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# Colombian court orders **Ecopetrol** and Petrobras to cease drilling at Uchuva-2 well

The order came after an indigenous community near Santa Marta sought legal protection.

16 September, 2024

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Petrobras, holding a 44.4% stake, operates the Tayrona block, while **Ecopetrol** owns the remaining 55.6%. Credit: Casimiro PT/Shutterstock.

**A** Colombian court has issued an injunction against **Ecopetrol** and Petrobras, mandating a halt to the drilling of the Uchuva-2 gas well in Caribbean waters, reported [Bloomberg](#).

The order came after an indigenous community near Santa Marta sought legal protection, arguing that their consent was not obtained prior to the commencement of drilling activities, according to a document published by [Caracol Radio](#).

Brazilian state-owned oil and gas company Petrobras, holding a 44.4% stake, operates the Tayrona block, while **Ecopetrol** owns the remaining 55.6%.

The Uchuva-1 exploratory well, positioned at a depth of 837m, is roughly 32km from shore and 76km from Santa Marta.

**Ecopetrol** is expected to release a statement on the court's decision, while Petrobras is yet to respond to requests for comment, the publication said.

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This legal development comes at a critical time for Colombia, which is facing a potential natural gas deficit at the beginning of the next year.

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By GlobalData

In an interview last month, [Ecopetrol](#) offshore chief Elsa Jaimes said that Caribbean waters may yield production as soon as 2029, contingent on local community approvals and environmental licensing.

However, the recent ruling to cease [Uchuva-2 drilling](#), which began in June, is not the only challenge for [Ecopetrol](#).

The country's environmental licensing authority suspended the approval process for another offshore oil well last month, which would have been a record-setting drilling project.



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The Uchuva-2 case also represents a setback for Petrobras in terms of offshore exploration.

In Brazil, the company has faced prohibitions on drilling in a crucial part of the Equatorial Margin due to environmental concerns.

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