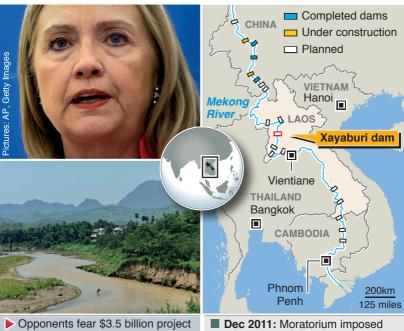
Clinton urges caution on Mekong dam

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



- 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
- 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