

## Professor Mike Bruton bio

'Mike Bruton has had a lifetime interest in science ever since he caught a kob using mudprawn bait in the Nahoon River in East London as a 10-year-old. He studied Zoology and Entomology at Rhodes University and was stationed at the university's Lake Sibaya Research Station in northern Zululand for his MSc and PhD research. After completing a post-doc year at the British Museum (Natural History) in London he returned to Grahamstown as the founding head of the new Department of Ichthyology & Fisheries Science. After Margaret Smith's retirement he was appointed director of the then-JLB Smith Institute of Ichthyology and used the opportunity to develop the staff, students, facilities and research programmes of the institute as well as traveling extensively abroad. He then joined the Two Oceans Aquarium in Cape Town as Education Director whereafter he started the MTN ScienCentre in Cape Town before travelling to the Middle East where he helped to establish science centres in Dubai, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. He returned to Cape Town in 2015 and, since then, has spent his time writing books, giving talks and tending his compost heap. He believes that his wide experience of science in different cultures has helped him to develop a useful perspective.'