

Ratification Report on the Policy Proposal, Soft Landing, Recovered Space and Priority

AFPUB-2026-IPv4-001-DRAFT02

Introduction

In line with the Policy Development Process, we would like to inform you that the above-mentioned policy proposal attained rough consensus at the AFRINIC-37 Public Policy Meeting held in hybrid format in Nairobi, Kenya on 24 June 2026.

Co-chairs believe that the current version of the proposal (Ver. 2) addresses notes and observations made by interested community members that participated in discussions during the life-cycle of the proposal since the first draft. The Last Call period was concluded at 23h59 UTC on 31 July 2026.

The table below shows the milestones in the policy proposal progress;

Date	Milestone/Activity
6 May 2026	Version 1 of the proposal (AFPUB-2026-IPv4-001-DRAFT01), "Soft Landing, Recovered Space and Priority", was submitted by the author, Jordi Palet Martinez.
15 May 2026	The proposal was announced on the RPD mailing list by the PDWG Co-Chairs (Vincent Ngundi & Darwin Da Costa) and posted on the website - https://lists.afrinic.net/pipermail/rpd/2026/014741.html
16 June 2026	The author submitted an updated version of the proposal, AFPUB-2026-IPv4-001-DRAFT02 , addressing inputs from the impact analysis.
22 June 2026	The policy proposal was given the ID AFPUB-2026-IPv4-001-DRAFT02 and posted on the website. An announcement was made on the RPD mailing list by the PDWG Co-Chairs (Vincent Ngundi & Darwin Da Costa) - https://lists.afrinic.net/pipermail/rpd/2026/014907.html
24 June 2026	Proposal with ID AFPUB-2026-IPv4-001-DRAFT02 was presented and discussed at the <i>AFRINIC-37</i> Public Policy Meeting held in hybrid format in Nairobi, Kenya. The PDWG Co-Chairs announced that the policy proposal reached rough consensus - https://afrinic.net/af37-presentation.html
16 July 2026	The PDWG Co-Chair (Hytham El-Nakhal) announced the start of the Last Call period, to close on 31 July 2026 at 23:59 UTC - https://lists.afrinic.net/pipermail/rpd/2026/015003.html
30 July 2026	AFRINIC staff provided the recovered-space cleanup procedure and a definition of "utilisation" https://lists.afrinic.net/pipermail/rpd/2026/015446.html

Date	Milestone/Activity
	https://lists.afrinic.net/pipermail/rpd/2026/015447.html
31 July 2026	Last Call closed at 23:59 UTC, as previously announced.
13 August 2026	AFRINIC PDWG Co-Chairs completed their assessment of the Last Call discussions and prepared this report recommending that the proposal be ratified.

Additional Notes

The AFRINIC PDWG Co-Chairs have gone through the discussions on the RPD mailing list during the Last Call and prepared this report. As supporting documentation, the summary of the assessment conducted is as follows:-

One further comment (from Tshepo Masuku, on the quarantine-period floor) was received on 3 August 2026, after Last Call had closed. Consistent with the Policy Development Process, this comment was not treated as part of the Last Call assessment; it is recorded in the table below for the Board's information only.

Summary of the assessment

	Concerns(summarised)	Addressed/Pending	Notes
1.	Irreversibility of Soft-Landing Phase 2 and bringing recovered IPv4 space into the Phase 2 pool without preserving separate accounting, with a request that the alternative “Dynamic IPv4 Pools Exhaustion Management Framework” proposal be evaluated first (Gregoire Ehoumi, supported/expanded by Alain Aina and NP Petronella).	Addressed	These concerns were already raised and discussed at the AFRINIC-37 PPM, where rough consensus was nonetheless reached. The author reiterated that the irreversibility wording provides a predictable interim rule that does not prevent the community from amending the CPM later, and that recovered space can continue to be tracked as a distinct inventory pool while sitting under Phase 2 rules. Not treated as a new blocking objection.
2.	DRAFT02 largely restates CPM section 5.4.3 (which some argued already applies Exhaustion Phase rules to recovered space), making a new policy proposal unnecessary (Alain Aina).	Addressed	Valid new objection which was addressed by the author on 31 July 2026, who clarified the substantive provisions DRAFT02 goes beyond 5.4.3. They concern removal of obsolete/conflicting CPM sections, alignment of utilisation periods, and resolution of the recovered-space question).

	Concerns(summarised)	Addressed/Pending	Notes
3.	Dependency between DRAFT02 and the companion proposal AFPUB-2026-IPv4-002-DRAFT02 on overlapping utilisation thresholds (Nonjabulo Sphilile).	Not a valid new objection	The impact assessment mentions 'Removing sections 5.5.1.2.1, 5.5.1.4.1 and 5.6.3 helps the integration of other policy proposal AFPUB-2026-ipv4-002-DRAFT01 '
4.	Adequacy of the Impact Assessment regarding the decision logic, controls and auditability of the automated cleanup/monitoring tool (Tshepo Masuku).	Addressed	Considered an operational/implementation matter for AFRINIC staff rather than policy text, consistent with practice at other RIRs; addressed by the author on 31 July 2026.
5.	Clarity on the /12 reserve release-and-refill mechanism and on how recovered, quarantined, available, reserved and delegated inventory states are distinguished (Fundiswa Maseko).	Not a valid new objection	AFRINIC staff provided the documentation https://lists.afrinic.net/pipermail/rpd/2026/015446.html The author also noted that AFRINIC only ever allocates up to a /22, so there is no practical difference in allocation outcomes.
6.	Concentration risk due to repeated /22 allocations from the same organisation once recovered space is added to the pool; request for an objective free-pool distribution rule (Phetulo Dhlamini).	Not a valid new objection	Prior information about how AFRINIC manages its pool and Soft-Landing policy is available at https://afrinic.net/exhaustion.html .
7.	Two minor drafting points on the phrase "in accordance with adopted community policy" and the word "final" (Paul Hjul).	Not a valid new objection	The "community policy" wording does not exist in the proposal. The author considered the amendment unnecessary since CPM and operational decisions are already made in accordance with adopted community policy.
8.	Three provisions said to go beyond the stated problem statement: the change from 12 to 8 months for the utilisation deadline and SAW period, the "final and irreversible" wording,	Not a valid new objection	The problem statement already covers resolution of discrepancies between Soft-Landing and other CPM sections. The author responded on 31 July 2026, explaining the rationale for each change.

	Concerns(summarised)	Addressed/Pending	Notes
	and the /12 release-and-refill/priority clause (Noah).		
9.	Lack of justification and a transition rule for shortening the utilisation deadline (5.5.1.9) and SAW renewal period (5.5.1.13.3.2) from 12 to 8 months (Tshepo Masuku, 31 July/3 August 2026).	Not a valid new objection	The policy becomes active once implemented. During the AFRINIC-37 PPM, author mentioned ' <i>Policy-related timelines are being adjusted from 12 months to 8 months to align with the existing soft landing framework.</i> '
10.	No explicit floor on how far AFRINIC may shorten the 12-month quarantine period, since the Impact Assessment's six-month figure does not appear in the policy text (Tshepo Masuku, 3 August 2026).	Not considered in this assessment	This comment was posted after Last Call closed (31 July 2026, 23:59 UTC); discussions after the Last Call period are not taken into consideration for this assessment. Noted here for the Board's information.

Conclusion

Based on the above information, we advise the AFRINIC Board to ratify the draft policy proposal Soft Landing, Recovered Space and Priority AFPUB-2026-IPv4-001-DRAFT02 at its earliest convenience.

Haitham El Nakhel & Darwin da Costa
PDWG Co-Chairs