

## Integrating animal social behavior into wildlife translocations: A case study of rehabilitated African elephant orphans in northern Kenya.



Dr. Shifra Goldenberg

Dr. Shifra Goldenberg is an ecologist with the San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research and the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute. Collaborating with government, non-profit, and academic partners in Africa, Asia, and North America, Dr. Goldenberg applies principles from animal behavior to understand the threats wildlife face and inform conservation strategies. This talk will focus on their work with conservation translocation of African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*). Conservation translocations have the potential to strengthen populations of threatened and endangered species. However, introducing animals into a novel environment can present substantial challenges. Developing functional social relationships may be a critical component to the success of released animals that has not received much attention. Dr. Goldenberg will present a case study of the social context of African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) calves that have been rehabilitated and released into a wildlife sanctuary with a resident population of elephants. This presentation will also demonstrate how considering animal social behavior in translocation monitoring provides insight in establishing realistic benchmarks of success for wildlife release projects.