Lazare Eloundou Assomo has been **Director for Culture and Emergencies at UNESCO** since November 2018. He is an architect conservator and town-planner who specialises in earthen architecture and cultural heritage.

He was deputy director of the Division for Heritage and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre from 2016 to 2018. The entity for which he is responsible takes care of all matters regarding museums, restitution and the fight against illicit traffic, protection of cultural heritage in conflict situations, and underwater cultural heritage.

Before October 2016, he was UNESCO head of office and representative in Mali. His main responsibilities involved coordinating UNESCO’s actions to rehabilitate Mali’s cultural heritage and ancient manuscripts. It is in this capacity that he successfully coordinated the rapid reconstruction of the destroyed mausoleums in Timbuktu in close cooperation with MINUSMA, the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Mali.

Prior to being posted in Mali, Assomo was the chief of unit for Africa at the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, where he was in charge of coordinating cooperation between UNESCO and African member states for all issues related to world heritage.

He is the author of the book ‘*African World Heritage, a remarkable diversity*’, which was recently published by UNESCO.