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1 **Modelling landscape constraints on farmland** 2 **bird species range shifts under climate change**

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26 **Running title:** Landscape constraints on species range shifts

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28 **Word count:** 4809

30 **Abstract**

31 Several studies estimating the effects of global environmental change on biodiversity are
32 focused on climate change. Yet, non-climatic factors such as changes in land cover can also
33 be of paramount importance. This may be particularly important for habitat specialists
34 associated with human-dominated landscapes, where land cover and climate changes may
35 be largely decoupled. Here, we tested this idea by modelling the influence of climate,
36 landscape composition and pattern, on the predicted future (2021-2050) distributions of
37 21 farmland bird species in the Iberian Peninsula, using boosted regression trees and 10-
38 km resolution presence/absence data. We also evaluated whether habitat specialist species
39 were more affected by landscape factors than generalist species. Overall, this study showed
40 that the contribution of current landscape composition and pattern to the performance of
41 species distribution models (SDMs) was relatively low. However, SDMs built using either
42 climate or climate plus landscape variables yielded very different predictions of future
43 species range shifts and, hence, of the geographical patterns of change in species richness.
44 Our results indicate that open habitat specialist species tend to expand their range,
45 whereas habitat generalist species tend to retract under climate change scenarios. The
46 effect of incorporating landscape factors were particularly marked on open habitat
47 specialists of conservation concern, for which the expected expansion under climate
48 change seems to be severely constrained by land cover change. Overall, results suggest that
49 particular attention should be given to landscape change in addition to climate when
50 modelling the impacts of environmental changes for both farmland specialist and generalist
51 bird distributions.

52

53 **Key words**

54 Boosting Regression Trees; conservation; Environmental Envelope Models; farmland birds;
55 global change scenarios; Specialist and generalist species

56

57 **Introduction**

58 Many studies have attempted to estimate the future effects of global environmental
59 changes on biodiversity (e.g., Thuiller *et al.*, 2005; Araújo *et al.*, 2006; Garcia *et al.*, 2011).

60 Many of these studies examine the effect of climate change alone, leaving aside the effects
61 of non-climatic drivers (e.g., Harfoot *et al.*, 2014, Morelli & Tryjanowsky, 2015, Titeux *et al.*,
62 2016). However, the effects of climate change on biodiversity can be influenced by
63 interactions with other components of global change (e.g., Clavero *et al.*, 2011; Hof *et al.*,
64 2012, Maxwell *et al.*, 2016), particularly with land use changes and related effects on other
65 pressures such as water regime (e.g., Jetz *et al.*, 2007; Rosenzweig *et al.*, 2008; Thuiller *et*
66 *al.*, 2014a; Newbold *et al.*, 2016).

67 Both climate and land cover changes are considered major drivers of global biodiversity
68 change (Sala *et al.*, 2000; Jetz *et al.*, 2007; de Chazal & Rounsevell, 2009). However, climate
69 is often regarded as the most important driver at large spatial extents and coarse spatial
70 resolutions (e.g., Thuiller *et al.*, 2004a; Luoto *et al.*, 2007; Triviño *et al.*, 2011). The relative
71 contribution of climate and land cover on future species range shift projections remain
72 poorly explored (Pearce-Higgins and Green, 2014; but see studies from Table 1, Suppl.
73 Mat.). Previous studies have found that land cover can be correlated with climate and that
74 including land cover variables did not improve the accuracy of species distribution models,
75 as expected (e.g., Seoane *et al.*, 2003; Thuiller *et al.*, 2004a; Triviño *et al.*, 2011; Reino *et*
76 *al.*, 2013). Although climate and land cover are generally correlated, however, climate does
77 not necessarily fully control land cover, which may be affected by a number of additional
78 factors such as soil type, topography, socio-economic contexts and policies (Veldkamp &
79 Lambin, 2001; Ribeiro *et al.*, 2014, 2016). In addition, because climate and land cover often
80 play key roles at different spatial scales (Pearson *et al.*, 2004), they are likely to show
81 different geographical patterns of change and hence may affect different regions in a

82 distinct way. Moreover, climate and landscape drivers may interact in their effect on
83 species geographical range, because the two drivers may have different effects on different
84 groups of species (Opdam & Wascher, 2004; Sohl, 2014; Jarzyna *et al.*, 2015).

85 Most studies modelling the consequences of changes in the structural component of
86 landscape have ignored potentially important processes related to landscape
87 fragmentation (e.g., Vallecillo *et al.*, 2009; Triviño *et al.*, 2011), although they have been
88 shown to be determinant for some species (Jarzyna *et al.*, 2015). This is the case, for
89 instance, of some farmland bird specialists that were shown to be very sensitive to habitat
90 fragmentation at several spatial scales (Reino *et al.*, 2009, Reino *et al.*, 2013). There is a
91 well-established idea that generalist species tend to cope better with environmental
92 changes than specialist species (Gilman *et al.*, 2010, Clavel *et al.*, 2011, Davey *et al.*; 2012,
93 Lurgi *et al.*; 2012; Case *et al.*, 2015). However, at the same time, some studies point to an
94 idiosyncratic nature of species responses to climate change, making it difficult to draw
95 generalizations (e.g., Mair *et al.*, 2012; Moritz & Agudo, 2013; Sohl, 2014). For example, in
96 a recent study, Princé *et al.* (2015) found that the relative sensitivity of farmland bird
97 specialists and generalists to climate and land cover changes varied among the different
98 global change scenarios that were considered (Princé *et al.*, 2015).

99 Here we model the relative importance of changes at the landscape level on range shifts
100 predictions under future environmental change scenarios, aiming at bringing new insights
101 on the interplay of three component of the environment: biosphere, atmosphere and
102 anthroposphere. We focused on farmland birds in the Iberian Peninsula, considering both
103 climate change and changes in land cover and landscape structure, mainly as the result of
104 land abandonment and changes in agricultural practices, associated with three
105 socioeconomic scenarios for the period of 2021 to 2050. We hypothesize that taking into
106 account changes in landscape composition and structure will potentially strongly affect
107 predictions of farmland bird geographical ranges under climate change scenarios. We also

108 expect that the potential impacts of landscape changes on farmland bird geographical
109 ranges is dependent on the degree of habitat specialization (Clavel *et al.*, 2011), namely the
110 association to farmland landscapes. The overarching goal of this study is thus to examine
111 the proposition that landscape changes should be accounted for when forecasting the
112 effects of environmental changes on the distribution of species highly sensitive to
113 landscape structure.

114

115 **Material and Methods**

116 *Data*

117 We used distributional records for 21 Iberian farmland bird species (Table 1), obtained from
118 the most recent breeding bird atlas from Spain (Martí & Moral, 2003) and Portugal (Equipa
119 Atlas, 2008), reporting the occurrence of bird species in 5923 10×10 km resolution UTM
120 cells. These are the highest-resolution bird distribution data available for Iberia. Farmland
121 birds selected for this study include species with different degrees of habitat specialization
122 to open habitats, because these seem to be those most at risk from ongoing changes in
123 agricultural land cover. Some of the species are highly specialized to open grassland
124 habitats (e.g., Calandra lark *Melanocorypha calandra*), whereas others can tolerate
125 different degrees of habitat fragmentation (e.g., Little bustard *Tetrax tetrax*), or are often
126 considered habitat generalists (e.g., Corn bunting *Emberiza calandra*). Nonetheless, most
127 of the farmland species considered may tolerate a wide range of habitats, though we
128 excluded species which are often associated with tree-cover habitats (e.g., red-legged
129 partridge *Alectoris rufa*). For each species, the mean landscape Shannon diversity index in
130 the occurrence cells, based on the forty-four land cover classes from CORINE (EEA, 2000),
131 was computed and the resulting values, after rescaling between 0 and 1, were inverted. We
132 used the resulting index, here referred to as Landscape Specialization Index (LSI), as a
133 surrogate of habitat specialization (see Table 1). A significant negative relationship between

134 bird's habitat specialization and landscape fragmentation derived from CORINE land cover
135 maps was shown elsewhere (Devictor *et al.*, 2008).

136 We used three climatic variables that synthesize two factors – energy and water – that
137 determine biological diversity distribution worldwide (Hawkins *et al.*, 2003): average
138 minimum temperature of the coldest month, average mean maximum temperature of the
139 hottest month and average total annual precipitation. A fourth selected climatic variable -
140 standard deviation of monthly means of minimum temperature – reflected seasonality of
141 climate. The baseline climatic data was obtained from the Portuguese and Spanish
142 meteorological agencies (IM and AEMET, respectively), interpolated to a UTM 10×10 km
143 grid (Araújo *et al.*, 2012).

144 The future climate was based on the scenarios developed in the ALARM project
145 (<http://www.alarmproject.net/alarm>, Assessing Large-scale Environmental Risks for
146 biodiversity with tested Methods; Settele *et al.* (2005)), resampled at a 10-min resolution
147 (~16 km at the latitude of the study). Future scenarios of climate and land cover for the
148 period 2021-2050 were based on the three alternative storylines developed in the ALARM
149 project: 1) “Business As Might Be Usual” (BAMBU based on the A2 scenario from the IPCC),
150 2) “Growth Applied Strategy” (GRAS based on the A1F1 scenario from IPCC) and 3)
151 “Sustainable European Development Goal” (SEDG based on the B1 scenario from IPCC).
152 These scenarios covered a broad range of potential socio-economic, political, technological
153 and geobiosphere changes, and were developed to describe alternative future pathways of
154 key driving factors affecting biodiversity (Araújo *et al.*, 2008; Dendoncker *et al.*, 2006;
155 Rounsevell *et al.*, 2006; Spangenberg *et al.*, 2007, 2012). The future land cover change
156 scenarios were based on the Coordination of Information on the Environment (CORINE
157 Land Cover; EEA, 2002, see Rounsevell *et al.*, (2006) and Dendoncker *et al.*, (2007) for
158 methodology details). The forty-four land cover classes from CORINE were aggregated into
159 six classes for these scenarios: *Urban, Cropland, Permanent crops, Grassland, Forest, and*

160 *Others*. We assumed that *Cropland* was the class encompassing the most suitable habitats
161 for the selected Iberian farmland bird species. For both future scenarios and the baseline
162 period, the *Cropland* class resulted from aggregation of the following CORINE classes: 1)
163 Non-irrigated arable land; 2) Permanently irrigated land; 3) Rice fields; and 4) Complex
164 cultivation patterns. The *Grassland* class was not considered as a relevant land cover
165 aggregation for farmland bird species because it is overly abundant in Portugal due to a
166 somehow arbitrary amalgamation of several land cover types (for example, the category
167 “Land principally occupied by agriculture with significant areas of natural vegetation” was
168 included in the *Grassland* category).

169 Future climatic scenarios were downscaled to the same 10-km grid cell resolution of the
170 baseline data. For both baseline period and future land cover scenarios, we assumed that
171 the quantity of suitable habitat for farmland birds is strongly influenced by the percentage
172 of the grid cells covered with the class *Cropland*. We computed three landscape
173 fragmentation metrics on the distribution of croplands for each 10×10 km UTM grid cell of
174 Iberian Peninsula, following the approach used in a previous study (Reino *et al.*, 2013).
175 Landscape metrics comprised three variables: mean cropland patch area, number of
176 cropland patches, and edge density. We computed edge density, i.e. edges between
177 patches of different classes, using the total edge length of cropland patches at each grid
178 square. The computation of the percentage of cropland area and the three landscape
179 metrics at each 10km grid cell were based on land cover raster themes with 100m
180 resolution. We carried out the analyses in ArcGIS 9.3 (ESRI, 2006).

181 Because birds’ data were restricted to the Iberian Peninsula, arguably the models may fail
182 to capture the full range of suitable conditions of each species. This may cause truncated
183 response curves at extreme conditions and, consequently, biased projections (Thuiller *et*
184 *al.*, 2004b). To evaluate this potential effect, we mapped the grid cells that in the future
185 would lay outside the training conditions for each climatic variable. Only for the BAMBU

186 scenario and one variable (Mean Maximum Temperature), a considerable extension of the
187 Iberian Peninsula (24,7% of the grid cells) was predicted to be outside the baseline range
188 of values. For the remaining variables, extrapolation area represented less than 5% of the
189 grid cells. For the GRAS and SEDGE scenarios, the extrapolation area represented,
190 respectively, less than 2% and 1% for all climatic variables. All extrapolation areas showed
191 warmer and drier climates. Because all species occur in North Africa we can assume that
192 climate projections will not go beyond species tolerances. Nevertheless, this potential
193 problem was duly considered when interpreting our modelling results, though violation of
194 such assumption would mainly affect the high-end scenario (BAMBU). Regarding landscape
195 structure, given the high structural heterogeneity of Iberian landscape we can assume that
196 a sufficient broad gradient is covered in the baseline.

197

198 *Statistical modelling*

199 We developed boosted regression trees (BRT) (Friedman *et al.*, 2000, Hastie *et al.*, 2001) to
200 estimate the relationship between the 21 Iberian farmland birds and the climatic and
201 landscape variables for the baseline period. We then used the resulting relationships to
202 project the potential distributions under the three future climate and land cover change
203 scenarios for 2021-2050. BRT differs from the traditional classification and regression tree
204 techniques that produce a single 'best' tree, by making use of a 'boosting' technique to
205 combine large numbers of relatively simple tree models adaptively, in order to optimize
206 predictive performance (see e.g., Elith *et al.*, 2006; Leathwick *et al.*, 2006, 2008 for further
207 details). The main difference between BRT and other tree-based ensemble techniques (e.g.,
208 random forests; Prasad *et al.*, 2006) is that trees are fitted sequentially through a stagewise
209 process, i.e., at each step of model development, the trees from previous steps are left
210 unchanged as the model is enlarged (Elith *et al.*, 2008). This relative model rigidity, where
211 the overall hierarchical structure of variable effects is maintained stable, is an important

212 feature for the purpose of our study, which focuses on two very different sets of variables
213 (climate and landscape) that are expected to act hierarchically on species distributions
214 (Pearson *et al.*, 2004). Furthermore, BRT are recognized for their capabilities to reliably
215 selected meaningful variables, through automatic detection of interactions and robust
216 fitting of trends (Hastie *et al.*, 2001). BRT has also the advantage of handling different types
217 of variables, and coping with collinearity and non-linear relationships between predictors
218 (Elith *et al.*, 2008).

219 To optimize the number of trees in each BRT model, we carried out a stepwise process
220 based on 10-fold cross-validations using mean deviance on the validation data as a measure
221 of predictive performance (Elith *et al.*, 2008). Two important parameters must be defined
222 *a priori* to determine the number of trees required for optimal predictions: the learning
223 rate, which determines the contribution of each tree to the growing model, and the tree
224 complexity that controls the number of interactions among variables (i.e., the number of
225 splits of individual trees). We used three alternative values for both tree complexity and
226 learning rate to account for the uncertainties introduced by the subjectivity of the
227 previously selected parameter values. To select a range of learning rate and tree complexity
228 values ensuring that at least 1000 trees were achieved after the stepwise process (Elith *et*
229 *al.*, 2008), we first trained the data using several alternative learning rate and tree
230 complexity values. We finally set learning rate values to 0.002, 0.003 and 0.004 and tree
231 complexity values to 3, 4 and 5. Discrimination power of models was assessed by computing
232 the mean Area Under the Receiver Operational Curve (AUC; Fielding & Bell, 1997) based on
233 10-fold cross-validations. BRT were computed with the *gbm* (Ridgway, 2013) and *dismo*
234 (Hijmans *et al.*, 2012) libraries in R software version 2.15.2 (R Development Core Team,
235 2013).

236 To assess the impact of including landscape variables in the predictions of distribution
237 expansion/retraction of species, we fitted two different models per species for each

238 learning rates and tree complexity combination: a climate-only model and a
239 climate+landscape model. For each kind of model, the probabilities of occurrence from the
240 nine models resulting from the pairwise combination of learning rates and tree complexity
241 values were averaged following standard committee averaging procedures in ensemble
242 modelling (Araújo & New, 2007). The importance of each variable to the model was based
243 on the measure of relative influence described in Friedman (2001) and averaged across the
244 nine models.

245

246 *Range shifts*

247 We classified the probabilities of occurrence obtained with the BRT models into potential
248 presence/absence maps for the baseline period and for the period of 2021-2050 under the
249 three alternative scenarios hypothesis. The probability value that maximized the sum of
250 sensitivity and specificity was used as the cut-off point for discriminating predicted
251 presence and absence (Liu *et al.*, 2005).

252 Using the resulting maps of the potential species distributions we computed the net
253 variation of the geographical range for both climate-only and climate+landscape models (%
254 of variation of the predicted species prevalence relative to the baseline), between the
255 baseline and the future scenarios. We also computed the difference of the range variation
256 between climate-only and climate+landscape models to assess if the inclusion of landscape
257 variables led to a weaker/stronger range retraction or weaker/stronger range expansion.

258 We tested the correlation between the Landscape Specialization Index for each species and
259 both the variation of the geographical range area and the difference of the range area
260 variation between climate-only and climate+landscape models. We computed the number
261 of winner species (i.e. species that are currently absent but predicted to be present in the
262 future) and of loser species (i.e. species that are currently present but predicted to be

263 absent in the future) in each grid cell based on the differences between species
264 presence/absence maps for the baseline and each future scenario predictions. To test
265 differences among the three scenarios in the resulting maps, we used a modified version of
266 the t-test to assess correlation between two spatial processes (Clifford *et al.*, 1989)
267 implemented in the SpatialPack R package (Osorio *et al.*, 2012).

268

269 **Results**

270 *Model performance*

271 The incorporation of landscape variables in the climate-based models consistently
272 improved model's discrimination ability, as measured with mean cross-validation AUC
273 values (Wilcoxon signed rank test, $P < 0.001$). However, the contribution of landscape
274 variables did not increase substantially the discrimination ability of models, with percent
275 (%) of improvements varying from 0.06% for *Calandrella rufescens* to 4.68% for *Circus*
276 *pygargus* (Table 1). The species Landscape Specialization Index was positively correlated
277 with AUC values of both the climate-only (Pearson $r = 0.49$, $p < 0.05$) and climate+landscape
278 models (Pearson $r = 0.51$, $p < 0.02$). However, habitat specialization was not correlated with
279 the percentage increase of discrimination ability (Pearson $r = -0.08$, $p = 0.74$).

280

281 *Variable importance*

282 The climatic variables with the highest relative influence in the models were the average
283 minimum temperature of the coldest month and the average mean maximum temperature
284 of the warmest month (Table 2). The importance of these two variables showed no
285 significant correlations with the species Landscape Specialization Index (mean maximum
286 temperature, Pearson $r = 0.06$, $p\text{-value} = 0.80$; mean maximum temperature, Pearson $r = -$
287 0.16 , $p\text{-value} = 0.48$). Among the landscape variables, the mean cropland patch area

288 followed by the edge density were found to be the most influential for all the species,
289 independently of their degree of specialization.

290

291 *Range shifts*

292 The direction of projected range shifts for 17 out of 21 farmland bird species were
293 consistent among the three socio-economic scenarios. Among these, range expansion was
294 predicted for 10 species and range contraction was predicted for 7 species (Table 3).

295 Overall, the strongest influence of landscape variables in range shifts, were found for
296 species predicted either to show stronger retraction or weaker expansion of their
297 geographical range (Table 3). The maximum variation in the percentage of range shift
298 change was found for *Otis tarda* (e.g., -158.8% for the GRAS scenario) and *Pterocles alchata*
299 (e.g., 151.0% for the GRAS scenario). For the three scenarios, no significant correlations
300 were found between the percentage of increase in the discrimination ability of models and
301 the percentage of predicted range shift changes after considering landscape variables
302 (Pearson's correlation, $r < 1$ and $p > 0.6$ for all scenarios).

303 When the outputs of climate+landscape models were related with the species' degree of
304 habitat specialization, as given by the Landscape Specialization Index (LSI), some general
305 trends on the predicted range shifts emerged. The relationship between predicted range
306 shifts and LSI indicates a tendency from range retractions to range expansions for increasing
307 species' habitat specialization (Fig. 1). This positive correlation was significant (Pearson's
308 correlation, $p < 0.05$) for all scenarios in the case of climate-only models. In the case of
309 climate+landscape models, the correlation was significant for the GRAS scenario, whereas
310 for the BAMBU and SEDGE scenarios the relationships were only marginally significant (Fig.
311 1).

312 A significant negative relationship between LSI and the variation of range shift percent
313 change after including landscape variables in the models (i.e. the difference between the
314 percent change of range shift in the climate-only model and the percent change of range
315 shift in the climate + landscape model), was found for the three scenarios (Pearson's
316 correlation, $p < 0.05$; Fig. 2). For increasing LSI values, a tendency for the percentages of
317 change to be more negative was found, i.e., as the degree of species habitat specialization
318 increases, climate-only models tended to be more over-optimistic in comparison to
319 climate+landscape models.

320

321 *Species richness*

322 The mean number of farmland bird species per 10x10 km UTM grid cell was forecasted to
323 be significantly higher in the future under any of the three socioeconomic scenarios than
324 at present (Wilcoxon signed rank test, $p < 0.001$). However, the average absolute increase
325 in local species richness was significantly lower using the climate+landscape model than the
326 climate-only model under the BAMBU (0.48 species \pm 3.16 SD vs. 1.43 species \pm 3.74 SD),
327 GRAS (0.20 species \pm 3.34 SD vs. 1.31 species \pm 3.83 SD) and SEDGE (0.59 species \pm 3.21 SD
328 vs. 1.68 species \pm 3.65 SD) scenarios. There were also differences between models in the
329 spatial pattern of absolute variation in local species richness. Generally, climate-only
330 models tended to predict larger areas of richness increase in both central and southern
331 Iberia, while climate+landscape models tended to predict larger areas of richness increase
332 in Northern Iberia (Fig. 3). Consistent increases in species richness were predicted to occur
333 irrespective of model type in central and southern Iberia.

334

335 *Losers and winners*

336 The geographical patterns of loser and winner species per 10 km grid square were also
337 largely dependent on whether landscape variables were included or not in the models (Fig.

338 4). Significant correlations among the three climate change scenarios were found for both
339 winners and losers maps, even after accounting for spatial autocorrelation (modified t-test,
340 $p < 0.001$). Climate-only models predicted a larger area with high numbers of winner species
341 (Fig. 4, left maps, yellow areas), mainly in the centre, southern Iberian mountain ranges and
342 the eastern coast. Contrarily, climate+landscape models predicted a larger area showing
343 high numbers of loser species, mainly in the southern plains (Fig. 4, right maps, blue areas).

344

345

346 **Discussion**

347 Our results confirm the hypothesis that the inclusion of landscape variables in species
348 distribution models strongly affect range shift predictions of Iberian farmland birds, despite
349 a generally low contribution to models' performance. Overall, the resulting species
350 distribution models predict that habitat specialists will tend to expand their range, whereas
351 generalists will tend to retract under climate change scenarios. However, in many cases,
352 the inclusion of landscape variables in the models leads to an attenuation of the projected
353 range expansion of specialist species under scenarios of both climate and landscape
354 changes.

355

356 *Impacts of landscape variables on predicted range shifts*

357 Our results are in agreement with other studies that also show a relatively small
358 contribution of landscape related covariates in relation to climate when modelling
359 distributions at coarse spatial resolutions (e.g., Thuiller *et al.*, 2004a; Luoto *et al.*, 2007;
360 Triviño *et al.*, 2011). These findings have supported the view that, for many species,
361 variables such as land cover could sometimes be disregarded from predictive distribution
362 models at wide spatial scales and coarse resolutions (Pearson *et al.*, 2004; Thuiller *et al.*,

363 2004a; Triviño *et al.*, 2011). Furthermore, the often-found correlation between climate and
364 land cover variables has supported this view (e.g., Thuiller *et al.*, 2004a).

365

366 Despite the small explanatory power of landscape metrics, we found that they were
367 associated to major changes on species range shifts under global environmental change. In
368 fact, the addition of landscape variables in the models resulted in deviations up to 150% of
369 the range shift predictions of models using climate alone (Table 3). Landscape changes may
370 occur at a higher pace and magnitude compared to climatic changes and consequently even
371 small contributions to models might result in a noticeable impact on predictions. The
372 significant impact of land use on predictions is also partially in accordance with recent
373 studies that predict large-scale changes in biodiversity (Thuiller *et al.*, 2014a; Princé *et al.*,
374 2015, Estrada *et al.*, 2016).

375

376 Finally, despite their low contribution to models' accuracy, the inclusion of landscape
377 variables also extensively affected predictions of the geographical patterns of richness and
378 of species gains and losses in relation to the climate-only based models. Joint models
379 (climate/landscape) predicted globally more "loser species" and less "winner species" per
380 grid-square than the climate-only models, resulting in an overall lower predicted mean
381 richness per grid-square. In fact, it has been shown that population changes in farmland
382 birds are often closely related to changes in the intensity of agricultural management rather
383 than to be driven by climatic changes alone (e.g., Pearce-Higgins & Green, 2014). These may
384 implicitly suggest that for the majority of farmland species, recent climate change could still
385 be considered of secondary importance, when compared to changes in agricultural
386 management, which is generally leading worldwide to the intensification of agriculture
387 (e.g., Eglinton & Pearce-Higgins, 2012). Even if climatic variables are more determinant

388 according to models of farmland bird distribution, their change in the recent past has been
389 much more subtle than land use changes, which might explain the aforementioned trend.

390

391 *The importance of landscape variables along the habitat specialization gradient*

392 The trend found in the projected range shifts along the species' habitat specialization
393 gradient contrasts with the generally accepted idea that generalist species cope better with
394 environmental changes than specialist species (e.g., Clavel *et al.*, 2011). The latter species
395 also appear to have a narrower thermal tolerance, for instance, when compared with more
396 generalist species. This means that habitat change unrelated to climate change may affect
397 species community composition (e.g., Clavero *et al.* 2011). Nevertheless, the general results
398 of this study are in line with a recent study that found a tendency of generalist bird species
399 occurring in farmlands to be often more affected by climate and land cover changes than
400 specialist farmland birds (Princé *et al.*, 2015). However, strict generalizations can hardly be
401 drawn from our results, which supports the idiosyncratic nature of species responses to
402 climate change (Moritz & Agudo, 2013). In the case of Iberian farmland birds, specialist
403 species are most often adapted to higher temperatures, which might explain the frequent
404 geographic range expansions predicted for these species. However, because habitat
405 specialists are often more dependent of specific habitat conditions this may halt their
406 expansion to other areas with suitable habitat conditions due to habitat and land cover
407 change, for instance.

408 A major effect of incorporating landscape variables in the models was a less optimistic
409 future for specialist species, mainly with a lower range expansion or, in some cases, a
410 stronger range contraction than predicted by climate-only models. A possible explanation
411 is that, since specialist species tend to be more constrained by both landscape changes and
412 the level of intensity of agricultural management (see Eglington & Pearce-Higgins, 2012), a
413 decrease in landscape favourability in the new expansion areas will counteract with the

414 climatic favourability, resulting in an antagonistic effect between climate and landscape.
415 This is a relevant result for conservation purposes because very often specialist species
416 have an important conservation status and therefore it is crucial to produce more realistic
417 predictions when accounting for the potential effects of climate change (Eglington &
418 Pearce-Higgins, 2012).

419 Lower expansions after including landscape variables in the models were projected for six
420 non-passerine species (out of nine) and two passerine species. This outcome suggests that
421 for a considerable number of species, including some of the most relevant farmland species
422 of European conservation concern (e.g., little and great bustards and lesser kestrel), future
423 projections based on climatic variables alone might lead to overestimating the expected
424 expansion. Stronger contractions after accounting for landscape changes were predicted
425 only for four species, including three non-passerine species, of which two are of European
426 conservation concern (Black-bellied Sandgrouse and Pin-tailed Sandgrouse), and a
427 passerine species (Corn Bunting). On the contrary, for some species, including some with a
428 relevant conservation status, the incorporation of landscape variables reduced the
429 possibility of a strong range contraction or lead to an increase of the predicted geographical
430 ranges. The set of species in this group included both lark species (crested and Thekla's
431 larks) and two species of European conservation concern (Black-eared wheatear and
432 Dupont's lark). For two Iberian widespread species (skylark and Linnet), at least partially,
433 lower impacts on species range are also expected when landscape variables are included in
434 the models. After accounting for landscape changes, a future range increase was predicted
435 for a few generalist and ecotone-related species. This seems to be the case of the woodlark,
436 which is an open-habitat species associated with more fragmented farmland landscapes,
437 but also of other farmland species like short-toed lark, which is frequent in more
438 fragmented and convoluted landscapes (Reino *et al.*, 2009).

439

440

441 *Conclusions*

442 This study underpins the need to consider landscape composition and structure when
443 modelling species range shifts under future climate scenarios. This is particularly the case
444 for habitat specialists, which are strongly constrained by habitat availability and
445 configuration. In addition, our models show that specialist species (many with relevant
446 European conservation concern, Table S2) produce less optimistic predictions when
447 landscape changes are also accounted for. The interplay between climate and landscape
448 variables has important implications for an adequate mitigation strategy under climate
449 change. Because farmlands are one of the most extensively modified landscapes and very
450 dependent on management practices and regional policies, the rate, magnitude and
451 direction of alteration is probably more decoupled from climate change than other less
452 altered landscapes. For example, Princé *et al.*, (2015) recently reported that including
453 farmland cover variables could potentially compensate the negative effect of climate
454 change on some species. This means that one needs to be aware when attributing some of
455 the forecasted changes specifically to climate warming (Eglington & Pearce-Higgins, 2012).
456 On the other hand, it also means there is more margin to put into practice management
457 actions that may counteract the negative effects of climate change on bird communities.
458 Our results confirm this idea by showing that more optimistic predictions under climate
459 change for the future are possible when land cover changes are also taken into account.
460 This might suggest that, by implementing right mitigation measures at the landscape level,
461 it would be possible to produce more optimistic predictions for the future, i.e., enlarged
462 range expansions and reduced range contractions.

463

464

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477

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717

718 **Table 1** – Discrimination power as measured by the mean cross-validation
719 AUC among the nine combinations of BRT settings, and respective
720 standard deviation, of distribution models developed for each farmland bird
721 species using either climate variables and both climate and landscape
722 variables. In each case we indicate the percent variation of mean AUC for
723 climate + landscape models in relation to climate only models.
724

Species	Climate	Climate + Landscape	% AUC variation
<i>Falco naumanni</i>	0.878 (0.0005)	0.888 (0.0005)	1.16
<i>Circus pygargus</i>	0.820 (0.0017)	0.859 (0.001)	4.68
<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>	0.852 (0.0014)	0.882 (0.0007)	3.42
<i>Otis tarda</i>	0.867 (0.0015)	0.889 (0.0011)	2.53
<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	0.774 (0.0023)	0.804 (0.0013)	3.89
<i>Pterocles alchata</i>	0.933 (0.0011)	0.941 (0.0007)	0.89
<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>	0.859 (0.0008)	0.884 (0.0009)	2.93
<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	0.852 (0.0011)	0.876 (0.0012)	2.82
<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	0.846 (0.0011)	0.856 (0.001)	1.21
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	0.868 (0.0003)	0.871 (0.0004)	0.28
<i>Anthus campestris</i>	0.846 (0.0006)	0.851 (0.0008)	0.60
<i>Lullula arborea</i>	0.839 (0.0005)	0.851 (0.0004)	1.49
<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	0.885 (0.0006)	0.909 (0.0004)	2.69
<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	0.824 (0.0005)	0.842 (0.0007)	2.11
<i>Calandrella rufescens</i>	0.947 (0.0009)	0.947 (0.0007)	0.06
<i>Galerida cristata</i>	0.908 (0.0006)	0.925 (0.0004)	1.86
<i>Galerida theklae</i>	0.869 (0.0012)	0.877 (0.0012)	0.90
<i>Chersophilus duponti</i>	0.919 (0.0009)	0.928 (0.0007)	0.87
<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	0.856 (0.0006)	0.861 (0.0009)	0.55
<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	0.793 (0.0015)	0.801 (0.0017)	0.97
<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	0.892 (0.0007)	0.913 (0.0006)	2.29

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Table 2 – Mean importance of variables in the climate+landscape BRT model (grey intensity reflects variable importance). Crop – presence/absence of cropland; Edge - edge density; MPA - mean cropland patch area; NUMP - number of cropland patches; Prec - average total annual precipitation; Tmax - average mean maximum temperature; Tmin - average minimum temperature of the coldest month; Tmin SD - minimum temperature standard deviation.

Species	Crop	Edge	MPA	NUMP	Prec	Tmax	Tmin	Tmin SD
<i>F. naumanni</i>	0.01	6.07	25.99	2.11	9.42	36.63	6.95	12.83
<i>C. pygargus</i>	0.02	8.96	9.51	3.20	12.55	21.66	30.92	13.19
<i>T. tetrax</i>	0.00	7.29	7.64	2.25	13.03	17.18	38.40	14.22
<i>O. tarda</i>	0.00	7.28	14.45	2.29	10.25	43.23	8.57	13.92
<i>C. coturnix</i>	0.11	9.05	13.04	2.85	15.51	18.99	23.19	17.26
<i>P. alchata</i>	0.00	7.33	22.84	2.85	12.89	28.47	7.72	17.89
<i>P. orientalis</i>	0.00	8.23	21.08	2.76	10.16	36.25	8.39	13.13
<i>B. oediconemus</i>	0.01	6.68	7.22	2.71	9.87	22.31	40.24	10.97
<i>C. garrulus</i>	0.00	6.58	9.76	2.06	12.82	20.12	30.43	18.24
<i>A. arvensis</i>	0.05	3.47	3.85	1.87	11.79	18.48	48.09	12.39
<i>A. campestris</i>	0.01	5.20	6.31	2.16	13.65	23.29	34.99	14.38
<i>L. arborea</i>	0.04	4.13	11.91	2.96	13.68	24.34	24.89	18.05
<i>M. calandra</i>	0.00	4.47	8.25	1.55	9.18	31.46	34.58	10.51
<i>C. brachydactyla</i>	0.01	6.61	7.58	2.34	8.28	17.38	47.51	10.30
<i>C. rufescens</i>	0.00	7.17	8.22	5.24	9.84	15.52	43.01	11.00
<i>G. cristata</i>	0.02	4.55	6.53	1.06	7.08	8.41	64.70	7.65
<i>G. theklae</i>	0.01	4.34	5.69	1.51	10.05	19.26	46.36	12.78
<i>C. duponti</i>	0.00	9.64	12.21	7.45	13.41	18.58	23.26	15.45
<i>O. hispanica</i>	0.01	3.73	5.64	3.23	8.68	18.94	46.28	13.49
<i>C. cannabina</i>	0.05	7.99	21.67	3.11	12.69	25.17	12.00	17.32
<i>E. calandra</i>	0.09	5.06	13.40	1.87	10.57	49.40	8.73	10.89

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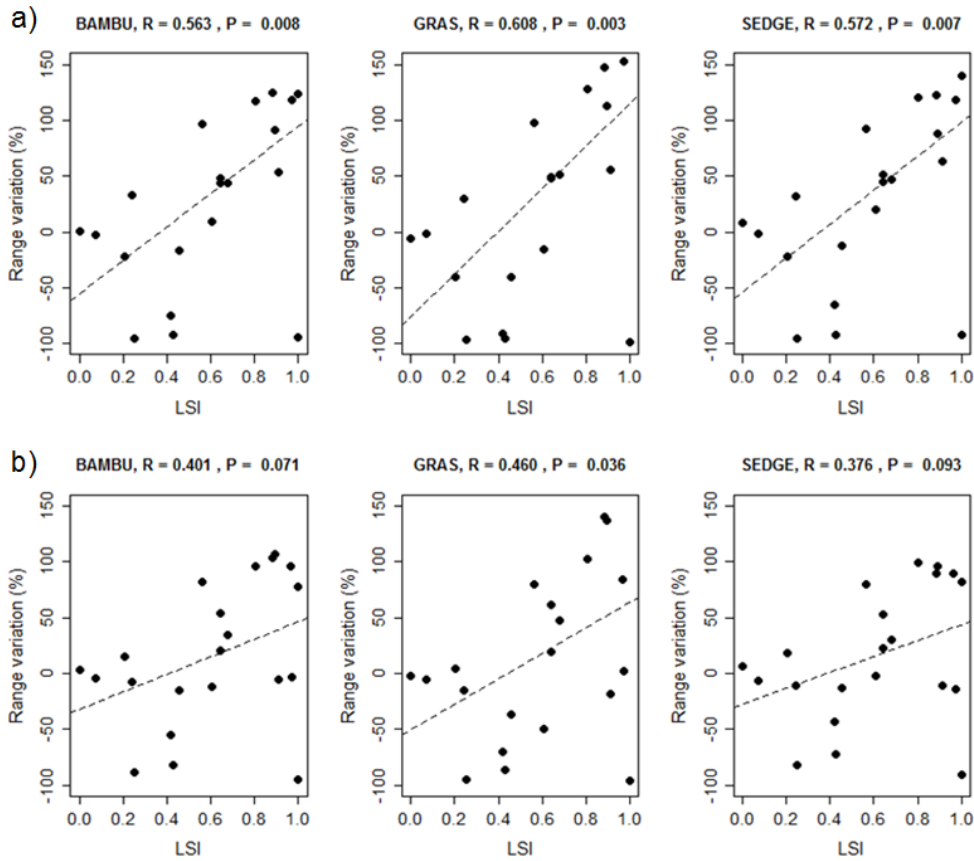
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Table 3. Differences between the range shifts predicted by species distribution models based on climate alone and on climate + landscape for the three future ALARM storyline scenarios. Values indicate the additional percentage of change introduced when landscape variables are also considered in the models. Symbols denote the direction of the range change of the climate/landscape and whether the model based on climate/landscape predicts stronger or lower changes than model based on climate alone. ▽ - weaker retraction; ▼- stronger retraction; △ - weaker expansion; ▲ - stronger expansion.

Species	Additional % change		
	BAMBU	GRAS	SEDGE
<i>Falco naumanni</i>	-21.2 △	-8.0 △	-33.0 △
<i>Circus pygargus</i>	-14.4 △	-17.7 △	-12.7 △
<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>	-20.6 △	-25.0 △	-21.0 △
<i>Otis tarda</i>	-132.6 △	-158.8 △	-138.7 △
<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	-40.8 ▼	-44.8 ▼	-42.7 ▼
<i>Pterocles alchata</i>	-121.5 ▼	-151.0 △	-132.6 ▼
<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>	-58.1 ▼	-73.3 ▼	-74.5 ▼
<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	-28.2 △	-29.7 △	-28.4 △
<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	14.6 ▲	23.6 ▲	7.5 ▲
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	1.9 ▽	3.9 ▽	-0.9 ▼
<i>Anthus campestris</i>	-21.2 ▼	-33.7 ▼	-22.6 ▼
<i>Lullula arborea</i>	37.1 ▲	44.9 ▲	40.6 ▲
<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	-9.1 △	-3.9 △	-16.5 △
<i>Calandrella</i> <i>brachydactyla</i>	10.7 ▲	13.4 ▲	8.0 ▲
<i>Calandrella rufescens</i>	-45.4 △	-29.5 △	-58.0 △
<i>Galerida cristata</i>	7.3 ▽	1.3 ▽	12.9 ▽
<i>Galerida theklae</i>	20.3 ▽	21.2 ▽	22.5 ▽
<i>Chersophilus duponti</i>	-0.8 ▼	2.7 ▽	1.2 ▽
<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	10.1 ▽	9.7 ▽	19.4 ▽
<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	2.4 ▲	4.2 ▽	-1.0 △
<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	-2.2 ▼	-3.3 ▼	-4.8 ▼

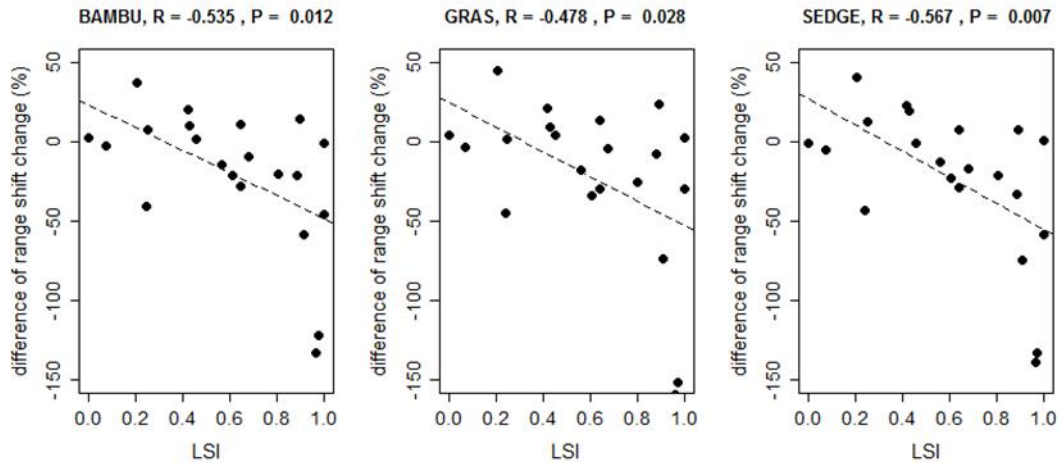
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765 Fig. 1 – Relationship between the species Landscape Specialization Index
766 (LSI) in the presence cells, and the predicted species percent range variation
767 (future) in relation to the baseline modelled range, for the climate-only (a) and
768 the climate + landscape models (b). The Pearson correlation coefficient and
769 the respective P-level are shown.

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777 Fig. 2 – Relationship between the species Landscape Specialization Index
 778 (LSI) in the presence cells and the difference in the percent range shift
 779 change predicted by the climate + landscape models in relation to the
 780 climate-only models. The Pearson correlation coefficient and the respective
 781 p -level are shown.

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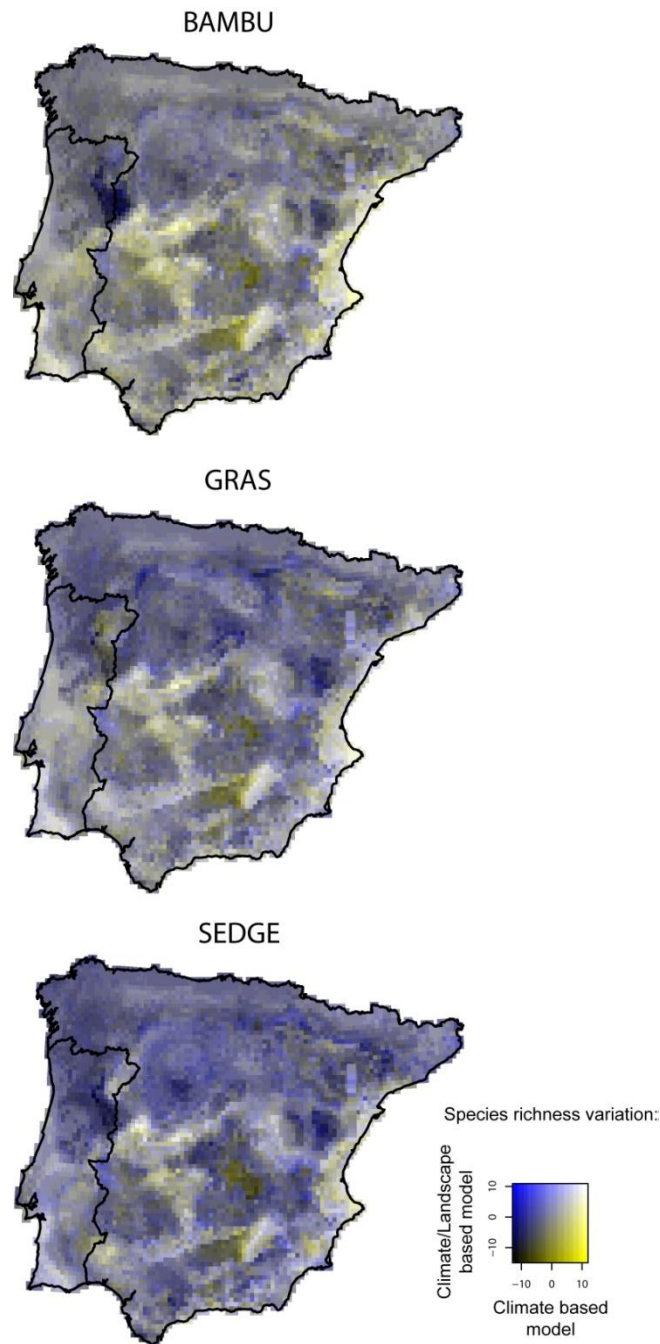
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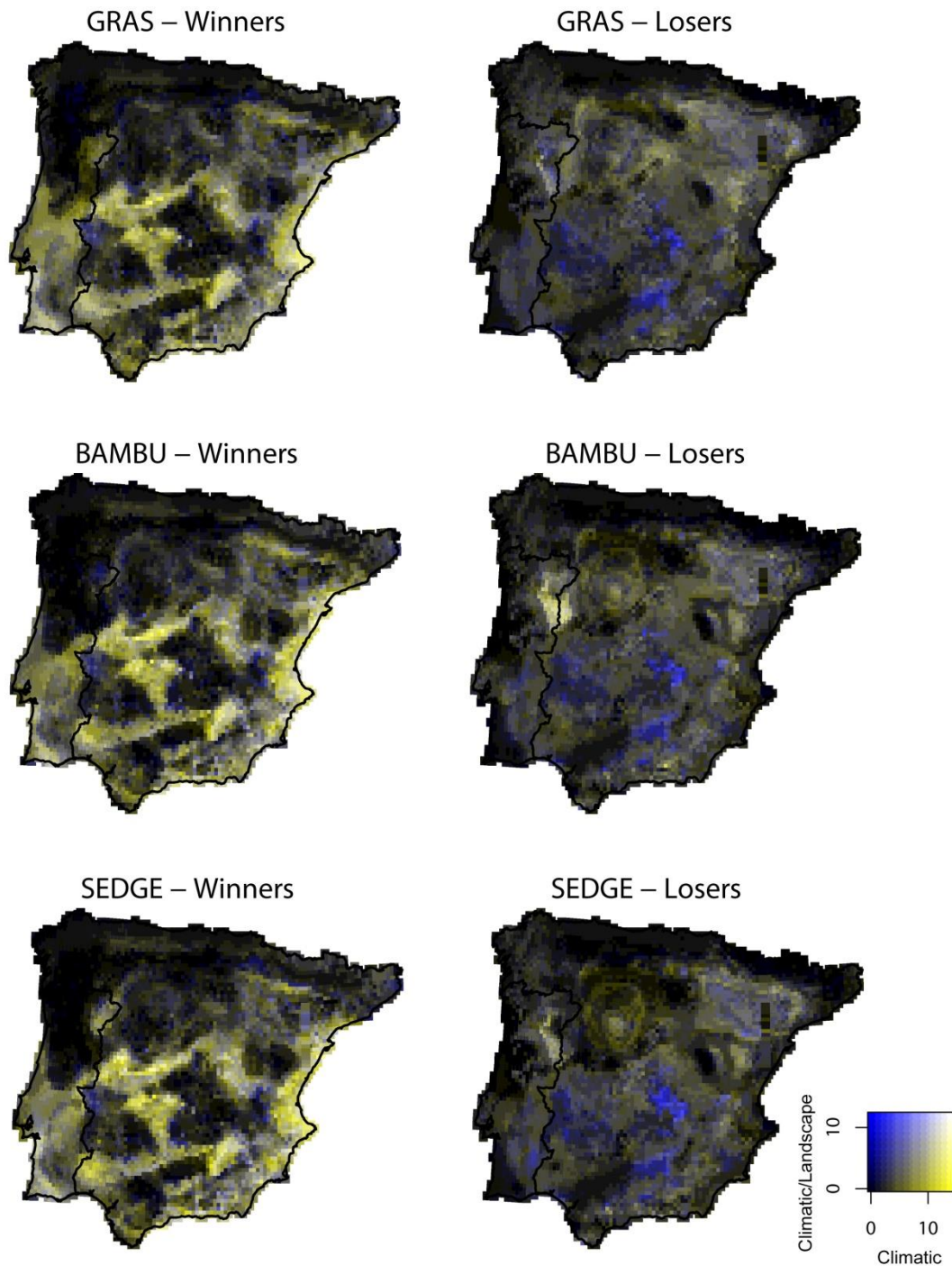
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Fig. 3 – Bivariate map of species richness percent variation per 10-km grid squares for the three future climate change scenarios. Deviations from the grayscale gradient represent larger richness variations predicted either by climate only-based models (yellow) or by climate/landscape-based models (blue). Brighter tones represent regions with a more positive richness percent variation and darker tones represent regions with a more negative richness percent variation.



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804 Fig. 4 – Bivariate map of the number of loser (left maps) and winner (right
 805 maps) species per 10-km grid squares for the three future climate change
 806 scenarios. Deviations from the grayscale gradient represent larger number of
 807 losers or winners predicted either by climate only-based models (yellow) or
 808 by climate/landscape-based models (blue). Brighter tones represent regions
 809 with a larger number of winners or losers.

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