

17. Glossary

A

aadaa custom, tradition, culture (Oromo)

aadaa seeraa Borana normative system

Aariqf (also: *Aaraf*) language of the Aari

abaarsa curse (Borana)

abbaa bokkuu lit: 'father of the sceptre', senior position in Oromo lineage system and in *gadaa*, responsible for decision-making

abbaa gadaa lit.: 'father of *gadaa*', leader of the *gadaa* governance system (Oromo)

abbaa seeraa legal expert (Oromo)

abegar conflict resolution mechanism practised by elders who claim to have hereditary divine power (Amhara of Wollo)

abunzi mediation system in Rwanda

ad'a culture (Siltie)

adulaa council composed of elders from each moiety holding executive power (Borana), senior councilor within the *gadaa*-system (Oromo)

afaan OromoOromo language

afi evil eye (Aari)

aish person with the evil eye (Aari)

akonatari lit.: transferor of land in traditional land transactions (Sidama)

alem world (Amharic), self-designation of non-Protestants in Aari, where it could be translated as 'traditionalist'

anje blessings (Aari)

ansewa Siltie highlanders

anzamo-nas lit.: girlhood child, refers to children conceived before marriage (Bashada, Hamar, Banna)

araara reconciliation (Borana)

araqé local liquor

argaa dhaageetii oral historian/oral history/anecdote (Borana)

atbia dagnia local judge (Amharic), established by the government

awliyā saint, guardian (pl.) (Arabic)

awneya marginalized craft workers (blacksmiths, tanners, and potters) among Siltie people

awraja third administrative tier below the province/region during the Imperial (1931–1974) and the Socialist Derg regime (1974–1991)

awraja qadis judges assigned to a specific area (see *awraja*)

Ay berimka 'Do not judge!' (Aari expression)

Ayidama customary mechanism to resolve conflicts between different Gamo communities

ayle slave descendants (Gamo)

ayo spokesman and intermediary between the local communities and the government (Bashada, Hamar, Banna, see also: *likamamber*)

aysafte woni heathen work (Aari)

B

babi hereditary ritual king (Aari)

bajje marginalized subgroup with ritual responsibilities (Bashada, Hamar, Banna)

balabat landlord during the Imperial regime (1931–1974)

baliqe elder (Siltie)

bannewak cattle exchanged among bondfriends in Hamar

barjo good fortune (Bashada, Hamar)

bashi displaying fear (Aari)

berche notions of the right to justice in Siltie, see also *tur* and *fero*

bida'a unwanted innovation (Siltie)

birr Ethiopian currency

bitta lit.: 'the first' (Hamar), refers also to 'the first' in authority and transcendental and ritual power, title for ritual leader among Hamar

bul lit.: untied, also: absolved (Aari)

buts to acknowledge/confess wrong-doing (Aari)

C

caffee places of law-proclamations, law-giving assembly (Oromo)

caffee taa'icha lit.: '[he] who was at [the place of] the law gathering', (also: *jaarsa caffee*), expert in customary law (Oromo)

chako oath (Gamo)

charangi ritually pure (Bashada, Hamar, Banna)

D

d'abbi wrongdoer (Bashada, Hamar, Banna)

dakerka imprison (imperative, Aari)

dakri lit.: tying, term is used for imprisonment in the *kebele* prison, and for banning a wrongdoer from active religious participation for a specified number of months (Aari)

dannawa form of land tenure in Sidama, (communal land)

danya judge (Amharic)

daraara tobacco used ritual purposes (Borana)

dax'ilsi offence (Aari)

dem adreq shimgilinna conciliation aimed at stopping a lengthy conflict between families that involved a cycle of retaliatory killings (Amhara)

deme keleb lit.: 'impure blood' (Amharic)

demutha religious experts (Gamo)

dere (plural: *dereta*), self-administered community in Gamo

dere cima council of elders in Gamo

dere dulata public assembly in Gamo

detsmi lit.: heaviness, also greatness of a person (Aari)

digela (also *tsoma* or *manna*), craftworkers (Gamo)

dofen norti girank lit.: truly from the stomach, full heartedly (Aari)

dosi potsh opening a dossier (Aari)

dubusha public assembly place in Gamo

E

edi human being (Bashada, Hamar, Banna)

eela deep well (Borana)

ensete false banana

ercho certain grass used to purify the wrongdoers and their relatives from *gome* (ritual pollution in Gamo)

erq conciliation between disputants whose relationship had already broken down in an earlier conflict (Amhara)

F

fenter special feast in Sidama to mark the conclusion of a *kontract* (hybrid form of land law)

fero notions of the right to justice in Siltie, see also *tur* and *berche*

ferezagegne local cassation court judges (in Siltie)

Fetha Nagast 'law of the kings' (Amharic)

foollee one of the stages in the *gadaa* grade system (Tulama Oromo)

G

gaaddisa shade where the elders sit, dwelling place of god (Borana)

gabinti economic growth (Aari)

gacaca Rwandan customary courts

gadaa (also: *gada*) age and generation system of Oromo people

gadho traditional palace in Gamo, residence of the *kawo*

gal enemy (Bashada, Hamar, Banna), term also used for highland Ethiopians

galta elders (Aari)

gemet assessment (Amharic)

gasaa maga (also: *ogade*), mediator between two or more communities (Gamo)

gerad clan leader (Siltie)

geta elders from related lineages serving as ritual helpers (Aari)

gichit aswegaj lit. 'conflict prevention/resolution' (Amharic), quasi-formal, state-initiated conflict resolution institution consisting of elders and representatives of government offices

gika beat (Aari)

godmi hereditary ritual specialists (Aari)

gome transgression of a social norm or sin that causes pollution of the wrongdoer and misfortune, disease and natural calamities for the whole society (Gamo)

gosa clan (Sidama, Oromo)

gote smallest state administrative level below *kebele*, consists of less than 500 people (in Siltie)

gumaa blood price/compensation to victims of crime (Tulama-Oromo, Borana)

gumii gaayoo pan-Borana assembly, taking place every eight years at the mid-point of an *abbaa gadaa* period, has supreme authority over law-making and enforcement

gumma blood money/compensation in case of homicide (Siltie)

gurri afak lit.: done just with the mouth, not full-heartedly (Aari)

H

halaga initiate in small sized *dere* in Gamo

hadiya gifts (Islamic law, Siltie)

hayyuu senior position in Oromo lineage system and in *gadaa*; lineage senior acting as judge (Oromo)

hiba gift (Sharia law)

hisbint dassken helping people up, refers to duty of offender to provide food and drink for all cell members who participated in conflict resolution (Aari)

hoolaa buula sheep slaughtered for recuperation of sick person (Borana)

huduga initiate in medium sized *dere* in Gamo

I

iddir informal burial insurance and bereavement association common in many parts of Ethiopia

ijibbaata sheep for ritual slaughter (Borana)

‘indapsi antam ay kashishka!’ lit.: ‘Do not make your brother pay!’ (Aari expression implying that being a Christian one should forgive)

injera fermented sourdough flatbread traditionally made from t’eff flour

irki mother’s brother (Aari),

isante iron rings worn by girls and women around their necks (Bashada, Hamar, Banna)

isgoota pleading ceremony, during which a killer’s side plead for reconciliation (Tulama-Oromo)

J

jaallaba representative of clan assembly enforcing decisions of the *abbaa gadaa* (Borana)

jaarsa elder (Tulama-Oromo)

‘jaarsaaf jeedhi!’ lit.: ‘For the sake of elders!’ (part of blessing, Tulama-Oromo)

jaarsa dheeda administrative unit responsible for regulating seasonal access to grazing and water (Borana)

jaarsa madda administrative unit responsible for grazing and water management at the local level (Borana)

jaarsa Waaqaa lit.: ‘elder of God’, member of a court run by spirit mediums (Oromo)

jaarsummaa conflict resolution through elders (Oromo)

jahil ignorant of Islamic knowledge (Siltie)

K

karta tradition (Aari)

kashi beday ‘There is not a lot of fines!’ (Aari expression)

kashka fine (imperative, Aari)

kawo title for hereditary ruler in Gamo

kebele lowest administrative level

kerri ritual gateway (Bashada, Hamar, Banna)

k’esh customary mode of dispute resolution, reconciliation (Aari)

kilil region (Amharic)

k’itat punishment (Amharic)

kisi lawsuit (Amharic), term used in Dell/Aari for the process of dealing with disputes through state institutions

kogo ritual fire maker (Bashada, Hamar, Banna)

kontract new hybrid form of land law in Sidama

koota sharecropping arrangement used to match land with labour and/or other inputs in Sidama

kora gosaa clan assembly (Borana)

kotsa share-cropping arrangement (Aari)

L

lafa abba torbbaatama lit.: 'land of seventy people'; referring to a specific piece of land over which 70 people are claiming ownership in Tulama-Oromo land

lafa etege land of Empress Menen, wife of Emperor Haile Selassie (Tulama-Oromo)

'*Lafaaf jedhi!*' 'For the sake of earth!' (part of blessing, Tulama-Oromo)

likamamber (from Amharic: 'likamenber'), spokesman and intermediary between the local communities and the government (Bashada, Hamar, Banna, see also: *ayyo*)

liqa form of dispute settlements based on local holy men (*waliye*) among the Siltie (see also *mawlid* and *warrie*)

luba generation class (or set) among the Borana

M

mad'a customary courts of the Afar people

maga kind of mediator within the same *dere* (self-administered community in Gamo)

mahberawi firdebet Social Court for property and monetary claims in Dell/Aari (Amharic)

makkala messengers enforcing decisions of *abbaa gadaa* and council of elders (Borana)

malla farmers (Gamo)

majlis institution administering Muslim affairs

mana craft workers (Gamo, Aari)

mashayik religious figure, dead or alive, popularly recognized as honourable Islamic symbols by the majority of Muslims (see also *waliye*)

mawlid form of dispute settlements based on local holy men (*waliye*) among the Siltie (see also *liqa*, and *warrie*)

mawlid-un-nabi Prophet Mohammed's birthday celebration

mawlid al-mashayik local religious leader/figure's celebration day where by a dispute settlement is conducted (Siltie)

mele'ata guba'e assembly delegates; platform for reconciliations by Church elders (Amharic)

mengist government (Amharic)

mengiste higi law of the government (Amharic), expression used in Aari

meret komitee committee for legal issues at the *kebele* level dealing with land disputes in Dell/Aari (Amharic)
mesaki family head (Siltie)
miks begging (Aari)
militia auxiliary policeman
mingi ritually impure (Bashada, Hamar, Banna, Kara)
mikitil woreda lit.: 'subdistrict', administrative unit below the *woreda* (district) in the past
moara diviner (Bashada, Hamar, Banna)
moro head of sub clan (Siltie)
mulimidi polluted (Bashada, Hamar, Banna)
mushro disease affecting anyone breaking an oath (Amhara)

N

nagaa boorana peace among all Borana groups
negane forgiveness (Aari)
nisah teykate to take confession (Aari expression referring to the Christian duty to confess wrongdoings).
norti stomach, locus of feelings (Aari)
nikah Islamic marriage contract (Siltie)

O

Odaa Nabee tree serving as regional assembly place for the Tuulama-Oromo
ogade (also: *gasaa maga*), mediator between two or more *dere* (self administered communities in Gamo)
ollaa lit.: 'neighbour', also: village, neighbourhood (Borana)
oogliya spirit (Oromo)
ooshsha conflict (Gamo)

P

paala decorative scars (Bashada, Hamar, Banna)
parko ritual expert (Bashada, Hamar, Banna)

Q

qaalluu ritual leader, also spirit medium (Oromo)
qadi judge in Sharia court
qalla lowlanders (Siltie)
qakee serious crime and sanction (Borana)

R*raga* local legal expert (Siltie)*raaba gadda* administrative unit having customary jurisdiction over land, social and cultural issues, and conflict resolution (Borana)**S***'Sabi an neganel'* 'May God forgive you!' (Aari)*sabite gami* divine punishment (Aari)*sabite higi* God's law (Aari)*sabite woni* service to God (Aari)*seeraa* Oromo law*Shafie* Islamic school of thought*sharafic* upper class people tracing their origin to the Hashemite and the Prophet Mohammed's family among the Siltie people*shimma* coolness, harmony (Aari),*shimagillé* lit.: 'old' (Amharic); refers to elder assigned for conflict resolution (Amhara)*shimgilinna* lit.: 'aging' (Amharic), conflict resolution through elders (Amhara)*soba* lie (Borana)*songo* highest clan council (Sidama)*susaa qantso* compensation (Gamo)**T***talak* unilateral divorce or release of wife from marriage (Sharia law)*tekonatari* transferee of land in traditional land transaction (Sidama)*toidi* lineage head (Aari)*toksi* belittling someone (Aari)*tsha'x'a* testify under oath (Aari)*tsoma* (also: *manna* or *digela*), craftworkers (Gamo)*tur* notions of the right to justice in Siltie, see also *fero* and *berche***U***utuwa* form of land tenure in Sidama (private land)**W***waliigaltee* agreement (Tulama-Oromo)*waliye* religious figure, dead or alive, popularly recognized as honourable Islamic symbols by the majority of Muslims (see also *mashayik*)

wakf inalienable charitable endowment in Sharia law

Waaqa higher spiritual being, sky, God (Oromo, Borana)

‘*Waaqafjeedhil*’ ‘For the sake of God!’, (part of blessing, Tulama-Oromo)

wana firdebet Main Court (Amharic)

Waaqeffannaa indigenous Oromo religion, (also neo-traditional)

warrie form of dispute settlements based on local holy men (*waliye*) among the Siltie
(see also *mawlid* and *liqa*)

wesiya last will (Islamic law, Siltie)

wofa legesse spirit medium used by people seeking remedies to resolve conflict
(Amhara people of North Shewa)

woleba dominant majority of farmers and traders (Siltie)

woreda district (Amharic)

wule contract (Amharic)

wuta unclean conception or pregnancy (Bashada, Hamar, Banna)

Y

yati sebani female sheep that never gave birth, used for ritual slaughtering (Bashada, Hamar, Banna)

xuraa'a impure (Borana)

ye-akkababi bahil lit.: according to the local culture (Amharic), refers to customary law

ye-abatader hig lit.: the laws of the fathers (Amharic), refers to long-established system of beliefs, values, and norms used for promoting peace and resolving conflicts (Amhara)

ye-afser seb low class people believed to be native to the Siltie area

ye-bad baliqe

shengo/chale local chiefs' assembly (in Siltie)

ye-bahil meberez lit.: dilution of culture (Amharic), expression used by elders referring to loss of conflict resolution culture among the youth and general community (Amhara of Ankober)

ye-betezemed guba'e lit.: family council (Amharic), settles disputes that arise between husbands and wives (Amhara)

ye-burda baliqe shengo hamlet elders assembly (Siltie)

ye-gilgil shimgilinna conciliation between parties in an on-going disagreement (Amhara)

ye-hager shimgilinna lit.: country level conciliation (Amharic), larger and complex conflicts resolved by influential elders selected from the wider community (Amhara)

ye-mewta baliqe supra-village assembly (Siltie)

ye-sebeka guba'e

shimagillée lit.: council of parish elders (Amharic), council of respected community and Church members operating between church members (Amhara of Ankober)

ye-sefer shimgilinna lit.: village conciliation (Amharic), small or relatively uncomplicated conflict in a neighbourhood or village handled by the village elders (Amhara)

ye-siltie serra local mode of governance among the Siltie people

Z

zarsi community of adult men of a given residence area (Bashada, Hamar, Banna)

zarsi goiti central path where many people pass (Bashada, Hamar, Banna)

zera fine (Amharic)

zia local representative of the ritual king (Aari)

zau iron rings worn by women around arms and legs (Bashada, Hamar)