

Mursi Duelling

Preparation:



Maganto; June, 2008

A member of the age grade of teenagers, (*Terro*) prepares his duelling pole (*donga*) for the forthcoming contest (*sagine*).



Maganto; June, 2008

Youngsters from the same age group help each other to shape their poles into the proper form. During this work, joking is the most common form of interaction and teaching.



Maganto; June, 2008

The final carving of the pole, with knife and machete (*bangka*).



Maganto; June, 2008

Practice in the cattle camp (*tui*).



Maganto; June, 2008

The top of the poles, the shape of which is nowadays influenced by the neighbouring Suri.



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Putting on the head protection with the help of friends from the same locality and age grade.



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The last stage before a bout begins: supporters accompany the contestant to the arena (*gul*).

The contest:



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Contestants surrounded by the spectators - family and clan members, age mates and friends.



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The second day of the competition.



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A contestant wearing a leopard skin, handed down by the previous generation.



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In one of the final fights.

Society:



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A duelling contest is a social event, which may last several days, at which people from different parts of the country come together.



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During the duelling contests, girls watch their boyfriends and fathers their sons in the competition.



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Elders watching the duelling while talking with each other.

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