RESEARCH LETTER

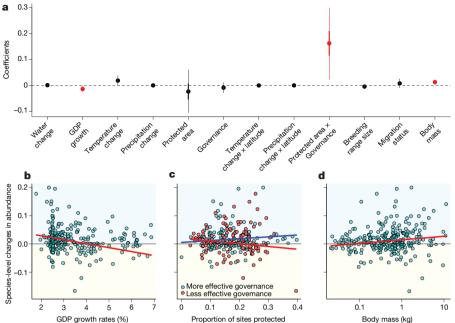


Figure 4 | Effects of predictors on species-level abundance changes in 293 waterbird species that were recorded in at least ten grid cells.

a, Estimated coefficients with 95% and 50% (thick lines) credible intervals; those not overlapping with zero are shown in red. b-d, Relationship at the species level between abundance changes and GDP growth rates (b), proportion of sites covered by protected areas (c) and body mass (d). Values and regression lines for species in areas with more (above median) and less (below median)

effective governance are shown in blue and red, respectively, in c. See Supplementary Data 2 for

governance. Governance is now recognized to be essential for economic growth, social development and the eradication of poverty and hunger⁴. Efforts to better understand and improve governance, as well as to find means of improving the effectiveness of specific measures when governance is weak, therefore provide common ground for conservationists, social scientists, policy makers and the public for achieving sustainable development.

Online Content Methods, along with any additional Extended Data display items and Source Data, are available in the online version of the paper; references unique to these sections appear only in the online paper.

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Supplementary Information is available in the online version of the paper.

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