

17. Glossary

A

aadaa custom, tradition, culture (Oromo)

aadaa seeraa Borana normative system

Aariaf (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 dhageetii 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)
balige 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'iksi* 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*
- feretzagegne* 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)
- gasa* *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)
- 'jaarsaafjeedhi!* 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)
'*Lafaafjedhi!*' '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: *ayo*)

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)
mikartil 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 negane!' '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)
'Waaqafjeedhi!' '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-afer seb low class people believed to be native to the Siltie area
ye-bad baliqe
shengo/chale local chiefs' assembly (in Siltie)
ye-bahil mebereze 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-giligil 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)