

# Clinton urges caution on Mekong dam

Hillary Clinton, the first U.S. Secretary of State to visit Laos in 57 years, wants to retain a moratorium on a controversial Mekong River dam, which critics say would impact the environment and millions of lives

Pictures: AP, Getty Images



▶ Opponents fear \$3.5 billion project would lead to building spree of up to 10 other dams on lower Mekong, degrading river's fragile ecology

▶ Dam would forcibly resettle 2,100 people and could affect livelihoods of millions of others

▶ Mekong is second only to Amazon in terms of biodiversity, with more than 1,000 fish species

■ **Dec 2011:** Moratorium imposed

■ **Apr 2012:** Thai firm CH. Karnchang signs \$2bn contract to build 1,285MW dam – Thailand agreed in 2010 to buy 95% of electricity output

■ **Laos pledges not to go ahead on project until environmental issues are resolved but activists say work on infrastructure already underway**

Source: International Rivers © GRAPHIC NEWS