

IMPLEMENTATION PHASES FOR WATER POLICY / ELOHA STRATEGY
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Phases	Major Tasks / Activities (Note: these track with results chain diagram for the strategy)	Example sites
1. Scope the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define and agree upon clear policy goals and objectives. • Determine whether interest exists at a basin, state, or national level where TNC has capacity • Understand the legal, policy, governance, regulatory, and financial framework in the basin and/or jurisdictions(s), including opportunities and impediments to reform (i.e., do “due diligence” for project) • Identify key decision-makers and other contacts, and scope/scale the policy aspects of the project accordingly to influence them. • Understand the needs and interests of the audience for strategic communications (i.e., articulating social benefits). • Define scale of project and potential linkages to other strategies (e.g., Dams and Conservation Finance Mechanisms) that could be initiated simultaneously • Scope available data and models. • Identify resource (funding) and capacity needs • Identify priorities for protection and restoration through a “blueprint” or other process at an appropriate scale for the policy project. 	
2. Initiate process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish MOUs between contributing TNC programs as appropriate • Hold kickoff or orientation meeting • Have initial resources in place; identify sources of support for subsequent steps. • Develop capacity building plan. 	Magdalena
3. Build political support for policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine whether partners are needed; if so, then form partnerships • Determine what jurisdictional (state, country, basin) process is to engage stakeholders in water resource management policy or regulatory change. 	Rhode Island

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If needed, organize and launch policy action campaign¹ to ensure that key decision makers support and demand e-flow management • Launch strategic communication and messaging. • Pass laws² (or laws exist) that require integrated water management / e-flows • Secure public funding to support subsequent phases. 	
4. Develop science to inform policy at a specific place or places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build scientific capacity while carrying out the following steps or an alternative process to characterize ecological responses to flow alteration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain and evaluate existing flow and biological data and literature • Establish hydrologic foundation (time series of unimpaired and developed flows) • Assess hydrologic alteration • Classify river segments into hydroecological river types • Determine flow alteration-ecological response functions for each river type • Obtain scientific consensus on response functions; update agencies, decision-makers • Establish flow and biological data monitoring programs 	Susquehanna, Potomac, Colorado
5. Develop or modify science-based regulations ² (water allocation, reservoir operations).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish policy framework for defining and managing e-flows • Identify condition goals for all river segments through stakeholder process • Use flow-ecology functions to translate ecological condition goals into e-flow standards or targets 	Mexico, Connecticut
6. Implement e-flow management program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop water management decision support tool to evaluate water availability to meet e-flow standards, considering upstream and downstream cumulative impacts of other water uses • Have appropriate administrative program adopt and maintain DSS to ensure that e-flow standards are met. • Establish sustainable funding mechanism for the program. • Enable mechanisms such as flow transactions and set asides as needed to restore and maintain e-flows • Require new and relicensed infrastructure projects to meet e-flow standards. 	Michigan, Maine

¹ Initially, the campaign builds support for e-flow protection in general. Later, the campaign builds support for specific subsequent phases, as needed. For example, public support may be needed to ensure that e-flow methodologies adopted are rigorous.

² “Laws” are interpreted broadly here as legally binding general recognition of environmental flows; “regulations”, in contrast, describe specific public-sector tools and strategies for determining and implementing environmental flows.

7. Monitor and adaptively manage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="464 196 1186 228">• Interpret monitoring data through flow-ecology lens.<li data-bbox="464 235 1428 267">• Review e-flow management program periodically and adjust as needed.	Georgia, Tennessee
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