

Bapi était un petit garçon qui adorait jouer du *dhol*\*.



Toum ! Toum ! Toukoutoum ! Bapi jouait les yeux fermés. Ses mains tapaient très vite sur le tambour. Cela donnait envie de danser à tout le monde.

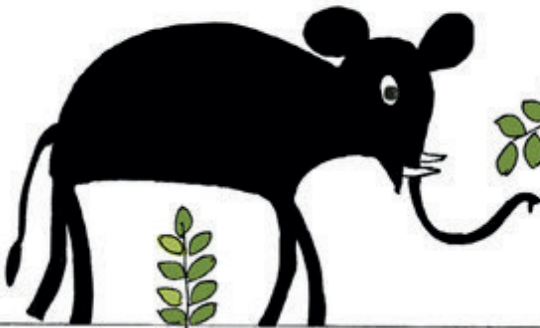
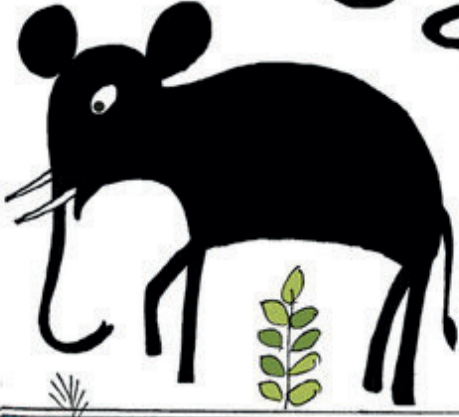
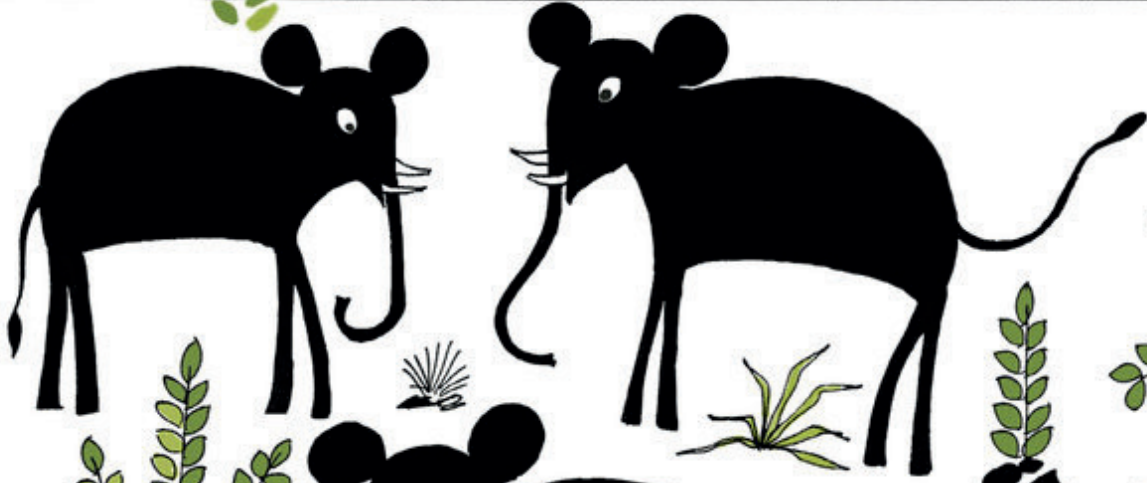
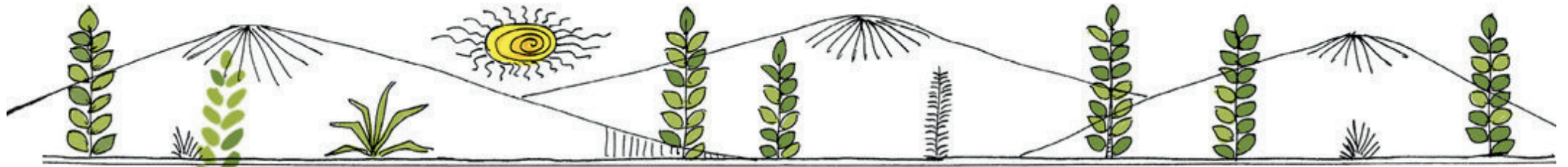
\* *Tambour à deux faces*



Un jour, Bapi dut se rendre dans un village situé de l'autre côté de la colline. Il était très content car on lui avait demandé d'y jouer du *dhol*.



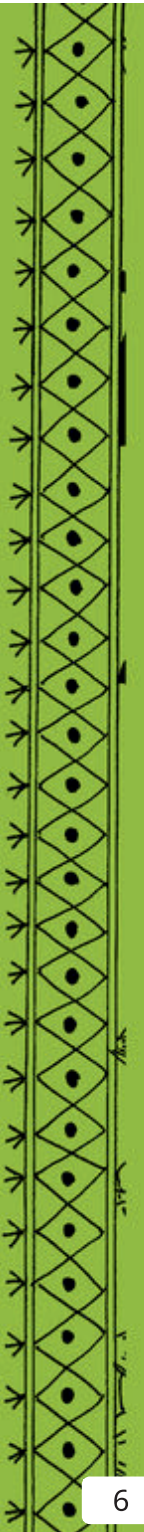
Pour aller au village, il fallait traverser une forêt dense.



Tandis qu'il avançait, Bapi tomba sur... UNE HORDE  
D'ÉLÉPHANTS !  
Il eut très peur.



Tu aurais eu très peur aussi si tu avais vu leur taille gigantesque.



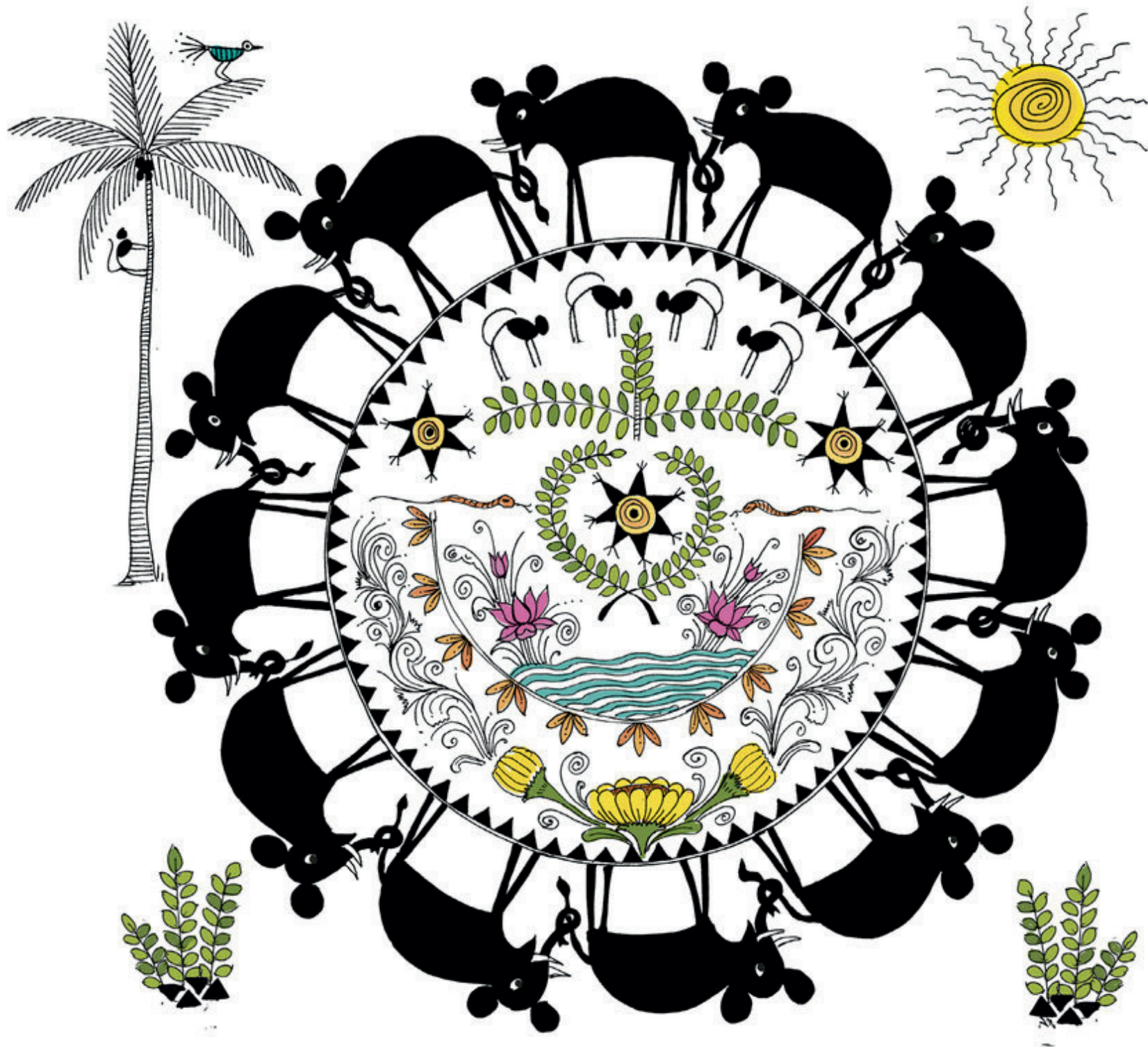


Il se mit à taper très fort sur son *dhol*, pensant ainsi leur faire peur.



Mais que crois-tu qu'il se produisit ?





Les éléphants furent ravis d'entendre du tambour ! Ils se mirent à danser joyeusement.



Ils oublièrent complètement la présence de Bapi, car ils adoraient danser. Bapi en profita pour déguerpir. De retour au village, il raconta ce qu'il s'était passé.



Le lendemain, les filles et les garçons du village vinrent cueillir des fleurs de mahua. Ils furent stupéfaits de voir que les éléphants étaient encore en train de danser.



Ils se précipitèrent au village et racontèrent à tout le monde qu'ils avaient vu les éléphants danser.

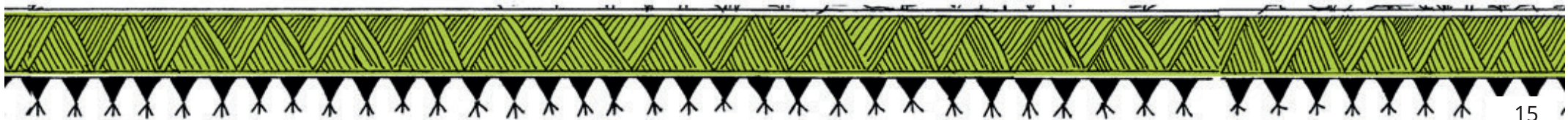




Les villageois emportèrent plusieurs types de tambours avec eux et allèrent dans la forêt en jouant bruyamment.



Les éléphants dansants dansaient toujours, en suivant le rythme qu'avait joué Bapi sur son *dhol*. Lorsqu'ils entendirent les nombreux tambours, leurs pieds perdirent le rythme. Perturbés, ils se sauvèrent en courant dans la forêt.



Tu aimerais jouer du *dhol* comme Bapi ?







### **The Concept**

India's diverse linguistic landscape has a rich seam of stories for children. Unfortunately, many tribal languages do not have literature for children in book form or books for reading pleasure. As increasing numbers of tribal children go to school, it is now more necessary than ever to create a body of children's literature in their languages. Literature that reflects their own world and opens up the world beyond because books are magical, powerful things that inform, amuse, educate and entertain in the most interactive way. Books make every child an independent and life-long seeker of knowledge in her own unique way. For education to be truly meaningful to every child, she must get good books to read in her own language.

### **The Project**

Pratham Books and IgnusERG, with the support of Bernard van Leer Foundation have created the first ten books for children's reading pleasure in Munda, Kui, Saura and Juanga languages from Odisha. The stories were written and illustrated by authors and illustrators belonging to these tribes in a series of workshops. This series of books is called **Adikahani**. It is a significant first step towards giving a voice to cultures that do not find adequate representation in mainstream discourses.



## The Partners

IgnusERG is a guild of resource persons working to support teachers and enhancing the quality of education, particularly in government schools. They focus their efforts on bringing equity in education and addressing the needs of marginalized children.

Bernard van Leer Foundation is an international grant-making foundation based in The Hague. Its mission is to improve opportunities for young children growing up in socially and economically difficult circumstances. It has a particular interest in supporting mother-tongue based education.

*This story was written by the Munda Writers' Group consisting of Budhanatha Munda, Prafull Surin, Prafulla Tapno, Rabindra Kumar Singh and Santosh Kumar Singh. With a background in ECCE, they all interact with children regularly. It has been illustrated by Sugrib Kumar Juanga using the Saura wall mural style as a base. The Munda language has more than 5 lakh speakers and is spoken in Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar districts of Odisha. It is a group of languages spread over a geographical area beyond state boundaries and has been a repository of fascinating myths that have attracted linguists and litterateurs. The spellings of the language in Odia script are not definitive as many new sounds are being rendered in print for the first time.*



