

Response by BAKAD Investment & Operation LLP
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Dear Sir/Madame

Big Almaty Ring Road (BAKAD) project is the first international public-private partnership (PPP) Project in Central Asia. The Project's standards shall be in compliance with not only Kazakhstani Environmental and Social standards, but also with the standards of the International Financial Institutions. Please note that the construction of the BAKAD road is an investment project, in accordance with the requirements of Lenders, which are provided by a number of international financial institutions: the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Islamic Development Bank (ISDB), and adhere to the highest environmental standards and invest in projects that meet all environmental criteria. Upon completion of construction work and the opening of the BAKAD road, the operation of the road and, accordingly, maintenance work and the maintenance of all green spaces will continue for 15 years.

In total, 18 358 of trees are fell down by the Project. But in accordance with the legal compensatory requirements, the compensational ratio will be minimum 5 trees per one by every fallen type and species. Thus, 97 895 of trees shall be planted in accordance with the compensational tress planting plan of the Project.

The choice of this period is determined by the requirements of the agrotechnical plan, in particular:

- This term is the most optimal for planting frost-resistant tree species from the list of deciduous and coniferous trees;
- All seedlings are planted with root-bald tree system, with a ball of soil of sufficient size;
- The growth of all seedlings is an average of 2.5 m, to ensure survival;
- Planting holes of sufficient depth and width;
- During the planting process, the seedlings are fertilized with mineral fertilizers with a high content of phosphorus and sulfur;
- In the specified period, from November 01, 2022 to December 27, 2022, tree species with frost-resistant properties will be planted, namely:
 - *Ulmus parvifolia*;
 - *Ulmus glabra*;
 - *Ulmus pinnato-ramosa*;
 - *Populus alba*, *Populus piramydalis*;
 - *Populus nigra*;
 - *Pinus sylvestris*;
 - *Picea schrenkiana*;
 - *Picea pungens*
- The distance between seedlings is taken to be 3 (three) meters, as the most optimal distance for the further development of plants and their habitus. The indicated planting pattern was determined and approved taking into account the opinions of experts in the field of dendrology, and also complies with the decorative requirements for ordinary plantings.

- The average soil temperature in the planting areas ranges from -3 C0 to +1 C0, which is not a critical factor for planting. In the medium-term dynamics of weather conditions in the Almaty region, the air temperature is expected to rise to positive values by the end of this month, which will not affect the soil temperature, planting and further survival.

In winter, with a drop in air and soil temperatures, the physiological processes in plants stop, and the plants go into anabiosis (winter hibernation), sap flow in the trunk and branches stops.

With the onset of the calendar spring, the plants "wake up" in a new place and resume their physiological processes: they restore damaged root branches, microbiome, and then continue to grow branches and leaves.

Saplings of tree species not resistant to frost: fruits, stone fruits, and certain types of deciduous, will be planted in the spring of 2023, depending on the increase in soil temperature, for the optimal period for agrotechnical and botanical indicators.

We also inform you that works on compensatory planting of green spaces: trees and shrubs of deciduous and coniferous species, as well as fruit and stone fruits, are carried out in accordance with the provisions of Article 7 and Annex 1 to the Model Rules for the maintenance and protection of green spaces, the rules for the improvement of the territories of cities and settlements approved by Order No. 235 dated March 20, 2015 of the Minister of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

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