



Taranaki Maunga Mountain Gains Legal Personhood

[Source: DTE](#)

Taranaki Maunga (New Zealand's **2nd-highest mountain in North Island**) was granted **legal personhood** becoming the third natural feature (after **Te Urewera park** in 2014 and **Whanganui River** in 2017) in the country to receive this status.

- It will now be officially recognized by its **Māori name**, replacing the colonial name **Mount Egmont**.
 - **Māori** are the **indigenous tribes (Iwi)** of New Zealand.

About Mount Taranaki:

- **Type:** **Stratovolcano** (composite cone) with a symmetrical shape.
- **Formation:** Result of **Pacific Plate subducting beneath the Australian Plate**.
- **Status:** **Snow-capped dormant volcano**.
- **Aoraki/Mount Cook (3724 m)**, located in the **Southern Alps** is the **highest mountain in New Zealand**, while **Mount Tasman** is **second-highest (3,497m)**.

Legal Rights to Natural Entities in India:

- **Uttarakhand HC (2017 & 2018):** Granted **legal personhood** to **Ganga & Yamuna rivers, Gangotri & Yamunotri glaciers**, and later extended **equal rights to all animals**. The **Supreme Court** stayed the river ruling.
- **Punjab & Haryana HC (2020):** Declared **Sukhna Lake, Chandigarh**, a **living entity** for environmental protection.
- The ***Doctrine of Parens Patriae*** empowers the **state (judiciary)** to act as a guardian for those unable to protect themselves, including **natural entities like rivers, forests, and wildlife**.

Read More: [Human Rights and Environment](#)

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