AFRINIC-38 Public Policy Meeting — 18 November 2026, Cape Town, South Africa

Dynamic IPv4 Pools Exhaustion Management Framework

AFPUB-2026-IPv4-003-DRAFT01
AFRINIC Policy Proposal

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Why Change is Needed

- Soft-Landing Phase 2 since 2020
- ~2 years active pool remaining
- Several members have received more than 8 × /22 within a calendar year by multiple requests up to the max /22 prefix size.
- ~3 years reserved /12 remaining
- 3+ million recovered IPv4 addresses
  - 1 × /11 + 86.11% of a /12

Why Change is Needed

- The newly ratified policy proposal “Soft Landing, Recovered Space and Priority” dictates
  - Soft landing phase is irreversible
  - The 3+million recovered IPv4 to the available pool
- Current framework gaps identified

Why Change is Needed

Item	Option A: One /19	Option B: Eight distinct /22s
Number of allocation requests	1	8
Prefix per allocation	/19	/22
Total IPv4 addresses	8,192	8,192
Fee per request	$2,000	$1,750
Total allocation fees	$2,000	$14,000
Annual membership category	Very Small LIR	Very Small LIR
Annual membership fee	$2,200	$2,200
Total, including annual membership	$4,200	$16,200

Allocation/Assignment fees impact

Key Problems

- IPv4 stockpiling at AFRINIC
- No structured classification of recovered space
- No replenishment pipeline
- No post-exhaustion framework
- Gaming via sequential requests
- Limited operational triggers

Proposal Overview

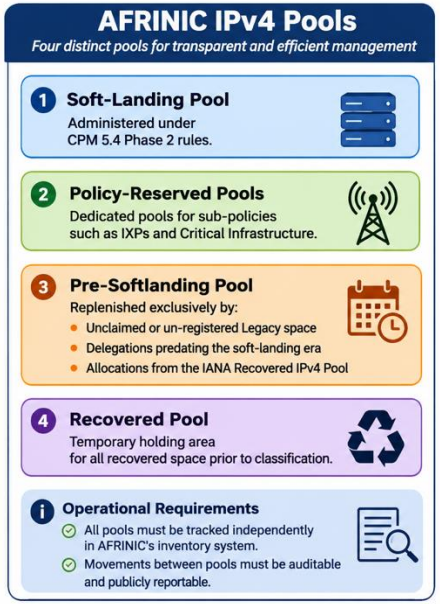
- Multi-pool architecture
- Recovery trace-back
- Tiered delegation framework
- Post-exhaustion waiting list
- Transparency measures

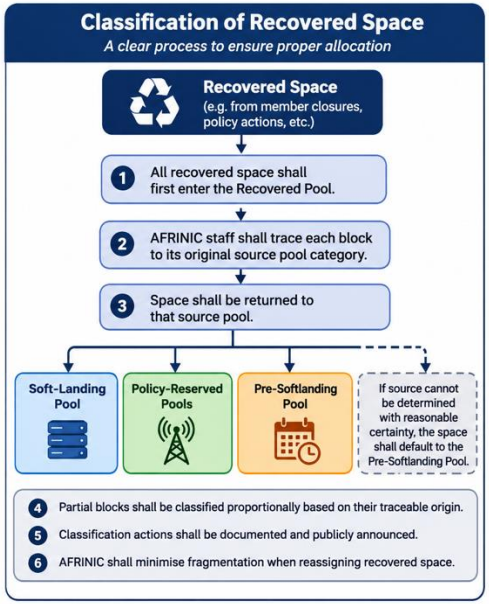
New IPv4 Pool Model

- Recovered Pool
- Pre-Softlanding Pool
- Soft-Landing Pool
- Policy-Reserved Pools

Recovered Space Classification

- All recovered space enters Recovered Pool
- Trace original source
- Return to source pool
- Unknown origin -> Pre-Softlanding Pool
- Auditable reporting





Pre-Softlanding Pool Rules

- Primary evaluation layer
- Max /18
- up to /16 with justification
  - Documented growth metrics
  - A verifiable deployment plan
- Min /24
- 12-month justification
- 80% utilisation requirement

Anti-Gaming Protections

- No artificial aggregation through requests
- One framework for fair access
- Documented growth metrics required
- Verifiable deployment plans

Automatic Deferral

- Unsatisfied requests automatically move to Soft-Landing Pool
- CPM Section 5.4 rules apply
  - Max /22
  - 90% utilization requirement or waived
    - newly ratified policy (Amendment of Utilisation in Soft Landing)
  - 8-month justification
- Applicant notified and deferral documented

Post-Exhaustion Waiting List

- Activated when both pools exhausted
- Recovered Pool becomes sole source
- First-come, first-served
- One active queue position

Waiting List Allocations

- Maximum /23
- Minimum /24
- Immediate infrastructure need
- 6-month deployment requirement

Transparency & Transfers

- Monthly reporting
- Queue length and wait times
- Recovered space statistics
- 24-month transfer restriction

Benefits to the Community

- Predictable replenishment
- Fair allocation model
- Improved accountability
- Reduced gaming
- Long-term sustainability

Discussion Points

- Operational implementation
- Impact on members
- Community feedback

- **Would you support this framework to override the “Soft landing, Recovered Space and Priority”**

Staff Impact Analysis (SIA)

- There is no section 4. The text runs from section 3 to section 5.

Format error. To be fixed

- The policy proposal will conflict with a recent policy the Board ratified on 25 September 2026, AFPUB-2026-IPv4-001-DRAFT02.

- A new proposal can update or obsolete an existing policy text
- Shall the implmentation of the ratified proposal be paused pending the outcomes of this proposal ?
- If the ratified policy is implemented, it will have directed the 3+ recovered space into the softlanding pool and so be it.

- The general definition states that "Recovered Pool" is a temporary holding area whose contents return to source pools. However, 4.1 makes the Recovered Pool the sole source for the waiting list.

- When the 2 main pools got exhausted, any resource in the Recovered pool serves the Waiting list

Staff Impact Analysis (SIA)

- Handling of the /12 block reserved for future use is not specifically stated. While AFRINIC may interpret that upon depletion of the current in-use portion of the "Soft-Landing" Pool, the /12 will automatically become available (under **5.4.7.2**). Confirmation required.

- Section 3.1.1 says: **Soft-Landing Pool** — Administered under CPM 5.4 Phase 2 rules.

- **5.4.7.2** of the CPM says**:** If the reserved /12 remains unused by the time the remaining available space has been allocated, the /12 will be returned to the AFRINIC pool for distribution under the conditions of phase 2 of the soft landing policy.

Staff Impact Analysis (SIA)

- Rule 5 indicates that “Transfer restrictions on delegations from the Soft-Landing Pool shall apply”. However, current policy in force and the new transfer policy in implementation does not put specific conditions on the “SL” resources; the conditions apply across the board for all resources under the RSA.

AFPUB-2020-GEN-006-DRAFT03: AFRINIC Number Resources Transfer Policy

- 3.1.3 "Special-Purpose pool" means the pool of resources currently reserved for Critical Internet Infrastructures (section 5.6.4 of CPM) and resources distributed during the Exhaustion phases of the soft landing policy (section 5.4 of CPM).

- Special-Purpose pool == Reserved

- 3.3.6 Irrespective of the source and recipient, if the resource to be transferred is "Reserved" then deny the transfer. This restriction excludes mergers, acquisitions and takeover transfers.

Staff Impact Analysis (SIA)

- Author is recommended to update the relevant transfer policy sections [5.7.3] of the CPM. [Note here that resources received < 12 months are not eligible for transfers; the policy text here mentions 24 months.]

- 5.7.3.3 **Source entities** must not have received a transfer, allocation, or assignment of IPv4 number resources from AFRINIC for the 12 months prior to the approval of transfer request. This restriction excludes mergers and acquisitions transfers.

- This provision above (from the current intra-RIR transfer) is obsoleted by the new transfer policy which is more liberal.

Your Voice Counts.

Thank You — Questions & Discussion

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18 November 2026 · Hyatt Regency Cape Town, South Africa

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