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## Folktales and songs of the Daasanach : Documenting and celebrating oral storytelling traditions

Daasanach Community

2019

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# Hibano ubaa aram 'Daasanach

He veerit ubaa á'dúm tá hol hibano af kí 'dony yaalmitlé

## Folktales and songs of the Daasanach

Documenting and celebrating oral storytelling traditions



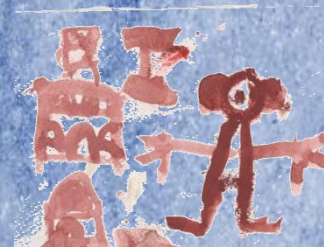
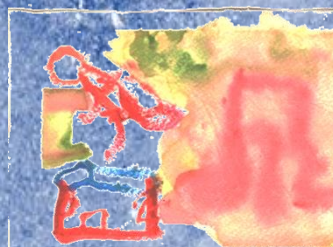


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## Gál he gíl geer higilloká

War'gatééllá gál he 'dú seenoká, he gál giri  
lulle hibano ká 'doy-, lés kúnno geerle hibano  
sidham gaa koyká.



## Dedication

This book is dedicated to all the storytellers  
who keep alive the stories of our world.

Hibano ubaa aram war'gatééllá gaa ijóóllá hát hol mé argisinyká karu  
'Daasanach hí kí yíééie. Ameen y kamur guáo war'gatééllá 'daalle yé  
gáá 'deenká Gábárich 'Daasanacho hí le.



The stories and songs collected in this book are collectively held by  
the Daasanach community. Any profits from this book will go to the  
Daasanach community.

### **Gál gáál hibano kí ‘doyká ~ Storytellers:**

Á-suutu Lieba, Achie Chadha, Ambrose Awosio Ajiko, Amede Nyakas, Bernard Bakene, Christine Nanok, Damaris Nakotoro, 'Dergich Katana, Eelo Chumakan, Hassan Ismael Lokinei, Job Guol Nasak, Kagude Geryo, Laburo Lokomeri, Lokomeri Natodo, Nangoer Shella, Nyakali Muoringole, Nyakoo Toroo, Paul Kanisa, Shuoro Goosh, Siyel Hiile, Yierbookoch Nyakoo, Yierbur Locheemoi.

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### **Gál 'daalim he hol eiy gaa shugunoká 'guoká ~ Expert language consultants:**

Benedict Lokono, Goosh Kwanyang, Job Komoï.

### **Gál war'gát veereká ~ Editors of the book:**

Mar Cabeza, Álvaro Fernández-Llamazares.

### **Gál wargat hol há taikokua ~ Layout designer:**

Mar Cartró Sabaté.

### **Gál tab hí gáál mé ma gaa baaðanyká ~ Acknowledgements:**

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University of Helsinki, Academy of Finland, Nordenskjöld Foundation, Firebird Foundation for Anthropological Research, Turkana Basin Institute, National Museums of Kenya, Ileret Catholic Mission, Bible Translation and Literacy.

## Mé gáá koon

Af meeny giri war shíí naama-, wár eiy tommon tiki'de a le-,  
'jíg war shíí naama-, wár eiy tommon tiki'de a saalká, karu  
'Daasanach ubaa gál 'deem egeet sugul guḁo gaalí Helsinki  
yegie-, (lés Finlandká) hibanno hol af ki 'dony kamur  
'Daasanachká veere.

War'gatééllá he sieny mé 'dér-, war hí seḁ chie-, giri gáál hibano  
ubaa aram 'daasanach táb kí gagatoká. Hé tág gál 'Daasanach  
he bukany ógká ubaa um niginiká hí hát 'dabaanká bukay, gaalí  
af 'Daasanach ubaa af gál édhká met hullaalle ki veere, 'daa he  
met esiny biraamietká shoko'daamlé ke he ki oonootká.

Hibano ubaa aram gaalí war'gatééllá hol 'du gáá shuunééllá he  
hé eshim eshim 'Daasanach giri gáalle hibano guguchle 'guoká.  
Hé nyí met egetoká he giri war'gatééllá nyí á'dum, hol bal ki  
'dony ubaa sirig nyátál 'Daasanachká. Héetí hibanoóllá ubaa  
aramééllá bíyyo ke táb 'do'dootká.



## Introduction

From 2016 to 2019, the Daasanach community and a group of  
researchers from the University of Helsinki (in Finland) have  
been documenting the rich tradition of oral storytelling of the  
Daasanach people.

This book is the result of this three-year journey and contains a  
selected number of stories and songs that reflect the cultural  
heritage of the Daasanach community. It has been beautifully  
illustrated by a number of Daasanach artists and children, and  
is written both in Daasanach language and English, in the hope  
that it can be used as an educational material.

The stories and songs collected in this book have been  
transmitted from generation to generation by the Daasanach  
community, who have historically been the guardians of this  
heritage. We hope that this book contributes to celebrate,  
honour and respect the Daasanach culture, and that these  
stories and songs will be remembered forever.

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‘Daasanach  
hibanollé



# Daasanach folktales



**ACCORDING TO THE WISHES  
OF THE DAASANACH COMMUNITY  
THE FOLKTALES COMPILED IN THIS BOOK  
ARE NOT PUBLICLY AVAILABLE  
FOR PREVIEW**

# ‘Daasanach aramblé



# Daasanach

## songs



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OF THE DAASANACH COMMUNITY  
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# War'gat gaalí bine baa'diet gaa bukayká ~ Illustrated wildlife dictionary



Anich – Crocodile



Ɖerich – Hyena



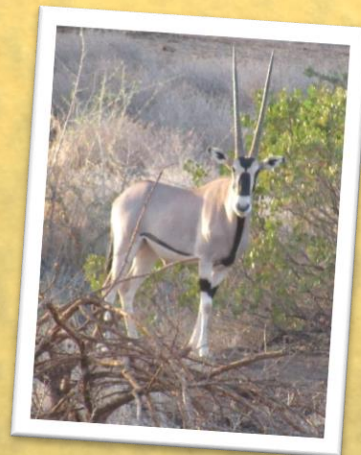
Garich – Buffalo



Guriech – Rhino



Árab – Elephant



Farich - Oryx



Ginte – Grant Gazelle



Haarach – Crow



Hiille – Hare



Hóle - Dove



Luoch - Lion



Neech - Ostrich



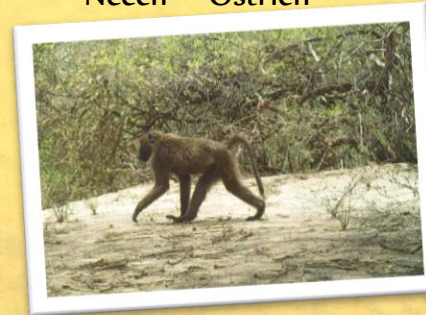
Nyakunyug - Squirrel



Horite - Flamingo



Mante - Bat-Eared Fox



Norroch - Baboon and other primates



Nyékó'dósia - Varana (Varanus niloticus)



Nootoch - Dik-dik

# 'Daasanach. Múún ke gál máre?

Nyíini nyí 'Daasanach lééllá he nyí gál lés 'daa meles Kenyaká ubaa lés 'daa urru Abachaká yé gáá 'dieká. Kidh lulle taawuoká nyiin nyáá nyí iraaam mánká he yeedhe, tá nyíin nyí elúf tommon síet af chen,(85,000)giri nyí inum wár raate ta 'jíg bás in 'daa baryo hát he taalká lulle ki idaká. Nyíin yíéđiny kinyo aany 'deeny ubaa lesam fimmi he gáá koonne (hát káána rub ubaa nakabúono tá haam fimmi). Gíl 'dáá tiki'dka nyáá nyí gál awuan-, káanal\_hátle bée yegeská 'gayya. Nyátál kinyoka súm 'gúo iin he naasan kinyo hí yiem gáá 'de'deeme, tá nyáá nyí éde ubaa wála 'gayya.

Nyíin úba nyáá nyí kamur gálle hol hibano af ki 'daraanká 'gayya, 'daa giri hé kinaallá gíl 'dáá tiki'dka he um niginiká kás shiinyká. Hibano ubaa aram gíl 'dáá tiki'dka he nyatalaam 'Daasanch táb kigagadhoká. Aalé a 'daa gelgaká nyiin náábo nyí hol 'dú seseenne, nyí 'jiet gaa bolmosicha giri nyí hol hibano ubaa aram af ki 'daraanoká. Hééllá he kieye, hol kás eiy 'deeny ubaa hol góro gon yé gaa 'deeny aadhle kuliyyo giri gáál kulich ki saniannoká. Hibano ubaa aram kinyia burnayállá súm agerint ubaa midhant bine baa'diet lés kinyo gaa ijoká he gáál ká geéicha.



# The Daasanach people. Who we are?

We, the Daasanach, are an ethnic group from Northern Kenya and Southern Ethiopia. Although people used to say that we are few in population, we are actually around 85,000 people living around the Omo Delta and the northeastern shores of Lake Turkana. Our livelihood is based on herding and agriculture (mostly sorghum, maize and beans), with some people also practicing fishing nowadays. Cattle is a central element of our culture as pastoralists, but we also tend sheep and goats.

We have a rich tradition of oral storytelling as a way of passing down knowledge across generations. Folktales and songs are vital to the transmission of Daasanach culture. In the evenings, we often sit in the *naab* and share folktales and songs around the fire. This represents a moment of refreshing our minds after a long day of herding under the burning sun. Many of our folktales and songs speak about both the dangers and beauty of the wildlife found in our lands.



## Ar hol af ka yíediyeká

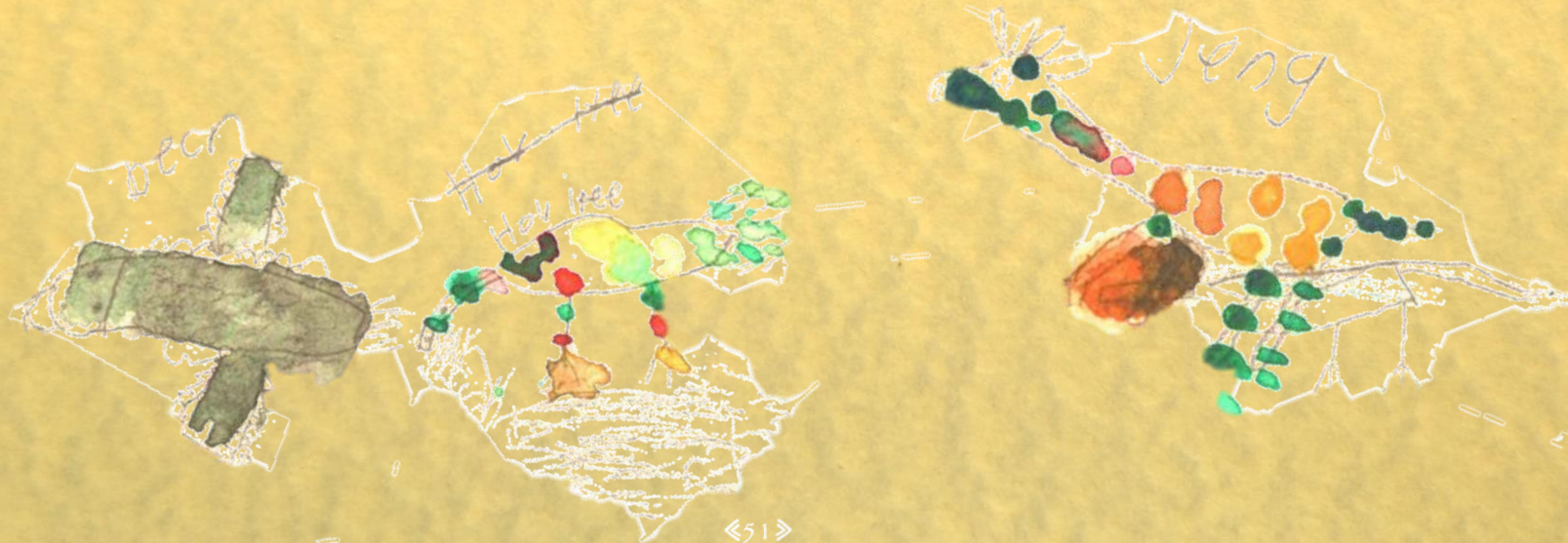
Hol af ka yíediny giri war'gatéllá beesenléká, gál hol argeká he gál arráká, Karu gugudo 'Daasanachká, gál hibano ka doiyká, gál war'gát af eiy hol ki nannieká, gál 'daalellé 'deem hol eiy gaa shugunoká, gál war'gát bukayká, gál wargát veereká ubaa gál lés tollo faafagká gáá yimie-, 'deem egeetká. Gál arrá kinaal waram seē me hí hol aargire, hibanóóllá veeritle iiy yie, giri gaal íín tuudle hé biiy sugoká af 'dáb guḁoká ki aargiroká.

Ar lulle TBI Il-Herietká 'guiy ki seḁeká, rámlé giri leká, wárlé shíí naama wár eiy tommon tiki'de asaalká af hí hol 'dú fame giri war'gatéllá yé ka 'deenoká.

## Steering Committee

The project leading to the completion of this book has been carried out by a Steering Committee composed by Daasanach elders, storytellers, translators, expert consultants, illustrators, editors and researchers. Members of the Steering Committee partnered over three years to bring these stories to daylight, overseeing that their collection followed the highest ethical standards.

All members of the Steering Committee met at the Turkana Basin Institute (TBI) in Ileret (Kenya) on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2019 to sign a Free, Prior and Informed Consent for the publication of this book.



# Gál arráká ~ Members of the Steering Committee



Job Guol Nasak  
Ambrose Awosio Ajiko  
Laburo Lokomeri  
Lokomeri Natodo

Nyakoo Toroo  
Goosh Kwanyang  
Benedict Lokono  
Job Komoi

Christine Nanok  
Eelo Chumakan  
Mar Cabeza  
Álvaro Fernández-Llamazares



War'gatééllá he sieny mé 'dér, war hí sed chie, giri gáál  
hibano ubaa aram 'Daasanach táb kí gagatoká.  
Hé nyí met egetoká he hé giri war'gatééllá nyí á'dum, hol bal ki  
'dony ubaa sirig nyátál 'daasanachká, héetí hibanóóllá ubaa  
aramééllá bíyyo ke táb 'do'dootká.



This book is the result of a three-year journey documenting  
the rich tradition of oral storytelling of the Daasanach people.  
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