

CERTIFICATION REPORT

Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS)



Audit Number: AO-001742

SITE DETAILS

Site: **BAT Uzbekistan Urgut GLT**
Address: 141600, Samarkand region, Urgut city, 10 Navoi Shoh street, 141600, Urgut, UZBEKISTAN
Contact Person: Alisher Mirtashev
AWS Reference Number: AWS-000483
Site Structure: Single Site

CERTIFICATION DETAILS

Certification status: Certified Core
Date of certification decision: 2026-Feb-13
Validity of certificate: 2029-Feb-12

AUDIT DETAILS

Audited Service(s): AWS Standard v2.0 (2019)
Audit Type(s): Re-Certification Audit
Audit Start Date: 2025-Nov-19
Audit End Date: 2025-Nov-21
Lead Auditor: Zhanar Faizuldayeva

Site Participants:
Davlotshokh Usmanov, Sustainability Engineer
Alisher Mirtashev, Leaf Sustainability
Sofya Kim, Sustainability Manager
Daria Senegubova, Environmental Manager
Jasur Botirov, Intern
Shukhrat Zakirov, Utilities Manager
Bakhtiyor Melikov, Head of leaf
Saidmurod Barakaev, CORA engagement manager
Tolmas Bobokulov, EH&S
Mansur Mayilov, Electrical engineer
Bektosh Xamroev, STP Coordinator

AUDIT TIMES

Dates	Audit from	Duration	Auditor	Description
2025-Nov-19	13:00:00 - 18:00:00	05:00	Zhanar Faizuldayeva	
2025-Nov-20	09:00:00 - 18:00:00	09:00	Zhanar Faizuldayeva	
2025-Nov-21	09:00:00 - 18:00:00	09:00	Zhanar Faizuldayeva	

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ADDITIONAL INFO

Summary of Audit Findings: During the re-certification audit, 1 non-conformity and 5 observations were raised.

The Client is requested to submit a root cause analysis and corrective actions for each of the non-conformities to WSAS by 05 January 2026.

The non-conformities must be closed within 90 days of the end of the audit. In order to meet this timeline, evidence is to be submitted to WSAS (within 75 days) 03 February 2026.

The audit team recommends re-certification of BAT Uzbekistan - Urgut GLP at the core level pending closure of the non-conformities.

Scope of Assessment: The scope of services covers the recertification audit for assessing conformity of Urgut GLT against the AWS International Water Stewardship Standard Version 2.

The core business activity of Urgut site is to store Green Leaf and process it. The site's product is processed tobacco, which then gets shipped to cigarette production facilities (including Samarkand Cigarette Factory). The Urgut district is in the eastern part of the Samarkand region, bordering Tajikistan. The Urgut region is the only area in Uzbekistan where tobacco is grown, near the border with Tajikistan. The site works with more than 330 farmers that grow tobacco in this region and oversees 19 BAT farming technicians who support the farmers and monitor 100% of farms for child and forced labour.

The Urgut fermentation plant is located in the centre of Urgut town and around 45 km from the Samarkand factory. It occupies a plot of 11.6 ha. The processes on site include: curing process, GLT processing line, oriental processing line, facilities including boiler house, and administration. Water is used to generate steam for processing and curing the tobacco, and water is used to condition tobacco before processing. The seasonal patterns of curing and production (sorting and mixing the leaf/stems) last about 3 months each, i.e., in total the site operates for about half a year. It operates two on-site boreholes.

There are two fire pools on-site with a 150 m³ capacity each, and the site operates an onsite WWTP - treated water is used for irrigation of vegetation on-site.

The site also runs an off-site Agronomy Centre of 10 ha where seedlings and tree saplings are grown. This agronomy centre was not included in the scope of certification.

The audit was conducted onsite on 17, 18, and 19 November 2025.

The onsite site visit included the assessment of the wastewater treatment plant, stormwater collection pond, WASH facilities, and new irrigation pipes. The catchment site visit included a visit to Yangi Aryk - the discharge water body for the site. And the Qaratepa water reservoir (IWRA).

The following external stakeholders were interviewed during the audit: Association of farmers, LLC 'Samarkand Water Supply' Urgut Branch

FINDINGS

Observation	5
Non-Conformity	1

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FINDING DETAILS

Finding No:	TNR-022579
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 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:	The new study indicates that the site may be abstracting from deeper confined aquifer(s). Further clarity should be sought on the spatial extent of this aquifer and how and where it gets recharged
Finding No:	TNR-021992
Checklist Item No:	1.5.3
Status:	Open
Finding level:	Observation
Checklist item:	The catchment water-balance, and where applicable, scarcity, shall be quantified, including indication of annual, and where appropriate, seasonal, variance.
Findings:	The site relied on outdated publicly available data and confirmed that more recent information was not provided by the Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The site is encouraged to continue collecting updated data and enhancing its understanding of the catchment water balance.
Finding No:	TNR-021993
Checklist Item No:	1.5.4
Status:	Open
Finding level:	Observation
Checklist item:	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.
Findings:	Site is encouraged to continue gathering data and improving understanding of catchment water quality.

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Finding No: TNR-021994
Checklist Item No: 1.5.6
Status: Open
Finding level: Observation
Checklist item: Existing and planned water-related infrastructure shall be identified, including condition and potential exposure to extreme events.
Findings: The site recognizes that existing water-related infrastructure is generally outdated. However, the information provided—particularly regarding sewage systems—is itself outdated. While discussions indicated that the site understands the current situation, this understanding was not fully reflected in the documented evidence.

Finding No: TNR-022422
Checklist Item No: 1.6.1
Status: Open
Finding level: Observation
Checklist item: Shared water challenges shall be identified and prioritized from the information gathered.
Findings: The evidence does not clearly demonstrate how the site consolidated shared water challenges from the individual stakeholder challenges and information from site and catchment water data analysis.

Finding No: TNR-022023
Checklist Item No: 4.2.1
Status: Closed
Finding level: Non-Conformity
Due date: 2026-Feb-18
Checklist item: 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.
Findings: Incident report for the flooding incident that occurred in 2024 was not prepared. Previous non-compliance was not fully addressed.
Corrective action: Create the RCA and report for the last flooding incident from irrigation channel.
Evidence of implementation: Hello team.
Please find in attachment the RCA and report for the last flooding incident in 2024 at the Urgut plant

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Report Details

Report	Value
Report prepared by	Zhanar Faizuldayeva
Report approved by	Sa-Myeong Gim
Report approved on (Date)	2025.Dec.17

Surveillance

Proposed date for next audit	2026-Nov-18
Comment	It is recommended that the site undergo a surveillance audit no later than November 18, 2026, one year from the re-certification audit.

Stakeholder Announcements

Date of publication	Location
05/09/2025	https://bat.uz/uploads/files/stakeholders-of-the-UFP2025.pdf
Comment	Site published stakeholder announcement on their website. Announcement was submitted to the website on September 5, 2025. https://bat.uz/uploads/files/stakeholders-of-the-UFP2025.pdf Site did not receive comments or questions regarding the announcement of the scheduled re-certification audit.
Comment	The site facilitated in-person stakeholder interviews with representatives from the local water supply and treatment municipal organization, LLC "Samarkand Water Supply" (Urgut Branch), as well as the Association of Farmers, which represents local agricultural producers, including tobacco farmers.

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Catchment Information

Catchment Information

The BAT Urgut site lies within the same catchment as the BAT Samarkand site, both located in the Zarafshan River watershed.

Uzbekistan's major rivers include:

Amu Darya, formed by the confluence of the Vakhsh and Pyandj Rivers
Syr Darya, formed by the confluence of the Naryn and Karadarya Rivers
Chirchik, near Tashkent

The Amu Darya basin encompasses the Surkhandarya, Sherabad, Kashkadarya, and Zarafshan rivers, though only Kashkadarya and Sherabad are entirely within Uzbekistan. The Zarafshan River originates on the fringes of the Pamirs in Tajikistan and flows west for about 300 km before entering Uzbekistan. It passes Penjikent, then Samarkand, turns northwest near Navoiy, and continues southwest past Bukhara, eventually disappearing into the desert near Qorakol (Karakul). Historically, it was a tributary of the Amu Darya. The river is approximately 800 km long, with 300 km in Tajikistan.

Average annual discharge: 161 m³/s

Flow monitoring: Began in 1913 at Dupuli and Saudji (Tajikistan); now recorded at Ravatkhodja (Uzbekistan) after earlier stations were destroyed during regional conflict

Seasonal pattern: Flow peaks in May–July, then declines from August through February–March

The Zarafshan basin supports extensive irrigated agriculture, including tobacco farms supplying the Urgut LEAF factory. Samarkand province, which includes Urgut, has about 375,000 hectares of irrigated land.

Key challenges:

The root cause of existing water-related issues is the inefficient use of shared water resources, particularly in irrigated agriculture. Excessive irrigation leads to highly mineralized drainage water, which returns to rivers and contaminates surface and groundwater.

Infrastructure:

The main water delivery system for the Zarafshan River in Uzbekistan consists of four hydraulic structures and two dams with reservoirs.

Groundwater Aquifers:

Boreholes on the factory territory are 190 meters deep.

Lithological profile: loam, gravel, and boulders.

The site is located in a groundwater transit zone formed by seepage losses from the right bank of the Zarafshan River.

Catchment Water Service Providers:

Own boreholes for water supply.

Own wastewater treatment plant using physical, chemical, and biological methods (with optional reverse osmosis).

Own storage pond-evaporator for wastewater and stormwater discharge.

Catchment Features:

Water scarcity area with seasonal shortages.

Most water is used for irrigation and intensive agriculture.

Water generation comes from glaciers, increasing in summer when temperatures exceed 25°C.

Shortage peaks in May during crop transplanting season.

Environmentally protected area: Zarafshan National Park.

No inter-basin transfers (Zarafshan basin is closed by mountains).

Climate: semi-arid to arid.

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WhatsApp Image 2025-11-29 at 6.44.33 PM (1).jpeg



WhatsApp Image 2025-11-29 at 6.44.33 PM.jpeg

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WhatsApp Image 2025-11-29 at 6.44.34 PM.jpeg

Comment Site provided the description of the catchment both in Questionnaire and in the information available to the site on the Zaravshan river catchment.

During the audit, the catchment's Important Water-Related Area (IWRA) was visited — the Qaratepa Water Reservoir, which serves as a significant recreational site for activities such as fishing and swimming. The site supports the administration of the Qaratepa Reservoir by organizing cleanup events and donating trees for planting.

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Client Description and Site Details

Client/Site Background

Site Location

141600, Samarkand region, Urgut city, 10 Navoi Shoh Street, Uzbekistan.

Briefly Describe Surroundings

The site is located in an urban setting within Urgut City.

Describe What the Site Produces

The site produces semi-finished tobacco goods.

Water is used for:

Boilers (energy generation).

Humidification in production areas.

Kitchen and household needs.

Describe the Water-Related Infrastructure

- Water Sources: Two on-site wells (boreholes, approx. 190 m deep).
- Water Treatment Facilities: Updated water treatment facilities.
- Water Use for Production: Boilers and humidification processes.
- Water Use in Energy Facilities: Boilers for steam generation.
- Wastewater Treatment Facilities: Complex treatment using physical, chemical, and biological methods, with optional reverse osmosis.
- Rainwater Harvesting Infrastructure: Rainwater channels across the site direct water to a storage pond.
- Stormwater Management Infrastructure: Stormwater flows into the same pond-evaporator.
- Fire Water: Sprinkler systems installed.
- Other: Closed water system for internal use and irrigation. Treated water can be discharged to the municipal water treatment.

Describe Where the Wastewater and Stormwater Are Discharged

All process water is treated at the on-site wastewater treatment plant and then reused for irrigation. Treated water can be discharged to the municipal water treatment.

Stormwater is directed to the storage pond-evaporator.

Provide a Short Description of the Site

Size: 11 hectares.

Employees: 51 permanent employees. Around 200 seasonal workers at peak times.

Approximately 20 outsourced workers.

Built-up area includes production facilities and supporting infrastructure.



The site map(BAT - Urgut).png

Comment

Site provided information the Questionnaire and the description is provided in the Client/Site background window below.

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Summary of Shared Water Challenges

Summary of Shared Water Challenges

identified share water challenges are:

- Poor quality of drinking water
- Water supply interruptions
- Low awareness of water stewardship
- Channel overflow of treated water
- Water scarcity
- Poor condition of Important Water-Related Areas (IWRAs)

Comment Site put together a table of share water challenges that were consulted with stakeholders during the meeting in September 2025

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

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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.

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Comment A presentation titled “Water Catchment Map and Physical Scope” provides an overview of the site’s physical scope, including catchment boundaries, water-related infrastructure, water sources, effluent pathways, and the contractual arrangement with SuvTaminot for municipal wastewater treatment and bottled drinking water supply contract.

Site map

- There have been no changes to the site boundaries since the previous audit. A minor modification was made to the piping network: a new line has been installed to supply steam to the Proctor Dryer at the production facility. The line is not yet operational and is expected to come online in December 2025 or early 2026.
- On-site irrigation is used primarily for legally protected trees and a small landscaped area at the site entrance. Historically, irrigation relied solely on borehole water. Following installation of a storage tank and pumping unit, the site now uses treated effluent from the ETP for irrigation.
- There have been no changes to water sources: the site continues to rely solely on its two on-site boreholes. Updates to water-related infrastructure include installation of UV filters at the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) to enhance effluent quality. Treated water is used for irrigation.
- The site’s effluent is designed to be discharged to the municipal WWTP, which releases treated effluent into the Yangi Ariq canal, ultimately flowing to the Zarafshan River. For the past year the site did not discharge treated water - all treated water was used for on-site irrigation. Nonetheless, the Zarafshan River remains the principal surface-water catchment on which the site both depends and has influence. A detailed catchment map is provided in the “AWS Catchment Description” document.

Catchment map

- The site provided a description of the surface water catchment, confirming that the Zarafshan River originates from glaciers in Tajikistan and flows westward to a series of lakes near Bukhara.
- Regarding the groundwater catchment, the site has contracted Uzhydrogeology to collect additional data on groundwater conditions, including water-level measurements and potential trends.
The hydrogeology report describes the area as part of the Southern Foothill Groundwater Field (Южное Предгорное месторождение) and identifies the main productive unit as the Upper Quaternary aquifer, with the following characteristics:
 - * Aquifer deposits: gravel with sandy-loamy matrix
 - * Depth to aquifer: 80–100 meters
 - * Aquifer thickness: ~40 meters
 - * Groundwater level fluctuations: 53.73–74.66 meters (amplitude 10.93 m)
- These characteristics indicate a multi-layered system consisting of a shallow unconfined water-table horizon, deeper semi-confined, and confined aquifers with elevated piezometric heads and artesian behavior. The site’s production wells abstract from depths of approximately 130–200 meters, which aligns with the deeper semi-confined or confined horizons, not with the shallow water-table aquifer.

The report provides partial information on recharge mechanisms, lithology, and general groundwater flow direction. However, while the aquifer type and abstraction depth are described, the spatial extent and boundaries of the groundwater aquifer on which the site depends have not been identified or mapped. No aquifer extent, boundary delineation, or equivalent hydrogeological mapping is provided to show the area over which the aquifer is recharged, flows, or is shared with other users. As a result, the physical scope of the site in relation to its ultimate groundwater source is not fully defined.

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

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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.

 Yes

Comment The site did not identify any new stakeholders during this reporting period. Existing stakeholders are documented in the evidence file "List of Stakeholders_UFP", which includes an assessment of each stakeholder's level of interest and influence, degree of risk, engagement type, and shared water challenges.

The site addressed the previous audit observation — "the site assessed stakeholder influence on the site, but did not assess the site's influence on stakeholders" — by adding a dedicated column that evaluates the site's influence on each stakeholder.

The site provided a presentation that summarizes the issues discussed and challenges identified as well as actions to address the raised challenges. A list of stakeholders that were invited and present is provided under the title "1.2.1, 3.8.1 Meeting with Stakeholders UFP_Final_25.09.2025".

The site's stakeholder identification process includes indirect engagement with vulnerable groups through the mahalla committees, which maintain the official "Iron Notebook" registry of underprivileged households, single mothers, and persons with disabilities. Although these groups are not listed separately in the stakeholder register, engagement with mahalla representatives ensures their interests are captured. Women and minority groups are also represented through this mechanism. There are no Indigenous peoples in the region. Past stakeholder interviews confirm active communication between the site and mahalla committees, supporting inclusive stakeholder coverage.

The representative of the site's ultimate water source (groundwater) is SuvTa'minot, the public-sector water supply authority responsible for operating the groundwater abstraction wells that provide water to the site. SuvTa'minot regulates abstraction volumes, monitors water quality parameters, and manages the infrastructure associated with the groundwater supply system. As the entity overseeing the extraction and management of the resource on which the site depends, SuvTa'minot is the appropriate representative of the site's ultimate water source.

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 site has included the same evidence as 1.2.1—"List of stakeholders_UFP" - degree of influence between site and stakeholder based on the internal assessment.

The site addressed the previous audit observation — "the site assessed stakeholder influence on the site but did not assess the site's influence on stakeholders" — by adding a dedicated column that evaluates the site's influence on each stakeholder.

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.*

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1.3.1 *Existing water-related incident response plans shall be identified.* ✔
Yes

Comment

The Water-Related Emergency Response Plan, which forms part of the Business Continuity Plan, is provided as supporting evidence. The document outlines the purpose, scope, responsible team members, as well as a prevention action plan and an emergency response plan. It was last updated in 2025 and is classified as confidential. Examples of identified potential emergencies include:

- Failure of the water supply system
- Leakage in the water supply pipeline
- Failure of the water treatment plant
- Hazardous material contamination in the water pumping station area
- Failure of outdoor fire extinguishing systems

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

Comment

A water balance was presented on the slide titled Water Balance Map (October 2024 – September 2025 UFP), illustrating inflow, losses, storage, and outflow. To enhance accuracy in tracking water abstraction, the site installed an additional water meter between the water tank and the production pipeline. This measure ensures precise verification of water withdrawal volumes.

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

To improve accuracy in tracking water abstraction, the site installed an additional water meter between the water storage tank and the production pipeline. This measure ensures precise verification of water withdrawal volumes. In addition, the site undertook maintenance of the water storage tank, which was found to contain tree roots. The cleaning exercise, along with the installation of the new meter, addressed discrepancies related to previously unaccounted water volumes. The Annual Monthly Water Use Table demonstrates seasonal variations in water consumption, with increased usage during the production season (October–December) and reduced usage during the off-season. A comprehensive Water Balance was prepared for the reporting year, including separate calculations for the on-season and off-season, as well as detailed monthly water balance data provided in an Excel document.

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

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Comment Water quality from the site's well is monitored annually, with samples collected and analyzed by the Regional Sanitary and Hygienic Service. Results from October 2025 indicated elevated nitrate levels in the well water at 57.2 mg/dm³; however, tap water tested at the same time showed a significantly lower concentration of 7.5 mg/dm³. An official letter from the Sanitary and Epidemiological Authority, provided as evidence, confirms that both well and tap water meet regulated standards.

In addition to external monitoring, the site conducts monthly internal water quality checks for Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) at tap points and water bottle services. Furthermore, treated water quality reports are provided to the site on a quarterly basis. The site has also initiated monitoring of seasonal variations in sewage water quality, with parameters aligned to its discharge permit requirements.

Based on the seasonal sewage-water-quality monitoring results provided for Q1–Q3 2025, no significant adverse trends or exceedances of legal limits were observed. The monitored parameters remained stable across the three quarters, with minor fluctuations that are consistent with normal operational variation.

The site assumes that Uzbekhydrogeology monitors water quality at the receiving water body. Evidence was provided of a formal request to Suv Taminot (the municipal water treatment facility) for monitoring results of the receiving water body. Informally, Suv Taminot confirmed via phone that the water quality complies with legislative requirements but stated that no official response would be issued, as Urgut GLP does not discharge water to the municipal treatment system. Given that the total annual volume of treated water discharged is 0 m³, the site considers its impact on receiving water quality to be negligible.

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

Comment Site provided map showing the potential sources of pollution and spill kits. All chemicals have MSDS at the location of storage. The location of potential sources of pollution has not changed since the initial certification audit.

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 There are no designated on-site Important Water-Related Areas (IWRAs). Trees located within the site's plot are legally protected and are irrigated during the hot season using treated water. These areas are not considered significant water-related habitats or ecosystems.

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 provided a spreadsheet detailing water-related expenses. Notably, the cost of water analysis increased after UFP changed its service provider from SuvTaminot to the State Environmental Committee. There were no capital expenditures (CAPEX) in 2025. However, in 2024, CAPEX included the reconstruction of the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP).

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

Comment WASH Evaluation and Improvements
The site's compliance with legal requirements for Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) was evaluated during the initial certification process. In 2024, a reverse osmosis water treatment system was installed in the production shop to supply the tea room and improve drinking water access, enhancing employee comfort and health. No negative changes have occurred at the site that would compromise the adequacy of WASH provisions.

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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 has identified the embedded water use for all primary inputs and, where possible, estimated both water quantity and associated water risk. The only primary input sourced within the site's catchment is tobacco grown by local farmers, for which water quality data has been provided. All other primary inputs originate outside the site's catchment, and their original locations have been verified to confirm this assessment.

The site conducted an assessment of water-use quantities and characteristics for tobacco grown by local contracted farmers. The table in the evidence provides a five-year summary (2020–2024) of water-use quantities for contracted FCV and Basma tobacco farmers in Uzbekistan. The dataset includes the number of farmers, cultivated area, water withdrawn, and efficiency indicators, enabling an understanding of agricultural water use trends across the supply chain.

1. Number of farmers and cultivated area

The number of contracted farmers fluctuated significantly from year to year, ranging from 703 farmers in 2020 to 436 farmers in 2024. The tobacco cultivation area similarly varied, from 2,198 ha in 2020 to 869.88 ha in 2024, reflecting changes in procurement volumes and crop planning. Both FCV and Basma varieties are represented.

2. Water withdrawn for seedling production

Water used for seedling production is relatively low and stable, ranging between 10 and 33 m³ per season, with a marked reduction in 2023 (10.184 m³) and a partial rebound in 2024 (14.385 m³).

3. Water withdrawn for field irrigation

Field irrigation is the dominant water-use component. Total water withdrawn for irrigation ranged from 7,607 m³ in 2020 (the highest recorded), decreasing to 2,316 m³ in 2022, stabilizing at 1,596 m³ in 2023, and rising again to 1,724 m³ in 2024. These changes reflect variations in acreage, number of farmers, and seasonal water availability.

4. Total water withdrawn

Total water withdrawal follows the same multi-year trend: highest in 2020 (7,640 m³), lowest in 2023 (1,632 m³), followed by an increase in 2024 (2,015 m³).

5. Water efficiency

Overall water efficiency values (tobacco output per unit of water withdrawn) show variability across the five years, with 3,476 in 2020, decreasing in 2021–2022 (1,681–1,571), and increasing again in 2023–2024 (2,139–2,317). This indicates improvement in 2023–2024 after lower efficiency in preceding years.

6. Water intensity

Water intensity (water withdrawn per unit of product) shows a generally upward trend: 2,833 in 2020, decreasing to 1,219 in 2021, and increasing again to 1,396–1,928 by 2024. This reflects changes in yield and area under cultivation.

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 The site has identified and quantified the embedded water use associated with outsourced services, including car washing (off-site), cleaning services, equipment maintenance, and SUV OQUA operations. The evidence provided is the same as for indicator 1.4.1

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1.5	<i>Gather water-related data for the catchment, including water governance, water balance, water quality, Important Water-Related Areas, infrastructure, and WASH</i>	
1.5.1	<i>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.</i>	 Yes
Comment	<p>The site has identified water governance initiatives at both regional and national levels, including relevant policies, plans, and legislative changes. For each initiative, the site has provided an assessment of its relevance and potential opportunities for engagement or compliance. Presentation is provided in Russian and includes following policies and initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New Water Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan - Installation of "smart" water meters by UzSuvTaminot in Tashkent - The Global Environment Facility has allocated \$26 million for Central Asian projects, of which \$18.6 million involving Uzbekistan will be directed toward restoring land in vulnerable ecosystems and improving the management of natural and water resources of the Amu Darya, Zarafshan, Panj, Syr Darya, and Naryn rivers. - Uzbekistan's 2030 Strategy prioritizes water as a critical resource. Key measures include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving water use efficiency by 25% through water-saving technologies. Converting 50% of irrigation networks to closed systems. Developing a national water resource balance and continuous monitoring system. Engaging the private sector in water processing, delivery, and distribution. Upgrading 13,100 km of canals with concrete lining (+46%). Replacing 1,069 pumps and 1,079 motors with energy-efficient models. - A Presidential Decree (May 15, 2025) approved the Concept for Raising Environmental Awareness until 2030. Goals include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instilling ecological culture in 3.3 million preschoolers and 4.2 million schoolchildren. Strengthening environmental education for 400,000 vocational students and 1.9 million university students. Improving ecological awareness among 90% of government and enterprise employees. Starting in 2025, an annual national eco-championship "New Tree – New Breath" will be held. 	
1.5.2	<i>Applicable water-related legal and regulatory requirements shall be identified, including legally-defined and/or stakeholder-verified customary water rights.</i>	 Yes
Comment	<p>The site has developed a comprehensive register of all environmental regulatory and legal requirements, including those related to water. In addition to listing the requirements, the register specifies potential consequences for non-compliance, such as applicable penalties. The site holds a "special water use" permit for extracting water from on-site boreholes, issued by the Ministry of Geology, Zarafshan Department of Hydrogeology. The permit authorizes extraction of 124.1 m³ per day and 44,678 m³ per year from both wells. The permit is valid for 2020–2025, and the site has already initiated the renewal process. Three key conditions are stipulated in the permit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Installation of water meters. - Maintaining cleanliness of the well area. - Monitoring groundwater levels. <p>The site pays an annual fee for water extraction and submits reports on abstraction volumes. The Department reserves the right to conduct spot checks to verify records.</p>	
1.5.3	<i>The catchment water-balance, and where applicable, scarcity, shall be quantified, including indication of annual, and where appropriate, seasonal, variance.</i>	 Obs.

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Comment The site quantified the catchment water balance using publicly available data, including statistics from the Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan (2018–2019) and inflow volumes for the Zarafshan River (2023). Analysis of these figures indicated a surplus of incoming water within the catchment. However, the site acknowledges that water scarcity remains an ongoing challenge in the region. Additionally, the site has contacted UzHydroGeology for assessment of the groundwater aquifer - as understood from reading the report, the results provided did not cover the scope of work initially agreed upon. The information provided was limited to the capacity of UzHydroGeology.

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.* Q
Obs.

Comment Based on publicly available information, the main water quality challenges in the Zarafshan River catchment include:

- Lack of adequate wastewater collection and treatment systems.
- Increasing salinity and overall concentration of substances caused by extensive irrigation and high evaporation rates.

In 2025, the site commissioned UzHydroGeology to conduct a study on the water balance and groundwater quality of its source. The scope of the study was limited by the agency’s capacity and is provided in Russian.
Study Results:

Samples were collected from exploratory wells (6), observation wells (12), operational wells (16), springs (25), and streams (4) for full and partial chemical analysis, including uranium, radium, thorium, fluoride, and heavy metals. Groundwater is primarily hydrocarbonate-calcium type, neutral to slightly acidic (pH up to 7.5). Uranium and radium levels comply with drinking water standards: Uranium max 0.0047 mg/L, Thorium 0.0000091 mg/L, Radium not detected. Physically, water is odorless, tasteless, transparent, with temperatures between 9–18°C. Overall, groundwater and surface water meet O’zDst 950:2011 “Drinking Water” standards and are suitable for domestic use.

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 provided a map and presentations identifying three Important Water-Related Areas (IWRAs) within the catchment:

- Zaravshan National Park
- Qaratepa Water Reservoir
- Shervok Ota

For each IWRA, the site included a detailed description covering its cultural significance, environmental and social risks, condition assessment, and status in the register of protected areas.

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

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Comment The site collected additional publicly available information on the condition of water-related infrastructure, including the total number of wells, pipeline length and percentage of inadequate pipelines, and sewage coverage. However, sewage infrastructure data is only available for 2011.
The site held a meeting with SuvTaminot (the water supply organization) to discuss the state of water infrastructure. Additionally, the site contributed to restoring artisanal wells in neighboring mahallas (communities).
The site recognizes that much of the water infrastructure is outdated, resulting in limited access to drinking water, sewage systems, and irrigation challenges for farmers. Potential exposure to extreme events has also been acknowledged.

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

Comment Evidence provided includes:

- Questionnaire to farmers assessing access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services.
- Assessment using WWF Water Risk Filter, which includes country-level WASH data.

Key findings from the Water Risk Filter data
- Access to safe water: Rural areas 71%, Urban areas 89%
- Access to sanitation: 60%
- Schools with WASH infrastructure: 50%

The site demonstrates awareness of these challenges and regularly assists local communities in improving access to safe drinking water. However, gaps remain in sanitation coverage and WASH infrastructure in schools, indicating systemic issues within the catchment.

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.* 
Obs.

Comment The site provided a spreadsheet listing stakeholders and associated shared water challenges. Each challenge was evaluated against Significance and Urgency, and based on this assessment, a Priority level was assigned. For every challenge, the site identified a corresponding initiative, along with its status and due date.
Key Shared Water Challenges Identified:

- Poor quality of drinking water
- Water supply interruptions
- Low awareness of water stewardship
- Channel overflow of treated water
- Water scarcity
- Poor condition of Important Water-Related Areas (IWRAs)

However, the evidence does not clearly demonstrate how the site consolidated individual stakeholder challenges into shared water challenges. While stakeholder-specific issues are listed, the documentation does not show which concerns are common across multiple stakeholders or how the site analyzed these inputs to identify shared, catchment-level challenges. As a result, the requirements of Indicator 1.6.1 are only partially met.

To address this gap, the site should clearly distinguish stakeholder-specific challenges from those that are genuinely shared, provide justification for why each identified issue qualifies as a shared challenge, and document the analytical steps used to move from individual stakeholder input to the final prioritized list of shared water challenges.

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

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Comment	<p>Please refer to Indicator 1.6.1 for the structure of the evidence provided. Actions/initiatives implemented:</p> <p>Holding regular stakeholder meetings. Infrastructure improvements to support water management. Conducting training sessions on water stewardship principles. Following the Sustainability in Tobacco Production (STP) policy. Developing annual action plans during peak irrigation periods in collaboration with farmers and farmer associations.</p>	
1.7	<p><i>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.</i></p>	
1.7.1	<p><i>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.</i></p>	 Yes
Comment	<p>The site has identified and prioritized its water-related risks through a structured risk assessment process. Each risk was evaluated based on likelihood, impact severity, and potential business cost within a defined timeframe. The assessment includes risk classification (internal/external), causes, consequences, risk scoring, assigned risk owners, existing controls, planned mitigation measures, progress since the previous review, and estimated financial impacts.</p> <p>Key water-related risks identified include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Declining groundwater levels and groundwater contamination - Water-quality deterioration, including risks related to the on-site pond and treatment facilities - Non-compliance with legislative requirements - Infrastructure-related risks, such as leaks, ruptures, storage overflow, and unintentional water losses - External risks, including earthquakes, impacts from the Zarafshan River, adjacent enterprises, and Zarafshan National Park (IWRA) - Risks arising from insufficient information on the wider water intake area (within a 25 km radius) <p>This risk assessment informs the site’s prioritization of mitigation actions and water stewardship planning.</p> <p>The site evaluated the potential costs of each identified water-related risk through a cross-functional process involving the Sustainability, Engineering, and Financial departments. As part of the risk assessment, the site estimated business impacts by combining gross margin loss per day with the expected duration of disruption associated with each risk scenario. The Engineering department contributed by estimating the expected time required to respond to or recover from each risk, including repair time, operational downtime, or reduced production capacity. The sustainability team integrated these inputs into the risk table. As a result, the potential cost for each risk is calculated as: Gross margin loss (GBP/day) × Estimated duration of impact (days).</p>	
1.7.2	<p><i>Water-related opportunities shall be identified, including how the site may participate, assessment and prioritization of potential savings, and business opportunities.</i></p>	 Yes

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Comment The site has identified water-related opportunities and documented them in a structured table that includes:

Opportunity description and explanation
 Internal/External classification
 Associated process
 Potential impact and expected result
 Detection date
 Planned actions, responsible person, due date, realization date, and status
 Estimated potential savings (GBP)

Key Water-Related Opportunities Identified:

Distribution of educational materials on best agricultural practices, focusing on irrigation efficiency.
 Monitoring water use on tobacco fields to optimize consumption.
 Collaboration on water regulation with neighboring enterprises and farmers sharing the same aquifer.
 Participation in projects for Zarafshan River restoration and otter population conservation.
 Evaluation of installing additional filtration systems to improve water quality.
 Conducting employee training on responsible water use.
 Preventing contamination and avoiding use of poor-quality water.
 Promoting rational water use across organizations and communities.
 Protecting water resources of the Zarafshan River.
 Catchment research to improve understanding of water-related challenges.
 Strengthening stakeholder engagement for joint water stewardship initiatives.
 Expanding drip irrigation to remaining agricultural fields.

Each opportunity is assessed for impact, feasibility, and potential cost savings, with corresponding action plans and timelines.

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 site has identified and documented best practices for water governance within the catchment. Evidence includes a presentation outlining these practices and their relevance. Best Practices Identified:

- AWS Standard Implementation – Adoption of international water stewardship principles.
- Annual ESG Reporting – Transparency in environmental, social, and governance performance.
- Collaboration with Qaratepa Reservoir (Public Sector) – Joint efforts to improve water management.
- Regular Meetings with Water-Related Stakeholders – Strengthening dialogue and shared responsibility.
- Repair of Artesian Wells in Local Communities – Supporting access to safe water and infrastructure resilience.

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

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Comment The site has identified best practices aligned with sector standards for water efficiency and reduction of total water use. These include:

Monitoring and Control:

Internal water KPIs are monitored daily by the Engineering team.
 Weekly monitoring is conducted via the plant DDS system.
 Monthly water performance reviews are carried out at the plant level.
 Daily maintenance and control of the water system ensure operational efficiency.

Infrastructure and Technology Improvements:

Modernization of the wastewater treatment plant to enable water reuse for irrigation.
 Installation of sensors and mixers to optimize water usage and reduce wastage.
 Implementation of condensate recovery systems to reuse water within processes.

Water Reuse Initiatives:

Treated wastewater is reused for irrigation purposes.
 Condensate recovery systems reduce freshwater demand.

Behavioral and Training Measures:

Water-saving training sessions conducted for contractors, including cleaning staff and gardeners, to promote responsible water use practices.

Evidence for this indicator provided in indicator 1.8.1

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


Yes

Comment The site identified best practices to maintain and improve water quality, supported by reliable data sources and operational controls:

Monitoring and Data Management:

Continuous monitoring of wastewater quality parameters to ensure compliance with internal and regulatory standards.
 Data sources include on-site measurements and laboratory analyses, providing accurate and timely information for decision-making.

Closed Water System:

The facility operates a closed water system, eliminating discharge into sewer networks or natural terrain, thereby preventing contamination risks.

Risk Management and Contingency Planning:

A Business Continuity Plan (BCP) for water supply is in place to safeguard operations and maintain water quality during emergencies.

Stakeholder Engagement:

Collaboration with UzHydroGeology

Evidence for this indicator provided in indicator 1.8.1

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


Yes

Comment The site has adopted best practices for maintaining and restoring Important Water-Related Areas within the catchment:

Community and Environmental Engagement:

- Plogging Activity at Qaratepa Reservoir: Organized clean-up and waste collection activities to maintain water quality and protect aquatic ecosystems.

- Shirvok Ota Restoration Initiative: Active participation in restoration efforts for IWRA

Evidence for this indicator provided in indicator 1.8.1

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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 site has adopted practices that align with recognized WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) best practice, ensuring equitable and adequate services for all workers and contributing to catchment-level access:

Safe Drinking Water Provision:
Bottled drinking water provided on-site to ensure continuous access to potable water that meets quality standards.

Sanitation Facilities:
Bathrooms for men and women are provided, supporting gender-responsive, safe, and dignified sanitation.

Catchment-Level Contribution:
34 artesian wells repaired, improving reliable access to safe water for surrounding communities and/or facility dependents, strengthening overall
Evidence for this indicator provided in indicator 1.8.1

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2	STEP 2: COMMIT & PLAN - Commit to be a responsible water steward and develop a Water Stewardship Plan	
2.1	<i>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.</i>	
2.1.1	<p><i>A signed and publicly disclosed site statement OR organizational document shall be identified. The statement or document shall include the following commitments:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>That the site will implement and disclose progress on water stewardship program(s) to achieve improvements in AWS water stewardship outcomes</i> - <i>That the site implementation will be aligned to and in support of existing catchment sustainability plans</i> - <i>That the site's stakeholders will be engaged in an open and transparent way</i> - <i>That the site will allocate resources to implement the Standard.</i> 	 Yes
Comment	<p>The site has a signed and publicly disclosed Water Stewardship Commitment Statement, demonstrating its commitment to responsible water management.</p> <p>The statement is available on the company website: https://bat.uz/uploads/files/water-use-urgut-branch.pdf</p> <p>A printed copy is displayed on the notice board in the Urgut GLP office for employee awareness and accessibility. Evidence. includes photo of the Water Stewardship Commitment Statement available in the UFP office.</p>	
2.2	<i>Develop and document a process to achieve and maintain legal and regulatory compliance.</i>	
2.2.1	<p><i>The system to maintain compliance obligations for water and wastewater management shall be identified, including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Identification of responsible persons/positions within facility organizational structure</i> - <i>Process for submissions to regulatory agencies.</i> 	 Yes
Comment	<p>The site maintains an environmental regulatory and legal requirements register and conducts internal audits to verify full compliance with water-related regulations. As part of continuous improvement, the site has issued an updated Instruction #141 – “On Organizing Monitoring of Water Consumption and Wastewater Discharge.” Key new requirement introduced by this instruction:</p> <p>Groundwater Level Monitoring: The head of the Engineering Department must perform instrumental measurements of groundwater levels at existing wells on a monthly basis, ensuring proactive management and compliance with regulatory standards.</p>	
2.3	<i>Create a water stewardship strategy and plan including addressing risks (to and from the site), shared catchment water challenges, and opportunities.</i>	
2.3.1	<i>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.</i>	 Yes

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Comment The site has provided an Environmental Policy Statement that includes a stand-alone Water Stewardship Policy with overarching SMART goals and objectives.
Key Goals and Commitments:
Reduce water withdrawal and increase recycling across operations to support freshwater ecosystem conservation.
By 2025, achieve a 36% reduction in water withdrawal and increase the water recycling rate to 30%, compared to 2017 baseline.
Promote access to safe WASH across facilities, farms, and supply chain communities, recognizing the human right to water.
Collective action for water stewardship across the value chain, including supporting directly contracted farmers to use water more efficiently.
Prevent, minimize, and control water pollution and discharges in operations, and collaborate with the wider value chain to achieve the same standards.

The policy is publicly available on the site’s website in three languages (English, Uzbek, and Russian):

Future Updates:
The Global BAT Water Stewardship Policy is scheduled for revision in 2026 to update targets that expire next year.

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

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Comment The site has developed a comprehensive Water Stewardship Plan (WSP) that outlines actions, targets, and responsibilities to achieve water-related objectives in alignment with AWS outcomes and sector best practices. The plan includes the following elements for each target:

Measurement and Monitoring:
 Each action specifies measurable targets (e.g., % reduction in water withdrawal, recycling rate, WASH improvements).
 Progress is tracked through KPIs and documented in the WSP under columns such as Target, Achieved, and Actual Timeframe.

Actions to Achieve and Maintain Targets:
 Detailed actions are listed under the Action column (e.g., modernization of wastewater treatment, groundwater monitoring, WASH facility upgrades).
 Linkages to AWS outcomes and shared water challenges are captured in the Action Linkage and AWS Outcome columns.

Planned Timeframes:
 Initial and actual timeframes for each action are recorded in the WSP (Initial Timeframe and Actual Timeframe columns).

Financial Budgets:
 Budget allocations for each action are documented in the Budget (UZS) column, supporting resource planning and transparency.

Roles and Responsibilities:
 The WSP clearly identifies roles under Responsible, Accountable, Consulted, and Informed columns.

Value Creation and Priority:
 Each action includes an assessment of Value Creation, Scope, and Priority.

Link to Best Practice and AWS Outcomes:
 The WSP explicitly connects each action to AWS outcomes (e.g., sustainable water balance, good water quality, WASH access) and shared water challenges.

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.*



Comment The site held a stakeholder meeting with relevant public-sector and infrastructure agencies, including Water Supply of Samarkand – Urgut Branch and the Urgut Agricultural Department, to review and update shared water challenges. The discussion resulted in the identification of projects and actions aimed at addressing these challenges both within the catchment and on-site. In addition, the site conducts annual emergency preparedness training in coordination with representatives from the Emergency Situations Department of Urgut District, ensuring readiness and resilience in case of water-related or other operational emergencies.

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3	STEP 3: IMPLEMENT - Implement the site’s stewardship plan and improve impacts	
3.1	<i>Implement plan to participate positively in catchment governance.</i>	
3.1.1	<i>Evidence that the site has supported good catchment governance shall be identified.</i>	 Yes
Comment	<p>Site provided presentation that list completed actions to support good catchment governance that includes:</p> <p>Plogging Activities: Conducted at three sites around Qaratepa Reservoir (IWRA), collecting over 1 tonne of waste, improving water quality and ecosystem health.</p> <p>Stakeholder Engagement: Meetings held with public-sector agencies to address shared water challenges and agree on joint actions.</p> <p>Educational Outreach: Seminar at Samarkand State University attended by 60+ students, focusing on water issues and best practices.</p> <p>Collaboration for Shared Water Challenges: Joint projects initiated to resolve catchment-level issues and promote stewardship.</p> <p>Annual ESG Reports: Published for UZ BAT, including Urgut Factory Plant (UFP), demonstrating transparency and governance.</p> <p>Artesian Well Rehabilitation: 34 wells repaired, improving community access (over 70,000 people) since 2007 to safe water (evidence reviewed on-site by auditor; document not shared due to confidentiality).</p>	
3.1.2	<i>Measures identified to respect the water rights of others including Indigenous peoples, that are not part of 3.2 shall be implemented.</i>	 Yes
Comment	<p>The site has implemented measures to respect and enhance water rights for local communities, ensuring equitable access to safe water resources within the catchment.</p> <p>Actions Completed in 2024:</p> <p>Goibata community (mahallya): Restoration of two artesian wells, previously non-functional, now providing reliable water access.</p> <p>So-fi community (mahallya): Restoration of one artesian well, improving local water availability.</p> <p>Impact:</p> <p>These interventions have improved access to clean water for approximately 3,000 people. Prior to restoration, communities relied on water transported from distant locations, creating significant hardship.</p> <p>The restored wells now provide sustainable, local water sources, supporting community resilience and respecting the human right to water.</p>	
3.2	<i>Implement system to comply with water-related legal and regulatory requirements and respect water rights.</i>	
3.2.1	<i>A process to verify full legal and regulatory compliance shall be implemented.</i>	 Yes

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Comment	<p>The site has established a formal process to ensure full compliance with all applicable water-related legal and regulatory requirements, supported by documented controls and internal audits.</p> <p>Key Elements of the Compliance Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regulatory Register: The site maintains an environmental regulatory and legal requirements register, listing all relevant health, safety, and environmental legislation applicable to its operations. - Internal Audits: Regular internal audits are conducted to verify compliance with water-related regulatory requirements and BAT policy standards. - Control Framework The site demonstrates identification of all relevant legislation and full compliance with legal requirements. Controls are in place to implement any new or modified regulations promptly. Procedures exist to identify non-compliance and take effective, proportionate corrective actions. <p>Roles and Responsibilities The Sustainability Manager oversees compliance, tracks legislative changes, and ensures updates are registered. Environmental permits and safety instructions are reviewed at intervals defined by legislation.</p> <p>Recent GAP Resolution An identified GAP related to “pump passport and verification of water meter” was addressed by the Utility Manager:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -All Urgut wells are equipped with Gidromer GDR-B-4 water meters, with a valid calibration certificate dated 03.06.2025. - Technical specifications of pumps were submitted during RSV permission (special water use permit) process, based on the pump operation manual. - Compliance Status: No legislative violation exists for this requirement; documentation and certification meet regulatory expectations. 	
3.2.2	<p><i>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.</i></p>	 Yes
Comment	<p>There are no legal or regulatory requirements obligating the site to directly provide or formally ensure the water rights of others. However, the site has voluntarily implemented measures to support equitable access to water within the catchment.</p> <p>Key Contribution: Since 2007, the Urgut Factory Plant (UFP) has repaired 34 artesian wells, improving water availability for local communities. These efforts have provided clean water access to more than 70,000 people, reducing reliance on distant water sources and enhancing community resilience.</p>	
3.3	<p><i>Implement plan to achieve site water balance targets.</i></p>	
3.3.1	<p><i>Status of progress towards meeting water balance targets set in the water stewardship plan shall be identified.</i></p>	 Yes

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Comment The site has implemented a range of best practices to achieve water balance targets outlined in its Water Stewardship Plan. Progress is monitored regularly, and the status of each action is assessed as "Complete," "In Progress," "Continuous," or "Cancelled."

Best Practices Implemented

-Monitoring:

Internal water KPIs tracked daily by the Engineering team.

Weekly monitoring via plant DDS system.

Monthly reviews at plant level.

-Operational Controls:

Daily maintenance and control of water systems.

Infrastructure Improvements:

-Modernization of the wastewater treatment plant to enable water reuse for irrigation.

Water-Saving Initiatives:

-Installation of sensors and mixers to optimize water use.

-Condensate recovery and reuse of treated water for irrigation.

Capacity Building:

- Water-saving training for contractors (cleaning staff and gardeners).

Performance Against Targets

Target:

30% water recycling and 35% reduction in water withdrawal compared to 2017 baseline.

Achievement:

34% water recycling (exceeding target).

79% reduction in water withdrawal (significantly exceeding target).

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 The site has achieved 34% water recycling and a 79% reduction in water extraction, significantly surpassing its water balance targets. These results were primarily driven by a 55% reduction in production volume, combined with modernization of the wastewater treatment plant and reuse of treated water for irrigation.

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 has confirmed that there are no legally binding requirements in Uzbekistan mandating the reallocation of water for social, cultural, or environmental purposes. Water withdrawal is conducted strictly in accordance with the conditions specified in the special water use permit, ensuring compliance with national regulations.

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

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Comment	<p>The site has implemented a robust process for tracking water quality parameters as part of its water stewardship commitments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Monitoring: Water quality is monitored quarterly, and no violations of Maximum Allowable Concentrations (MAC) in treated water have been identified to date. This action is ongoing and documented. - Infrastructure Improvements: Modernization of the wastewater treatment plant has been completed, enabling reuse of treated water for irrigation. - Impact on Receiving Water Quality: Given that the total annual volume of treated water discharged is 0 m³, the site considers its impact on the receiving water body negligible. 	
3.4.2	<p><i>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.</i></p>	 Yes
Comment	<p>As noted in Indicator 1.3.4, the site has completed modernization of its wastewater treatment plant and implemented reuse of treated water for irrigation. In 2025, the total volume of treated water discharged was 0 m³, as all treated water is reused internally. This demonstrates negligible impact on receiving water quality and alignment with best practice for effluent management.</p> <p>Of the total 11,922 m³ of water withdrawn by the site in 2025, 5,298 m³ of treated effluent was reused for irrigation within the facility boundary. This represents a closed-loop system where treated wastewater is applied only to landscaped or designated irrigation areas.</p> <p>Based on the evidence reviewed, the potential impact of the on-site irrigation on the groundwater is considered low, for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volume relative to total withdrawal: Although 5,298 m³ was used for irrigation, this volume is distributed over the entire growing season and applied in controlled amounts. It represents less than half of total site water use. - Quality of treated water: Treated effluent meets internal quality thresholds following modernization of the treatment plant. Monitoring data show no exceedances of concern that would suggest a risk of groundwater contamination. - Irrigation application method: Water is applied to surface soils within the site's landscaped and operational areas. There is no evidence of direct discharge to soils with fast infiltration pathways, nor evidence of preferential flow to the deeper confined aquifers used for water supply. <p>Overall, based on irrigation volumes, treated-water quality, and application conditions, the risk of treated effluent reuse causing any material impact on groundwater quality is assessed as negligible.</p>	
3.5	<p><i>Implement plan to maintain or improve the site's and/or catchment's Important Water-Related Areas.</i></p>	
3.5.1	<p><i>Practices set in the water stewardship plan to maintain and/or enhance the site's Important Water-Related Areas shall be implemented.</i></p>	 Yes
Comment	<p>In 2025, the site implemented an action to maintain and enhance its Important Water-Related Area (IWRA) at the Qaratepa Water Reservoir. The activity involved plogging at three locations around the reservoir, resulting in the collection of over 1 tonne of waste during May 2025. This initiative contributed to improving water quality and enhancing IWRA.</p>	
3.6	<p><i>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.</i></p>	
3.6.1	<p><i>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.</i></p>	 Yes

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Comment	<p>Actions Completed in 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Goibata Community (Mahalla): Restoration of two artesian wells, previously non-functional, now providing reliable water access. - So-fi Community (Mahalla): Restoration of one artesian well, improving local water availability. <p>On-Site WASH Provision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adequate access to sanitation facilities for all employees. - Provision of bottled drinking water across the site to ensure safe and reliable supply. 	
3.6.2	<p><i>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.</i></p>	 Yes
Comment	<p>The site confirms that its operations do not impinge on the human right to safe water and sanitation for surrounding communities and that traditional access rights for local are respected.</p> <p>Key Actions and Evidence 9repeated here from previous related indicators, including 3.6.1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Since 2007, the site has repaired 34 artesian wells, providing clean water access to more than 70,000 people in the catchment. - In 2024, three additional wells were restored in Goibata (two wells) and So-fi (one well) communities, improving access for approximately 3,000 people. <p>Prior to restoration, these communities relied on water transported from distant locations, creating significant hardship. The restored wells now provide sustainable, local water sources, supporting community resilience and respecting the human right to water. Evidence of these actions was reviewed by the auditor on-site; due to confidentiality, documents cannot be shared externally.</p>	
3.7	<p><i>Implement plan to maintain or improve indirect water use within the catchment:</i></p>	
3.7.1	<p><i>Evidence that indirect water use targets set in the water stewardship plan, as applicable, have been met shall be quantified.</i></p>	 Yes
Comment	<p>The site has implemented actions to reduce indirect water use within its supply chain, aligned with targets in the Water Stewardship Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crop Transition: Switching from FCV to Basma tobacco varieties has resulted in a 21% reduction in total water use compared to previous practices. - Efficient Irrigation: Deployment of drip irrigation systems for three tobacco farmers is underway. Estimated water savings for irrigation are expected to range between 18–30%, with final volumes to be confirmed at the end of the harvest season. 	
3.7.2	<p><i>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.</i></p>	 Yes

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Comment The site has actively engaged with suppliers, contractors, and employees to promote efficient water use and stewardship practices.

Key Actions:

- Conducted training sessions and discussions on efficient water use for:
- Tobacco farmers (focus on irrigation efficiency and crop water requirements).
- Contractors (including cleaning and gardening services).
- Employees (awareness on water-saving practices within operations).

Evidence provided is the presentations with photos from training, material used and training for farmers along with the statistics that show material assistance site provided to farmers to support switching from FCV to Basma tobacco variety

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.*


Yes

Comment The site has actively engaged with key public-sector stakeholders and water-related authorities to address shared water challenges and coordinate actions within the catchment. Stakeholders Engaged:

SuvTaminot (Water Supply and Treatment Company)
Urgut Department of Water Resources
Regional Department of Sanitation and Epidemiology Center
Department of Ecology and Environmental Protection (Samarkand region and Urgut branch)
SuvTa'minot of Urgut

Key Messages Relayed and Confirmed:

Discussion on reuse of wastewater and construction of new treatment facilities to enable irrigation across Urgut region.

- Allocation of 51 billion UZS by SuvTaminot for upgrading water infrastructure in Urgut mahallas (e.g., Gisht, Vatan Kuzibek, Omon Kutan, Kizilbosh).
- Identification of urgent need for artesian wells (200–300 m depth) in mahallas facing acute drinking water shortages.
- Coordination on new projects related to treatment facilities and water quality improvements in the region.
- Confirmation that subsidies for drip irrigation and well installation are available through water management authorities.
- Installation of smart water meters underway to improve monitoring and efficiency.

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

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Comment	<p>The site provided a presentation outlining completed actions that demonstrate its commitment to good catchment governance, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plogging Activities: Conducted at three locations around the Qaratepa Water Reservoir (IWRA), resulting in the collection of over 1 tonne of waste in May 2025. - Stakeholder Engagement: Regular meetings with water-related authorities and local stakeholders to address shared water challenges. - Educational Outreach: Seminar at Samarkand State University, attended by more than 60 students, focused on water issues and best practices. - Collaboration Initiatives: Joint efforts to resolve shared water challenges and exchange best practices within the catchment. - Annual ESG Reporting: Publication of UZ BAT ESG reports, including Urgut Factory Plant (UFP), ensuring transparency and accountability. - Infrastructure Support: Repair of 34 artesian wells, providing clean water to over 70,000 people since 2007. <p>(Evidence reviewed by auditor on-site; documents not shared externally due to confidentiality.)</p>	
3.9.2	<i>Actions towards achieving best practice, related to targets in terms of water balance shall be implemented.</i>	 Yes
Comment	<p>Site implemented and implementing following best practices towards water balance targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring internal water KPIs on daily basis by Engineering team, on plant DDS-weekly, on monthly basis – on plant level - - Maintenance and control water system on daily basis -Waste water treatment plant modernization and reuse water for irrigation - Water savings initiatives: sensors mixers, reusing water (condensate recovery, treated water for irrigation - Water savings trainings for contractors (cleanings & gardeners) 	
3.9.3	<i>Actions towards achieving best practice, related to targets in terms of water quality shall be implemented.</i>	 Yes
Comment	<p>In indicator 1.3.4 site provided evidence of tracking water quality parameters on site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water Quality Monitoring: Quarterly monitoring of treated water is conducted, and no violations of Maximum Allowable Concentrations (MAC) have been identified to date. This action is continuous and documented. - Infrastructure Improvements: Modernization of the wastewater treatment plant has been completed, enabling reuse of treated water for irrigation. 	
3.9.4	<i>Actions towards achieving best practice, related to targets in terms of the site's maintenance of Important Water-Related Areas shall be implemented.</i>	 Yes
Comment	<p>As indicated in 3.5.1 indicator - in 2025, the site implemented an action to maintain and enhance its Important Water-Related Area (IWRA) at the Qaratepa Water Reservoir. The activity involved plogging at three locations around the reservoir, resulting in the collection of over 1 tonne of waste during May 2025. This initiative contributed to improving water quality and enhancing IWRA.</p>	
3.9.5	<i>Actions towards achieving best practice related to targets in terms of WASH shall be implemented.</i>	 Yes

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- Comment As in indicator 3.6.1 site implemented actions in 2024:
- Goibata Community (Mahalla): Restoration of two artesian wells, previously non-functional, now providing reliable water access.
 - So-fi Community (Mahalla): Restoration of one artesian well, improving local water availability.
- In 2025:
On-Site WASH Provision:
- Adequate access to sanitation facilities for all employees.
 - Provision of bottled drinking water across the site to ensure safe and reliable supply.

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4 STEP 4: EVALUATE - Evaluate the site's performance.	
4.1	<i>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.</i>
4.1.1	<i>Performance against targets in the site's water stewardship plan and the contribution to achieving water stewardship outcomes shall be evaluated.</i> ✔ Yes
Comment	Site monitors and evaluates performance against set targets in the water stewardship plan and contribution to achieving water stewardship - The site has achieved 34% water recycling and a 79% reduction in water extraction, significantly surpassing its water balance targets. These results were primarily driven by a 55% reduction in production volume, combined with modernization of the wastewater treatment plant and reuse of treated water for irrigation (reviewed in indicator 3.3.1 and 3.3.2)
4.1.2	<i>Value creation resulting from the water stewardship plan shall be evaluated.</i> ✔ Yes
Comment	<p>The Water Stewardship Plan (WSP) has generated measurable and non-measurable value across economic, environmental, and social dimensions. The evaluation considered direct financial benefits, avoided costs, and intangible gains such as reputation enhancement and stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>Key Findings:</p> <p>Economic Value:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quantifiable benefits include avoided penalties, operational cost savings, and support to local farmers plus recurring annual benefits of 7,780,000 UZS/year from wastewater treatment and pond modernization. - Additional contributions in foreign currency: \$1,950 USD and 181 GBP. - Some actions remain TBD pending implementation (e.g., December 2025 initiatives). <p>Environmental Value:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported Khokimiyat in eliminating ~10 tons of waste. - Modernization of water infrastructure (WWTP, ponds) ensures long-term sustainability and compliance. <p>Social Value:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved access to drinking water for 6,000+ people across multiple communities. - Strengthened collaboration with stakeholders and knowledge sharing. <p>Risk Mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prevented potential penalties and reduced reputation risks, which could have led to production volume decreases (estimated impact: 20,000,000 UZS). <p>Challenges & Gaps:</p> <p>Some actions have no direct monetary value but deliver social and environmental benefits. Certain values remain TBD and will be updated post-implementation. Reputation and social benefits are difficult to monetize but critical for long-term sustainability.</p> <p>Evidence is provided in indicator 2.3.2</p>
4.1.3	<i>The shared value benefits in the catchment shall be identified and where applicable, quantified.</i> ✔ Yes

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Comment The site has identified and, where possible, quantified shared value benefits generated within the catchment through actions under the Water Stewardship Plan. These benefits reflect economic, environmental, and social contributions that strengthen local resilience and stakeholder relationships.

Key Shared Value Actions and Benefits:

Provision of Water:

- Ensured access to safe drinking water for local communities (approx. 3,000+ people), improving health and quality of life.

Switching from FCV to Basma:

- Reduced water consumption and improved efficiency in production processes.
- Delivered cost savings and compliance benefits (84 000 000 UZS for farmers).

Deployment drip irrigation system for three farmers (expected value creation 20,000,000 UZS)

Plogging in Qaratepa:

- Removed waste from water bodies and surrounding areas (~10 tons), enhancing environmental quality (value benefit at around 40 GBP for local municipality)
- Strengthened community engagement and awareness on water stewardship.

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.*


closed

Comment Site reviews water-related incidents during Steering Committee on the quarterly basis. Additionally site developed a new work instruction for flood incidents that includes Planned measures for preventing or reducing the consequences of floods and high water. Site did not prepare incident report for the past flooding incident.

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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

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Comment The site has shared the water stewardship plan during a meeting with stakeholders in September 2025. Additionally, the site delivered the AWS brochure and water stewardship plan in Uzbek to the stakeholders in-person - photos and documents are attached.

The site provided a list of stakeholders that have personally received the AWS brochure and water stewardship plan.

This was confirmed during the stakeholder interview. During the stakeholder consultation, the site shared a detailed summary of its water stewardship performance using an AWS brochure and the site's water stewardship plan. The materials communicated the following key aspects:

- Overview of the AWS Standard and the site's five-step stewardship approach (gather, plan, implement, evaluate, disclose).
- Performance achievements, including a 49% reduction in water consumption compared to 2017 and a 57% water recycling rate.
- Operational improvements, such as modernization of wastewater treatment facilities, and increased reuse of treated water for irrigation.
- Key water risks and shared water challenges identified in the Zarafshan catchment.
- Collective action activities, including participation in the Qaratepa Reservoir plugging event and ongoing engagement with public-sector and academic stakeholders.
- Future commitments, including ongoing AWS certification, continued collaboration, and further improvements in water efficiency and reuse.

Stakeholders were presented with these results during the meeting and confirmed that they understood the site's progress and planned actions. Positive feedback included recognition of the site's leadership, transparency, and significant investments in water efficiency and reuse. Several stakeholders expressed appreciation for the clarity of communication and the site's proactive role in shared water stewardship.

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 The Water Stewardship Plan (WSP) is reviewed and discussed quarterly during Steering Committee meetings. During these sessions, the status of implementation is updated and progress toward targets is evaluated as needed. Meeting minutes, provided in Russian, are attached as evidence. The review of these minutes confirms that the WSP was discussed, and updates or revisions were made where required.

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5 STEP 5: COMMUNICATE & DISCLOSE - Communicate about water stewardship and disclose the site's stewardship efforts	
5.1	<i>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.</i>
5.1.1	<i>The site's water-related internal governance, including positions of those accountable for compliance with water-related laws and regulations shall be disclosed.</i>
Comment	The site's water-related internal governance structure, including the positions accountable for compliance with water-related laws and regulations, was presented to stakeholders during the September 2025 meeting. The presentation slides are attached as evidence. Additionally, information on water-related internal governance and the roles responsible for regulatory compliance is available on-site
5.2	<i>Communicate the water stewardship plan with relevant stakeholders.</i>
5.2.1	<i>The water stewardship plan, including how the water stewardship plan contributes to AWS Standard outcomes, shall be communicated to relevant stakeholders.</i>
Comment	<p>Site has share the water stewardship plan during meeting with stakeholders in September 2025. Additionally site delivered AWS brochure and water stewardship plan in Uzbek to the stakeholders in-person - photos and documents are attached.</p> <p>Site provided list of stakeholders that have personally received the AWS brochure and water stewardship plan.</p> <p>This was confirmed during stakeholder interviews.</p>
5.3	<i>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.</i>
5.3.1	<i>A summary of the site's water stewardship performance, including quantified performance against targets, shall be disclosed annually at a minimum.</i>



Yes



Yes



Yes

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Comment The site shared its Water Stewardship Plan and performance results during the stakeholder meeting held in September 2025. During the stakeholder consultation, the site shared a detailed summary of its water stewardship performance using an AWS brochure and the site's water stewardship plan. The materials communicated the following key aspects:

- Overview of the AWS Standard and the site's five-step stewardship approach (gather, plan, implement, evaluate, disclose).
- Performance achievements, including a 49% reduction in water consumption compared to 2017 and a 57% water recycling rate.
- Operational improvements, such as modernizing wastewater treatment facilities and increasing reuse of treated water for irrigation.
- Key water risks and shared water challenges identified in the Zarafshan catchment.
- Collective action activities, including participation in the Qaratepa Reservoir plogging event and ongoing engagement with public-sector and academic stakeholders.
- Future commitments, including ongoing AWS certification, continued collaboration, and further improvements in water efficiency and reuse.

Stakeholders were presented with these results during the meeting and confirmed that they understood the site's progress and planned actions.

In addition, the site distributed the AWS brochure and the Water Stewardship Plan in Uzbek and presented implemented actions directly to stakeholders. Photos and supporting documents are attached as evidence.

A list of stakeholders who personally received the AWS brochure and Water Stewardship Plan was provided by the site. This information was verified during stakeholder interviews:

- Public-sector agencies (e.g., SuvTa'minot, municipal authorities)
- Mahalla representatives
- Neighboring industrial enterprises
- Farmers
- Academic institutions, including Samarkand State University (SamGU)

Although the information is not posted publicly online, the disclosure was made to a diverse and sufficiently representative group of stakeholders who are directly connected to, or potentially affected by, the site's water use and catchment-level water challenges.

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

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Comment The site has demonstrated transparency by sharing its water-related challenges and actions taken to address them with relevant stakeholders. Evidence confirms that disclosure was both verbal (during the meeting) and documented (brochures and plans provided in the local language):

- The Water Stewardship Plan (WSP) was presented and discussed with stakeholders during the September 2025 meeting.
- The site distributed the AWS brochure and the WSP in Uzbek, ensuring accessibility and understanding for local stakeholders.

Photos and supporting documents of the meeting and distributed materials are attached as evidence. A list of stakeholders who personally received the AWS brochure and WSP was provided by the site. Stakeholder interviews confirmed that the WSP and related efforts were shared and discussed with the following stakeholders:

- Public-sector agencies (e.g., SuvTa'minot, municipal authorities)
- Mahalla representatives
- Neighboring industrial enterprises
- Farmers
- Academic institutions, including Samarkand State University (SamGU)

Although the information is not posted publicly online, the disclosure was made to a diverse and sufficiently representative group of stakeholders who are directly connected to, or potentially affected by, the site's water use and catchment-level 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 Evidence shows active participation in collaborative initiatives and discussions during the September 2025 stakeholder meeting.
Evidence of Compliance:

- The Water Stewardship Plan (WSP) was shared with stakeholders during the September 2025 meeting, along with the AWS brochure in Uzbek. Photos and documents are attached as evidence.
- The site facilitated dialogue with key public-sector agencies, including the Khokimiyat, the Department of Ecology and Environmental Protection of Samarkand region and Urgut branch, and SuvTaminot.

Key outcomes from the meeting:

- Youth Awareness Initiatives: Proposal to organize educational events in kindergartens and schools to raise awareness about water stewardship.

- Tree Planting Program: Commitment by the Department of Ecology and Environmental Protection to plant 12,000 trees in the near future.

- Groundwater Protection: Identification of the issue of illegal artesian wells contributing to groundwater depletion.

Infrastructure Improvements:

- SuvTaminot is constructing new wastewater treatment facilities to enable reuse for irrigation across Urgut region. 51 billion UZS allocated for upgrading water infrastructure in Urgut mahallas (work underway in "Gisht" mahalla).

- Additional wells (200–300 m depth) required in mahallas "Vatan Kuzibek," "Omon Kutan," and "Kizilbosh" due to acute drinking water shortages.

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.* ✔
Yes

Comment Site did not have any compliance violations in 2025. Special water use permit is expiring in 2025 - site has applied to renewal of the special water use permit.

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5.5.2 *Necessary corrective actions taken by the site to prevent future occurrences shall be disclosed if applicable.* 
Yes

Comment Site did not have compliance violations in 2025.

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.* 
Yes

Comment Site did not have compliance violations in 2025.

Previous Findings

All non-conformities raised in the previous audit have been satisfactorily closed. 
Yes

Comment All non-conformities raised in the previous audit have been satisfactorily closed.