

China and Cuba launch joint exploration of oil and gas reserves



An oil tank belonging to Cupet (source: [Mosbatho /Commons/CC-BY-SA 4.0](#))

Experts from the research center of Cuban oil company Cupet and the geological service of the People's Republic of China have launched a joint project to assess the onshore oil and gas potential in Cuba. The initiative aims to discover new deposits to strengthen the country's economy.

Enrique Castellanos Avella, director of geology at the Cuban Ministry of Energy and Mines, emphasized the importance of the project: "The more oil we find, the greater the opportunities to extract it and use it for the country's economy and development."

The efforts are in line with the Cuban government's program, which aims to gradually restore the national power grid. The plan includes concrete measures to prevent a decline in domestic production in existing oil fields and to secure energy supplies. If new, economically viable deposits are discovered during exploration, this could give the economy a significant boost and expand the government's scope for action.

Cooperation in the energy and mining sectors is of strategic importance for Cuba and is part of a broader strategy to strengthen its energy sovereignty. In view of the ongoing US sanctions and the resulting economic challenges, the government is focusing on diversifying its energy sources and expanding domestic production.

Cuba has proven oil reserves of around 124 million barrels, but these have been insufficiently exploited due to outdated technology and a lack of investment. Cooperation with China, which has state-of-the-art exploration techniques, could open up new prospects here.

At the same time, Cuba is also focusing on [expanding renewable energies](#). By 2030, their share of electricity generation is set to rise to 24 percent. Over the next two years, 92 new solar parks with a capacity of two gigawatts are to be built, 55 of them this year. ([Cubaheute](#))