

Solving Problems – or Implementing Absent Solutions?

Finding the real
problems when
designing projects



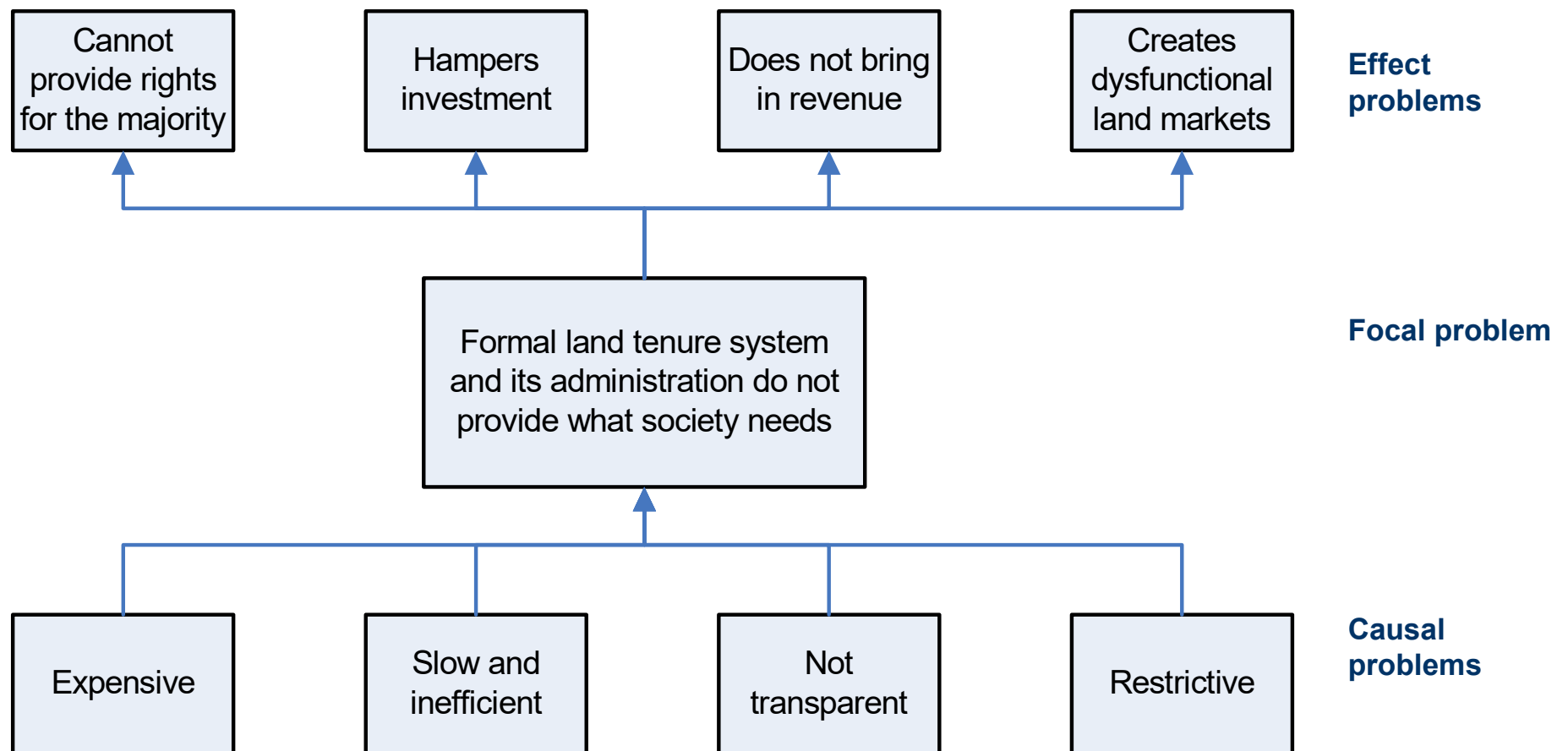
The Logical Framework Approach (LFA)

- Stakeholder analysis
- Problem analysis
- Objectives analysis
- Plan of activities
- Resource planning
- Indicators/measurement of objectives
- Risk analysis
- Analysis of the assumptions

Identifying the Problems

- What is the main problem that shall be solved with the aid of the project (i.e. – why a project is needed)?
- What are the causes of this problem (i.e. – why it exists)?
- What effects does the problem have (i.e. – why it is important to solve the problem)?

The Problem Tree



An Absent Solution vs. a Real Problem

The absent solution	The (real) problem
Lack of pesticides in agriculture	Crop is infested by vermin
No computer systems	Difficult to find information

No Computer Systems – the most common “Absent Solution”

- The basis for many project designs in developing countries!
- Result: Implemented systems often not sustainable because of:
 - Lack of technical capacity in the country
 - Low salaries in government
 - Insufficient investment and maintenance funds
 - Unreliable supply of electricity
 - Low quality of information

Is IT the solution in this case?

