

# 2024 Census of the American Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) in Haiti

Censo aéreo del Flamenco Americano  
(*Phoenicopterus Ruber*)  
en Haití



SOCIÉTÉ AUDUBON HAÏTI



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## INTRO

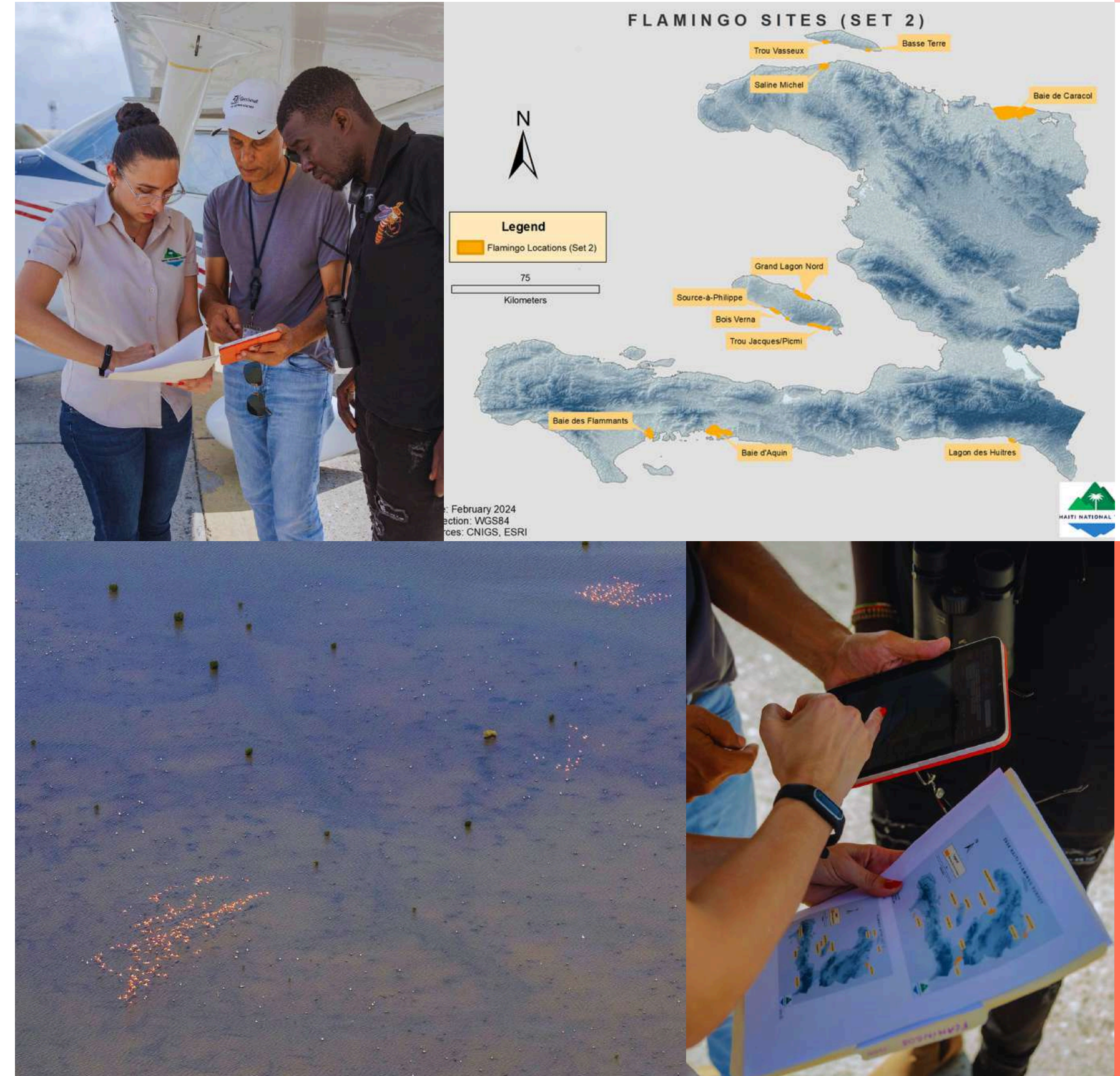
- Population appears stable & globally expanding within its natural range
- Certain regions within the Caribbean may be experiencing declines due to habitat loss, hunting and poor habitat quality
- In Haiti: flamingos are mostly nonbreeding visitors, from Great Inagua, Bahamas and possibly Cuba

## OBJECTIVES

- Presence/absence in coastal wetland & inland bodies of water in Haiti
- Compare results with previous studies over the last few decades

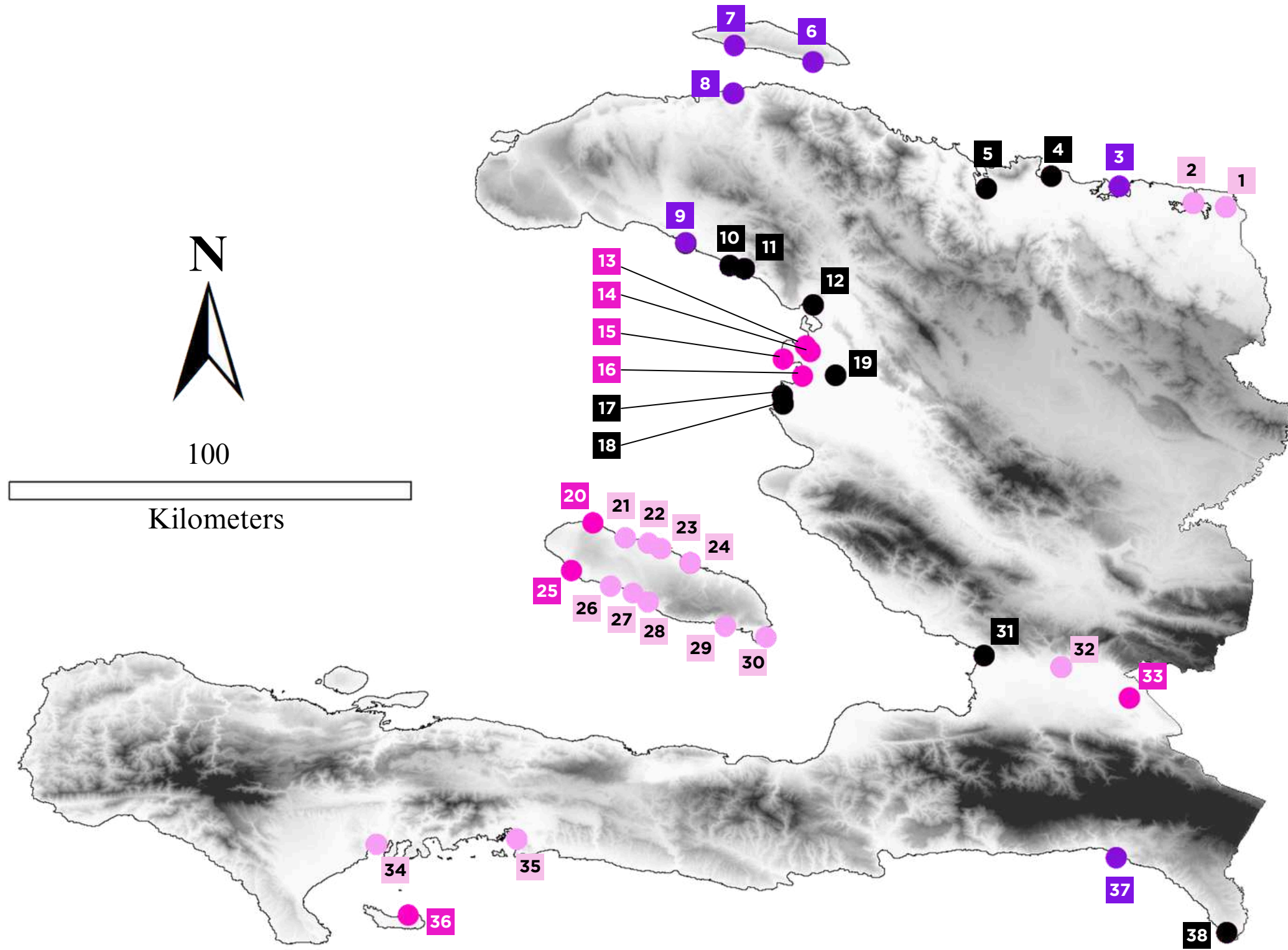
# METHOD

- Selected 25 sites to survey where flamingo is known to occur or documented to be present based on past studies
- Details: 2023 Cessna 182T (230 HP), altitude from 250–300 m, speeds av. 170 km/hr
- Days: 4, between Feb 20–27, 2024 & between 11h20–13h30
- Counted birds using aerial survey methods
- Aerial photos were taken with 2 cameras and by 2 photographers -- photos used to confirm visual counts
- Not feasible to survey all the locations as planned due (logistical constraints & weather)
- 19 of the 25 sites were surveyed



# American Flamingo Sites in Haiti

Sitios del Flamenco Americano en Haití



- Surveyed (Feb 2024) - Flamingos absent
- Not surveyed - Logistical constraints
- Surveyed (Feb 2024) - Flamingos present
- Not surveyed - Documented sites

# RESULTS

- Area surveyed estimated to cover 314 km<sup>2</sup>
- Total of **1,333 flamingos** - number of individuals varied between 3-1000 birds
- Number of groups ranged from 1-12 & group sizes ranged from 3-130
- Site with most flamingos: L'Estère (est. 1,000) - 3/4 of total
- Second site with most flamingos: Lac Azuéli (229)

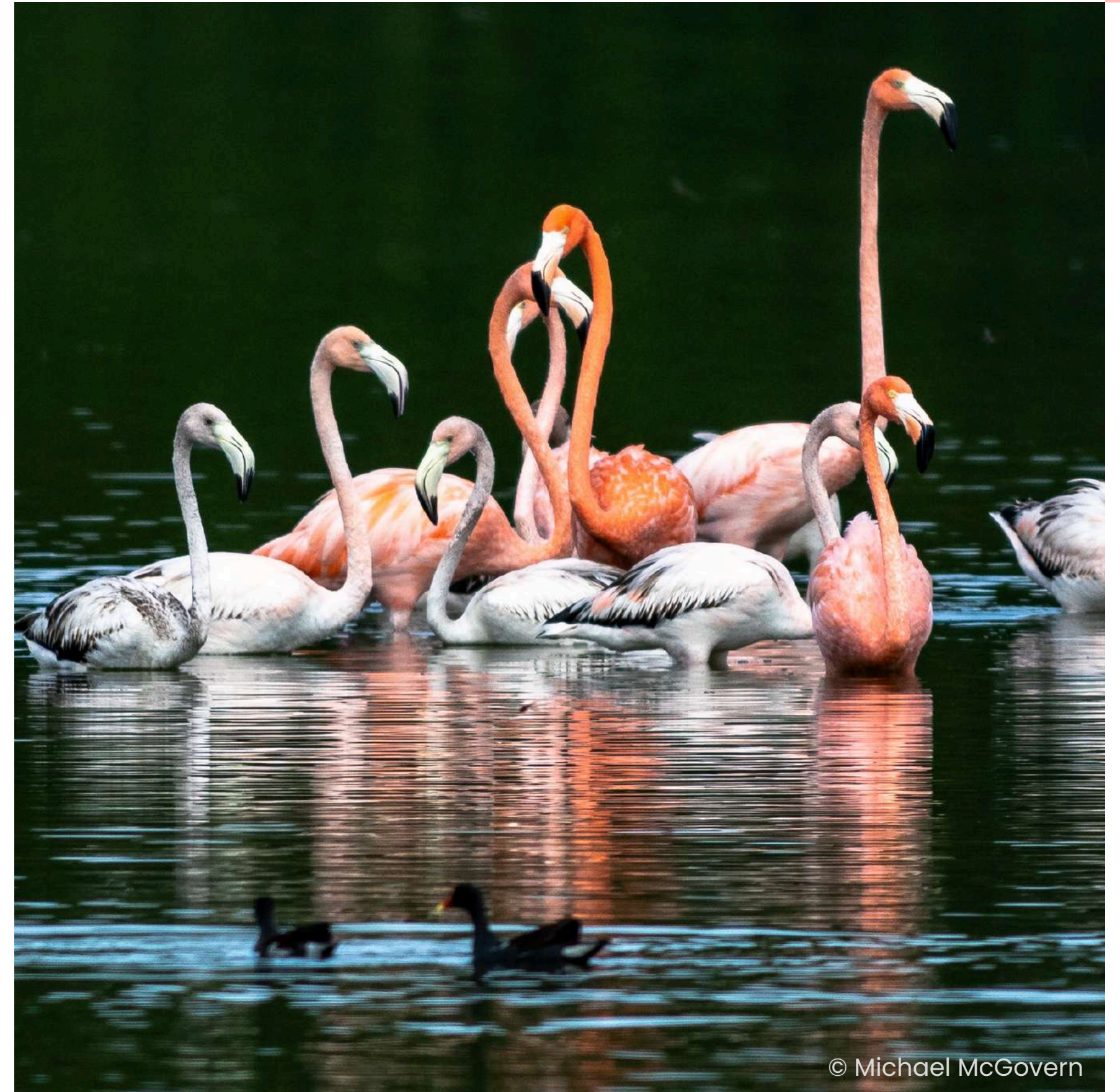


# CONCLUSION



2024 census appears to be an **average for Haiti** (population varies from 300–1500, peaking in winter mos. to 3000 max.) **Results are encouraging** (same estimate at the L'Estère mangroves 24 years ago)

Trends suggest that our February census may not have captured the maximum number possible



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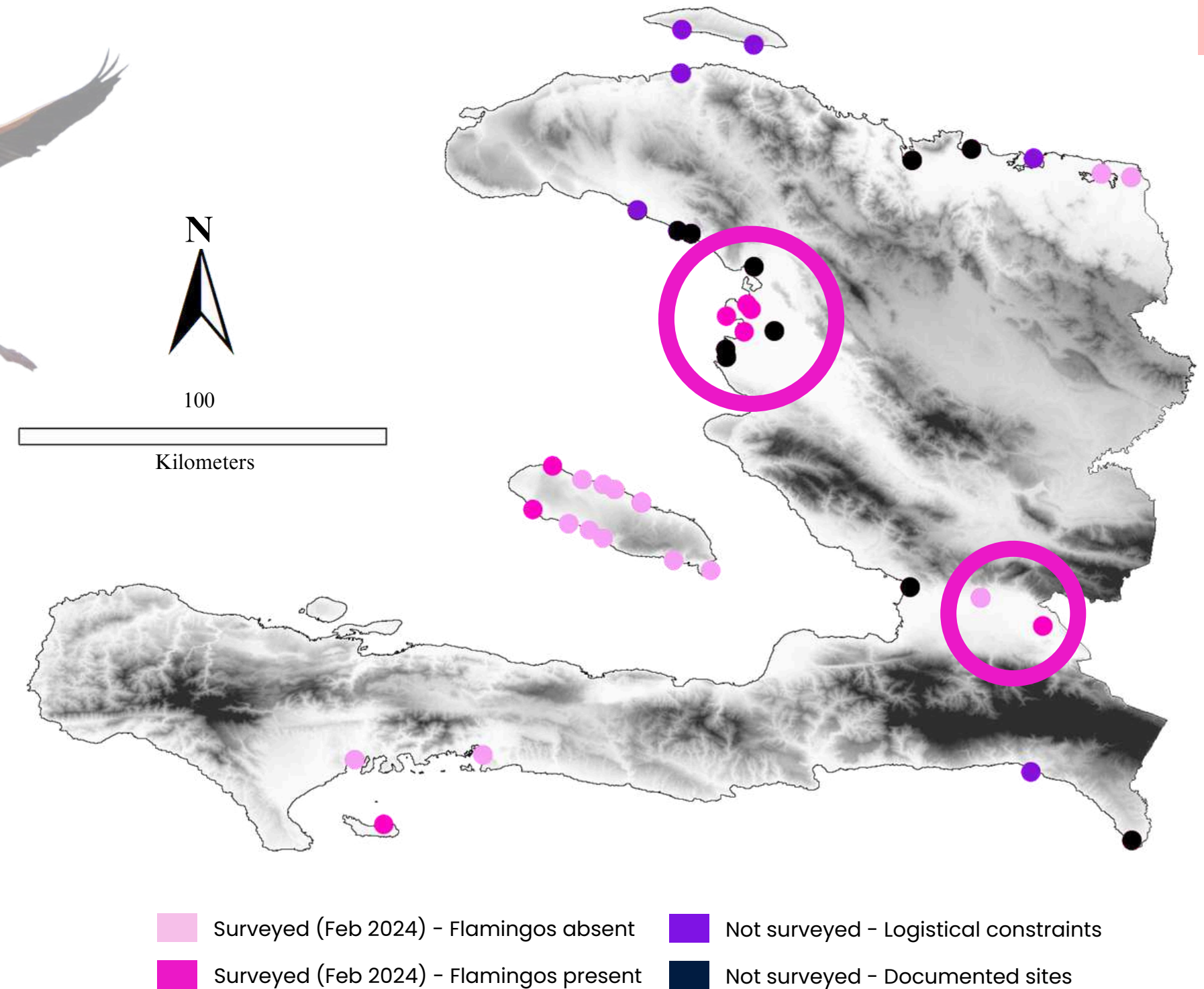
# CONCLUSION



Confirmed that AF can re-visit sites that were abandoned, remain frequent at certain areas throughout the year and occur at new sites not previously known

Wetlands of the Artibonite River delta remain the most important flamingo site in Haiti

Despite Haiti's alarming environmental situation, favorable habitats remain available



**Concerns:** ongoing hunting & the lack of effective protective measures



# THANK YOU



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