

# NN Labs



and

# TF Operational funds



## What are NN Labs?

NN Labs are **four – step open calls** that aim to promote and facilitate **the development of new activities, initiatives, tools, standards, guidelines, publications, materials, etc** in relation to NbS within the NbS Task Forces. These concrete outputs would count on the support of the NetworkNature TFs Operational Fund for their implementation.

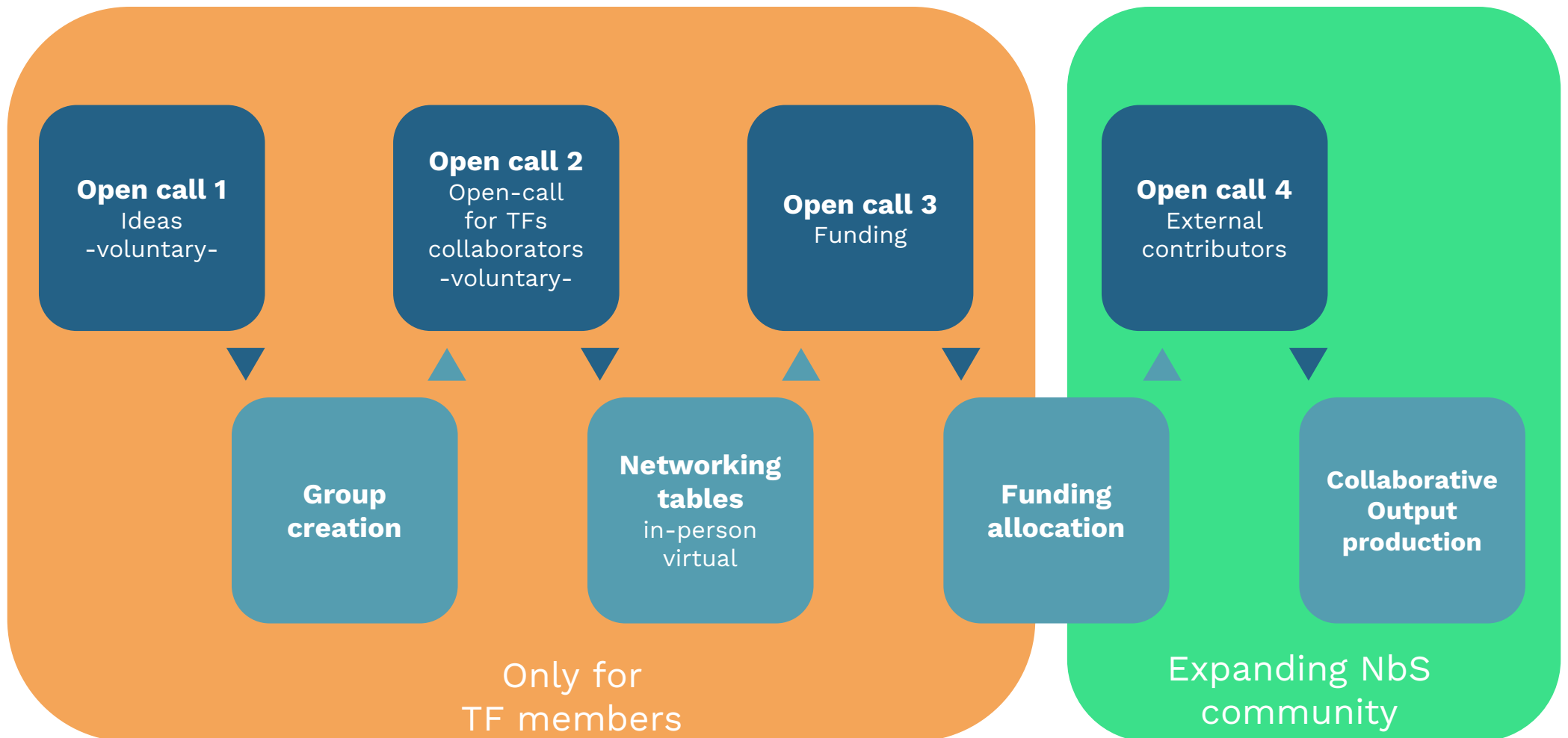
NN Labs promote cross-TF collaboration and unlock the participation of new partners to TFs. These calls will facilitate the elaboration of **outputs shaped and defined by real interest**. This ensures that every contribution is backed by genuine dedication, guaranteeing meaningful and impactful outputs.



NetworkNature grants a TFs Operational Fund of 112 000 euros. The allocation of this fund will be enabled through the NN Labs.

## What is the TFs Operational Fund?

## NN Labs



**Open-call 1**  
ideas  
-voluntary-

**Group  
creation**



## Open call 1

The **Open call 1** aims to gather various ideas\*. It will allow to identify topics and actions that can be potentially developed through Task Forces cooperation. Nevertheless, it is not compulsory and it is possible to directly submit a proposal for its funding at Open call 3.

**Only TF members\*\* can submit an idea.** The idea, based on genuine interest or need, does not have to be in an advanced stage of development. TF members that want to apply would be invited to complete a short online form.

**All the submitted ideas will be considered** provided they align with NN mission. If NN see possible synergies between different ideas, they will group them for the Open call 2.

**\*Know more about eligible ideas in page 08.**

\*\*PS: If you are an EU NbS project's partner and are eligible to join the TFs but have not done so yet, you can still participate in the open calls provided that you join a TF. Know more about how to join in [the following link](#).

**Open-call 2**  
Open-call  
for TFs  
collaborators  
-voluntary-



**Networking  
tables**  
in-person  
virtual

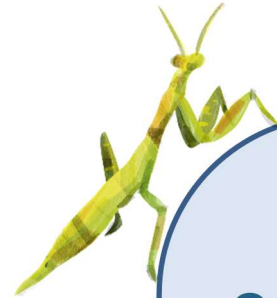
## Open call 2

The **Open call 2** will identify potential collaborators to different ideas and proposals. It will allow shaping and defining the proposal to submit to open-call 3. Task Forces members will be invited to pick an idea – made public after Open call 1 – to contribute to further define the proposal.

The process of further defining the idea will be done through the **Networking Tables**. These Networking Tables will be both in-person: in the next TF Cluster meeting (24th September 2024), and online: when individuals that proposed an idea are not able to attend the in-person TF Cluster meeting. During the Networking Tables a Project leader will be selected and a core group will be defined. TF5 members can only participate in the core group, but they can not lead ideas.

**Only TF members can participate in Open call 2.**

**All collaborators will be considered** as long as they are TF members.



**Open-call 3**  
Funding

**Funding  
allocation**

## Open call 3

The **Open call 3** will unlock funding for different submitted ideas. This budget comes from the **NetworkNature TFs Operational fund**.

**This call is the only way to access the funding for the ideas proposed by the TFs members.** Proposals that were developed within Networking Tables or from TaskForces members in other ways should be submitted at this call to apply for a dedicated fund for their execution. Core groups that want to apply would be asked to submit a short- online form. TF5 members can only participate in the core group, but they can not lead ideas.

**Only TF members can participate in Open call 3.**

**Proposals will be assessed through a range of selection criteria.**

**[\\*Know more about selection criteria at page 9.](#)**

**Open-call 4**  
External  
contributors



**Collaborative  
Output  
production**

## Open call 4

After the ideas have been selected for funding, the **Open call 4** will allow external contributors that are interested in playing a role in implementing the successful ideas to join the established core group.

This step offers TFs an opportunity to establish valuable links with other stakeholders (individuals, municipalities, institutions, educators, etc), thereby expanding the NbS community and practice. The call for external contributors will be facilitated through NetworkNature (through the website and social media), and further supported by the leaders and core group of the selected ideas.

**Open call 4 is for external contributors.**

## Eligible ideas

Ideas eligible for funding through the TF Operational Fund may encompass a variety of activities or initiatives of different nature, such as, but not limited to, the following

- **Organising workshops, events, trainings**, aimed at educating/engaging local communities or a specific group of stakeholders (e.g., students, researchers, farmers, local businesses, etc.)
- **Initiatives** that incorporate indigenous knowledge and practices in NbS.
- **Community-led initiatives** for the restoration of a degraded ecosystem such as reforestation, wetland or saltmarsh restoration, or coral reef rehabilitation, involving local communities, and different groups of stakeholders.
- **Public awareness campaigns** designed to increase public knowledge and engagement on issues related to key societal challenges and the benefits of NbS to tackle such issues.
- **Small-scale citizen-science initiatives** involving the public in collecting and analysing environmental data about a specific ecosystem, habitat or fauna/flora (e.g., local wildlife monitoring, seasonal change in coastal dune systems).
- **Creation of communication and graphic material** (e.g., videos, pictures) to promote information on NbS.
- **Creation of guidelines, standards, tools and publications** to support the work on NbS.
- Initiatives promoting NbS and sustainable practices, **that enhance biodiversity in specific sectors or ecosystems.**

Examples of TFs activities that were funded by Network Nature through the use of a similar Operational Fund mechanism:

- The development of a beta version of an Online Decision tool for Co-creation and co-governance of Nature based solutions (TF6).
- The review of a **Biodiversity Handbook indicators** (TF2).
- The production of a video to disseminate the Nature-Based Economy Expert Publication (TF3).
- **A video series** to communicate about Nature-based solutions (TF4)



Example: Video *What are NbS?*



## Selection criteria for Open call 3

During this step, IUCN, and NetworkNature partners leading the TFs, will oversee the evaluation and selection of the submitted ideas.

The submissions will be assessed against the below defined criteria:

1. General aim and target audience.
2. Concrete outcomes.
3. The alignment with NN+ priority themes.
4. Establishment of a TFs solid core group.
5. Novelty and innovativeness.
6. A detailed and realistic budget.
7. Feasibility.
8. Practical implementation.
9. Communication strategy.
10. Potential external contributors and partnerships planned to be established.
11. Continuity.
12. Potential Impact.
13. Scalability.

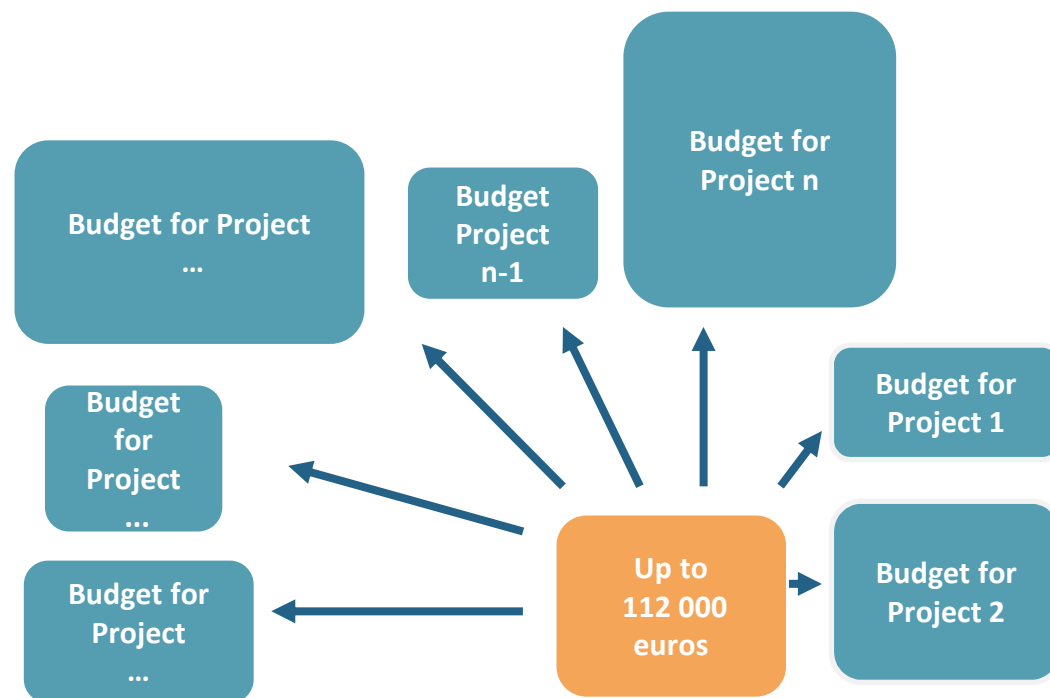
Ideas will be rigorously evaluated to ensure they meet these criteria, ensuring a streamlined selection process that prioritizes ideas addressing one of the identified NetworkNature needs that hasn't been met.

Do you want to know more about the selection criteria?

**In this link**, you can find a detailed selection criteria for open-call 3.

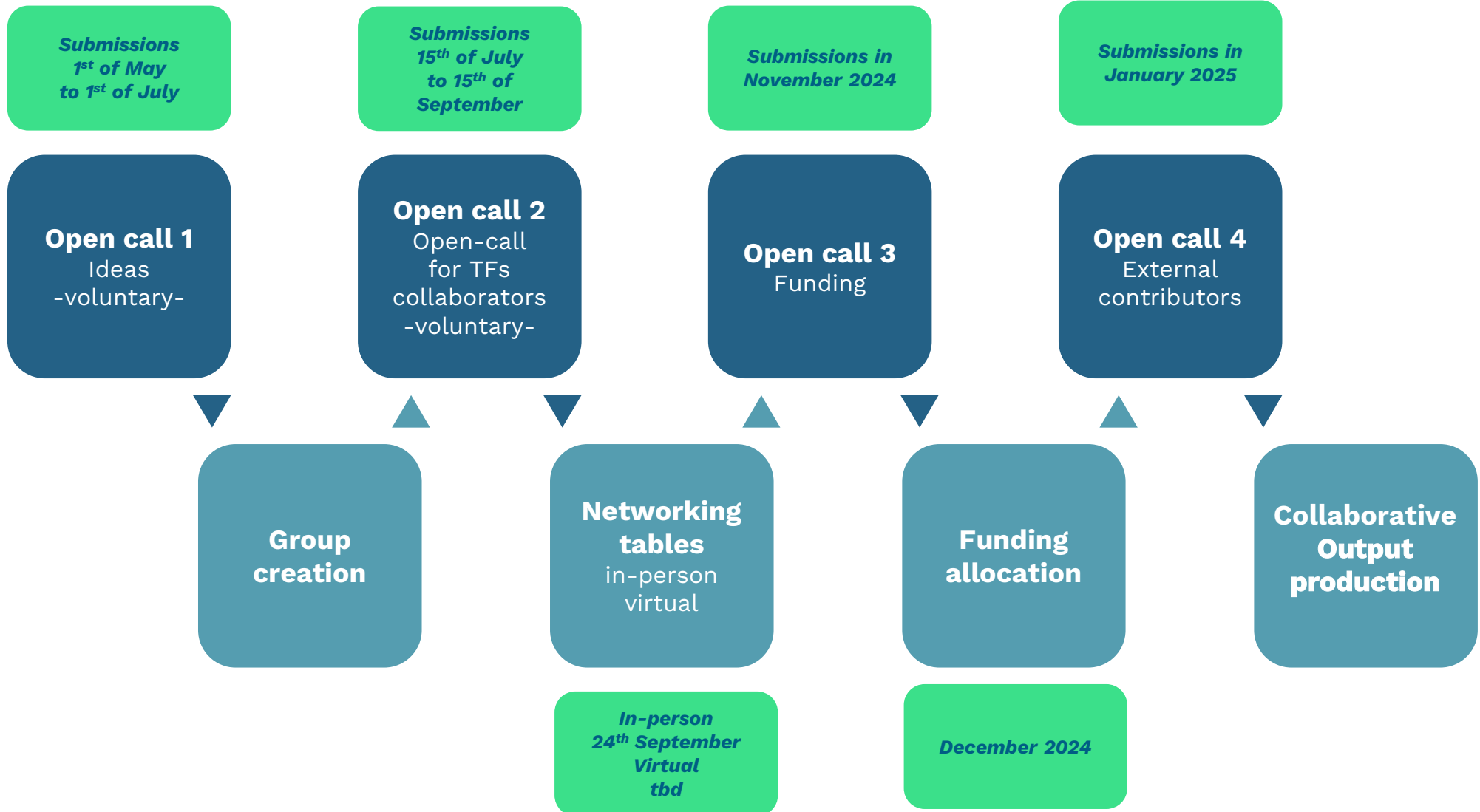
Note that the form of this open call will be subjected to character limits and will be designed in a way to facilitate the submission of proposals.

## TF Operational fund



Note that the **NetworkNature TFs Operational Fund will be allocated to different successful ideas turning into projects.** If we do not receive enough successful proposals, it is possible to launch a second NN Labs open call during 2025.

# Timeline



# Example 1

**Open call 1**  
Ideas  
-voluntary-

**Open call 2**  
Open-call  
for TFs  
collaborators  
-voluntary-

**Open call 3**  
Funding

**Open call 4**  
External  
contributors

*“As a forest manager I would find it very useful to have some science-based guidelines on Nbs for forests. I will propose that need to the open call 1, as I am part of NN projects”*



*“I worked on that I would like to bring my perspective”*

*Maybe this can contribute also to the NRL*

*“What about funding these ideas?”*

*“I would like to contribute bringing my expertise on working with rural communities in forests”*



*“After discussing it during the Networking Tables, we have a much clearer idea of what it is needed. It makes sense to draft a joint idea proposal for NN Labs”*



*“We are the team that can bring the expertise that was missing, and despite not being TF members we are happy to join and contribute to implement this winning idea”*

# Example 2

**Open call 1**  
Ideas  
-voluntary-

**Open call 2**  
Open-call  
for TFs  
collaborators  
-voluntary-

**Open call 3**  
Funding

**Open call 4**  
External  
contributors

*“At TF4, we proposed to do an open-source database for high quality photos of Nature-based Solutions implemented around the globe”*



*“We also need pictures for illustrating the socio-economic benefits of NbS”*

*Please make sure these pictures include people!*

*“From TF1, we can bring expertise on how to categorise the picture database”*

*“What about funding these ideas?”*

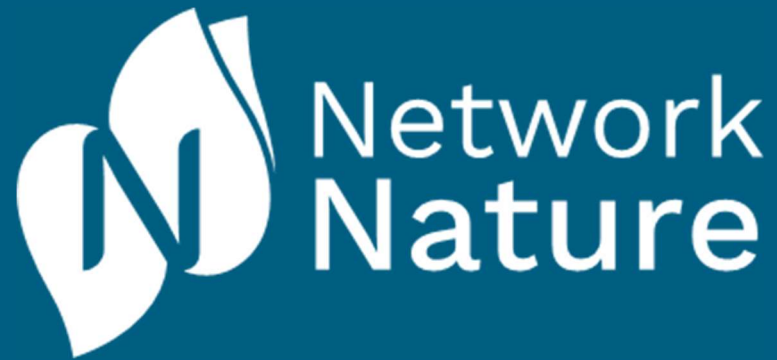
*This will be also useful for educators*



*Together with some other contributors from different TFs, we submitted the idea*



*We are a school of photography that wants to join this initiative and contribute. Can we?*



Doubts?

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