

# Tullow Uganda Wins Conservation Award

By Robert Lwanga

On 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017, the International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA), a reputable international grouping of researchers, experts, and technocrats in the field of environmental assessment, chose Tullow from a number of nominations as the recipient of the **'Cooperate Initiative Award 2017'** for going above and beyond what would be expected of a company in planning for impact assessment and mitigation.

Tullow was commended for its support and funding of the development of the new National Red List of threatened species in Uganda and for commissioning various landscape studies to collect data beyond the confines of the operations of Tullow's project footprint.

In 2013, Tullow Uganda and its Joint Venture Partners CNOOC and Total, recognised the immense challenge of developing an oil and gas industry in the ecologically and socially sensitive Albertine Graben and decided to plan for and undertake various Environmental and Biodiversity Baseline studies whose results would be used to plan for a suite of robust impact mitigation measures.

Among several studies was a biodiversity baseline study conducted by Tullow to understand the threatened species in the Albertine Graben. Understanding the presence of threatened species is an essential precursor for conservation and protection of the environment during the development of any major project in a region of rich bio diversity like the Albertine Graben.

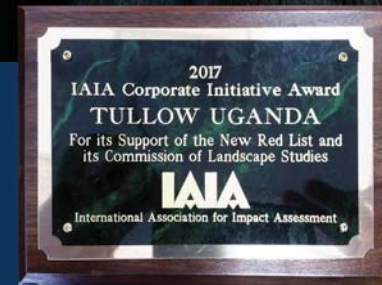
Tullow Oil through the Government of Uganda and the **World Conservation Society (WCS)** and other national and international conservation specialists undertook various biodiversity and ecosystem service studies at the landscape level. These studies led to the mapping of habitats of conservation value in the oil development area of the Albertine Graben. Using the results of these studies Uganda's first official **Red List** of threatened species was developed. This list has now been adopted by the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as the guiding document on the status of species in Uganda. The National Red List is now published on the IUCN website making Uganda one of only three countries in Africa with their own national Red List.

In addition to improving the relevance of environmental planning in the oil development area the National Red list will also raise the profile and understanding of Uganda's unique biodiversity, and reinforce Uganda's unique position in regional conservation programs.

Speaking at the award ceremony in Montreal Canada, Miguel Coutinho, Chair of the IAIA Awards Committee commented "Tullow Uganda has demonstrated great leadership and thorough efforts in developing comprehensive baselines at a landscape level. The company has gone above and beyond normal standards of expected good practice, to contribute to capacity and resources in Uganda."



*The Shoe Bill Stork:  
one of the threatened bird  
species of Uganda.*



At the annual Conference of International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA 17) held on **7<sup>th</sup> April 2017** in **Montreal, Canada**, Tullow Oil was awarded the Corporate Initiative Award in recognition of its support for the development of a national red list of endangered species of Uganda and undertaking basin wide environmental studies beyond the immediate project footprint.

*At Tullow, we believe that Oil & Gas activities can be harnessed to promote environmental conservation if we work in concert with other stakeholders.*