tour as being to a very high standard.
A map of WASH facilities within the plant including restrooms and drinking water provision was submitted.

1.4 *Gather data on the site's indirect water use, including: its primary inputs; the water use embedded in the production of those primary inputs the status of the waters at the origin of the inputs (where they can be identified); and water used in out-sourced water-related services.*

1.4.1 *The embedded water use of primary inputs, including quantity, quality and level of water risk within the site's catchment, shall be identified.* Yes

Comment: The site presented suppliers and inputs list.
There is no supplier of primary inputs within the site's catchment. It was found that there was one supplier within the catchment, but the input volume was very small and not primary input.

1.4.2 *The embedded water use of outsourced services shall be identified, and where those services originate within the site's catchment, quantified.* Yes

Comment: Laundry services and clean service (mats rental) were identified as outsourced services within the catchment. The site asked them to provide the amount of water used per one piece, and then multiplied this by the quantity outsourced to calculate the amount of water used.
There is no designated car wash survice. They wash their cars occasionally.

1.4.3 *Advanced Indicator*
The embedded water use of primary inputs in catchment(s) of origin shall be quantified. Yes

Comment: The site has assessed all the raw materials utilised by the site and undertaken a water footprint analysis, looking at the embedded green and blue water that has gone into the production. They have calculated the amount of Green/BlueWater used in raw materials at the Kyushu Plant in 2024 based on The Food and Agricultural Organisation of the UN (FAO). This has been undertaken by the quantity used in all raw materials of processed products (%). The table lists the m3/ton of green and blue water of raw materials, as well as the country of origin, of items.

1.5 *Gather water-related data for the catchment, including water governance, water balance, water quality, Important Water-Related Areas, infrastructure, and WASH*

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 to help inform site of possible opportunities for water stewardship collective action.*

Yes

Comment

The site has identified the following water governance initiatives:
- Watershed Planning Strategy: Kumamoto Prefecture Groundwater Conservation Ordinance (Local Regulation). This encourages companies to monitor the volume of water use and monitor water quality, forest management for saving water.
Kumamoto Region Groundwater Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan and Action Plan will be revised in 2025.

Important public sector-led initiatives related to factories:
- Kumamoto Prefectural Environment and Life Department, Environment Bureau, Environmental Establishment Prefectural Promotion Division.
- Kumamoto Groundwater Foundation. www.kumamotogwf.org.jp

1.5.2 *Applicable water-related legal and regulatory requirements shall be identified, including legally-defined and/or stakeholder-verified customary water rights.*

Yes

Comment

The site has listed the Water-related Legal Requirements of Suntory Kyushu Kumamoto Factory in a table. It lists what a regulation covers, the details of the regulation, the actions that the factory have to undertake and how it is recorded. The legal and regulatory requirements have been collated under the following general headings:
- Generation of sewage (production wastewater)
- Generation of sewage (domestic wastewater).
- Noise generation
- Generation of vibrations
- Generation of foul odours /Use of ammonia.
- Use of (underground) water/Subsidence/Groundwater Contamination
There is an agreement between Suntory and Kumamoto Prefecture on groundwater use volume and quality of water, based on the Kumamoto Prefecture Groundwater Conservation Ordinance.
The Engineering Department undertakes all the reporting and is responsible for regulatory oversight.

1.5.3 *The catchment water-balance, and where applicable, scarcity, shall be quantified, including indication of annual, and where appropriate, seasonal, variance.*

Yes

Comment

The year-to-year fluctuation of the water balance calculated by the water cycle model constructed for the Kumamoto area was shown. The amount of groundwater flowing into the Togawa lava (groundwater aquifer) is estimated to be about 280 million tons per year, although there are slight fluctuations depending on changes in precipitation.
Compared to the amount of groundwater that Suntory Kumamoto draws, the amount of water is very abundant. The main aquifer in the Kumamoto area Water circulation system cantered on Togawa lava.
It also shows seasonal fluctuations in the water balance. Reflecting the high amount of rainfall from June to August, the amount of groundwater flowing into the Togawa lava also changes slightly. The amount of water throughout the year is abundant.
Future Supply and Demand Forecasts. According to the 3rd phase of the Movement Plan (2019~2024) based on the Kumamoto Area Comprehensive Groundwater Conservation and Management Plan prepared by Kumamoto Prefecture. The amount of recharge is expected to decrease with changes in land use, and according to the Groundwater Conservation Ordinance, Measures such as requiring those who are permitted to collect groundwater are required to take recharge measures according to the amount of groundwater extracted. The 4th phase of the Movement Plan is being prepared by Kumamoto Prefecuture in 2025.
The calculation was updated in 2024.

1.5.4 *Water quality, including physical, chemical, and biological status, of the catchment shall be identified, and where possible, quantified. Where there is a water-related challenge that would be a threat to good water quality status for people or environment, an indication of annual, and where appropriate, seasonal, high and low variances shall be identified.*

Yes

Comment

The site undertakes catchment water quality monitoring, for the physical, chemical and biological conditions of the sites water source. It has been monitored every year since Heisei 29 (2017), but there is no change in water quality in rivers.

There are a number of springs located within the immediate catchment of the factory; they have monitored four of them. As there has been no change for almost 20 years, this monitoring may be stopped in 2025. A map of catchment locations where the prefecture monitors water quality was supplied and the site has access to that data. The latest data is from 2023. The site has also access to the data supplied by Kashima Town Waterworks Bureau.
The site monitors all the off-site wells and has water quality data available for those locations, sample test data and testing schedule information was supplied. Microbiology tests are conducted every Monday and Wednesday, Chemistry (pH, hardness, conductivity, turbidity) tests are conducted every Thursday, as well as the elements (Na, Mg, Ca, K). For the surrounding spring water, trends in conductivity and turbidity are observed once a month.

1.5.5 *Important Water-Related Areas shall be identified, and where appropriate, mapped,and their status assessed including any threats to people or the natural environment, using scientific information and through stakeholder engagement.*

Yes

Comment

The site has made five types of their catchment IWRAs 'Priority Management Areas for Water Management':
- Approximately 420 hectares of "Natural Water Santuaryt Aso" in the water source recharge area of the upstream area of the Kyushu Kumamoto Plant
- Approx. 11 hectares of paddy rice field for "Winter Paddy Inundation Business" in the Tsumori district of Mashiki-cho.
- Ukishima (floating island) Shrine with spring water pond located near the Kyushu Kumamoto Plant
- water discharging point to Tensui river
The current status of the IWRAs has been defined in terms of how they are being preserved and managed.

The forest in the recharge area of the Kyushu Kumamoto Plant is important for long-term water conservation, and the site would like to maintain and preserve as much area as possible. Since this area is judged to be important to the Company and its stakeholders from environmental and economic perspectives, it has been designated as a priority water-related management area. The site is engaged in forest maintenance activities to improve the function of ground-water recharge. In 2024, in order to improve the ground-water recharge function, thinning of about 5.07 ha and developing of 1014m of working road were carried out in the "Natural Water Sanctuary Aso".
In the Tsumori area of Mashiki Town, with the cooperation of local farmers, the "Winter Paddy Inundation" is held every year from November - March after the harvest, aiming to improve biodiversity in the paddy field and the groundwater recharge function by winter inundation.
There is no survey data on water quality at Ukishima Shrine, and the company cannot conduct its own surveys because the land belongs to another owner (shrine), but it is known that the amount of garbage has been decreasing as a result of cleaning activities. In response to this, the frequency of cleaning has been reduced from 12 times a year to 6 times a year. There are also irregularly taken photographs of the past and the current situation. The site plans to continue to take photographs.
In addition, discharging point were also designated as IWRA. The water quality of the water discharge point is regularly monitored by the company.

1.5.6 *Existing and planned water-related infrastructure shall be identified, including condition and potential exposure to extreme events.*

Yes

Comment

The site does not rely on any public water-related infrastructure, as it extracts all of its own water and has a significant WWTP on-site. The indicator asks the site to provide a summary of the water infrastructure in the catchment, as it could be a catchment water risk as well as a catchment shared water challenge. There is a 70% sewerage coverage rate within the Kumamoto Prefecture and Municipalities in the prefecture are developing sewage treatment facilities in line with the Kumamoto Domestic Wastewater Treatment Concept 2016.
In the neighbouring Kashima town, each household has their own well, but they introduced a water supply system in one area of the town as the town is expanding and this is considered a new infrastructure. The site has provided links to the Kashima Town Public Sewerage Business Management Strategy and the Kashima Town Simple Water Supply Business Management Plan.

1.5.7 *The adequacy of available WASH services within the catchment shall be identified.*

Yes

Comment

The site has reviewed available WASH services within the Kumamoto Prefecture and data has been collated for the towns in the Prefecture. This includes data on access to sewerage and water supply coverage. The tables contain data from Japan, Kumamoto Prefecture and individual towns within the Prefecture.
Municipalities in the prefecture are developing sewage treatment facilities in line with the Kumamoto Domestic Wastewater Treatment Concept 2016.
The coverage rate for drinking water is 89.5% in Kumamoto Prefecture and 2.2% in Kashima Town, data from 2024. In Kashima town the water supply coverage is almost 0% as they obtain all their water from own wells, with an exception of only one simple water system that was build in 2022 in a new housing complex.
The 'sewerage treatment population penetration rate by prefecture' map is for the whole of Japan, and the sewerage penetration rate for Kashima Town is 90.9%.

1.5.8 *Advanced Indicator*
Efforts by the site to support and undertake catchment level water-related data collection shall be identified.

Obs.

Comment

The site has supplied data to the Kumamoto Groundwater Foundation and a report of water use form wells (April - March) from Suntory was supplied to Kumamoto Prefecture, in line with the requirements of the municipality.
Extract from the report on the 'Implementation Status of the Groundwater Use Rationalization Plan' submitted to Kumamoto Prefecture (28/4/2025) and water extraction volume report and and groundwater rationalisation and recharge volume to Kashima Town (11/2023-10/2024).
Provision of findings from the Institute of Water Science (Water Balance Calculation Results) to Kumamoto Prefecture (25/7/2023)
There is a complex set of calculations behind the Winter Paddy Inundation Project on measuring the recharge rate from flooded paddy fields, to establish the absorption rate. The site has submitted data from the Winter Paddy Inundation Project to Kashima Town. The site is also collecting data on groundwater recharge rates in the area of Natural Water Sanctuary forests protected by Suntory. Describing a reference of the formula for groundwater recharge rates in the forest areas, Kumamoto Prefecture.

In 2024-2025, the site only submitted data of water use volume from their own wells to relevant authorities. According to the AWS Guidance, "A key stewardship action would be for the site to offer to assist the relevant authorities to do their mandated work." Therefore, the site should check whether authorities need additional catchment-level water-related data and, if so, consider whether there is additional catchment level water-related data the site can provide.

1.5.9 *Advanced Indicator*
The adequacy of WASH provision within the catchments of origin of primary inputs shall be identified.

Yes

Comment

The Suntory Group joined Sedex, the ethical trade organisation working with businesses to improve working conditions in global supply chains, in June 2019. And request that their suppliers either join Sedex or complete as self-assessment questionnaire. Suntory uses Sedex on their primary suppliers but not secondary suppliers. The company approach to sustainable procuring can be accessed here:
https://www.suntory.co.jp/company/csr/soc_procurement/#TitleL03_titleM02
Suntory are strengthening management with suppliers through Sedex Information to understand risks related to water access and sanitation rights in local communities. They use questions in Sedex to confirm various pollution risks (soil, rivers, etc.), water consumption, wastewater management, management of water quality impacts on local areas, etc. due to supplier operations.
The amount of main raw materials used was identified with malt being the most commonly used. The main production areas of malt were identified against the ""WASH Indicators"" in the ""White Paper on World Children 2024"" published by UNICEF, and the WASH situation in the main malt producing countries was identified as follows:
Malt: Canada (99% low end basic drinking water service, 99% minimum basic sanitation service), Czech Republic (100% of low-end basic drinking water service, 99% of minimum basic sanitation service)
The Suntory Group has contracted part of the coffee supply with Bau Farm, one of the Brazil's leading specialty coffee farms located in the Cerrado district of Minas Gerais, Brazil. The farm has obtained international certifications such as the Rainforest Alliance and UTZ and has received a very high reputation for its thorough quality control and working environment, coffee from Bau Farm may be used in Kyushu P.
In Uganda, a coffee-producing country, ESG initiatives have begun from fiscal year 2022. People used to go to the river to draw water, which they then boiled and disinfected before using, so they distributed household water treatment filters.

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 and prioritized from the information gathered.*

Yes

Comment

After reconsidering the shared water challenges, the site determined that there are no currently apparent shared water challenges for this catchment. Stakeholder interviews also confirmed that, while each stakeholder has their own challenges, there are no shared water challenges with the site.
However, there are common regional risks, such as a decrease in groundwater and a deterioration in river water quality in the future. Therefore, the site focuses on addressing the following two points:
- Depletion of groundwater and freshwater resources: Priority 1
- Water pollution of the Tensui River due to wastewater: Priority 2

1.6.2 *Initiatives to address shared water challenges shall be identified.*

Yes

Comment - Depletion of groundwater and freshwater resources: the site submits their pumped water volume to the Kumamoto Prefectural Environment Department, as they monitor groundwater levels. Kumamoto Prefecture is carrying out initiatives such as water conservation awareness campaigns, promoting rainwater utilization, demanding water resource conservation activities that exceed groundwater usage, and water environment education. In response, the site is working to reduce water consumption, conduct water resource conservation activities at the Natural Water Sanctuary Forest Aso and Winter Paddy Fields, and provide Mizuiku (water education).
- Water pollution of the Tensui River due to wastewater: Measurement of water quality regulations (pH, BOD, SS, E. coli group) through laws and agreements. Kumamoto Prefecture has enacted an initiative to set effluent standards that are stricter than the law, and the site continues to comply with these standards.
The site actively undertakes initiatives to address both potential shared water challenges. Please refer to indicator 1.5.5 for information on the groundwater recharge projects undertaken by the site. The site has set much stricter limits to the WWTP discharge, ensuring clean wastewater is discharged into the Tensui River.
"Initiatives" are identified in the stakeholder list.

1.6.3 *Advanced Indicator*
Future water issues shall be identified, including anticipated impacts and trends

Yes

Comment As stated in 1.6.1, the site identified future water issues as follows:
- Depletion if groundwater and freshwater resources
- Water pollution of the Tensui River due to wastewater

Several semiconductor-related companies are being constructed not within the site's catchment but in the neighboring catchment, raising concerns about groundwater levels throughout the Kumamoto region. Kumamoto Prefecture conducted a simulation of future groundwater use based on current trends in 2025. The results indicated that the groundwater level around the Semiconductor Technopark may fall by up to 1 meter, but that this would have no impact on downstream areas. The site has received these results.

1.6.4 *Advanced Indicator*
Potential water-related social impacts from the site shall be identified, resulting in a social impact assessment with a particular focus on water.

Obs.

Comment The site has undertaken a social impact assessment, with a focus on water and their impact on groundwater levels. As a result of the impact assessment, based on the water cycle model developed by Suntory, Professor Shimada confirmed that the impact on the water environment such as spring water in the surrounding area is very small.
The assessment evaluated the impact of groundwater volume on society. It is desirable to identify and assess other water-related social impacts.

1.7 *Understand the site's water risks and opportunities: Assess and prioritize the water risks and opportunities affecting the site based upon the status of the site, existing risk management plans and/or the issues and future risk trends identified in 1.6.*

1.7.1 *Water risks faced by the site shall be identified, and prioritized, including likelihood and severity of impact within a given timeframe, potential costs and business impact.*

Yes

Comment The site has identified 6 water risks for the site and scored the likelihood and severity, including business impact. The water risks are included in the water stewardship plan.
Risks are, for example,
- Risk of groundwater depletion
- Risk of groundwater contamination
- Risk of stricter regulations on groundwater use
- Reputational risk

1.7.2 *Water-related opportunities shall be identified, including how the site may participate, assessment and prioritization of potential savings, and business opportunities.* Yes

Comment: The site has identified the following water-related opportunities:
- Improving trust from the government and local communities for the Kyushu Kumamoto Plant, through the forest maintenance activities of the ""Natural Water Sanctuary"" initiative.
- Improving trust and reputation in the Suntory Group, and increasing product sales, through the activities of the Natural Water Sanctuary
- Conservation of groundwater resources, through ""Natural Water Sanctuary"" activities and water-saving activities
- Maximizing production within the framework of agreed values, through water-saving activities
- Maintaining the water quality of the Tensui River, through wastewater management

The opportunities have been scored, with a max score of 10 for a high perceived opportunity. It is difficult to quantify these opportunities, but some business opportunities have been identified, but less so on the potential savings.

1.8 *Understand best practice towards achieving AWS outcomes: Determining sectoral best practices having a local/catchment, regional, or national relevance.*

1.8.1 *Relevant catchment best practice for water governance shall be identified.* Yes

Comment: The 'AWS Best Practices Survey Table' was presented as evidence against Step 1.8, covering water governance, water balance, water quality, IWRAs, WASH. The spreadsheet can be found on tab 1.8.2-2 in the evidence spreadsheet.
The spreadsheet has identified a number of best practices for the 5 AWS outcomes. the best practice described can then be recorded as being BP against more than one AWS outcome. There are hyperlinks to the websites explaining the best practice activity and additional columns score the best practice on whether it is linked to: water volume, water savings, water quality or stakeholder communication. The table at the very end, assesses whether it is applicable to the site, feasible and should be done, already done, more research needed or not applicable. The table contains hyperlinks to reports and websites, providing a good audit trail for verification.
Then, the site decided the best practice for the site.

The best practice for the site related to water governance is to support the current catchment governance implemented by Kumamoto Prefecture, and to promote joint research on water resources among government, universities and private companies.

1.8.2 *Relevant sector and/or catchment best practice for water balance (either through water efficiency or less total water use) shall be identified.* Yes

Comment: The 'AWS Best Practices Survey Table' is comprehensive. It contains numerous examples for all five AWS Outcomes.
The site decided the best practice for the site.

1.8.3 *Relevant sector and/or catchment best practice for water quality shall be identified, including rationale for data source.* Yes

Comment: The 'AWS Best Practices Survey Table' is comprehensive. It contains numerous examples for all five AWS Outcomes.
The site decided the best practice for the site.
The best practice for the site related to water quality is to keep compling the wastewater regulations (standards) values stipulated in the Kumamoto Prefecture Wastewater Regulations (Wastewater Standards) that is striker than the national standard.

1.8.4 *Relevant catchment best practice for site maintenance of Important Water-Related Areas shall be identified.* Yes

Comment	The 'AWS Best Practices Survey Table' is comprehensive. It contains numerous examples for all five AWS Outcomes. The site decided the best practice for the site. The best practice for the site related to IWRA is to continue activities for Natural Water Sanctuary Forest Aso, Winter Paddy Fields and Ukishima Shrine.	
1.8.5	*Relevant sector and/or catchment best practice for site provision of equitable and adequate WASH services shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	The 'AWS Best Practices Survey Table' is comprehensive. It contains numerous examples for all five AWS Outcomes. The site decided the best practice for the site. For WASH, the site considers that the current practices are already best practices, and there is nothing to do more. The best practice for the site related to WASH is to maintain good condition of WASH facilities of the plant.	

2	STEP 2: COMMIT & PLAN - Commit to be a responsible water steward and develop a Water Stewardship Plan	
2.1	*Commit to water stewardship by having the senior-most manager in charge of water at the site, or if necessary, a suitable individual within the organization head office, sign and publicly disclose a commitment to water stewardship, the implementation of the AWS Standard and achieving its five outcomes, and the allocation of required resources.*	
2.1.1	*A signed and publicly disclosed site statement OR organizational document shall be identified. 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* *- 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 allocate resources to implement the Standard.*	Yes
Comment	The site statement meets the requirements set out in the indicator. The statement was authorised by Mr Shuji Takao (Plant Manager) on 1 September 2024 and it is displayed on a screen at the entrance of the factory and posted on the website. https://www.suntory.co.jp/company/csr/env_water/aws/	
2.1.2	*Advanced Indicator* *A statement that explicitly covers all requirements set out in Indicator 2.1.1 and is signed by the organization's senior-most executive or governance body and publicly disclosed shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	Please reference 2.1.1, the statement is comprehensive, it was authorised by Mr Shuji Takao (Plant Manager) on 1 September 2024 and it is displayed on a screen at the entrance of the factory and posted on the website. https://www.suntory.co.jp/company/csr/env_water/aws/	
2.2	*Develop and document a process to achieve and maintain legal and regulatory compliance.*	
2.2.1	*The system to maintain compliance obligations for water and wastewater management shall be identified, including:* *- Identification of responsible persons/positions within facility organizational structure* *- Process for submissions to regulatory agencies.*	Yes
Comment	The Kumamoto site operates a 'FY2024 Register of Environment-related Laws and Regulations and Compliance Evaluation Chart'. For each regulation it breaks down the specific requirements and then identifies the responsible department and person. The table then identifies what needs to be done, when it is planned in the year (12 columns identifying each month) and records when it is done. The site therefore has a process in place to maintain compliance obligations and has identified the persons responsible for each compliance activity. The site also checks in October to see if there have been any revisions to laws and regulations. The ISO 14001 system stipulates that legal personnel obtain the latest legal information from external organisations twice a month, ensuring that the latest laws and regulations are always available.	
2.3	*Create a water stewardship strategy and plan including addressing risks (to and from the site), shared catchment water challenges, and opportunities.*	

2.3.1	*A water stewardship strategy shall be identified that defines the overarching mission, vision, and goals of the organization towards good water stewardship in line with this AWS Standard.*	Yes
Comment	The Suntory Group's "Water Philosophy" is its mission and vision. https://www.suntory.com/softdrink/company/sustainability/environment/water.html Under this philosophy, each plant's ""Basic Policy (Plant Manager's Promise)"" is listed at the beginning of the Water Stewardship Plan.	
2.3.2	*A water stewardship plan shall be identified, including for each target:* *- How it will be measured and monitored* *- Actions to achieve and maintain (or exceed) it* *- Planned timeframes to achieve it* *- Financial budgets allocated for actions* *- Positions of persons responsible for actions and achieving targets* *- Where available, note the link between each target and the achievement of best practice to help address shared water challenges and the AWS outcomes.*	Yes
Comment	The WSP has been updated and well-organised, scored against the 5 AWS outcomes, it currently contains 7 WSP Actions: 1. In pursuit of water sustainability, we will continuously reduce the amount of water we use, which is the most important resource in our business activities. 2. In pursuit of water sustainability , we maintain the quality of wastewater returned to the local area. 3. [Groundwater recharge through forests] Maintain and improve the groundwater recharge function within the Natural Water Sanctuary Forest Aso agreement area, which is an important area related to water resources, and conserve and improve biodiversity 4. [Groundwater recharge through winter- flooded rice fields] Maintaining and improving the groundwater recharge function of winter-flooded rice fields, which are important areas related to water resources, and preserving and improving biodiversity. 5. Increase the willingness of local communities to participate and raise awareness of activities 6. Employee environmental activities to promote environmental conservation in nearby spring water areas 7. Influencing suppliers 8. Safe water supply and stable operation of sanitation facilities The targets are well thought out and ambitious. The targets address shared water challenges, WSP contains long-term and short-term targets, tracking the action across the requirements of the standard. The columns record the following: Purpose, Objective, Responsibility, Start (baseline) date, Single year planning and Achievement of single year plans, Budget/Cost, Relevance to risks, opportunities and shared water challenges, Relevance to AWS Outcomes, Relevance to best practice, and Expected benefits.	
2.3.3	*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.*	Yes
Comment	The site's undertakes water stewardship activities with a number of key stakeholders, such as Mashiki Town, Mashiki Town Land Improvement District and Kumamoto Groundwater Foundation. The site has developed a table that lists: the partner, form of partnership. water stewardship activities undertaken and the site's role. For example: Kumamoto Prefectural Forestry Corporation > 'Natural Water Sanctuary Aso' forest development agreement > water resource recharge at Natural Water Sanctuary Aso > Maintenance coordination and subsidy application. The table contains 17 examples of identified partnerships on water stewardship activities within the catchment and it has described the relations between the site and its partner.	

2.3.4	*Advanced Indicator* *The site's partnership/water stewardship activities with other sites in another catchment(s) (either under same corporate structure or with another corporate site) shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	Suntory's 'Natural Water Sanctuary 'initiative' started in 2003 with the 'Natural Water Sanctuaryt Aso' in Kumamoto. The water source protection project has now expanded to cover 12,000 ha, at 26 locations in 16 prefectures in Japan. Suntory Holdings has a contract in place with each land owner, such as the local authorities, of the area in Suntory Natural Water Sanctuary. At Suntory headquarters, multiple people in charge of Natural Water Sanctuary activities belong to the same department and exchange opinions on a daily basis as they carry out their activities. A Suntory-style forest management manual has been prepared, and this manual is presented to forestry contractors in each forest to carry out forest management.	
2.3.5	*Advanced Indicator* *Stakeholder consensus shall be sought on the site's water stewardship plan. Consensus should be achieved on at least one target. A list of targets that have consensus and in which stakeholders are involved shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	The site has compiled a table in the evidence spreadsheet, which lists 12 stakeholders that they have sought consensus (agreement) for the targets in their WSP. The table identifies a list of goals that stakeholders agree on and are involved in. The table headings are as follows: stakeholder, agreed goal, WSP target, consensus, how they are working together (agreement). The site has presented the WSP to stakeholders and and has received positive feedback and thereby consensus. 22 Augusut 2025 Kumamoto Groundwater Foundation, consensus on the plans of Winter Paddy Fields 12 August 2025 a rice field owner, consensus on the plans of Winter Paddy Fields 24 July 2025 Kashima Town, consensus on the all targets 17 July 2025 Mashiki Town, consensus on the all targets	
2.4	*Demonstrate the site's responsiveness and resilience to respond to water risks*	
2.4.1	*A plan to mitigate or adapt to identified water risks developed in co-ordination with relevant public-sector and infrastructure agencies shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	"The site does not rely on any public water-related infrastructure, as it extracts all of its own water. No risks related to catchment infrastructure were also identified. For the risk of groundwater depletion, plans for Natural Water Sanctuary Forest Aso and Winter Paddy Fields were developed in co-ordination with relevant public-sector (Kumamoto Prefecture, Mashiki Town, Kumamoto Groundwater Foundation)"	
2.4.2	*Advanced Indicator* *A plan to mitigate or adapt to water risks associated with climate change projections developed in co-ordination with relevant public-sector and infrastructure agencies shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	The risk of groundwater depletion is related to climate change. For the risk of groundwater depletion, plans for Natural Water Sanctuary Forest Aso and Winter Paddy Fieldswere developed in co-ordination with relevant public-sector (Kumamoto Prefecture, Mashiki Town, Kumamoto Groundwater Foundation)	

3	STEP 3: IMPLEMENT - Implement the site's stewardship plan and improve impacts

3.1 *Implement plan to participate positively in catchment governance.*

3.1.1 *Evidence that the site has supported good catchment governance shall be identified.*

Yes

Comment

The site has pulled together a summary tables of events that they have undertaken. The site has proactively engaged with the local community in environmental and social events. In terms of water-related events, there are monthly cleaning events at the floating water pond shrine, this has been done monthly since April 2006, now once every two months.
The site also delivers a wide range of water-related projects that contribute towards water governance outcomes, these are:
- Winter Paddy Inundation project for groundwater recharge
- Natural Water Sanctuary Forest programme
- Providing MIZUIKU-Education Program for Nature and Water, and Safe Water Access
- Water -related collaboration research undertaken by Professor Shimada at Kumamoto University and the Institute for Water Science in Suntory Group
- Joint study sessions for Kumamoto City officials and Kumamoto Groundwater Foundation
- Participate in Kumamoto Water Positive Action together with other companies and universities

3.1.2 *Measures identified to respect the water rights of others including Indigenous peoples, that are not part of 3.2 shall be implemented.*

Yes

Comment

There are no water rights identified of others that would fall under the requirements of this indicator.

3.1.3 *Advanced Indicator*
Evidence of improvements in water governance capacity from a site-selected baseline date shall be identified.

Yes

Comment

The site started their baseline date for this indicator on the 01.10.2021 and have recorded a number of activities in the table for this indicator. Their stated improvement record for governance capacity of water resources since the last audit is:
10-25/8/2024: Nine employees participated in the ""Natural Water Sanctuary"" Forest and Water School as part of the employee water education program.
5-6/2025: ISO 14001 awareness training was conducted for 256 employees.
1/8/2025: Two employees participated in the Water Day Commemorative Symposium hosted by the Kumamoto Groundwater Foundation.
25/8/2025: AWS 2025 activities were reported to 277 employees at a plant-wide meeting.

The site is dedicating more time to disseminate the standard internally and outside of the factory boundaries.
In the plant, although they acquired AWS certification in 2022, many employees did not know what it entails, so they have increased the number of opportunities to inform employees. In the future, they will consider conducting comprehension tests to measure the level of understanding. The number of staff in charge has also increased slightly. The challenge for the future is how to engage employees who are not directly involved with water.

3.1.4 *Advanced Indicator*
Evidence from a representative range of stakeholders showing consensus that the site is seen as positively contributing to the good water governance of the catchment shall be identified.

Yes

Comment

The site has submitted the following evidence for this indicator: supportive comments from Prof. Shimada (received on 23 August 2022) and from the Kumamoto Prefecture (also received on the 23 August 2022).
H17 (2005) Higo Water and Greenery Patronage Award
H25 (2013) Kumamoto Groundwater Foundation Groundwater Conservation Award Gold Award Certified Company
H27 (2015) Kumamoto Prefecture Kumamoto Environmental Award (Water Country Award)
H29 (2017) Same as above, Environmental Grand Prize
R4 (2022) Kumamoto Groundwater Foundation Groundwater Conservation Awards 3rd Best Grand Prix
Based on these findings, they believe that the site is actively contributing to the governance of appropriate water resources in the basin.
The email from the Kumamoto Prefecture is regarding their reporting on Suntory Kumamoto's groundwater conservation efforts and consists of minutes from a meeting between the two parties.
On 29/8/2023, they visited Kashima Town Construction Section Manager and received positive feedback.
On 24/7/2025, they visited Kashima Town and received positive feedback.

3.2 *Implement system to comply with water-related legal and regulatory requirements and respect water rights.*

3.2.1 *A process to verify full legal and regulatory compliance shall be implemented.*

Yes

Comment

The system to maintain compliance obligations for water and wastewater management mentioned in 2.2.1 is implemented properly. Compliance with laws and regulations is checked monthly. The result in 2024 was checked.

3.2.2 *Where water rights are part of legal and regulatory requirements, measures identified to respect the water rights of others including Indigenous peoples, shall be implemented.*

Yes

Comment

The site has stated that there are no water rights of others identified for the site and catchment that are part of legal and regulatory requirements.

3.3 *Implement plan to achieve site water balance targets.*

3.3.1 *Status of progress towards meeting water balance targets set in the water stewardship plan shall be identified.*

Yes

Comment

The first target in the WSP states that the site will implement water conservation measures and reduce water intensity per unit (m3/KL) by 35% between 2015 and 2030. The site has reduced water intensity per unit by about 19.1% between 2015 and 2024.
The site presented evidence; a good summary of progress towards improving the water ratio, and more detailed information on the water reduction and efficiency activities undertaken by the various departments. All departments have an annual action plan, which lists the water efficiency activities that they will introduce that year.
There is a road map to 2030, and achievement of the target is evaluated every month at each department.
The target in 2024 was not achieved. Possible causes include frequent equipment renovations, which resulted in a lot of rejected water, and a large amount of beer production, which led to a deterioration in the water consumption rate.

3.3.2 *Where water scarcity is a shared water challenge, annual targets to improve the site's water use efficiency, or if practical and applicable, reduce volumetric total use shall be implemented.*

Yes

Comment

Water scarcity is not currently a shared water challenge, but it has been identified as a potential future water risk. Regardless, the site has set targets for improving the site's water use efficiency and this is recorded in the indicator 3.3.1.

3.3.3	*Legally-binding documentation, if applicable, for the re-allocation of water to social, cultural or environmental needs shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	The site does not reallocate any water to social, cultural or environmental needs, and no legally binding documentation is therefore required.	
3.3.4	*Voluntary Advanced Indicator* *The total volume of water voluntarily re-allocated (from site water savings) for social, cultural and environmental needs shall be quantified.*	N/A
Comment	Voluntary Advanced Indicator was not assessed.	
3.4	*Implement plan to achieve site water quality targets*	
3.4.1	*Status of progress towards meeting water quality targets set in the water stewardship plan shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	The water quality target in the WSP is that 'wastewater management continuously meets the wastewater regulations (standards) values stipulated in the Kumamoto Prefecture Wastewater Regulations (Wastewater Standards)'. Continuous monitoring data shows that water quality targets have been consistently met. Overall, the quality of the wastewater is stable. It has been confirmed that any days when values were incorrect were due to an overhaul or electrode damage, and were not due to an abnormality in the water quality itself. The site sends wastewater samples for third-party testing every quarter (continuously monitored items) and twice a year (all items specified in the Water Pollution Control Law) and there are example test reports embedded in the evidence spreadsheet. The site has set more stringent targets for water quality levels than what the national regulatory requirements are, and these have been in place since the plant opened. As such, the current target is just operational practice, rather than a target set to improve water practices towards, because the current practice is considered to be the level of best practice, and there is nothing to do more. The site is demonstrably committed to discharging 'clean' wastewater back into the local river. There was no violation of the wastewater quality regulations.	
3.4.2	*Where water quality is a shared water challenge, continual improvement to achieve best practice for the site's effluent shall be identified and where applicable, quantified.*	Yes
Comment	Water quality is not identified as a current shared water challenge, although contamination of groundwater and pollution of the Tensui River has been identified as a future water risk, rooted in the practice of small-scale farmers, in indicator 1.7.1. The risk has been deemed low, which is why it is not considered a shared water challenge. The site is already working with small-scale rice farmers on shared water challenges, through the ground-water recharge project on the winter-flooded rice paddies.	
3.5	*Implement plan to maintain or improve the site's and/or catchment's Important Water-Related Areas.*	
3.5.1	*Practices set in the water stewardship plan to maintain and/or enhance the site's Important Water-Related Areas shall be implemented.*	Yes

Comment	As stated in 1.5.5, IWRAs within the catchment are Natural Water Sanctuary Forest Aso, Winter Paddy Inundation area, Ukishima (floating island) Shrine, and water discharging point to Tensui river. Following plans in the WSP are relevant to IWRAs. - Maintaining the Natural Water Sanctuary Forest Aso in a state where it can produce more than twice the amount of groundwater used by the factory into the future; Creation of habitats where birds of prey standing at the top of the ecosystem pyramid can reproduce (confirmation of nesting, etc) - Maintaining a state in which winter-flooded rice fields can produce more groundwater than the amount used by the factory; By promoting environmentally friendly farming methods, the wetland ecosystem will be restored and the biodiversity of the entire area will be improved. - The area around Ukishima Shrine, which is located near the factory, is an abundant spring water area (factory wells are also installed). Water resources in the area and the surrounding environment; Pollution prevention; Fostering communication with residents of the area; Maintain and improve employees' environmental awareness. - Tensui River: continue to meet the wastewater regulations and standards set by Kumamoto Prefecture. Practices set in the WSP are conducted. Implementation results in 2024 are described in the WSP.	
3.5.2	*Advanced Indicator* *Evidence of completed restoration of non-functioning or severely degraded Important Water-Related Areas including where appropriate cultural values from a site-selected baseline date shall be identified. Restored areas may be outside of the site, but within the catchment.*	Yes
Comment	The winter-flooded rice paddies is a key groundwater recharge project for the site, and they are working closely with local rice farmers to implement it. As a result of the 2016 Kumamoto earthquake, a number of rice paddy fields were destroyed as the earth cracked. The picture evidence shows a rice paddy field destroyed after the 2016 earthquake; reconstruction work took place in 2017 on 22ha of former rice paddy fields. In May 2017 the restoration was completed. In addition, biological surveys have been conducted twice a year in the winter-flooded rice fields with students from nearby schools since 2012. An expert report on the biodiversity survey for 2024 has been released, showing that biodiversity is improving.	
3.5.3	*Advanced Indicator* *Evidence from a representative range of stakeholders showing consensus that the site is seen as positively contributing to the healthy status of Important Water-Related Areas in the catchment shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	Comment on AWS platinum certification was received from Kumamoto Groundwater Foundation on 21/3/2023. It stated that "Suntory Kyushu Kumamoto Factory is a top runner in implementing groundwater conservation activities in the Kumamoto Prefecture area. Interviews were held with Kashima Town Hall on 24/7/2025 and with Mashiki Town Hall on 17/7/2025, where the results of the 2024 WSP and the contents of the 2025 WSP were explained. From each of the towns, opinions were obtained that through the plans and activities for Natural Water Sanctuary Forest Aso and Winter Paddy Fields, the site is positively contributing to the healthy status of IWRA. Records of each interview were presented.	
3.6	*Implement plan to provide access to safe drinking water, effective sanitation, and protective hygiene (WASH) for all workers at all premises under the site's control.*	
3.6.1	*Evidence of the site's provision of adequate access to safe drinking water, effective sanitation, and protective hygiene (WASH) for all workers onsite shall be identified and where applicable, quantified.*	Yes

Comment	The site supplies safe drinking water in accordance with the Waterworks Act, this is verified annually through an external analysis by a third-party organization. The site also promotes hygiene management, through norovirus and food poisoning prevention awareness-raising and on-site hygiene education and the site conducts Intestinal bacteria test (stool) once a year. For preventive hygiene, hand washing is posted at hand washing stations all year round. The site provided evidence on how the onsite restroom facilities meet national regulatory requirements. The target for WASH in 2023 was to maintain good condition of WASH facilities, and no report of health issues relating to WASH facilities. The WASH facilities were properly maintained, evidenced by maintenance records, and there was no report of health issued relating to WASH facilities.	
3.6.2	*Evidence that the site is not impinging on the human right to safe water and sanitation of communities through their operations, and that traditional access rights for indigenous and local communities are being respected, and that remedial actions are in place where this is not the case, and that these are effective.*	Yes
Comment	There was no evidence that the site was impinging on the human rights to safe water and sanitation of communities through their operations. This was confirmed through stakeholder interviews.	
3.6.3	*Advanced Indicator* *A list of actions taken to support the provision to stakeholders in the catchment of access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene awareness shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	The location of the factory is within a country and region where stakeholders and communities have access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene awareness. The site has a contract in place with Kashima town to supply drinking water and shelter if a disaster occurs (signed 2021). During the 2016 Kumamoto earthquake, the site provided drinking water to local residents. When flooding occurred in Mifune Town in August 2025, making the tap water cloudy, the site provided 50 cases of drinking water.	
3.6.4	*Voluntary Advanced Indicator:* *In catchments where WASH has been identified as a shared water challenge, evidence of efforts taken with relevant public-sector agencies to share information and to advocate for change to address access to safe drinking water and sanitation shall be identified.*	N/A
Comment	Voluntary Advanced Indicator was not assessed.	
3.7	*Implement plan to maintain or improve indirect water use within the catchment:*	
3.7.1	*Evidence that indirect water use targets set in the water stewardship plan, as applicable, have been met shall be quantified.*	Yes
Comment	The indirect water use target set in the water stewardship plan was a set attendance rate of Supplier Policy Briefing. At the briefing, Suntory asks suppliers to cooperate on water stewardship activities. The result was 100%. There is only one supplier located within the same catchment.	
3.7.2	*Evidence of engagement with suppliers and service providers, as well as, when applicable, actions they have taken in the catchment as a result of the site's engagement related to indirect water use, shall be identified.*	Yes

Comment	Same as 3.7.1. The engagement with suppliers is to request to attend the Supplier Policy Briefing where Suntory asks suppliers to cooperate with Suntory following the Suntory's policy. There is only one supplier located within the same catchment. For laundry services and clean service (mats rental), the site interviewed with them about water use. Both companies responded that they are working on water conservation activities and are discharging water in accordance with regulated values. Although it is difficult to realistically ask them to reduce their water consumption, the site plans to continue communicating with them in the future.	
3.7.3	*Advanced Indicator* *Actions taken to address water related risks and challenges related to indirect water use outside the catchment shall be documented and evaluated.*	Yes
Comment	The site explained that they are working with a UK based malt supplier Muntons. They are working with the supplier to improve the quality of the soil and its ability to retain water. Muntons are based in East Anglia (England) and are looking at cover crops (green compost) to improve soil conditions and lessen the dependence on fertilisers.	
3.8	*Implement plan to engage with and notify the owners of any shared water-related infrastructure of any concerns the site may have.*	
3.8.1	*Evidence of engagement, and the key messages relayed with confirmation of receipt, shall be identified.*	N/A
Comment	Not applicable as the site does not use any shared water-related infrastructure.	
3.9	*Implement actions to achieve best practice towards AWS outcomes: continually improve towards achieving sectoral best practice having a local/catchment, regional, or national relevance.*	
3.9.1	*Actions towards achieving best practice, related to water governance, as applicable, shall be implemented.*	Yes
Comment	The best practice for the site related to water governance is to support the current catchment governance implemented by Kumamoto Prefecture, and to promote joint research on water resources among government, universities and private companies, as identified in 1.8.1. These actions towards achieving best practice were implemented, as planned in the water stewardship plan.	
3.9.2	*Actions towards achieving best practice, related to targets in terms of water balance shall be implemented.*	Yes
Comment	The best practice for the site related to water balance is to achieve a defined water intensity per unit, as identified in 1.8.2. Actions towards achieving best practice were implemented, as planned in the water stewardship plan.	
3.9.3	*Actions towards achieving best practice, related to targets in terms of water quality shall be implemented.*	Yes
Comment	The best practice for the site related to water quality is to keep compling the wastewater regulations (standards) values stipulated in the Kumamoto Prefecture Wastewater Regulations (Wastewater Standards) that is striker than the national standard, as identified in 1.8.3. Actions towards achieving best practice were implemented, as planned in the water stewardship plan.	
3.9.4	*Actions towards achieving best practice, related to targets in terms of the site's maintenance of Important Water-Related Areas shall be implemented.*	Yes

Comment	The best practice for the site related to IWRA is to continue activities for Natural Water Sanctuary Forest Aso, Winter Paddy Fields and Ukishima Shrine, as identified in 1.8.4. Actions towards achieving best practice were implemented, as planned in the water stewardship plan.	
3.9.5	*Actions towards achieving best practice related to targets in terms of WASH shall be implemented.*	Yes
Comment	The best practice for the site related to WASH is to maintain good condition of WASH facilities of the plant, as identified in 1.8.5. Actions towards achieving best practice were implemented, as planned in the water stewardship plan.	
3.9.6	*Voluntary Advanced Indicator* *Achievement of identified best practice related to targets in terms of good water governance shall be quantified.*	N/A
Comment	Voluntary Advanced Indicator was not assessed.	
3.9.7	*Voluntary Advanced Indicator* *Achievement of identified best practice related to targets in terms of sustainable water balance shall be quantified.*	N/A
Comment	Voluntary Advanced Indicator was not assessed.	
3.9.8	*Voluntary Advanced Indicator* *Achievement of identified best practices related to targets in terms of water quality shall be quantified*	N/A
Comment	Voluntary Advanced Indicator was not assessed.	
3.9.9	*Voluntary Advanced Indicator* *Achievement of identified best practices related to targets in terms of the site's maintenance of Important Water-Related Areas have been implemented.*	N/A
Comment	Voluntary Advanced Indicator was not assessed.	
3.9.10	*Voluntary Advanced Indicator* *Achievement of identified best practice related to targets in terms of WASH shall be quantified.*	N/A
Comment	Voluntary Advanced Indicator was not assessed.	
3.9.11	*Voluntary Advanced Indicator* *A list of efforts to spread best practices shall be identified.*	N/A
Comment	Voluntary Advanced Indicator was not assessed.	
3.9.12	*Voluntary Advanced Indicator* *A list of collective action efforts, including the organizations involved, positions of responsible persons of other entities involved, and a description of the role played by the site shall be identified.*	N/A
Comment	Voluntary Advanced Indicator was not assessed.	
3.9.13	*Voluntary Advanced Indicator* *Evidence of the quantified improvement that has resulted from the collective action relative to a site-selected baseline date shall be identified and evidence from an appropriate range of stakeholders linked to the collective action (including both those implementing 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 identified.*	N/A
Comment	Voluntary Advanced Indicator was not assessed.	

4	STEP 4: EVALUATE - Evaluate the site's performance.

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.* ✓ Yes

Comment: The site has evaluated their performance against the long-term targets and yearly targets listed in 2024 in the WSP. Each target indicates the contribution to achieving each water stewardship outcomes.
Although some items, such as reducing water intensity per unit (m3/KL), were not achieved, most were achieved. For items that were not achieved, the causes were analysed and consideration was given to setting the next target in 2025.

4.1.2 *Value creation resulting from the water stewardship plan shall be evaluated.* ✓ Yes

Comment: In the WSP, a column stating evaluation of value creation is included.
1. Reduce water intensity per unit (m3/KL) by 35% between 2015 and 2030
Evaluation of value creation: Reducing wastewater treatment costs by reducing water usage.
2. 2. Continuously meet the wastewater regulation (standard) values stipulated in the ""Kumamoto Prefecture Wastewater Regulations (Wastewater Standards)""
Effect of reducing the amount of chemicals purchased through automatic control of the amount of chemicals added
For other targets, it is difficult to evaluate value creation by financial water cost-benefit, as required in the AWS Guidance.

4.1.3 *The shared value benefits in the catchment shall be identified and where applicable, quantified.* ✓ Yes

Comment: The shared value benefits in the catchment were identified and quantified.
Based on the Forestry Agency's ""Manual for Advance Assessment of Forest Public Works,"" the water source conservation benefits of Natural Water Sanctuary Forest Aso were converted into monetary value. These are the values created by the existence of the forest. The site conduct forestry activities every year to keep the healty forest to maintain these values.
In addition, breeding of birds of prey, which are at the top of the ecological pyramid, has been confirmed, and it is believed that biodiversity is improving. The site has received high praise from the Japan Bird Conservation League and the Wild Bird Society of Japan.
Winter flooding of the rice paddies in winter replenishes a set quantity of water every year. Annual biological surveys have also confirmed that biodiversity is improving.

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. ✓ Yes

Comment: AWS reviews are included in the ISO14001 management review process. Management review is conducted at the end of third quarter, when a plan for the next fiscal year is created. The last management review was conducted on 12/11/2024. Management review record was presented.
Reducing water intensity per unit is discussed as one of major issues. Also, water related risks such as water use by semicondactor companies, opportunities such as Suntory's groundwater conservation activities will be highly acclaimed were discussed.
Performance reports are submitted to management on a quarterly basis. At the end of each fiscal year, the final results of the previous year's plans and performance are reviewed again.

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 and proposed preventative and corrective actions and mitigations against future incidents shall be identified.*

Yes

Comment: There was no emergency incident in 2024. There is a record showing that no external government agencies have pointed out any problems. There is also a system in place to record and take measures when any incidents that could lead to accidents occur, but there were no such cases.

4.3 *Evaluate stakeholders' consultation feedback regarding the site's water stewardship performance, including the effectiveness of the site's engagement process.*

4.3.1 *Consultation efforts with stakeholders on the site's water stewardship performance shall be identified.*

Yes

Comment: The site met with key stakeholders to explain the goals and performance of WSP 2024. Interviews were held with Kashima Town Hall on 24/7/2025, with Mashiki Town Hall on 17/7/2025, and with Kumamoto Groundwater Foundation in August 2025. Feedback was received from each stakeholder.
The site also explained the performance to the Midorikawa Fisheries Association, but they were more interested in the river than in the detailed performance of WSP, and the discussion focused mainly on river issues. As a result, there was no particular feedback on WSP performance.
The site interviewed a rice paddy landowner on 12/8/2025 to explain the performance of their winter-flooded rice paddies. The owner expressed their joy at the improvement in biodiversity in their rice paddies.

4.3.2 *Voluntary Advanced Indicator*
The site's efforts to address shared water challenges shall be evaluated by stakeholders. This shall include stakeholder reviewing of the site's efforts across all five outcome areas, and their suggestions for continual improvement.

N/A

Comment: Voluntary Advanced Indicator was not assessed.

4.4 *Evaluate and update the site's water stewardship plan, incorporating the information obtained from the evaluation process in the context of continual improvement.*

4.4.1 *The site's water stewardship plan shall be modified and adapted to incorporate any relevant information and lessons learned from the evaluations in this step and these changes shall be identified.*

Yes

Comment: There is a system to review and update the water stewardship plan every year. The plan was updated and the current plan is for 2025. It incorporates relevant information and lessons learned from the evaluations. Changes can be understood by referring to the previous year's plan.
As each goal was largely achieved and the situation surrounding the factory remained unchanged, the WSP for fiscal 2025 was planned to be the same as that for fiscal 2024.

5	STEP 5: COMMUNICATE & DISCLOSE - Communicate about water stewardship and disclose the site's stewardship efforts

5.1 *Disclose water-related internal governance of the site's management, including the positions of those accountable for legal compliance with water-related local 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 disclosed.* ✓ Yes

Comment: The site's water-related internal governance is disclosed in the AWS Activity Report 2024 on the website. https://www.suntory.co.jp/company/csr/env_water/aws/
The position of those accountable for compliance with water-related laws and regulations is "Environmental Management Officer." It is written that "The Environmental Management Officer is responsible for compliance with water-related laws and regulations."

5.2 *Communicate the water stewardship plan with relevant stakeholders.*

5.2.1 *The water stewardship plan, including how the water stewardship plan contributes to AWS Standard outcomes, shall be communicated to relevant stakeholders.* ✓ Yes

Comment: The water stewardship plan 2025, including how the water stewardship plan contributes to AWS Standard outcomes, was communicated to main stakeholders.
24/7/2025 Kashima Town
17/7/2025 Mashiki Town
Aug 2025 Kumamoto Groundwater Foundation
12/8/2025 rice paddy landowner

Also, the summary of the water stewardship plan 2024 and its performance is disclosed in the AWS Activity Report 2024 on the website.
https://www.suntory.co.jp/company/csr/env_water/aws/

5.3 *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.*

5.3.1 *A summary of the site's water stewardship performance, including quantified performance against targets, shall be disclosed annually at a minimum.* 🔍 Obs.

Comment: The site has developed good dissemination material, particularly the 'AWS Activity Report 2024' which is available in their website.
https://www.suntory.co.jp/company/csr/env_water/aws/
It states Summary of the Water Stewardship Performance for 8 targets, including Purpose, Target, quantified Activities/Performance, potential shared water challenges and stakeholder engagement.

However, for some plans, quantified targets cannot be disclosed due to confidentiality, and performance against targets were not clearly described. As a result, it was not clear for some targets if the targets were achieved or not.

This is an issue regarding the published plans and results. In the detailed WSP, quantitative targets are stated and the degree of achievement is clear. Since some figures cannot be disclosed to the public, the published summary version is expressed in a somewhat qualitative manner. However, it should be clearly stated whether the targets have been achieved or not.

Observation for 5.3.1 issued in 2024 is still applicable.

5.3.2	*Advanced Indicator* *The site's efforts to implement the AWS Standard shall be disclosed in the organization's annual report.*	Yes
Comment	The site has prepared an AWS Activity Report 2024 which forms part of the annual report. It's a digital report and disclosed on the website. The Suntory company website contains a section on the AWS standard, and the site-specific reports are communicated on the global website.	
5.3.3	*Voluntary Advanced Indicator* *Benefits to the site and stakeholders from implementation of the AWS Standard shall be quantified in the organization's annual report.*	N/A
Comment	Voluntary Advanced Indicator was not assessed.	
5.4	*Disclose efforts to collectively address shared water challenges, including: associated efforts to address the challenges;engagement with stakeholders; and co-ordination with public-sector agencies.*	
5.4.1	*The site's shared water-related challenges and efforts made to address these challenges shall be disclosed.*	Yes
Comment	The AWS Activity Report 2024 includes collaborative efforts to address potential shared water challenges. As stated in 1.6.1, the site judged that there is no current shared water challenge, but there are common regional risks. The site identified these as potential shared water challenges. In the AWS Activity Report 2024, it is stated that After reviewing the matter, it was found that there are no shared water challenges facing the site and stakeholders. However, there are concerns about the depletion of groundwater and freshwater resources and the pollution of river water due to wastewater." and stated following potential shared water challenges: Depletion of groundwater and freshwater resources and Wastewater-based water pollution of Tensui River. Plans and targets are linked to these potential shared water challenges.	
5.4.2	*Efforts made by the site to engage stakeholders and coordinate and support public-sector agencies shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	The summary WSP 2024 within the AWS Activity Report 2024 includes "Stakeholder engagement" for each plan. Therefore, efforts made by the site to engage stakeholders and coordinate and support public-sector agencies are stated in the summary of WSP 2024. Stakeholders and public-sector agencies are: Kumamoto Prefecture, Forestry Agency, Mashiki Town, Nishihara Village, Kumamoto Groundwater Foundation, Mashiki Town Land Improvement District, paddy field landowners, etc. Activities with these stakeholders are stated.	
5.5	*Communicate transparency in water-related compliance: make any site water-related compliance violations available upon request as well as any corrective actions the site has taken to prevent future occurrences.*	
5.5.1	*Any site water-related compliance violations and associated corrections shall be disclosed.*	N/A
Comment	The site has had no water-related compliance violations. A table is presented in the evidence spreadsheet, which records the number of violations of water-related laws and regulations, it has been zero since 2003. This is reported in the management review report and it records that there have been no NCs related to water related issues.	
5.5.2	*Necessary corrective actions taken by the site to prevent future occurrences shall be disclosed if applicable.*	N/A
Comment	There have been no water-related incidents and the site has therefore not been required to disclose corrective actions.	

5.5.3	*Any site water-related violation that may pose significant risk and threat to human or ecosystem health shall be immediately communicated to relevant public agencies and disclosed.*	N/A
Comment	There have been no site related violations and no communication or disclosure has therefore been necessary. The site explained the process that they would have to follow if there was a violation. An example they could think is if water quality of effluent was above the limits, then they would have to immediately contact the public health. In terms of extraction, the site has a reporting obligation to the Kumamoto Prefecture, but there is no upper limit for extraction.	

Previous Findings

	All non-conformities raised in the previous audit have been satisfactorily closed.	Yes
Comment	Observation for 5.3.1 issued in 2024 is still open.	