

Statement by Vernon (Tom) Gilbert at the Final Session of the 3rd World Congress of Biosphere Reserves, Madrid, Spain, February 8, 2008

I am Tom Gilbert from the USA. On behalf of the US Biosphere Reserves Association and the US participants in the Congress, thanks to the Government of Spain for hosting this Congress, and thanks to all of you for what you have done to produce this Madrid Action Plan.

Since I have been involved in the biosphere reserve program from its beginning, it is especially good to realize how this program has grown, and to feel the enthusiasm you have for it. I believe the world will be better off because of the work that you are doing in biosphere reserves, and I hope the United States government will soon be an active partner in this dynamic program.

Thank you!