

Name of your Organisation:	Beaver Trust
Name of the project TFN funded:	Beavers and Buffers: restoring rivers naturally
Date Funded by TFN:	09/12/2020
Were you able to undertake your project as planned?	Yes
If no, please outline how the project has changed.	
Can you describe and/or demonstrate the specific impact that TFN funding has had against your initial objectives?	Beaver Trust restores Britain's rivers and wildlife with beavers by aligning stakeholders, changing policy, developing river restoration projects and helping local communities coexist with beavers and wetlands. The aim of the funding from TFN/EFN was to support the formation of a national programme to establish buffer strips along rivers where cultivation and chemicals are pushed back by at least 20m and give space for rivers to regenerate and flow naturally with beavers' help. Just before the event in December 2020 we (with the help of Feargal Sharkey, Richard Benyon and Ben Goldsmith) asked Zac Goldsmith and his team at Defra to consider working with Beaver Trust to establish the above programme using the Natural for Climate Fund to create a farm payment scheme to pay landowners to create river buffers, and to make space for natural processes including beavers, which together will create nature recover networks across the country. Between January and September 2021 we formed the Riverscapes Partnership with three other national NGOs - National Trust, Rivers Trust and Woodland Trust - and entered a contract with Defra to develop and deliver the national scheme. In September 2021 we launched the Woodland for Water farm payment scheme with Zac, Defra and the Riverscapes Partnership. Together, we will create river buffer schemes of 3,500 hectares using £15,000,000 of Defra funding along rivers in seven catchments in England. Beaver Trust is developing one of the projects - on the River Caen in North Devon with the National Trust - which will also be the first catchment-scale wild release of beavers in England, subject to licensing from Natural England. Over 50 farmers support the scheme for beavers, and will be targeted to engage in the river buffer payment scheme. Beaver Trust sits on the national steering group for Woodlands for Water, and supports each of the seven river catchments as a strategic partner. The new scheme has been launched to the public by Defra

	and the Riverscapes partnership has helped develop marketing materials and set up core teams for each of the seven river catchments in which the scheme will be piloted. Projects in each catchment are being developed in 2022 and the first payments to clusters of farmers will be made this year resulting in the creation of river buffers, with associated tree planting and natural regeneration. In parallel with the river buffer scheme, Beaver Trust has supported the release of beavers on streams across England which we hope will result in longer term wild releases and align with the creation of river buffer schemes. This includes beaver releases in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, the first time beavers have been seen in those counties for hundreds of years, and resulted in widespread local and national coverage and support. Beaver Trust has helped establish a network of Beaver Management Groups with the Wildlife Trusts in England to support communities learning to live alongside wild beavers for the rivers Tamar, Bristol Avon and Kent Stour, including the launch of a national web portal: www.beavermanagement.org. Our river buffer and beaver programmes will, we hope, help communities to restore their rivers and wildlife, build local climate resilience and reconnect with nature.
What portion of the project did TFN fund?	25% of £80,000 budget for the year for the programme
How many direct beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	A team of 4 people have been supported in Beaver Trust to develop the programme, which has helped the wider Riverscapes partnership of approximately 12 people
How many indirect beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	Approximately 150 people have been engaged across the seven river catchments to develop and deliver the Woodland for Water programme, and each of those 7 catchments is engaging with 50 or more stakeholders (farmers, conservation groups, community groups) so a total of 500 people already.
Were you able to leverage further funding as a result of TFN support?	Yes
If yes, how much were you able to raise?	We secured a national annual contract with Defra to deliver the Woodland for Water farm payment scheme for river buffers with trees, and space for beavers where appropriate, which will generate £20,000 approximately per year for 4 years from 2021.

TFN Impact Report

Did you receive any pro-bono support, volunteer offers or introductions as a result of the event?	Yes
If yes, please can you provide details of the support you received?	We formed a partnership (Riverscapes) with 3 other NGOs - National Trust, Rivers Trust and Woodland Trust - and together with Beaver Trust we are engaging the support of volunteers in 7 river catchments to help develop and deliver river restoration programmes with buffers, and in some cases beavers.
Has the training you received from TFN better prepared you in pitching your organisation to potential funders?	Yes
Has TFN increased your capacity to raise further funds?	Yes
How important was TFN funding in helping you achieve your objectives?	We would have found it difficult to achieve our objectives without TFN funding
Since presenting at TFN, has your organisation undergone any other significant changes?	We hired a new team to deliver our practical beaver and river restoration work supporting landowners and communities. This includes the leading beaver scientist and practitioner, Dr Roisin Campbell-Palmer and her colleague Rob Needham. Together with a small team and partners they have enabled Beaver Trust to secure and deliver essential services for the reintroduction and management of beavers across numerous projects in 2021, and to work alongside river buffer projects through the Riverscapes partnerships including the development of the Devon beaver project on the River Caen.
Do you have any other comments or feedback on the experience of the TFN process?	It has been a truly inspiring experience working with TFN and EFN. We felt supported throughout the preparation for the event and since then we have remained in contact with both teams and developed a strong relationship. Thank you for your kindness, belief and support.
Can you tell us any personal stories to highlight the value of the project?	2020 was a very challenging year for everyone, especially for new and small environmental charities that do not have the long-term support, team, funding and reputation of more established organisations. TFN and EFN were a great support to Beaver Trust at a time when we had demonstrated our value as a charity and were ready to scale our impact, and branch out into river restoration through partners. The event helped us secure important funds and raise our profile, while demonstrating to other funders that we were a sound organisation to fund.